



Introduction

The Cherwell School is an 11-18 comprehensive school which aims to provide excellent education to all students. The school's aim is to be a *Centre of Opportunity* to enable students to achieve success in whatever they undertake. The School is an Academy managed by the River Learning Trust (formerly The Cherwell School Academy Trust).

This policy has been approved by The Cherwell School Governing Body and the River Learning Trust Board of Trustees, the body responsible for admission arrangements and decisions. These arrangements come into force for admissions planned for 2016-17 and 2017-18.

This policy is for entry to Years 12 and 13 where applications are made directly to the school; the policy for entry to 11-16 Provision (Years 7 to 8) is available separately where applications are part of the Oxfordshire Local Authority co-ordinated scheme and further details of this process, including important dates can be found at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/secondary-school-applications> .

Further details on how to make an application for entry to the Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13) can be found at: <https://www.cherwell.oxon.sch.uk/prospectus-and-applications>

Admissions Numbers

- I. All students in Year 11 at The Cherwell School who meet the academic entry criteria are entitled to a place in the Sixth Form.
- II. The minimum number of external applicants to be admitted is 50. 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 number and 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.

Admissions Arrangements

- i. The Cherwell Sixth Form encourages applications from students currently at The Cherwell School as well as students from other institutions.
- ii. The academic entry criteria are the same for both internal and external applicants
- iii. All applicants must complete the online application form and send this to the Sixth Form Administrator by the designated date (usually the start of February).
- iv. All information relating to applications is contained within the Sixth Form prospectus, a copy of which can be found on the school website.
- v. A Sixth Form Open Evening is held annually (in January) and all potential applicants are encouraged to attend.

vi. Internal applicants will receive guidance prior to completing their application. External candidates may have a guidance meeting with a member of staff after receipt of their application.

vii. Once external applications have been received, references will be sent for.

viii. The school aims to inform applicants whether or not they have been successful in their application by the Easter break/ end of Term 4.

ix. Students wishing to study a subject at another institution, for example as part of the Oxford City Learning offer, should indicate this on the application form. The Cherwell School will facilitate this where possible and no further application is required.

x. For successful external applicants, a formal written acceptance of the offer will be required by the date indicated in the offer letter. Should a student fail to accept the offer by this date the school reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place in the Sixth Form.

xi. All applicants who have been offered a place must attend the Sixth Form induction programme (in late June / early July) and confirm subject choices via the online enrolment system once students have received their GCSE results in August. Should a student fail to do so the school reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place in the Sixth Form.

Admission Requirements: Academic Entry Criteria

i. Admission to particular courses will depend upon availability of places and a student's prior attainment at GCSE.

ii. Our policy is to ensure that students accepted into the sixth form can be placed in appropriate courses where they are likely to succeed. For this reason the following entry criteria apply to the courses offered. If an applicant does not meet the criteria the school reserves the right to use its discretion, based on the school's knowledge of that applicant, to offer a place to that applicant.

- All students will require 340 GCSE points in their highest 8 GCSEs (this equates to an approximate average of 4Bs and 4Cs). This must include a minimum of grade 4 in both English Language and mathematics GCSE. Please see appendix B for an explanation of how points towards this measure are accrued.

- Many courses have subject specific criteria which are detailed in our course prospectus. However, a minimum of a grade B or equivalent at GCSE in the chosen A level subjects is strongly recommended.

- Occasionally some students wish to transfer to Cherwell in Year 13. For admission into Y13 external students must meet our GCSE entry requirements. An application form should be completed and following the receipt of the completed application form, eligibility of transfer of subjects between exam boards will be checked, references will be sent for and a guidance meeting held.

Allocation of Places and Oversubscription Criteria

During some years, The Cherwell Sixth Form has been oversubscribed. Where students meet the admissions requirements and where there are spaces in courses that the applicant wishes to take, places will be offered in the following order of priority:

- 1) Looked After Children
- 2) Internal applicants
- 3) External applicants

For each category, priority will be given to students living nearest to the school as measured by straight line distancing.

- In addition, 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 (Paragraph II above).

Closing Dates and Late Applications

Internal applications received by the closing date will be considered before all subsequent external applications. Late applications will only be considered if places become available in all subjects requested at the time of receiving the application; if a place in all subjects is not available the application is held on the waiting list.

