

Northampton School for Girls

Sixth Form Admissions Policy

Policy no.	
Policy Title	Sixth Form Admissions Policy 2024-25 (for Year 12 entry in 2025)
Associated Policies	
Managed by	Claire Green (Director of Sixth Form)

1. Context

At Northampton School for Girls (NSG) it is our intention that all of our students should continue with their learning post-16, within a context that may be education or training. Using the guidance process at KS4, the choices should be appropriate to students' aspirations and skills and may lead to apprenticeships, college courses or a continuation of their study in the Sixth Form.

All NSG students who wish to continue their education post-16 at the school will be able to do so, provided the right courses are available to meet their needs, and that they meet the entry requirements.

In addition to our own Year 11 students (referred to as 'Internals'), the school admits students, including boys, who are studying for GCSEs at other schools (referred to as 'Externals') to study level 3 qualifications (A levels and level 3 BTECs). The Admissions Number for external applicants is 50. If spaces remain on some courses, this number can be exceeded, provided that the additional students only follow courses where space is available. The academic admissions criteria for Internal and External students is the same (See point 2).

2. Entry requirements

The entry requirements and pathways offered below are subject to change depending on DfE guidance following the General Election

We provide three pathways to Level 3 qualifications (see points 1.ii-1.iv below), to ensure students are able to access the curriculum and make good progress, leading to successful post-18 progression. There are general minimum entry requirements for all (See point 1.i). In addition, students' Best 8 GCSE grades will be used to denote which pathway is available to them.

- i. **General entry requirements:** students must achieve:
 - Grade 4 in GCSE English Language
 - OR**
 - Grade 4 in GCSE Maths
 - N.B: If a student does not have a grade 4 in English Language or Maths, they will be expected to retake the exam in Year 12

In all cases, the requirements outlined below are a minimum for general entry/pathway entry and subject-specific criteria are required **in addition** (See Appendix 2).

- ii. **Pathway 1:** open to students whose best 8 GCSE grades add up to 40+.
Three A-Level programme of study (students who have achieved six or more subjects graded 8 or 9 may be eligible to study four A Levels). *Pathway 1 students may wish to follow Pathway 2*
- iii. **Pathway 2:** open to students whose best 8 GCSE grades add up to 35-39.
Combination of A-levels and Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ – formerly Applied Generals), equivalent to three A Levels.
- iv. **Pathway 3*:** open to students whose best 8 GCSE grades add up to 30-34.
Applied General only programme.
**Pathway 3 will not be available if the Conservative Party's plans for 16-19 education go ahead following the General Election as studying more than one AAQ would not be permitted*
- v. Students may take additional qualifications (e.g. the Extended Project Qualification) but all students must follow a minimum number of three subjects
- vi. The school reserves the right to remove courses in the September if numbers are not viable; students who have been offered a place will be able to move to a different subject, but acceptance onto any course remains dependent on the student's GCSE performance and subject-specific criteria.

3. Oversubscription Criteria

i. **General oversubscription criteria**

All External applicants meeting the minimum entry and subject specific academic requirements and completing a Sixth Form Application Form will be offered a place, except that if the number applying is more than the Admissions Number, when the following oversubscription criteria will be used to determine to whom places are offered:

- a. Students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) will be offered a place, where the school, after consultation with the Local Authority, has been named on the statement as the appropriate post-16 provision. He/she will still need to meet the minimum entry and subject specific academic requirements.
- b. Looked after/ previously looked after children
A 'looked after child' is a child who, at the time of making an application to a school, is:
 - a) In the care of a local authority, or b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of its social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they: a) were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) or the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders), or b) became subject to a child arrangements order (as defined in Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 and as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014), or c) became subject to a special guardianship order (see Section 14A

of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians). This includes children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

- c. Children of staff. Children of staff directly employed by Northampton School for Girls will be allocated a place if either or both of the following conditions are met: a) where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
- d. Fair, or random, allocation of the remaining places is used to decide which students will be offered the remaining places after the above criteria have been applied. This will be done by allocating places in a statistically random order generated by computer. This process is approved by the Department for Education as a fair and objective method of allocating places when there are more applicants than there are places available and the number of places available is exceeded within any criterion.

