

Northampton School
for Boys

Sixth Form Admissions Policy 2027-28

for Admission to Year 12 in September 2028

Approved by: **The NSB Trust Board**

Date: **October 2026 (first draft)**

Determined on:

Review Date: **November 2027**

Sixth Form Admissions Policy – 2027-28

This policy was written following discussions with the Department for Education in order to be compliant with the current DfE School Admissions Code (September 2021).

As well as our own Year 11 students (referred to as Internals), the school admits students who are studying for GCSEs at other schools (referred to as Externals). The Admissions Number for external applicants is 150.

This means the school will admit a minimum of 150 students, however, if spaces remain on some courses, this number can be exceeded.

Internal and External students must meet the **same** subject specific academic entry criteria in order to be admitted to the Sixth Form.

All students seeking a place **must** adhere to the timelines set out in Appendix A.

Academic admissions criteria:

1. **GCSE performance**

Each course and subject in the Sixth Form has specific entry requirements. This ensures that students are matched to courses on which they are most likely to achieve success. The entry requirements are to be found in the subject and course specific information contained in the Sixth Form pages on the school website.

For A Levels there are minimum subject specific entry requirements as below. For each subject offered, a minimum grade is listed for English Language, English Literature and Mathematics. Please note, if you wish to study 4 different A Level courses, Grade 7 is required in all GCSEs studied. (Further Mathematics requires a Grade 8).

Access to the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Sport will require a minimum of four GCSE subjects at Grade 4 or better in order to study this course. One of these four subjects must be Mathematics at a minimum Grade 4 and another one must be either English Language or English Literature at a minimum Grade 4.

This course has practical units which will be tailored for delivery through basketball, netball or rugby. As part of the application process at the point of application ALL students wishing to apply for the BTEC course MUST upload to their application evidence (a formal offer letter or license number) clearly showing the student meets the minimum of the performance level thresholds outlined below in their main sport. This must be done for the January deadline to be considered for an offer.
MUST meet minimum performance level thresholds in the following main sport:

- Athletics - Has achieved the ESAA English Schools Qualifying standard at U15/U16 age level for their event
- Basketball - National League basketball
- Netball - Performance Netball Clubs (Northants Storm / MK Dons)
- Rugby - Foundation Phase at U15 and or U16
- Cricket - Has played County Age Group Cricket in the Youth Development Phase (Ages 13–15) and/or part of the EPP (Emerging player pathway U15-U18)
- Football - U14 - U16 YDP and/or U18 All Counties Premier Youth League

2. **An appropriate course is on offer**

Students who are offered a place at the school for the next September will undergo a Course Guidance screening where their choice of subjects will be considered. Where appropriate, students may be contacted to discuss their choice of courses. It is imperative that students choose courses on which they will find success, and which lead to their chosen career, training, university course or apprenticeship choice.

If a conditional offer for a place in the Sixth Form is confirmed, it will be made specifying the agreed subjects to be studied following the Course Guidance Screening Process. Changes of subject may be possible at a later date but cannot be guaranteed. The conditions set out in the academic admissions criteria (subject specific criteria) must be met for this conditional offer to turn into a place confirmed in the NSB Sixth Form on GCSE Results Day.

The procedures for Internal and External applicants are as follows:-

A) Internal Students

Every boy in Year 11 at the school who wishes to apply is entitled to a conditional offer of a place in the Sixth Form. On GCSE results day, this will only turn into a confirmed place if they meet the subject specific academic requirements. They must complete a Sixth Form Application Form.

The number of conditional offers will determine the number of spaces available on each course for external students. This information will remain confidential until after the application process is completed in order to maintain the integrity of the process.

The school has well established links with Northampton College, Moulton College and the Sixth Forms of other local schools. This provides a wide range of Post 16 opportunities. Details of all options are made available to all students throughout the course of Year 11.

B) External Students

All External applicants completing a Sixth Form Application Form will be considered for a conditional offer of a place in the Sixth Form. In the case where the number of external students applying for a place in the Sixth Form is more than the Published Admissions Number, the following over-subscription criteria will be used to determine to whom conditional places are offered.

For the purposes of this policy, all students attending Northampton School at the closing date for applications, are considered to be External students.

Students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) will be offered a place, where the school – after consultation with the Local Authority – has been named on the EHCP as the appropriate Post-16 provision. He/she will still need to meet the subject specific academic requirements.

Over-subscription Criteria applied to external applicants:

The criteria will be applied in the following order:

1. Looked After Children (LAC) or Previously Looked After Children (PLAC).
   (For full description see Note 1 on the following page.)

2. Children attending Northampton School, which is designated as a named feeder school for entry into the NSB Sixth Form. Children must be on roll at the point of application.
   (For full description see Note 2 below.)

3. Children of staff directly employed by The NSB Trust where either or both of the following conditions are met:

   a. where the member of staff has been employed by The NSB Trust to work at Northampton School *for Boys* as their primary place of work for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or

   b. the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

   (For full description see Note 3 below.)

4. Sibling Link – where an elder brother/sister, living at the same address, are on roll and attending the school on the closing date for applications (24 January 2027).
   (For full description see Note 4 below.)

