

SEPTEMBER 2026

The Trust is responsible for the admission of pupils into the Academy.

Introduction

Heron Hall Academy Sixth Form is a comprehensive sixth form providing an exciting range of courses.

Admission to the sixth form at Heron Hall Academy is managed by the academy. Any queries regarding sixth form admissions should be directed to the academy.

Admission to the Sixth form

Admission to the sixth form will be from:

- Students in year 11 at Heron Hall Academy; and year 11 students from outside Heron Hall Academy
- The minimum number of students entering the sixth form from outside Heron Hall Academy will be 15 each year, subject to meeting the below admissions criteria.
- Applicants should complete the on-line application form on the website. Students are entitled to apply in their own right. All application forms must be completed and returned by 31 January for entry the following autumn.
- Students will be admitted into the sixth form at the start of the Autumn term in each academic year.
- All decisions regarding admissions will be taken by the Board of Trustees, in accordance with the admissions criteria outlined below.

Summary of Admissions criteria

All applicants must achieve the following grades in order to be eligible for admission into the Sixth Form:

- a. A-Level Academic Pathway: A minimum of 6 GCSE grades 9-4 with at least 3 grades 9-6 at GCSE including Maths, English and the subject-specific entry requirements.
- b. Vocational Pathway: A minimum of 5 GCSE grades 9-4 including English and Maths.
- c. Aspire Programme: Applicants should normally have achieved Grade 2 or Grade 3 in GCSE English and/or Mathematics and must be committed to progressing to Level 3 study. Students will undertake recognised Level 2 courses alongside English and/or Mathematics. Those who have not achieved at least Grade 4 in GCSE English or Mathematics may choose either to retake the relevant GCSE subject(s) or to undertake Functional Skills qualifications in English and/or Mathematics. This full-time, one-year programme is designed to prepare students for progression to a Level 3 programme, including A Levels or Level 3 vocational qualifications, or to an apprenticeship or other further study.
- d. Assessment meeting: All students that apply for a place within the Sixth Form will be invited to a meeting to ensure they adequately meet the admissions criteria. At this stage, where applicable, all references will be checked. The process will support students to make appropriate course choices.

Offers of places at Heron Hall: All students who meet the admissions criteria will be made a conditional offer in writing. A firm offer will only be made following confirmation of GCSE results in the summer. On GCSE results day, students will be able to confirm their qualifications and begin enrolment into the Sixth Form. If students do not achieve their expected grades they will need to speak to us to discuss their options.

Students applying from Heron Hall will be expected to attend school during the final week of August to complete the full enrolment process.

If an applicant meets our criteria they will be eligible for consideration for a Sixth Form place.

All students in our current Year 11 who meet the Sixth Form Admissions criteria will be considered.

Subject choices

Heron Hall Academy will offer all Year 11 students at Heron Hall Academy Information, Advice and Guidance meetings, including on Sixth Form subject choices, during the course of Year 11.

External applicants may be invited to a meeting to discuss subject choices. Students will be asked to provide a reference from their previous school which will be used to inform discussion of subject choices.

Heron Hall Academy Sixth Form makes every effort to offer students subjects that reflect their chosen subjects, however there can be no guarantee that students will be able to study their preferred subjects.

Students are offered subjects on the basis of the number of places available on each subject and with reference to the subject-specific entry grades published in the Heron Hall Academy Sixth Form Prospectus and Heron Hall Academy Sixth Form Course Description on the academy website. Decisions on subject allocation are made by the academy. Over and under subscription for specific subjects may lead to students having to make alternative choices after a meeting with the Head of Sixth Form.

Students' previous behaviour and attendance will also be considered as part of the application process and should be included in the reference received from the previous school or academy.

Oversubscription Criteria

Where the number of eligible applicants exceeds the places available then admission will be determined in accordance with the following priority of admission criteria:

- a. Children Looked After and previously looked after children. A 'child looked after' 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) at the time of making an application to a school/academy. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order).
- b. Pupils of staff at the Academy where: -
 - i. the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made; or
 - ii. the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage

- c. Priority will be given to children living nearest to the Academy. For all purposes nearness to the Academy will be measured in a straight line from the child's home to the main entrance of the Academy. Random allocation will be used if the distance between two children's homes and the school is the same. This process will be independently verified.

Tie-break

If a tie-break is needed to determine who is admitted under the oversubscription criteria, priority will be given to children living nearest to the Academy. For all purposes nearness to the Academy will be measured in a straight line from the child's home to the main entrance of the Academy. Random allocation will be used if the distance between two children's homes and the school is the same. This process will be independently verified.

Where the child lives

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child and the child lives for part of the week with each parent, then the child will be deemed to live where they spend the majority of school nights.

School nights are Sunday night, Monday night, Tuesday night, Wednesday night and Thursday night.

In the event of joint parental responsibility with the child spending equal time with either parent, the child will be deemed to live with the parent with the Child Benefit Award Notice.

Appeals

The parents of a student (and/or student themselves) refused a place at the academy have a right to appeal to an independent appeal panel. The decision of the independent appeal panel is binding on all parties. Remote appeals panels can be heard and are available on request.

Children looked after

In the case of a previously child looked after, we will require a copy of the adoption order, residence order or special guardianship order and a letter from the local authority that last looked after the child confirming that he or she was looked after immediately prior to that order being made.

Siblings

The 'Siblings Rule' in the Heron Hall Academy Admissions Code is applicable only to students applying for admission to years 7-11. Under this rule, existing students with siblings seeking admission to these year groups are given priority. However, it's important to note that this priority does not extend to new students who have joined Heron Hall in year 12 or year 13 and were not enrolled at Heron Hall in year 11. For such new students in the sixth form (year 12 and year 13), the Siblings Rule does not apply, and admission decisions are made based on other criteria specified in the academy's admissions code.

Please note

Unfortunately, it appears that there have been some cases where parents have been tempted to supply false or inappropriate information to try and get a place at a particular Academy or school (for example by giving the address of a relative instead of the home address).

Information supplied by parents / carers is checked. If it is found that false information has been provided and a place has been obtained because of this, the place offered is likely to be withdrawn. Parents / carers will still have the right of appeal if the place is withdrawn.