The Sixth Form College
Birkenhead

prospectus.
2020 entry

fe awards
2018
Winner
Sixth form college
of the year award

tes
fe awards
2018
Winner
Sixth form college
of the year award
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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.

If you want a fresh 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 Kilbride
Principal
We are consistently in the top for A Levels in Wirral

We were UK Sixth Form College of the Year 2018

Why choose us.

“We wanted to say a big thank you for the last two years of quality education that our son received from the College. Joining the College gave him a sense of being understood, listened to and encouraged when needed. Being treated as an adult meant so much to him. For this we thank you very much.”

Ceri
Class of 2018 Parent
our values.

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

The College ethos is underpinned by our core values of Positivity, Ambition, Resilience and Thoughtfulness, and we have programmes in place at the College that help our students embrace these values on an everyday basis.
“Amazing place where amazing things happen. Highly recommended. Everyone is valued & supported to be their best.”

Parent of former student
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.

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

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

* 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 their GCSE results.
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 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, BTECs at the College can be equivalent to 1 or 2 A Levels.
Explore your creativity; experiment with media and subject matter; research and discover new inspirations and influences; try new techniques; develop a portfolio to be proud of; work to a brief; establish your own styles and artistic personality.

Fine Art might be seen as the most ‘established’ of the Art & Design courses, but that doesn’t mean that it has to be straightforward. Few other subjects allow you to learn about yourself so much, making you push your own personal boundaries and work outside of the comfort zone. Artists in their own rights, our Fine Art teachers will help you develop your work so that you can be extremely proud to see it exhibited at the annual Art & Design Summer Show.

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.

Career Focus

Each year, many of our Art & Design students go onto the top universities in the artistic field, such as Central St Martins and Goldsmiths, and go on to have careers in fashion, product design, graphics and more in the creative industries.

options:

**A Level**

Fine Art

**Foundation**

Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
(Post-A Level one year course)
Study developments in genetic engineering; preventing disease; the different processes of cells; impacts of pollution; genes and health development; species survival; practical and research skills - the study of life.

The step up to A Level Biology from GCSE is significant, but if you’re up for the challenge then this subject’s certainly for you. The analytical thinking, report writing and lab and field experiments give you great all-round life skills, and you should have a real passion for understanding the living world that surrounds us.

Biology may be a vital subject choice if you’re considering a career in medicine or other related fields.

“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

**options:**

- A Level
- Biology
Learn the fundamental principles of all business; look at the four main business functions in marketing, finance, operations and Human Resources; discover how to analyse corporate performance; how new technology plays a role in business.

You can study Business at A Level or Level 3 BTEC, with the A Level looking more at global models and the economics involved, whereas BTEC is more UK based. You’ll look at real business case studies that we see every day in our shops and homes, and learn the theory that helps you make decisions in business that can define the success of a venture.

**Young Enterprise**

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!

**options:**

**A Level**
Business

**BTEC**
Business Extended Certificate
(equivalent to one course option)
Get hands-on with experiments; build a body of chemical knowledge to understand and apply ideas; look at the interaction of matter and energy; learn how to control reactions; investigate the structure of atoms; understand carbon-based molecules.

Chemistry is the subject for people who want to know what the world around us is made of, with chemists playing a key part in society’s needs. An A Level in Chemistry could be your starting point in helping the scientific community make advances in new materials, use energy more efficiently or develop new drugs to save lives.

Chemistry A Level is a vital qualification for those looking to study medicine, dentistry or veterinary science.

Every year a team of the College’s best chemists enters the Royal Society’s Young Analyst competition at the University of Liverpool’s new laboratories, successfully pitting their skills against nearly 30 other schools in the region.

**options:**

A Level

Chemistry
Learn a programming language; study computer science theory and binary; investigate data structures and algorithms; discover how data is pulled from main memory with the fetch-execute cycle; focus on computer hardware, rather than software.

