



**SOUTH WIRRAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
A Visual & Performing Arts, Maths & Computing College

*An Education That Offers More*



# WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Here at South Wirral High School we are proud of the excellent reputation we have in the local community, as a result of a record of success in all aspects of school life. We are ambitious for our students, committed to providing learning experiences which are challenging and exciting.

We want our young people to be:  
successful learners  
active citizens  
happy and confident individuals

To be successful learners our students need to have an outstanding attitude to learning. That is why academic progress and good behaviour are vital. It is why we put so much emphasis on home learning, in partnership with parents. It is why, as teachers, we set the highest standards for our own professional development. Our “Pledges” give students the experiences and responsibilities to develop into active citizens. We are a happy school, full of confident young people of whom we are immensely proud.

Our success has been recognised by a number of Quality Standards which demonstrate our commitment to ensuring the quality of school experiences for our students.

Mr S. Goodwin, Headteacher

“Pupils expressed positive views about developments under the new headteacher.”  
- Ofsted 2017



## A SCHOOL WHERE...

*We Achieve, Reflect and Improve*

South Wirral is changing and you join us at a very exciting time. Since our new leadership team was formed a year ago, the school has gone from strength to strength. This is shown by strong improvements in our results year on year and a harder focus on attainment.

We believe that a good school is founded upon three core elements:

- Excellent behaviour
- Academic rigour
- Outstanding pastoral support

We have recently introduced many new exciting initiatives such as our “Aspire to Higher” programme, which works with our highest attaining students to ensure they are ‘Russell Group Ready’ after a 7 year journey at South Wirral.

We have also embarked on a new partnership with the Rugby Football Union further developing our sports offer to students with expert coaching and sports visits. These two programmes show that whatever your interests or ability, at South Wirral you can excel.

### **ASPIRE TO HIGHER**

At South Wirral High School we run an exciting programme of enrichment for high attaining students that supports them in becoming ‘Russell Group Ready’. The Russell Group are the 24 best Universities in the UK that we expect our students to be prepared and ready to go to after 7 years at South Wirral.

The programme includes:

- Personal skills development of workshops
- Inspirational speakers
- University visits
- One-to-one mentoring

**AN EDUCATION THAT  
OFFERS MORE**

# A SCHOOL WHERE...

*We Can Succeed*

South Wirral High School offers a broad and balanced curriculum to meet the needs of all our students. Students are encouraged to be active learners who can be independent but also work cooperatively with others. We challenge students to be the best they can be, encouraging them to ask questions, take risks and be proud of their achievements.

In Year 10, subjects are divided into different pathways offering academic and vocational choices for students. The curriculum is developed in partnership with learners and parents - and each student is individually counselled as to their most suitable pathway.

In Year 9 we offer students the opportunity to choose some of the subjects they will go on to study at GCSE level. We offer students four free choices from a range of subjects. If your child is more creative they can choose a combination including Dance, Drama or Art. If they prefer technology subjects, they can choose a combination of Design & Technology, Computer Science or Digital Photography. This helps equip them with the skills they need for careers in the 21st century. We feel that no one offers better choice than South Wirral High School.

We have an ethos based on high expectations; we expect high standards of behaviour, excellent attendance and positive attitudes.



“Pupils benefit from a broad and balanced curriculum. They are guided on to one of three carefully designed key stage 4 pathways that provide the flexibility needed to meet the needs of all pupils.”

- Ofsted, 2017





“Teachers show good subject knowledge and are enthusiastic in their interactions with pupils. Little time is wasted in lessons and pupils enjoy very positive relationships with members of staff.”

- Ofsted, 2017



We want our students to be creative and flexible thinkers, with high self-esteem and an awareness of the needs of others. In addition we hope to foster a love of academic work for its own sake. Learning should be enjoyable. Small class sizes help teachers to focus on the needs of every student.