5. Random Allocation
   a) All other external students will then be subject to an independent sequencing procedure to produce a random ordered list of applicants.
   b) A system of equitable course allocation will ensure that students are in turn allocated places from the list, in order, as long as places on their chosen courses remain.
   c) The best match will be established to maximise allocated places to available course options and so meet the choice of as many students as possible.
   (For full description see Appendix B)

Notes

1. 'Looked After Children' are those who are (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions at the time of making an application to the school. 'Previously Looked After Children' are defined for the purposes of the legislation as those who immediately after being in care became subject to an adoption, child arrangement, or special guardianship order. This includes children who have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. (Parents must supply a copy of the relevant order as evidence of their child's status. They must also supply proof that their child was previously in the care of the Local Authority.)

2. Children attending Northampton School – Northampton School, the other secondary school within The NSB Trust, is named as a defined feeder school. This is because the school is only designated to educate children from the ages of 11-16 but is aligned in all other ways to NSB, specifically in its ethos, extracurricular focus and educational provision.
   Children must be on roll at the point of application.

3. Children of Staff – A 'direct employee' is taken to be any member of staff (Teaching or non-teaching) with two years continuous employment with the Trust or seasonal employment totaling two years. Staff contracted in to provide services to the trust do not count as 'direct employees'. For the purposes of this criterion, 'children of staff' is taken to include a son, daughter or step-son/daughter, or child who is adopted or fostered, in all cases providing they are living at the same address as the parent who is employed by the school. To qualify under this criterion, Northampton School *for Boys* must be designated as the employee's primary place of work

4. Students applying who have an elder brother or sister on roll and attending the school or who have a twin in Year 11 on roll and attending the school at the point of application will take priority. For the purposes of this criterion, 'sibling' is taken to include a step-brother/sister, half-brother/sister, or child who is adopted or fostered, in all cases providing they are living at the same address.

In all cases, the academic admissions criteria must be met in order to turn a conditional offer into a confirmed place at the school in September.

These random allocation processes will all be carried out electronically. Further details of the process are to be found in Appendix B attached to this policy.

At least 150 external candidates will be given a conditional offer of a place at the school. The place will be subject to meeting the subject specific requirements and to spaces being available in classes for the desired combination of subjects (see Appendix B point 2). If a student offered a place chooses to withdraw/change following GCSE Results day, then the procedure outlined in Appendix B Point 8 will be triggered.

If, on GCSE results day, there are more external students holding a conditional offer than there are places available in subjects the over-subscription criteria will be re-applied to those external students holding a conditional offer, initially given on 3rd March 2028, and a minimum of 150 places will be offered. It should be noted that this has never needed to be enacted by the school.

Note: Applicants **not** offered a place are sent details of the Independent Appeals procedure and can ask to be placed on the school's Waiting List. The Waiting List ceases on 31st December each year.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Northampton School *for Boys* will, in accordance with the School Admissions Code, consider requests from parents for their child to be admitted to a year group outside that of their chronological age and will then make a decision whether to accept or reject that application. Parents should follow the usual admission procedures and make it clear on the application form that the request is for a place outside the normal age group. Parents will be asked to provide relevant professional evidence to support such a request.

Late Applications

Any application received after the deadline of 23:45 on Sunday 23rd January 2028, will be treated as a late application. Applications received by the deadline will be considered before a late application. However, late applications will be treated in the same way regarding the Waiting List arrangements and applicants will also have the same opportunity to appeal against the school's decision should they wish to do so.

Twins or other multiple births

In the case of twins or other multiple births from the same household, if, when applying the oversubscription criteria, one twin or multiple birth is offered a place and the other is not, then a place will be offered to the other twin or multiple birth sibling above the Published Admission Number of 120. If the qualifying sibling withdraws, then the second place (or places) will be forfeited.

Appendix A–Timelines for Admissions in September 2028

All Applicants:

Thursday 6th January 2028	Open Evening - Times to be confirmed

Students will need to book a ticket for the Open Evening via the Ticketsource website.

Please see the NSB website for further information in November 2027.

Internal Applicants:

Sunday 23rd January 2028	Deadline for submission of application form (23:45)
Throughout February 2028	Course Guidance Process takes place to finalise subject choices
Fri 3rd March 2028	Notification sent offering conditional place and agreed course

External Applicants:

Sunday 23rd January 2028	Deadline for submission of application form (23:45)
Friday 3rd March 2028	Notification of Conditional Offers sent to successful applicants, Notification sent to unsuccessful applicants with details of Waiting List and appeal process.
Throughout March 2028	Course Guidance process to finalise subject choice for students with Conditional Offers.
8th May 2028	Notification sent confirming conditional place and agreed courses.
End of June 2028	Tours of the school site. These take place in the days immediately following the end of GCSE exams for any applicants. Bookable via Ticketsource.
Tuesday 5th Sept 2028	Year 12 Induction

Appendix B – Summary of the Oversubscription Procedure for External students

The school historically has more applications from external students to join the Sixth Form than can be accommodated. The school therefore has to have a policy and procedure to admit students in a fair way, which complies with the requirements of the School Admissions Code. This policy and procedure has been discussed with the Department for Education (DfE) prior to publication.

