



Colchester Royal Grammar School

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Headmaster: Mr J Russell MA

Admissions Arrangements - Academic Year 2026-2027

Year 7 (11+)

Admission to Year 7 is determined by a pupil's position within the selection procedure organised by the Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex (CSSE). This position is decided on the basis of the pupil's standardized score in the selection tests. The selection procedure is open equally to pupils in Essex and those who live outside the county. Testing now takes place before application, and applicants to CRGS must register with the CSSE to take the selection tests by the official registration deadline. The main test date for September 2026 entry will take place on a date arranged by the CSSE. Applications must be submitted to the pupil's home LA by the published deadline of 31st October in the year prior to admission.

Admissions Priority 1

Up to 12 places will be offered to boys who have named CRGS as a preferred school and who qualify to be offered a place at the school under the coordinated admissions arrangements, who achieve a score greater than 320 in the selection tests and who fall into either of the following categories:

- a 'looked after child' or previously looked after child (see note below);
- a child in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant (i.e. one who is in receipt of Free School Meals currently, or has received Free School Meals in the previous six years, whose primary school receives the Pupil Premium Grant) at the time of registration for the 11+ test (i.e. the CSSE registration period in the Summer Term prior to the main 11+ test date).

Priority will be given to applicants who are a 'looked after child' or previously looked after child (see note below). The places will be allocated based on descending rank order of marks, until either 12 places have been allocated or there are no more boys who fall into this category and have achieved a score greater than 320.

The remaining places (of the 12 earmarked for Admissions Priority 1) will be allocated to applicants who are in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant who meet the aforementioned conditions. The places will be allocated based on descending rank order of marks, until either a total of 12 places have been allocated or there are no more boys who fall into this category and have achieved a score greater than 320.

In both of these cases, the information must be declared on the CSSE registration form for the tests; evidence to confirm eligibility will subsequently be sought.

Admissions Priority 2

The remaining places will then be offered in descending rank order of marks to the boys scoring highest in the selection tests who have named CRGS as a preferred school and who qualify to be offered a place at the school under the coordinated admissions arrangements until the PAN of 128 is reached.

If there are applicants with an equal ranking competing for the last available place in either Admissions Priority category, preference will be given to:

- a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after (see note below)
- followed by a child in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant at the time of registration for the 11+ test (i.e. one who is in receipt of Free School Meals currently, or has received Free School Meals in the previous six years, whose primary school receives the Pupil Premium Grant);
- followed by the applicant living closest to the school by straight line distance as defined by the LA and set out in the Secondary Education in Essex Booklet.

The published admission number for Year 7 is 128. Application to CRGS is open to boys registered in Year 6 and under twelve years of age on the following 31st August, immediately prior to admission in September. The test can only be taken once by any pupil.

The school does not normally admit 'over age' applicants. Any test candidate who is 'under age' or 'over age' will need to demonstrate that their application is supported by the necessary relevant evidence. A panel of Headteachers, selected from the Consortium Schools and with full delegated authority from those schools, will review all 'under age' and 'over age' applications. The panel's decision is binding.

'Under age' applicants: An applicant is 'under age' if he will be under 11 years of age on 31st August immediately prior to admission in September. Consortium schools will only accept applications from 'under aged' applicants who are registered in Year 6 of their primary schools from the first day of that school academic year. This effectively requires that the decision to promote the child to the year group above his chronological age group must be taken by the primary school prior to the end of the summer term in the calendar year in which the child is to sit the selection test. Confirmation of this is likely to be sought from the Headteacher of the primary school concerned by the Consortium Office.

'Over age' applicants: An applicant is 'over age' if he is not under 12 years of age on 31st August immediately prior to admission in September. Consortium Schools do not accept 'over aged' applicants unless there are verified exceptional circumstances, for example of extended illness, for a child to repeat one of the primary school years or to have been admitted 'late' at the start of primary school. The Consortium will seek verification from the Headteacher of the primary school concerned that an 'over aged' applicant has medically certifiable reasons or some other exceptional reason for being an 'over aged' applicant. The panel will wish to investigate especially thoroughly the circumstances through which any child is found to be studying in Year 6 for the second time, especially if this should involve application to sit the selection tests for a second time. Medical evidence will be required for such applicants.

For further information on 'under age' and 'over age' applicants, please see the CSSE document 'Arrangements for 'under age' and 'over age' entry to CSSE schools' that is available on the CSSE website (www.csse.org.uk).

If a place has been offered, but is then subsequently declined, a new offer will be made to whichever applicant has the next highest score in the same Admissions Priority category, provided the conditions outlined above are met. If there are no more applicants who meet the conditions for Admissions Priority category 1, then the place will be offered to the next highest scoring applicant from Admissions Priority category 2.

The school will hold a waiting list for the Autumn Term following the September entry. Should a parent/carer wish their child to remain on the waiting list beyond the Autumn Term of Year 7, then they should contact the school with this request after the end of the Autumn Term of Year 7.

Years 8 to 10

Occasionally vacancies occur in other years, for example due to family relocation. Applications should reach the school by 1st February in the academic year prior to admission. Where vacancies occur, a recent report is sought on all pupils who have applied for a place. Those who apply are tested in the school on a set date in the Spring or Summer Term. The tests seek to establish whether the applicant can sustain the pace of the school's classroom education and has sufficient knowledge and understanding to undertake the relevant year group's existing programmes of study. The tests are in English, Mathematics and Science.