Computer Science A Level is split between the practical art of programming and theory, and even covers the social and legal impact of computers. It’s an ideal subject for those with a logical mind who like to apply reasoned and mathematical solutions to problems. The qualification is a great basis to go onto an exciting career in robotics, artificial intelligence, cloud computing and many other fascinating IT fields.

“This is a subject that’s ideal for students who want to go into software programming. It’s a huge area of employment now and taking Computer Science at A Level will give you highly sought-after abilities. You’ll learn how computers actually work and it’s a great balance between practical and theoretical work during the course.”

Paul
Computer Science teacher

options:

A Level
Computer Science
Learn how to communicate ideas as a choreographer; develop expressive performances as a dancer; work in groups and solo; mix practical work with theory; push your creativity and imagination; gain self-confidence and experience in performance.

Dance A Level combines practical, physical work with theory, combining your creative and academic abilities. You’ll engage in critical thinking about dance as an art form, along with following choreography instruction and creating your own dance pieces, testing your creativity and innovation. Historical and cultural context of dance is also an integral part of your learning, and you will finish the course as a confident and critical performer.

The College’s ‘Evolve’ Dance Company is a great way for dancers to get involved with performances outside of lesson times. The group works together on creating expressive and challenging routines, and combines with the actors within College for an annual production.

options:

A Level
Dance

dance.
Act, design, direct; engage with play texts; commit to the experience of live theatre; interpret passages from plays in a theatrical way; analyse both your own and others’ performances; work as part of a group and on your own.

This A Level is highly regarded by universities and employers alike. Drama and Theatre Studies tests your practical abilities and your theoretical and analytical studies, giving you confidence and life skills that will stand you in excellent stead for your next steps in life. If you enjoy working in groups and want to immerse yourself in the entire theatre experience, then this is the subject for you.

The performing arts department combine for the College production, with last year’s being an ambitious promenade performance with dancers and actors taking the roles of psychiatric doctors and patients, using the full campus and physically guiding the audience through the hallways to recreate an asylum.

**options:**

A Level
Drama & Theatre Studies
Discover the difference between microeconomics and macroeconomics; explore the concept of an ideal free market economy and how that compares to real life scenarios; investigate the role of politics in economics; see how governments tried to resolve problems after the 2008 economic crash.

With Brexit high on the political agenda, what better time to choose to learn about some of the complexities involved in the UK leaving the European Union. You’ll learn how to be reasoned and debate the merits of economic arguments, and also political arguments that are wrapped up in economic terms. The skills you’ll finish the course with will be invaluable.

“Economics is a subject that bridges the gap between science and humanities. It’s a numerate A Level so will demonstrate that you can use quantitative techniques and extended writing skills. Through this subject you will develop the ability to explain real life phenomena.”

Jo
Economics teacher

options:

A Level
Economics
Examine written, spoken and performed texts; investigate the English language as both a science and an art form; look at the different language used across gender and region; learn how our choices in language use are governed by our meanings and intentions; develop your analytical skills and control of English.

Language is the greatest achievement of humankind – it’s the way we think, feel and understand ourselves in the world. You’ll look at language usage across a huge range of contexts and people, from prose and poetry to the spoken word, and from professional writers to politicians and celebrities. English lessons at the College are unlike high school, with more of a university seminar-like feel involving discussion and debate.

“Thank you for making English entertaining. You were also so helpful in developing my confidence in the subject, and helping me get a grade I thought I couldn’t achieve.”

Amy
Former student

**options:**

A Level
English Language
Learn to link books to the context and time in which they were written; explore how different readers have interpreted texts in different ways; enjoy analysing what literature is telling us within its depths; cover prose, poetry and drama; develop your critiquing skills to give well thought-out conclusions and arguments.

Literature is language at its most expressive and insightful – it can tell us more than a story and can give a snapshot of the world at the time of its writing. Why do texts written so long ago still speak to us today? English Literature A Level is your chance to develop the ability to enjoy books and reading as more than a passing pleasure and learn hidden meanings and feelings within writing that will stay with you even longer than a plotline. Your skills of deduction after finishing the course will be an enviable quality for life after A Levels.

