



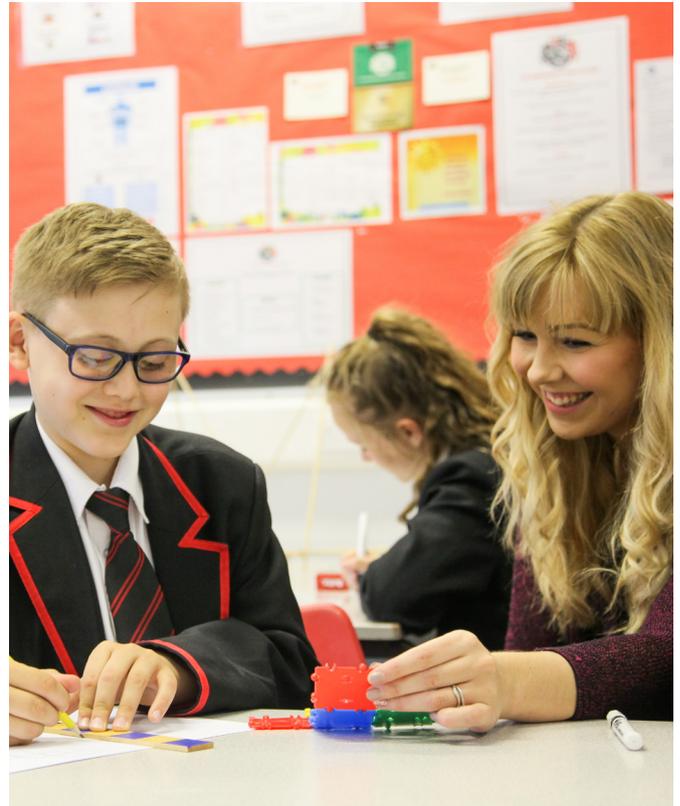
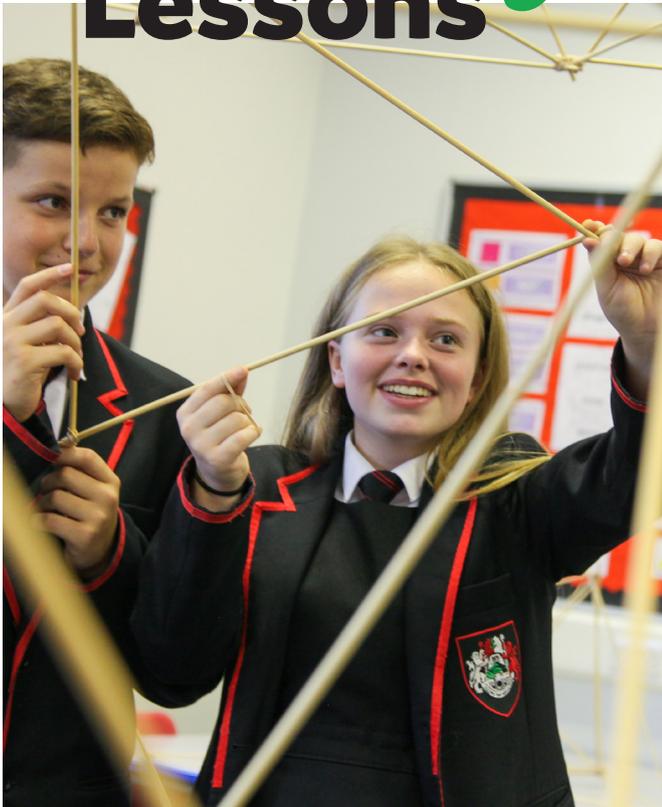
The  
**Birkenhead Park**  
School



*Ambition* **AND**  
**EXCELLENCE**  
**FOR ALL**

**PROSPECTUS**

# Inspiring Lessons



Unrivalled  
Support

# WELCOME

## I am delighted and very proud to welcome you to The Birkenhead Park School.

Our aim as a school is to achieve “Ambition and Excellence for All” and we are committed to providing the best possible education for every student.

