

**Start here,  
go anywhere**



**Prospectus**

# WELCOME

We are very proud of all the success that our students have experienced at the College and are humbled by the local, regional and national accolades that have recognised this. We are rated as Outstanding by OFSTED in everything we do, or to put it another way - the achievements, development and behaviour of our students is rated as Outstanding.

All these successes are a consequence of what goes on at the College day-in, day-out and it is no accident that everything comes together to work so well. We are a specialist A Level and BTEC provider and this allows all our staff, all our systems and all our work to be solely focused on ensuring the best sixth form experience and outcomes. As our staff only have to focus on post-16 academic work, they are highly specialised and skilled in this and

are able to develop and support students in ways that non-specialists might not be able to.

At this College, we are driven by our commitment to hard work and our absolute conviction that all students have the capacity to excel - perhaps you just don't know it yet! What we do is shaped by our core values of Positivity, Ambition, Resilience and Thoughtfulness: values that we expect all who join us, both staff and students, to uphold.

If you are considering joining us, we understand that this might mean leaving a school you may have been happy and successful in for a number of years. This might be difficult but it is also right that you now take the next step in your life's journey. As Principal of this College, you have my promise that we will value you, believe in you and push you to realise

the immense potential we know you have. All that is asked for in return is that you work hard, believe in yourself and be decent to others.

Year-on-year we see record numbers of applicants wanting to join us to the point of over-subscription. With this in mind, I would strongly advise you to get your application into us as early as possible to guarantee your place at the most popular sixth form in the area.



**Mike Kilbride**  
Principal

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# START HERE, GO ANYWHERE

Sixth form is a new and exciting stage in your life when you start down the path that will shape both your career and you as a person. The two years you'll spend here are packed full of new experiences and we are committed to making your time here as exciting, challenging, fulfilling and enjoyable as possible.

Your education after GCSEs is a crucial stepping stone to university, an apprenticeship or employment, so choosing a specialist sixth form college that exclusively focuses on the education and futures of students aged 16 to 18 makes sense.



# WHY CHOOSE US?

As the leading sixth form college in the region with outstanding results, there are many reasons why students choose Birkenhead Sixth Form College - from our wide choice of subjects, expert teachers and modern campus through to numerous clubs to join and unrivalled individual support.

Three reasons, however, summarise what makes us stand out:

## 1 You will achieve your full potential

We believe that you can excel so we go that extra mile to enable all students to realise their full potential and this shows in their results.

## 2 You will gain life skills that will help you succeed

We want you to develop as a person, not just by achieving good academic results but by building your character and gaining life skills that will help you succeed in the future.

## 3 You will enjoy an exciting and fulfilling two years

Students say that studying at the College is a great stepping stone to university and there is a host of opportunities to have fun, learn new skills and make new friends.

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# WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS AT SIXTH FORM?

Choosing what to study at sixth form is an important decision as it can influence the options open to you in the future. All courses offered by colleges/schools fit into a national framework of difficulty levels - the higher the level, the more demanding they are. At the age of 16, you will typically have completed Level 2 (i.e. GCSEs) and then move onto Level 3 in sixth form.

At the College we offer two types of Level 3 courses:

### A levels

Short for Advanced Level, A Levels are the Level 3 qualifications that are traditionally offered after GCSEs and are usually focused on academic subjects. We offer 28 A Level options; some will be subjects you've studied at GCSE and some will be new. A Levels are highly valued by universities and employers so they can open doors to further study and careers. All A Levels are now assessed by exams at the end of the two year course and graded A\* to E.

### BTECs

An alternative to A Levels, BTECs are more vocational and can be useful if you know what career you're working towards. Unlike A Levels, BTECs are continually assessed throughout the course with a combination of coursework, practical projects and exams. BTECs are awarded Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction \*. They are accepted by universities and depending on which type you choose, a BTEC can be equivalent to 1, 2 or 3 A Levels.



**OVER 40  
COURSES  
TO CHOOSE  
FROM**

# CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS

From the moment you apply, right through to when you join us, we'll work with you closely to ensure we guide you onto the appropriate courses that suit your career aspirations and allow you to reach your full potential.

Students at the College are required to study 3 course options - this can be a choice of 3 A levels or a combination of A levels and BTECs.

Your course choices are based on your starting point and ambitions - there are no timetable restrictions on what combination of subjects you can study.

## Entry requirements:

5 GCSEs (including Maths and English Language) at grade 4/C or above are required for Level 3, plus any minimum entry requirements for individual subjects.

