



EXETER MATHEMATICS SCHOOL

EST 2014

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Overview

Exeter Mathematics School (EMS) is a 16-19 specialist Mathematics School. The Curriculum will have a focus on developing Mathematical minds to ensure that the learners are the most prepared to progress on to Mathematics based subjects at university.

Learners will study a prescribed curriculum with additional project based problem solving projects which will encourage learners to apply Mathematical principles to real life scenarios.

New teaching models will be explored to maximise learning in Mathematics in partnership with Exeter University and Exeter College; utilising the college's experience of FE and exam technique and the university's facilities, ground breaking research and lecturing capabilities.

It is envisaged that learners will develop their independent study skills, team working skills, communication skills, reasoning skills and problem solving capability in year 12. This will enable them to excel in year 13, applying high level mathematics skills to very real issues and ensuring that these learners are the most prepared for university's Sixth Term Entrance Papers (STEP).

Principles

The admissions policy will be open and fair. It will be based entirely on selecting the right learners from a range of backgrounds and locations.

The policy will be easily accessible, published on the School's website and paper copies available on request. It will be presented in such a way that stakeholders can interpret it. It will state explicit entry criteria, the number of places available and the application process.

By the 30th of September each year the Exeter Mathematics School will publish details of how many places are available for the following September's intake, the entry criteria and how to apply. The School will also operate a waiting list if it is over subscribed.



EXETER MATHEMATICS SCHOOL

EST 2014

Learners that narrowly miss the entry criteria will be offered a place at Exeter College's Reach Academy, subject to meeting their entry criteria.

Catchment area

Applications will only be accepted from, and places will only be allocated to, learners living in Devon, Somerset, Cornwall or Dorset (including those living in Bournemouth, Plymouth, Poole and Torbay local authorities).

2011 census data indicates that the proportion of potential students from each county is approximately: Devon 47%, Somerset 24%, Cornwall 23% and Dorset 6%. Of the Devon population, 30% live within Exeter or Plymouth. We will aim for the allocation of places to reflect these proportions as closely as possible, with over 40% of the cohort coming from more than 20mile radius of Exeter and Plymouth.

However, students will not be selected based on which of the 4 counties they live in. To encourage an appropriate spread throughout the region, we will make contact with all schools, hold events in each county, subsidise travel for those who live outside of Devon and make subsidised accommodation available to those who live too far away for a daily commute.

Planned admissions number and capacity

Year Group	September 2014	September 2015	September 2016	September 2017
12	30	50	60	60
13		30	50	60
Total on roll		80	110	120

At full capacity it is envisaged that there will be 60 learners in year 12 and 60 in year 13.

We will only accept new admissions for year 12. Learners will not be able to access the year 13 curriculum without having completed year 12 at EMS.

For the September 2014 start it is envisaged that Exeter Mathematics School will recruit 30 learners.

Applications for entry in Sept 2014 will be accepted for consideration from September 30th 2013.



EXETER MATHEMATICS SCHOOL

EST 2014

Learners must have been born between 1st September 1997 and the 31st August 1998, or born between 1st September 1998 and the 31st August 1999 and in their final year of GCSEs at their current school.

Boarding places

There will be provision, Monday to Thursday, of boarding for learners who have to travel for more than 1 hour to get to the school.

Boarders will be expected to pay for their accommodation. It is expected that this will be subsidised by a government grant and a private investor, though fees will remain to top this up. The boarding element will be non profit making for the school. Fees for boarding will be published on the schools website prior to admission.

There will be the opportunity for a limited number of learners to apply for an additional support bursary to fully fund the fees. This will be means tested and the selection criteria will be published each year with the fees.

Minimum entry criteria

It is envisaged that at least 50% of the curriculum will include Mathematics and that at least 75% will need Mathematical Principles to underpin their learning so the entry criteria will reflect this.

Learners will be expected to have as a minimum:

- A* in GCSE Mathematics
- A or A* in double sciences or single science Physics
- At least 6 GCSEs at C grade or above, normally to include English Language at a grade B

Learners will also be selected based on the following:

- A written application
- A satisfactory tutor reference which includes details on attendance and effort as well as predicted grades
- A face to face interview
- A mathematics-based entry exam



EXETER MATHEMATICS SCHOOL

EST 2014

Application process

Exeter Mathematics School's aim is to provide a unique opportunity for like-minded mathematicians to thrive, stimulating each other and taking every opportunity to develop their Mathematics skills so that they are the most able in this field when applying to university. The aim is that EMS learners will stand the best chance of progressing to suitable universities.

The application process needs to be thorough to ensure that the best possible information, advice and guidance is given so that learners accepted in to the school have the best possible chance of progressing.

Time line	Application process
Jan 14	Completed application form which will include a section for a personal statement
Feb 14	Tutor references submitted
Feb 14	All learners who meet the minimum criteria will be invited in to take an aptitude test
Mar 14	Learners who scored highly on the aptitude test will be invited in for interview
May 14	Successful applicants will be made a conditional offer

As long as there is significant demand, EMS will invite at least 120 learners at full capacity for the 60 places to take the aptitude test and will interview at least 90 learners.

The application form and tutor references will be used to check that learners meet the academic criteria and to test reliability and dedication by looking at attendance and effort.

The aptitude test will be used to ensure that there is a basic, standard, minimum level of problem solving and mathematical ability. Sample questions will be published on the School's website.

The interview will be used to further explore mathematical and problem solving ability and to ensure that the learner has realistic expectations in terms of workload and commitment expected and passion for the topic.



EXETER MATHEMATICS SCHOOL

EST 2014

In any instance, where learners narrowly miss the entry criteria or are not successful on application, they will be given details of Exeter College's highly successful A level programme and details of their Reach Academy.

Oversubscription criteria

If more than 60 students meet the threshold criteria on test scores, then priority will be given to interview answers and the candidates' potential to thrive and succeed on the course.

In case of ties, students will be selected for places using random allocation.

Waiting List

We will keep a waiting list and allocate places prioritised by the over subscription criteria.

Places may still be offered up to the October half term, though it is recognised that additional pastoral care will be needed to help these learners settle in and catch up.

Appeals

Learners will be offered places by the end of May 2014. Those not offered a place will have the right to appeal.

Appeals should be made in writing by the end of June 2014 and will be heard by an independent appeals board.

Late Applications

Applications received after 31st January 2014 will only be considered should places remain after the consideration of all applications received on or before 31st January 2014.

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 gender, disability, faith, ethnicity, or sexual preference provided they meet the criteria for entry.



EXETER MATHEMATICS SCHOOL

EST 2014

EMS will admit any pupils with a statement of Special Education Needs who meet the criteria in the application process.

EMS is committed to widening participation and broadening access to high quality mathematics education. As such, we will target our recruitment in areas which have high levels of deprivation and in schools for which provision is currently limited, such as those without 6th forms.

EMS will encourage applications from female students through targeted marketing and recruitment. However, there will be no positive discrimination for girls in the admissions criteria.