

Admissions Arrangements for the Sixth Form: 2017-2018

The Admissions System

Each year the school admits a maximum of 130 students into Year 12 of the Sixth Form for A Level courses. Up to 20 places are reserved for students studying the Bilingual Maturity Diploma in Switzerland as part of our partnership agreement with the Canton de Vaud. In addition 30 students will be put on the waiting list.

How the 110 places are allocated

The basic qualification: All applicants must have an academic reference from their current school stating their predicted grades. These must in all cases include GCSEs at grade 4 or above in English language and maths, and 5 other GCSEs at or above a grade C. **Applicants' predicted grades must also meet any higher individual grade requirements specified on the sixth form website or prospectus in relation to their selected subjects.**

Places will first be offered to applicants meeting the basic qualification (and any higher individual grade requirements in relation to their specific subjects) in the following order:

- 1. Students with an EHC Plan** naming the school (issued by their local authority).
- 2. Looked after¹ and previously looked after² children.**

Looked after children or children who were previously looked after but immediately afterwards became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order.
- 3. Applicants already attending Year 11 of St Mary Magdalene Academy at the time of application.**
- 4. Applicants having a sibling³ living at the same address and already attending the school at the time of admission.**

In cases where multiple siblings tie for the last place, then all will be offered a place, even if this exceeds the planned admission number.
- 5. Applicants who can provide evidence of an exceptional social or medical need that St Mary Magdalene is specifically able to meet.**

Such applications will only be considered if the case is made known to the school and supported by appropriate evidence at the time of the original application. This will normally be in the form of a letter from a suitably qualified professional such as the applicant's doctor, consultant or social worker.

6. The remaining places will be allocated to those applicants meeting the basic qualification and for whom places on their chosen courses are available.

Places will be allocated subject to the following procedures:

1. Once the places available for a particular course of study have been filled, any other applicant who has chosen that course will be not considered for admission, regardless of whether places are available on other courses that the applicant has chosen.
2. In the unlikely event of more than one applicant being tied for entry under these criteria, the place will be randomly allocated.

The school reserves the right to withdraw courses that fail to recruit in sufficient numbers.

30 students will be put on the waiting list. As places become available they will be offered to the students on the list in the order stated overleaf in 'How the 110 places are allocated', provided that their courses are available.

The Application Timetable

- Application forms will be available from 1st October 2016
- An Open Evening will be held on Wednesday 16th November 2016
- The deadline for completed applications is Tuesday 31st January 2017
- On receipt of applications, academic references are sought by the school from the applicant's current school. The final date for receipt of the reference is Tuesday 28th February 2017
- We will notify parents if a reference is not received by Tuesday 28th February 2017. It is then the responsibility of the applicant to follow up our reference request from their current school
- Offer letters will be sent by Friday 31st March 2017 requesting a reply by Monday 24th April 2017.

Conditions

All conditional places offered are subject to the following post-acceptance conditions:

1. The applicant must provide documentary proof of having in fact obtained GCSEs at or above grade 4 in English language and maths, and 5 other GCSEs at grade C or above.
2. The applicant must provide documentary proof of having in fact all relevant entry requirements. ie applicants' grades must also meet any higher individual

grade requirements specified on the sixth form website or prospectus in relation to their selected subjects.

Any applicant who is unable to satisfy these conditions will not be admitted to the Sixth Form.

¹ *In order to be given highest priority for admission, a child has to fall within the definition of 'looked after' in section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989. As this Act applies to England and Wales, a child has to be looked after by an English or Welsh local Authority.*

² *Paragraph 1.7 of the School Admissions Code gives equal highest priority to 'previously looked after children'. Given the definition of a looked after child, a child will have to have been looked after by an English or Welsh local authority in order to be considered previously looked after. Under paragraph 1.7 of the Code, a child has to have been looked after immediately before they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order. In addition, in order to fall within the definition of a previously looked after child, an adopted child must have been adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002. This Act did not come fully into force until December 2005; it is therefore not possible for a child to have been adopted under that Act prior to then.*

³ *Sibling is defined in these arrangements as; a sister or brother, a half sister or brother, an adopted sister or brother, a step-sister or brother.*