Waiting Lists

If we are unable to offer applicants a place based on the details described in this policy, the school will hold a waiting list until 30th September in the year of school admission. Each application is ranked on the waiting list as determined by the oversubscription criteria (see above) and should circumstances change in relation to the projected number and size of teaching groups which may allow the application to proceed, applicants may be contacted.

Review of Results and Appeals Process

On receipt of results in August, the Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form and Chair of Governors/other Senior Governor will meet to review any borderline cases for entry based on an individual's GCSE performance (i.e. where an applicant may have narrowly missed the entry criteria) . At this point they will consider any reasons which might explain why an individual has not reached the entry threshold.

These reasons might include one or more of the following:

- Special Educational Needs
- Significant underperformance against predicted grades
- Significant long term medical issues
- Other significant factors which may have led to a student not performing in line with expectations.

If it is felt that these reasons explain why a student has not secured the entry requirements then the school reserves the right to use its discretion to offer a place to that applicant. Applicants

should be aware that if they have already been given special consideration by the Examinations Boards then this will be taken into account when making decisions on borderline cases.

Should this review of results not lead to an offer of a place, applicants have a right of appeal to an independent appeals panel administered by the Local Authority.

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Appendix A: Specific Course requirements as at December 2016

Subject	Subject grade/entrance criteria 2016
Art	Students are expected to have achieved a grade C or above at GCSE in art
Biology	Students are expected to average grade B or above in the three science subjects if studying triple science. If the student is studying core and additional science they are expected to have achieved BB grades or above.
Business Studies	In most cases, students are expected to have achieved a grade C or above in business studies
Chemistry	Students are expected to average grade B or above in the three science subjects if studying triple science. If the student is studying core and additional science they are expected to have achieved BB grades or above.
Computing	Students are expected to have achieved a grade 5 or above at GCSE in mathematics, and a grade C or above at GCSE in computing. Students wanting to study this subject without a GCSE in computing can do so on successful completion of a computing entrance assessment, for which resources will be made available on induction day.
Design Technology	In most cases. students are expected to have achieved a grade C or above in resistant materials, graphic products or textiles technology
Economics	Students are expected to have achieved grade 5 or above in both English language and mathematics
English Literature	Students are expected to have achieved grade 5 or above in GCSE English language and literature
French	Students are expected to have achieved grade B or above in French
Further Mathematics	Students are expected to have achieved grade 7 or above in mathematics
Geography	Students are expected to have achieved grade C or above in geography
German	Students are expected to have achieved grade B or above in German
History	Students are expected to have achieved grade C or above in history
Latin	Students are expected to have achieved grade B or above in Latin
Mathematics	Students are expected to have achieved grade 7 or above in mathematics
Mathematics AS	Students are expected to have achieved grade 6 or above in mathematics
Music	Students are expected to have achieved grade B or above in music, or grade 6 and/or an audition
Philosophy and Ethics	No specific requirement beyond entrance requirements; C grade or above in P and E GCSE is an advantage.
Photography	Students are expected to have achieved grade C or above in GCSE art
Physical Education	No specific requirement beyond entrance requirements
Physics	Students are expected to average grade B or above in the three science subjects if studying triple science. If the student is studying core and additional science they are expected to have achieved BB grades or above. Students are also required to study either A level mathematics or AS level mathematics alongside this subject in sixth form
Psychology	Students are expected to have achieved grade 5 or above in English language and mathematics and ideally BB or BBB in science
Sociology	No specific requirement beyond entrance requirements; C grade or above in sociology GCSE is an advantage.
Spanish	Students are expected to have achieved grade B or above in Spanish
Theatre Studies	No specific requirement beyond entrance requirements; C or above in Drama GSE is an advantage.

To be reviewed annually.

Appendix B: Point Scores available per Grade

Points for subjects other than English and Maths (A*-G scale)

A*-G grade	Points
A*	58
A	52
B	46
C	40
D	34
E	28
F	22
G	16
U	0

Points for English and Maths (9-1 scale)

1-9 Grade	Points
9	61
8	56
7	52
6	48
5	44
4	40
3	34
2	28
1	16