

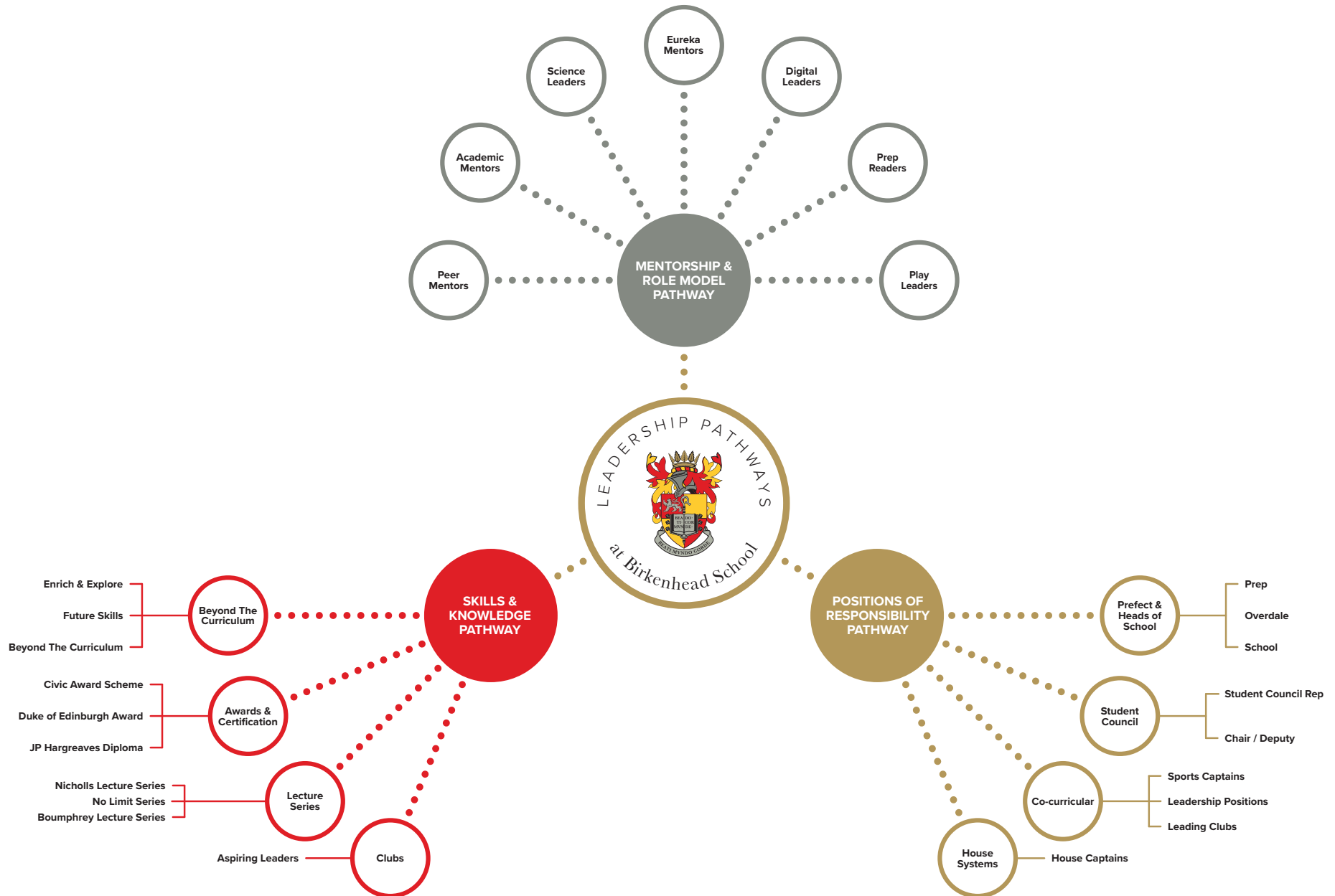


LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS at Birkenhead School

Positions of
Responsibility
Pathway

Mentorship &
Role Model
Pathway

Skills &
Knowledge
Pathway



Leadership at Birkenhead School

At Birkenhead School we aim to provide opportunities for students to learn and practise key life skills both inside and outside the classroom.