ii. **Course oversubscription criteria**

Students who wish to study a subject which attracts, on average, a class size of over 27 students, and where there is no capacity to put on a further group, will be asked to select a reserve choice. In addition, some subject combinations may not be possible due to timetabling constraints, and students will then be asked to choose between two subjects and identify another choice. The procedure for selecting students to follow a reserve choice course is as follows:

- a. All students who have selected the option will be invited to take up their reserve choice if they have no strong preference.
- b. Students who did not meet the application deadline of 31st January 2025.
- c. Students who did not attend 6th Form Induction (and the reason for this had not been authorised by NSG, will be required to take up their reserve choice).
- d. Students who did not meet the declaration of results deadline (1pm on GCSE Results Day), and had not made prior arrangements with the school.
- e. If, however, numbers still need to be reduced, then the following will be taken into consideration: ranking by GCSE grade in relevant subject (if applicable), ranking by Best 8 Score and any extenuating circumstances.

The final decision regarding students' places on courses lies with the school. A waiting list for each course will be held until 1st October 2025 in line with our oversubscription criteria. Plans for Year 12 courses at NSG are provisional, dependent on group sizes and timetabling constraints. All rights to modify the provisional curriculum lie with the school.

4. Admission of children outside their normal age group

An Out of Cohort Admission Application is an application that is made for a place at Northampton School for Girls outside the normal age group for the student. Parents/carers wishing to make this request will have the opportunity to provide the school with evidence to demonstrate their reasoning, and are strongly advised to do so. The school will make the decision on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of: the parent's views; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely; the views of the head teacher. When informing a parent of their decision, the school will provide the reasons for the decision.

5.Appeals

Any student refused a place in the Sixth Form has the right of appeal to an independent appeals panel. Details of how to appeal can be obtained from the school.

6.Admissions Timetable

- i. Application deadline – 31st January 2025
- ii. Conditional offers made – March 2025
- iii. Publication of GCSE results - August 2025
- iv. School agrees/declines the admission at enrolment - August 2025
- v. Decision communicated to parent/student - August/September 2025
- vi. Independent Appeal - September 2025

7.Late applicants/In-year Admissions

- i. Late applications will be considered up to the end of September.
- ii. Where an application is received on behalf of a student who has moved into the area during the academic year, it will be considered in accordance with the minimum entry requirements, oversubscription criteria and whether the student has a reasonable chance of completing the course in the time available.
- iii. The right of appeal will also apply to late applications and in-year admissions.

Last Review Date	February 2024
Next Review Date	June 2025

Appendix 1

What is the Best 8 GCSE score?

The best 8 score is the total of the best 8 grades the student achieved in their GCSEs. *Please see the examples below to explain how this works.*

Example A:

Best 8 score = 70

This student would therefore be eligible for Pathway 1: A Levels (this student would also be eligible to be considered for four A Levels)

English Literature	9
English Language	9
Maths	9
History	9
Dance	9
Combined Science	8-8
French	9
Product Design	8

Example B:

Best 8 score = 37

This student would therefore be eligible for Pathway 2: a combination of BTEC and A Level courses

English Literature	5
English Language	5
Maths	4
Geography	4
Drama	5
Combined Science	5-5
Spanish	4
Textiles	3

Example C:

Best 8 score = 33

This student would therefore be eligible for Pathway 3: BTEC only (and would be required to retake English Language GCSE)

English Literature	5
English Language	3
Maths	4
Art	4
EP	5
Combined Science	4-4
French	2
Textiles	2

