Embrace Your Future



Prospectus 2021





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wheeler.



At Birkenhead Sixth Form College, we are driven by our knowledge that all students, including you, have the capacity to excel but we are also grounded in the reality that achievement requires you to work hard, make sacrifices and be committed.

This conviction in what you can achieve is not the product of wishful thinking or some lame attempt to motivate: rather, it is borne out of what we know and what we ourselves continue to achieve with the large number of students that join us from across the region every year. We know that the body of independent research in education is united behind the statements that 'educational success is a product of purposeful hard work' and 'no matter what your current level of performance, you can improve'. The research tells us this, and our own experience from many years of success confirms it.

It you want a tresh experience in one of the country's leading colleges; if you want to be the best version of you that you can be, then we invite you to join our officially outstanding sixth form college. We promise that whatever you put into your studies, we will more than match. Our multiple awards and national reputation have been gained because of what students like you have achieved in the past. Commit to your studies, work with us and enjoy the experience and you too will have the success you need to take up the exciting future opportunities that lie ahead.

Mike KilbridePrincipal



we come.

about us.

Birkenhead Sixth Form College has truly established itself as one of the leading providers of A Level and BTEC education not just in the region but in the whole of the UK.

We are specialist providers for students aged 16+ and more young people choose to better their education and themselves as individuals at the College than any other sixth form in the area.

The College is for students who have completed their GCSEs after Year 11 and is the perfect stepping stone to get you to the university, apprenticeship, employment and ultimately the career that you have in your sights.

We have:

- ▲ 1450 students aged 16-19
- Specialist teachers in further education, i.e. A Levels and BTECs
- Expert staff who allow you to
 unlock your true potential,
 no matter what your starting
 point is
- 39 different courses to choose from
- Multiple regional and national awards recognising our commitment to enabling all of our students to excel





our values.



The College ethos is underpinned by our core values of **Positivity**, **Ambition**, **Resilience** and **Thoughtfulness**, and our students embrace these values on a daily basis.

be positive.

we are positive about what we do and what others can do

be ambitious.

we work to release the innate human drive for success

be resilient.

we will not give up when faced with difficulties

be thoughtful.

treat everyone with respect and consideration

"It's a great College with a fab team that works so hard for the students. My daughter's going to miss the place."

Parent of former student

why choose US.



Whether you're joining us from a school in the Wirral or elsewhere in Merseyside or Cheshire, you're coming to the top sixth form in the region. Here are just some of the things that prove that Birkenhead Sixth Form College is the best choice for you after your GCSEs:

- We are consistently in the top for A Levels & BTECs in Wirral and Merseyside
- We are rated as Outstanding by Ofsted in every area
- Our results regularly show that students make more progress and get better grades with us than they would elsewhere
- You have a choice of 39 courses which can be studied in any combination – no option blocks
- Our students have both the independence and the specialist support to achieve success academically and personally

whether with the second of the



Unlike high school, our teachers at Birkenhead Sixth Form College solely teach students who are aged 16 and over and studying A Levels and BTECs.

Teachers at the College are do not have to mix their time between acting as a form tutor or other extracurricular roles, so their concentration is purely on teaching you your subjects. You will have an assigned tutor who looks after all your pastoral, personal and careers needs, while other staff such as our Student Engagement Officer arrange things like clubs, activities and volunteering.

Our teachers will believe in your ability, even in times where you may not, and they will inspire you and push you to be your best. This is our promise to you as a Birkenhead Sixth Form College student.

expert teaching.

how College differs from school.



Joining the College after your GCSEs is a stepping stone to university or employment. There are several reasons why College life and the university-style campus is so different to school and helps prepare you for your next step:

- Everyone is new when they start
- There is no uniform
- You have more independence
- You manage your own free time
- Everyone is on first name terms
- You're only with students your own age

Our campus in Claughton Village overlooks the picturesque Birkenhead Park, and consists of classrooms, science labs, study areas, learning resources and social spaces for our students to feel comfortable, relaxed and motivated when they come to College.



Our tech

We have invested in technology to ensure that all students have the devices and skills that they need to allow flexible teaching and learning in unusual circumstances, switching seamlessly between face-to-face and virtual lessons. Microsoft Teams is used to support learning and in addition to our teaching, it also makes it easy for students and staff to keep in touch.

Our School of Art & Design

Another major investment saw the construction of the separate, dedicated art block, which is home to state-of-the-art facilities to enable students in Fine Art, Graphics and Textiles to go one step further in their work and thrive in a truly creative and inspiring environment.

Our new classroom block

Due to open in Spring 2021, work is currently underway on constructing a brand new building after the government granted the College £1.7m to expand our teaching facilities.



our facilities.





JordynStudent Engagement Officer

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.

Jordyn is the College's Student Engagement Officer and coordinates all the clubs and societies on offer. If there is something that you're interested in but it's not on the list of activities on the page opposite, you can email Jordyn (jla@bsfc.ac.uk) with your suggestions and she'll try her best to arrange a new club when you start with us.

clubs & societies





Clubs & Societies

Yoga

Clubs & Societies			
Virtual:	Physical:		
Young Enterprise	First Aid Certificate		
Criminology	Football		
Anime	British Sign Language		
Book Club	Law Club		
D&D	Lego Club		
Mandarin (Chinese)	LGBT+ and Equality		
BSL	Clubbercise		
Netball Fitness	Multigym		
Film Club	Arts & Crafts		
Debate Club	Photoshop (beginners)		
Creative Writing	Pulse: Exploring Christianity		
Make up with Amy	Student Newspaper		
PC Gaming	Table Tennis		
KPOP	Taekwon/Do		
Guitar Club	Tag Rugby		
Running Challenge	Voluntary Work		

- Learn new skills
- Make new friends

Gold Duke of Edinburgh

- ▲ Good for CV
- ✓ It's free
- ▲ Have fun!

now we SUDDOCT YOU.



