



SOUTH WIRRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Where Every Student Matters & Every Student Thrives

PROSPECTUS



WELCOME TO SOUTH WIRRAL HIGH SCHOOL

As only the 5th Headteacher in 55 years of education at South Wirral High School, I'd like to thank you for taking the time to find out more about our school. We take great pride in the strong reputation we've built within our local community, founded on our consistent record of success across all areas of school life. Our commitment to excellence is driven by our ambition for every student to thrive, and we strive to provide learning experiences that are both challenging and inspiring; working in partnership with families and the community to make this happen.

Central to our vision is the belief that our students should embody and practise our core values: kindness, respect, determination, independence, and ambition. These values guide our approach to education and underpin our efforts to nurture well-rounded individuals to make them the best versions of themselves.

We aspire for our students to become:

- **Successful Learners:** Achieving this requires an exceptional attitude toward learning. Therefore, we emphasise academic progress and exemplary behaviour to ensure students achieve as best they can
- **Active Citizens:** Our LORIC Pledges are designed to provide students with experiences and responsibilities that foster active citizenship. Through these opportunities, students learn to contribute positively to their communities while embodying our values.
- **Happy and Confident Individuals:** We are dedicated to creating a supportive and joyful environment where students can develop confidence and self-assuredness. Our school community is vibrant and full of students who make us immensely proud.

Our commitment to these principles and our students' success has been recognised through various Quality Standards, affirming our dedication to providing exceptional educational experiences. We look forward to welcoming you to our school and working together to support your child's journey toward becoming a successful, active, and confident individual.

- Mr. Cloherty, Headteacher



A SCHOOL WHERE...

We Achieve, Reflect and Improve

At South Wirral, you join us at an exciting moment as we further strengthen our focus on academic excellence and holistic student development to add to our already substantial offer.

We believe a truly great school is built upon three core elements:

- **Excellent Behaviour:** Fostering a kind, respectful and supportive environment where all students can thrive.
- **Academic Rigour:** Maintaining high standards of learning and achievement through developing students' determination to succeed, their ambition to achieve and their independence skills to reach their targets.
- **Outstanding Pastoral Support:** Providing comprehensive care and guidance to nurture each student's personal growth.

Our holistic approach ensures that students are not only well-prepared academically but also supported in becoming outstanding citizens. Our extensive extracurricular program offers something for everyone, from a wide range of sports, practical and challenging activities to international trips and exciting opportunities to explore new places. These experiences are designed to enrich students' lives, develop their interests, and broaden their horizons.

Our Careers Education, Information, Advice, and Guidance (CEIAG) program plays a vital role in preparing students for their future. We offer valuable work experience placements in Years 10 and 12, engage with industry leaders to provide authentic real-world experiences, and deliver first-class guidance to help students navigate their career paths. We are dedicated to providing a well-rounded education that prepares students for the opportunities and challenges that face them as they strive forward into successful futures

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. Throughout the careers, personal development and enrichment provision from Year 7, we endeavour to provide students with a wealth of experiences with exposure to the best industries and universities in ensuring they have the knowledge and understanding of the opportunities around them and further afield.

The programme includes:

- Personal development skills workshops
- Inspirational speakers
- University visits
- One-to-one academic 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, In addition to English, Maths, Science and the non exam subjects of PE and faith and philosophy; students will select four GCSE or vocational qualifications that they are interested in deepening their knowledge and understanding of. The curriculum is developed in partnership with the school, learners and parents - each students is provided with independent information, advice and guidance on what subjects may support them most on their journey to becoming successful learners, confident, inspired individuals and aspiring responsible citizens.

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.



“Leaders and governors have an ambitious vision for the school. They have created a well-considered academic curriculum.”

- Ofsted, 2022





“Teachers have secure subject knowledge. They provide pupils and students with opportunities to revisit prior learning. Teachers... check what pupils and students know and to spot any misconceptions that they may have.”

- Ofsted, 2022



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.



“Strong, warm and respectful relationships between staff and pupils foster a productive learning environment..”

- Challenge Partners Review



A SCHOOL WHERE...

We Feel Happy And Enjoy Ourselves

YEAR GROUP SYSTEM

The Head of Year monitors your child's whole educational experience, ensuring that the individual needs of students are met. They morally, spiritually, socially and culturally help to educate all students in their care, throughout their time at South Wirral. Parents of Year 7 students are invited into school to meet pastoral 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.

