



Annual Accountability Statement 2024 -25

"Birkenhead Sixth Form College **continues** to be an **Outstanding** provider."

Ofsted, April 2024



Review period: Annually
Reviewed: 14.01.25
Next review date: January 2026
Approved by: LGB
Ownership: Deputy Principal

PURPOSE

This document outlines how the Birkenhead Sixth Form College (the College) contributes to meeting the skills needs of the local, regional and national economy by helping our learners develop the skills they will need to succeed in higher education and work.

The College is an academic sixth form college situated in Birkenhead. The College currently has 1548 16-19 year students who are full-time study programmes. The majority of provision is A level, with 80% of our entries are for A-level qualifications and the remaining 20% BTEC or T-Level entries.

The primary focus of the College is to produce university-ready students who have an excellent grounding in their subject and are skilled at navigating the independent learning strategies used at university. Alongside this, the College offers a 'second-chance' foundation programme, Year Zero, aimed at providing opportunities for 16-year-old learners who struggled to achieve high grades at GCSE, and wish to enhance their employability in later life. This enables students to study a GCSE programme, including re-sitting Maths and English and provides a progression pathway to Level 3 study.

The College has an inclusive entry policy and aims to open up academic study at post 16 to a greater number of students. Consequently, the College supports the national agenda of levelling-up by increasing access to an outstanding academic education and higher education progression in an area of multiple economic disadvantage.

The ethos of Birkenhead Sixth Form College is that students should be Positive, Ambitious, Resilient and Thoughtful and these are the principles that guide everything we do. The College is a diverse, inclusive and innovative community where every person is valued and supported to achieve and excel.

At the College, 78% of 2024 leavers progressed directly to higher education, with 27.08% of this number enrolling at a Sutton 30 institution. Almost all of the 22% who did not progress to university in 2024 secured progression into employment or apprenticeships.

The College has long had a strategy of sustained managed growth with careful development of provision and capacity over time. In recent years we have opened two new classroom blocks part-funded by the Capacity Improvement Fund and Post 16 Capacity Fund, to support the increased applications year on year. The College is now at capacity on its current site.

The College is proud of the successful contribution we make in preparing learners to succeed in the future. We provide students with opportunities to raise their aspirations, broaden their awareness of careers and employability skills and build their confidence and resilience so that they have the skills to compete in increasingly competitive recruitment markets.

CONTEXT AND PLACE

Birkenhead Sixth Form College is a leading Sixth Form College where the majority of students come from socio-economically disadvantaged areas, some ranking in the 1% most deprived in the country.

The College's intake spans across Wirral, drawing from both our Partner High Schools (those schools without sixth form provision) as well as from all schools across the selective and non-selective spectrum who have their own sixth forms. We recruit increasingly from Cheshire, particularly Neston and Ellesmere Port and from Liverpool.

Our location provides easy access for students across the north-west, with proximity to Birkenhead Park station and to an extensive local bus network. The College also supports an extensive private bus service; with students travelling in on subsidised services from Wallasey, Eastham, Ellesmere Port, Neston and Heswall.

The cohort is very diverse in relation to family income and prior attainment. We currently have 37% of students come from the bottom income quartile compared to the national sixth form college average of 22%. In terms of being in receipt of free college meal this is 20% of the cohort which is 12% above the national average. Students joining the college with a wide range of prior attainment we have a larger proportion of students with the lowest GCSE range of 0 to <5.4 which is 41% compared to 16% nationally. These students have often been let down by the selective local educational landscape who join the college and subsequently thrive. 81% students go onto University and this is 19% above the Sixth Form College average for equally qualified students.

In terms of alignment to local, regional and national need, the College gives all students, regardless of their background, equal chances to gain academic qualifications that will enable access to university and the professions as well as to higher level apprenticeships.

APPROACH TO DEVELOPING THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

Much of the decision-making around curriculum offer is driven by national intelligence about curriculum routes for 16–19-year-olds derived from interaction with the Sixth Form Colleges' Association, the Association of Colleges, the Wirral Association of Secondary Head Teachers and Wirral Metropolitan College. This underpinning knowledge is complemented by interaction with students about course choices, direct intervention with universities and discussions around quality assurance, focusing on providing a curriculum of high quality which achieves its intended outcomes.

The Local Skills Improvement Plan and the Long Term Skills Plan have been developed with a range of stakeholders including the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Wirral Borough Council, LCR Careers Hub, Employers. The College uses a number of data sources to inform the demography of its skills need and understands its position in supporting those needs

CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL REGIONAL AND LOCAL PRIORITIES

BSFC students progress to universities across the UK and therefore, our focus is on equipping them with a broad range of skills that meet national, regional and local priorities. Students understand the importance of labour market information and are directed to consider this when researching next steps.

