This draft policy is for consultation, any comments or responses should be sent to The School Business Manager’s PA at the school by the deadline of 28 February 2014.  hsparling@backwellschool.net

ADMISSION POLICY FOR ENTRY TO THE SIXTH FORM
AT THE START OF AND DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR 2015/16

Responsibility for admissions to Backwell School Sixth Form

The school governors control the admission of students to Year 12.  They follow all national legislation and any local policy agreements in relation to the admission of students to schools with academy status.  The school’s contact details are:

Backwell School, Station Road, Bristol BS48 3BX
Tel:  01275 463371
Fax:  01275 463077
mailbox@backwellschool.net
www.backwellschool.net

Conditions of admission

Backwell is a comprehensive school, and thus has a comprehensive Sixth Form.  We offer programmes at Level 2 and Level 3 and are thus able to offer courses to students with a wide range of abilities and aptitudes.  In considering applications, we will accept students onto courses on which they can be expected to have a reasonable chance of success.  Evidence for making this judgement has to be an appropriate level of prior academic achievement; without this, we believe we would be wrong to lead to students to believe they had a reasonable chance of success.

Students are admitted to the Sixth Form on condition that they have met the academic entry criteria and subject to the availability of places.  Applications are welcomed from students who are not currently Backwell students; the Admission Number for such students is 50.  The academic entry requirements for courses are the same for all applicants.

By law applications cannot be rejected on the grounds of a poor attendance or behaviour record.
The application process

A Sixth Form Open Evening is held in December; the date is available from the school and advertised in the local press.

A handbook describing all the courses offered for the following academic year is published during term 2 and distributed with application forms.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 18 December and is given on the application form.

All students who apply to enter the Sixth Form have a meeting to discuss options and academic entry requirements. Applicants are asked to bring with them their Year 11 Report or Record of Achievement. The School will inform applicants of the outcome by the end of term 4.

Entry criteria for level 3 courses

These are the GCSE qualifications required for entry to Level 3 courses (A Levels or Cambridge Technicals or Level 3 BTEC) in the Sixth Form in 2014. The requirements for entry in 2015 will be published in the course handbook issued in term 2 2014.

- A minimum of five GCSEs at grade C including English Language.
- At least grade C, preferably B or A, at GCSE in the subjects to be studied at A Level.
- Where the subject was not available at GCSE, any comparable subjects are taken into account.
- Qualifications equivalent to GCSE are considered in the light of the proposed subject choice.

Additional GCSE requirements for specific A Level subjects:

- Applied Science: CC in Science and C in Mathematics
- Business and Economics: C in Mathematics
- French, German and Spanish: B in the same language
- Biology and PE: 2 Bs in Science (or Biology plus another Science) and C in Mathematics
- Chemistry: 2 Bs in Science (or Chemistry plus another Science) and B in Mathematics
- Geography: C at Higher Tier
- Mathematics: B at Higher Tier
- Physics: 2 Bs in Science (or Physics and another Science) and B in Mathematics
- Psychology: B + C in Science (preferably BB) and C in Mathematics
- Sociology: B in English Language; where Sociology was taken at GCSE a B is required
Capacity

The maximum capacity for entrants to Year 12 is 240. However, it should also be noted that there may be a limit on the number of places available on any particular course. An application may be refused if it prejudices the provision of efficient education or efficient use of resources.

Over-subscription criteria

Where the school is named in a student’s Statement of Special Educational Needs the Admission Authority is legally required to admit the student to the school. Such students will therefore be allocated places before the criteria below are applied.

If the school receives more applications than the Admission Number the following criteria will be used to determine who will be allocated a place. All applications will be ranked in accordance with the criteria below given in order of priority.

(a) Looked-after children. This covers children who are looked after by a local council in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989(b) and formerly looked-after children who have been adopted or made subject to a residence or special guardianship order.

(b) Students who are the subject of a direction by a local council to admit or who are allocated the school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol for school places.

(c) Students with a brother or sister who will be attending the school (including in the Sixth Form).

(d) Children of staff employed on a permanent contract at the school for at least two years, or where the member of staff has been recruited to fill a post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

(e) Students living in Backwell School’s First Geographical Area, shown on the attached map. For further information on schools’ First Geographical Areas please contact the North Somerset School Admissions and Transport Team.

(f) Applicants not in the above categories.

Priority within each category will be given to those living closest to the school. The school normally has places available for students living in Weston-super-Mare, Bristol and beyond.

Refusal of a place

If a student is not successful in gaining a place, reasons will be given in writing. Students and parents have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel.
Details of the arrangements are given in the letter of refusal and are published on the school website.

**Late applications**

Late applications will always be considered against the same criteria as above providing there is a good reason for not meeting the published deadline.