



# The *Excellence* Programme

Supporting academic high-flyers and progression to the top UK universities, medical/dentistry schools and elite apprenticeship programmes.



# The Excellence Programme - Your path to elite achievement

**Blackpool Sixth's Excellence Programme has been specially crafted to support our most academically able students in their studies and prepare them for entry to the country's top universities.**

As an Excellence Programme student, you will take part in an exciting and challenging programme, designed to help you to meet your aspirations and succeed to the very best of your ability. Entry to the Excellence Programme is based on high achievement in GCSE courses and places are limited to the top achieving students in each year group.

## What does the Excellence Programme involve?

There are several main strands to the Excellence Programme at Blackpool Sixth, each helping to develop your depth and range of knowledge and skills.

## Support for entry to top universities

Blackpool Sixth has a proven record of students gaining highly competitive places and all Excellence Programme students will receive individual support in the application process to the most selective universities, including Oxford, Cambridge and other elite Russell Group institutions. Preparation will include workshops on personal statements, interviews with external consultants and entrance examinations (wherever applicable).

### Career Academies

A fantastic range of 'academies' that offer you the chance to develop extra skills outside of your core study programme. Academies such as the Medical Society Academy enable ambitious students to prepare for highly competitive university places and careers.

### Supercurricular

A programme of lectures covering a wide range of topics beyond the exam syllabuses, backed up by an on-line learning portal so that you can explore a world of knowledge beyond the classroom.

### EPQ – The Extended Project Qualification

This qualification allows you to identify an area of particular interest and conduct your own independent research, culminating in either a 5000-word project report or the creation of an artefact accompanied by a 1000-word report. Highly valued by universities, the EPQ also enables you to develop essential employability skills.



## Here are some of our recent Russell Group university students with their views on the support we gave them:



*"When I got to college and was taught by Pete for Ancient History, he really pushed me towards seeing what potential I had and how 'awesome' Oxford actually was."*

Kris, former St. Bede's Catholic High School student.



Isabella, who joined Blackpool Sixth from an international school in Dubai, explained that she had never really considered applying to Oxford before she joined the college, **"Oxford University had always seemed like this impossible goal - for the geniuses and the rich kids that go to Eton - so I never allowed myself to get my hopes up. It was when my amazing teacher, Peter Wright, told me how much he believed in me that I realised I could apply. After knowing it would be possible, I began researching about the university and I fell in love with Oxford as a whole as well as my college."**

## Gaining places at the world's top universities

### What is the Russell Group?

The Russell Group consists of 24 UK universities which are rated as world-class for their teaching and research. Amongst the membership of the group are the universities of Oxford and Cambridge as well as Durham, York, Warwick, Edinburgh, Sheffield and Kings College, London. Every year many Blackpool Sixth students apply and gain places at these institutions as well as a wider list of 'high tariff' selective universities such as Lancaster and St. Andrews.

### What is the Ivy League?

The Ivy League is the term for the most highly respected universities in the United States. In recent years, we have had two of our students progress to Ivy League institutions Yale and Harvard. We have excellent links with the Sutton Trust who help support UK students to gain places at the top-rated universities in the UK and US.

### How will Blackpool Sixth help me gain a place at a Russell Group university or other world-class university?

All Blackpool Sixth students receive excellent support for progressing to their chosen next step after college. As an Excellence Programme student, you will be provided with a specific package of support and additional opportunities to ensure you are fully prepared for gaining a place at the top universities in the UK and the world:

- A dedicated progress mentor
- Organised visits/conferences including the country's leading universities
- Guest talks/lectures from academic speakers
- Workshops on personal statements, interviews and entry exams
- University access programmes, including the Cambridge HE+ scheme
- Academic enhancement tutorials led by the Excellence Programme Coordinator



# Enrichment

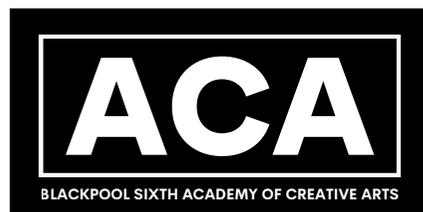
## Career Academies

An exciting range of 'academies' designed to enable ambitious students to prepare for university and prestigious future careers.