Don't worry if you don't meet the Level 3 entry requirements - there are a number of Level 2 options that facilitate progression to Level 3.



## When choosing what to study at sixth form, it is worth considering:

- What you are likely to enjoy and be good at. If you enjoy a subject or have an experience of it already, you are more likely to do well
- If you have a particular career or degree in mind, you may need to choose specific subjects in order to meet entry requirements
- If you want to keep your future study and career choices open, any subject you study will give you transferable skills
- Don't forget, we offer a number of subjects that you may not have studied before. Law, Psychology and Sociology are always popular subjects at the College, which students often won't have studied at GCSE level

# COURSE OPTIONS

With the widest choice of courses in the region, the next section gives you an insight into the many and varied courses available at Birkenhead Sixth Form College.

For full details of each course and specific entry requirements, please visit:  
[www.bsfc.ac.uk/courses](http://www.bsfc.ac.uk/courses)



# COURSE OPTIONS

Course	LEVEL 3			LEVEL 2	
	A Level	BTEC		GCSE	Diploma (equivalent to 4 GCSEs)
		Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 A Level)	Diploma (equivalent to 2 A Levels)		
Art - Fine Art	✓				
Art - Graphics	✓				
Art - Textiles	✓				
Art and Design					✓
Applied Science		✓	✓		
Biology	✓				
Business	✓	✓	✓		✓
Chemistry	✓				
Computer Science	✓				
Dance	✓				
Drama & Theatre Studies	✓				
Economics	✓				
English Language	✓			✓	
English Literature	✓				
Film Studies	✓				
French	✓				
Entry requirements	5 GCSE grades equivalent to 4/C or above (including Maths and English Language plus any minimum entry requirements for individual subjects)			GCSE grades equivalent to mostly C/D or 3 or below	
Course length	2 years			1 year (and then progress onto Level 3 for 2 years)	

# AT A GLANCE

Course	LEVEL 3				LEVEL 2	
	A Level	BTEC			GCSE	Diploma (equivalent to 4 GCSEs)
		Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 A Level)	Diploma (equivalent to 2 A Levels)	Extended Diploma (equivalent to 3 A Levels)		
Geography	✓					
Health & Social Care		✓		✓		Step Programme
History	✓					
IT		✓	✓			Step Programme
Law	✓	✓				
Mathematics	✓				✓	
Further Mathematics	✓					
Media Studies	✓					✓
Physics	✓					
Politics	✓					
Psychology	✓					
Religious Studies	✓					
Sociology	✓					
Spanish	✓					
Sport	✓		✓			
Statistics	✓					
Entry requirements	5 GCSE grades equivalent to 4/C or above (including Maths and English Language plus any minimum entry requirements for individual subjects)				GCSE grades equivalent to mostly C/D or 3 or below	
Course length	2 years				1 year (and then progress onto Level 3 for 2 years)	

Please check website for latest course details.

# PSYCHOLOGY



## LEVEL 3:



## A Level Psychology

Psychology lets you discover the complexities of human behaviour. You'll learn how to appreciate our actions and interactions in a scientific way, including analysing yourself and how you behave with other people. The transferable skills learnt in Psychology marry perfectly with so many other fields of work too, as you can understand the processes of the brain and the intricacies and nuances of what it is to be human.

The College's expert Psychology staff are passionate about what they do and each come into teaching with their own area of expertise within the subject. From former mental health professionals to senior

examiners in the field, the department's range of specialisms blend to give students the best possible teaching from people who have applied their Psychology skills in real areas of work.

### Good to know:

Each year, the Psychology department runs a 'Creepy Crawly Day', with special visitors bringing in weird and wonderful creatures in order for students to learn about the mental processes behind phobias.

# ENGLISH



## LEVEL 3:



**A Level**  
English Language  
English Literature

## LEVEL 2:



**GCSE**  
English Language

Studying English Language or Literature at A Level goes far beyond just reading and writing. The study of language inspires you to engage with your world and yourself to understand the assumptions and attitudes that underlie our way of communication and create the building blocks of English. Literature, meanwhile, focuses on the most refined and insightful use of our language to convey meaning and context with both style and depth.

English lessons at Birkenhead Sixth Form College encourage you to think independently and analytically through

a more 'university-like' discussion and seminar style of teaching than lessons you may have experienced in school.

### Good to know:

English students have the opportunity to travel to London for a residential cultural trip which involves watching a production at The Globe Theatre, visiting the National Gallery and more. You'll also stay in a converted former courthouse where Charles Dickens once worked.