Learning is designed to be stimulating and challenging. Our teachers are energetic and innovative in their approach and are dedicated to educating children rather than simply teaching their subject. Children acquire and sharpen the skills necessary for independent learning, ensuring that academic progress is supported and monitored at every stage. We regard it as a privilege to provide high quality comprehensive education for all our students.



“Transition passports... challenge pupils to build upon their achievements in primary school and maintain positive attitudes to learning.”

- Ofsted, 2017



# A SCHOOL WHERE...

*We Feel Happy And Enjoy Ourselves*

## HOUSE SYSTEM

At South Wirral, we have a house structure with four houses named after local families - Laird, Wilson, Stanley and Mayer. Each student belongs to a house from day one.

The Head of House monitors your child's whole educational experience, ensuring that the individual needs of students are met. The Head of House morally, spiritually, socially and culturally helps to educate all students in their care, throughout their time at South Wirral. Parents of Year 7 students are invited into school to meet House staff a short time after the start of the school year, and will act in partnership to ensure your child is supported and encouraged at each stage of their development.

## STUDENT SERVICES

Our Student Services Hub provides a single place students can go to for any pastoral support they may need. Here, students can speak to their Head of House, SENCo or Assistant Headteachers.

"It's really nice to have a place you can come to and just be yourself"

- Student

"Thank you for the constant help you have given my daughter and for the placement which has given her a great start in life"

- Parent

PASTORAL CARE



## SEN

We have high expectations of your child, whatever their ability. From the beginning of their time with us, careful attention is given to identifying and assessing special educational needs by the Code of Practice. The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator works closely with primary schools to ensure continuity of support for children who have particular learning difficulties which have already been identified at Key Stage 1 & 2.

Programmes are set up for students with Special Needs targeting their individual problems.

The department has a team of Teaching Support Assistants. This enables us to put support in place for students identified as having Special Educational Needs. Identified students will be assisted both in class and in small workshops to achieve their full potential.

## LEARNING MENTORS

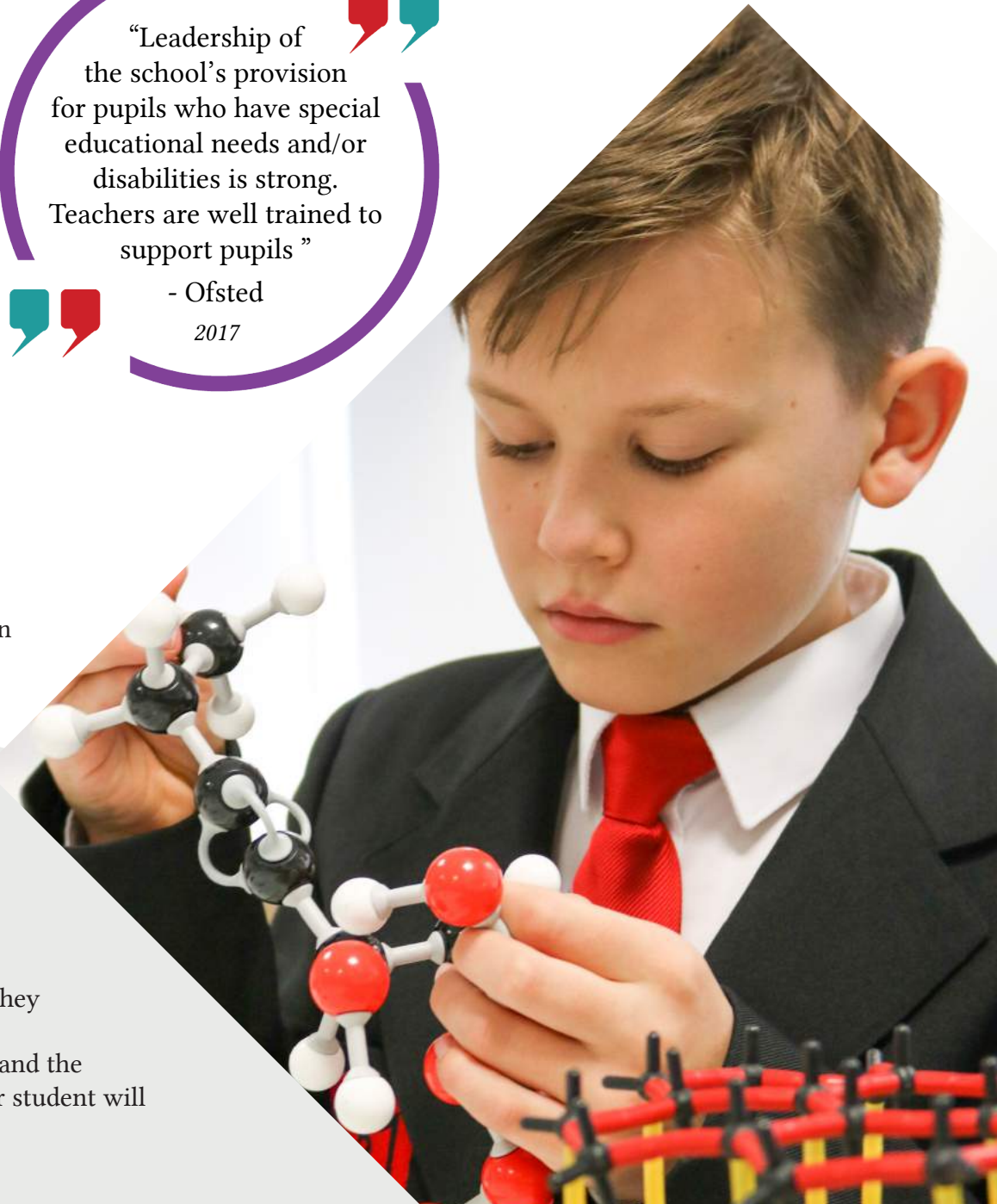
At South Wirral we have a team of dedicated Learning Mentors, which has been established for over 17 years with a proven record of fantastic success. Our Learning Mentors work one to one with students who may need extra pastoral support during their school journey through group work, self esteem classes and offer a nurturing service that helps our students social, emotional and mental health.