Parents are warmly welcomed to the school to meet the Head of Year to discuss any matter or review any difficulties or concerns that their children may be experiencing. It is important to us and your child that parents and Heads of Year work in partnership to help raise achievement and promote development.

Each student is also allocated a 'house' from their very first day, with each house named after local families - Laird, Wilson, Stanley and Mayer.

STUDENT SERVICES

Our Student Services Hub provides a single place students can go to for any pastoral support they may need.

Assistant Head of Year are available throughout the school day to ensure students are prepared to learn to the best of their ability.

"Pupils throughout the school behave well. Their attitudes are exemplary. They open doors for visitors and queue sensibly for food at lunchtime and at breaks."
- Challenge Partners Review

"Leaders have established high expectations of pupils' and students' behaviour."

Staff tackle any reported incidents of bullying swiftly and effectively."

- Ofsted 2022



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 utilising the Code of Practice to guide our conversations and investigations. The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator - Miss V. Goode - works closely with primary schools to ensure continuity of support for children who have particular learning needs which have already been identified at Key Stage 1 & 2, or emerging needs that require further support. Programmes are set up for specific identified students, targeting their individual needs. Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all the pupils they teach. High quality teaching is the first step in responding to students who have SEN or emerging SEN needs. All children, regardless of need, learn alongside their peers wherever possible. Our curriculum is ambitious for all students - we do not differentiate it, we adapt it, to ensure equity.

We make the following adaptations to ensure that all students' needs are met. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list, but a flavour of what students will receive in every lesson across the curriculum:

- 1** By carefully thinking through our data-rich seating plans to ensure SEND students have equity of access.
- 2** By understanding individual needs and understanding how to adapt our subject teaching for ASC, ADHD and dyslexia: our three main areas of SEN need at South Wirral High School.
- 3** By deploying Teaching Assistants effectively, following our "Principles for TA deployment".
- 4** By adapting our teaching resources and teaching environment for neurodiversity.
- 5** All lessons are planned utilising the South Wirral Way structure:

Routine practice recall *I do* *We do* *You do* *Review*

"Leaders have comprehensive systems in place to accurately identify the needs of pupils and students with SEND."

- Ofsted
2022

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

- Parent



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 key topics focused on Theme of the Week, Numeracy Ninjas, immersive interactive lessons called Lyfta, and quizzes. Year 7 also take part in an Oracy Scholars programme; helping with the continuous improvement of literacy and confidence building.

YEARS 9, 10 & 11

Alongside Theme of the Week, Current Affairs, Lyfta and Numeracy Ninjas, year 9 also explore career opportunities and discuss GCSE options. At Key Stage 4, Year 10 and 11 have bespoke hours going through GCSE subjects and career focus with an emphasis on LORIC and our key values alongside moving on to further education.

STUDENT PLANNERS

We have 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'.

"There is a calm and purposeful atmosphere in school"
- Ofsted, 2022





A SCHOOL WHERE...

We Excel Through High Quality Teaching and Support

“Teachers are well trained. They have the appropriate knowledge and expertise to deliver subject curriculums skilfully. Using the ‘South Wirral Way’

- Ofsted, 2022

SOUTH WIRRAL WAY

At South Wirral High we ensure all students have high quality teaching in all lessons by using a universal structure. This structure is based on the most up to date pedagogy and neuroscience. We call it the South Wirral Way, it’s flexible enough to work in all curriculum areas and key stages, and rigorous enough to ensure a consistent high-quality education for all.

RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

At the start of the lesson teachers will ask questions about what has been learned before.

I DO

This is where the teacher explains the new knowledge for the lesson, they use stories and analogies to help them.

WE DO

This is where the teacher and the student work together to ensure the student understands the work, there will be some examples or models to help.

YOU DO

This is where students work independently, they are set a challenging task which make them think hard, we call this the ‘learning pit’ because this is where students use their knowledge and understanding to solve problems and answer questions on their own.

FEEDBACK

Students receive regular feedback on their work in a variety of ways. Students will receive lesson by lesson verbal feedback both individually and as a whole class. They will also have regular written feedback which gives bespoke targets and actions for individuals. Students are asked to use their feedback to improve their work in purple.