Student Development Team:

After you enrol with us, you will meet your assigned tutor who will be with you to help navigate College life. 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.

Learning Support Team

The Learning Support Team help learners with additional needs in and outside the classroom. The aim is to encourage independence, build confidence and ensure the success of all of our students.

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.

be supported.

"Amazing place where amazing things happen. Highly recommended. Everyone is valued & supported to be their best."

Parent of Former Student

support at a glance.

Assigned tutor

Your tutor is with you to help you navigate all aspects of College life.

■ Subject Plus

Extra lesson time with teachers to ensure students are progressing well.

Academic Skills Programme

Specialist tutors support you to develop your writing skills to achieve the best grades possible.

▲ Learning Support

Our team of Learning Support Assistants are here to help those with additional learning needs.

Study Hall

A dedicated area for keeping up to date with work set by your teachers.

Study Mentor

Local university students run one-to-one and small group sessions to give peer-to-peer support.

Designated Mental Health Lead

A dedicated member of our Student Development Team who can assist with mental health concerns and direct students to the help they need.

▲ Listening & Youth Services

One-to-one appointments to speak to a councillor or professional youth worker.





Jo WoodDirector of Student Development
Careers Leader

With sixth form being such a pivotal stage in your education, we dedicate a lot of time and effort to helping you understand the options available to you when you finish College. Over 400 students from the College go to university every year, and you'll work with your assigned 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.

In addition to your timetabled tutorials which help you focus on your future goals, you will explore the exciting possibilities for your next step with a number of events where you can find out more.

▲ bsfc.ac.uk/careers

(A)





chai

Visiting Speakers Programme

Each year, the College welcomes speakers from a variety of career areas. These talks provide opportunities for students to find out more about a broad range of career pathways and are vital in helping students to identify future options.

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.

settling in

You'll start your exciting journey with us in September as a new student, we go to great lengths to help you settle in and feel part of the college community.

- Welcome Day the first day of term is designed so you can meet all your new teachers & tutors
- A huge range of taster sessions of clubs and activities will help you have fun and make new friends
- Vote for your Song of the Day to be played at the end of the lunch break
- Drop-in Programme where you can chat with our friendly and helpful Student Ambassadors who were in exactly the same boat as you just a year ago







meet Toffee.

Toffee is the College's resident dog. As well as being incredibly cute, Toffee is an honourary member of staff because scientific studies have shown that regularly petting animals can reduce stress. He started his role in September 2019 and has been a huge hit with students and staff alike.

financial support.

We are committed to ensuring that all students have access to the right resources to be successful in their academic studies and remove any barriers to participation.

Bursary support is available to help cover the cost of things like:

- Travel to and from College (if you live more than a mile from the campus)
- ▲ College meals
- Compulsory College trips
- Selected learning materials

Eligibility criteria applies.





College buses.

We are situated in Claughton 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.

The College offers subsidised bus services serving the following routes:



New Brighton / Wallasey / Liscard / Birkenhead North

- 2
- **Bootle / Liverpool Service**
- 3
- Eastham / Bromborough / Bebington / Tranmere
- 4
- Ellesmere Port / Little Sutton / Hooton / Willaston / Clatterbridge / Woodchurch
- 5
- Neston / Parkgate / Barnston / Arrowe Park / Noctorum
- 6

Heswall / Irby / Thingwall / Prenton

find your courses.



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

- What you are likely to enjoy and be good at.
- If you have a particular career or degree in mind, you may need to choose specific subjects.
- If you want to keep your future study and career choices open, any subject you study will give you transferable skills.
- We offer a number of subjects that you may not have studied before. Law, Psychology and Sociology are particularly popular subjects at the College.

Entry Requirements:

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

For the latest details of each course and specific entry requirements, please visit:

www.bsfc.ac.uk/courses

course summary.

		BTEC Extended Certificate equivalent to	BTEC Diploma equivalent to	additional entry requirements are a minimum of the following
Course	A Level	1 A Level	2 A Levels	GCSE Grades:
Art (Fine Art)	~			Grade 4 in Art
Biology	~			Grade 5 in Maths and either 6 in Biology and two 5s in Chemistry and Physics or two 6s in Combined Science
Business*	~	~		
Chemistry	~			Grade 6 in Maths and either 6 in Chemistry and two 5s in Biology and Physics or two 6s in Combined Science
Computer Science	~			Grade 6 in Maths
Dance	~			
Drama & Theatre Studies	~			
Economics	~			Grade 6 in Maths
English Language	~			
English Literature	~			Two Grade 5s in English Literature and English Language
Film	>			
French	~			Grade 6 in French
Geography	~			Grade 5 in Maths and 5 in Geography
Graphics	~			Grade 4 in Art
Health & Social Care		~	✓	
History	~			
IT		✓	✓	

Choosing your courses:

Remember, at the College you study A Levels or BTECs or a combination of both. You choose **three subject options**: one A Level makes up one subject option; BTECs can be equivalent to one or two subject options. There are no timetable restrictions on what combination of subjects you can study.

Entry Requirements:

Five GCSEs (including Maths and English Language) at Grade 4 or above are required, plus additional entry requirements for individual subjects.

Please note: Level 2 BTECs are not accepted as part of any entry criteria.