## ACHIEVEMENT MONITORING AND ACADEMIC PROGRESS

We aim to raise achievement by making it easy for your child to see how well they are doing, to recognise achievement and to indicate areas for improvement. Also, student progress is monitored closely by Heads of House and Sixth Form and the Senior Leadership Team, so they can intervene when appropriate. You and your student will receive printed reports of assessments; that can also be viewed online.

“Leadership of the school’s provision for pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is strong. Teachers are well trained to support pupils”

- Ofsted  
2017



# A SCHOOL WHERE...

*We Support Each Other*

Carefully selected small tutor groups are at the heart of our pastoral system. Our tutor groups are developed with a strong focus on structured registration time - tailored to the needs of each year group.

## YEARS 7 & 8

Tutors can get to know each student and their family well; they provide individual support and guidance, monitor academic progress and enthuse your child to try something new. Students take part in spelling tests and quizzes.

## YEARS 9 & 10

Discussions in Year 9 & 10 turn to topics such as GCSE options, future aspirations and students' favourite books.

## YEAR 11

Many of our Year 11 student groups are led by the faculty leaders of English, Mathematics and Science. This allows students to gain additional support in the lead up to examinations direct from the Head of Faculty every day. The structure allows targeted interventions to take place in a much more strategic way.

## STUDENT PLANNERS

We have recently re-introduced student planners for all students at South Wirral. This is one of the many initiatives designed to improve our school and is an additional way of communicating with parents allowing you to keep up to date with home learning tasks being set. We ask parents/carers to look at the planner once a week and sign it as part of our 'Home School Agreement'.







# A SCHOOL WHERE...

*We Aspire To Be The Best Version Of Ourselves*

## ATTITUDE TO LEARNING

We want to prepare your child for a successful life by encouraging good learning habits that will help them to be successful in future apprenticeships, college, university, and careers.