“I like the retrieval practice because all lessons start the same way and the questions help me remember”

- Student

I Do

“I like the ‘I do’ part of the lesson because the teachers break up the information into small parts so I don’t get overwhelmed”

- Student

We Do

“I like ‘we do’ because you can get help from the teacher, they show you what a good one looks like so you know what you need to do”

- Student

You Do

“I like the ‘you do’ part of the lesson because the teacher supports me if I get stuck, but they never give me the answers, they help me to work it out for myself which feels good when I succeed”

- Student

SOUTH WIRRAL READS

At South Wirral we have a strong reading culture where every student is supported and encouraged to read for their own pleasure as well as for knowledge acquisition. Students who have gaps in reading skills have access to quick, intensive reading interventions which range from phonics to small group reading, the path a student takes is bespoke to their needs.

We ensure that reading is enjoyable and challenging, increasing students' chances of being successful in life. We have a well stocked library which houses the most recent book releases and is updated regularly. Students have access to the Library during lessons and lunch time.

Current Year 7 are embarking on the inaugural year of South Wirral Oracy Scholars which is a public speaking programme designed to introduce the students to the great orators of our time, support them through creating their first public speech and going on to battle it out to be the first Oracy Champion 2024-25.

“Pupils, and students in the sixth form, feel happy and safe at South Wirral High School.

They are proud of their school.

They appreciate their peers' friendship and the support and care that they receive from staff.”

- Ofsted, 2022

The Jane
Edwards
Library



A SCHOOL WHERE...

We Aspire To Be The Best Version Of Ourselves

MOVING ON UP TO SOUTH WIRRAL HIGH SCHOOL

We have a well developed transition programme at South Wirral which can start for some children earlier than Year 6 if they access some of the Primary School linked events such as Signing Choir and various Sports events.

From the moment a place at South Wirral is allocated you receive a wealth of material that will support yourself with the transition from Primary School systems to Secondary, and a dedicated email contact for any questions. Students also have immediate access to a Google Classroom page where they can take part in fun activities linked to their Year 7 curriculum and also get to say hello to future friends.

We have a dedicated transition team led by Mrs Hodson-Evans, this includes staff from the SEND team and pastoral team. Students who experience additional needs or who may need longer to get to know the school experience Enhanced Transition, and this is bespoke for a student's needs.

Before Welcome Day, staff from the transition team will have met with teachers and students to ensure a smooth transfer of information and a familiar face for the students. Welcome Day itself is exciting with students experiencing a quieter site as exam year groups will have left, a taste of the curriculum and their first introduction to their Tutor Groups.

South Wirral gives all new students an opportunity to visit the site again before their September start through Summer School, which is a fantastic day of team building and fun activities where students will meet new friends and teachers.

“We moved from Neston to Eastham Village midway through Year 6.

We had the choice to send my son to [a different secondary school] with all his friends or start South Wirral knowing no-one. We decided it would be more beneficial for him to go to South Wirral.

After completing his first year my son is extremely happy, made loads of new friends and we are the happy with the school as parents too”

- Parent

TRANSITION



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At South Wirral High School, we nurture ambitious, independent students by offering diverse opportunities to explore their passions. With a variety of clubs and activities—academic, sporting, creative, and charitable—every student can find something that drives them to excel. Through these activities, students embrace kindness, determination, independence, respect, and ambition, growing both in and out of the classroom.

From the strategy of Chess Club to the teamwork in football, the creativity in Warhammer Club, or the confidence built in Signing Choir, there's something for everyone. Notable clubs include The Debating Society, where students engage with politicians and visit institutions like Westminster, fostering independence and critical thinking. Our LORIC Players Drama Club, national winners, inspire creativity and push students to perform their best.

At South Wirral, the challenge isn't finding something to join, but choosing from the many incredible opportunities. Each club shapes students into confident, resilient individuals, ready for the future.

“Pupils benefit from a wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer.”

These include sports clubs, a debating society and a diversity group.

This variety adds to South Wirral High's attractiveness as a place where pupils want to be”

- Challenge Partners
Review

ENRICHMENT



A SCHOOL WHERE...

We Shape Our Futures

LORIC Pledges

**LEADERSHIP, ORGANISATION, RESILIENCE,
INITIATIVE AND COMMUNICATION**

We aim to inspire confident, independent, and ambitious students who excel academically and as active community members. By instilling values of kindness, determination, respect, independence, and ambition, we equip students with the tools for success in all aspects of life. This ethos is reflected in our curriculum and extra-curricular programme.

Through our LORIC pledges—leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative, and communication—we help students grow as leaders, thinkers, and communicators while building character.