Course	A Level	BTEC Extended Certificate equivalent to 1 A Level	BTEC Diploma equivalent to 2 A Levels	additional entry requirements are a minimum of the following GCSE Grades:
Law*	~	✓		
Maths	~			Grade 6 in Maths and at least one other Grade 6 and one Grade 5
Further Maths	~			Grade 7 in Maths and take Maths A Level alongside Further Maths
Media Studies	~			
Music: Digital Production		~		
Physical Education	~			Grade 4s in Sciences or PE Theory Paper
Physics	~			Grade 6 in Maths and either 6 in Physics and two 5s in Biology and Chemistry or two 6s in Combined Science
Politics	~			
Psychology*	~	~		
Religious Studies	~			
Science (Applied)		~	✓	Grade 4 in a science subject
Sociology	~			
Spanish	~			Grade 6 in Spanish
Sport		~		
Statistics	~			Grade 5 in Maths (higher paper)
Textiles	~			Grade 4 in Art

^{*} Both A Level and BTEC qualifications are available in Business, Law and Psychology. The type of qualifications students study will be finalised at enrolment taking into account your GCSE results.

A Levels Or BTECs?



■ bsfc.ac.uk/courses

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.

At sixth form, you can study A Levels and/or BTECs.

The main difference between A Level and BTEC courses is that A Levels are what's called 'linear' assessed and BTECs are assessed in a modular format. What this essentially means is that with A Levels, you will sit all your exams at the end of the two year course and be assessed on what you have learnt over the last two years. In BTEC courses, they are assessed both by coursework/assignments as well as exams, but the difference is that you will sit your exams as and when you complete the unit - this could be in either January or May. Some A Levels have a coursework element but this tends to count less towards your final grade than BTEC courses.

A Levels

Short for Advanced Level. 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 assessed by exams at the end of the two year course and graded A* to F.

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, BTECs at the College can be equivalent to 1 or 2 A Levels.

meet the teachers.

For each of our subjects, a teacher has recorded a short video to explain a bit more about each subject, what you'll get from it and why you should choose to study it at the College. The QR code on this page will take you directly to the courses section of our website where you can access all of the videos.



Using your phone camera, hover over the QR codes and the link will appear automatically!



fine art.

What is it?

Exploring creative, artistic ideas and experiments using traditional and non-traditional media. Ideal for the open-minded and inquisitive student.

What will I study?

Creating a portfolio, a personal investigation and set assignments using a broad range of techniques including drawing, painting, photography and mixed media.



Why choose Fine Art at BSFC?

The specially designed School of Art & Design is a separate building purely for Art students to bring out their creativity in the best and most inspiring environment with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities.

How will Fine Art prepare me for the world of work?

Creative, analytical and evaluation skills are transferrable across a host of jobs and careers.

Course Options

A Level: Fine Art

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Additional Entry Requirements

Grade 4 in Art.

Exam Board: AQA

How will I be assessed?

60% coursework; 40% fixed time exam.



What will I study?

Six modules including: Practical skills; Foundations in Biology; Exchange & transport; Biodiversity & evolution; Communication, Homeostasis & energy; Genetics, evolution & ecosystems.

Why choose Biology at BSFC?

Our specialist teachers understand that the jump to A Level Biology from GCSE is considerable, but are bestplaced to support you in stepping up to the challenge and understanding the living world that surrounds us.

How will Biology prepare me for the world of work?

Scientific method, problem-solving, data analysis and practical skills are key skills in many areas. Biology is crucial for entry into many careers, such as medicine, vetinary science and dentistry.

Course Options

A Level: Biology

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Additional Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in Maths and either Grade 6 in Biology and two Grade 5s in Chemistry and Physics or two Grade 6s in Combined Science

Exam Board: OCR

How will I be assessed?

Exams at the end of Year 2 & a practical endorsement. 10% of exam marks available are based on mathematical assessment in the context of Biology.

biology.

"I think it's important to really enjoy science if you choose to take Biology. I do, and I particularly love learning about immunology, white and red bloods cells and how we tackle pathogens. The way the subject's taught is really good too - my teacher's great!"

Guilleary, Second Year Student

business.



Course Options - choose from:

A Level: Business

BTEC: Business (page 36)

Choose between A Level or BTEC Business. Your course will be confirmed at enrolment, taking into account your GCSE results.

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Exam Board: Edexcel

How will I be assessed?

Exams at the end of Year 2.

What is it?

Learning the skills to both understand and be successful in the business world, researching the fundamental principles and analysing corporate performance through the main business functions.

What will I study?

Marketing & people; Managing business activities; Business decisions & strategy; Global business. A Level Business focuses more on international than national business concepts.

Why choose Business at BSFC?

Students can operate their own fully registered business throughout the academic year as part of the national Young Enterprise scheme. You'll experience the roles of company directors, trade with the public and compete in the regional finals. Plus you'll get to keep any profits that the company makes!

How will Business prepare me for the world of work?

Ideal grounding for managing or creating your own business with the knowledge and research of what makes businesses successful and the means and methods of making it so.

btec. business.

What is it?

Learning the skills to both understand and be successful in the business world, researching and putting into practice some of the main business functions and marketing plans.

What will I study?

Exploring business; Developing a marketing campaign; Personal & business finance; Recruitment & selection process. BTEC Business focuses more on national business than international.

Why choose Business at BSFC?

Students can operate their own fully registered business throughout the academic year as part of the national Young Enterprise scheme. You'll experience the roles of company directors, trade with the public and compete in the regional finals. Plus you'll get to keep any profits that the company makes!

How will Business prepare me for the world of work?

Ideal grounding for managing or creating your own business with the knowledge and research of what makes businesses successful and the means and methods of making it so.



Course Options - choose from:

A Level: Business (page 35)

BTEC: Business

Choose between A Level or BTEC Business. Your course will be confirmed at enrolment, taking into account your GCSE results.

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

How will I be assessed?

Coursework; controlled assessments; externally set exam.