“I cannot explain how grateful I am that I had you as a teacher. You made me love books even more than I already did and you taught me a lot about life in general rather than just the subject.”

Josh
Former student

options:

A Level
English Literature
Focus on analysing and deconstructing films over a wide time range; look at early silent film right through to contemporary movies; study films across several countries; develop a sophisticated view of film; learn about contextual elements of producing film and an understanding of the world at the time of making.

Learn to enjoy films on another level. How and why were certain films made? You’ll analyse a huge range of films and influential film directors – Alfred Hitchcock, Spike Lee, the Coen Brothers – and evaluate the impact of pioneers within the industry. You’ll be able to pull apart scenes within films and understand why decisions were made to execute shots or write the script in particular ways. You’ll also be able to experiment with your own creative skills having been introduced to a variety of film-making technologies.

“Thank you for inspiring me to choose a career path in creating film and media. You have completely changed my views in film, whilst filling the two years with fun.”

Jamie
Former student

options:

A Level
Film Studies
Immerse yourself in not just the French language but the culture, community and history that come with it; challenge your speaking, listening and written communication abilities; examine social issues and trends relating to French-speaking countries; look in detail at films, literature and political and artistic culture in the French language.

While your studies at GCSE French will have been based on solely developing your learning of the language, A Level French allows you to explore far more. Your command over the language will become more adept, without doubt, but your understanding of culture and societal issues relating to the language will deepen your fascination and allow you to travel to French-speaking countries with an awareness to match your language fluency.

French students have the chance to travel to Paris and soak in all the language, culture and history on offer in ‘the City of Lights’, from visiting the Louvre and seeing the Mona Lisa, to experiencing French cooking lessons and going to the top of the Eiffel Tower.

**options:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
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</table>
Study both human geography and physical geography; urbanisation and globalisation, natural hazards and hazard management; understand where elements of geographical issues overlap; focus on worldwide matters, not just UK; view political and social perspectives within debates; take part in field trips, working in teams and on your own.

A perfect subject for those with an enquiring and open mind, Geography has never been more relevant or important to study than now. Climate change, migration and environmental issues are at the very top of the agenda for many countries around the world, and for you to have a deep understanding of such subjects puts you in an excellent position when you complete your A Level qualification.

Geography field trips take students to stay in the wilds of the Lake District to collect data for their NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) part of their course, measuring and analysing in fields, streams and beaches.

options:

A Level
Geography
Use both traditional techniques and industry standard software; learn to be creative within the constraints of a brief; understand how designers approach and develop graphic products; produce branding, editorials and promotional products; appreciate target audiences and produce appropriate design work for that group.

The creative industry is one of the country and the world’s biggest employers, and developing skills with industry standard software could put you ahead of the pack. The Adobe packages such as Photoshop, InDesign and Illustrator are used in everything from newspapers and magazines to billboards and websites. You’ll finish the Graphics A Level course as an accomplished designer with an analytical knowledge of how the industry works.

Graphics students exhibit their best work at the annual Art & Design Summer Show - a culmination of all the students’ dedication and creativity from the duration of the course. Projects and portfolios are available for friends, family and visitors to see, demonstrating all the technical and innovative skills you will have developed while studying Graphics.

**options:**

**A Level**

**Graphics**
Understand how we meet a person’s specific care needs; study the physical, intellectual, social and emotional development of children; apply elements of psychology to your assessments and general thinking; develop personal and professional skills, both practical and academic.

If you are considering a career in the care industry then a qualification in Health & Social Care is the perfect way to start. Available to study as either one or two of your subject choices, the courses lay the foundations for working in nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work and working with children. Throughout the course, you will develop a full understanding of which area of care you are most suited to and learn the techniques associated with that field.

Work placements help students take what they learn in the classroom into a real life context and give invaluable experience. Students liaise with our full time Placement Officer to work out which placements are most suited to the career path of each individual.

