



Beacon Academy Trust

A COMPELLING VISION FOR SUCCESS

BEAL SIXTH FORM PROGRESSION POLICY

Approving Body	Trust
Date of First Approval	December 2019
Date of Last Amendment	
To be Reviewed	December 2023
Responsible Officer	BMAT CEO, for and on behalf of the Trust

I. ADMISSIONS

1. Students who wish to apply to Beal Sixth Form (BSF) must complete an online application form by the deadline advertised.
2. Offers will be made to:
 - a. Internal students from year 11 at Beal High School and The Forest Academy;
 - b. Year 12 level 2 students at The Forest Academy Campus of Beal Sixth Form; and
 - c. External students in year 11
3. Offers will be based on grade entry requirements, predicted grades, behaviour and attendance information. Grade entry requirements are stated in the BSF Prospectus and on the BSF website.
4. BSF reserves the right to withhold or withdraw an offer of a place to any applicant, if their behaviour or attendance is a concern.
5. Admission will be opened to non-applicants on a first-come-first-served basis, on the second day of enrolment, once applicants have been allocated to courses which still have places. The admission of non-applicants is subject to references, entry requirements and evidence of behaviour and attendance.
6. Subject to space and grade entry requirements, BSF students may be able to change courses during the subject transfer window in the second full week of term.
7. Most BSF students are admitted to study three A-levels or vocational equivalents, alongside a personal development programme. The highest prior attaining BSF students may be able to study four A-levels, if they have an average point score (APS) of at least 7.5.

II. PROGRESSION FROM LEVEL 2 TO LEVEL 3 (THREE YEAR PATHWAY)

8. Any student on the three year pathway who wishes to re-enrol for Level 3 must apply by the communicated deadline.
9. If they obtain the grade requirements, they are guaranteed a place, as long as attendance requirements have been met (90%+) and there are no significant behaviour concerns.

III. PROGRESSION FROM YEAR 12 TO YEAR 13

- 10. To re-enrol for year 13, year 12 students must have met or exceeded the minimum attendance of 90%, unless there are exceptional circumstances.**
- 11. BSF does not remove students based on academic progress.**
- 12. At the end of year 12, BSF students will receive predicted grades for the end of their Level 3 qualifications (e.g. A-levels). These grades will be based on a progression exam and all continuous assessments. The progression exam is internally set and moderated and held in April or May, with grade boundaries in line with the expectations of A-levels or vocational equivalents.**
- 13. BSF students with a prediction of less than EEE or PPP will have an Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) meeting with their parents or carers and the BSF Team, to determine their best pathway for future success and any necessary support (e.g. re-sits or alternative courses).**

IV. UCAS PREDICTIONS

- 14. UCAS predictions are decided by subject departments, based on their professional judgment. Decisions are based on A level Performance (Alps) Minimum Expected Grades (MEGs), continuous assessments and performance in progression exams. They are finalised:
 - a. By the last week of September, for Oxbridge/Medical, Dental & Veterinary (MDV) aspirants;**
 - b. By October half-term, for many Russell Group aspirants; and**
 - c. By the first week of November, for all other higher education aspirants.**
 - d. For a minority of students, it may be appropriate to submit just prior to the national deadline (January).****
- 15. UCAS predictions will be 'optimistic best fit' grades that match fairly the ongoing assessments, exam performance and academic potential of each student and will, in most cases, be linked to ALPS targets. BSF recognises that UCAS predictions can be very motivating and open up opportunities at some elite, high tariff universities that would otherwise not be possible. They should not be more than a grade higher than the student's BSF latest predicted grade.**