Aims for 24/25 Academic Year	Impact and Contribution to Strategic Aims, Skills Priorities, and Priorities for Improvements
1. To continue to provide an exceptional pathway to higher education with more students securing university places	The College has partnered with the University of Cambridge to run HE+ focused on increasing participation from those groups which are historically under-represented in competitive university applications.
2. To continue to drive up participation in social mobility programmes that enable students to access support and build confidence for securing university places.	The College has partnered with a wide range of stakeholders to support social mobility, including: The Sutton Trust (Pathways to Law/Banking and Finance/Engineering; Sutton Trust Summer Schools); Aspiring Professions Programme; Uni of Liverpool Scholars Programme; Arts Emergency.
3. To increase the number of students securing places to study Medicine at University and subjects allied to Medicine.	The College runs a 'Pathway to Medicine' programme in conjunction with In2MedSchool and UCLAN aimed at maximising students' chances of success in competitive university entrance. The College runs a Healthcare Professionals Programme to support applications to nursing, midwifery and allied health professionals courses.
4. To embed BTEC Performing Arts as a sustainable element of the College's curriculum profile	The College has added this new course to the curriculum offer to enhance and further develop the performance culture within the college.
5. To create improved teaching facilities for Performance subjects including Drama, Dance and Performing Arts.	The College is developing additional purpose built classrooms to support the teaching of performance subjects. These will enhance delivery, being directly adjoined to the main performing area the Drama Studio.
6. To complete investment in pastoral provision for most vulnerable social care cohort <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress Mentor Programme embedded in overall pastoral structure 	The College will continue to develop its Progress Mentor programme to embed meaningful support and development of key employability skills for the social care cohort.
7. To develop a High Performers programme.	This will include EPQ, critical thinking training, cultural activities, a reading group and much more. Designed to support students in gaining entry to the most competitive universities and apprenticeships.
8. To review the curriculum offer in light of the Level 3 Qualifications review.	Announcement expected in January 2025 which will give much needed certainty. Review curriculum offer and carefully plan transition over to new AAQs.

We work closely with other educational partners to ensure our Post 16 curriculum offer caters for the local and national needs.

Post 16 Level 3 Qualifications

Offered by Birkenhead Sixth Form College and Wirral Met

← **ACADEMIC**

VOCATIONAL →

A Levels:

- Art (Fine Art)
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Drama & Theatre Studies
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Environmental Science
- Film
- French
- Geography
- Graphics
- History
- Law
- Maths
- Further Maths
- Media Studies
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Statistics
- Textiles

BTECs (level 3):

- Business
- Health & Social Care
- IT
- Law
- Music: Digital Production
- Applied Science
- Sport
- Performing Arts

BTECs (level 3):

- National Extended Diploma in Business

Foundation BTECs:

- BTEC Foundation Diploma in Sport and Exercise Science
- BTEC Foundation Diploma in Biomedical Science

T Levels:

- Digital Production, Design and Development
- Education and Childcare
- Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control
- Health
- Onsite Construction - Carpentry & Joinery
- T Level Building Services Engineering for Construction (Electrical and Electronic Equipment Engineering)
- T Level Building Services Engineering for Construction (Plumbing and heating engineering)

T Levels transition:

- Construction
- Digital
- Early Years Practitioner
- Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control
- Health
- Media

Vocational Qualifications:

- Advanced Manufacturing Engineering BTEC (Certificate)
- Advanced Manufacturing Engineering BTEC (Extended Diploma)
- Animal Management BTEC Diploma (90 credit)
- Art and Design Practice - Photography BTEC (National Extended Diploma)
- Childcare and Education Diploma CACHE
- Creative Media Practice BTEC (National Extended Diploma)
- Creative Practice: Art, Design and Communication UAL (Extended Diploma)
- Electrical Installations- Buildings and Structures Diploma
- Engineering (2850-32) Fabrication & Welding Diploma
- Esports BTEC National Extended Diploma
- Fashion, Theatre and Media Hair and Make-Up Studies Diploma
- Hospitality Supervision and Leadership City & Guilds NVQ Diploma
- Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Level 3 IMI Diploma
- Military Preparation NCFE Diploma
- Military Preparation NCFE (Extended Diploma)
- Military Preparation NCFE Certificate
- Pathway to Healthcare Professions NCFE CACHE
- Personal Training Diploma
- Plumbing Studies Diploma
- Professional Cookery City & Guilds NVQ Diploma
- Site Carpentry Diploma
- Sports Coaching, Development and Excellence NCFE Certificate
- Sports Coaching, Development and Excellence NCFE Diploma
- Travel and Tourism Introductory NCFE
- Travel and Tourism Extended Diploma
- Travel, Tourism and Aviation Extended Diploma
- Uniformed Protective Services BTEC (National Extended Diploma)
- Women's Hairdressing Level 3 VTCT Diploma

Foundation Vocational Qualifications:

- BTEC National Foundation Diploma in Esports level 3
- Digital and Computing Technologies Foundation Diploma Level 3
- Protective Services BTEC (National Foundation Diploma)

Key:



CORPORATION STATEMENT

On behalf of the college corporation, it is confirmed that the plan set out above reflects an agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives as approved by the corporation at their meeting in January 2025,

The plan will be published on the College's website within three months of the new academic year and can be accessed from the following link: www.bsfc.c.uk/futureskills

Chair of Governors: Pete Timmins

Principal/Chief Executive and Accounting Officer: Mike Kilbride

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Labour Market Intelligence

<https://www.lcrchambersofcommerce.co.uk/localskillsimprovementplans>

<https://liverpoolcityregion-ca.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s74595/Appendix%201%20-%20Liverpool%20City%20Region%20Long%20Term%20Skills%20Plan.pdf>

<https://www.liverpoolchamber.org.uk/news/2022/09/liverpool-city-region-chambers-of-commerce-work-together-to-help-businesses-access-the-skills-they-need/>

Ofsted

[OFSTED | Birkenhead Sixth Form College \(bsfc.ac.uk\)](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk/schools/144829)

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/144829/birkenhead-sixth-form-college/16-to-18>