**Career Focus**

**options:**

**BTEC**

HSC Extended Certificate
(equivalent to one course option)

HSC Diploma
(equivalent to two course options)
Develop your ability to analyse, reflect and argue effectively, both in writing and the spoken word; evaluate source material and the context and reason why it was composed; look at historical periods covering Soviet and Chinese communism and Britain from the late 1700s to the 20th century; learn the causes and effects of social, political, cultural and economic events.

History allows you to look beyond the headlines and to ask key questions. You’ll need to be interested in current affairs, and have an open mind enough to want to absorb, analyse and assess a wide variety of information and viewpoints. Your own opinion is important, but you need to be as informed as possible to make your arguments. Learning to properly evaluate source material is a skill that is valuable in a full spectrum of academic subjects and careers beyond College.

“Our teacher is just so passionate about the subject that it can’t help but rub off on you! I’m really interested in History now and it’s far more enjoyable than GCSE because you get to form your own opinions and join in discussions.”

Abi
Second Year Student

options:

A Level
History
IT.

Explore different social media, the ways in which they can be used and the potential pitfalls when using them in business; investigate website development principles and use scripting languages; create efficient data designs to implement an effective and useful information management database.

A qualification in IT is the ideal opportunity to gain the skills and knowledge to start a career in the field. Both the Extended Certificate and the Diploma (worth the equivalent of one or two subject choices respectively) combine theoretical work and testing your practical skills, with the Diploma moving on from social media-focused work and data modelling to actually programming and computer game creation.

Options:

BTEC
IT Extended Certificate
(equivalent to one course option)

IT Diploma
(equivalent to two course options)

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.
Learn about the nature of the law through real-life cases; study the relationship between law and society, morality and justice; discover the details of the English legal system; investigate criminal law and criminal legal theory; explore concepts such as ‘liability’ and ‘remedies’.

Both A Level and BTEC Law courses cover similar content throughout the two years, building your knowledge base through real life case examples as you begin to view the ‘science’ of the English legal system. The main difference between the course options is the manner of assessment, although in Law A Level you will cover contract law as a component whereas BTEC will study family law.

Career Focus

Almost every Law student says that getting involved with the Young Citizen’s Bar Mock Trial, acting as barristers in fictional cases but in real courtrooms in front of real judges, opened their eyes to so much in the legal career path. Law students regularly go on to become barristers and solicitors, whether through apprenticeships or university.

options:

A Level

Law

BTEC

Law Extended Certificate
(equivalent to one course option)
mats.

Combine pure mathematics (geometry, algebra, calculus, trigonometry) with applied topics such as mechanics and statistics; cover probability, averages, displaying data, sampling, binominal distribution, correlation, vectors, acceleration, Newton’s laws and connected particles.

By now, you’ll be extremely familiar with what’s involved with Maths through your work at GCSE, but A Level Maths brings with it new and exciting challenges. You have to apply creativity to solve problems within abstract topics, and apply the discipline of ‘proof’. A Maths A Level is a highly desirable qualification and complements any number of other A Level subjects, whilst also enabling a host of future career paths.

If you want to challenge your mathematical skills even further, you can apply to take Further Maths A Level along with this subject.

“Right now, you might be sitting in Maths lessons at school being in the minority of enjoying it, but that’s just why taking Maths A Level at the College can be the right choice for you. If you like a challenge and you like solving problems then come and be around people like you in a fresh, new environment where the teachers will bring out the best in you.”

Steve
Maths teacher

options:

A Level
Mathematics
Further Mathematics
Investigate a wide range of media including newspapers, gaming, advertising, film, radio and the internet; develop the skills of analysis, interpretation and debate; produce your own media-related work; learn how to handle computer software, photographic and audio equipment; work in teams and on your own.

Media Studies A Level tests your ability to think independently but from a knowledge base that you’ll gather over the two years of study. You’ll get to grips with how the industry works, media bias, different platforms and technologies, along with learning about audience response and social, cultural and economic contexts. The variety of skills that you’ll come out with after the course is a major strength when considering what to do after College.

Popular each year are the trips to Media City in Salford so students get a first-hand look into how programmes are made at the state-of-the-art BBC studios, touring the sets of familiar shows and even getting to present on the big red sofa of BBC Breakfast.

