



Barnwell Sixth Form

Entry Requirements 2026

Our entry requirements are in place to ensure all students enrol on a programme of study in which they can be successful and achieve their full potential.

We treat all applications on an individual's basis, however these entry requirements provide a guidance for students regarding what is required for them to successfully make the next step to level 3 study.

To ensure students are on the most appropriate programme of study we use the average point score (APS) system. At Barnwell Sixth Form we take a student's best 6 grades and calculate an average from this. Information on how to calculate your 'best 6 APS' can be found on the following page. The table below shows the combination of subjects you should aspire to study, based on your best 6 APS.

Your best 6 APS	Recommend pathway
Above 6.0	3 academics subjects
5.5 - 6.0	2 academics + 1 vocational
5.0-5.5	1 academic + 2 vocationals
4.0-5.0	3 vocational subjects

Academic Subject Requirements		
Subject	Minimum best 6 APS	Additional entry requirements
Art & Design	5.5	Grade 6 – GCSE Art & Design
Biology	5.5	Grade 6 – GCSE Biology or Grade 7-7 – GCSE Combined Science
Chemistry	5.5	Grade 6 – GCSE Chemistry or Grade 7-7 – GCSE Combined Science
English Lit. & Lang.	5.5	Grade 6 – English
Further Maths	5.5	Grade 8 – Maths
Geography	5.5	Grade 6 – Geography
History	5.5	Grade 6 – History
Maths	5.5	Grade 7 – Maths
Physics	5.5	Grade 6 – GCSE Physics or Grade 7-7 – GCSE Combined Science
Psychology	5.5	Grade 6 – Psychology (if taken) Grade 6 – English Grade 5 – Maths

Vocational Subject Requirements		
Subject	Minimum best 6 APS	Additional entry requirements
Business Studies	4.0	Grade 4 – GCSE Maths Grade 4 – GCSE Business (if taken)
Digital Media	4.0	Grade 4 – English
Health & Social Care	4.0	Merit – Health & Social Care (if taken)
Human Biology	4.0	Grade 4 – GCSE Biology Grade 5-5 – GCSE Combined Science
Information Technology	4.0	Grade 5 – GCSE Computing Merit – Info. Tech.
Music Technology	4.0	Grade 4 – English Merit – BTEC Music (if taken)
Sport & Physical Activity	4.0	Grade 5 – GCSE PE Level 2 Merit – BTEC Sport
Performing Arts - Dance	4.0	Level 2 Merit – Dance (Required)
Performing Arts – Acting	4.0	Grade 4 – GCSE Drama (Required)
Performing Arts – Musical Theatre	4.0	Grade 4/L2 Merit in Drama/Performing Arts (Required)
Criminology	4.0	Grade 4 – English & Maths

* Further courses are available through our consortium schools. Please contact us for more information.

**We expect to offer all the courses listed subject to demand. Should any courses be undersubscribed, we reserve the right to withdraw them from our curriculum offer. In this event, you will be contacted to discuss an alternative Programme of Study.

Calculating Best 6 Average Points Score (APS)

Use the tables below to identify how many points your GCSE grades are worth:

GCSE	
Grade	Equiv. points
9	9
8	8
7	7
6	6
5	5
4	4
3	3
2	2
1	1
U	0

Level 2 BTEC	
Grade	Equiv. points
Distinction*	8.5
Distinction	7
Merit	5.5
Pass	4
Level 1 BTEC	
L1 Distinction	3
L1 Merit	2
L1 Pass	1.25

Remember that combined science is worth 2 GCSEs:

e.g. 7-7 = 2 GCSEs 7 and 7 e.g. 6-5 = 2 GCSEs 6 and 5

How to calculate your best 6 APS:

1. Identify your best 6 GCSE point scores
2. Calculate the sum of these 6 GCSEs
3. Divide this number by 6

$$\text{Best 6 APS} = \frac{(___ + ___ + ___ + ___ + ___ + ___)}{6}$$

