

Rathmore Grammar School

POST-GCSE ADMISSIONS CRITERIA for 2026-27

Rathmore Grammar School is a Catholic Co-educational Voluntary Grammar School which was opened in 1953 by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary whose rich tradition it inherits. The ethos and aspirations of the School are outlined in the School Mission Statement and Prospectus.

Sixth Form pupils at Rathmore, having chosen to pursue their studies to A-Level, are invited to assume a leadership role within the school, working closely with teachers and fellow pupils in promoting a caring and vibrant learning atmosphere. We hope that pupils will enjoy their Sixth Form years and avail of the opportunities which the school provides for them to achieve academic excellence, in keeping with their individual aptitudes, and to become more confident, articulate, and responsible young adults.

The Admissions Panel, set up by the Board of Governors, draws up the Post-GCSE Admissions Criteria and delegates to the Principal the responsibility of applying the criteria in the selection of pupils for Years 13 and 14.

As the A-Level course covers two years, only in exceptional circumstances will external applications to Upper Six, the second year of the course, be considered.

Requirements for the Sixth Form:

Sixth Form pupils are expected to take **at least 3 subjects** to A-Level.

Consideration will be given to accepting applicants of proven academic ability and achievement whose school records demonstrate:

1. Pupil Profile

- (i) Respect for school rules and policies and full co-operation with teachers and school management.
- (ii) Regular and punctual attendance; overall attendance should be **at least 95%**.
- (iii) Ability to engage in independent study, under the guidance of teachers, as demonstrated by the quality of their work both in school and at home in preparation for GCSE.

Consideration of a pupil's preparation for GCSE will take account of school reports and the pupil's full compliance with arrangements for controlled assessment/coursework in subjects where it is an integral part of the course.

2. Academic Profile

- (i) Pupils should have achieved a minimum of 7 GCSE subjects at Grades A*-C including English Language and Mathematics.
- (ii) Pupils should have achieved a minimum of 15 points across 5 GCSEs.

Grade	A*	A	B	C*	C
Points	5	4	3	2	1

- (iii) Pupils should satisfy the Subject Specific Criteria for each A-Level subject.
- (iv) Pupils who wish to study four subjects at AS Level should have at least 6 Grade As at GCSE.
- (v) For any applicant with qualifications other than GCSEs, the Admissions Panel may take the view that the candidate has achieved an equivalent standard to that stated in 2(i) and 2(ii) above.

3. Please note the following points on course availability

- (i) Where a subject is oversubscribed, pupils' choices made during the options process in KS4 will take precedence over any subsequent pupils' choices.
- (ii) Where a subject is oversubscribed, priority will be given to those applicants who are considered, based on the evidence available, to be the best qualified in terms of their academic ability, achievement, and commitment to studies.

- (iii) Course availability is dependent on the numbers wishing to study a particular subject, staffing, accommodation, and budgetary constraints.
- (iv) If there are more applicants who comply with the above requirements than there are places available in the year group, preference will be given to Rathmore pupils who fulfil 2(i) and 2(ii) above.

4. Special Circumstances

- (i) Parents claiming special circumstances should complete the Post GCSE Special Circumstances Form, available on the School website, and submit it along with all relevant supporting evidence for consideration by the Admissions Panel.
- (ii) The merits of any special circumstances claimed will be assessed at the discretion of the Admissions Panel and only evidence submitted by parents, which has been verified by an appropriate professional, will be considered.
- (iii) The existence of special circumstances does not in itself lead to automatic admission to Year 13. Each case is considered on its own merits by the Panel.

5. Requirements for Individual Subjects in Lower Sixth

To take a subject at AS Level, pupils should have at least a Grade B at GCSE in that subject or in a subject which requires similar skills. The GCSE should be the full examination with all papers at higher Level.

The exceptions to this rule are as follows:

- (i) For A-Level Biology, Chemistry or Physics, pupils should have a minimum of a Grade A and a Grade B across Units 1 and 2 of the GCSE Science subject or for pupils who have studied Double Award Science, the requirement is a Grade A in each of their Module 1 units and at least a Grade B in each of their Module 2 units.

For Physics, pupils should also have Grade B in Mathematics which includes the M8 paper. It is an advantage to have studied GCSE Further Mathematics, and where this is not the case, it should be studied in Year 13.
- (ii) For Mathematics, pupils should have a Grade C in Further Mathematics and a Grade A in Mathematics which includes the M8/M4 papers. Pupils who have not studied GCSE Further Mathematics in Year 12 should study it in Year 13.
- (iii) To study A-Level Further Mathematics, pupils should have a grade A in GCSE Further Mathematics.

Pupils will not normally be permitted to study more than one subject at AS Level which they have not studied at GCSE.

Pupils who have demonstrated poor management skills at GCSE will not normally be permitted to study more than one subject with a coursework element, see 1.(iii) above.

6. Progression to Upper Sixth

To proceed from Year 13 to Year 14, pupils should have at least a Grade C at AS Level in that subject and, consequently, pupils should have at least 3 Grade Cs overall at AS Level.

7. External Applicants

Parents of qualified applicants from outside the school should include the following with their application:

- (i) school reports for **each year** of the applicant's secondary education.
- (ii) official statements of Examination Board results.

N.B. In the absence of this documentation, applications will not be considered.

Where special circumstances occur, the Admissions Panel has the flexibility to deviate from the requirements above.

Parents can use the School's Complaints Policy to appeal decisions regarding admission to Sixth Form.