# SCIENCES



## LEVEL 3:

**A Level**  
Biology  
Physics  
Chemistry

**BTEC**  
Applied Science  
Extended Certificate

Applied Science  
Diploma

After taking your GCSEs, there is no doubt that you will be well aware of the kind of work that is involved in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, and know whether you have a passion and aptitude for Science. While choosing these subjects at A Level presents another step up in terms of academic challenge, our team of specialist subject teachers are here to equip you with everything you need to be well prepared, ready and excited to meet the rigour of these intellectually stimulating qualifications.

Our Science staff - the largest department within the College - consists of specialist teachers within their subject fields, so you

are guaranteed to be taught by a qualified scientist in that specific area, rather than general Science teachers that may teach across multiple disciplines and ages.

### Good to know:

Each year, the College sends a team of Chemistry students to compete in the Royal Society of Chemistry's 'Young Analyst' competition, where they pit their wits against the best young scientists in the region at the University of Liverpool's new state-of-the-art laboratories.

# LAW



## LEVEL 3:



**A level**  
Law



**BTEC**  
Law Extended  
Certificate

Law is everywhere; it's part of everything we do and is the backbone of society, so a qualification in Law can open the door to a multitude of careers. Along with Law A Level at the College, we are the only further education institution in the area to offer a Law BTEC, which means that the style of learning can be suited to everyone. Law is the perfect combination between a humanity and a science, with emphasis on writing but also logic and learning hard and fast rules in a fun and vibrant department.

The College boasts unparalleled links with law firms and universities across the region and beyond which allows countless extracurricular opportunities to get involved

in, all whilst being taught by legal experts including former solicitors and examiners.

### **Good to know:**

The College enters a team into the Citizenship Foundation's 'Bar Mock Trial' every year to compete against other schools, acting as barristers in fictional trials but in real court rooms in front of real judges. The team has won the regional final in Liverpool Crown Court for the last two years and performed at the national final in London's Old Bailey and Royal Courts of Justice.

# BUSINESS



## LEVEL 3:



**A Level  
Business**



**BTEC  
Business Extended  
Certificate  
Business Diploma**

## LEVEL 2:



**Business Diploma**

Both the A Level and BTEC Business courses give you a solid and broad foundation of skills and offer the challenge of examining real businesses in action. You'll learn the difficult art of interpreting business operations and determining the best concepts and strategies that could be employed to make a successful business model. You'll hunt for solutions in project management, people management, economics, marketing and legality, and use your problem-solving to come up with theoretical and practical results.

The Business staff make sure that they enable students to organise and plan for the demands of the curriculum with a

solid and organised structure, itself much like a business plan. They have also fine-tuned the use of resources to adapt to the different learning styles of students so you can reach your full potential.

### Good to know:

Each year, Business students plan, take part in and evaluate a day of teambuilding exercises at a local outdoor adventure centre, which includes activities such as abseiling, raft building and archery.

# MATHS



## LEVEL 3:



**A Level  
Maths  
Further Maths  
Statistics**

Having studied Maths throughout your school career, you'll be fully aware of the challenges that it presents, but A Level Maths and Statistics courses give you the chance to leave the College with some of the most highly respected qualifications in education. You'll enjoy the challenge and, in A Level Maths, you should have an aptitude for algebra and problem-solving, with both clear-cut, logical thinking and abstract thought. Conversely, in Statistics, you'll learn how to interpret real-life data in an accessible way, which dovetails perfectly with a number of other studies and enhances your abilities in all of them,

including Psychology, Biology, Law, and many others that are reliant on quantitative analysis.

## LEVEL 2:



**GCSE  
Maths**

### Good to know:

The Maths subjects offer extremely supportive teaching packages including popular videos produced by our own Maths teachers which have had over 100,000 views on Vimeo.

# ART & DESIGN



## LEVEL 3:



**A Level**  
Fine Art  
Graphics  
Textiles

## LEVEL 2:



**Art & Design**  
Diploma

The creative industries are Britain's biggest employer and with digital media growing exponentially, creative skills have never been more in demand in the world of work, so studying A Level Fine Art, Graphics or Textiles will stand you in good stead for your career.

The three Art & Design A Level courses at the College offer very different ways to develop your artistic flair, but also develop valuable life skills. You will learn how to be driven and self-motivated, because working independently is a key component of being successful in any Art-based A Level. Our expert staff will train and guide you as you take the step up from GCSE and throughout your two year course.

