

BANBRIDGE ACADEMY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY POST 16 (SIXTH FORM)

Year 13

The Board of Governors of Banbridge Academy has approved the criteria listed below and has delegated the task of applying these criteria to the Education Committee, working in conjunction with the Principal. Further reference, therefore, to the Board of Governors may imply the Education Committee or the Principal.

Applications from a pupil from another school will be considered after the completion of the admissions process to Sixth Form (Year 13) for pupils who undertook GCSE studies in Year 12 at Banbridge Academy. The Board of Governors reserves the right to amend the criteria (1-6) listed below for pupils who undertook GCSE studies in Year 12 at Banbridge Academy.

Pupils from another school wishing to apply for entry to Year 13 must make formal application each year using the School Application Form. Full details, including the Application Form, may be obtained by writing to the Principal's Secretary, Banbridge Academy, Lurgan Road, Banbridge BT32 4AQ.

All applications for places must include full details of results obtained at GCSE and be received by **1.00 pm on the day of publication of the final GCSE results**. Applications received after this time will only be considered for a place if there are places available. Acceptance of a place offered in Banbridge Academy must be received by the School before 1.00 pm on the day following the publication of the final GCSE results.

In order to be considered for a place in Year 13 all of the following criteria must be fully met:

1. The School's enrolment number has not been reached;
2. Availability of places in Year 13;
3. Availability of places in AS subjects selected for study; and
4. A minimum of 4 Grade B and 3 Grade C passes (or equivalent) at GCSE.

Including:

- (a) Grade B or above in subjects selected for AS Level;
 - (b) In subjects not taken in GCSE, Grade B or above in related GCSE subjects; and
 - (c) For Mathematics a Grade B or above in Further Mathematics is desirable.
5. The Principal must be satisfied as to the pupil's past school record and achievement, including attendance, behaviour and punctuality. A satisfactory attendance rate would be 90%.
 6. An interview with a senior member of staff of Banbridge Academy.

If the number of applicants meeting the basic eligibility criteria 1-6 above exceeds the number of places available:

7. Applicants will be ranked according to the points score based on their best 7 GCSE grades (where a GCSE Grade A* = 4 points, A = 3 points, B = 2 points, C* = 1.5 points and C = 1 point; please note the grade achieved in a GCSE Short Course is worth half the points of a full GCSE Grade i.e. A* = 2 points, A = 1.5 points, B = 1 point, C* = 0.75 and C = 0.5 of a point). Applicants will be selected in accordance with their place in this rank order of the points score. The Principal will determine the points awarded for other non-GCSE Level 2 qualifications.
8. In the event that criterion 7 fails to separate applicants for a remaining place then the total points tally of each applicant will be used to rank them (where a GCSE Grade A* = 5 points, A = 4 points, B = 3 points, C* = 2 points and C = 1 point). Applicants will be selected in accordance with their place in this rank order.

Where two or more children meet the requirement for a remaining place, children will be ranked for acceptance on the basis of a computer-based process which will make use of the names as entered on the Application Form.

The process is carried out by means of a computer programme which, for each applicant, generates a ranking number using the details from the Application Form as the seed for a random number generator. The ranking number generated, for any given applicant, is dependent only on the applicant's name (as written on the Application Form), and is not affected by the details of any other applicant. Although the process is repeatable, and the results may therefore be subsequently verified, it is not possible to predict, in advance of running the programme, what the result will be for any given set of details. Applicants with the lowest ranking numbers will be given places up to the number of places available. Further details may be obtained from the Principal.

Criteria for any extra places made available by the Department of Education for admission into Year 13

The Department of Education may, on request, increase the number of pupils that the school can admit to its Year 13. Places that become available in this way shall be allocated only to pupils who meet the basic eligibility criteria for Sixth Form study (as above) and shall be allocated in the order determined by the criteria to be applied in the order set down.

1. Pupils who have most recently completed Year 12 in Banbridge Academy.
2. Pupils from other schools where admission to an extra place at Banbridge Academy has been agreed by the Department of Education.*

*Parents should note how the Department of Education (DE) will, in response to a school's request, increase the school's enrolment number in order to allow an extra post-16 pupil to enrol. DE will only increase the school's enrolment number if it is content that each external pupil for whom a place is requested would not be able to pursue their post-16 course choices at a suitable school without undertaking an unreasonable journey (i.e. a journey that by public transport would be over an hour from where the young person lives). If DE finds that no other suitable school may provide all of the post-16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue then DE will agree a school's request for an extra place.

What is a school of a type that is suitable for a pupil? To determine this, DE first considers all schools to be one of 4 types: (i) Denominational (ii) Non-denominational (iii) Integrated and (iv) Irish-Medium. A school requesting an extra place for a post-16 pupil will belong to one of these 4 types and DE will consider any other school or schools from this same type as suitable for the pupil. DE will also consider as suitable for the pupil any school from the same type of school that the child attended in Year 12.

Year 14

Banbridge Academy Year 13 pupils should be aware of the following entry requirements for Year 14:

- Pupils must have achieved in AS examinations during Year 13 at least 3 D Grades OR scored a minimum of 7 points in GCE AS subjects only [where A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, E = 1]; and
- Pupils must satisfy the Principal with regard to attitude, behaviour and attendance (a satisfactory attendance rate would be 90%).

Note also that:

- if a pupil achieves less than an E grade in a particular subject they may be precluded from studying the subject in Year 14;
- in a few exceptional cases it may be possible for pupils to repeat Year 13, provided they will be under 19 years of age at the time of the DE Census in their final year of School AND that places are available, and that the Principal feels it is in the best interests of the pupil to do so. Failure to meet the age requirement will mean that such pupils will automatically lose their place in the School; and
- pupils whose performance in the AS Level examinations may have been detrimentally affected by extreme medical or other problems, the Principal, in consultation with the Chairman of the Education Committee, is empowered, in exceptional cases, to waive the above requirements. Each case will be carefully assessed by the Principal and Chairman of the Education Committee, taking into account the appropriate documentary evidence.