Each Career Academy will provide participating students with excellent activities and skills-building to help them go beyond the exam curriculum and apply their knowledge and skills in challenging contexts. In so doing, they will discover more about a general subject or job area and will build up a great portfolio for applying to highly selective universities or higher apprenticeship programmes.

You will develop exceptional employability skills, including, leadership, collaboration and teamworking, public speaking and confidence.

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|---|--|
|  <b>ENTREPRENEUR ACADEMY</b> |  <b>MEDICAL SOCIETY ACADEMY</b>               |
|  <b>DIGITAL ACADEMY</b>      |  <b>RESEARCH ACADEMY</b>                      |
|  <b>ENGINEERING ACADEMY</b>  |  <b>SCIENCE ACADEMY</b>                       |
|  <b>JOURNALISM ACADEMY</b>   |  <b>SPORTS &amp; EXERCISE SCIENCE ACADEMY</b> |
|  <b>LAW ACADEMY</b>          |  <b>TEACHING ACADEMY</b>                      |
|  <b>LEADERSHIP ACADEMY</b>   |  <b>HEALTH ACADEMY</b>                        |



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|  <b>MUSICIANS ACADEMY</b>     |
|  <b>PERFORMERS ACADEMY</b>    |
|  <b>VISUAL ARTS ACADEMY</b> |

## Sports Academies, Societies and Clubs

We offer various clubs and societies for students to participate in such as musical theatre, badminton, table tennis, climbing, DofE, European Society, Sixth Sense Magazine, Chess Academy, Eco action, Student Union and many more. These clubs run at lunchtimes, Wednesday afternoons and after college. Attendance is optional, but it is something you should consider.

We run teams in:

- Basketball (male and female)
- Rugby (male)
- Netball (female)
- Football (male and female)



# EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)

## What is an EPQ?

The EPQ is a formal qualification equivalent to half an A level. It gives you the opportunity to conduct an individual academic research project into something that really interests you. An EPQ allows you to go into a topic in depth and experience the thrill of real research.

With guidance from a relevant member of staff, you will choose the research topic. Students often link these to the academic disciplines covered by one of their A level subjects but are encouraged to be innovative deciding what to choose. Some topics will cross subject boundaries and this is supported too.

Some examples of previous topics chosen include:

- **Habitability of Space**
- **Music and Neuroplasticity**
- **Sports Psychology to Support Injury Recovery**
- **The Life Span of Forever Chemicals**
- **CRISPR and Genetic Modifications**
- **The Influence of Female Film Directors**
- **How to Develop Ransomware**
- **The Use of Duress in the Law**
- **Determinism**
- **The Science behind Personal Training**

The EPQ will be assessed based upon either a 5000 word report or an artefact with an accompanying 1000 word report. Through the EPQ you will develop essential university-level study skills. This will help set you apart from other applicants and shine at interviews.

**Abby Potts** is looking at studying chemistry at The University of Bath or The University of Liverpool (both entry grade AAA) but was offered AAB due to already having an A in EPQ.

**Joshua Williams** plans to study politics at Sheffield University (entry grade AAB) but was offered ABB due to already having an A in his EPQ.

**“I love EPQ because it allows me to learn skills for university such as time-management, independence and decision making. I also love the diversity of being able to talk about what you are passionate about.”**

- Livvi Priest, studied A Level Biology, English Language, Psychology and Extended Project Qualification.



## Supercurricular Lectures

**Our Super Curricular Lectures give students the chance to go beyond the classroom and explore exciting topics that stretch thinking and inspire curiosity.**

Delivered by staff, visiting speakers, and subject experts, these sessions cover a wide range of themes — from cutting-edge research and current affairs to university-level subject insights. Super Curricular Lectures help students deepen their knowledge, build critical thinking skills, and strengthen personal statements or CVs by showing genuine engagement with learning beyond the core syllabus.

### Previous lectures have included:

- Can Chaos Theory take us to the stars?
- Che Guevara: Hero or Hypocrite?
- The CSI effect
- Dementia friends training
- How can we transform our politics to combat democratic apathy?
- Billionaire Failures
- How to be a philosopher
- Is Violence against women: a national threat?
- Parliament and you. A talk from Blackpool North and Fleetwood's MP.
- Was Cleopatra beautiful?
- Artificial Intelligence - threat or hype?
- London Bridge isn't falling down: Designing major structures and how to avoid mechanical resonance
- Women and politics in Blackpool.
- Is the Literary canon as we know it dead?
- STIs: Your problem or mine?
- We all have to die sometime: attitudes towards mortality
- Uncontacted tribes
- Using data to aid athletic performance
- Islam in a nutshell
- How a Victorian physician led to your favourite film
- Conservative Party Parliamentary Candidate and Wyre Councillor: The future of Conservatism.