The school values of **Positivity**, **Ambition**, **Resilience** and **Thoughtfulness** underpin every aspect of school life. We know every child is unique; we recognise the potential in all our students, irrespective of their starting point, and believe that every child can and will succeed.

Our broad and varied curriculum is not just focused around achieving academic excellence: we firmly believe there is more to a good education than excellent exam grades

which is why we are committed to providing an education with character. This means that in everything we do – both inside and outside the classroom – we seek to nurture key skills that are vital for life beyond school such as teamwork, resilience, creativity, public speaking and enterprise.

We believe it is vital that children feel happy and confident in school and enjoy their learning experience. Our dedicated pastoral team of teaching and support staff offers outstanding support and care, ensuring that children are ready to learn every day. Our youngest students make a flying start to Year 7 through a tailored transition programme, a dedicated team of expert staff and our very successful Year 7 Base.

I would be delighted to show you around our school and I look forward to welcoming you soon.



**Helen Johnson**  
Headteacher

“

92%

of our parents would recommend The Birkenhead Park School.

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# Ambition AND EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

We believe that children have the very best chance to succeed if they are in a happy and inspiring environment. Our exceptional staff create this on a daily basis and the school values of Positivity, Ambition, Resilience and Thoughtfulness underpin every aspect of school life:

**Positivity** – we are positive about what we can do and what others can do

**Ambition** – we will work to raise aspirations and develop a strong desire for success

**Resilience** – we will be determined and not give up when faced with difficulties

**Thoughtfulness** – we treat everyone with respect

These values are brought to life across the school in many ways including annual awards, recognition postcards, events, Character lessons and each student being in one of four houses that represent each value.

We know that by nurturing Positive, Ambitious, Resilient and Thoughtful behaviours, we are setting our students up for academic success and with the vital skills for life beyond GCSEs.



# Character PROGRAMME

Developed by our staff for our students, the **Character programme** is an exciting new initiative at The Birkenhead Park School. Starting in Year 7, Character lessons teach students the importance of demonstrating kindness, showing respect to everyone and being a role model in the local community. Learning about the school values of Positivity, Ambition, Resilience and Thoughtfulness is an integral part of the programme as these life skills are a key part of a child's character.

**The lessons are delivered by the specially trained Character team and one of the first things students learn is the 'BPS handshake'.**

This is so important as it gives students the confidence to introduce themselves – a vital life skill which they can use when they meet visitors in school or at interviews when they are older.

Students are also encouraged to write a 'Character sentence' which sets out their ambitions and the impression that they would like to make on the world.



**I've been really impressed with the Character lessons. My son came home and showed me how he had learned to shake hands and introduce himself. It's brilliant that he is learning life skills alongside his lessons.**

Year 7 Parent, 2018

# Lessons

## WHAT DO OUR STUDENTS STUDY?

One of the most exciting parts about going to secondary school is the many new and different lessons. As well as English, Maths, Music, Art and IT which students will already have studied in primary school, there will be experiments in science labs, acting in the Drama Studio and lots of different sports to experience. Students will also study History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages and get hands-on in Food Technology.

All students follow individual learning programmes and we seek to work with parents at every stage to ensure the programme reflects both the student's starting point and their future ambitions.



“

**I love Drama and English and these lessons have inspired me to be an author or an actor in the future and I feel like I can achieve anything I set my mind to.**

Emily, Year 8 Student

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### **MATHS - NUMERACY NINJAS**

Students can become a 'black belt' in mental Maths by completing the fun Numeracy Ninja programme that is done during form time.



*Emily*



### AGE 11-14

In Years 7, 8 & 9 (Key Stage 3), students study **English, Maths, Science, French or Spanish, History, Geography, Art, Music, Food Technology, Information Technology, Physical Education, Drama, Character, Religious Education** and **PSHE**.



### ENGLISH - MILLIONAIRE READERS

To develop a love of reading, we have initiatives running across the school including 'Millionaire Readers'. Certificates are given out to students who read the most and teachers have posters on their classroom doors showing their favourite books.