Places will be allocated on the basis of performance in the tests. The school reserves the right not to fill a place if the candidates are not judged to be of the required academic standard. If a number of applicants are tested at the same time for a single place and the results show that it is not possible to discriminate between them, preference is given to a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after (see note below). If this does not resolve the matter, preference is given to the applicant living closest to the school, by straight line distance as defined by the LA.

Mid-year Applications

For mid-year applications, a mid-year application form, available from Essex County Council, needs to be completed and returned directly to the school. A copy of the application form is available from the school, or can be requested from School Planning and Admissions, at Essex County Council admissions@essex.gov.uk (Tel: 0345 603 2200). Full details of the mid-year application process are provided on www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Sixth Form

In addition to those who progress from the Colchester Royal Grammar School Year 11 cohort, a number of external students, both boys and girls, are admitted into Year 12 each year. A number of additional places are reserved for boarders.

All students must be under 17 years of age on 31st August of the calendar year of proposed admission, or be progressing directly from Year 11 to Year 12. Students from overseas, who do not follow the National Curriculum and whose age might fall outside this limit due to the educational system followed, will be considered on an individual basis.

Offers of places are made subject to satisfactory performance at GCSE or equivalent examination. The minimum requirement for entry into the Sixth Form is at least 38 points across the best five subjects.

Reformed GCSEs will score according to their numerical grade; unreformed GCSEs will score as follows:

A* $\equiv$ 8.5 points, A $\equiv$ 7 points, B $\equiv$ 5.5 points, C $\equiv$ 4 points. Grades below a C are not considered. AS grade B or above $\equiv$ 8.5 points.

A grade 7 (or above) is required in the subjects to be studied at A level.

A reformed grade 5 or above must be achieved in GCSE (or GCSE equivalent, as defined by the DfE) English Language and Mathematics, regardless of whether or not these subjects are being followed at A level.

A reformed grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics is required for anyone wishing to study Further Mathematics at A level.

Priority will be given to existing CRGS students transferring from Year 11 who meet the admissions criteria stated above.

External students must complete and submit the school's official application form by 1st December, which can be found on the school's website. Predicted GCSE grades will be requested from the applicants' schools. Where predicted grades are not provided by the school, performance in trial examinations will be considered instead of the predicted grades, and the professional judgement of the CRGS staff will be used to make an assessment of the data provided. Applicants who are predicted high grades at GCSE or in equivalent single subject examinations will be invited to the school to discuss their subject choices, although this meeting will not form part of the selection process. Where some GCSE grades have already been achieved, the actual grades will be taken into account.

Students from overseas who do not follow the National Curriculum are admitted on the basis of their academic performance in their current school and, where appropriate, their performance in the school's entrance tests. The professional judgement of the CRGS staff will be used to compare this information with the information provided on other applicants. Students from overseas, who do not follow the National Curriculum and who do not have reformed GCSEs (or GCSE equivalent, as defined by the DfE) in English Language and Mathematics, will be expected to study towards and pass these qualifications before the end of their A level courses, unless taking a higher level equivalent at A level.

Conditional places will then be offered to those students with the highest average points score, based on predicted grades, in their best 8 GCSEs or equivalents, including English and Mathematics. If students have an equal average points score, the number of grade 9s (or A* grades for unreformed GCSEs), predicted or achieved will be used to differentiate between candidates if necessary. Taking into account choices for A level study, applications will be declined or placed on a waiting list where the school considers the size of teaching sets to be detrimental to the education of the group and where it is not financially or educationally desirable for the Governors to alter the balance of the

school's staffing or to appoint additional staff. In these situations, where an individual subject's capacity is deemed to be 'full' but there are still places available in the Sixth Form, places may be offered to lower ranked students who wish to study subjects where there is capacity in order to maximise the viability of pre-published courses.

In cases of oversubscription, and if further discrimination is necessary, first preference will be given to a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after (see note below) who meets the grade requirements. Following this, preference will be given to the applicant living closest to the school by straight line distance as defined by the LA.

Decisions will be made and communicated to applicants by the end of February Half Term. Applications received after 1st December will be considered after the first tranche of offers have been made. Any vacancies arising in the Summer Term will be filled in August on the basis of the actual GCSE results achieved, following the same criteria as detailed above. The school's PAN, including existing CRGS students transferring from Year 11, is 200.

In the case of boarding applicants, an interview will be held to seek to establish whether the applicant is suitable for a boarding place.

Overseas applicants must be considered to be, at the time of starting their schooling, residing legally in the UK who are British (or Irish) citizens or those whose passports have been endorsed to either show they have the right of abode in this country or to show that they have no restrictions on working in the UK, or must meet one of the other published eligibility for funding conditions. For further information, please see "Funding Regulations for Post-16 Provision 2023-24" published on the <https://www.gov.uk> website.

Appeals

Parents wishing to appeal against the refusal of a place should submit a Notice of Appeal form that can be found on the Essex County Council website by following this link - <https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/after-your-school-offer/appeals>

The Clerk will then inform parents of the appeals procedure and dates for the appeal hearing.

Note: A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).