
THE OAKES COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

YEAR 12 ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 - 2027

THIS POLICY WAS ADOPTED:	AUTUMN 2024
THIS POLICY WILL BE REVIEWED:	AUTUMN 2026 FOR 2027 ENTRY
MEMBER OF STAFF WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR REVIEW:	DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE

The Oakes College Cambridge at Netherhall Admission to the Sixth Form for September 2025-2027

Applications for admission to the Sixth Form should be sent directly to The Oakes College Cambridge at Netherhall using the online platform, mychoice16.co.uk, by the published deadline date. If students are unable to use mychoice16, then a paper application form can be requested from the college office.

Entry Requirements

The college offers two level three pathways:

- A-Level
- Applied courses - BTEC or Cambridge Technical

The entry requirements are set out below:

A-level

The minimum requirement is 7 GCSE or equivalent passes at grades 4-9 in an appropriate range of subjects, including Maths and English at grade 4 or above. We may, however, review the grades depending on the courses selected and the intended plan of the student. Individual subjects have specific entry requirements:

- English Language and Literature and English Literature – require GCSE grade 6 or above in English Language and Literature
- Maths/Further Maths – require GCSE grade 7 or above in Mathematics
- Biology, Chemistry and Physics – require GCSE Grade 6 or above in Science and Grade 6 or above in Mathematics
- Economics/Business – we would normally expect students to have achieved a GCSE grade 5 or above in Mathematics
- Geography – we would normally expect students to have achieved a GCSE grade 5 or above in Mathematics
- Law – GCSE grade 6 or above is preferable in at least one of your English subjects, or alternatively, in a humanities/essay-based subject
- Politics – GCSE grade 5 or above in English Language and Literature is required
- Psychology – GCSE grade 5 or above is advised in Mathematics

Where a student continues on to an A-Level from a GCSE subject, it is advisable for a student to have a minimum of a grade 5.

The college will accept one BTEC at Merit level as one GCSE equivalent.

Applied Courses

The minimum requirement is 5 GCSE or equivalent passes at grade 4 or above in an appropriate range of subjects, including Maths and English at grade 4 or above. This is conditional on a student studying 3 Applied courses only. We may, however, review the grades depending on the courses selected and the intended plan of the student.

The college will accept one BTEC at Merit level as one GCSE.

Course entry requirements may be individualised at the discretion of The Director of College working with advice and agreement from one other member of the Oakes Management Team. Exceptions will be made if applicants have not had a chance to achieve the standard entry requirements for reasons such as illness, EHCP recommendations or refugee status.

Admission Number

The Year 12 cohort is expected to be in the range 150 students.

Please note that admission to the college is not the same as admission onto individual courses, which may already be full. In such cases, applicants will be advised of alternative course options.

Entry to the college will not be determined by a formal interview but information and guidance are readily available which will focus on course selection and expectations. A written/oral reference will be sought from applicants' current school concerning the suitability or otherwise of the course or levels being considered. Students from overseas who are eligible for study at the college will need to demonstrate that overseas qualifications meet the admissions criteria set out.

Equal Consideration

All students who apply for a course at Oakes will be considered. The majority of 1st and 2nd place applicants will be interviewed if they are predicted to meet the entry requirements or are close to meeting the entry requirements. If a student has selected Oakes as a 1st or 2nd choice preference, but they do not meet the entry requirements or are close to the entry requirements, they will be contacted to discuss their application to see if there are any extenuating circumstances which should be taken into consideration. All decisions to not take an application forward to a guidance meeting will be made by more than one member of the Oakes team to minimise the risk of unfair treatment.

Oversubscription

The revised School Admissions Code allows the opportunity for over admission, if the demand for available courses can be met (See Section 1.43). Following negotiations to determine the suitability of courses, students with statements of special educational needs that name Netherhall School and The Oakes College Cambridge for post-16 education, will be admitted. Priority will be given in the following order:

1. students who are looked after (LAC) and students who were looked after but ceased to be so by reason of adoption, a resident order or special guardianship order
2. students with a sibling at the school at the time of admission
3. students in a Cambridgeshire school without Year 12 and 13
4. students in a Cambridgeshire school not offering the courses requested
5. students in any school without a Year 12 and 13
6. students in any school not offering the courses requested

Oversubscription in a Category

Priority will be given to students living nearest the school as measured by a straight line. The distance, for admissions purposes, is measured using the straight-line distance from reference point of the home, as defined by the Ordnance Survey (OS) Address Base Premium, to the main pupil entrance to the college. These distances can be produced by the LA Admissions team for the college. For families who live outside the area covered by the Cambridgeshire mapping system, distances are determined using a combination of local maps and on-line resources.

In-Year Transfers

The college will follow the guidance laid out in the School Admissions Code – DFE December 2014. Consideration will be given to the following before offering a place:

- does the student meet the college admissions criteria. If the grades are not met, can the college apply a special consideration for extenuating circumstances that will not disadvantage students' long-term study/career goals
- are there available places on the courses

- does the college offer the same courses and Exam Boards that the student is currently studying and will the transfer allow the student satisfactory coverage of the course to prepare them for examinations
- a reference from the previous school which details current progress on their courses

Applicants from Overseas

The college welcomes applications from overseas students who are eligible to study in the UK. Students will need to demonstrate that overseas qualifications meet the published admissions criteria. This can be achieved by using a recognised provider to assess qualifications. The applicant may incur a fee for this checking.

Appeals

Parents and students have a right to appeal against any decision refusing a Sixth Form place in a school with a Sixth Form. Appeals must be heard by an independent panel within 30 school days of the appeal being lodged. To make an appeal, the appellant must submit a letter to the Principal with reasons why the appeal is being made. If an appeal is made in-year, the appeal must be heard by an independent panel within 30 school days of the appeal being lodged.

Appendix: Comparison matrix comparing the new reformed GCSE grading structure (numbers) with legacy grading criteria:

New GCSE Grading Structure



NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE		LEGACY GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9		A*
8		
7		A
6	GOOD PASS (DfE) 5 and above = top of C and above	B
5		
4	AWARDING 4 and above = bottom of C and above	C
3		D
		E
2		F
		G
1		
U		U