Our LORIC programme encourages participation in enrichment activities from Key Stage 3 to 5, where students take on leadership roles, organise events, show resilience, and demonstrate initiative, pushing them to reach their full potential.

Students complete five elements of each LORIC standard, developing into well-rounded, compassionate individuals who lead with kindness and pursue their ambitions with determination. Personal and form-based rewards promote teamwork and collective success. Tutors track progress during weekly sessions, with achievements logged in Arbor and celebrated at house assemblies. Progress is documented in student folders, showcasing their development throughout their school years.

CAREERS

At South Wirral High School, we guide students from Year 7 to Year 13 on a career journey that fosters success and confidence. Our careers programme provides the tools for informed decision-making, starting with Drop Down Days in Year 7, where alumni share career insights. As students progress, 1:1 career interviews in Years 10-13 offer personalised guidance, supporting ambitions whether for university, apprenticeships, or the workforce. Through the UNIFROG platform, students access comprehensive career information. We also host an annual careers fair for parents and students, offering advice on the next steps toward exciting careers.

“Pupils and students benefit from a strong personal development programme, including that for relationships and sex education and health education. There is a strong safeguarding culture across the school.”

- Ofsted 2022





South Wirral High School offers students in Years 8-13 the chance to become Sports Leaders, promoting leadership and teamwork while making a positive community impact. Sports Leaders help run extra-curricular PE clubs, particularly supporting the inclusive Unified Sports Club. They also engage with local primary schools, organizing sports festivals and contributing to events like Panathlon disability festivals and Wirral School Games inclusion festivals, creating accessible sports experiences for all.

This role helps students develop leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative, and communication, aligning with the LORIC Pledges and fulfilling parts of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. In partnership with the Youth Sport Trust, Sports Leaders deliver programmes like Active in Mind and Girls Active. Sixth Form students can also earn a Level 3 Qualification in Sports Leadership, boosting their skills and employability.

Becoming a Sports Leader is an empowering experience, fostering independence, ambition, and respect while giving back to the community.



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. Whether raising money for the Charles Thompson Mission, working with Claire House Childrens' Hospice or entertaining elderly residents with performances, students are encouraged to 'give back' to their community through our LORIC Pledges Programme.

Our regular contact with local primary schools reinforces a close relationship - particularly during the transition period 'moving on up' from primary to secondary. We organise visits from our current students to perform to younger children, and invite primary students into our school to take part in sports festivals.

Recent STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) initiatives have seen students join us in exciting and educational activities focused on developing the skills needed for careers in the future. Previously we hosted a 'Space Week' where the school provided students with a week of exciting space-themed activities culminating in the launch of a balloon - with payload - into near space.



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. This includes 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 and Daniel Tyler who attended Cambridge University.



“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...

Communication Is Key

At South Wirral High School we use a number of ways to ensure home school communication is as clear as possible. Our main method of communication is via our school App - Arbor. You can download this app or access it on your computer.

Our half-termly 'South Wirral Digest' newsletter allows parents to see what is happening in school and to celebrate our students' successes. This is available on our website and posted on our regularly updated social media channels.

ATTENDANCE

ASSESSMENTS

BEHAVIOUR

EXAM DETAILS

EXTRA CURRICULAR

LETTERS

LORIC PLEDGES

STUDENT PROFILE

TIMETABLE

ARBOR OUR COMPLETE HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION PLATFORM

Arbor provides a unified platform that allows parents and carers to view a wide variety of day-to-day information about their child(ren) with ease. Parents are able to access information using the Arbor portal and mobile app available on the App Store and Google Play.

"I'm delighted how well my son has settled into the school. He's loving his time spent there."

Thanks to all the staff who helped the transition from primary go so smoothly.

I use the app daily, it's really useful."

- Parent



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 at Key Stage 5. 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 specialisms with experienced staff from industry, specialist facilities including ICT suites and access to Google Chromebooks alongside Independent Study sessions utilising Arbor to organise their learning and study time.

Alongside studies, the opportunities are there for curriculum enrichment and the advice and guidance to make decisions on future careers. Students benefit from our new driven programme of enrichment every Wednesday afternoon where they experience community projects, talks from universities and industry. Students are provided with a wide range of leadership opportunities in extra-curricular and excel in the wider school life to support their leadership and character development. We encourage all our students to be independent learners, team players and positive contributors to our community.

This ultimately sets them up for their successful future whether that be going to Russell Group Universities or beginning apprenticeships with companies like Unilever and Airbus.