**options:**

**A Level**

Media Studies
music: digital production.

Study music and sound for media, DAW production, creative and synthesis and sampling, commercial music productions and remixing/reworking or mixing and mastering techniques; work in the College’s brand new, custom-built Wolfson sound studio.

From chart successes and download sales to live performances and recording studios, the music industry is a global industry and the UK punches well above its weight. Do you want to become part of this industry? This BTEC qualification is a great practical basis to prepare you for roles such as a producer, remixer, sound engineer or studio assistant.

“The subject is for people who want to discover new ways to be creative with music outside of just playing an instrument. You’ll learn how to use software and industry techniques to make music and you’ll come out with productions and skills that you can be really proud of.”

Alec
Digital Music Production teacher

options:

BTEC
Digital Music Production Extended Certificate
(equivalent to one course option)
Combine practical and theoretical study of how the universe works; plan, implement, analyse and evaluate practical experiments; develop in-depth understanding of physical quantities, S.I. units, scalars and vectors; study the principles of quantum physics and the duality of light.

Physics A Level allows you to explore fundamental questions about the universe. If you’re interested in how things work and want to study a discipline that is used in many areas of professional activity like engineering, biomedicine and computing, then Physics is an ideal subject choice. Taking any scientific subject can offer challenges, but a commitment and passion for learning about the complexities can open up incredible opportunities whilst being extremely rewarding.

Physics at A Level is a great choice. As well as being needed for many careers in science and engineering, the skills and knowledge that you develop by studying Physics keeps your options open.

Daniel
Former Student

options:

A Level
Physics
Learn about UK politics and democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems and voting behaviour; cover the UK government and the constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister’s powers and relationship between branches of government; compare and contrast the UK political operations to the USA.

If finding out more about the inner workings that govern how the UK deals with issues such as Brexit and public spending fascinates you, then Politics is the subject to choose. Nothing in politics is straightforward, but having a grasp of how our governmental structures work will leave you enlightened and informed.

Getting inside the Houses of Parliament and seeing government in action on trips to London is a highlight of the year for Politics students. Whilst in the hallowed halls of Westminster, students often get the chance for a Q&A session with our local MPs, and invariably bump into some of the biggest names in politics.

**options:**

A Level
Politics
You will look into social influences and their effect on our behaviours; learn research methods to look into human behaviour; focus on memory and psychopathology; examine the central nervous system and how the brain works; investigate psychological disorders, their symptoms and causes.

One of the most popular subjects at the College, Psychology can be an exciting voyage of discovery in an area you may not have studied before. Mainly focusing on the complex world of human behaviour, both the A Level and BTEC courses share similar content with the main difference between them being methods of assessment. If you’re naturally curious and want to know the reasons that we humans behave in certain ways, Psychology can be the eye-opening subject that you’re looking for.

What causes phobias? Why are we scared of certain animals and not others? What better way to find out than to get your hands on snakes, spiders, toads and more on Psychology’s annual Creepy Crawly Day!

**options:**

**A Level**

Psychology

**BTEC**

Psychology Extended Certificate (equivalent to one course option)
Learn about important elements of organised religion and how science challenges religion; look at ethical theory, moral law and virtue ethics; investigate the philosophy of religion and the questions posed in the belief of God; study the influence of religion on philosophy and ethics, and vice versa.

This subject is most certainly for those who enjoy discussion-based lessons and healthy debate, having your personal beliefs challenged in a safe way. You’ll discover how religion fits into the wider world and how philosophy fits into history. A Level RS is a way to build your confidence in talking and presenting to people, and ensuring that debates are charged with informed opinions and understanding.

“I really enjoy the way that lessons are taught in RS. It’s not like school where you just get talked at; you get to discuss things and you feel like you’re part of the lesson. It’s a really interesting subject too, especially for someone who wants to go onto study Philosophy like I do.”

Chris
Second Year Student

options:

A Level
Religious Studies
Study a practical and theoretical combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics; look at human regulation and reproduction, practical procedures and techniques, principles and applications of science and investigation skills. Diploma students will also study microbiology, laboratory techniques and undertake an investigative project.

