

# Admission Arrangements to Sixth Form at Westcliff High School for Girls

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## Admission Arrangements for Year 12 Entry and Transfer from Year 11

The offer of a place in the Sixth Form at Westcliff High School for Girls is dependent on meeting the general entry requirements and relevant subject grades.

### 1. INTERNAL APPLICANTS

- 1.1 Places are available to all our own Year 11 pupils who would like to join our Sixth Form and meet the Admissions Criteria for entry.
- 1.2 Pupils must attend our Induction activities in July to hold their place in the Sixth Form.
- 1.3 Students who have not held a place will be offered the opportunity to join the Sixth Form after GCSE results have been published but many subjects may be full at this point.

### 2. ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

- 2.1 All applicants must attend a course selection meeting with a senior member of staff to help them choose an appropriate course and offer them guidance on completing the entry form.
- 2.2 All applicants must return a completed options form.
- 2.3 All applicants must meet the individual requirements for any subject they wish to study as detailed in the Sixth Form Course Outlines Booklet. If they fail to do so, every effort will be made to find another suitable course but may not be able to do so if teaching sets are full.
- 2.4 All applicants must be able and willing to study a minimum of four subjects at AS level plus an AS level in General Studies in Year 12 and to study at least three subjects at A Level, plus A Level General Studies or Extended Project in Year 13.
- 2.5 Applicants will not be accepted for entry if, once the timetable is constructed, they cannot study at least four subjects plus General Studies.
- 2.6 All applicants must have at least a grade C in Mathematics and English and achieve a total of at least twelve points in their best eight GCSE examinations to include English and Mathematics. (A\* = three points, A = two, B = one), (short courses equate to half a GCSE and half the points).
- 2.7 Multiple Award vocational GCSE subjects such as Health & Social Care & Engineering count as one subject eg AA = 2 points.

### 3. EXTERNAL APPLICANTS

The number of external students accepted varies from year to year according to the number of Year 11 students from Westcliff High School for Girls expected to take up places. Our formal statement says the planned Admissions number is twenty five but this is a minimum figure and the School regularly exceeds this number. Boys are welcome to apply to our Sixth Form and will be considered without prejudice.

The schools published admissions number for those being admitted to the school for the first time is twenty five. The upper limit of Year 12 external applicants will be based, not on total Year 12 numbers projected for the following academic year, but on the projected size of the teaching groups. Taking into account choices for A Level study, applications will be refused where the school considers the size of teaching sets to be detrimental to the education of the group and where it is not financially or educationally desirable for the Governors to alter the balance of the school's staffing or to appoint additional staff.

- 3.1 On receipt of the blue request form (including the reference form completed by the students' school which includes estimated grades) students on course to achieve 12 points or more will be offered a course selection meeting to discuss their subject choices.
- 3.2 An application form will be issued at the course selection meeting which must be returned by the end of the autumn term.
- 3.3 Offers will be made directly to students where the estimated grades justify this.
- 3.4 The minimum requirement for admission to Year 12 is 12 points at GCSE from the best 8 subjects to include English & Mathematics (equivalent to 4As and 4Bs) although in reality the threshold tends to be significantly higher.
- 3.5 Points may also be gained from some vocational qualifications including OCR Nationals and BTEC Level 2 Qualifications. Points will be awarded as follows:
  - Distinction Star: 3 points
  - Distinction 2 Points
  - Merit 1 point

All multiple award vocational qualifications will count as one of the eight GCSEs when working out the points total. No more than two vocational qualifications can be used in the best eight score.

Where more external applicants successfully meet the Admissions Criteria than there are places, the oversubscription criteria in Section 4 will apply.

- 3.6 The normal closing date for applications is the end of the autumn term. Applicants receiving offers will be expected to confirm acceptance within two weeks. Changes to subject choices will be possible after confirmation only if there are vacancies in subject groups. All those holding offers will be expected to attend the Sixth Form Induction Programme in July.
- 3.7 The number of external applicants may exceed the published admissions number when there are places available in each of the subjects an applicant wishes to study.

#### **4. OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA FOR EXTERNAL CANDIDATES**

Preference will be given on the following basis:

- 4.1 The best eight GCSE examination score achieved by the applicant, including English and Mathematics.
- 4.2 In the event of oversubscription by external candidates the best eight GCSE score will be raised to ensure the number of applicants matches the availability of places in the Sixth Form.
- 4.3 Using the minimum entry requirement, or the raised entry requirement when oversubscription occurs, and applying section 4.4, priority will be given to:
  - a) Students with a Statement of Special Educational Needs
  - b) Looked after children or previously looked after children as defined in Section 1.7 of the School Admissions Code 2012

- 4.4 All applicants must meet the individual requirements for any subject they wish to study as detailed in the Sixth Form Course Outlines Booklet. If they fail to do so, every effort will be made to find another suitable course but may not be able to do so if teaching sets are full.

In the event that a decision cannot be reached, the overriding tie-breaker will be distance from home to school measured in a straight line between the pupil's home and the nearest pupil entrance to the school.

You will also need to check the requirements for the particular subjects you plan to take here; in many cases you will need to have attained a minimum of an A grade if you have studied the subject previously. You will find an outline of the course of study for each subject and the entry grade(s) required in this booklet which is designed to help you choose your course.

### **Course of study**

We expect our students to choose four subjects taking AS examinations in all of them and in General Studies in Year 12 and either A Level General Studies or Extended Project in Year 13. Many students will then reduce to three subjects and take the second part of the A Level exam in these three at the end of Year 13. However, there are several other possible arrangements to suit individual tastes. If you are bright and hardworking it is quite possible to study four subjects to Advanced Level, indeed about 30% of the Sixth Form do this.

### **AS Level Courses and Examinations**

AS Level examinations are close to GCSE in style although still covering A Level content. This is intended to make the transfer between GCSE and A Level easier and to cut down the number of students nationally who drop out of A Level courses. Some modules are taken in January of Year 12 and Year 13 and students may re-sit available modules if required in June or January as long as this is not regarded as detrimental to the new examinations taken at that time.

### **A2 General Studies/Extended Project**

Students must take General Studies in Year 12 unless they are studying five subjects at AS or A Level Mathematics. It involves a lighter workload than other A Level subjects and is taught for 2 hours a fortnight in comparison with the 9 hours for all other subjects. Students can complete the A Level course in Year 13. We also offer The Extended Project in Year 13. This is an opportunity to take an area of their A Level courses and develop it, producing a 5,000 word dissertation or an artefact/performance and 1,000 words. These courses help to enrich the A Level curriculum and we expect all students to approach them positively and work to the best of their abilities.

### **Structure of the Sixth Form Years**

The pace of Year 12 is faster than the GCSE course and students need to be well organised from the very beginning of it. Teaching of A2 units takes longer and it is essential that the first A2 module is well under way by the end of Year 12. Therefore, we begin to teach A2 courses in June and good attendance is essential until the end of the school year. No holidays are authorised in school time

Students must achieve a good D Grade (55% or more) in the first year of the course to start the second year. Anyone who has not achieved CDD (with a UMS score above 55% in each D grade) or is not able to start three A2 courses in Year 13 will be asked to leave the Sixth Form.