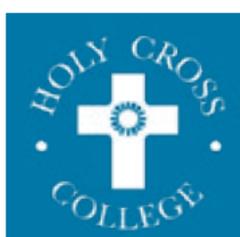
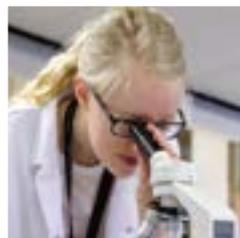


Holy Cross College, Bury

Admissions

Thank you for your interest in Holy Cross College. Below are a series of frequently asked questions to help inform you about applying to Holy Cross.

If you require any further information please email admissions@holycross.ac.uk



Holy Cross College
Manchester Road
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0161 762 4500

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[@HolyCrossBury](https://www.instagram.com/HolyCrossBury)
Holy Cross Sixth Form College
[hcollege88](https://www.hcollege88.com)
[holy_cross_bury](https://www.holy_cross_bury.com)

What are the entry requirements for Holy Cross?

To start a Level 3 (Advanced level) course at Holy Cross, students need to achieve a minimum of 5 grade 4s at GCSE. These must include one of GCSE Maths or an English (Language or Literature) at grade 4. One alternative to GCSE is accepted.

However, particular subjects have specific requirements in addition to this minimum profile. Students must research these and can do so via our website. Any offer made will clearly state the grades needed to access each subject.

Offers of a place are always conditional upon students meeting these entry requirements.

What if you don't gain a grade 4 or above in Maths or English Language at GCSE?

If you start at Holy Cross without a GCSE at grade 4 in Maths or English Language we will require you to re-sit the GCSE or take another appropriate qualification, as it will be important for you in later life and for university entries.

These 're-sits' may run alongside your advanced level course or be part of a one-year programme designed to broaden and develop your GCSE/Level 2 base.

How many subjects does Holy Cross offer?

We offer 40 subjects at advanced level: 34 A levels and 6 Level 3 BTECs. The subjects you choose can be made up purely of A Levels, Level 3 BTECs or a combination of both.

Do you offer any courses other than A levels or Level 3 BTECs?

We also offer a Level 2 programme. This currently consists of a choice of 7 GCSEs and 3 BTECs. Students would take 4 subjects from this list over the course of one year. Most students who undertake this programme then stay with us for a further 2 years to complete a Level 3 course.

We do not offer any apprenticeship programmes.

How do you apply to Holy Cross?

All applications are made online via the college website. Students will need an e-mail address (one they can access throughout the academic year) and will create a password to enable them to login to their 'Application Portal' which they create at this stage. Much of the communication between the college and students will be made through this portal as the year progresses (e.g. details of interview, acceptance of the formal offer, enrolment appointment). Regular access to it is essential to the process.

Applications for September 2021 open on Thursday 1st October and close on Friday 4th December 2020.

Advice to help students with the application process can be found on the college website.

Need any more information?

Contact us at admissions@holycross.ac.uk



Holy Cross College, Bury

Admissions

What is Holy Cross looking for when a student completes an application?

The 'Personal Statement' section is seen by the College to be very important and students are encouraged to take time completing this. This will be read before an interview is held and staff will want to explore the ideas in the application with the student. We suggest students consider drafting their responses first, and after checking, paste these into the application.

- Have students researched the subjects they are applying for?
- Are students aware of the nature and ethos of Holy Cross?
- What are students looking to engage in at Holy Cross, outside of their chosen subjects?

Students are encouraged to take time completing the application, not to see this as something that needs to be done in one go.

Students must ensure the application is submitted by the deadline (for entry in September 2021, this is Friday 4th December 2020).

How many subjects can you apply for?

Most students take three full time Advanced Level subjects. You will be asked to choose three main subjects at application. You can add a fourth subject, which you may take as part of your course, but you do not need to. Whether you take 3 or 4 will depend on your results at GCSE and discussions between you and the college prior to and during enrolment. The subjects you choose can be made up purely of A Levels, Level 3 BTECs or a combination of both.

The vast majority of students now take 3 subjects at advanced level. The entry requirements to start 4 are significantly higher than for 3 (please see the college website for further details).

Can you change your choices?

It is important to stress that subject choices made on completion of the application are not set in stone. Indeed, we often see changes made at various stages of the application process as students become more informed about their choices and we welcome discussions about such requests.

However, we do aim to finalise choices at the enrolment stage (in August following receipt of GCSE results) as decisions then will reflect the time and thought invested to that point. Changes following the start of the new term may be possible but are certainly not automatic. Full discussions would be held to explore the reasons behind, and suitability of, the proposed change.

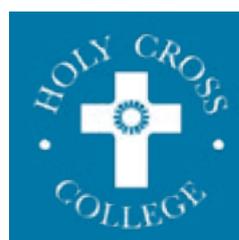
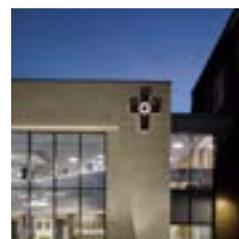
Is Holy Cross holding open events this year?

We are holding Open Events on Saturday 9th October (10am-1pm) and Monday 18th October (5.30pm-8pm). These events will be by appointment only. You will be able to book an appointment on our website.

Your interview will be on a one-to-one basis and will be conducted on Microsoft Teams.

What do I need to do to become a doctor/dentist/vet or similar?

Choosing A levels in Chemistry and Biology is essential for dentistry and veterinary



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Holy Cross College, Bury

Admissions

medicine and for most medical courses. The third subject can be chosen from a wide range of available options and should reflect the student's interests (e.g. if they are a good linguist, choosing an MFL could be a very good option). (Note: to access A level Sciences at Holy Cross will require a student to achieve at least grade 6 in their GCSE Sciences and Maths.)

Relevant work experience is essential, and students will be expected to have completed this and be able to discuss their experience of it before they apply to universities for the above courses.

The grade profile at GCSE expected by university admissions, to offer a good chance of an interview for these courses, is a range of grade 7s or above.

Examples of broader interests is also key, e.g. in sport, music and drama, volunteering, Duke of Edinburgh, etc. The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and similar qualifications are also seen as very supportive of applications.

What subjects do I need to take to become a lawyer/solicitor?

Choosing A level Law or Level 3 BTEC Law is an excellent choice to support progress to a Law degree and is strongly encouraged. Subjects across a very broad range are acceptable, high grades will be expected, particularly for courses at the most competitive universities. Research is essential.

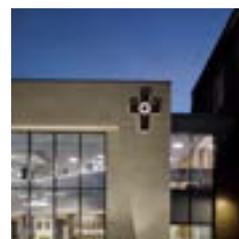
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What are facilitating subjects and what is their relevance?

The Government refers to some subjects as 'facilitating' subjects. They are: Maths, Further Maths, English Literature, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History and Languages.

Russell Group universities, which are the most competitive, no longer use a list of 'facilitating' subjects in their subject recommendations, although it is sensible for students to look at <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk> to help select the right subjects for them.



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