

Our selection procedure for S5 and S6

Before offering a place in S5 and S6 at The Academy, we ask every potential pupil to sit a Verbal Reasoning test to get a measure of their ability.

It is also important that we receive as full a picture as possible of the pupil's progress through secondary school. It is therefore essential that you discuss the possibility of a move with their Head Teacher as we may wish to make contact and will ask them for a report. If, having read our prospectus and visited the school, you wish your child to be considered for a place in S5 or S6 at The Academy, please write to us, indicating the subjects in which they might have an interest. If you have not received a copy of our booklet about subject choices, please ask us to send you one. We would expect a pupil entering S5 to select five subjects, including English. A wide range of possibilities is available in S6, including development of up to three subjects beyond Higher Grade to Advanced Higher, consolidation of subjects already studied in S5, taking up again subjects most recently studied at National 5 or beginning entirely new subjects.

Together with your letter, please send us the application form, the registration fee and a copy of your child's most recent school report. We would also like to see the results of any recent examinations, including SQA exams and any preliminary examinations which your child has taken. If we need any further information about your child's academic progress, we may contact his or her school. When we have received this information, the Rector's PA will contact you to arrange interviews. These may occupy an hour or more in total, during which you and your child will meet the Rector and your child will talk to the Deputy Rector responsible for S6 or the Deputy Head responsible for S5, and sometimes the Head of Department responsible for a subject in which your child has expressed an interest. These interviews will give your child the opportunity to talk about his or her progress in, and aptitude for, the chosen subjects, as well as to say something about his or her interests and career or university aspirations.

We aim to let you know within a week of the interviews whether or not we will be able to offer your child a place at The Academy. Any place which we do offer will not be conditional upon examination results: we understand fully that you will need to make definite arrangements and that decisions about the new academic session cannot be postponed until the arrival of results in August.

If your child is successful in gaining a place at The Academy, we shall invite him or her to join the school as soon after completing National 5s/GCSEs or Highers as possible – usually in early June. Experience shows us that if this time can be spent with us at the end of the Summer Term pupils new to The Academy may enjoy a much more confident start to the Autumn Term.