## Visits

As part of our Excellence Programme, students have the opportunity to visit some of the UK's most prestigious universities. A recent trip to St John's College and Trinity College, Cambridge University allowed participants to experience university life first-hand, explore the historic colleges, and gain valuable insight into admissions and academic opportunities. These visits are designed to raise aspirations, broaden horizons, and give students the confidence to aim for top universities across the country.

**Students Bella and Sinead recently completed a week's work experience with the highly respected commercial archaeology company Oxford North Archaeology.** This unique opportunity gave them hands-on insight into archaeological fieldwork, research techniques, and the day-to-day workings of a professional heritage organisation. Experiences like this help our students develop valuable skills, strengthen their CVs, and explore potential career pathways in history, heritage, and beyond.

# Building futures... some of our recent Excellence Programme students:



**Bella Beaton** achieved outstanding grades: A\* in Psychology, English Literature, and her Extended Project Qualification, alongside an A in Ancient History. She is now set to join Oxford University to study Classical Archaeology and Ancient History – a course that perfectly matches her passion and commitment.



**Millie Waters** has achieved an exceptional set of A Level results – A in Psychology, A in Ancient History, and A\* in Law. She is now set to study Classics at the University of Oxford, an exciting next step that reflects her hard work and passion for the subject.



**Nathaniel Wright** is celebrating outstanding results as he prepares to study Engineering at the University of Cambridge. He achieved an A\* in Physics and Mathematics, an A in Further Mathematics and Extended Project Qualification – a fantastic achievement that reflects his dedication and academic excellence.



**Jenny Kelly**, a former student of LSA Technology and Performing Arts College, has secured a place at Cambridge University to read History. She achieved an outstanding set of results: A\* in her Extended Project Qualification, A Level Religion, Ethics & Philosophy and A Level Sociology, and an A in Modern History. An incredible achievement that reflects her dedication and passion for the past.



**Kris Camama-Darby**, a former student of St. Bede's Catholic High School, attends Oxford University to study Classical Archaeology and Ancient History. Kris achieved an A\* in Ancient History: Classical Civilisation, an A in English Language, and a B in Modern History – an excellent set of results reflecting their commitment and enthusiasm for the subject.



**Lucy-Mae Cheatle**, a former Blackpool Aspire Academy student, achieved an exceptional set of A Level results: A\* in Biology and Extended Project Qualification on gene therapy, A in Chemistry and Mathematics. She is now studying Medicine at the University of Oxford – an incredible achievement that highlights her dedication and ambition.



Former Cardinal Allen Catholic High School student, **Lily Eaton** achieved A\* grades in A Level Biology, Spanish and her extended project and an A in Chemistry. Lily progressed to University of Liverpool to study Biological Sciences.



**Amelia Morris** from Montgomery Academy achieved A grades in A Level Biology and Chemistry and a grade B in A Level French at Blackpool Sixth. She moves on to The University of Lincoln to study medicine.



**Samson Mott**, a former student of Montgomery Academy, celebrated an exceptional set of results: A\* in his Extended Project Qualification and A Level Mathematics, A in Further Mathematics and Physics. Samson will now be taking the next step toward his ambitions at the University of Bristol, where he will study Aerospace Engineering.



**Megan Willmot**, a former student of Saint Aidan's Church of England High School prepares to study Medicine at Bangor University. Megan achieved grade A in Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, and an A\* in her Extended Project Qualification. Alongside her academic success, she also embraced wider opportunities, including a memorable trip to Krakow with the Social Sciences department.



**Further information about the Excellence Programme is available at our open events.**

You can also contact our Excellence Programme Coordinator, Peter Wright  
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For more general questions about admission to Blackpool Sixth please contact the Admissions Team on:

**01253 394911** or on  
**[admissions@blackpoolsixth.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@blackpoolsixth.ac.uk)**

**[www.blackpoolsixth.ac.uk](http://www.blackpoolsixth.ac.uk)**