Appendix 2

Subject Specific Entry Requirements*

Subject	Entry requirements
Art	Grade 6 or above, GCSE Art
Biology	Grade 6 or above, GCSE Biology and grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics or Grades 6-6 or above, GCSE Double Science and grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics
Business	5 or above in GCSE Business, if taken and 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics
BTEC Business (Applied level 3)	Grade 4 or above, GCSE English Language and Mathematics or Grade 4 or above, GCSE English Literature and Mathematics
Chemistry	Grade 6 or above, GCSE chemistry and grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics or Grades 6-6 or above, GCSE Double Science and grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics
Computer Science	Grade 5 or above, GCSE Computer Science or Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics
WJEC Criminology (Applied Level 3)	Grade 4 or above in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature
Dance	Grade 5 or above, GCSE Dance or Merit or above in Dance BTEC, level 2 or Grade 5 or above in external dance exams
Drama	Grade 5 or above, GCSE Drama or Merit or above in BTEC Performing Arts, level 2 or Grade 5 or above, English Literature/Language <i>only if Drama has not been studied at GCSE</i>
English Language	Grade 5 or above, GCSE English Language and in English Literature
English Literature	Grade 5 or above, GCSE English Literature and in English Language
English Literature and Language	Grade 5 or above, GCSE English Literature or in English Language
Film Studies	Grade 5 or above, GCSE Film Studies (if taken) or Grade 5 or above, GCSE English Language or Grade 5 or above, GCSE English Literature
French	Grade 6 or above, GCSE French
Further Mathematics	Grade 8 or above, GCSE Mathematics <i>Students must also take Mathematics A level</i>
Geography	Grade 5 or above, GCSE Geography (if taken) or

	Grade 5 or above in any other Humanities subject (eg GCSE History, GCSE EP) <i>only if Geography has not been studied at GCSE</i>
BTEC Health & Social Care (Applied level 3)	Grade 4 or above, GCSE English Language and two other Grade 4's in any GCSE (or equivalent) subjects or Grade 4 or above, GCSE English Literature and two other Grade 4's in any GCSE (or equivalent) subjects or Merit or above in Health and Social Care BTEC, level 2
History	Grade 5 or above, GCSE History or Grade 5 or above, GCSE Geography or GCSE English Literature <i>only if History has not been studied at GCSE</i>
Mathematics	Grade 7 or above, GCSE Mathematics
Music	Grade 5 or above, GCSE Music and grade 5 or above in performing (ABRSM or Trinity examinations)
Photography	Grade 5 or above, GCSE Art or Film Studies or Grade 5 or above, GCSE DT (Graphics, Product, Textiles) <i>NOT Food</i>
Physics	Grade 6 or above, GCSE Physics and grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics or Grades 6-6 or above, GCSE Double Science and grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics
Politics	Grade 5 or above, GCSE Humanities subject (History, Geography, EP/RS) or Grade 5 or above in either GCSE English Language or Literature
Product Design	Grade 5 or above, DT subject (Paper and Board, Timbers or Textiles) or Grade 6 or above, creative subjects (Art, Creative I-media, Dance/Drama- must be the Design approach) and Grade 5 or above, GCSE Mathematics
Psychology	Grade 5 or above, GCSE English Language and grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics or Grade 5 or above, GCSE English Literature and grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
BTEC Psychology	Grade 4 or above, GCSE English Language and grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics or Grade 4 or above, GCSE English Literature and grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics
Sociology	Grade 5 or above, GCSE English Language and a grade 5 or above in any humanities subject (e.g. GCSE History, GCSE Geography, GCSE EP, GCSE Science Subject) or Grade 5 or above, GCSE English Literature and a grade 5 or above in any humanities subject (e.g. GCSE History, GCSE Geography, GCSE EP, GCSE Science Subject)
Spanish	Grade 6 or above, GCSE Spanish
BTEC Sport (Applied level 3)	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Physical Education or Merit or above in Sport BTEC, level 2 or

	Grade 5-5 in double Science or Grade 5 in Biology <i>only if PE or Sport has not been studied at GCSE</i>
Textiles	Grade 5 or above, GCSE Textiles or Grade 5 or above, GCSE Art or Grade 5 or above, GCSE Design

Level 2 qualifications: GCSE equivalents

QUALIFICATION	Level 2 grades and points
GCSE and iGCSE	9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4
OCR National Level 2	D* (8.5), D (7), M (5.5), P (4)
Level 2 BTEC	D* (8.5), D (7), M (5.5), P (4)
Level 2 award	D* (8.5), D (7), M (5.5), P (4)
Level 2 certificate	D* (8.5), D (7), M (5.5), P (4)
Level 2 diploma	D* (8.5), D (7), M (5.5), P (4)

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