LANCASTER UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Lancaster University
School of Mathematics

Admissions Policy

Lancaster University

RIGBY EDUCATION TRUST

CARDINAL NEWMAN COLLEGE

Policy Owner	**Head of School**
Approved	July 2025
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The Rigby Education Trust was set-up to operate and oversee the Lancaster University School of Mathematics.

The Rigby Education Trust is an academy trust and a charity. The Lancaster University School of Mathematics is the charitable activity of the academy trust. Therefore, in this document references to the Maths School apply to the Rigby Education Trust.

Contents

1.0 Introductory Statement 2

2.0 Capacity 2

3.0 Minimum Study Programme 2

4.0 Minimum Entry Requirements 3

5.0 Applying for places 3

Waiting Lists 5

Appeals 5

Review 5

Complaints 6

1.0. Introductory Statement

The Lancaster University School of Mathematics is for 16-19-year-old students with an aptitude and passion for mathematics. All students will study A-Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics, with up to two other A-Levels and a wide, high quality enrichment programme. The school will provide high-quality resources, exceptional teaching, and stretching undergraduate-level content, for students from all backgrounds, within a learning community where talented, like minded and enthusiastic young mathematicians in years 12 and 13 can thrive.

Lancaster University School of Mathematics wants to ensure that its admission process works effectively for the school and provides applicants with a positive experience.

It is intended that the process will:

- enable the school to offer places to able students from a range of diverse backgrounds who will be able to thrive in this distinct learning environment and make a valuable contribution to the school.
- allow prospective students and their parents and carers to gain a real sense of what the school is about when deciding whether to apply for or accept the offer to study at the school.

2.0 Capacity

The school will have a total capacity of 260 places (full-time equivalent) for students mainly in the age range 16-19.

It will admit up to 130 students each year.

3.0 Minimum Study Programme

All students will be expected to enrol on a programme of study comprising a minimum of 580 planned hours per year. All students must study A-Level Mathematics and A-Level Further Mathematics, alongside at least one other A-Level (or equivalent). All students will be required to undertake the LUSoM award (consisting of a group project in Y12 followed by an individual project in Y13).

4.0 Minimum Entry Requirements

Criteria 1 – Grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics

Criteria 2 – Grade 7 or above in GCSE Physics, Chemistry or Grade 77 or above in GCSE Combined Science

Criteria 3 – Grade 5 or above in GCSE English (Language or Literature)

5.0 Applying for places

The closing date for applications is 31st December 2025. There may be an extension to this date if application numbers are below the expected number required to lead to an enrolment of 130 students. Applicants should apply using the online application form found on the LUSoM website. For applications made before 31st December 2025, offers will be sent out by 31st March 2026.

The application process is a three-stage process comprising of an online application form, an aptitude test and an interview.

a) All applicants will be asked to complete and submit an online application form by 31st December 2025.

b) All applicants who are sitting the Higher Tier GCSE Mathematics paper will be invited to take part in a written mathematics aptitude test in early 2025. All applicants will receive advance notice of the date and suitable location of this test and must attend on this date. Their score from the aptitude test will be used to produce a ranked order of applicants.

c) The top 200 ranked applicants after the scoring of the aptitude test will be invited to a 30-minute interview to further assess their ability to benefit from attending a specialist mathematics school. Part of the interview will include the applicant discussing a maths problem with the interviewer. The interview will also explore their skills, competencies and suitability for studying in the Maths School environment. The interviewers will be looking for behaviours such as speed of learning, enthusiasm for the subject, career ambitions and the extent to which their learning is self-driven/independent. The interview will be scored on a four-point scale (zero to three).

d)

Interview Scoring Criteria			
Inadequate 0	**Satisfactory 1**	**Good 2**	**Outstanding 3**
The applicant demonstrates a limited level of understanding and commitment regarding their specialism, with an under-developed awareness of their own strengths and areas for further development.	The applicant demonstrates a satisfactory level of understanding and commitment for their specialism, with an awareness of their own strengths and areas for further development.	The applicant demonstrates good levels of understanding and commitment for their specialism, with a good awareness of their own strengths and areas for further development.	The applicant demonstrates excellent levels of understanding and passion for their specialism, with excellent awareness of their own strengths and areas for further development.

e) The scores will be ranked in the following order and the highest ranked applicants will receive conditional offers.
   - Top 130 scores on the aptitude test + Good/Outstanding interview
   - Rank 131-150 on the aptitude test + Good/Outstanding interview
   - Top 130 scores on the aptitude test + Satisfactory interview
   - Any other students with an Outstanding interview

f) Conditional Offers will then be made to all successful applicants by 31 March 2026 with conditional offers, confirmed in August on GCSE results day. Applicants will be asked to accept or decline their conditional offer by a given date. Students who are not made offers will be either offered a place on the waiting list or will be advised that their application has not been successful. Offers are made subject to achievement of minimum entry requirements and proof of eligibility of ESFA funding.

The school will do everything it reasonably can to enable applicants to perform at their best, and in making acceptance decisions, it will not discriminate between students on the grounds of gender, disability, faith ethnicity or protected characteristic.

Lancaster University School of Mathematics will make reasonable adjustments to support pupils with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) who meet the admissions application criteria as set out above.

Lancaster University School of Mathematics is committed to widening participation and broadening access to high quality mathematics education. It has developed an outreach strategy

so that it works effectively with key partners to ensure that students from a diverse range of backgrounds are encouraged to apply for a place and to study at Lancaster University School of Mathematics.

Lancaster University School of Mathematics will encourage applications from female students through a targeted marketing and recruitment campaign as part of its outreach strategy as set out above (as positive action). However, there will be no positive discrimination for prospective female students as part of the actual admissions process.

As part of its ongoing commitment to promoting equality and diversity, Lancaster University School of Mathematics will undertake an Equality Impact Assessment of its Admissions Policy should the school reach capacity.

Term will begin on 1 September 2026.

Waiting Lists

The Lancaster University School of Mathematics will keep a waiting list and allocate places using the over-subscription criteria. Places may still be offered up to the October half-term, though it is recognised that additional pastoral care and academic support will be needed to help these students settle in and catch up.

Appeals

Any applicant refused a place will be offered a right of appeal to a committee of the academy trust operating the school. The panel will consider the appellant's case and decide whether to uphold the appeal. Anyone wishing to appeal should contact the Operations Manager usingadmissions@lusom.ac.uk. Appeals must be submitted by 30th April 2026 and will be heard by the end of June 2026.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and any amended policy for the following September will be published on the school website before the end of the preceding September (i.e., the policy for 2027 will be published in September 2026). The policy will remain on the website throughout the school year.

Complaints

If you are unhappy with any aspect of the admission policy or appeal process you may submit a complaint, outlining your concerns to the ESFA at Academy.QUESTIONS@education.gsi.gov.uk, though you should first raise any concerns with the Chair of Trustees, Leonard Hampson, via ChairofTrustees@lusom.ac.uk.