Our staff, guidance and advice will help your young person become the best version of themselves, achieving the best outcomes possible.

 **SIXTH FORM @ SOUTH WIRRAL**
Where Every Student Matters & Every Student Thrives

SIXTH FORM





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

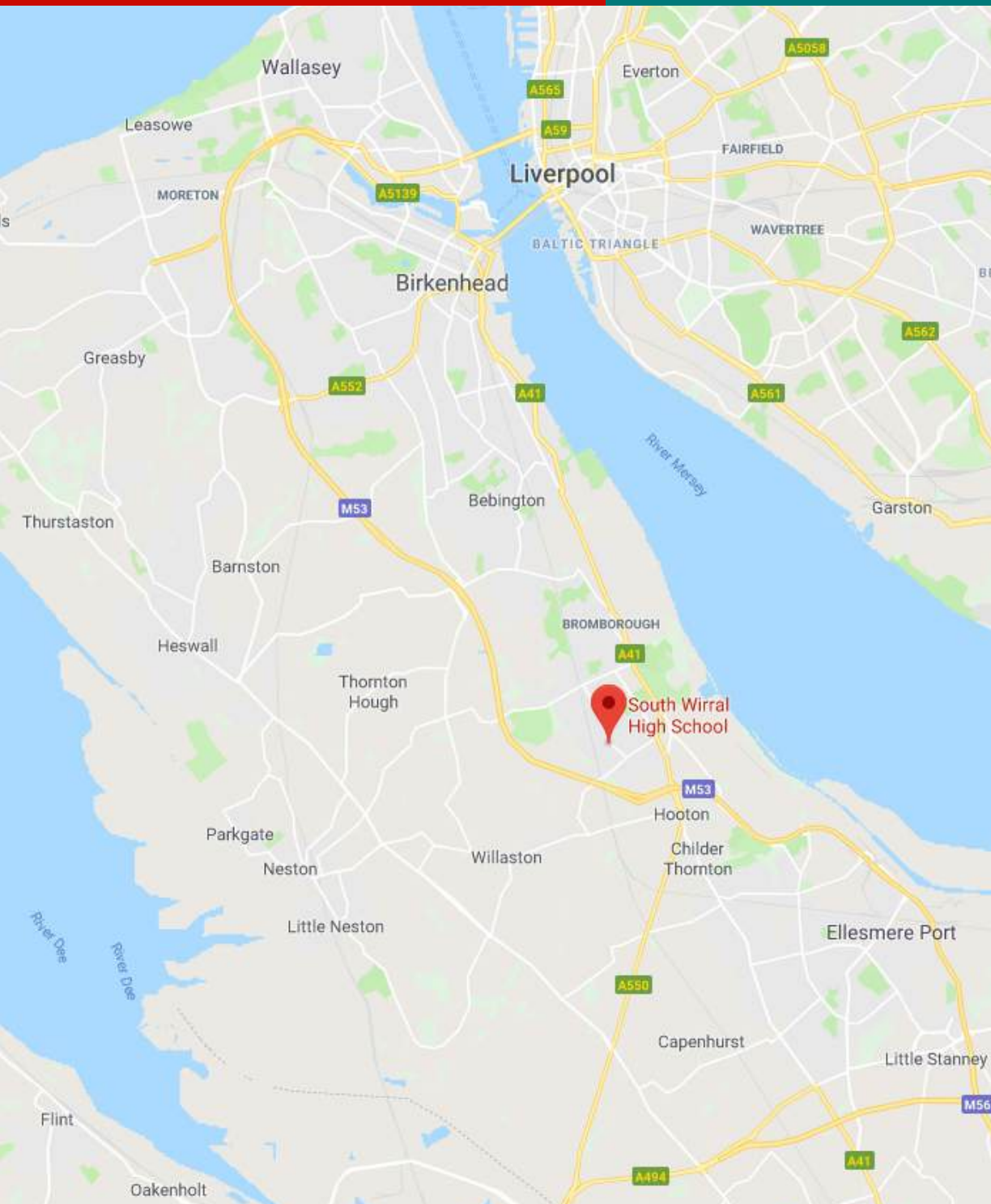
**DRIVEN PROGRAMME OF ENRICHMENT AND
PREPARATION FOR STUDENTS TO BE READY
FOR SUCCESS AT THE BEST UNIVERSITIES,
APPRENTICESHIPS OR CAREERS**

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

**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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