



PLYMSTOCK SCHOOL

Sixth Form Entry Policy

Governors' Committee: Curriculum

Lead Officer: Ms AM Perry:

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The Principle of inclusive 11-18 Education at Plymstock School

We want all of our students to have the opportunity to complete their education on appropriate courses here. This principle needs to be made clear during a student's induction in Year Six and they need reminding of it as they move through the school. We have developed, through The Plym Consortium, access to post 16 courses that provide for the full range of ability.

The notion, if it ever existed, of the 6th form being a place just for an 'academic elite' no longer holds true. Therefore there is a place for any student in our Sixth Form if they have completed their GCSEs with us and at whatever grades. The factors that would, however, give rise to serious consideration as to whether a student should enter our Sixth Form would relate to attitude and behaviour. There are no GCSE requirements for entry into the Sixth Form, but there are requirements for specific subjects. The Sixth Form Prospectus gives details of the grades that are required for each subject and course.

In recent years over 70% of our students have gained 5 A*-C GCSEs and it should be a reasonable expectation that the vast majority of them would want to complete their advanced level education at their own school. Entry onto advanced level courses is considered below.

Any student who has not yet gained a C grade or above in GCSE English Language and/or Mathematics will be required to retake these subjects. Any student who wishes to improve their GCSE English Language and/or Mathematics grade will be supported to do so.

Students who have completed their GCSEs at another school will be considered for entry onto a level 3 programme following an interview with the Director of Post 16 Education. At this interview they will be required to produce current academic data and evidence of predicted grades. Acceptance into Plymstock School will also be dependent on a satisfactory reference from the student's current school. External candidates must meet the entry requirements for their chosen subjects as set out in the Sixth Form Prospectus. All external candidates must bring their GCSE certificates with them on arrival in September. If they have not achieved a C grade or higher in both English language and Mathematics GCSE their offer of a place will be reviewed.

The school does not accept entries onto The Plym Consortium from external students.

Policy for entry to advanced level courses *(this section has been entirely reviewed)*

From September 2016 most Advanced Level subjects are two year courses and awarded as an A Level at the end of the second year.

Most students follow a course of 3 or 4 Advanced Level subjects. Guidance is given on the

Choices Form as to whether 3 or 4 subjects should be considered.

For the 2016/17 Choices this was:

- *If you are estimated predominantly C and B grades you should consider studying 3 subjects which might include a combination of AS levels, Cambridge Technical and BTEC Diplomas. We do not recommend that you take more than 2 Cambridge Technical and / or BTEC courses*
- *If you are estimated 5 or more A*, A or B grades you should consider studying 3 subjects*
- *If you are estimated 7 or more A* or A grades you should consider studying 4 subjects*
- *You must have achieved the requirements for entry on to your chosen subject as set out in the sixth form prospectus*
- *If you have not achieved a C grade or above in either Mathematics or English Language your application will still be considered on the expectation that you will resit these in the sixth form.*

The decision to accept individual students onto courses is normally taken by the Director of Post 16 Education, with advice from curriculum leaders. If the class size remains higher than 28 well into September, the curriculum leader may ask for extra timetabling consideration from the Headteacher (though this is not guaranteed.) If the class size is less than 10 contact time with a teacher may be slightly reduced and replaced with distance learning activities.

Mr W Sprenkel April 2016