



BIRKENHEAD
SCHOOL
SENIORS

THE SUNDAY TIMES

SCHOOLS GUIDE
2025

INDEPENDENT SECONDARY
SCHOOL OF THE YEAR
NORTH WEST

A warm welcome to
Seniors Open Day



Headmaster's Presentation: 9.45am & 11.45am

Bushell Hall

Open Day Times: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Seniors
Ages 11-16

Sixth Form
Ages 16-18

Welcome to Birkenhead School

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Birkenhead School's Open Day.

We are proud to state that as a school our focus is to know each individual, to develop their core values and to provide a breadth of academic and wider opportunities that nurtures resilient, ambitious and responsible young men and women.

We take a rigorous approach to academic study, achieving the highest grades, but firmly believe that the path students take and the challenges they overcome are of equal importance. We strive to create a learning environment where teachers have the freedom to inspire, and where students learn because they are engaged and curious.

As Headmaster, I take great pride in each pupil feeling known and valued within our community. We look to add value at every step of the educational journey driven by a co-curricular programme whose scope and quality allows each individual to find their niche, wherever it may lie.

I hope that today offers you an insight into life at the School and what makes Birkenhead School a special community to be part of. I look forward to speaking to you during the day, and tailoring a personalised visit to the School at a later stage.



Mr Paul Vicars
Headmaster



Programme of Events in Seniors & Sixth Form

9.45am & 11.45pm Headmaster's Talk

Bushell Hall

See selected sports and clubs in action and speak to staff about our co-curricular programme during the day:

10.30am - 11.45am	Drama & Music	Bushell Hall
9.30am - 12.30pm	Beyond the Curriculum & Etiquette Lessons	Overdale
9.30am - 12.30pm	Duke of Edinburgh's Award	School Field
9.30am - 12.30pm	Climbing Club	Climbing Wall
10.30am - 12.30pm	Table Tennis	Squash Court
9.30am - 12.30pm	Public-Speaking & Debating Clubs	Library
10.30am - 12.30pm	Science Leaders / Science Club / Olympiads	Science Labs PH1/2
Sports		
9.30am - 12.30pm	Netball	McAllester Court
9.30am - 12.30pm	Cricket v Stonyhurst	School Field
Midday	Tour of McAllester Field, Sports Facilities with Director of Sport	Meet outside Sports Hall
Chapel / Music		
11.30am	Chapel Choir Performance	Chapel
School Nurse		
10.30am-11.30am	Meet Miss Cox, School Nurse	Overdale

**Refreshments are available from the Sixth Form Centre
during the morning.**

What's On

Art Art Rooms See a wonderful selection of 2D and 3D work from Year 7 to Upper Sixth students and talk to staff about studying Art at GCSE and A Level.	Biology PH3 Find out what some animals have under their skin while watching others crawl around. Meet genetically engineered bacteria and test some of your favourite foods for nutrients.	Business & Economics Meeting Room Find out more about studying Business and Economics at A Level.	Chemistry & Junior Science PH2 Come along to see, hear and feel the effect of chemical reactions. Flames, fizzing and colour promised!	Computing & ICT Meeting Room Come and see if you can crack the code and find out more about studying Computing & ICT.
Design & Technology D&T Labs See examples of GCSE and A Level work exhibited. There will be CAD CAM demonstrations of laser cutting and 3D Printing technology.	Drama Bushell Hall Find out more about studying Drama at the School and recent School productions. Talk to students and see them perform.	English Library Take part in a range of fun activities in English today including our own 'Lines from Literature Quiz', 'Lets Debate' and 'Perfect Poetry'.	Geography School Field Take part in interactive world quizzes and games in and find out about field work opportunities both at home and abroad which includes our recent trips to Iceland & Italy	History School Field Can you guess who the famous historical figures are? Match the faces to the names of some of the most famous people in history.
Mathematics School Field Speak to our Maths department and try your hand at safe-cracking to win the mystery prize inside or use your probability skills to win a prize on Play Your Cards Right.	Modern Foreign Languages School Field Find out more about learning French and Spanish at School. Have a go at the French Pétanque game or Spanish and French board games. Prizes available for the winners!	Music Bushell Hall Speak to our Music specialists to find out about the wide range of musical opportunities available including instrumental tuition, bands, ensembles, choirs and our annual Festival of Arts.	Physics PH1 Find out more about the wonderful world of Physics from staff and our young Science Leaders - see demonstrations of stationary waves and build your own electrical circuit.	Psychology PH1/2/3 Find out more about studying Psychology A Level and take part in attention and perception competitions with your family or friends.
Religious Education Meeting Room See artefacts from each world religion that we study in Seniors and find out about the topics we cover and the resources used.	Sport (PE & Games) Sports Hall & Field See our Strength & Conditioning Gyms, have a go at table-tennis or scale new heights and have a go on our Climbing Wall. Take a tour of our facilities at McAllester Field at midday - meet outside the Sports Hall	Welcome to Overdale Overdale Meet students and pastoral staff and discover more about the opportunities available in Seniors including our exciting Beyond the Curriculum programme.	Futures & Sixth Form Team Meeting Room Meet members of Sixth Form along with members of our specialist Futures team who provide careers and university guidance for students in Seniors & Sixth Form.	

Specialist staff are available to meet in the following locations during the day:

Headmaster

Mr Paul Vicars - Bushell Hall & Sixth Form Centre

Deputy Head (Academic)

Mr Tom Whitworth - Sixth Form Centre

Bursar (Bursaries)

Mr Danny Byrne - Sixth Form Centre

Seniors & Sixth Form Admissions

Ms Julie Hopper - Sixth Form Centre

Head of Sixth Form

Ms Louise Smeaton - Sixth Form Centre

Head of Overdale (Year 7 & 8)

Mrs Sharon Tharme - Science Laboratories

Senior School SENDCo

Mrs Jenny Williams - Overdale

School Chaplain

Mrs Bethany Hobbs - Chapel

School Nurse

Miss Deb Cox - Overdale & Prep

Admissions

Ms Julie Hopper is available in the Sixth Form Centre to answer questions relating to Admissions, Scholarships and upcoming Assessment Days.

Assessment Days for 2026 Entry to Seniors:

Year 5 Assessment Days - **16/17/18 June 2025**

Year 6 Assessment Days - **January 2026**

*Seniors has been over-subscribed in recent years and early application is strongly encouraged. For those applying for entry to Year 7, bursaries are considered twice during the year; in the Michaelmas Term for those who have undertaken the Year 5 Assessment; and in February following the Year 6 Assessment.**

** Families should be aware that dependent on the outcome of the June Year 5 assessment days, there may be fewer places and limited bursary funding left for those attending the January Year 6 assessment days.*