### AGE 14-16

In Years 10 & 11 (Key Stage 4), students study core GCSE subjects of **English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science**. They can then choose from a range of options that include **History, Geography, French, Spanish, Information Technology, Art, Drama, Food Technology**; and BTEC qualifications such as **Physical Education** and **Music**.

Expert staff support high achieving students, as well as those who need additional help with numeracy and literacy.

# Supporting YOUR CHILD

Our students are at the heart of everything we do and we have been widely recognised for the lengths we go to give every student the support they need. There is no 'one size fits all' approach and the tailored experience starts when they join us in Year 7. We have dedicated staff in the Year 7 base and their primary focus is to ensure students settle in well, enjoy school life and make good progress.

After Year 7, ongoing support is coordinated by the highly trained Student Services team in the Student Services Centre.

Support for students with special educational needs and disabilities starts before they join us as part of the transition from primary school. We have an experienced team of teaching assistants and teachers who specialise in providing a range of support strategies to ensure that every member of the school community thrives.



“

**I can't thank the teachers enough for how they have helped Mark excel and push himself beyond what he thought he could achieve.**

Year 11 Parent, 2018

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“

**My advice for starting at this school would be to join as many clubs as possible. It will help you to make friends and there are loads of choices. I attend Drama, Library, Singing and Family Lunch. Being a part of these clubs has given me loads of confidence.**

Serenna, Year 8 Student

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# Clubs

## SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

**Secondary school is not just about lessons. We offer a wide and exciting range of opportunities to have fun, learn new skills and make new friends.**

There are over 30 clubs each week and examples of some of our new clubs are Horrible Histories, Gymnastics, Singing, and Cinema.

We also have the '100 club'. Students are given a loyalty card and when they've attended 100 sessions they get invited to an exclusive celebration event to reward their fantastic commitment.

Not only are these extracurricular clubs a great way to develop important skills such as communication, teamwork, creativity, leadership and confidence, they are also a great way to settle into school.



# Moving Up

## FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Starting secondary school is an exciting time and to help our new students settle in quickly, we have set up the Year 7 base which is a 'school within a school'.**

This unique facility eases the transition from primary to secondary education and ensures that all our students feel confident, safe and secure as they continue their learning.

Year 7 students have their own entrance and supervised playground. They also have a separate area for lunch and breaktimes so they have the space to enjoy their free time with their friends.

In addition to a full-time Head of Year 7, each student has their own dedicated Year 7 Tutor who will get to know them and help them settle in quickly.



“

**I was really worried about starting high school but I shouldn't have worried. I have made new friends and everyone looks after each other.**

Ethan, Year 8 Student

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# OUR Uniform

We are very proud of our uniform and our students look very smart in the black and red uniform. There is also a school PE kit that students are expected to wear and they are given a branded school bag on their first day.

Each student also wears a lanyard. We have four different colours - representing **Positivity, Ambition, Resilience** and **Thoughtfulness**. This lanyard is also a handy place to keep timetables.

Recognising their status and responsibility as our most senior students, we have introduced a unique Year 11 uniform that shows how they can dress professionally for interviews and the workplace.



# Year 7

## WHAT IS IT LIKE?

**With a dedicated Year 7 base, a separate entrance and committed staff, we go to great lengths to help our students settle into secondary school life.**

This is what some of Year 7 students who joined in 2018 had to say about their experience of starting at The Birkenhead Park School:

“I settled here really quickly and by the first week I had made loads of new friends. If you go to the Induction Day in July you will meet everyone and all get to know each other. The teachers are really easy to speak to and you will have all the support you need. You can speak to Mrs Kirwan, Mrs Chong and many more other teachers to help you with any problem”.

**Sophie** - Year 7

“I was extremely nervous when I started because I had moved from another area. Mrs Kirwan helped me to settle in and make new friends. You feel safe in the Year 7 Base and it means you have loads of time to get used to the rest of the school and learn your way around. I feel confident to always be myself and really enjoy coming to school”.

