Southam College Sixth Form 2027

Entry Criteria

To be eligible for entry into the Sixth Form, students must achieve the minimum general requirements of at least five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, including both English & Maths. In addition, each pathway and subject has its own specific entry requirements, which are detailed below.

Art	GCSE Grade 6 or above in Art & Design and a Grade 5 in English.
Biology	**Separate Science**: Students must have a Grade 7 in the Science they wish to study with at least a Grade 6 in the others. Students must have a Grade 6 in Mathematics. **Combined Science**: Students must have a Grade 7,7 in Combined Science with at least a Grade 6 in Mathematics. At the start of the year, all students will sit a 'Head Start Test' to establish a baseline for progress monitoring and to confirm they meet the course requirements.
Business Studies	If Business has been studied at GCSE, a minimum of a Grade 6. It is not necessary for Business to have been studied at GCSE level for it to be taken at A Level. However, students need at least 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including Maths & English at Grade 6 or above.
BTEC Business	A Merit at BTEC Business Level 2 if previously studied. Students who have not studied Business before will require 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 including English and Maths.
Chemistry	**Separate Science**: Students must have a Grade 7 in the Science they wish to study with at least a Grade 6 in the others. Students must have a Grade 6 in Mathematics. **Combined Science**: Students must have a Grade 7,7 in Combined Science with at least a Grade 6 in Mathematics. At the start of the year, all students will sit a 'Head Start Test' to establish a baseline for progress monitoring and to confirm they meet the course requirements.
Computer Science	If Computer Science has been studied at GCSE, a minimum of a Grade 6 is required. It is not necessary for Computer Science to have been studied at GCSE for it to be taken at A Level. However, students need at least 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including Maths and English at Grade 6 or above.
Level 3 WJEC Applied Diploma Criminology	GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language or English Literature.
Drama	GCSE Grade 6 in Drama. Those who have not studied GCSE Drama will be considered, but must have achieved a Grade 6 or above in English Literature and be able to demonstrate passion or experience.
English Language	GCSE Grade 6 or above in English Language, but recommended Grade 7.
English Literature	GCSE Grade 6 or above in English Literature, but recommended grade 7.
Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) in Food Science & Nutrition	Grade 5 in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition (where studied) or a Level 2 Distinction in Hospitality and Catering, alongside a Grade 55 in GCSE Science. Students who have not previously studied Food Preparation and Nutrition at GCSE may still be considered where they can demonstrate a genuine passion for and commitment to the subject. In such cases, students will be required to present a portfolio of relevant work to the Head of Subject.
French	The A Level course is aimed at students who have gained a Grade 7 in GCSE French.
Geography	GCSE Grade 6 or above in Geography and a Grade 6 in English Language or Literature.
German	The A Level course is aimed at students who have gained a Grade 7 in GCSE German.
Graphics	GCSE Grade 6 or above in Graphics or Art or Photography; Grade 5 or above in English.
Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) in Health & Social Care	As per the Sixth Form general entry criteria, students must achieve the minimum requirements of at least five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, including both English & Maths.
History	GCSE Grade 6 or above in History. Students who have not studied History at GCSE will be considered if they have a Grade 5 in English Language.
Level 3 V Level in Digital Systems and Data (ICT)	A Merit at OCR Cambridge nationals' level 2 if previously studied. As per the Sixth Form general entry criteria, students must achieve the minimum requirements of at least five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, including both English & Maths.
Maths	GCSE Grade 6 or above in Mathematics, having completed the full Higher GCSE course and 70% or above in the Head Start Test. We do recommend a grade 7 at GCSE.
Further Maths	GCSE Grade 7 in Mathematic (higher level) and 85% or above in the Head Start September assessment. If further maths was studied at GCSE, a grade 7 is recommended.
Media Studies	GCSE Grade 6 or above in Media Studies or Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature. A portfolio of work & discussion with the Head of Department if not studied before.
Music Level 3 RSL Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners	GCSE Grade 5 or above in Music. Performance audition and music theory test will be used as a replacement for GCSE Music if not studied at GCSE. **Note we are awaiting funding re-approval for 2027 so final course TBC**

Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Education)	A GCSE in English Language or Literature at Grade 6 is required. A GCSE Grade 6 in Religious Studies is preferred but not essential.
Photography	GCSE Grade 6 or above in Photography or Art and Grade 5 or above in English. If you do not meet the criteria, application may be considered on an individual basis through the submission of a portfolio of work and Head of Department discussion.
Physical Education	GCSE Grade 6 or above in Physical Education. Students **must** be playing one sport on a regular basis at a competitive club standard (equivalent) or above. The PE Department will need to be consulted on this prior to the course commencing to check eligibility for the practical element. Grade 5 or above in both Science and English.
Physics	**Separate Science**: Students must have a Grade 7 in the Science they wish to study with at least a Grade 6 in the others. Students must have a Grade 6 in Mathematics. **Combined Science**: Students must have a Grade 7,7 in Combined Science with at least a Grade 6 in Mathematics. At the start of the year, all students will sit a 'Head Start Test' to establish a baseline for progress monitoring and to confirm they meet the course requirements.
Politics	Grade 5 or above in History GCSE or Grade 6 in English Literature/English Language GCSE.
Product Design	GCSE Grade 6 or above in Design and Technology options of resistant materials, graphic products or product design. Students studying Engineering will require a L2 Distinction. In addition, students will require grades 5 or above in Mathematics and English.
Psychology	GCSE Grade 6 or above in English Language or Literature, Grade 6 in Mathematics and Grade 6 in Science (Biology preferred).
Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) in Applied Science	Grade 55 in Combined Science, or grade 5 in all three separate sciences.
Sociology	GCSE Grade 6 or above in English Language or English Literature.
Level 3 BTEC Sport	BTEC Sport or CNAT Level 2 at Grade Merit or above. GCSE PE at Grade 5 or above. Grade 4 or above in English.
Spanish	The A Level course is aimed at students who have gained a Grade 7 in GCSE Spanish.
Textiles	GCSE Grade 6 or above in Design and Technology (Textiles specialism) or Art and Design plus a Grade 5 or above in English.

Please note: *Final course confirmation and allocation will take place and be confirmed after enrolment uptake on Results Day, as stated in the prospectus and course description guides. During the interview process, we will refer to the latest Year 11 forecast data to offer tailored information, advice and guidance, ensuring students choose the courses best suited to them.*

SOUTHAM COLLEGE SIXTH FORM