



OVERVIEW 2017-2019

The A Level course consists of two externally examined sections: AS in Year 13 and A2 in Year 14. Most pupils will choose three subjects in Year 13, but some may choose four AS and retain three for completion at A2 Level in Year 14. When choosing courses students should bear in mind the subjects that they enjoy, the subjects in which they can maximise their ability, and, where known, their choice of career.

Academic requirements for AS study at Carrickfergus Grammar School

Our overriding concern is that students, staff and parents have clear evidence that the pupil is academically capable of benefiting from the courses of study that we offer. Appropriate evidence will be the results of the GCSE examinations.

(1) All students must achieve:

- a) Minimum of six GCSEs at Grade C or above (**to include Mathematics and English Language**)
- b) Using A*=3, A=3, B=2 and C=1, a **total score of 11 points**

In their own best interests, students should have obtained at least a 'B' at GCSE in any subject they wish to study at AS/A2. However, In Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Spanish the minimum entry requirement is an A grade at GCSE.

(2) Some subjects may be taken at AS level without having first studied them at GCSE.

In these cases students should have obtained at least a 'B' at GCSE in an allied subject as listed below: -

SUBJECT	ALLIED SUBJECT
Accounting	Mathematics (in papers T4 & T6 or equivalent)
Business Studies	English Language
Environmental Technology	B in Physics (a B in English Language or Geography is also desirable)
Food and Nutrition	Biology
Government and Politics	History or English Literature
Geography	Biology or Chemistry or Physics or Double Award Science and English
Life and Health Sciences	B in Chemistry
Music	Musicianship of Grade 5 (not including Rock School)
Photography	Art
Physical Education	Biology
Religious Studies	History or English Literature

(3) Studying Mathematics at AS Level

Will be limited to those pupils who have achieved an A at GCSE via the study of CCEA papers T4 and T6 (or equivalent)

(4) Studying Science subjects at AS Level

For those who have studied Double Award— At AS Level, Science is studied as 3 separate subjects: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Choosing and being accepted for an AS Chemistry or Physics class will be limited to those pupils who achieved **80%** (70% for Biology) **in the GCSE theory paper of the Science** they wish to study.

For those who have studied Core Science A and Additional Science— Given the variance in content of examination board GCSE specifications, choosing and being accepted for an AS Science class will be limited to those who have obtained grades AA.

Single Award Science is not a sufficient basis for study of an individual Science at AS /A level.

(5) Studying Spanish at AS Level

Will be limited to those pupils who have obtained an A grade at GCSE and who have been entered for Higher Tier in both the Listening and Reading papers in CCEA GCSE Spanish.

The following additional details apply to entry to AS Classes in September 2017: -

CLASS SIZE

1. AS/A Level classes will usually be no larger than 22 pupils. If a class is over-subscribed, students will be chosen on the basis of their GCSE performance in that subject or, if not studied at GCSE, performance in allied subject(s) as listed overleaf.
2. If a class is undersubscribed it may not be offered.

Please Note

In addition to the academic criteria above we reserve the right to refuse admission to post GCSE study to any pupil whose past behaviour has been unacceptable.

Furthermore we assume that those choosing to return to school after GCSE are indicating their willingness to accept and follow the rules of the School.

Those applicants to Year 13 who have followed alternative qualifications shall be considered on the merits of those courses and their results profile.

SPECIAL CASES

With the support of medical evidence and/or a special recommendation by the appropriate teacher(s), careful consideration will be given to pupils who in the opinion of the school under-achieved in GCSE.

Criteria for extra places made available by the Department of Education (DE)

The Department of Education may, in response to a request from a school, increase the number of pupils that the school can admit to its Year 13. Places that become available in this way shall be allocated only to pupils who meet the basic eligibility criteria for Sixth Form study as set out above and shall be allocated in the order determined by the criteria to be applied in the order set down below:

1. Pupils who have most recently completed Year 12 in Carrickfergus Grammar School.
2. Pupils from other schools where admission to an extra place at Carrickfergus Grammar School has been agreed by the Department of Education.*

*Parents should note how the Department of Education will, in response to a school's request, increase the school's enrolment number in order to allow an extra post-16 pupil to enrol. DE will only increase the school's enrolment number if it is content that each external pupil for whom a place is requested would not be able to pursue their post-16 course-choices at a suitable school without undertaking an unreasonable journey (i.e. a journey that by public transport would be over an hour from where the young person lives). If DE finds that no other suitable school may provide all of the post-16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue then DE will agree to a school's request for an extra place.

What is a school of a type that is suitable for a pupil?

To determine this, DE first considers all schools to be one of 4 types: (1) denominational (2) nondenominational (3) Integrated and (4) Irish-Medium.

A school requesting an extra place for a post-16 pupil will belong to one of these 4 types and DE will consider any other school from this same type as suitable for the pupil. DE will also consider as suitable for the pupil any school of the same type as that attended by the child in Year 12.

Moving on to A2 Courses for Year 14

AS results mark the end of Year 13 studies after which most students will have two options: -

1. Leave school with their AS grades

2. Continue to A2 if the AS grades are appropriate

Any pupil with **less than the equivalent of 3 'D' grades** will not be permitted to continue without being interviewed. The purpose of such interviews will be to ascertain the appropriate next steps. Continuing to study a subject in which an 'E' grade (or below) has been achieved may not be permitted. Relevant decisions will be confirmed during interviews with staff in mid-August after the results are available.