

Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School Requirements for Sixth Form Courses 2027-2028

The table below shows the MINIMUM requirements in terms of GCSE for entry to our Sixth Form courses.

If your achievements turn out to be at, or very near, the minimum required, you should perhaps think carefully before selecting this course and seek advice.

Course 1 BTec level 3 Diploma in Business Studies with up to two further subjects	At least six GCSEs. Six qualifications must be Grade 5 or above, with English and Mathematics at Grade 4 or above.
Course 2 Four subjects including Business and Sociology	At least six GCSEs. Six qualifications must be Grade 6 or above, with English and Mathematics at Grade 5 or above.
Course 3 Four subjects	At least six GCSEs. Four qualifications must be Grade 7 or above and a further two must be Grade 6 or above, with English and Mathematics at Grade 6 or above.
Course 4 Five subjects	At least six GCSEs. Four qualifications must be Grade 8 or above and a further two must be Grade 7 or above, with English and Mathematics at Grade 7 or above.

Subject Requirements

The following subjects may all be started without having studied them previously:

- Business Studies
- Classical Civilisation
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Drama
- Music
- Philosophy
- Physical Education
- Music
- Psychology

As a general rule, however, you may not start an A-Level subject unless you have achieved at least grade 6 at GCSE. There are also additional requirements in the following subjects:

For **ART**, you must have you should have at least Art grade 6 at GCSE

For **BIOLOGY**, you must have at least Biology 7 or Combined Science 77, and Mathematics grade 7

For **CHEMISTRY**, you must have at least Chemistry 7 or Combined Science 77, and Mathematics grade 7

For **CLASSICAL CIVILISATION**, you must have at least English grade 6 or Classical Civilisation grade 6

For **COMPUTER SCIENCE**, you must have at least Mathematics grade 7 or Computer Science 7

For **DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY**, you must have at least Design & Technology (i.e. Resistant Materials or Graphic Products) or Engineering 6

For **ECONOMICS**, you must have at least English 7 and Mathematics grade 6

For **ENGLISH LITERATURE**, you must have at least English grade 7 (Language or Literature)

For **GEOGRAPHY**, you must have at least Geography, English and Mathematics grade 6

For **HISTORY**, you must have at least History and English grade 6 or History grade 7

For **LATIN**, you must have at least Latin grade 7

For **MATHEMATICS**, you must have at least Mathematics grade 7

For **MUSIC**, you must play an instrument/sing to a standard equivalent to at least Grade V Associated Board standard and also have passed the Grade V Theory Examination or GCSE Music grade 7

For **PHILOSOPHY**, you must have at least English and Maths grade 6

For **PHYSICS**, you must have at least Physics 7 or Combined Science 77, and Mathematics grade 7

For **POLITICS**, you must have at least English grade 6

For **PSYCHOLOGY**, you must have at least Combined Science 66, and Mathematics grade 6

For **THEOLOGY** you must have RE grade 6 and English grade 6

For **FURTHER MATHEMATICS**, you must have at least Mathematics grade 8*

**Please note that this is the nearest indicator for aptitude for Further Maths. Due to the unique nature of Further Maths A level, aptitude will be tested early in the course, after which you will change to Maths if you do not reach minimum level. If you do not achieve grade A (and therefore A* prediction) in Maths at the end of the Lower Sixth, you will not be able to continue Further Maths into the Upper Sixth. Everyone taking Further Maths will have to maintain a minimum of 4 A levels until the Upper Sixth.*