**Logan** - Year 7



“

**You have to remember that everyone is in the same boat when it comes to starting high school. You are not alone and from the minute you start at this school you feel like you belong. The Year 7 Base is secure and relaxing and you are with your peers and form tutor so you never feel alone. There is always someone to help you.**

Aisha, Year 8 Student

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# MEET THE TEAM

## Year 7

### **Mrs Kirwan**

Year 7 Pastoral Leader



“My job is to make sure that all Year 6 students feel comfortable when they move up from primary school.”

### **Mrs Chong**

Year 7 Assistant Pastoral Leader



“As the Assistant Pastoral Leader, my role is to make sure students feel confident and secure in their new and exciting learning environment”.

# Careers & NEXT STEPS

**As a school, we strive to give our students an all-round education that develops them into confident young adults with high ambitions and expectations.**

Progression to sixth form is the natural next step for many and our students have a seamless pathway to study at Birkenhead Sixth Form College. Like us, the College is a member of the BePART Educational Trust and they offer outstanding sixth form education only five minutes away from school.

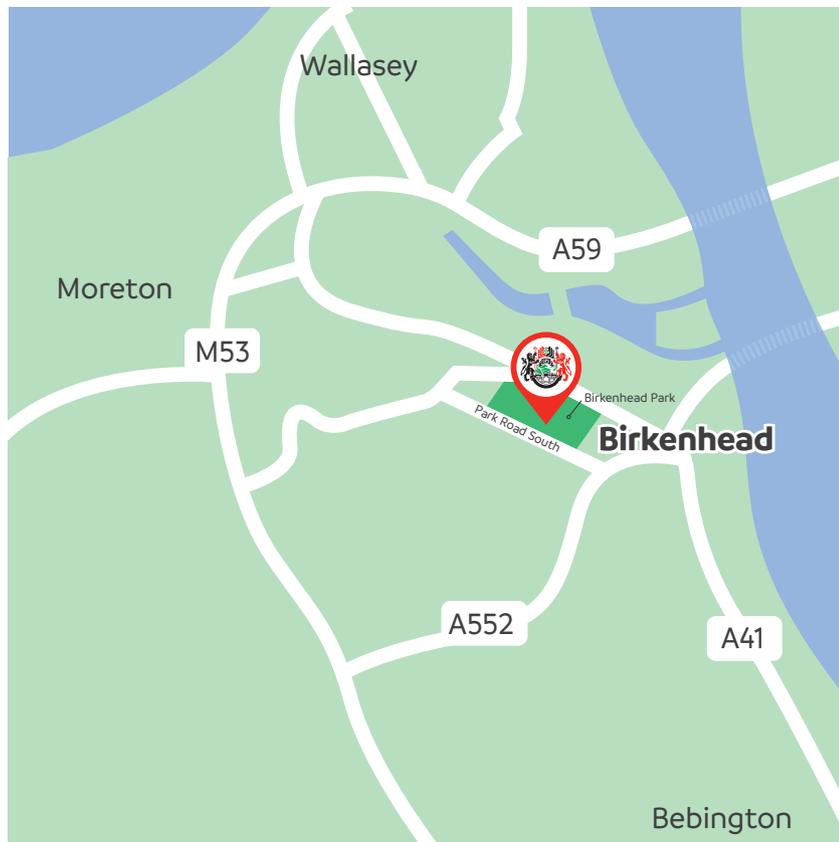
Throughout their time with us, students will benefit from a planned programme of activities to help them determine their future career path and to understand where different education and training choices could take them in the future.

Every July we hold a 'Make Me Employable' week with local and national colleges, universities, employers and apprenticeship providers visiting the school.



**Former students Crina and Abdou are now at university studying Chemical Engineering and Medicine respectively after achieving A level success at Birkenhead Sixth Form College.**





## Visit Us

We have an open door policy and you are welcome to **visit us anytime.**

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# Ambition AND EXCELLENCE FOR ALL



[birkenheadparkschool.com](http://birkenheadparkschool.com)



[thebirkenheadparkschool](https://www.facebook.com/thebirkenheadparkschool)



[BPSWirral](https://twitter.com/BPSWirral)



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Proud to be a member of the

 **BePART**  
Educational Trust