

The Thomas Adams School & Sixth Form

Policy Statement

Admissions

Updated November 2020

Reviewed by Governors

For admissions to Year 7 application must be made through Shropshire Council by 31 October in the academic year prior to which your child is due to start school. All applications received by this date will be considered and parents will be informed by Shropshire Council on 1 March if they have been allocated a place for their child. Please see the Parents Guide to Education booklet on the website www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions and also for details of the admission arrangements.

Admissions Criteria:

Children who have an Education Health and Care Plan, which names the school which the child should attend because their needs can be met best by that particular school, will be offered places before other children. After that places will be offered up to the admission number in the following priority order:

Priority 1:

Looked after Children and children who were Looked After but ceased to be so because they were adopted.

- a) Looked after children and children who were previously looked after in England (being provided with accommodation by a local authority in England in the exercise of their social services functions) but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order.
- b) Children who appear to Shropshire Council to have been in state care outside of England (accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society) and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted, subject to a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order.

Priority 2:

Very exceptionally, priority may be given to a child who has a particular health reason requiring them to attend a specific school. This will only be allowed if parents/carers can provide written evidence from a medical professional that in the view of the local authority confirms that attending that particular school is essential to the medical well-being of the child. The Council reserves the right to contact medical professionals to ascertain the relevance of the medical condition.

Priority 3:

Children living inside the catchment area will have next priority. If there are not enough places for all the children living in the catchment area, we will look at the following two criteria:

- 1) Priority will be given to children living within the catchment area who will have an older sibling of compulsory school age (11 – 16) at the school on the day they are due to start there.
- 2) After that, priority will be given to other children who live within the catchment area.

Priority 4:

Any places that are left will be offered to children who live outside the catchment area. If there are not enough places for all of them, we will look at the following criteria:

- 1) Priority will be given to children living outside the catchment area who will have an older sibling of compulsory school age (11 – 16) at the school on the day they are due to start there.
- 2) Next, priority will be given to children living outside the catchment area, who have attended a state-funded primary school that lies within the secondary school's catchment area, for more than a whole academic year immediately prior to transfer. (See appendix)
- 3) Finally, all other children who live outside the catchment area.

If, within any of the above categories, there are more applications than there are places available, priority will be given on the basis of distance measured as a straight line on a computerised mapping system between the home address and the nearest appropriate entrance gate of the school by pinpointing their eastings and northings. The shortest distance will be given priority. Where two addresses are within the same block of flats, the lowest number of flat or nearest the ground floor will be deemed to be the nearest in distance.

Each category will be rank ordered according to the distance from home to school as a straight line measurement.

Notes:

A sibling connection is defined as a brother or sister, step-brother or step-sister, half-brother or half-sister, living at the same address as part of the same family unit and of compulsory school age (i.e. 5 – 16 years). Adopted siblings are also included. Older siblings must be attending the school on the date the younger sibling is due to start there. However, cousins or other relatives who take up residence in a home in order to establish an 'in catchment area' address will not be given priority under the sibling criterion.

For admissions purposes all distances are measured as a straight line distance on a computerised mapping system between the home address and the nearest entrance gate of the relevant school by pinpointing their eastings and northings. The shortest distance being given highest priority. Where two addresses are within the same block of flats, the lowest number of flat nearest the ground floor will be deemed to be the nearest in distance.

In the event that two applications are exactly the same after all other criteria have been taken into account a tie breaker will be used. This will be by random allocation and overseen by an independent party not connected with the admissions process.

If unsuccessful on allocation day, Shropshire Council will offer a review when the waiting list will be formed from those parents who advise the Admissions Team that they wish to pursue a place at the school. At the end of the review period, parents who have still not been successful in securing a place have the right to appeal against the decision. Parents may remain on the waiting list from the review period onwards.

For the first term of Year 7, Shropshire Council will continue to maintain a waiting list for unsuccessful applicants. If any vacancies arise, places will be offered to applicants on the waiting list in strict accordance with normal published oversubscription criteria.

Mid-term or In-Year applications

Mid-term applications will be dealt with using the same admissions criteria given above. To apply for a place other than the start of Year 7, parents should apply directly to the school on a mid-term application form available the Shropshire Council website www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions or from school. If there is a space in the relevant year group a place will be granted. If the application is for a place in an over-subscribed year group then the Headteacher will meet the Chair of Governors and the Assistant Head in Charge of Admissions to consider whether additional places can be offered above the published admission number.

If a place cannot be offered, parents will receive a formal letter and information on how to appeal against the decision from Shropshire Council Admissions Team.

Other than the first term of Year 7, the school will maintain a waiting list for unsuccessful applicants. If any vacancies arise, places will be offered to applicants included on the waiting list in

strict accordance with normal published oversubscription criteria. If a place can be offered the applicant will be expected to take up the place within 6 school weeks or by the start of the next half term, whichever is the earliest date. If an offer of a place is refused, the name will be removed from the waiting list. At the end of the first term of the academic year of admission, the waiting list will transfer from Shropshire Council to the school.

Allocation of places for children moving into Shropshire Council's designated catchment area can only be considered when formal confirmation (signed tenancy agreement when no property is owned, or exchange of contracts) of the address has been received.

All applicants are required to give correct information about the genuine residential address of the child. Where any information regarding a home address is found to be fraudulent or misleading a school place may be withdrawn even if the child has been admitted to the school.