Throughout the year, students will consider their strengths and areas for improvement in these seven areas. These are seven learning habits that everyone needs to be successful in life. In the future, students can talk about them in job interviews and university admissions interviews - education is for life, not just for school.



**UNDERSTAND OUR ROLE IN OTHER STUDENTS' LEARNING**

**ENGAGE WITH TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND RESOURCES**



**DEAL WITH DIFFICULTY**

**TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR OWN LEARNING**



**PRACTICE TO IMPROVE**

**ACT UPON FEEDBACK**



**CONTINUE OUR LEARNING OUTSIDE LESSONS**

**ENRICHMENT**



## READING FOR PLEASURE

All students are encouraged to read. Once a week each house has a dedicated 'Reading for Pleasure' session during morning registration. We are building a culture where we believe that every student should be encouraged to read for their own pleasure. Reading is enjoyable, fosters house spirit within school and increases students' chances of being successful in life.

Students engagement with reading is recognised through gaining achievement points on completion of the 'Reading Challenges'. The Reading Challenges are designed to motivate students to read across a range of genre throughout their school life. The Reading trophy is awarded for the house which reads the most books throughout the school year.



# A SCHOOL WHERE...

*We Aspire To Be The Best Version Of Ourselves*

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

South Wirral High School students are exposed to a range of opportunities, developing them into well-rounded individuals. With such a large number of clubs and activities available - academic, sporting, musical, dramatic, creative, charitable, adventurous - the challenge for students is to decide just how much they are able to fit into a school week.

Everything our school does is geared towards helping students set and reach their own targets for successful and fulfilling lives.

To see a sample of the clubs and activities on offer to our students - visit our website or pick up a copy of the Extra Curricular Activities booklet from our main reception.

“A range of extra-curricular clubs and enrichment opportunities supplement the formal curriculum. The performing arts thrive at the school, for example the ‘Act Up!’ drama club and the ‘Vision’ dance troupe. Pupils can also attend trips and visits, from foreign adventures to local cultural visits.”

- Ofsted  
2017

ENRICHMENT





# A SCHOOL WHERE...

*We Shape Our Futures*

Our unique enrichment programme is called 'Pledges.' A Pledge is 'a promise to do or give' and we have identified ten commitments that will help your child develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. We will encourage them to take part in at least one activity under each different Pledge.

We have called them the 'Ten over 5 Pledges' - meaning students should aim to complete ten Pledges over five years.

## THE PLEDGES

1. Take part in a residential experience
2. Perform or present to an audience in or out of school or represent the school in an activity
3. Attend a 'professional performance.'
4. Meet a person/people who can widen your knowledge of the world
5. Take part in an international experience
6. Visit and engage with a national or local park, gallery, museum, heritage site, library or archive
7. Visit a place of worship or spiritual significance to gain an understanding of the different cultures within society
8. Take part in Work-Related Learning
9. Join a club, society or organisation in or out of school
10. Actively contribute to charity work or community-based project in or out of school

"The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is given a high priority by school leaders."

All pupils are challenged to fulfil the 10 'South Wirral pledges' that link to different aspects of enrichment designed to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain."

- Ofsted, 2017

PLEDGES





## RFU CBRE ALL SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

South Wirral High School has been lucky enough to be selected as part of England Rugby's CBRE All Schools programme - giving our students the opportunity to have fun, build lasting relationships and gain valuable skills through playing rugby.

The programme is built around rugby's 5 core values of teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship. These define the game, England Rugby and the culture we are trying to create. This programme helps our students gain advantage, grow more confident, more determined and more able to cope with anything the game of life throws at them.

Together with England Rugby and CBRE, South Wirral is committed to helping deliver a real rugby legacy for England.

As part of this programme, South Wirral will partner with Anselmians and Port Sunlight Rugby Clubs, and students will further benefit from expert coaching, support and equipment contributions from the RFU.

Our under 15's girls rugby team were recently invited to design their own kit with sports kit supplier Canterbury, and the RFU have provided the school with additional kit for a number of our other teams.