One such skill is leadership, which for many will be essential as they progress on to further education and the wider world of work. Whether it's rising through the ranks of the military, managing a corporation, or running their own business, Old Birkonians continue to attribute part of their success to the vast array of leadership roles that were on offer throughout their time at Birkenhead School.

These opportunities were never more in abundance than they are today and year after year students leave our doors instilled with the values necessary to be successful in their chosen field and with the skills to lead those around them.

“Pupils have excellent communication skills, they are highly articulate and confident speakers and listen and respond maturely”

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report



Positions of Responsibility Pathway



A multi-layered and dedicated approach to pastoral care is a core pillar of the thriving Birkenhead School community. Reinforced and upheld by the fundamental values of respect, responsibility, resilience, compassion, humility, integrity, inclusivity and courage, students are supported and guided on their journey through these formative years. Whilst on this journey, the Positions of Responsibility Pathway offers students the opportunity to have a voice on behalf of their peers, as well as act as role models, shepherding younger students through their educational experience.



Student Leadership



Form Captains

All students throughout Junior Prep are gifted the opportunity to undertake the role of Form Captain each year. Knowledge and understanding of leadership and its application is therefore built upon over the course of the Junior Prep years, arming students with the necessary skills to support their classmates and teachers as well as to develop the self-confidence to embark on further leadership opportunities throughout the School.

In Seniors, an Upper Sixth student is chosen as House Captain, with a Deputy Captain in the Lower Sixth. These Senior students set the tone and encourage participation in the various House activities and events. There are also House Captains in Middle School and Overdale who communicate and organise their peers and encourage participation in the Section-specific events. House Captains communicate regularly with their Head of House and with the Assistant Head (Pastoral), who is responsible for managing the House System.

House Captains

Birkenhead School enjoys a thriving House system from Infants through to Seniors. Within Junior Prep, elected House Captains lead from the front and play an integral role in organising, creating and energising a number of House activities and competitions throughout the year.



Prefects P S SF

Students are selected to be Prefects at different stages in the School: Prep, Overdale and overall School Prefects and act as positive role models to other students with regard to effort, conduct and commitment to the ethos and values of the School. Students apply to become a Prefect and are selected based on certain skills and qualities that they already have or for the potential that has been recognised in them. Many of these skills and qualities are common among leaders, such as confidence, decisiveness and the ability to communicate effectively.

Heads of School P S SF

Members of the Prefect team are selected to be Head Students to represent their peers and the School in Prep, Overdale and the overall School. Senior Prefects can apply to become 'Heads of School' and present to and be interviewed by their peers and members of the School's Senior Management and Leadership teams. Head Students meet weekly with the Headmaster to discuss topics arising and look to represent the views and opinions of the student body to the Headmaster whilst also disseminating and communicating key messages to their peers.



Co-Curricular Leadership

Positions of Responsibility

Mentorship & Role Model

Skills & Knowledge

A fundamental pillar of School life at Birkenhead School, the co-curricular offering is both broad in range and rich in content. Students embrace the plethora of opportunities that seek to extend horizons and develop new passions whilst moulding teamwork, resilience and leadership skills. Knowledge, understanding and experience of a range of pursuits, beyond the classroom, help to shape the leaders of tomorrow and enable our students to make an impact both now and in the future.

Music

Music Prefects are fully immersed in the musical life of Prep. As committed members of Prep Orchestra, the Year 6 Choir and Chapel Choir, they assist with the organisation of rehearsals whilst embracing the opportunity to support younger musicians on their musical journey.

Within Seniors there are multiple leadership roles within the Music School which are accessible for students based on age, experience and ability. In our flagship ensemble, the Chapel Choir, these roles are designed to support the Director of Music in the effective running of the choir. The choir has one of the busiest schedules of any co-curricular commitments in the School, and students manage themselves under the guidance of essential leadership figures.

The Choir Prefect is a member of the Upper Sixth, who often has been in the choir for a number of years. The most senior position of responsibility, they act as an intermediary between the choir and the Director of Music and are responsible for the day-to-day organisation and help motivate the other members of the Choir.

