



Don Valley Academy and Performing Arts College **Sixth Form Admissions Policy**

This admissions policy applies to students seeking admission to Year 12 at Don Valley and covers admission into Year 13 for those wishing to complete their studies at the school.

Don Valley Academy welcomes students of all abilities, from all backgrounds, and operates an equal opportunities policy.

Our Sixth Form delivers a number of high quality post 16 educational routes to suit a range of dedicated students, enabling them to take their studies further at University or college or to succeed in fulfilling their ambitions to gain employment.

Applications for Year 12 must be completed using the Academy application form, and returned to the Director of Sixth Form by the date specified (details available on our website). Applications received after this deadline will be placed on a waiting list.

The Application Process

- Every year Don Valley Sixth Form assesses its predicted number of applications against its agreed admission number of students.
- Year 11 students receive relevant, up-to-date and objective information about post 16 choices and opportunities.
- Students applying for a place in Year 12 are invited to attend the Sixth Form Open Evening, an annual event at the school held during the Autumn term.
- At least one bespoke one-to-one meeting with each Year 11 student is held, through which they indicate their preferences for study post 16.

After Application

Once students apply for a sixth form place one of three outcomes will occur:

- applicants may be given a conditional offer of a place
- applicants may be placed on a reserve list
- we reserve the right to decline applications from unsuitable applicants

In some cases, we may feel there is no suitable course available for the applicant or the applicant will not benefit from our courses and suggest applying elsewhere.

For external applicants, a reference from their previous school will be sought to check suitability for AS/A2 study and their preferred subject choices. Students will be invited for interview as appropriate. Preferred learning pathways and course choices are discussed. Following the interview stage, a letter will be sent to the applicant confirming the decision made regarding a place in Year 12. All offers of a place in Year 12 will be made on condition of students meeting the school entry requirements above.

For internal applicants

The Director of Sixth Form, with the leadership team of the Academy, will take into consideration:

- Academic entry requirements to assess whether or not a student will be able to cope with the demands of the courses they wish to study. Year 11 predicted grades with subject teacher reports are used here.
- The extent to which the applicant demonstrates effort, ambition and a commitment to further study. Year 10 and 11 reports provide evidence here.
- The extent to which the applicant is likely to embrace the aspirational culture of our Sixth Form
- The behavioural record during Years 10 and 11 of the applicant. Where a student has displayed the following: repeated and persistent unacceptable standards of behaviour for learning, violence/threatening behaviour, exclusion for misuse of substances they will not usually be allowed to continue to post 16 study within the Academy. This decision is taken by the Leadership Team of the Academy in consultation with the pastoral leader for Year 11 and the Director of Sixth Form. It is possible that the Academy rescinds the conditional offer made to a student as a result of their behaviour along the above line subsequent to the offer being made.

All applicants must agree to adhere to the Rules of the Sixth Form as set out in the Student Planner and to any agreements made between the Sixth Form and individual students/and/or their parents or legal guardians that the Sixth Form can reasonably require

Admission to Year 12

All offers of a place in Year 12 are made on condition that a student meets the school entry requirements laid out below:

- a minimum of 6 A* - C grades at GCSE in separate subjects with at least a grade C in GCSE Maths and English (e.g. a distinction in Health & Social Care will count as 1 grade) to study a 4 AS levels.
- a minimum of 5 A* - C at GCSE in separate subjects to study a Level 3 vocational qualification.
- the minimum entry requirements specified by the subjects of their choice.

- an interview with a member of the Sixth Form Management Team confirming suitability for Post 16 study and the preferred subject choices.

Admission to Year 13:

The majority of students in Year 12 continue with their studies into Year 13, dependent upon the entry criteria outlined below. The school has places available for external students who wish to join year 13 dependent upon the entry criteria outlined below and places becoming available. All offers of a place in Year 13 will be made on condition of students meeting the school entry requirements laid out below:

- all students wishing to complete their advanced level studies in year 13 must achieve a D grade or better in each of their AS/A2 subjects of study following receipt of the summer results.
- supportive comments from relevant subject teachers confirming suitability for continued study at advanced level.
- At least a satisfactory level of behaviour for learning in all aspects of Sixth form life

Admissions Process Year 13

Following receipt of summer AS/A2 examination results students who have met the entry requirement above are automatically offered a place in Year 13 to continue their studies.

Students who do not meet the entry requirement into Year 13 will be given guidance about a change of pathway and relevant courses available.