

Balcarras Admission Arrangements 2025-26 Year 12 Entry Criteria and Oversubscription Criteria

The purpose of our entry criteria is to ensure that students embarking on courses at A-level are academically able to complete the course and achieve satisfactory results. It is therefore sensible and necessary to specify that all examination grades submitted as part of the entry requirements are academically rigorous enough to ensure success.

There is no requirement on location. Provided the potential student can guarantee that s/he will arrive punctually each day and can safely make her/his way home after the end of school then s/he will be eligible to apply for a place in the sixth form. We welcome applications from students new, or returning, to the Cheltenham area.

Balcarras School hopes to welcome students who have a genuine enthusiasm to attend Balcarras Sixth Form, have a real passion for academic hard work and view Balcarras as their definite number one option for post 16 studies.

Balcarras School would like to positively encourage students to apply who currently attend a school without sixth form provision. We are determined to build on the excellent relationships and the firm commitment that exists between Balcarras Sixth Form and local schools.

Entry Criteria

The entry criteria for Balcarras Sixth Form are the same for Balcarras Students and for external students and are as follows:

- Students must achieve at least 2 grade 6s and 3 grade 5s in full GCSE courses*. Students must achieve a grade 5 or higher in GCSE Mathematics and English*. (Some subjects have additional entry criteria and for students applying for those subjects, the additional requirements are set out clearly in the sixth form brochure and on the Sixth Form admission page of the school website.)
- Balcarras Sixth Form will admit up to 50 external students (with a minimum of 10) from other schools into Year 12. 200 students will be admitted to Year 12 in total.
- All applications must reach the school, fully completed, by February 4th on an official application form which can be downloaded from the Sixth Form admission page of the school website.

** Where a student is studying courses other than full course GCSE, then the student must contact the school to discuss what standards will be required.*

Oversubscription Criteria

In the event that there are more than 50 applications from external students, then the applications will be given priority according to the following criteria:

- Looked after children will have first priority.
- Students who's top 5 predicted full course GCSE scores* show a score above 33 (e.g. in new GCSE numbers 7,7,7,6,6 and in old GCSEs AAABB). The final grades achieved in the top 5 full course GCSEs must also be above 33.

- Students applying for courses where the cohort size is predicted to be smaller than 12.
- Students who have high predicted GCSE grades in the subjects they are applying to study at A-level.

If, after the above criteria have been applied, there are still more than 50 eligible applications, then priority will be given to students applying for courses where class sizes do not exceed 20.

** Where a student is studying courses other than full course GCSE, then the student must contact the school to discuss what standards will be required.*

The waiting list will only remain in use until September 30th. Students will be notified by official letter to their home address of the decision.

Appeals

Any appeals must be made in writing to the Head of Sixth Form and must be received within 3 weeks of the decision letter being sent.

Students with qualifications other than GCSEs

Balcarras Sixth Form will consider some non-GCSE courses. However, not all courses will be sufficiently equivalent to provide the necessary academic grounding for the A-levels and study environment at Balcarras Sixth Form. For example, it is often not possible to directly compare foreign examinations grades with GCSE grades.

Offers will be made based on the examinations the student is due to take in the school he/she is studying and will be made on an individual basis. The offer will be the decision of Balcarras School and be broadly comparable, as far as is possible, to the equivalent GCSE requirements set out at the top of this document.

Applicants who are studying courses other than GCSE are advised to check with the school on the suitability of their particular course(s).

Supplementary Application Form Required? Yes, please contact the school for further information.

Approved by Balcarras Governors at their Full Governors Meeting held on 15/9/20