The procedure is simple in essence and is designed to maximise the number of external students to be admitted to the school and accommodated appropriately. The procedure is explained below and will be talked through at the Open Evening.

1. All **internal** students who request a place and who meet the subject specific requirements on page 1 of the Policy will be offered a conditional place. Students MUST choose 3 A Level subjects (there will be an opportunity for students with exceptional academic ability to do a fourth subject if they wish) or the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Sport. The students make their subject choices from the 5 option blocks on the form.

2. Please note that the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Sport is the equivalent of 3 A Levels.

3. The school will decide the optimum size of classes in each subject (including those subjects not leading to an academic qualification such as Sport and Recreation and PSHE), and the number of classes that will run. This will establish the number of available places remaining in each subject for external students after offers have been made to internal students. This number will remain confidential during the admissions process in order to maintain the integrity of the process. The minimum number of external students admitted will be the Published Admissions Number of 150.

4. All **external** prospective students will be invited to the Open Evening in January. The admissions process will be explained to students and parents. Students MUST choose THREE A Level subjects (there will be an opportunity for students with exceptional academic ability to do a fourth subject if they wish) or the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Sport. The students make their subject choices from the 5 option blocks on the form.

5. If the school receives more applications than the Published Admissions Number, then the school will need to apply the oversubscription criteria strictly in the order specified, until all places on courses have been filled.

6. External applicants will have their application dealt with as follows:

   a) All external applicants with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) will be offered a conditional place in the Sixth Form where the school, after consultation with the Local Authority, has been named on the EHCP as the appropriate Post-16 provision.

   b) External applicants who are designated as Looked After Children (LAC) or Previously Looked After Children (PLAC), and submit their application form on or before the closing date for applications, will receive a conditional offer of a place in the Sixth Form.

   c) External applicants who attend the designated feeder school (Northampton School) and submit their application form on or before the closing date for applications will receive a conditional offer of a place in the Sixth Form. Where there are more applicants than places available in this criterion, a random allocation process as set out in point (f) will be applied to this category.

d) External applicants who are the children of employees working at Northampton School *for Boys* (and fulfil the specified eligibility criteria) will receive a conditional offer of a place in the Sixth Form. Where there are more applicants than places available in this criterion, a random allocation process as set out in point (f) will be applied to this category.

e) External applicants who have a verified sibling link to an elder sibling at Northampton School *for Boys* and submit their application form on or before the closing date for applications will receive a conditional offer of a place in the Sixth Form. Where there are more applicants than places available in this criterion, a random allocation process as set out in point (f) will be applied to this category.

f) All remaining external applicants will be placed in a random order using an independent sequencing procedure, after those eligible to the over-subscription criteria have been allocated priority places.

g) The students will be considered in order from the randomly sequenced list, depending on the course spaces remaining, starting with Student 1.
Student 1: The computer will check that each of the subjects chosen has a space. A conditional place will be offered. The computer then moves to:
Student 2: The computer repeats the process. Again a place is offered.

h) This process is repeated as the computer considers each student in turn from the randomly ordered list, until it reaches a point where, for example:
Student 17: The computer identifies that there is no place available for one of the subject choices. No offer is made to that student.
The computer moves to the next student on the list:
Student 18: Places still available in all subjects chosen. A conditional place is offered.

i) The process continues until no more students can have their choices matched. At this point, the school is full and the process is complete.

5. The process described above (points 6(a) to (i)) will be repeated by the computer programme 100 times. The first iteration which offers the most places to external students, from the 100 iterations run, will be adopted and the students successful within that iteration will be offered a conditional place.

6. The students to be offered a conditional place will undergo a Course Guidance screening to assess whether their combination of subjects is appropriate, following which the conditional offer will be confirmed, based on the agreed combination of subjects. Changes to subject choices maybe possible at a later date, but only if there are places available in a subject to which a change is requested prior to GCSE Results day. Where a student has a course changed then the relevant subject entry requirements will be for the courses that the student has changed to.

7. A Waiting List will start once all conditional places have been confirmed. Only the names of unsuccessful applicants who have requested to go on the Waiting List will be used to allocate any places that become available following GCSE Results day. On GCSE Results day students can only stay on the Waiting List if they have uploaded their results and meet the subject specific requirements.

8. Places will become available if a student declines their offer or fails to meet the subject specific requirements set out above, following the publication of GCSE results. If a student who has a Conditional Offer wants to change subjects due to not meeting the subject specific requirements for at least one subject, they will be placed back on the Waiting List for the new combination of subjects. The process described above will be re-run and places allocated as per the oversubscription

criteria. It should be noted that internal students with a conditional offer who do not gain the subject specific entry requirements will be placed into subjects before the Waiting List is run for external students, provided that the internal student meets the subject specific requirements for the alternative combination of subjects and that there are spaces available in those subjects.

9. All unsuccessful applicants will be informed by a status update on their application and will be told of their right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel, details for which will be given on messages in the application form.