

BLACON HIGH SCHOOL



**BLACON
HIGH SCHOOL**
SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

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Good School

Headteacher's Welcome

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Blacon High School. I am proud and privileged to be the headteacher of this vibrant community; an environment where every student can flourish and achieve their dreams.

Blacon is more than just a school, it is a place where great things happen each and every day. Our dedicated team of staff is committed to working with the young people of the Blacon family to achieve the best possible outcomes in a nurturing and supportive environment, where every individual matters.

Our popularity and success is evident in the completion of our new extension, testament to our increasing numbers and improving outcomes. The superb learning environment at Blacon High School enables students to follow an ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum, adapted to meet the needs of all students.

The ethos of our school is one of ambition, excellence and high expectation. It is our vision and belief that students will not just achieve but excel, developing the confidence and resilience to be the best they can be. Education changes lives and we are committed to providing enriching, challenging and fulfilling experiences both within and beyond the classroom.

We invite you to visit our school to experience our superb facilities for yourself. You will witness the innovative teaching, supportive learning environment and high-quality relationships that define us. We value our partnership with you because this is the key to your child's success.



HEADTEACHER
Rachel Hudson
BA, MSc, NPQH

- R** ELATIONSHIPS
- E** XCELLENCE
- S** UPPORT
- P** ARTNERSHIP
- E** QUALITY
- C** OMMUNITY
- T** EAMWORK

Transition



Choosing a secondary school is a big decision and at Blacon High School we work really hard to ensure that your child makes a smooth transition when they join us. We have very close working relationships with all of the local primary schools and enjoy a unique and special relationship with schools in the Blacon Educational Village (BEV). Throughout the year, we timetable a catalogue of activities to showcase the excellent teaching and learning opportunities that make Blacon High School the first choice for so many of you. This ensures that, wherever possible, your child is welcomed into a familiar environment.

New starters are often well acquainted with many of the team here already. Teachers from Blacon High School devote a lot of time each term delivering lessons in French, Spanish, Music and PE to prospective students in the familiar environment of their own schools. This valuable work helps to develop the foundations of positive relationships, which lie at the heart of our commitment to your child's future success.

In addition, amongst a host of integrated activities, children in Years 5 and 6 take advantage of several dates in the school calendar when they join us to experience student life in secondary school. Our 'WOW' days are always very popular events, where students take part in a range of practical subjects and always leave us feeling tired, but excited about joining Blacon High School. Additionally, we host Open Days, where parents and children have the opportunity to witness the school in action, join in with some real lessons and observe the student experience.

We have an open door policy here and welcome visits from prospective students all year round.

The school's partnerships and close working relationships with other schools are a strength that promotes a very smooth transition for pupils from year 6 to Year 7.
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Welcome to Blacon High School. When you opt to come here, you are choosing the brightest of futures. Our prospectus offers you only a flavour of what is on offer.

In September 2021, we took ownership of our newest building, a bespoke, multi-million pound addition to our portfolio of amazing resources. This exciting development reflects the community's confidence in the school and will help us to accommodate the growing number of students we have on roll. All of our buildings are now packed with state-of-the-art academic and sporting facilities.

The strongest futures are built on secure foundations and the most valuable resource that we have to underpin that success is the community of people who work and study at Blacon High School. Our doors are always open to visitors so we invite you to make an appointment to come and see for yourselves.



Inclusion

At the heart of our new building is our inclusion department: The Sanctuary.

Within this safe and secure base, we offer a calming, nurture-based environment where additional focused support is provided to help students fulfil their potential. Here, students are provided with opportunities to build key skills that enable them to access learning successfully, as well as developing their social and emotional needs. Resources include a sensory room, ICT suite, kitchen and, of course, our very own therapy dog: Paddy. A dedicated and experienced team of staff work to meet the needs of all our students within this inclusive environment, supporting learning and progression for all.

Additionally we offer a bespoke alternative curriculum for our Orion students, which gives them the opportunity to develop their own skill set both within and outside of the school environment during their outdoor education sessions.

Our SENDCo and family support team, who are also based within the new building, work closely together in partnership with parents and carers to support the success of all our students. Pastoral support is enhanced by a dedicated mentoring and support team who work within The Sanctuary.

We strive to ensure that all students enjoy their time as part of The Blacon High School family, fulfil their potential and leave us as confident young adults.



Ethos

Our aim is to be a centre of excellence that holds high academic aspirations for all of its students. At Blacon High School we offer an inclusive curriculum combined with a strong community ethos. Of equal importance is our commitment to developing the full potential of every child – personally, physically and socially.

Our promise to you:

- To put our students at the centre of everything we do
- To deliver top quality teaching and learning
- To offer personalised pathways to enable all students to succeed

Our expectation of excellent behaviour at Blacon High School continues to be underpinned by our core principles, which were written in collaboration with our Student Leaders. Additionally, students are encouraged to develop key life skills such as independence, resilience, and take responsibility for their own learning journey, progress and development.

- Follow instructions first time
- Be prepared for learning and willing to learn
- Show respect and tolerance
- Be in the right place at the right time
- Use positive and appropriate language
- Be a positive ambassador for the school at all times

Behaviour in lessons and around school is good and pupils bring very positive attitudes to their learning .