## Foundation Course:

Birkenhead Sixth Form College also offers a post-A Level Foundation Diploma in Art, Design and Media that is a highly successful pre-university course. The Foundation course extends your artistic expertise even further and universities often require that students take this qualification before studying at degree level.

## Good to know:

Our specially-built School of Art & Design opened in 2013 and houses all of our Art students in a separate creative environment overlooking the rest of the College and has breathtaking views over to Liverpool.

# SOCIOLOGY



## LEVEL 3:



### A Level Sociology

Once you've studied Sociology, the skills and the mind-set of how to look at the world never leave you. The subject appeals to students with an inquisitive mind who are ready and open to look at all angles within topical content. As former students said last year, when you study Sociology, it feels like you know a secret that no one else knows.

Our passionate and experienced Sociology teachers ensure that discussions and subject matter are always about topical current affairs. This keeps content fresh, relevant and relatable for students.

It also means that every lesson, every term and every year's study are new and different.

### Good to know:

Sociology students recently took part in a Q&A session with the visiting Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, discussing topical current affairs and asking challenging questions about religion's place in today's society.

# IT & COMPUTER SCIENCE



## LEVEL 3:



**A Level**  
Computer Science



**BTEC**  
IT Extended Certificate  
IT Diploma

## LEVEL 2:



**IT Step**  
programme

Sometimes in life, things don't always go right first time, but the crucial skills of learning where you went wrong and being able to solve those problems are what our IT and Computer Science courses equip you with in abundance. You'll discover an ability to actually think about *how* you're thinking, and then combine that with the technical knowledge to match your imagination, which ultimately helps you develop your ideas into satisfying, quality end products.

Our IT and Computer Science staff teach you in a way that encourages building professionalism and being able to pitch your ideas, along with supporting you with all the academic and technical learning. These exciting courses are the perfect preparation for a career in an ever-evolving industry, including work in programming, cyber security and computer game development.

# HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE



## LEVEL 3:

### **BTEC**

**Health & Social Care  
Extended Certificate**

**Health & Social Care  
Extended Diploma**

## LEVEL 2:

**Health & Social Care  
Step Programme**

Whatever profession you hope to enter into in later life, learning the skills of how to deal with people in an empathetic way will always be invaluable. Many of the students who choose to study Health & Social Care often aim for careers in nursing, occupational therapy, the paramedics, and other care-related vocations. You'll study a mix of psychology, sociology and human biology on the course which helps you learn how to support people with their communication, their rights, their dignity, their choices and their empowerment.

Studying BTEC Health & Social Care at the College lets you put your theory into practice, with regular and varied hands-on

placements. You are taught by teachers who are experts in the care field and solely teach Health & Social Care, as well as having extensive experience in jobs within the industry.

### **Good to know:**

The College has a full-time placement officer in Health & Social Care who will arrange your work experience and liaise with you to tailor your placements to your career aims and needs.

# SPORT

# GEOGRAPHY



## LEVEL 3:



**A Level  
Sport**



**BTEC  
Sport  
Diploma**

While a small percentage of the course in Sport involves the 'doing' of sporting activities, the subject is much more about the scientific study of sport, along with its importance within society. Learning about specific health benefits always proves popular with students looking to progress into a sporting profession, and uniquely, the subject helps develop qualities like leadership and organisation. Sport's place in society is also looked at in-depth, analysing its role in schooling throughout the ages along with the differing trends of the times.

## LEVEL 3:



**A Level  
Geography**

Geography A Level is the perfect choice if you enjoy learning about people, societies, economies, cultures and the environment. The skill-set developed when studying Geography is highly respected by universities and employers alike, and the subject can lead to a multitude of careers from business location systems to emergency management. As Michael Palin, President of the Royal Geographical Society, said: "Geography students hold the key to the world's problems," and this diverse subject could help you shape your future path.

