

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I choose BRGS Sixth Form?

We are “Big enough to deliver, small enough to care”.

As a large Sixth Form that is part of an 11-18 school, we can offer quality teaching and facilities as well as the pastoral care you would expect from your current school; each student is assigned to a tutor as well as having a Head of Year and other support staff.

What are the results like?

In 2019 (the last set of A level Exams), 59% of grades were A*-B and 33% were A* or A grades. Most students’ A levels were on or above target. With the outstanding teaching, students at BRGS get the grades they deserve.

What are my chances of being offered a place at BRGS?

For the last few years, each student who applies has been offered a place, conditional on achieving a minimum GCSE score (see below). All students receive the same offer and we do not select students based on higher GCSE grades.

What are the entry criteria?

Students must achieve a minimum of two GCSEs at grade 6 or above, plus a further two GCSEs at least grade 5. Students must have a minimum of grade 4 pass in English Language and Maths (these can make up the four grades required above). Put simply – pass English Language and Maths, and get two 5s and two 6s.

But don’t some subjects need more than that?

Yes. If you wish to study Maths, a Science subject, Music or a Modern Foreign Language (German/Spanish), or English Language or Literature, the requirements are listed in the subject booklet included with the prospectus. Other subjects require you to have studied the subject at GCSE, or demonstrate skills in these areas. Experience shows that without these you are unlikely to be successful and should consider a different subject combination.

What courses will I study?

BRGS offers A level subjects. (We do not offer Applied or Vocational courses). The new A levels are 2 year ‘linear’ courses. That means that the exam at the end of Year 13 will test you on everything from the last 2 years.

Do you offer AS levels?

No, students will have exams at the end of year 12 to assess their progress and inform them of areas they need to work on. We will be concentrating on building up skills, knowledge and understanding over the full 2 years in preparation for the A level exams in year 13.

How do I apply?

Applications are made online by visiting www.brgs.org.uk. Click on the Sixth Form page where you will find a link to the online application form. You will be asked to register so that you can update your form after applying. After you have submitted the form, you will receive an email receipt. You will then receive an offer within a week or two (see above).

What is the closing date for applications?

Applications should be submitted by the closing date: Friday 15 January, 2021. This will enable us to satisfy as many subject choices as possible. Late applications may be considered if places remain available, but get your form in by the deadline to avoid disappointment!

Can I change my subjects after I have applied?

Yes, we realise that you cannot make your final choice until you have received your GCSE results towards the end of August. However we have to make lots of important timetabling and staffing decisions long before then and so it's important to let us know if you change your mind.

Do you have Option Blocks? Will my subject choices be accommodated?

We use your current choices to help us to create our option blocks, which are based on accommodating your choices. Once these blocks are formed, if you change your mind then your choices must fit into the Options Structure. So long as there is space in each subject then you can keep informing us of any changes. There may come a point where we have to cap certain popular subjects and create a waiting list for those subjects. If this happens we will keep you fully informed.

How many subjects do I study?

Students can choose to study 3 or 4 subjects, it is essential that you put these in order of preference on your online application. If you are unsure about your choices, you are advised to start with 4 and drop one during the first term when you have a good idea of what each subject entails. Many students found that they need to experience each subject before deciding which to drop. You can also try a subject you have not studied at GCSE (e.g. Business Studies, Economics, Law, Psychology or Sociology).

Most students who start on 4 eventually drop one subject before November and concentrate on 3 A levels. The exception to this is if you choose to do Further Maths (Double Maths) – this should be a 4th subject to keep the breadth of 3 subjects in total.

Can I keep all 4 subjects onto A level?

Yes you can. If you wish to continue studying all 4 subjects, and your prior attainment at GCSE suggests that you will be successful with 4 subjects to full A level – a mix of mostly 7-9 at GCSE. HOWEVER, most universities will make offers based on 3 subjects, so there will not be any pressure to keep 4 subjects on.

What happens after I apply?

You will get a letter confirming your place. You will also attend an informal interview to help us get to know you and discuss your subject choices. We then hold a Preview Day at the end of June which is a chance to have taster lessons and a further chance to ask questions. Finally, after GCSE results, we will arrange for an Enrolment Interview with you, a parent and a senior member of staff at BRGS to finally discuss your subject choices in the light of your GCSE grades.

Can I apply for a bursary?

Yes, you may be able to depending on your family finances. You'll receive information about how to do this at your August interview. There will be information about our travel grant then too. You may be eligible for free school meals, check with your local education authority to find out more.

What if I need any further information?

Please contact Mr Morriss, Director of Sixth Form, on 01706 233400 or by email: sixthform@brgs.org.uk and we will try to help in any way we can.