- 16. UCAS predictions will be decided objectively, consistently and fairly, based on robust professional judgment and not on student, peer or parental pressure. Students and their families must not put pressure on BSF to raise grades, (unless there are exceptional circumstances that should be directed to the Vice Principal of Sixth Form), to the as it is the department's responsibility to predict accurately and realistically, based on continuous assessment and in light of all evidence to date.**
- 17. As part of their Unifrog platform, students will make choices based across all scenarios of exceeding meeting or missing out on their predicted grades, to ensure that their progression is not compromised. These are their 'aspirational', 'solid' or 'safe' and this will ensure that they can be ambitious and yet secure in their progression pathways.**
- 18. After progression exams, departments will not attempt to boost UCAS predicted grades by offering additional assessments over and above their usual curriculum offer as this could compromise equality of opportunity.**

V. RE-SITTING A YEAR

19. Students may experience issues outside of their control, which impact their attendance and progress. If a student has a regular number of authorised absences (e.g. due to health issues or bereavement), it may be appropriate to allow them to re-sit their year. This will be at the discretion of the Vice Principal of BSF and the co-headteachers of Beal High School, based on:
 - a. Course availability and capacity within class sizes;
 - b. Legitimacy of issue, certified by relevant evidence or medical information;
and
 - c. Authorised absences and no recurrent unauthorised absences.
20. It is a condition of funding that no student can re-sit the same year group twice and BSF does not allow re-sits based purely on under-performance. BSF is not obliged to offer a student the opportunity to re-sit if their attendance is below 90%, but it will consider each case based on its facts, including performance against targets and any mitigating circumstances.
21. BSF does not have the capacity to admit external students who want to undertake re-sit years.

VI. RE-SITTING INDIVIDUAL EXAMS

22. BSF operates a fair, consistent and transparent approach to re-sits.
23. Any student who does not appear at a re-sit without an authorised reason may be charged for the sitting.

24. English and Maths GCSE re-sits

- a. Any BSF student yet to pass English or Maths GCSE (i.e. with a 3 or below) will be placed into a timetabled English or Maths GCSE class to be entered into the exam at least once during the school year.
- b. Students entered in November will be funded for an early re-sit if they already have a 3 grade.
- c. Students with a 2 will be funded to re-sit in the summer when they are ready to succeed.
- d. If a parent/guardian wishes their child with a 2 to sit in November, they will do so as a private candidate.]

25. L2/L3 vocational course re-sits

- a. Any L2 student with a fail or L1 pass is entered for a funded re-sit.
- b. Any L2 student with a merit or above may re-sit but they must be funded privately by their parent/guardian, with the exception of Pupil Premium (PP) students, who are funded by the discretionary bursary fund.
- c. Any L3 student with a fail, nearly pass or pass is entered for a funded re-sit.
- d. Any L3 student with a merit or above may re-sit but they must be funded privately by the parent/guardian (with the aforementioned exception for PP students).

VII. DESTINATIONS

26. All BSF students are supported to apply to university and explore alternatives, such as an apprenticeship or school leaver employment.
27. All BSF students are given a login for “Unifrog” (a destinations platform to support their aspirations) as well as access to “Pathway CTM” (a bespoke careers platform featuring mentoring and other support) and our careers’ advisor.
28. Careers, Education, Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG) is delivered through tutor time, assemblies, PSHE lessons as well as trips, events and visits.

29. BSF Students with an APS of 7 or above are targeted to apply to Oxbridge/MDV and to receive tailored support (including with research, applications, references), from internal staff and external agencies.
30. BSF students wishing to apply to Oxbridge/MDV must pay any admission tests fees (with PP students funded by the sixth form) and are responsible for meeting deadlines, attending support sessions and liaising with their teachers regarding their predicted grades.

VIII. HOME/COMMUNITY LANGUAGE ENTRY

31. BSF will support a student's wish to sit a qualification in a home or community language, to increase their chances of success, if:
- a. The student has a 6 or B grade at the same language at Level 2;
 - b. The student is able to undertake the required independent study to sit the exam, without directed teacher time or dedicated timetable time;
 - c. BSF has the capacity to facilitate and support exam arrangement; and
 - d. The student is able to fund their entry (or of disadvantaged, the sixth form team can support)