A Level: Chemistry

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Additional Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in Maths and either Grade 6 in Chemistry and two Grade 5s in Biology and Physics or two Grade 6s in Combined Science

Exam Board: OCR

How will I be assessed?

Exams at the end of Year 2 & a practical endorsement. 20% of exam marks available are based on mathematical assessment in the context of Chemistry.

for the broadest possible knowledge base.

What will I study?

Six modules including: Development of practical skills in Chemistry; Periodic table & energy; Core organic chemistry; Physical chemistry & transition elements; Organic chemistry & analysis.

Why choose Chemistry at BSFC?

Each year, our top chemists take part in the Royal Society's Young Analyst competition, pitting their skills against other schools in the region in the University of Liverpool's brand new labs.

How will Chemistry prepare me for the world of work?

A deep understanding of what the world around us is made of and practical skills that are invaluable transferrable skills. Chemistry is vital for entry to a wide range of careers.

chemistry.

computer science.

What is it?

Computer Science focuses on computer hardware and how computer languages, networks and processors work with a great mixture of theoretical and practical work. Good mathematical skill is important.

What will I study?

Learn a programming language, binary, data structures, algorithms and computer science theory along with practical computer programming.

Why choose Computer Science at BSFC?

Having invested nearly a quarter of a million pounds in extra student-facing IT resources this year alone, Computer Science students at the College can be sure that they are in the right place to be studying a computing qualification.

How will Computer Science prepare me for the world of work?

The knowledge and skills developed from studying this subject are highly sought after in ever-growing areas of IT development, such as coding and robotics.



Course Options

A Level: Computer Science

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Additional Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in Maths.

Exam Board: OCR

How will I be assessed?

80% written exam at the end of Year 2; 20% practical coursework project.



A Level: Dance

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Exam Board: AQA

How will I be assessed?

50% written exam; 50% performance & choreography; both at the end of Year 2.

Not just performing dance but also choreographing, working in groups and engaging in critical thinking about the actual art form of dance itself.

What will I study?

Working on dance techniques, choreographing and participating in performances both solo and in groups, and researching and understanding dance theory, history and cultural context.

Why choose Dance at BSFC?

The College has a strong performing arts culture, and each year, an ambitious and exciting production is put together by the College's dancers, actors and musicians for a performance to the public.

How will Dance prepare me for the world of work?

Aside from the obvious route of going into areas of professional dance, the A Level encourages development of crucial skills like confidence, creativity, interpretation and dedicated rehearsal.

ddnce.

drama.

What is it?

A combination of practical and theoretical work, examining communicating with audiences, style, dramatic structure, characterisation along with historical, social and cultural contexts of works.

What will I study?

Studying two plays for knowledge and understanding of theatre through analysis and evaluation, creating original drama, and exploring and interpreting exisisting works.

Why choose Drama & Theatre Studies at BSFC?

The College has a strong performing arts culture, and each year, an ambitious and exciting production is put together by the College's actors, directors, dancers and musicians for a performance to the public.

How will Drama & Theatre Studies prepare me for the world of work?

Crucial personal skills are enhanced on this course, from self-confidence to working with others, and practical skills to analytical thinking.



Course Options

A Level: Drama & Theatre Studies

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Exam Board: AQA

How will I be assessed?

40% written exam; 60% practical work; all at the end of Year 2.

"Thank you for teaching me for these past 2 years. You have been an amazing teacher and pushed me to reach my full potential."

Former Student



A Level: Economics
Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Additional Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in Maths.

Exam Board: OCR

How will I be assessed?

Exams at the end of Year 2.

What will I study?

How markets work, what happens when they do not work, demand & supply, inflation & underemployment, the role of governments & unions, and macroeconomics.

Why choose Economics at BSFC?

The College has the leading Economics department in the North West with unparalleled quality of teaching in the subject.

How will Economics prepare me for the world of work?

This subject is extremely useful as everyone has to deal with both making economic decisions and dealing with their consequences in their personal and working lives.

economics.

english language.



Course Options

A Level: English Language

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Exam Board: Eduqas

How will I be assessed?

80% exams at the end of Year 2: 20% coursework.

What is it?

Language is the greatest achievement of humankind - it is the way we think, feel and understand ourselves. This A Level examines all aspects of the creation and use of the English language.

What will I study?

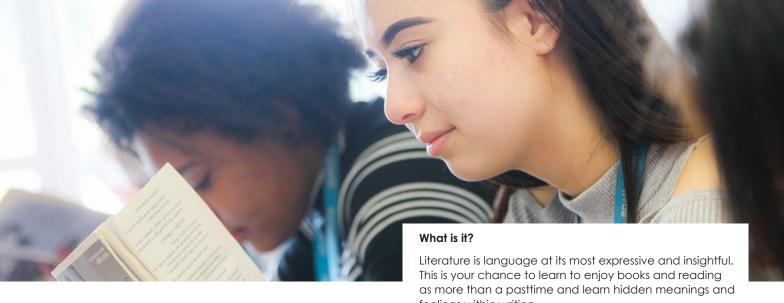
Spoken language genres & contexts, language change over time, creative & critical use of language, and language & identity, including gender, diversity and self-representation.

Why choose English Language at BSFC?

Unlike the lessons you may have had in high school, English lessons at the College are more in the form of university seminars, encouraging students to get involved in discussion and debate about topics covered.

How will English Language prepare me for the world of work?

The analytical and communication skills that this course provides is useful in almost any occupation, as well as understanding and using how and why we communicate in certain ways to use this information to your advantage.



A Level: English Literature

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Additional Entry Requirements

Two Grade 5s in English Literature and English Language.

Exam Board: Edugas

How will I be assessed?

