



## Summary responses to consultation on changes to the 2027 draft admissions arrangements

### Background

The school consulted on changes to its draft admissions arrangements for entry in 2027 – 28 as required by the School Admissions Code. The consultation ran from 24 November 2025 to 5 January 2026.

The scope of the consultation included current parents of the school, primary and secondary schools in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames (RBK), neighbouring local authority admission services, and the general public through the school website.

### Summary of responses

No responses were received on the proposed changes to the Year 7 or In Year entry arrangements for 2027 – 28 entry.

Two responses were received on the proposed changes to the grade requirement to study route 2 Maths in the draft Sixth Form arrangements for 2027 entry.

### In response to the consultation

We continue to support the proposed change to the grade requirement for entry to route 2 Maths for the following reasons:

- The initial decision to set entry to route 2 Maths at a grade 8 was based on the initial information from the DfE when GCSE grading was changed from the A\*-G system to the 9-1 system. Grade 9 is now norm-referenced, which means only a certain percentage of students across the country who are achieving grade 7 or above will be awarded this top grade. We were therefore not sure how many of our students would achieve the grade 9 and did not want to excessively limit access to our route 2 programme. After a number of years of results under the new arrangements and with the new specification, it has become clear that a high percentage of our students are accessing this top grade. In summer 2024 and summer 2025, 56% and 63% of students achieved a grade 9 in Maths.
- Route 2 is a very challenging option, as it involves covering the whole of the A-Level Maths content in a single year before moving on to the Further Maths content in Year 13. Students therefore need to be very strong mathematicians to cope with the pace and standard required. We have noticed that those students who have entered route 2 in previous years with a grade 8 at GCSE have notably struggled, and have often ended up withdrawing from the route 2 course to move to the more appropriate option of route 1 Maths. We have also noticed that these same students can find the demands of trying to keep up with the pace and challenge of route 2 end up having a detrimental impact on their other academic subjects as well as their wellbeing.

The draft admissions arrangements for entry in the academic year 2027 will be finalised (determined) in line with the statutory deadline of 28 February 2026. The school will publish the determined arrangements by 15 March 2026.