Admissions to Adams House Boarding Facility

Adams House offers boarding for students of Thomas Adams School and sixth form. The house is run under the control of the Governing Body of the school but application for year 7 places must be made to the home local authority in accordance with coordinated arrangements.

Entry to Adams House is through interview and supplementary information form in order to assess suitability for boarding. The form is available on our website at <https://thomasadams.net/boarding>.

The boarding fees are set by the school, payable termly one month prior to the start of each term. Details can be found at <https://thomasadams.net/boarding>.

Under regulations laid out in the School Admissions Code, Boarding schools must give the required priority to children in care and then next priority to children with a 'boarding need'.

Children with a boarding need include:

- a) Children at risk or with an unstable background and the children of service personnel who have died while serving or who have been discharged as a result of attributable injury.
- b) Children of other key workers and Crown Servants working abroad (eg the children of charity workers, people working for voluntary service organisations the diplomatic service or the European Union, teachers, law enforcement officers and medical staff working abroad) whose work dictates that they spend much of the year overseas.

When assessing suitability for boarding, admission authorities can only consider the following two conditions:

- a) Whether a child presents a serious health and safety hazard to other boarders;
- b) Whether a child is developmentally suited to a boarding place.

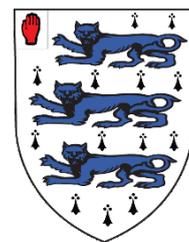
The school has an admission number of 208, which includes up to five Boarding House places for Year 7 in 2021/22. **If five Year 7 Boarding House places are not allocated on the 1 March allocation date, the school reserves the right to consider and accept additional Boarding House applications above the admission number after this date, up to a maximum of five.**

Adams House Boarding Admissions Criteria:

Suitable* children with a Statement of SEN or EHCP which names Thomas Adams School will be offered places. After that the admissions criteria will be:

- 1) Suitable* looked after children and formerly looked after children who were adopted;
- 2) Suitable* children of members of the UK Armed Forces who qualify for Ministry of Defence financial assistance with the cost of boarding school fees;
- 3) Suitable* children with a boarding need whose parents live outside Shropshire at the time of admission but with sibling attending the school;
- 4) Suitable* children with a boarding need who live outside Shropshire but with connection to Shropshire - former residence / relatives (not parent) living in County;
- 5) Suitable* children with a boarding need who live within the catchment area of the school in order of shortest straight line distance from home to school (not boarding house);
- 6) Suitable* children with a boarding need who live outside the school's catchment area but in Shropshire, in order of shortest straight line distance from home to school (not boarding house);
- 7) Other suitable* children.

*Suitability to be assessed in line with the guidance in the Admissions Code of Practice.



The Thomas Adams Sixth Form

Admissions Policy 2020-2021

- To study at The Thomas Adams Sixth Form, we ask for a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English and Maths, in order to cope with the demands of Level 3 study.
- However, many subjects will require students to achieve at least a grade 5 or higher – so please refer to the individual subject outlines for further details.
- If students do not achieve a grade 4 or above in either English or Maths, we are able to offer a compulsory resit in the required subject, alongside a limited choice of other Level 3 courses.
- Students who achieve at least 5 x grades 4+ but who only achieve 3 in En, 3 in El (with a 4+ in Ma) will be accepted onto appropriate courses, but will need to resit En.
- Students who achieve at least 5 x grades 4+ including En or El, but 3 or lower in Ma, will be accepted onto appropriate courses, but will need to resit Ma.
- If there have been extenuating circumstances, individual applicants are requested to contact us to discuss these.
- Whilst we will endeavour to run all of the courses offered, they will only be viable if sufficient numbers of students elect to study them.

In addition to the general entry requirements, there are the following subject-specific entry requirements:

	Entry requirements
Art	4 in En and 5 in an Art/Design subject if taken at GCSE (otherwise a portfolio of work)
Biology	6/6 in Sc or relevant Science if Triple
Business Studies	4 in En or El and 5 in Ma
Chemistry	6/6 in Sc or relevant Science if Triple
Computer Science	4 in En and 5 in Ma
Drama & Theatre Studies	4 in El
English Combined	5 in En and El
English Language	5 in En and El

English Literature	5 in En and El
Film Studies	4 in En or El
Food Science	4 in En or El and 4 in Sc, 4 in Ma and GCSE in Food or Hospitality desirable
French	5 in En or El and 6 in Fr
Further Maths	7 in Ma
Geography	5 in En or El and 4 in Ma and 5 in a Humanities subject
Graphics	4 in En and 5 in an Art/Design subject if taken at GCSE (otherwise a portfolio of work)
Health & Social Care	4 in En
History	5 in En or El and 5 in a Humanities subject
IT BTEC	4 in En and 4 in Ma
Maths	7 in Ma
Music	Grade 4 in a graded music exam for an instrument or singing, otherwise an audition
Physics	6/6 in Sc or relevant Science if Triple and 6 in Ma
Politics	5 in En
Product Design	4 in En and 4 in Ma and 5 in an Art/Design subject if taken at GCSE (otherwise a portfolio of work)
Psychology	4/4 in Sc and 5 in Ma and 5 in En
Religious Studies	5 in En or El and 5 in a Humanities subject
Sociology	5 in En
Sport	4 in En and 4 in Sc (ideally Bio), 5 or Merit in L2 BTEC Sport or PE desirable
Textile Design	4 in En and 5 in an Art/Design subject if taken at GCSE (otherwise a portfolio of work)

Key:

En = English Language

El = English Literature

Ma = Maths

Sc = Science