Applied Science is an incredibly useful subject to sit alongside any number of courses and help in your understanding, both within science and other fields such as Psychology and Health & Social Care. Students often enjoy the practical elements of the BTEC qualification and getting hands-on in the science labs, learning the ropes with equipment and procedures to get the best out of their experiments. Applied Science is available to take as an Extended Certificate (one course choice) or Diploma (two course choices).

How much energy does food contain? A good, and fun, way to find out is to do what our Applied Science students did and drop a jelly baby into a boiling tube containing potassium chlorate which oxidises the sugar and creates a hissing firework effect, showing how calorific the content is and how much energy it gives to our bodies.

**options:**

**BTEC**

- Applied Science Extended Certificate (equivalent to one course option)
- Applied Science Diploma (equivalent to two course options)
The study of society, you will develop knowledge and understanding of essential sociological theories and methods; learn to think critically about society and society’s norms and traditions; research will be key to strengthening your ability to develop and deepen an argument; look at key social, political, economic and religious issues that affect society.

Sociology enables you to question the status quo and evaluate factors that govern societal changes. Celebrity fixation, social class, faith and social attitudes are all among the issues discussed and researched, and this A Level is ideal for those who are keen to discover why society is the way it is in this country and what influences changes in group behaviours and tolerances.

“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.”

Leah
Sociology Teacher

options:
A Level
Sociology
Immerse yourself in not just the Spanish language but the culture, community and history that come with it; challenge your oral, aural and written communicating abilities; examine social issues and trends relating to Spanish-speaking countries; look in detail at films, literature and political and artistic culture in the Spanish language.

While your studies at GCSE Spanish will have been based on solely developing your learning of the language, A Level Spanish allows you to explore far more. Your command over the language will become more adept, without doubt, but your understanding of culture and societal issues relating to the language will deepen your fascination and allow you to travel to Spanish-speaking countries with an awareness to match your language fluency.

Spanish students last year travelled to Zaragoza in northern Spain, immersing themselves in the language, culture, history and food of the ancient, historic city.

options:

A Level
Spanish
Physical Education

Learn about the cardiovascular, respiratory and neuromuscular systems; Study diet and nutrition’s impact on physical performance; get practical with a personal performance as a player, performer or coach; explore injury prevention and rehabilitation; study biomechanical principles and psychological theories.

A Level PE is ideal for those who not only love to play sport but want to investigate the entire world that surrounds it. You should be committed to sport and play in a sports team outside of College, but also be ready to evaluate the scientific and psychological side of the subject, as well as being ready to assess yourself and your own performances and improve your abilities.

Sport Science

Study core sciences; anatomy and physiology, exercise physiology, sports psychology and sports nutrition; options for study also include coaching, fitness appraisal, biomechanics, practical team sports, sports massage and current issues in sport.

options:

A Level
Physical Education

BTEC
Sport Science Extended Certificate
(equivalent to one course option)

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.
Investigate probability distributions, expectation; correlation and regression, statistical hypothesis testing and learn about summarising and displaying data.

Statistics is the ideal course partner for a host of subjects such as Biology, PE, Economics, Geography, Psychology, Business and more. Many subjects and many lines of work rely heavily on data and statistical analysis, and taking Statistics A Level is the perfect way to get a solid foundation of knowledge in how to organise, interpret and analyse information. The fundamental statistical and lateral thinking skills developed by students are invaluable across all kinds of disciplines and careers.

The skills you’ll develop studying Statistics are becoming increasingly important in areas of study and careers, with the ability to understand data being vital. Statistics A Level can help facilitate careers in anything from financial analysis to social media operation.

options:

A Level
Statistics
Take workshops to expand and improve your use of textiles media; develop drawing and observation skills; experiment with media and techniques; combine practical and technological skills with an interest in fashion, textiles art or interior design.