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Curriculum

At Blacon High School we aim to develop each student's mind, body and character. The curriculum is broad, rich, fully inclusive and reflects our aim to provide a first-class education, which unlocks each student's full potential. In addition to maximising academic progress and attainment, our curriculum guides students' spiritual and moral development and prepares them for the opportunities and challenges of adult life.

In Years 7 and 8, students follow courses that are based on the National Curriculum. In Year 9, students begin studying three option subjects and continue to study English, Maths, Science, Computer Science, Cultural Studies, Religious Studies, Physical Education, PSHE, Geography and History.

In Year 10, students opt for GCSE Geography, History, or both of these subjects. In Year 10 and 11 we also offer the AQA Higher Project Qualification which prepares students for the AQA Extended Project Qualification in Sixth Form, which supports progression to university.

Our curriculum prepares students for their future pathways in education, training and the workplace, with links to key employability and study skills. The 'Sanctuary' and 'Orion' groups offer individual and small-group provision to underpin successful outcomes for all groups of students.

The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum and subjects meet pupils' needs well.

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Pastoral Care



At the heart of Blacon High School is a pastoral care system that puts the student at the centre of everything we do.

A dedicated and experienced team of staff works in partnership, and shares open dialogue with parents and carers to support the success all of our students. A member of the pastoral team can always be found in the Pastoral Base, where students can find support at any time during the school day.

Our 'Core Principles' are the language of the school and are used consistently to promote positive behaviours. Study Skills and Attitudes (SSA) grades are the heartbeat of the school's behaviour policy and are used in every lesson to monitor Attitude to Learning (A2L). These grades then inform our rewards programme.

We aim to equip students with essential life skills and help them develop into independent and responsible individuals who make a positive contribution to the school and to the community. Students learn the value of developing positive personal relationships, optimistic attitudes and are instilled with a strong sense of self-worth.

We strive to ensure that all students enjoy their time as part of the Blacon High School family, fulfil their potential and leave us as confident young adults.

The school's work to promote personal development and welfare is good and excellent systems are in place to offer help and support.

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Enrichment

At Blacon High School, we aim to give students the best possible experience during their time with us and understand that their individual and social development is enhanced when it extends beyond the classroom. Our enrichment programme is filled with exciting and fulfilling opportunities and we encourage participation in a variety of extra-curricular activities both during and after school.

We offer a wide range of sporting, academic, vocational and leadership opportunities including:

- A full calendar of individual and team sports where we compete successfully at all levels
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Performing Arts clubs including Drama, the School Band and the Choir who offer performances throughout the year in school and at a variety of venues in the community
- School Parliament
- ICT, DT and Art clubs
- Homework clubs in all subject areas

Additionally, we offer an increasing number of trips that complement our curriculum such as Geography field trips, visits to the theatre, and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. We also focus on personal development and it is our intention that all students will benefit from at least one residential trip while they are with us. Students also have the opportunity for foreign travel. Recent visits have included Belgium, France and student exchange trips to Bulgaria. Additionally, Blacon High School is proud to host international students from as far afield as China and Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean.

We have something to offer for everyone, whatever their interests.

Pupils enjoy a rich variety of after-school activities every day.
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Future Pathways



At Blacon High School we focus on individual students. During their journey with us we guide and support their academic, personal and social development to enable them to make informed choices when planning for successful and fulfilling futures.

Our curriculum is designed to support positive next steps in education, training and the workplace. We embed careers advice and guidance into the curriculum and collaborate with all local providers; we encourage our students to explore a variety of post 16 pathways and work closely with schools, colleges and representatives from local industry.

As a result, most of our students follow routes in education and study Level 3 courses including A Levels and a variety of vocational options, while others choose apprenticeships, in-work training and a range of academic alternatives. Every student has the opportunity to succeed.



The impact of careers information, advice and guidance is clear in the fact that all students went on to further education, training or employment after Year 11.

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Destinations

A growing number of our students choose extended academic routes by studying A Levels at high schools in the area including: Christleton, Bishops Bluecoat, Queen's Park, Upton-by-Chester and the Catholic High.

Many students enrol on the wide variety of vocational courses available in everything from Engineering, Travel and Tourism and Equine Studies to Games Development at institutes such as Coleg Cambria, Cheshire College – South and West, and Reaseheath College. Additionally, in recent years, students have won apprenticeships to Airbus and Tata Steel.

In collaboration with the Hope Opportunity Trust and the Springboard Bursary Foundation, students from Blacon High School are eligible to be considered for entry to a number of independent schools both locally and nationally; this is a fantastic scheme that offers life-changing opportunities. To date, approximately thirty five students have won fully funded places to some of the country's leading public schools including Eton College, Marlborough, Gordonstoun, Fettes, Repton, Bradfield College and The Kings School in Chester.

'I would like to say thank you to Blacon High School for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime'

Marcel Aziamale – Eton College, Berkshire 2017-19; studying at Deerfield College, Boston, USA.

'Going to Blacon High School was undoubtedly one of the best decisions I ever made as it gave me the opportunity to explore my talents and figure out what kind of person I wanted to be. The staff gave everybody the motivation, determination and confidence to get what they wanted and to strive to achieve the best. I will always be grateful to Blacon High for the way it has changed my life and I'm beyond proud to tell people what high school I went to.'

Alexandra Cosme – Bradfield College, Berkshire 2015; Manchester University.



MORE THAN JUST A SCHOOL



WESTMINSTER
FOUNDATION



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