Other leadership roles include: Cantor who sings the responses during Sunday Service and Head Choristers who assist the Choir Prefect and look after different sections of the Choir, supported by students in the respective deputy positions. Other roles include the Librarian and various Leading Choristers who are appointed annually from the younger members of the choir who show exceptional levels of enthusiasm and effort.

Senior Musicians are Upper Sixth students who are tasked with leading their area of instrumental expertise, for example woodwind or strings. They help younger instrumentalists in Band and Orchestra and lead rehearsals. A number of students of all ages from Seniors also assist with the weekly Prep Orchestra rehearsals where over fifty pupils from Years 3-6 meet and prepare music for the two big Whole School Concerts. Students also have the opportunity to lead the livestreaming of Sunday Evensong services from Chapel, and be heavily involved with sound and lighting for productions and events in Bushell Hall throughout the year.

Drama

Students are offered the opportunity to take on leadership roles within drama and recent examples have been students taking the lead on choreography in School musicals or leading and managing backstage teams of students. Other examples include students taking on responsibility for technical aspects such as lighting and sound and being given opportunities to lead a team of student technicians to run productions.

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Sports   

Sport plays a significant role within the co-curricular diet of a Prep pupil. The opportunity to represent the School in an array of different sports is commonplace throughout the Junior Prep years. Whilst any successful sports team requires leadership throughout its ranks, selection of a team captain for each representative sport comes into effect in Year 6. Determination, competitive spirit and communication and organisational skills are all evident in our proud sports captains.

There are over 50 sports teams in the Senior School representing eight sports across seven-year groups. Each sports team in the school has a Captain and often multiple vice-captains for each match. They may each develop their own style of leadership and will work closely with the coaches and players to get the best out of the team. It is not uncommon for leaders in the sports teams to run the warm-up, disseminate critical information to the players throughout the week and set the tone and culture amongst the rest of the team.

As students move up the School and play for the Senior teams, captains and vice captains may be asked their opinions on selection, playing style and will often be found running drills with parts of the squad as part of training, or even going down and working with younger teams.



Senior Sports Captains



Positions of Responsibility



Mentorship & Role Model



Skills & Knowledge

Student Council

In Prep, both Little School and Juniors have their own Student Council, enabling younger students to have a voice and input on School matters and issues which directly impact upon their education. Each year, pupils apply in large numbers, and prepare a presentation to deliver in front of their peers. Those who are successful embark on a year of council meetings, drive forward student-led projects and initiatives, host assemblies and act as spokespeople for their peers.

In Seniors, there is one overall Student Council operating across Seniors and Sixth Form which provides an opportunity for motivated Year 7 to 11 and Sixth Form students to influence and improve aspects of School life, as identified in weekly meetings. Student Council is organised by Section, with Chairs of Overdale, Middle School and Sixth Form.

Most often, the Council meets as a whole, and this is run by the Sixth Form Chair. The Assistant Head meets with Section Chairs on a regular basis to discuss planned upcoming events and initiatives. Younger members are able to improve their communication and debating skills whilst working collaboratively across the year groups. The Chairs develop their organisation, planning and communication skills, as well as their decision-making abilities when considering a range of student perspectives. The Council Chair also develops public-speaking confidence in reporting to the whole School on the initiatives and achievements of the Student Council.



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Mentorship & Role Model Pathway

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As students eagerly pursue and extend ownership of their own learning, the opportunity to share knowledge and collaborate with peers and younger students to enhance this further, is core to the Mentorship and Role Model Leadership Pathway. The mentoring of students seeks to develop key communication skills whilst inspiring others through a passionate, engaging and informed approach.

Prep

Digital Leaders P

Students in Years 5 and 6 have the opportunity to apply to become a Digital Leader. This role is to support the use and to further the development of ICT within Prep. Hosting and organising a co-curricular club, leading technology-based assemblies and collaborating with teachers to enhance the IT experience in lessons are central aspects to this leadership position.

Prep Readers P

As part of the Prep approach to reading development, students in Year 6 work with younger pupils in our Pre-Prep and Little School departments. Weekly sessions are tailored to enhancing a thirst for fiction and non-fiction books for our early readers whilst nurturing and advancing the communication skills of the Year 6 students.