# HISTORY

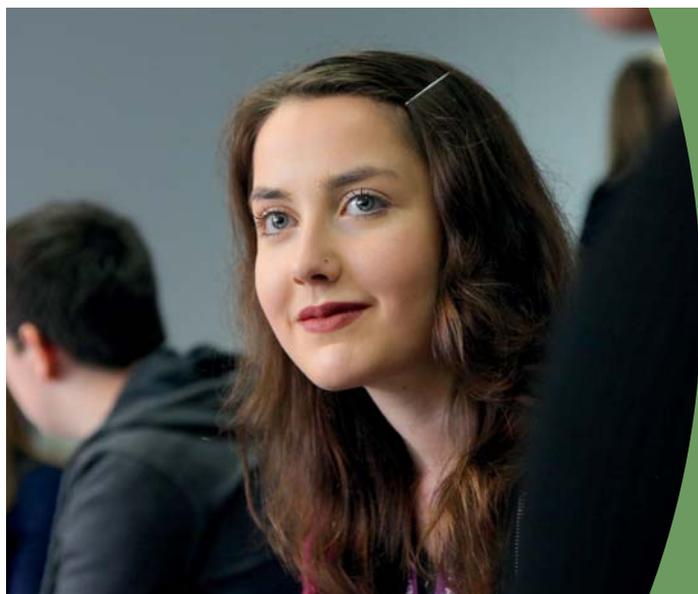


## LEVEL 3:

### **A Level History**

If you want to understand the modern world and formulate your own opinions and responses to it, then History A Level at Birkenhead Sixth Form College is for you. You'll look at the past using several different perspectives, including political, economic, cultural and social viewpoints. Lessons balance expert guidance from your teachers with interactive activities, and you'll develop invaluable skills to take with you to university or the workplace such as researching, textual analysis and expressing qualified opinions through clear and concise written communication.

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES



## LEVEL 3:

### **A Level Religious Studies**

This subject is ideally suited for those with enquiring minds as you explore and analyse human understanding. Tackling the biggest philosophical and ethical questions about how all facets of religion affects us as individuals and as societies is central to this A Level, and students should have an interest in learning from sources in everyday life, not necessarily limiting themselves to textbooks.

# MEDIA & FILM STUDIES



## LEVEL 3:



**A Level**  
Media Studies  
Film Studies

## LEVEL 2:



Media Studies  
Diploma

Film Studies and Media Studies both enable you to dig deeper into creative productions than you will have done before, and you can learn to enjoy new levels of understanding from technical, philosophical and social points of view. Film Studies touches on many other subject areas, such as Psychology, Sociology, History, Art and Philosophy, making it a really eclectic subject. Students study films from a diverse range of cultural perspectives, including British, American and the National Cinemas of countries such as France, Brazil, South Africa, and Mexico, to name but a few. This can spark some very meaningful debates in class, and students often say

that studying Film at College has really helped them to develop ideas about society and cultural identity, allowing them to become more empathetic and raising their self-esteem and emotional intelligence. Media Studies, meanwhile, delves into the technicalities of working within the media, from using software to analysing and debating controversial issues. You'll then use what you've discovered to influence your own work, with storyboarding, image manipulation and editing.

# POLITICS



# ECONOMICS



## LEVEL 3:

### A Level Politics

Politics A Level isn't simply about learning to pass an exam; it's a journey to change the way in which you see things and develop the ability to think critically, understanding sources and appreciating what people stand for.

Our teachers are passionate about keeping abreast of current news and national and global political issues, and lessons encourage stimulating and thought-provoking discussion. As well as written work, students will hone their public speaking skills and Politics is ideal for those who enjoy talking and debate, as well as people with an active curiosity about ethics, philosophy and the cogs that make society work.

## LEVEL 3:

### A Level Economics

This dynamic subject lends itself to helping you understand the complexities of the world and establish a firm grip on current affairs. Economics surrounds us in everything we do, down to the simplest of things like buying a cup of tea; Economics A Level helps you understand how to link the simple, everyday factors with huge concepts such as the financial crisis and poverty. If you have an active interest in current affairs and keeping up to date in an ever changing world, studying Economics can open doors for your future career.

# PERFORMING ARTS



## LEVEL 3:



**A Level**  
**Dance**  
**Drama &**  
**Theatre Studies**

Both Performing Arts courses are ideal for developing your confidence, along with learning to solve problems creatively and communicating clearly. All of these traits are highly desirable and sought after when it comes to university and employment. You'll experiment with your creativity and explore new techniques, working independently or in groups and participate in thoughtful, stimulating and intelligent discussion. As well as studying pre-existing works, you'll have the opportunity to create and perform your own original pieces.

## Good to know:

Drama students from the College worked with Merseyside Police to write, produce and perform an award winning play which raised schoolchildren's awareness of the consequences of antisocial behaviour. The play was a huge success and was performed at New Brighton's Floral Pavilion.

# FRENCH & SPANISH



## LEVEL 3:



**A Level**  
French  
Spanish

Speaking multiple languages is a coveted ability by many employers and could open up a world of opportunities for you. Travelling abroad for work, and also leisure, is enhanced by being able to speak the local language and having an understanding of the local culture. Whilst studying French or Spanish, you'll also learn about political issues, culture and social differences between places that speak that language as their mother tongue.