80% exams at the end of Year 2; 20% coursework.

feelings within writing.

What will I study?

Detailed study of poetry & drama from a multitude of time periods to understand contexts and themes, as well as prose fiction texts, and then applying the skills developed with unseen texts.

Why choose English Literature at BSFC?

Unlike the lessons you may have had in high school, English lessons at the College are more in the form of university seminars, encouraging students to get involved in discussion and debate about topics covered.

How will English Literature prepare me for the world of work?

Developing the ability to read, reflect and critique, and stating your conclusions clearly is essential to many forms of work, as is constructing and defending an argument or position.

english literature.

film.



Course Options

A Level: Film Studies

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Exam Board: Eduqas
How will I be assessed?

70 % exam at the end of Year 2; 30% coursework completed in Year 1.

What is it?

Film is perhaps the defining art form of the last few generations, and this A Level allows you to discover its mechanics, its significance in popular culture and its place in time and context.

What will I study?

Developing your skills of film analysis to better understand how films are made and how audiences understand them. The focus is on industry-changing films to start with before opening up the whole spectrum.

Why choose Film Studies at BSFC?

Film students often travel to London for subject-related trips and frequently visit Film Clubs and other private film screenings at large cinemas and independent showhouses.

How will Film Studies prepare me for the world of work?

The emphasis on independent study and analytical skills developed during this A Level will prove invaluable for a wide range of careers and Higher Education courses, as will the sheer variety of written tasks undertaken.

geography.

What is it?

Gain a deep understanding of issues that have never been more relevant and important, such as climate change, migration and environmental problems.

What will I study?

Six modules including: Water & carbon cycles; Coastal systems and landscapes; Changing places; Hazards; Population & environment; Global systems and global governance.

Why choose Geography at BSFC?

Geography students at the College take part in residential field trips in the wilds of the Lake District to carry out their investigations, measuring and analysing in fields, streams, beaches and other landscapes.

How will Geography prepare me for the world of work?

Geographers are recognised by employers as people who understand how the world works, can solve problems and think for themselves.



Course Options

A Level: Geography

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Additional Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in Maths and Grade 5 in Geography.

Exam Board: AQA

How will I be assessed?

80% written exam at the end of Year 2; 20% practical geographical investigation in Year 1.



A Level: Graphics

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Additional Entry Requirements

Grade 4 in Art. **Exam Board:** AQA

How will I be assessed?

60% coursework; 40% exam projects.

What is it?

Learning how to combine imaginative, innovative graphic design ideas in response to briefs with industry standard Adobe software. This gives students the skills for high employability.

What will I study?

Developing a portfolio using traditional graphic design techniques and industry software, along with negotiating an externally set brief project with help from your teachers.

Why choose Graphics at BSFC?

The specially designed School of Art & Design is a separate building purely for Art students to bring out their creativity in the best and most inspiring environment with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities.

graphics.

health & social care.

What is it?

The perfect way to start on a journey into a career in Health & Social Care. Examine different areas of care so you can understand which career path and field of work suits you best.

What will I study?

Amongst the modules studied in the courses are: Human life span development; Meeting individual care & support needs, Working in Health & Social Care; Psychological perspectives.

Why choose Health & Social Care at BSFC?

The Health & Social Care department has a team of teachers who come from a full spectrum of specialisms within the Health and Social Care sector and have years of experience both working and teaching in the area. They will help students develop their skills and knowledge, and turn what can start as just an interest in a career in helping others into a vocation.

How will Health & Social Care prepare me for the world of work?

These courses prepare students for a wide range of careers within the care field such as nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work and working with children in a variety of settings.



Course Options

BTEC: Health & Social Care Extended Certificate / Diploma

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

How will I be assessed?

Coursework; controlled assessments; externally set exam.



A Level: History

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Exam Board: Edexcel

How will I be assessed?

80% exams at the end of Year 2; 20% coursework.

a wide variety of topics and time periods.

What will I study?

The course includes studying Russia & the USSR under Lenin through to Yeltsin (1917-91), Mao's China (1949-75), and protest, agitation and parliamentary reform in Britain (1780-1928).

Why choose History at BSFC?

To say that the teachers in the College's History department are passionate about their subject is to do them a huge disservice. They live and breathe what they teach and their passion and drive is shown in their students' outcomes every single year.

How will History prepare me for the world of work?

History provides a background to our cultural tradition and a better appreciation of our present, along with nurturing your abilities to analyse and argue points of debate using reliable sources and facts.

history.

IT.

What is it?

Our IT courses mainly focus on the software elements of computing, as opposed to hardware. You will study a combination of theoretical and practical work, with programming and the creation of various platforms being key elements.

What will I study?

There is a wide range of topics covered in both courses, including creating systems and databases to managing information, website development and using social media in business.

Why choose IT at BSFC?

Trips to the Apple Store in Liverpool are always popular with IT students as they get to use Apple's latest platforms to code and control robots in-store.

How will IT prepare me for the world of work?

The qualifications are an ideal platform to go onto an apprenticeship in the industry or further study, and the skills gathered offer high-employability. IT & computing is an ever-growing field requiring qualified experts.



Course Options

BTEC: Extended Certificate / Diploma

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

How will I be assessed?

A mixture of coursework and internally and externally set controlled assessments plus exams across the two years.



A Level: French/Spanish

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Additional Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in French or Spanish.

Exam Board: Edugas

How will I be assessed?

Oral & written exams at the end of Year 2.

mind to other cultures and gain a competitive edge in employment or study prospects.

What will I study?

Developing your spoken ability in the language & defending a point of view; listening; reading & translating, and critical & analytical response in writing are all covered in our modern foreign language courses.

Why choose Languages at BSFC?