# A SCHOOL WHERE...

*Together, We Achieve More*

South Wirral High School is at the heart of our local community both geographically and in the many ways our students get involved with helping local residents. This may include raising money for the Charles Thompson Mission, working with Claire House or entertaining elderly residents with performances.

Students are encouraged to 'give back' to their community through our Pledges programme. We have exciting partnerships with local businesses such as Merseyrail, where we have adopted Bromborough Train station with students maintaining green spaces and producing artwork to help bring colour to our community.

COMMUNITY



Claire House  
CHILDREN'S HOSPICE



International  
School Award





We have regular contact with our local primary schools, reinforcing a close relationship. We organise regular visits from our current students to perform to younger children and inviting primary students into our school to take part in sports festivals.

2017 will see the exciting introduction of a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) initiative where local primary schools will join us in exciting and educational activities focused on developing the skills needed for careers in the future.

We also work with our global community, which is evidenced by our International Schools Award for our partnership with La Yahoushua School in Accra, Ghana. Our partnership has included visits for staff and students, who have taken equipment to donate to the school for over 7 years. Community is a key part of our ethos and we fully embrace any opportunities to work with our community.

Students who attended South Wirral High School are also invited in to offer specialist talks to current students to help inspire them on what they can achieve as part of our Alumni network. The most recent being Shaune Harrison who is now a prosthetic special makeup effects artist and has worked on films such as Harry Potter, The Avengers and Star Wars.



“I work with students across the Wirral from a variety of schools and can honestly say the level of support your students receive is far above any provided at other schools. I would like to congratulate staff on their commitment and efforts to prepare their students”

- Mrs Blessing, Private English & French Tutor



# A SCHOOL WHERE...

*There Are No Limits To Our Success*

Sixth Form @ South Wirral is a thriving Sixth Form College where students are able to build on their previous successes at GCSE level and get to experience a new approach to learning. This approach, with a focus on independent learning, equips our students for the next steps in their lives whether it is University, Apprenticeships or employment.

Our Sixth Form offers excellence in subject specialism with experienced staff from industry, specialist facilities including ICT suites and our new Google Classroom.

Alongside studies, the opportunities are there for curriculum enrichment and the advice and guidance to make decisions on future careers. Student's benefit from our new driven programme of enrichment every Wednesday afternoon where they experience community projects, talks from universities and industry.

We encourage all our students to be independent learners, team players and positive contributors to our community.

This ultimately sets them up for their future whether that be going to Russell Group Universities to study subjects such as Bio-Chemistry, to study History at University of Cambridge or begin apprenticeships with companies like Markhams, Unilever and Airbus.

Our staff, guidance and advice will help your child become the best version of themselves.

 **SIXTH FORM @ SOUTH WIRRAL**  
A Visual & Performing Arts, Maths & Computing College

**SIXTH FORM**





**PROMOTING OF INDEPENDENCE, SWIFT  
LEARNING AND PROGRESS IN PREPARATION  
FOR ADULT LIFE**

**DRIVEN PROGRAMME OF ENRICHMENT AND  
PREPARATION FOR STUDENTS TO BE READY  
FOR SUCCESS AT THE BEST UNIVERSITIES,  
APPRENTICESHIPS OR CAREERS**