French and Spanish students at the College benefit from smaller class sizes to maximise interactions between student and teacher, and also student to student, which enhances learning.

## Good to know:

Languages students have travelled to Paris, Salamanca and Brussels within the last year to link up with local schools and participate in their school days. There has also been opportunity to stay with local families so students can immerse themselves in both speaking and listening to the language, which they found hugely enjoyable and rewarding.

# BE SUPPORTED

At Birkenhead Sixth Form College, we pride ourselves on offering outstanding, specialist support that is tailored to students' individual needs.

## CONTINUOUS SUPPORT:

After you enrol with us, you will meet your personal **tutor** who will be with you until you finish College. As part of our Student Development team, your tutor's job is to help you settle into College and support you with the step up from GCSEs to sixth form study. Once you've found your feet,

they will offer guidance and support as you plan the next stage of your journey after A Levels and/or BTECs.

You'll meet new friends in your tutor group and you'll have weekly timetabled tutor group sessions which will have a variety of focuses throughout the year, as

well as regularly reviewing your progress and helping with personal and academic development.

The Student Development Base, where the tutors are situated, operates an open door policy for you to drop in and discuss anything that's on your mind.



*Some of the student support team*

## EXTRA SUPPORT:

The College is extremely proud of our dedicated **Learning Support Team** who offer extra support to students who may have additional needs.

The Learning Support Team liaises with you, your tutor, your teaching staff and parents/guardians to give you all the

assistance that you need to make your time studying with us a success.

They can help you to develop studying skills and provide emotional support when needed. If you have a specific learning need such as dyslexia or, if English is your

second language, our qualified specialists will be there for you.

The Learning Support staff are part of the College's great success in raising your aspirations, giving you every chance to fulfil your potential at sixth form.



**Academic  
Writing Programme**

Exam success is not just about what you know - how you articulate it can also affect your grades. We have two specialist tutors who can support you so you know the best techniques to answer exam questions and give yourself the chance of the highest grades possible.

# BePART

We are committed to providing you with more than an academic education, and our BePART Programme is the perfect example of this.

*Be POSITIVE*  
*Be AMBITIOUS*  
*Be RESILIENT*  
*Be THOUGHTFUL*



Everyone wants to be successful in what they do but we understand that there are sometimes factors in our lives that stand in the way of that. The BePART Programme is a major step towards ridding the mental barriers that may be blocking you from achieving what you should, whether that's inside or outside College.

BePART is a unique, six week life-skills programme that uses proven scientific research and techniques to improve mental health and wellbeing, making you better equipped to deal with the pressures of your studies and of your personal life.

Sessions concentrate on learning relaxation techniques to help focus, the importance of sleep and diet on your mental health and using gratitude to appreciate what you have to offer which helps resilience.

Since it was launched for all new students in 2016, the programme has been the focus of a BBC One investigation into how to relieve stress amongst students. The Faculty of Education at Liverpool John Moores University has also been involved with analysing the effectiveness of BePART

and found that, after participating in the programme, students were more ready for the rigours of their academic work and could deal with any setbacks in a positive and constructive fashion, leaving them ready to cope with the demands placed on them.



*BBC filming in college*

# BEYOND SIXTH FORM



With sixth form being such a pivotal stage in your education, we dedicate a lot of time and effort into helping you understand the options available to you when you graduate. Over 400 students from the College go to university every year, and you'll work with your personal tutor to explore apprenticeships and employment opportunities as well. All students are encouraged to apply to university as the preparation and application process gives you invaluable experience for other types of applications.



**To explore the exciting possibilities for your next step, you will have a number of opportunities to find out more:**

### **Careers Fair**

Each year, over 60 businesses, companies, organisations and universities come to the College to give a chance to see what each of them has to offer for your future career.

### **Futures Day**

At the end of your first year, Futures Day is an action-packed event to help you make informed decisions about your future. You'll hear inspiring talks from visiting speakers that are tailored to your own personal ambitions, discover what's on offer at a thriving careers fair and enjoy a wide range of festival-style street food during lunch.

### **Work Experience**

Whether continuing in education or entering the working world after your A Levels/BTECs, work or course placements and experience can really make you stand out from the crowd. Your tutor will keep you informed of any opportunities to get that experience under your belt, and because they will know you personally, they will be able to highlight how certain placements can enhance your personal and educational development.

# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Alongside your academic studies, we offer an extensive range of clubs and societies for you to join, have fun and make new friends. When you join in September, you'll have the opportunity to participate in taster sessions so you can get a feel for the different types of clubs and societies available.

## Clubs and societies that are currently available include:

- Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
- Bar Mock Trials
- Debating Society
- Sports - netball, football, darts, table tennis, Taekwondo, boccia, basketball, badminton
- Chess
- Student newspaper
- Photoshop
- British Sign Language
- Languages - Mandarin Chinese, Italian, Arabic
- First Aid
- Guitar
- Creative writing
- LGBT+ and friends
- Film Club
- Volunteering - opportunities are available locally or internationally.



*David Morrissey visited the College to meet students.*

Each year students find new ways to raise money for their chosen local and national charities. Whether it's a 'Bake-Off' style cake-making competition, an Art exhibition or hand-making remembrance poppies, you can raise funds for great causes and showcase your innovation all in one go.

You can get involved in activities within College, right on your doorstep, or go as far as to travel thousands of miles to experience things that many people will go a lifetime without. Everything that you do outside of your College timetable that can be used to bolster your CV makes you more and more of an attractive prospect to universities and employers alike, so why not join in?

## STUDENT AMBASSADORS:

Towards the end of your first year, you can apply to become one of the College's Student Ambassadors - a team of students who represent the College at events such as Open Evenings and are there to support their fellow students.



# WHAT'S COLLEGE LIKE?

Second year student, **Abbie Thomson**, talks candidly about her first year at the College:

"I don't think there's any way that you couldn't feel nervous when you first start, but it's great to know that everyone's in the same boat. Even the people who seem most confident are always nervous inside! Everyone starting here's new and no one knows their way around, but by the end of your first day or two, you get to grips with finding where you should be, plus all the staff and the older students are really friendly and helpful.

You find your feet very quickly, and make friends so easily. You've got your different lessons and your Tutorial sessions, so you meet lots of different groups, but what you notice straight away is that it's not cliquey like it might've been in high school. I think it's probably been easier to make friends in ten months here than it was in five years in high school.

You get treated like an adult in lessons and around College, which is so much nicer than school. You're expected to contribute and work hard without being moaned at because it's down to you. The teachers and tutors give you all the attention you need and want you to ask questions and actually enjoy your lessons - they're really patient and kind.

I've genuinely loved being here, from the lessons to the social side, and feel like I've grown up a huge amount since starting. I used to be nervous about the idea of going off to university after A Levels but I just find that exciting now. It's been a really enjoyable, fun, challenging and rewarding first year."



*Abbie, centre, with fellow students*

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

After completing two enjoyable years at the College, former students (from left to right) Katie, Helen and Elloise have realised their ambitions and are starting the next exciting stage of their lives:

**Katie:**

*“I got three Bs in my A Levels and now I’m going to Liverpool John Moores University to study to become a primary school teacher.”*

**Helen:**

*“I’m at my first choice University of Sheffield studying Biomedical Science (with a year in industry) having done really well in my Biology, Maths and Fine Art A Levels.”*

**Elloise:**

*“I have had such great support from all of my teachers and my tutor has helped me stand on my own two feet and develop the confidence and skills to gain places at top universities. I’m aiming for a career in art restoration.”*



# OUR TROPHY CABINET

We are very proud of the local and national awards that we have recently received and feel they showcase what makes our students successful.



## **Ofsted Outstanding**

We were rated by Ofsted as Outstanding in everything we do.



## **Curriculum Innovation**

### *Sixth Form College Association*

Our unique Academic Mentoring Programme sees undergraduates from a number of universities, including the University of Liverpool, visit the College to give peer-to-peer mentoring and advice to A Level students in a range of different subjects.



## **Sixth Form College of the Year finalist** *TES*

The College and its students were shortlisted for the prestigious national TES award and it recognised the College as a champion of further education that plays a vital role in ensuring that students have the opportunity to fulfil their potential.



## **Healthy Living**

### *Liverpool Echo School award*

The groundbreaking BePART programme that has been developed in-house based on proven scientific research was recognised for its commitment to helping students' mental health and wellbeing.



## **'Class of the year'**

### *Wirral Globe School award*

The cast of the powerful play, 'Bored', which dealt with the consequences of antisocial behaviour, was recognised for the impact they made by writing and performing the play to schools across Wirral.

# OUR OFSTED REPORT

In January 2017, Ofsted published its report and rated the College as Outstanding in all areas. Or to put it another way - the achievements, progress and behaviour of our students is rated as Outstanding.

