

Admissions Policy

King's College London
Mathematics School

September 2023 admissions

Monitoring and reviewing

| Action | Individual / Group | Date | Role |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Reviewed | Tom Collins | 23/06/2022 | Deputy Head |
| Ratified | Governing Body | 30/06/2022 | Governors |
| Next review | Governing Body | Summer 2023 | Governors |

Overview

King's College London Mathematics School is for 16-19 year olds with a fascination for mathematics. Our curriculum is highly specialised and only a limited number of subjects and subject combinations are offered.

We are a highly selective institution but one that seeks to engage students who have an interest and aptitude in mathematics but who are not otherwise likely to have access to excellent mathematics teaching in this phase of their education. We want to stretch the brightest and best young mathematicians, ensure they are better equipped to study highly mathematical subjects at university and that they are well placed to secure places at top universities and go on to have successful careers where mathematical competence is of central importance. Our mission to widen participation in mathematical degrees and careers is reflected in our admissions policy and processes.

Key principles

King's College London Mathematics School's admission policy will be clear, fair and transparent. It will be presented in a format that is accessible to prospective students and their parents and carers, and will be available on the school website.

King's College London Mathematics School operates as its own admissions authority. Our admissions policy is published on our website, and the agreed admissions arrangements for any year will be published on our website by 30 September of the preceding year. This information will include how many places will be offered in that year, the minimum academic requirements for entry, and how places will be allocated if the school is oversubscribed. It will also include details of how the school will operate its waiting list.

Planned admissions number and capacity

The capacity of King's College London Mathematics School is 140, with 70 year 12 students being admitted each year. Students will not normally be admitted into year 13.

The published admissions number for September 2023 is 70. Applications will be accepted for entry in September 2023 from students born between 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2007. Interested applicants who fall outside this cohort should contact the school using the school's online [admissions query form](#).

Minimum entry requirements

King's College London Mathematics School offers a highly specialist, academically rigorous curriculum. A large proportion of the timetable is dedicated to the study of mathematics. Our minimum entry requirements reflect this.

Students admitted to King's College London Mathematics School are expected to have achieved each of the following four criteria in their examinations:

| | |
|------------|--|
| Criteria 1 | Grade 8 or 9 in GCSE Mathematics |
| Criteria 2 | Either: Grade 7, 8 or 9 in GCSE Physics Or: Grade 7-7 or above in GCSE Combined Science |
| Criteria 3 | Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language |
| Criteria 4 | A total of at least seven GCSEs at grade 5 or above (including those listed above) |

The school will accept GCSE grades attained in previous years on the previous grading system, using the conditions above and the following interpretation of how the previous grades (A* to G) correspond to the new grading system (9 to 1):

A* = 9 or 8, A = 7, B = 6, C = 5.

Interested applicants who have taken alternative qualifications should contact the school for further information.

Prospective students will be offered places on a conditional basis until they receive their GCSE results. Conditional offers may be set at a higher level than the standards listed above.

Application process

Steps in the application process are as follows:

- Applicants will be asked to complete an application form by a date announced on the school website (usually the last Monday in November). Application form contents will include details of a teacher at their current school (usually the Head of Mathematics or the Head of Year) who will be asked for a reference prior to interview. Home educated applicants should choose a tutor or other individual who can confirm academic suitability as their referee.
- All applicants will be invited to take part in a written mathematics aptitude test. The date of the test will be advertised in advance on the school's website.
- Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview to further assess the applicant's ability to benefit from the experience of attending a specialist mathematics school. Those invited to interview will be asked to provide, where applicable, their most recent school report.
- Conditional offers will then be made. Applicants will be asked to accept or decline their conditional offer by a given date. Candidates who are not made offers are either offered a place on the waiting list or are rejected at this stage.
- Offer-holders who successfully meet their conditional offer enrol at the school on enrolment day, which is on the same day as GCSE results day. KCLMS expects students to enrol in person on that date to secure their place.

The mathematics aptitude test

All applicants will be invited to undertake the aptitude test. Specimen questions similar to those in the aptitude test are available on the school's website.

Interview shortlisting

A pre-interview score will be determined for each candidate, and all candidates whose pre-interview score is above a given threshold will be invited to interview. The pre-interview score will be found by adding the mathematics aptitude test score to a widening participation score. The latter will be calculated from data provided at the point of application. Provided sufficient applications are received, we will invite at least 150 applicants to interview.

The interview

The interview will consist of two parts: a mathematics interview, and a personal interview.

- The mathematics interview will be used to assess further the applicant's mathematical skill and understanding, and to determine how well the applicant is able to learn and apply a mathematical technique when guided by a KCLMS teacher.
- The personal interview will determine how well the applicant fits the school's values and ethos, will confirm information supplied at the point of application, and will support the assessment of how much value the school may add to the applicant in terms of having an impact on their attainment and progress.