You may well be able to take part in trips to either France or Spain (depending on your choice of language) to immerse yourself in the culture and enhance your language skills.

How will a language prepare me for the world of work?

Speaking a foreign language is a highly-valued skill for employees across the world, and indeed Britain where a huge amount of business is done with non-English speaking countries.

languages.



A Level: Law

BTEC: Law Extended Certificate

Choose between A Level or BTEC Law. Your course will be confirmed at enrolment taking into account your GCSE results.

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Exam Board: OCR / Pearson Edexcel

How will I be assessed?

A Level: Exams at the end of Year 2 BTEC: 50% exam; 50% set assignments. all aspects of your life. Law is the perfect balance of scientific reasoning and application of qualified yet creative thought.

What will I study?

There is only a slight difference between the topics studied on A Level / BTEC courses, but they include the legal system and criminal law, law making, civil & criminal liability and dispute solving.

Why choose Law at BSFC?

Law students have the opportunity to join the College Bar Mock Trial team each year, acting as barristers and witnesses in fictional trials but in front of real judges in local courts such as Liverpool and Chester Crown Courts.

How will Law prepare me for the world of work?

A large number of our students go onto degrees, apprenticeships and other qualifications in the field of Law. Law also offers many transferrable skills such as reasoning, problem-solving and analysis.



maths.



Course Options

A Level: Maths

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Additional Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in Maths and at least one other Grade 6 and one Grade 5.

Exam Board: AQA

How will I be assessed?

Exams at the end of Year 2.

What is it?

A Level Maths provides the bedrock for getting to the heart of numbers, shapes, movement, data and relationships. It is an ideal subject for those with a curious and logical mind.

What will I study?

The course covers topics such as advanced algebra, calculus, trigonometry, coordinate geometry, probability, averages, displaying data, sampling, binomial distribution, correlation and vectors.

Why choose Maths at BSFC?

Learning Maths at the College is a process that will happen both inside the classroom and independently, and is offered through a wide and exciting variety of lectures, discussion, interactive whiteboard activities, PC software internet research, mechanics apparatus, and both video and audio material.

How will Maths prepare me for the world of work?

The list of careers that an A Level in Maths can open up is endless. While it is an essential basis for such things as engineering, architecture and financial routes, more surprising careers could come in the form of weather forecasting or computer game programming.

further maths.

What is it?

Further Maths is a challenging course designed to extend gifted Mathematicians. It broadens and deepens the Mathematics covered at A Level as well as introducing new topics.

What will I study?

The course covers topics such as advanced algebraic functions, complex numbers, matrices, Maclaurin series, volumes of revolution, vectors, Hamiltonian cycles, Eulerian trails and Euler's formula.

Why choose Further Maths at BSFC?

You will have the opportunity to take part in national competitions such as the UKMT Challenge and the codebreaking National Cipher Challenge as well as attending lectures independently by visiting speakers at local universities.

How will Further Maths prepare me for the world of work?

Further Maths A Level is an elite qualification, held by very few. If you are planning on a career in which Maths is an essential ingredient, then possessing a Further Maths qualification could certainly give you a huge advantage in terms of employability.



Course Options

A Level: Further Maths

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Additional Entry Requirements

Grade 7 in Maths and Maths A Level must be taken alongside Further Maths.

Exam Board: AQA

How will I be assessed?

Exams at the end of Year 2.

"I have really fond memories of my time at Birkenhead Sixth Form College and I still appreciate all of your support and guidance through my two years of study."

Former Student



A Level: Media Studies

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Exam Board: Eduqas

How will I be assessed?

70% exams at the end of Year 2; 30% coursework.

Components include investigating the media, investigating media forms & products, and media production across the two years, with both theoretical and practical work playing a part in the course.

Why choose Media Studies at BSFC?

Media students enjoy trips to major TV studios such as the BBC and ITV in both London and in Media City, Salford, to gain insight and understanding of what happens behind the scenes in some of our most popular and long-standing broadcasts.

How will Media Studies prepare me for the world of work?

Most, if not all, industries rely upon some sort of media to support their business interests, from social media to websites, publications and newsletters to logos. This course gives you a great grounding in media and will open you up to become an independent researcher and thinker.

media.

music: digital production.

Course Options

BTEC: Music: Digital Production Extended Certificate

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

How will I be assessed?

33% externally set assessment; 67% on-going coursework, projects and practical work.



What is it?

Explore your passion for music with learning digital techniques and tricks of the trade. The course is ideal for someone who would like to study how music is created in the digital age and use this knowledge to create their own work.

What will I study?

Units on the course include: Music & sound for media; DAW production; Creative & synthesis & sampling; Commercial music production; Remixing & reworking / Mixing & mastering techniques.

Why choose Music at BSFC?

The College has a brand new, custom-designed Wolfson Sound Studio, with mixing studio and adjacent live room with all the equipment you need to work on honing your production skills.

How will Music prepare me for the world of work?

The qualification can prepare you for both further study in music production or for direct employment in entry roles in the industry such as studio assistants, junior sound designers and remixers.

PE.

What is it?

The subject delves into how our bodies push themselves to their physical peak and improve performance. The course is an in-depth analysis of the mechanics of both our bodies and of sport.

What will I study?

You will look at factors affecting participation in physical activity & sport, practical performance, energy systems, injury prevention & rehabilitation, advanced biomechanical principles and more.

Why choose PE at BSFC?

A lot of our Sport & PE students like to get involved in the competitive team sports available at the College, like the Boys' First XI Football team, who have made it to the Wirral Cup Final at Tranmere's Prenton Park stadium in five of the last six years.

How will PE prepare me for the world of work?

The growth in the health, fitness and leisure industires has led to a large increase in career options for those with sporting qualifications, such as coaching, sports development, sports science and physiotherapy.