The full report is available online at [bsfc.ac.uk/college-information/OFSTED](http://bsfc.ac.uk/college-information/OFSTED)

*“Students make rapid, sustained progress”*

*“Highly effective teaching”*

*“Overall achievement rates are high”*

*“Staff are ambitious for their students”*

*“Students develop into young adults with a thirst for learning”*



# SETTLING IN

If you are considering joining us, we understand that this might mean leaving a school you have perhaps been happy in for a number of years. We go to great lengths to help you settle into College life and this includes:

- **Subject taster sessions**

Attending a taster session before you join us is a great way to get an insight into your sixth form course choices. It will give you a chance to try a new subject or get an understanding of how A levels are different to GCSEs.

- **Freshers' Day**

Once you've been offered a place, you'll be invited to Freshers' Day in early July which is the perfect opportunity to make new friends and meet your teachers and tutors before you start in September.

- **Find Your Feet**

When you join us in September, we know that it can be a little daunting starting somewhere new. There will be plenty of entertaining activities running during lessons and at break times, clubs and societies you can try out, and some fun events to get involved with in the first four weeks of your first term.

- After finding your feet, you will still be supported all the way through College, and your assigned tutor will be with you every step of the way to ensure that your moves from school to College, and then from College to university or employment, are as smooth, easy and enjoyable as possible.



# GETTING TO COLLEGE



We are situated in Cloughton Village, next to Birkenhead Park and whether you are travelling from Wirral, Cheshire or the Liverpool area, the College is easily accessible by public transport or car.

## **By Bus:**

The College offers subsidised bus services serving the following routes:

- **Heswall/Pensby/Irby**
- **South Wirral** - includes Eastham, Bromborough and Bebington
- **Neston**
- **Liverpool** - with pick-up points from Litherland High School and Hillside High School

There are four public bus stops directly outside of the College which service a variety of Merseytravel routes.

## **By Train:**

Birkenhead Park Station is a 10 minute walk to College and there are frequent trains from West Kirby, New Brighton, Chester and Liverpool.

## **By Car:**

The College is a 5 minute drive from Birkenhead town centre and free parking is available on-site.

# HOW TO APPLY

**APPLY EARLY**  
WE ARE OVER-  
SUBSCRIBED SO  
APPLY EARLY  
TO GUARANTEE  
YOUR PLACE

Applying is easy. Simply:

**1 Complete an application form**  
Application forms can be found on our website: [www.bsfc.ac.uk/application-form](http://www.bsfc.ac.uk/application-form) or email [enrol@bsfc.ac.uk](mailto:enrol@bsfc.ac.uk) to request a paper version.

**2 Attend an interview**  
This is a chance for us to get to know you and for you to receive support and guidance on your course choices and finding a programme of study that suits you.

**3 Accept your place**  
After your interview, our Admissions team will review your application and if you're successful, you will be offered a place.

**4 Attend Freshers' Day**  
Explore a day in the life of a Birkenhead Sixth Form College student! You will be invited to attend Freshers' Day in early July as an opportunity to meet your teachers, tutors and fellow students and attend taster sessions in your chosen courses.

**5 Enrol at the College**  
At your Enrolment Appointment after your GCSE results, we finalise your programme of study so you are ready to start in September.



# COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF

Our Open Evenings are a great opportunity to talk to our expert staff, meet our students and have a look around our modern campus.

If you are interested in joining us, we look forward to meeting you at one of our Open Evenings:

**4th October 2017**

**29th November 2017**

**24th January 2018**

Please check our website **bsfc.ac.uk** for further details.

If you can't make an Open Evening, please phone the College to arrange a tour of the campus.

**We look forward to welcoming you soon.**



We have made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this prospectus is accurate at the time of printing. The College reserves the right to make changes and cannot accept liability arising out of, or in connection with, any revision.

*“Just finished my two years at BSFC and what an incredible two years it’s been! The teachers and tutors at the College are second-to-none and so attentive and supportive of all students. A really wonderful place to study that pushes you to be your best”.*

**Elizabeth, former student**



Park Road West, Claughton, Wirral, CH43 8SQ  
Tel: 0151 652 5575 | [www.bsfc.ac.uk](http://www.bsfc.ac.uk) | Email: [enrol@bsfc.ac.uk](mailto:enrol@bsfc.ac.uk)

 [facebook.com/birkenheadsixthformcollege](https://facebook.com/birkenheadsixthformcollege)

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Wirral Academy Trust

Working in partnership  
with Wirral  
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