Applicants will be assigned four scores at interview:

- A score for the further assessment of mathematical skill and understanding
- A score representing how well they learnt a mathematical technique when guided by a KCLMS teacher
- A score representing their fit with the school's values and ethos and how they will benefit from the school's learning and teaching environment
- A score for the value the school may add in terms of having an impact on the applicant's attainment and progress.

The first three scores are based on the interview alone. The fourth score is based on contextual data taken at the point of application in particular that relates to widening participation, some of which is confirmed prior to or at the interview. The four interview scores are combined with the mathematics aptitude test score to form an overall post-interview score.

Admissions panel

The admissions panel is responsible for determining which candidates receive offers, which are rejected, and which are placed on the waiting list.

Determination of offers

Two thresholds for admittance are determined on the post-interview score based on the number of places available: a high-level threshold and a low-level threshold.

- Candidates with scores above the high-level threshold are made an offer, subject to
 - receipt of a satisfactory school reference / most recent school report

- the Head Teacher determining with the SENCO that any adjustment required by an applicant with an identified special educational need or disability is reasonable and compatible with the efficient resources and/or efficient education of others, in line with the SEN Code of Practice 2015.
- Candidates with scores below the low-level threshold are rejected.
- Candidates with scores between the high-level and low-level thresholds are each considered individually by the admissions panel. The panel considers the full information relating to each student to determine in each case whether to make the candidate an offer (subject to the same two conditions listed above), reject the candidate, or place the candidate on the waiting list.

Any mitigating circumstances concerning a candidate's application will be considered at this stage.

Offers made are subject to:

- achievement of the minimum entry requirements
- proof of eligibility for EFA funding.

Offers may be withdrawn by the school if an applicant, prior to enrolling at KCLMS, is found to have exhibited behaviour that is not in line with our ethos and values.

Enrolment

Enrolment day is on GCSE results day and offer-holders are expected to enrol in person at KCLMS on that day.

On enrolling at KCLMS, offer-holders will be advised on their curriculum options. All students are enrolled to study Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics A Levels and to engage in the broader curriculum offered by KCLMS. It is assumed that the vast majority of students will also be enrolled into a further subject to take to AS Level at the end of the first year. In a small number of cases the school may not confer this provision.

Waiting list

The post-interview score is used to order candidates on the waiting list. We will make offers to those who are highest on the waiting list in the following instances:

- in the week following the offer acceptance deadline, should the rejection of some offers leave additional places available;
- at any point between the offer acceptance deadline and the start of the school term in September 2022, should one or more current offer holders withdraw for any reason;
- in the week following GCSE results publication, should places at the school be available (for example because current offer holders do not meet the terms of their conditional offers);
- at any point up to 1 October 2022, should additional places at the school become available for any reason.

Additional admissions cycles

In any year where there is more than one admissions cycle, the same processes will be applied, and the same scoring systems will be used to rank candidates.

Appeals

Those who are offered a place at King's College London Mathematics School will be informed on a date to be specified. Applicants who are not offered a place through this process have a right to appeal against this decision. Details of the admissions appeal procedure, including grounds on which appeals may be lodged, are detailed in the [KCLMS Admissions Appeals Policy](#), available on the school website.

Late applications

Normal applications received after the closing date will only be considered should places remain after the consideration of all applications received on or before the closing date.

Sanctuary applications may be considered after the closing date, such as for persons displaced by war. If places are granted after this extraordinary process, they will be additional to the published admissions number.

Equality and diversity

The School in operating admission arrangements will do everything it reasonably can to enable every student to perform at their best, and in making acceptance decisions will not discriminate between students on grounds of race, sexual orientation, sex, disability, faith, gender identity, marital / civil partner status or pregnancy / maternity provided they meet the criteria for entry. The [KCLMS Equality statement and Objectives](#) is available on the school's website.

The school is keen to ensure that no applicant who has a learning or physical disability, or has a registered Special Educational Need, or has a Statement of Need, is dissuaded from making an application if he or she meets the admissions criteria. The school undertakes to fulfil its anticipatory duty to make reasonable adjustments to avoid substantial disadvantage to any applicant. If an applicant applying to the school may require particular arrangements to be made for the aptitude test or for the interview, the parents/carers or the applicant should contact the school at the time of application. The [KCLMS SEN policy](#) is available on the school's website.

Application timetable

Specific dates will be published each year on the school website. The table on the next page shows the outline timeline for any admissions cycle.

| TIMELINE | ACTIVITY OR ACTION |
|--------------------------------|--|
| September | Admission arrangements published. Application form opens for entry on the school website. |
| September-November | Open Evenings and Taster Days for prospective applicants and their parents/carers to find out more about the school. Details are available on the school's website in the application section. Attendance at open evenings and taster days is not required for applicants, and nor does it confer any advantage to applicants in the offer decision process. |
| Late November / Early December | Application deadline for main admission cycle. |
| December | Mathematics aptitude test. |
| January | Interviews. |
| February | Conditional offers made. |
| August (GCSE results day) | Offers are confirmed and students are enrolled. |
| September | Classes commence. |

Policy use

Please ensure you are using the latest version of this policy, which is available [on our website](#).