

**St. Malachy's College
Belfast**



**CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION
TO SIXTH FORM**

*All Pupils hoping to enter Sixth Form in St Malachy's College
must meet all General and Subject Specific Criteria*

February 2024

In accordance with the requirements of the Department of Education, the Board of Governors of St. Malachy's College has drawn up the following criteria for admission to Sixth Form (Year 13).

**CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO SIXTH FORM
GENERAL CRITERIA**

ACADEMIC

(i) Pupils must have demonstrated, by their preparation for GCSE, their ability and interest in working towards good A-level grades.
Consideration of a pupil's preparation for GCSE will take account of school reports and/or weeks on report and the pupil's full compliance with arrangements for controlled assessment/coursework in those subjects where it is an integral part of the course.

(ii) Pupils should have achieved a minimum of seven GCSE subjects at Grades A*-C.

(iii) Pupils must have **12 GCSE** points or higher in order to be considered for admission.
The table below indicates how many points are awarded to each grade at GCSE level.

Grade	A*	A	B	C*	C
Points	4	3	2	1.5	1

(iv) Pupils should satisfy the Subject Specific Criteria for each A level subject.

(v) Pupils who wish to study four subjects at AS level must have at least **6 Grade A** passes at GCSE level with an overall point score **exceeding 25 points**.

(vi) Where a subject is over-subscribed (i.e. where there are more pupils wanting to take the subject than there are places available), the Principal will, on the basis of the information presented, give priority to those applicants who are considered to be the best qualified in terms of academic ability, achievement and commitment to their studies.

(vii) The final availability of subjects rests with the College, taking account of numbers wishing to study a particular subject, the staffing and accommodation available, and the budget constraints imposed by the Department of Education/ Education Authority.

(viii) Pupils are not bound by their subject choice as indicated above. However, it is stressed that in the event that a subject is over-subscribed, pupils' choices at this stage will take preference over pupils' choices in August.

(ix) The number of places available for external applicants will be dependent on the number of existing pupils progressing to Year 13 (see Appendix A).

(x) Pupils with a Statement of Education Needs (Stage 5) will be considered on an individual basis

BEHAVIOUR

Pupils must have observed school rules especially with regard to punctuality, conduct, and adherence to uniform regulations, respect for staff, fellow pupils and school property. Consideration of a pupil's behaviour will take account of his achievement (merit) and behaviour (demerit) profiles, the number of weeks on report, detentions and/or suspensions.

SUBJECT SPECIFIC CRITERIA

A LEVEL SUBJECTS ON OFFER	EXAM BOARD	ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS – MINIMUM GCSE GRADES
Art and Design	CCEA	C* in Art and Design If a student has not studied Art & Design, they must be able to demonstrate a high degree of aptitude, ability and motivation for Art.
Biology	CCEA	A in Biology or AA in Double Award Science with at least a B in GCSE Mathematics.
Business Studies	CCEA	B in GCSE Business Studies, if studied, and C* in English Language/Literature and C* in Mathematics. (must have at least 15 points at GCSE) If a student has not studied GCSE Business Studies, they must have a B grade in GCSE English Language/ Literature and Mathematics, with at least 15 points at GCSE.
Chemistry	CCEA	A in Chemistry or AA in Double Award Science with at least a B in GCSE Further Mathematics If a student has not studied Further Maths, they must have an A grade in Mathematics and completed M4 & M8 with a minimum of 70% raw mark in the M8 paper.
Computing	CCEA	A in GCSE Computing, if studied, and must have at least 20 GCSE points across 6 subjects, including A grades in both Mathematics and Further Mathematics.
Drama	WJEC	B in GCSE Drama, with C* in English Language/ Literature. If a student has not studied Drama, they must demonstrate a proven track record of participation and interest in Drama inside or outside school.
Economics	CCEA	B in Mathematics and B in English Language/ Literature (must have a minimum of 17 GCSE points across 6 subjects)
English Literature	CCEA	B in English Language and a B in English Literature (and must have attained a B grade in Unit 3 Controlled Assessment Component – Shakespeare) Candidates with a minimum of 15 GCSE points will be considered
French	CCEA	A in French and C* in English Language/ Literature
Further Mathematics	CCEA	A* in GCSE Further Mathematics and A* in GCSE Mathematics.
Geography	CCEA	A in Geography or B in Geography with B in English Language/ Literature.
Government and Politics	CCEA	B in English Language/Literature and B in Geography/History. All students must have a minimum of 12 GCSE points across 6 subjects.
Health & Social Care	CCEA	C in English Language/Literature and C in Mathematics
History	CCEA	A in History or B in History and B in English Language/ Literature
Information Technology (CTEC)	OCR	C in Mathematics and C in English Language/ Literature. Students must have a good record of meeting deadlines and a proven success in an ICT related subject is desirable.
Irish	CCEA	A in Irish and C* in English Language/Literature
Mathematics	CCEA	B in Further Mathematics or students without Further Mathematics must have an A grade in Mathematics and completed M4 & M8 with a minimum of 70% raw mark in M8.

Moving Image Arts	CCEA	B in relevant GCSE (MIA, Art or English Language/ Literature) If a student has not studied GCSE MIA, they must be able to demonstrate a high degree of aptitude, ability and motivation for this subject.
Music	CCEA	A in GCSE Music If a student has not studied GCSE Music they must demonstrate a high degree of aptitude (at least grade 7), ability and experience in Music
Physical Education	CCEA	B in GCSE PE and competing at a high level in one sport from the course list. For students without GCSE PE, a grade B in English Language/Literature and must be playing 1 sport at competitive level from the course list.
Physics	CCEA	A in Physics <u>or</u> AA in Double Award Science with a B grade in Further Mathematics. If a student has not studied Further Maths, they must have an A grade in Mathematics and have completed M4 & M8 with a minimum of 70% raw mark in M8. For these students, the study of A Level Mathematics is essential.
Religious Studies	CCEA	B in RE and C* in English Language/Literature/History
Spanish	CCEA	A in Spanish and C* in English Language/Literature
Sport (BTEC)	Pearson Edexcel	C in English Language/Literature and C in Mathematics
Technology and Design	CCEA	B in Technology and Design. Students must have a good record of meeting deadlines

These are the minimum entry requirements and are subject to change. Additional subjects may be offered in 2024-25 via collaboration. Results from other examination boards will be given equal consideration.

The Principal may review applications by individual pupils who do not meet the above criteria. Parents/Guardians can use the College's Complaints Policy to appeal decisions regarding admission to Sixth Form.

APPENDIX A

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 in St Malachy's College 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 St Malachy's College.
2. Pupils from other schools where admission to an extra place at St Malachy's College has been agreed by the Department of Education.*

* Parents should note how the Department of Education 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 first check whether there is another school or schools of a type suitable for that pupil within an hour's journey of where the pupil lives. If there is, DE will then check whether this other school or schools with places available may provide all of the post-16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue. If these checks find 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 four 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 school from this same type as suitable for the pupil. DE will also consider as suitable for the pupil any school from the same type as the type of school that the child attended in Year 12.