Course Options

A Level: PE

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Additional Entry Requirements

Grade 4s in Sciences or PE Theory Paper.

Exam Board: AQA

How will I be assessed?

70% exams at the end of Year 2; 15% practical performance; 15% practical analysis.



A Level: Physics

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Additional Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in Maths and either Grade 6 in Physics and two Grade 5s in Biology and Chemistry or two Grade 6s in Combined Science.

Exam Board: OCR

How will I be assessed?

Exams at the end of Year 2 & a practical endorsement. 40% of exam marks available are based on mathematical assessment in the context of Physics.

Discovering how things work and investigating fundamental questions about forces and energy, engineering, mechanics, architecture and how the universe behaves.

What will I study?

Six modules including: Development of practical skills in Physics; Forces & motion; Electrons, waves & protons; Newtonian world & astrophysics; Particles & medical physics.

Why choose Physics at BSFC?

Not only is the Physics department superbly equipped with the entire range of practical needs catered for by dedicated science technicians, but the teachers solely teach Physics A Level, making them specialists in their subjects and the best people to help you reach your full potential.

How will Physics prepare me for the world of work?

Numeracy, practical skills and logical thought helps understand what underpins so much of our technology and other things we take for granted. The subject is essential for some career paths.



politics.

What is it?

We live in an era where politics is at the fore across the UK and indeed across the Globe. From Brexit to the Trump administration to each country's handling of COVID-19 - learn about the structures and systems that underpin how we operate as a nation.

What will I study?

UK politics including core political ideas of conservatism, liberalism and socialism; UK government including the constitution, Parliament and the Prime Minister; Comparative politics with the USA.

Why choose Politics at BSFC?

Trips include visits to the Houses of Parliament in London, meeting MPs and seeing how they operate, and also conferences and lectures locally and nationally. Debate Club is popular with Politics students at the College and they annually take part in national competitions.

How will Politics prepare me for the world of work?

Studying Politics will develop critical analytical skills and writing abilities and as such is very well respected by universities and employers alike as a rigorous subject.

Course Options

A Level: Politics

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Exam Board: Edexcel

How will I be assessed?

Exams at the end of Year 2.





Course Options - choose from:

A Level: Psychology

BTEC: Psychology Extended Certificate

Choose between A Level or BTEC Psychology. Your course will be confirmed at enrolment taking into account your GCSE results.

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Exam Board: AQA / Pearson Edexcel

How will I be assessed?

A Level: Exams at the end of Year 2 / BTEC: exams; assignments; coursework.

phobias and criminal behaviour. It is a strongly data-led subject. What will I study?

Topics studied include: Social influence; Memory; Psychopathology; Approaches in psychology; Relationships/ Gender; Schizophrenia; Forensic Psychology.

Why choose Psychology at BSFC?

The most popular choice of course for students at the College, you have the chance to get involved in various trips to London Zoo, conferences and special days within College such as Phobia Day where weird and wonderful wildlife is brought into College to help you learn about phobias in a visceral and hands-on way.

How will Psychology prepare me for the world of work?

Skills developed on the courses include oral & written communication, computer literacy, numeracy, problemsolving and the ability to carry out independent research, and can underpin careers in educational psychology, therapy or occupational psychology, to name but a few.

psychology.

religious studies.

What is it?

Develop an understanding of how religion fits into the wider world and how philosophy fits into history. You can challenge your own personal beliefs in a safe and philosophical manner, and enjoy discussing matters with your teachers and classmates.

What will I study?

Across the two years, you will focus on Christianity as a major world religion and important elements of beliefs. You will look at ethical theories such as natural moral law and also the philosophy of religion.

Why choose Religious Studies at BSFC?

RS lessons at the College encourage informed debate and philosphical discussion in class, which might well be very different to high school lessons as they take on a more university seminar-like feel where students are included in the process.

How will Religious Studies prepare me for the world of work?

The ability to understand and interact with people and organisations from a vareity of religious and cultural traditions is highly valued, as is the skill to argue a case on the basis of evidence, which is central to progress in many careers.



Course Options

A Level: Religious Studies

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Exam Board: AQA

How will I be assessed?

Exams at the end of Year 2.



BTEC: Extended Certificate (equivalent to one course option)

BTEC: Diploma (equivalent to two course options)

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Additional Entry Requirements

Grade 4 in a science subject.

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

How will I be assessed?

A mixture of coursework and internally and externally set controlled assessments plus exams across the two years.

Further your knowledge of the key concepts in the three sciences of Biology, Chemistry & Physics, while developing your skills using laboratory equipment and exploring fundamentals that underpin scientific investigation.

What will I study?

Topics covered in the courses include: Principles & applications of science; Practical scientific procedures; Scientific investigation skills; Human regulation & reproduction, plus more in the Diploma such as an investigative project and microbiology and microbiological techniques.

Why choose Applied Science at BSFC?

There is a large element of practical work and practical assessment as part of Applied Science which makes our specialist laboratories at College the ideal place to study the qualification. Our laboratory technicians always have some fun experiments to get involved in across the year too.

How will Applied Science prepare me for the world of work?

The large element of practical work will enhance your scientific skills, and having a basis in all three major science branches of Biology. Chemistry and Physics can provide a great route into science in higher education or industry.

applied science.

sociology.

What is it?

Sociology explores your interest in understanding how the world around you works, exercises critical thinking and explores ideas from different viewpoints. Sociology students should be prepared to think about and discuss what can sometimes be sensitive and disturbing topics.

What will I study?

You will look at families & households including the relationship of the family to social structure, education and sociological methods, beliefs in society & ideology, and crime & deviance.

Why choose Sociology at BSFC?