Eureka Mentors P

Our bespoke academic extension programme, Eureka, serves to challenge all students throughout Prep. As part of this, students in both Seniors and Prep lead weekly academic extension sessions for younger students. This involves planning, organising and the careful tailoring of a series of engaging activities for the children to enjoy.

Play Leaders P

The Little School playground plays host to an abundance of fun and engaging activities. Central to this is the role played by the Year 2 Play Leaders. During break and lunchtimes, our team of dedicated and responsible pupils seek to engage with children across the Infant age range, supporting them to play games and activities in an inclusive and enjoyable way.

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Seniors & Sixth Form

Peer Mentors SF

Sixth Form students act as mentors to younger pupils as they start their Seniors journey in Year 7. The older students offer a friendly and reassuring point of contact for the new students, regularly meeting for lunch and being on hand.

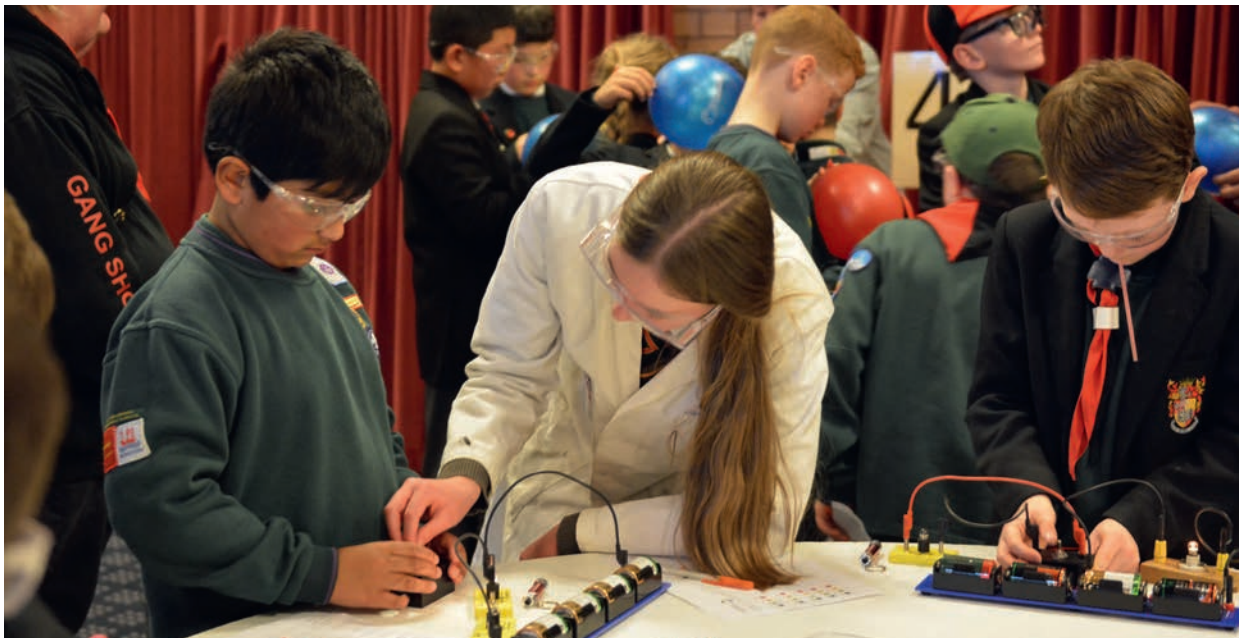
Academic Mentors S SF

There are a wide range of opportunities for students to act as Academic mentors in Seniors and Sixth Form. Examples include in English, academic mentors running weekly after-school support sessions with younger students or wider-reading sessions and in Maths, Sixth Form students supporting GCSE students with their revision or Senior pupils assisting in Prep.

Spotlight on Science Leaders

Students in Seniors can apply to be a 'Science Leader'. Students, requiring some support, are paired with a Leader two years above them. The benefits to both are improved confidence, depth of knowledge and an opportunity to develop mentoring skills.

The Science department also offer opportunities to train as 'Science Demonstrators' for age-appropriate activities used for community and transition events. Established Science Leaders work alongside the younger / less experienced and transfer knowledge and experience.



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Awards & Certification

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Students from Prep to Sixth Form have the opportunity to work towards external programmes that provide an opportunity to gain an award or certification. As students look to apply for university, apprenticeships or employment opportunities, the qualifications or awards can offer a means to distinguish themselves from their peers.

Examples Include:

Civic Award Scheme P

The theme of leadership and its development weaves its way throughout the Birkenhead School Civic Award Scheme. Students work both independently and collaboratively focusing on areas such as local awareness, self-reliance and service to family and the community. Here, they sharpen their leadership skills through group-led projects and presentations whilst embracing the array of rich and varied content this scheme provides.

Aspiring Leaders Programme P

Introduced in 2021, the Aspiring Leaders programme for Years 5&6 is a twelve-week scheme that focuses on developing core leadership skills in a practical and enjoyable manner. Group work, presentation techniques and problem-solving tasks feature throughout the course with pupils fully engaged with extending their understanding of leadership and its practical application.

JP Hargreaves Diploma S SF

The JP Hargreaves Diploma is unique to Birkenhead School and is named after Old Birkonian, James Hargreaves who is believed to be the first Old Birkonian to gain a first class degree from Cambridge. The Diploma consists of seven categories which offer opportunities for students in Years 9-11 to gain an award whilst developing their leadership skills across: Academic; Cultural; Physical; Communication; Service to Others; and Developing a Skill.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award S SF

All students in Year 10 look to undertake the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award and students are offered the option to continue onto the Silver and Gold Awards in Year 11 and Sixth Form. Through their journey they develop leadership skills through planning and organising activities, as well as motivating and inspiring others.





Birkenhead School Lecture Series

The Lecture Series programme that runs throughout the School looks to give students an opportunity to hear from leaders across different industries and sectors so that they can learn and develop as future leaders of tomorrow

Boumphrey Lecture Series P

Students in Years 5 and 6 have the unique opportunity to attend regular lectures in School from a bounty of interesting and inspiring speakers. Covering a range of different topic areas, these lectures serve to quench the thirst of our curious Prep pupils whilst developing and broadening their knowledge of different professions.

No Limits Series S

The No Limits Series in Seniors has seen leaders within their respective fields speak to students to inspire and motivate them and to realise that there is 'no limit' if they set their mind to it.

Nicholls Lecture Series SF

The weekly Nicholls Lectures in Sixth Form provides students with thought-provoking lectures on a broad range of topics to introduce them to ideas, interests and experiences beyond the academic curriculum. Leaders from a wide range of industries and backgrounds have delivered lectures, sharing their thoughts and insights with Sixth Form students ahead of them embarking upon their own careers and journeys beyond Birkenhead School.

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Beyond the Curriculum

A broad and holistic education allows students at Birkenhead School to advance beyond their peers. Healthy inquisition and the challenging of norms within a dynamic programme of activities that sit outside of the national curriculum, arms our students with an expanse of knowledge and understanding that serves them well both now and in the future. This customised pathway begins with our youngest pupils in Infants, is honed and extended in Junior Prep before maturing into the teenage years.

Enrich and Explore P

Innovative and exclusive to Birkenhead School, Enrich and Explore is a carefully constructed programme of activities designed to nurture pupil's natural curiosity and feed their inquisitive minds. From Creative Arts to STEM, Mindfulness to Diversity and British Values, leadership threads its way through the scheme, developing problem solving and communication skills along the way.

Future Skills P

As the older sibling to Enrich and Explore, Future Skills builds on the knowledge and understanding developed in Little School. Modules such as Philosophical Enquiry, Communication and Problem-Solving combine with the theme of leadership to create a programme that aims to develop a core set of skills that can be applied now, within Seniors and into the future.

Beyond the Curriculum – Years 7 and 8 S

Students embark on a two-year Beyond the Curriculum programme in Years 7 and 8. The short-course topics look to develop specific skills and proves to be one of the highlights of the week for many Overdale students. Students study topics such as presentation skills, critical thinking, debating and public-speaking, body language and first impressions.

Beyond the Curriculum – Sixth Form SF

The weekly Beyond the Curriculum session offers Sixth Form students the opportunity to take on further leadership roles within the School with recent examples including sports coaching younger pupils in Little School or supporting Prep teachers.



Sixth Form students lead and run sessions with younger students in Prep



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