

Sixth Form Entry Guidelines for September 2026

Basic entry criterion

Students need to achieve at least 5 good grades (GCSE grades of 4 or above including any BTEC grades at L2 Pass or above). One of those 5 good grades must include either Maths or English Language.

Pathways

Students will be placed on a programme in the Gryphon Sixth Form according to the grades they achieve at GCSE.

The **Oxbridge Programme** – minimum entry requirements = 9 or more top grades (9, 8, 7)

The **Russell Group Programme** - minimum entry requirements = 5 or more top grades (9, 8, 7)

The **Progression Programme** - minimum entry requirements = 7 or more good grades

The grades that can count towards this are:

- GCSE grades of 4 or above in Maths, English Language and English Literature
- Students can additionally count one (but not more) L2 BTEC grade at Pass or above.

The **Professional Programme** - minimum entry requirements = 5 or more good grades

The grades that can count towards this are:

- GCSE grades of 4 or above in Maths, English Language and English Literature
- Students can additionally count any number of BTEC grades at L2 Pass or above.

Number of courses

Students meeting the entry criterion above will typically choose 3 A-levels to study throughout Years 12 and 13.

However, students may additionally choose the Level 3 Mathematical Studies course. This course is half the size of an A-level and therefore may be taken by any student as a fourth option. The course could be taken by students whom wish to study Maths further but whom do not meet the qualifying criteria of a 7 in Maths GCSE which is required for Maths A-level. In addition the course will appeal to students taking Social sciences / Humanities A-levels as the skills developed on this course will support achievement on such A-levels.

A small number of students may wish to choose 4 A-levels to study throughout Year 12 and 13. Only students achieving the grades for the Oxbridge Programme or the Russell Group Programme will be allowed to take 4 A-levels.

Entry criteria for each A-level

Students would also need to meet the specific criteria listed below for each individual course they choose.

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Subject	Minimum Requirements to be accepted on course	Qualifications that the ideal candidate would have
A-level Art and Design (Art, Craft and Design)	4 or better in Art GCSE	5 or better in Art GCSE
A-level Art and Design (Three-dimensional Design)	4 or better in Art or Art 3D GCSE	5 or better in Art or Art 3D
A-level Biology	6 or better in Combined Science or Biology GCSE 5 or better in Maths GCSE and English Language.	6 or better in Maths GCSE
A-level Business	4 or better in English Language GCSE	4 or better in Maths GCSE
A-level Chemistry	6 or better in Combined Science or Chemistry GCSE 6 or better in Maths GCSE	
A-level Classics (Ancient History)	5 or better in History GCSE or equivalent humanities course	6 or better in History GCSE 5 or better in English Language GCSE
A-level Computer Science	5 or better in Maths GCSE 5 or better in IT GCSE	6 or better in Maths GCSE 6 or better in IT GCSE
BTEC Creative Digital Media		4 in English Language GCSE or 4 in Media Studies GCSE or 4 in a IT GCSE
Applied Level 3 Diploma Criminology	4 or better in English Language GCSE	
A-level Drama and Theatre Studies	4 or better in Drama GCSE	5 or better in English Language GCSE
A-level Economics	6 or better in Maths GCSE 5 or better in English Language GCSE	
A-level English Language	5 or better in English Language GCSE	
A-level English Literature	5 or better in English Language GCSE 5 or better in English Literature GCSE	
A-level Film Studies	5 or better in English Language or English Literature GCSE	
A-level French	6 or better in French GCSE	
A-level Further Mathematics	7 or better in Maths GCSE	8 or 9 in Maths GCSE
A-level Geography	5 or better Geography GCSE	5 or better in English Language GCSE 5 or better in Geography GCSE
A-level History	5 or better in History GCSE	6 or better in History GCSE 5 or better in English Language GCSE

A-level Law	5 or better in English Language GCSE	
Level 3 Mathematical Studies	4 or better in Maths GCSE	
A-level Mathematics	7 or better in Maths GCSE	
A-level Music	5 or better in Music GCSE	Grade 5 or better in Music Theory
A-level Photography	4 or better in Art GCSE	
A-level Physics	6 or better in Combined Science or Physics GCSE 6 or better in Maths GCSE	
A-level Psychology	5 or better in English Language GCSE 4 or better in Maths GCSE 4 or better in Science GCSEs	
A-level Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)	5 or better in English Language GCSE	4 or better in Religious Studies GCSE
A-level Sociology	4 or better in English Language GCSE	
A-level Spanish	6 or better in Spanish GCSE	
BTEC Sport		Level 2 Pass or better in BTEC Sport
A-level Sports Studies	Merit or better in BTEC Sport exam or 6 in GCSE PE 5 or better in Combined Science or Biology GCSE Currently playing regular sport in performing in competitive competitions/leagues	4 or better in English Language GCSE