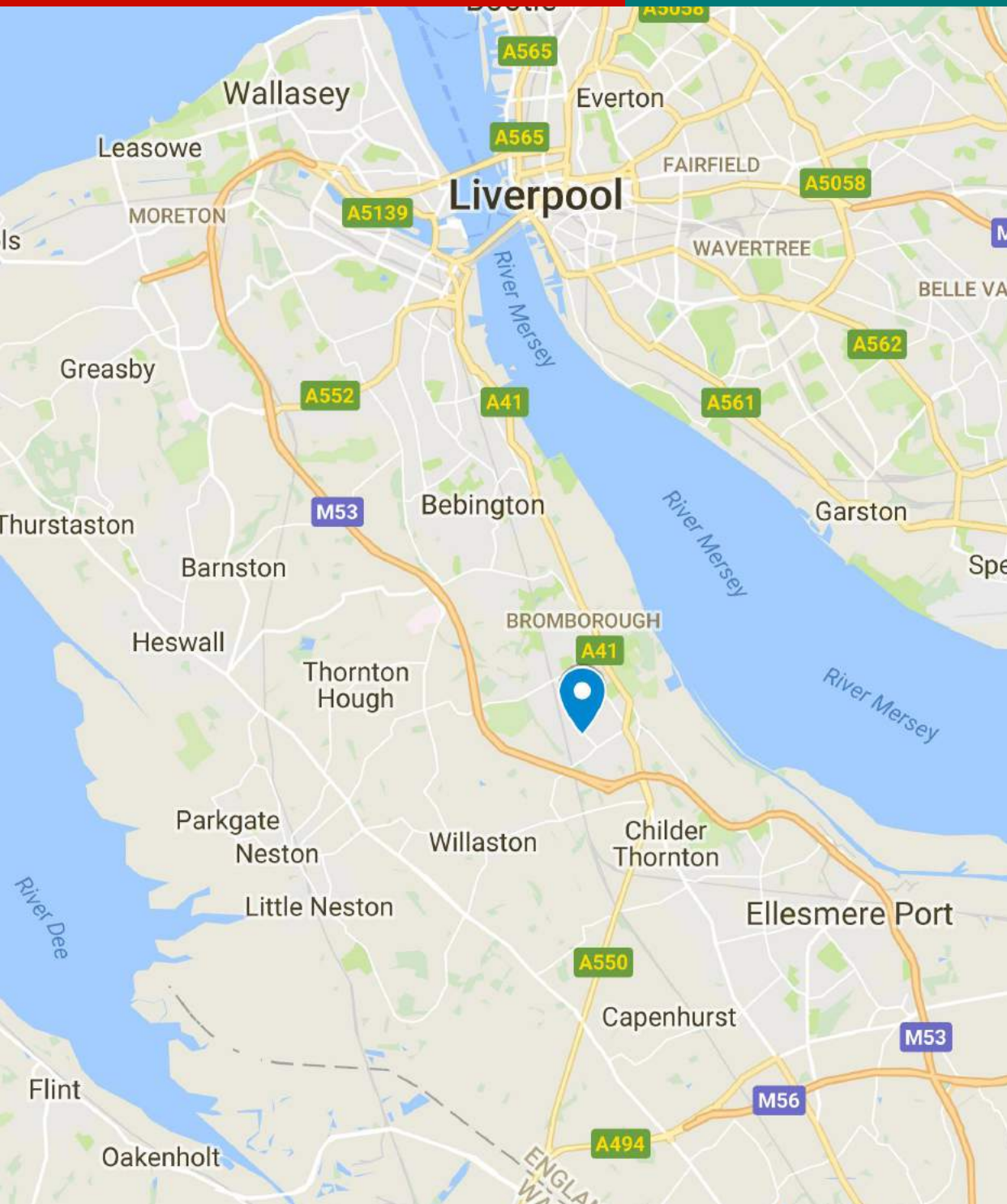
**OUTSTANDING CARE, GUIDANCE AND  
SUPPORT DURING THE TWO YEAR  
PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

**BURSARY WORTH £300, WITH WHICH A LAPTOP  
AT THE VERY REASONABLE COST OF £100 CAN BE  
PURCHASED TO ASSIST AND DEVELOP STUDIES  
AND PROGRESS**

**CAREERS, UNIVERSITY AND APPRENTICESHIPS  
ADVICE AND GUIDANCE HUBS TO SUPPORT  
POST 18 DESTINATIONS**

**(100% SUCCESS RATE IN APPROPRIATE DESTINATIONS FOR STUDENTS)**




**COMFORTING AND WELCOMING  
KNOWLEDGE OF THE SCHOOL AND STAFF**



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