

Sixth Form Applications Advice for Year 11 Students

2020-21

Sixth Form Applications

Entry Requirements:

**A minimum of 2 x grade 6 and 3 x grade 5
Maths and English (Literature or Language) grade 5 or higher***

Key Dates:

Open Evening Events – throughout January**

Application Deadline Friday 24th February

- **External applicants, please see our over-subscription policy (available on our website).**

**** As we are unable to host our traditional Open Evening event, please see our website for further details and consultation options.**

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Although the minimum basic entry requirement is 2 x 6, 3 x 5 (including Maths and English 5), many subjects have additional individual subject-specific requirements in order to secure a place on the course:

Art	6 in art
Biology	66 in science, or 6 in biology, and a 6 in mathematics
Business Studies	5 in Business Studies preferred.
Chemistry	66 in science, or 6 in chemistry, and a 6 in mathematics
Computing	6 in mathematics and a 6 in another IT qualification
Drama & Theatre studies	5 in both English language and literature / 5/C in drama if studied at GCSE/IGCSE
Economics	6 in mathematics and English (lit. or lang.). GCSE business not required
English	6 in English language or literature
Environmental Science	55 in Science, and a 5 in Maths
Food Science & Nutrition	5 in food and nutrition or catering and hospitality, or a 6 in any other DT subject
French	6 in French GCSE
Further Maths	Good 7 in higher tier mathematics, ideally 8 or 9.

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Geography	6 in geography
History	6 in history, 6 in English if history not studied at GCSE
Mathematics	Grade 7 in mathematics.
Music	6 in music and instrumental and performance skills to at least grade 5. (Expected to take lessons on their specialist instrument)
PE	6 in PE and 5 in science. (If PE not studied at GCSE, evidence of a high standard in one sport)
Photography	6 in art. If art GCSE not taken, sketchpad / portfolio must be submitted
Physics	6 in science, or 6 in physics and a 6 in mathematics
Politics	6 in English and / or history
Product design	6 in any design technology subject
Psychology	5 in maths and English
Russian	6 in Russian GCSE
Spanish	6 in Spanish GCSE
Textiles	6 in textiles or art GCSE

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If you are unsure of your GCSE target grade, or are concerned that your current level of progress will prevent you from being successful in your application, discuss this with your subject teacher, tutor and mentor as soon as possible.

A-Levels	A-level Equivalents
A*	Distinction *
A	Distinction
B	-
C	Merit
D	-
E	Pass
U	U

Remember:

**Food Science & Nutrition, and Health & Social Care are not A-levels, but A-level equivalents:
Food is a Level 3 BTEC and H&SC is a Cambridge Certificate courses.**

They are A-level equivalents, graded Distinction* to Pass:

As part of the Sixth Form you will:

- **Study 4 A-level subjects in Year 12 and sit terminal end-of-year exams for these at the end of Year 12**
- **Complete the Extended Project Qualification (AS-level equivalent qualification)**
- **Use our amazing study facilities, open to you both before and after school**
- **Participate in Games on a Wednesday afternoon (any sport you wish – within reason)**
- **Receive Futures and Speaker sessions once a fortnight to support your study skills and plan for your post-18 destinations beyond Balcarras**
- **Wear our smart, but more casual uniform**
- **Have a tutor who will be your base of contact for your entire time in Sixth Form**
- **Have numerous opportunities to stretch and challenge yourself – Bar Mock Trial, Boost, DofE Gold, Paired Mentoring, STEM Ambassadors, Young Enterprise to name but a few!**
- **Have an incredibly enriching, fun and successful time.**

Sixth Form Applications

Planning your option choices to facilitate post-18 Degree and career ambitions



Interested in Engineering?

Recommended A-levels:

Mathematics and Physics essential, and sometimes Further Mathematics too.

Product Design also highly recommended.

Interested in Business and Economics?

Recommended A-levels:

Economics. Mathematics very useful, as is Business Studies.



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Interested in Midwifery, Nursing, Social Care?

Recommended A-levels / BTECs:

Health and Social Care will provide the necessary experience for applications. Biology or Environmental Science also very important. Psychology a sensible accompanying option.

Interested in Physics:

Recommended A-level:

Physics. Mathematics also very important, Further Mathematics beneficial too.

Well worth considering other sciences like Chemistry.



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Interested in Medicine or Dentistry?

Recommended A-levels:

Chemistry is more important than Biology. Studying both would be sensible.

Mathematics is also absolutely essential.



Interested in Law & the Bar?

Recommended A-levels:

History, English highly recommended.

Politics, any MFL, and Economics all relevant and useful additional options.

(law A-level disapproved by some universities)

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Interested in Psychology and Criminology?

Recommended A-levels:

Psychology.

Biology recommended, and strong maths GCSE required. English also recommended.



Interested in Veterinary Science?

Recommended A-levels:

**Much like with Medicine and Dentistry,
Chemistry, Maths, and Biology all strongly advised.**

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Interested in writing and Journalism?
Recommended A-level:
English, History, Politics, Philosophy & Ethics
(the former two in particular).
MFL subjects also well worth considering.



Interested in Physical Education, Sports Science, Physiotherapy?
Recommended A-levels:
PE. Sciences recommended, in particular Biology (these two A-levels go particularly well together).

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The Russell Group – a prestigious group of UK universities issued the following guidance a number of years ago:

If you are not sure about what course you want to study at university then traditionally, you would be encouraged try to choose at least two from the following list (known as ‘facilitating A-levels’) to keep your options open:

Mathematics

English Literature

Physics

Biology

Chemistry

Geography

History

Languages:

- **French**
- **Russian**
- **Spanish**



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Traditional ‘facilitating’ subjects:

Mathematics

English Literature

Physics

Biology

Chemistry

Geography

History

Languages:

- **French**
- **Russian**
- **Spanish**



This advice has been challenged in recent years, and students are increasingly encouraged to look for a balance of skills and knowledge that is appropriate to them.

Do not dismiss subjects solely because they are not on the traditional list of ‘facilitating’ subjects – do consider STEM, SHAPE, and other options. Most of all, think about enjoyment and interest – if you don’t want to study something for two years, it is unlikely you will want a career in a field in which such knowledge and skills would need to be applied!

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When selecting your options, you do need to make sensible choices with regard to key subjects that have specific relevance to a planned post-18 career ambition.

However, the most essential criteria for your option choices must be if you can answer 'YES' to the following questions:

- Am I **interested** in this subject and the A-level syllabus content?
- Do I currently **enjoy** this subject at GCSE level?
- Am I **mastering the skills and knowledge** relevant to this subject?
- Do my choices offer me the **breath and range of topics and skills** that I want?
- Are my option choices going to **assess me in a way that is likely to bring out the best of me?**
- Are my option choices going to enable me to **stay on course to pursue a future career** in the professional field to which I aspire?

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Planning your option choices to facilitate post-18 Degree and career ambitions

Do what you ENJOY!

You will get better results and have more fun if you pick some subjects just because you enjoy them.

Get the balance right between academic rigour and enjoyment



**COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION FORM IN
WORD AND EMAIL TO MS TAYLOR**

sixthformapplications@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

FORMS ON THE WEBSITE

DEADLINE = 24th FEB 2021



Still have questions?

Email Mr Leatherbarrow dl@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk.