

Academic Transition through the College

INTRODUCTION

St Dunstan's College is an ambitious, supportive, inclusive and honest educational community. We are ambitious in that we are academically selective and expect academic ambition from all pupils. We are supportive in that first response to difficulty or underperformance for any pupil of any ability will always be meaningful intervention in partnership with children, families and staff to help them succeed. We are inclusive in that we value our diversity and work to ensure that all children admitted to the College reach their educational goals. At all times the College will comply with our obligations under the Equality Act. We are honest in that we will engage openly with families and children when the evidence is that any child may no longer be able to thrive within the school community.

Pupils are admitted into the College on the basis that they will be able to enjoy our educational opportunities and meet our expectations. For information on College Admissions please see the Admissions Policy (*P10*). All pupils are encouraged to discover and develop their knowledge, skills and interests on a journey towards having choices about their future by the time they reach Year 13. Academic inclusion means meeting minimum academic thresholds in order to be sure of transition to the next phase of the College. This policy explains those criteria and how interventions are made when they are not met.

WHAT ARE THE COLLEGE'S ACADEMIC THRESHOLDS?

In order for a pupil to have empowering choices for their future after St Dunstan's, they require a minimum of CCC grades at the start of Year 13. Whilst we recognise that this is not the only platform for success in life after school, it is considered a minimum platform for making a success of Year 13. Because pupils are examined at the end of Year 13 on all they have studied across Year 12 and 13, entering Year 13 without at least CCC from Year 12 sets them up to fail. The vast majority of pupils at St Dunstan's apply for places at competitive institutions of Higher or Further Education, or training and employment. Entering Year 13 without at least CCC does not support these applications. The vast majority of pupils exceed this threshold and attain A*, A, or B grades by the end of Year 13. We believe that CCC is a necessary threshold for these ambitions, and a supportive enough one to include pupils for whom talents and ambitions may be highly diverse, or for whom personal circumstances have been complex.

The College's attainment thresholds for younger pupils are set with this post-school outcome in mind. To support the pupils we have *intervention thresholds* that trigger clear and coordinated support to help struggling pupils meet expectations. We also have *transitions*

thresholds to ensure that pupils do not enter next phases of a St Dunstan’s education when the evidence is clear that they will not be able to thrive in it.

Intervention to support progress and ambition is offered and made for pupils of all abilities when they underperform or face difficulties. This policy focuses on interventions when pupils are struggling to meet College transition thresholds. The table below summarises the criteria in place at the College from September 2018 for all current pupils:

Transition	Threshold for intervention to help transition	Threshold for transition to be achieved
From Year 12 into Year 13	CCC in Michaelmas or Lent Attainment Scores.	Achieving at least CCC in end of year Trinity Term Internal Examinations.
From Year 11 into Year 12	Six grade 6s in Year 11 Trial Exams or Attainment Scores.	Achieving at least six grade 6s across all GCSE and IGCSE Examinations taken.
From Year 10 into Year 11	Six grade 6s in end of year Trinity Term Examinations.	None, but changed Year 11 subject profiles may be required by the College as an intervention.
From Year 9 into Year 10	Six grade 6s in Attainment Scores.	Achieving at least eight grade 5s in Lent Attainment Scores, including at least 3 in the core.
Across the Lower School (Years 7 to 8 and 9)	Six grade 6s in Attainment Scores.	None, but less than eight grade 5s will be flagged as a serious concern for future transition into Year 10.
From Junior to Senior School	Ongoing assessment.	Standardized Testing undertaken in Year 5 and its review by the Transitions Panel.
Across the Junior School (Nursesey to Year 6)	Ongoing assessment.	Ongoing assessment.

Communication, support, and intervention will be early and coordinated. Intervention will be planned in light of Learning Scores, pastoral, medical, SEND, and wider contexts where relevant. It will often be coordinated through an Action Plan (*See Appendix C: Action Plans*).

If a transition threshold is not met after suitable intervention and support has been agreed and enacted, a pupil’s place at the College will normally be withdrawn in line with the Parent Contract (*Clause 8a*). The decision is never taken lightly, and as outlined in this policy, its basis is genuine concern over the pupil’s potential to have real choices arising out of a successful journey through the St Dunstan’s curriculum programme.

All interventions and decisions relating to transition will be resourced and made in line with our policies relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Learning Support, and Equal Opportunities (*P13*). Flexibility in the application of thresholds will not be considered for a student without very strong Learning Scores (*see Appendix A*.)

KEY STAGE SPECIFIC INTERVENTION AND TRANSITION THRESHOLDS

Junior School Information

Before Year 5:

Transition across year groups up to Year 6 is expected and supported for all pupils in the Junior School. Given their age, there are no fixed points in time before Year 5 when academic levels are measured against thresholds for transition. Instead, Junior School staff continuously review Learning Scores and academic behaviour.

Staff will engage in open and early dialogue with families if there are concerns, and support will be put in place in response. If the decision of the school is that the pupil should no longer remain at St Dunstan's, it will be based upon clear evidence, ongoing dialogue, and only after supportive interventions have had a chance to improve the situation.

Transition into the Senior School (Years 5 and 6 into 7):

At the end of Year 5 all Junior School pupils undertake Standardised Assessments. The outcomes of these assessments are reviewed by a **Junior to Senior School Transitions Panel** to make decisions over transition to the Senior School in Year 7. The Panel will base its decision primarily on these Standardised Assessment results, but will also review wider information based upon Learning Scores, internal assessments and classroom performance across Years 4 and 5.

Panel decision will also be in line with our policies regarding Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Learning Support, and Equal Opportunities (P13). All pupils who meet the threshold for transition into the Senior School will be assured of those places so they will have no need to prepare for admissions tests for other schools in Year 6 unless they choose to, or there are wider reasons for leaving St Dunstan's College.

Pupils for whom the Transitions Panel does not confirm transition to the Senior School will be supported in making applications to other senior schools and in preparation for any entrance assessments. They will be a minority of Junior School pupils. They are also entitled to apply to the St Dunstan's College Senior School as an external candidate and to enter the admissions process as outlined in the Admissions Policy (P10.)

Senior School Information

Pupils entering the Senior School should all be confident of success. Academic thresholds exist to ensure supportive intervention in the short term, and that best interests are served in the long run. The College's resourcing of support for pupils, and all decisions over transitions, will be in line with responsibilities outlined in our policies regarding Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Learning Support, and Equal Opportunities (P13).

Transition within the Sixth Form (Year 12 into 13):

Transition from Year 12 to Year 13 means achieving at least CCC (or Pre-U equivalent) in end of Year 12 summer examinations. Pupils not achieving this should not expect to continue studying at St Dunstan's in Year 13. The vast majority of Year 13 pupils apply for places at

competitive institutions of Higher Education or training and employment. Entering Year 13 with less than CCC is not a basis for success in these applications.

Where progress earlier in Year 12 suggests this threshold may not be met, supportive intervention will be made alongside clear dialogue with the pupil and their family. It is always our intention that this intervention will help a pupil to a position where they do achieve at least CCC by the end of the year, and consequently continue towards success in Year 13.

Transition into the Sixth Form (Year 11 into 12):

Transition from Year 11 into Year 12 means achieving at least six 6s at GCSE / IGCSE (*see Appendix B*). This is so a pupil has a realistic chance of achieving at least CCC by the end of Year 12, alongside fulfilling the wider expectations of the Sixth Form Diploma programme. Pupils not achieving six 6s should not expect to study at St Dunstan's in the Sixth Form. Transition will also depend upon the selection of A Level subjects that can realistically be expected to be completed to at least C grade standard. As a rule of thumb, pupils will only be permitted to choose A Level subjects in which they have achieved at least a grade 7 at GCSE or IGCSE, or that grade in a closely related subject if the subject itself was not taken at GCSE.

Where progress earlier in Year 11 suggests this threshold may not be met, supportive intervention will be made alongside clear dialogue with the pupil and their family. It is always our intention that this intervention will help a pupil to a position where they do achieve at least six 6s by the end of the year, and consequently continue towards success in Year 12.

Year 10 into 11

We do not withdraw places for pupils in the middle of their GCSE curriculum, at the end of Year 10, on the basis of academic attainment. However, pupils not achieving at least six 6s in their end of Year 10 examinations, or in Year 11 Trial Exams in Michaelmas Term, should expect robust intervention to help maximise their chances of achieving at least six 6s by the end of Year 11 (*see Appendix B*). This intervention might include, at the school's insistence: the resitting of internal examinations, regimes of supervised study, withdrawal from one or more non-core GCSE subjects in Year 11 to facilitate greater progress and focus on others. Ten strong GCSE qualifications is always the ambition, but pupils are better served by having fewer, stronger qualifications than ten weaker ones, where that is the reality of the choice.

Transition from Lower to Middle School (Years 7, 8, and 9 into 10):

All Year 10 pupils take ten GCSE or IGCSE subjects. Transition from Year 9 into Year 10 means achieving at least eight grade 5s (including at least three amongst the core subjects) in Year 9 assessments (*see Appendix B*). This is so a pupil has a realistic chance of achieving at least six 6s when studying their ten GCSE or IGCSE qualifications, alongside fulfilling the wider expectations of the Middle School programme. The core subjects are English, Mathematics, the Sciences, and one Modern Language.

Any pupil achieving less than eight grade 5s (including at least three from the core) in their end of Year 8 summer examinations will receive support to make better progress in Year 9. They will also be informed that if they again fail to meet that threshold in their Lent Term Attainment Scores in Year 9, they should expect to be given a full term's notice that their place will be

withdrawn. This is so that the family are given adequate time to find an alternative school for the pupil to start their GCSEs in Year 10, with the support and reasonable assistance of the College.

Any pupil achieving less than six grade 6s in Attainment Scores or end of year examinations at any point across the Lower School will be supported to make better progress and hopefully secure transition through the school.

The College's intervention and decisions over transitions will be in line with responsibilities outlined in our policies regarding Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Learning Support, and Equal Opportunities (P13).

Appendix A: Learning Scores

The College believes all pupils have the potential to achieve in all subjects by developing strong learning habits. Learning Scores are used to encourage, report on, and guide those habits. Pupils who maintain strong and consistent Learning Scores do not, as a rule, miss thresholds. Consequently, pupil investment in Learning Scores is the key basis for successful study and progress at St Dunstan's. This is achievable for all pupils irrespective of ability or prior attainment because strong Learning Scores are a consequence of choices pupils make about how they study in and out of class on a day by day and week by week basis. They are not occasional measures of attainment or ability, but reflections of ongoing study. To reflect the importance given to Learning Scores, the College responds to them as follows:

- Pupils who score 17 (equivalent to 2 blue and 3 green) or more in a subject (or on average across subjects) should expect recognition for the excellent choices they are making about study.
- Pupils who score 13-16 in a subject (or on average across subjects) should expect support in reflecting on how to further enhance the choices they are making about study to aim for scores of 17 or more.
- Pupils who score 12 (3 yellow and 2 green) or less in a subject (or on average), or a 1 in any subject, should expect coordinated intervention to better guide the choices they make about study.
- Pupils who choose to study in a way that fails to raise Learning Scores after supportive intervention, or who consistently score 12 or less should expect formal review of their programme of study.

Learning Scores are not used as a threshold for transition at the College, but they are used as an indicator of how committed pupils are to learning and learning support put in place to help meet expectations of Attainment. Flexibility in the application of thresholds will not be considered for a student without very strong Learning Scores.

Academic Transition through the College

Author/s:	Andrew Johnson Paul Cozens	Date Reviewed:	Michaelmas 2019
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Committee:	N/A	Clerk to the Governors Signature:	N/A

Appendix A (continued): Learning Scores

Learning Scores	
What are Learning Scores?	
<p>You will be given a Learning Score every term by each teacher. It will be out of 20, and made up of five smaller scores out of 4. Using the guidance below, teachers will give a 'best fit' score to your approach since your last Learning Score. The importance of the scores is that you can and should influence them by the choices you make, week by week, in and between lessons. You are encouraged and expected to make choices that will result in strong Learning Scores. They are not test results or exam grades, but reflections of how you are approaching your study. Strong scores maintained over time will lead to stronger grades too.</p>	
Engagement with the subject*	
4	Your curiosity takes you beyond what is expected. You show willingness to take academic risks.
3	You think about new information and ideas presented to you. You seek to find out more.
2	You prefer to be given answers rather than to think for yourself when faced with challenge.
1	You are reluctant to engage with new ideas or information.
Response to feedback*	
4	You actively seek feedback. Your consistently positive response to it drives strong progress over time.
3	Your response to feedback is seen in follow up work. There is room for it to have more impact.
2	You sometimes act on feedback in follow up work. It is not yet a habit driving progress.
1	You rarely act on or engage with feedback in follow up tasks.
Collaboration*	
4	You collaborate with others proactively and productively, advancing your and their learning.
3	Your approach to collaboration with others normally and consistently helps you to learn.
2	You collaborate with others when asked, but in a way that you could develop to be more effective.
1	You tend to avoid or resist manageable opportunities for collaboration with others.
Strategies for study*	
4	Your strategies for study, in and out of the classroom, are robust, creative, and highly effective.
3	You use strategies for study to support your learning both inside and outside the classroom.
2	You have strategies for your study, but are not consistent in enacting them yet.
1	You do not engage with the need for clear strategies for study, which undermines your learning.
Homework*	
4	You approach all homework with ambition and routinely attempt enrichment tasks in this subject.
3	You complete and submit homework on time and to expectations.
2	Your homework does not consistently meet expectations of quality and/or of punctuality.
1	You struggle to meet homework deadlines and/or expectations on a regular basis.
What is the key difference between each colour?*	
	Means you routinely go above and beyond what is expected of you.
	Means your approach is normally and consistently good.
	Means your approach is good sometimes, but not consistently, which holds you back.
	Means you rarely or only occasionally have a strong approach. Your learning will be limited as a result.
<p>*In making Learning Score judgements, teachers will be mindful of how your approach to learning relates to any specific expectations outlined in a current Learning Support Profile or Action Plan, if you have one.</p>	

Appendix B: Grading in Numbers

The diagram below has been created by Ofqual for the Department for Education and explains how new GCSE grading numbers (9-1) compare to the current grading letters (A*-G). GCSE examinations sat at St Dunstan's are a mixture of those awarded in numbers and those in letters. The movement is towards numbers.

To support teacher, pupil and family familiarity with these numbers, all Attainment Scores and Exam grades for Years 7 to 11 are awarded in the same format as future GCSE qualification in that subject. For example, where a teacher previously gave an A* or A grade to a pupil in the Lower School, they will now give a grade 9, 8, or 7, and so forth. Where they used to give a B or C, they will now give a 6, 5, or 4. Where they used to give a B or C, they will now give a 6, 5, or 4.

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	
1	F
	G
U	U

Appendix C: Action Plan (AP)

St Dunstan's College: Action Plan (AP)

Pupil Name:		Tutor Group:	
AP Start Date:		Review Date:	

An AP is a supportive measure to help you move to a better relationship with your studies and the school. Its details will be agreed in partnership with you. It is not a sanction. Choosing not to engage positively with what is agreed, however, will be viewed as a choice to receive an appropriate sanction.

Reason/Context for AP (Please tick one or more box and add a relevant summary)

STARS		
Learning Scores		
Attainment Scores		
Exams Results		
I&E		
Pastoral		
Pupil Request		
Other		
Agreed SMART Targets for Review (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound)		

Actions Agreed between Pupil, Staff and Home to help meet targets

<p>Pupil: Consideration should include WHAT will be done, WHEN (including how often), WHERE (if not in timetabled lessons, including how to avoid potential distractions), and with WHOM (if not by the pupil alone).</p>	
<p>Staff: Consideration should include <i>both</i> ways to maximise the impact of the existing contact time and support available, <i>and</i> how to establish wider support relevant to meeting the targets set out above.</p>	

Teacher responsible for reviewing AP (name):			
Pupil Commitment to AP (signature/date):		Date:	

If the student is on the I+E register, please send a copy of this Action Plan to the Assistant Head (Inclusion and Enrichment) and relevant I+E Coordinator. Thank you.