Sociology is one of our most popular courses and not a course that is offered by all schools and colleges in the region. It works particularly well alongside some of our other subjects, such as Statistics and essay-based subjects which help you expand your understanding of the vibrant and relevant topics covered in Sociology.

How will Sociology prepare me for the world of work?

You will gain a range of very valuable skills, including how to work independently and with others, and how to find information, extract what is important from it and turn it into an argument. You will learn to think critically, to question common-sense assumptions and to solve problems.



Course Options

A Level: Sociology

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Exam Board: AQA

How will I be assessed?

Exams at the end of Year 2.

"Sociology is such a dynamic subject that's always relevant to what's happening in society. There are so many areas of study within Sociology that are contemporary - it's about what's going on right now - so students are engaged during lessons and are knowledgeable about how the world works."

Claire, Sociology Teacher

sport.

What is it?

This qualification involves a combination of practical and theoretical work, investigating different aspects of sport, from the industries involved to exploring the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and respiratory systems' functions and structures.

What will I study?

Topics covered include: Anatomy & Physiology; Fitness training & programming for health, sport and wellbeing; Professional development in the sports industry; Application of fitness testing.

Why choose Sport at BSFC?

A lot of our Sport & PE students like to get involved in the competitive team sports available at the College, like the Boys' First XI Football team, who have made it to the Wirral Cup Final at Tranmere's Prenton Park stadium in five of the last six years.

How will Sport prepare me for the world of work?

The growth in health, fitness and leisure industries has led to a large increase in career options for those with sporting qualifications, such as coaching, sports development, sports science and physiotherapy.



Course Options

BTEC: Sport Extended Certificate

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

How will I be assessed?

A mixture of coursework and internally and externally set controlled assessments plus exams across the two years.



A Level: Statistics

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Additional Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in Maths (higher paper).

How will I be assessed?

Exams at the end of Year 2.

What will I study?

You will study a variety of topics including: Probability distributions; Summarising & displaying data; Expectation; Correlation and regression; Normal distribution; Statistical hypothesis testing.

Why choose Statistics at BSFC?

Statistics is a course that very few schools and colleges in the region offer as an option. It allows students to completely focus on one aspect of Maths and our expert teachers help students to learn how to process and analyse data to a high level, which is a much sought-after skill and desirable in a whole range of careers.

How will Statistics prepare me for the world of work?

The fundamental statistical and lateral thinking skills developed by students are invaluable across all kinds of disciplines and careers, not just those that are explicitly maths-related. The ability to understand and analyse data is an increasingly important skill in a world of constant change.

statistics.

textiles.

What is it?

Observing and experimenting with textiles media and techniques, using your skills as a creative designer with an interest in fashion, interior design or textiles art to flourish with your own ideas.

What will I study?

Working to briefs, a personal investigation and developing a portfolio of improving and expanding use of textiles media and techniques.

Why choose Textiles at BSFC?

The specially designed School of Art & Design is a separate building purely for Art students to bring out their creativity in the best and most inspiring environment with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities.

How will Textiles prepare me for the world of work?

Textiles involves solving problems by combining creative, practical and technological skills.



Course Options

A Level: Textiles

Entry Requirements

Five GCSE Grade 4s including Maths & English Language.

Additional Entry Requirements

Grade 4 in Art.

Exam Board: AQA

How will I be assessed?

60% coursework; 40% exam projects.

"The College has got the feel good factor."

Former Student

what to do next.



Open Evenings

Due to current restrictions, Open Evenings in 2021 will be held virtually. There will still be a great opportunity to hear from the Principal and our current students on:

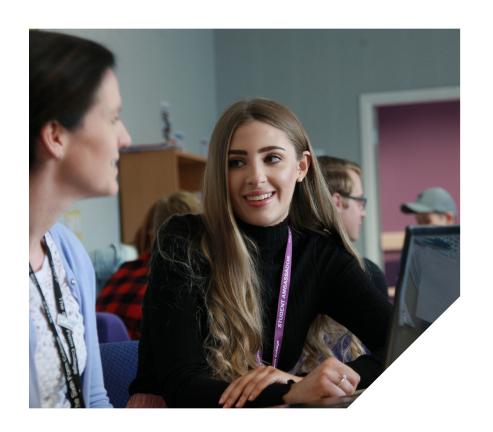
Wednesday 3rd March 2021, 5pm

Virtual Visit

Whilst we are unable to invite visitors to the College in person, we have a dedicated Virtual Visit page on our website where you can hear welcome talks, tours and other videos from our current and past students and parents.

www.bsfc.ac.uk/virtualvisit





If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on:

- e enrol@bsfc.ac.uk
- † 0151 652 5575

dsk Us d question...









join us on social.



Demand for places at the College is consistently high each year. Apply early to guarantee your place. Attend an interview event

Join the new applicant event

(22nd March)

Come to new student induction day

(July)

Enrol at the College

(August for September start)

apply.

holly. Head Student

I came to the College from a high school in Liverpool, and I can honestly say it's the best decision I ever made. I loved my time at school, but I felt like I wanted a new experience after my GCSEs and Birkenhead Sixth Form College offered subjects that I wanted to do and seemed like a place that I could be myself.

I only knew one other person before I started, but making friends is so easy when you come here. Everyone's in the same situation and all it takes is someone to say the first 'hello' in your lesson or tutorial or at lunch, and you just start talking.

The teachers genuinely treat you like an adult. It's not like that teacher/pupil relationship at high school – you call them by their first names and can have proper conversations with them without feeling like a kid.

If you're up for a fresh start in a place where you can express yourself, make new friends and get the best education possible, then I can't recommend coming to the College enough.







Birkenhead Sixth Form College

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