

Great Western Academy admission arrangements for 2018

Introductory statement

Great Western Academy is a publically funded, co-educational, non-denominational secondary Academy based in North Swindon. Our vision is to create an outstanding 11-18 school that radically improves the life chances of our learners. Students will experience excellent teaching and learning across a comprehensive, flexible and responsive curriculum which meets the needs of all our learners and has particular focus on Business, Enterprise and Computing/IT. They will develop social and interpersonal skills, all within a professional safe and caring environment.

Admissions Numbers

Great Western Academy will open in September 2018 on a phased basis, admitting children into Years 7 and 12. The school has an admission number of 150 for entry in year 7.

The school will operate a sixth form for a total of 160 pupils. The admission number for Year 12 is 80.

The school will accordingly admit this number of pupils if there are sufficient applications. Where fewer applicants than the published admission number(s) for the relevant year group are received, the Academy Trust will offer places at the school to all those who have applied.

Application process (Year 7)

The local authority will handle the admission process as if the free school were in co-ordination.

To apply you should complete the local authority application form or online application process. Applications should be sent to School Admissions, Swindon Borough Council, Wat Tyler House, Swindon, SN1 2JH or schooladmissions@swindon.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can apply online at <http://www.swindon.gov.uk/secondarieschoolplaces>

The closing date for applications is 31st October 2017 and offers will be made on 1st March 2018.

If the funding agreement between Great Western Academy and the Secretary of State for Education is not signed by national offer day (1st March 2018), the local authority will make a conditional offer for the free school alongside a firm offer for another open school named on the form.

Application process (Year 12)

Applications for this school should be sent to Rebecca Mathis, Admissions and Marketing Officer at Great Western Academy c/o New College, Queens Drive, Swindon, SN3 1AH or to gwaadmissions@newcollege.ac.uk.

The closing date for applications is 22nd December 2017

Applicants will be invited to attend a meeting to receive information, advice and guidance on their subject choices.

Conditional offers will be made on 31st May 2018. If we have not entered into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State opening the school by that date, they will be conditional offers and will be confirmed once we have a signed funding agreement.

The application form can be obtained from <http://www.gwacademy.co.uk/admissions>

Oversubscription criteria

The criteria in this section apply to entry at both phases of the school. Any students wishing to enter the sixth-form will also be required to have met the academic entry criteria for the sixth form set out below.

When the school is oversubscribed, after the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan or a Statement of Special Educational Needs naming the school, priority for admission will be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in priority order:

1. Looked after children and children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order.¹
2. Other children

Tie-break

If in the categories listed above, a tie-break is necessary to determine which child is admitted, the child living closest to the school will be given priority for admission. The distance between the applicant's home address and the school is taken as a straight line between the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) address points with those living closest to the schools receiving priority.

Random allocation will be used as a tie-break to decide who has the highest priority for admission if the distance between the home address and the school is equidistant in two or more cases.

¹ A looked after child is a child who is (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 (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

Arrangements for admission to the sixth-form

The sixth form will admit any students with an Education, Health and Care Plan where the school is named.

All other students must meet the following academic entry criteria to be offered a place:

- Applicants will normally be required to have at least five A* to C/grade 9-4 passes at GCSE, including English and Mathematics
- All applicants must meet the minimum requirements for the individual AS/A Level vocational subjects they wish to study. Students not having met a grade requirement in their chosen subjects will be offered alternative subjects (if available) for which they have met the required standard. This information will be available on our website at <http://www.gwacademy.co.uk/sixth-form>
- Applicants must be under the age of 19 at the start of their programme of study, have not completed two years of sixth form study at another provider and meet regulations regarding nationality, residency and eligibility for study in the UK.

Where there more eligible students than places, the oversubscription criteria above will determine who is submitted.

Late applications

All applications received by the local authority after the deadline will be considered to be late applications. Late applications will be considered after those received on time. If, following consideration of all applicants the school is oversubscribed, parents may request that their child is placed on the school's waiting list.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group. To do so parents should include a request with their application, specifying why admission out of normal year group is being requested and the year group in which they wish their child to be allocated a place.

When such a request is made, the academy trust will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned, taking into account the views of the Principal and any supporting evidence provided by the parent.

The process for requesting such and admission is as follows:

With the application, parents should request that the child is admitted to another year group and provide the reasons for that request. Parents should submit any evidence in support of their case with the application, for instance from a medical practitioner, Principal etc. Some of the evidence a parent might submit could include :-

- Information about the child's academic, social and emotional development

- Where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional
- Whether they have previously been educated out of their normal year group; and
- Whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group were it not for being born prematurely.

The school will consider each request on the basis of the circumstances of the case, taking into account the individual circumstances of the requires and the child's best interests. We will also ensure the parent is aware of whether the requires for admission out of age group has been agreed before final offers are made and the reason for any refusal.

Requests for admission out of the normal year group will be considered alongside applications made at the same time. An application for a child who would normally be a Year 8 child for a Year 7 places will be considered alongside applications for Year 7.

Waiting lists

The school will operate a waiting list for each year group. Where the school receives more applications for places than there are places available, a waiting list will operate until the end of end of the academic year. The list will be maintained by the Academy and any child refused a place at the school will be automatically added to the list. The list will be cleared at the end of each academic year.

Children's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list.

In-year admissions will be dealt with in accordance with this policy. The LA admissions team will receive all in-year admissions in the first instance and should be made using the form available at <http://www.swindon.gov.uk/inyearadmissions>.

The school will also keep a list ranked against the oversubscription criteria, of those applying for entry to Year 12 who are not made a conditional offer by 31st May 2018. Any of those students meeting the academic entry criteria on 23rd August 2018 will be considered for a place if any students who were previously offered places conditional on meeting the above academic entry criteria, do not achieve their grades.

Appeals

All applicants refused a place have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. (Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-appeals-code>) .

Appellants should contact Rebecca Mathis at rebecca.mathis@newcollege.ac.uk by 30th March 2018 for information on how to appeal. Information on the timetable for the appeals

process will be on the school's website at <http://www.gwacademy.co.uk/admissions/appeals>
by 28th February 2018.

Notes:

Home address:

The home address is where a child normally lives. Where a child lives with parents with shared parental responsibility, each for part of a week, the address where the child lives is determined using a joint declaration from the parents stating the pattern of residence. If a child's residence is split equally between both parents, then parents will be asked to determine which residential address should be used for the purpose of admission to school. If no joint declaration is received where the residence is split equally by the closing date for applications, the home address will be taken as the address where the child is registered with the doctor. If the residence is not split equally between both parents, then the address used will be the address where the child spends the majority of the school week.