While many will assume that a qualification in Textiles is a demonstration of your ability to just make and design clothing, the truth is that this A Level is one of the most creative and artistic challenges that students can take. You will need to be able to work to a brief, but collect observations, experiment, develop ideas and create final products that push the boundaries and demonstrate a deep understanding of the textiles art form. Many of our former students have gone into fashion, textiles for interiors and other related areas after their Textiles A Level.

“Textiles is a hugely creative subject that appeals to students who like the idea of working across a full range of media, and in three dimensions. You’re not just stuck to making clothes; the course is all about testing your innovation. Textiles students have gone on to go into fashion, interior design, fine art textiles or applied textiles.”

Angela
Head of Art & Design
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
“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
Student Development Team:
After you enrol with us, you will meet your personal 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assigned Tutor</strong></td>
<td>Your Tutor is with you to help you navigate all aspects of College life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subject Plus</strong></td>
<td>Extra lesson time with teachers to ensure students are progressing well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learning to Learn Programme</strong></td>
<td>Expert staff in the Psychology department help students understand the best study techniques.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Academic Writing Programme</strong></td>
<td>Specialist tutors support you to develop your writing skills to achieve the best grades possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learning Support</strong></td>
<td>Our team of Learning Support Assistants are here to help those with additional learning needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study Hall</strong></td>
<td>A dedicated area for keeping up to date with work set by your teachers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study Mentor</strong></td>
<td>Local university students run one-to-one and small group sessions to give peer-to-peer support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Listening &amp; Youth Services</strong></td>
<td>One-to-one appointments to speak to a councillor or professional youth worker.</td>
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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 Layfield 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.
Learn new skills
• Make new friends
• Good for CV
• It’s free
• Have fun!

Clubs & Societies

Arabic Language Club
Arts & Crafts
Badminton
Basketball
Board & Card Games
Boccia
British Sign Language
Chess Club
Clubbercise
Competitive Team Sports
Creative Writing Group
Darts
Debating
DJ Club
First Aid Certificate
Football

Gold Duke of Edinburgh
Guitar Workshop
Knitting
Law Club
Lego Club
LGBT+ and Equality
Mandarin (Chinese)
Multigym
Netball
Photoshop (beginners)
Pulse: Exploring Christianity
Student Newspaper
Table Tennis
TaekwonDo
Tag Rugby
Voluntary Work
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 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.

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
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.

After visiting the College on Open Evenings, attending Taster Sessions and the new student Induction Day, you’ll start your exciting journey with us in September as a new student.

To make your transition from high school to College even easier, we have a programme of events called **Find Your Feet** for all of our new students in the first month.

- **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 every lunchtime to help you have fun and make new friends
- Vote for your Song of the Day to be played at the end of lunch
- 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
"The College has got the feel good factor."

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 regularly shown that petting animals can reduce stress. He started his role in September 2019 and has been a huge hit with students and staff alike.
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 College meals, travel to and from College and compulsory trips.
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:

**Heswall/Pensby/Irby**

**South Wirral** - includes Eastham, Bromborough and Bebington

**Ellesmere Port / Neston**

**Liverpool Area** - with pick-up points close to Litherland High School and Hillside High School
The College has been over-subscribed for three consecutive years. Apply early to guarantee your place.

- **Apply online**
  - bsfc.ac.uk/application-form
- **Attend an interview**
- **Come to Taster Sessions**
  - (February/March)
- **Come to new student induction day**
  - (July)
- **Enrol at the College**
  - (August for September start)

apply.
Open Evenings

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

Campus Tours

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

Open Evenings

Thursday 3 October 2019
Thursday 28 November 2019
Thursday 30 January 2020

6:00 - 8:00pm

book your place now at:

bsfc.ac.uk/openevenings
“Coming to the College was the best decision I ever made.”

Hannah, former student

Beacon Award 2019 for Social Mobility and Widening Participation
Association of Colleges

This national award recognises the College’s commitment to giving the same opportunities to all students, no matter their backgrounds.

UK Sixth Form College of the Year 2018
TES

The College and its students won this national award in what are considered to be the most prestigious awards in education.