



BYRCHALL  
HIGH SCHOOL

LIVE TO LEARN  
LEARN TO LIVE





# Welcome to Byrchall High School

I am immensely proud to be the headteacher of this high-achieving, caring community where every child is valued and supported to achieve their full potential.

At Byrchall, we offer an exciting and enriching learning environment with access to a broad range of subject options. In addition to the more traditional subjects, every student is exposed to the latest technologies in order to equip them with the necessary skills and abilities to excel in a competitive job market.

Our school has a long history of academic success. Founded in 1588, the school has a reputation of empowering students to be successful through a combination of strong teaching and specialist facilities. We balance learning and challenge with the aim of each child achieving independence.

Our students are the secret to our success; they engage fully in our wide curriculum, developing flexibility which enables them to compete in an ever-changing world. They are happy, polite, articulate, ambitious and

highly-motivated, but above all, they are kind. I have a dedicated team who work hard to create confident, motivated and responsible citizens of the future.

We offer a wide range of engaging and enjoyable activities outside the classroom. This helps to show our students that our care and support for them stretch far beyond the school gates.

Choosing a high school for your child is a genuine challenge but I am delighted you're considering Byrchall. I hope this prospectus gives you an insight into school life. I am sure you will be impressed at our offering and share in my pride as you peruse the pages.

Finally, it is difficult for any prospectus to answer all of your questions so I invite you to visit us and experience what is on offer inside the walls of our warm and academic environment.

**Mr Alan Birchall, Headteacher**



## See For Yourself!

If you'd like to watch the videos that accompany this prospectus, you will need the Zappar app. This can be downloaded free of charge from your app store.

Open the app and hover the camera over the Zappar logo on each page. The video will open automatically for you to enjoy.





“We are really fortunate to be surrounded by a dedicated and talented group of teachers, supportive families and highly-ambitious students. It is a winning combination.”

Alan Birchall, Headteacher





# Building on Success

Byrchall High School is located on an extensive greenfield site in Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan. We provide superior educational opportunities for all children of any ability, aged 11 – 16. Here, your child will be offered a place to grow and blossom.

The school dates back to the Elizabethan period, originally founded by Sir Robert Byrchall as Ashton Grammar School in 1588, the same year as the Spanish Armada.

Fast forward four centuries, and our aim remains the same: providing a first-class education to those entrusted into our care. We were the first of the Trust schools in the area, a specialist maths and computing college, the UK's first training school and are currently the lead school in the Makerfield Academy Trust.

This means our governing body now also benefits from the added influence and experience of several higher education institutions, the computer industry and the Anglican Church.

All of our teachers are well-qualified and highly-skilled in their subject specialisms. The teaching team play an important part in our school's success and we offer a wide range of professional development opportunities to ensure we always stay ahead in teaching practice. We coordinate Wigan's programme for Newly Qualified Teachers and have successfully supported a plethora of effective teachers into the profession.

Our students travel to Byrchall from towns and villages across Wigan and St Helens. A discounted bus scheme and special school buses mean no child is ever excluded from accessing a Byrchall education because of where they live.

When students eventually leave Byrchall, they invariably earn places at their first-choice colleges and manifest the skills, knowledge and confidence to make a positive difference to their own lives and the lives of others.





“Pupils’ positive attitudes to learning enhance their progress...because they explore and experiment with new ideas confidently. They are not afraid to try new ways of writing, painting or expressing themselves, even if their initial attempts do not go to plan.”

OFSTED





“Pupils behave well in lessons. They respect their teachers and one another. Pupils take pride in their work and are keen to learn well. Pupils say that they enjoy school and they would recommend it to others.”

OFSTED







# Live to Learn: Enjoy and Achieve

Our educational vision involves affording students the opportunity to engage in an exciting and enriching curriculum. With this in mind, we offer an extensive range of subject options. Traditional subjects such as English, Maths, History, Geography, Science and Religion all form an integral part of our students' learning journey.

However, we do not accept that one size fits all; every student is inherently different. For this reason, we offer a range of different courses, including: Music, Drama, Food Technology, Computing, Product Design, Business, Art, French, Spanish. Students are given autonomy to select some of the subjects they study from a breadth of options as they progress up the school.

We are particularly proud of our PE offering which operates under the banner 'Team Byrchall – Sport for Life' and aims to find each student a sport they will continue to play after their school life, either competitively or to promote their physical and mental wellbeing.

Ethos days are offered during the school year, where students are given the opportunity to take part in a variety of new learning experiences, such as: training with the army, acquiring revision skills, engaging in business enterprise activities, understanding financial management, working with professional chefs, mock job interviews, learning how marketing works in the film industry and understanding animals and their habitats.

Our students have benefitted from visits to a number of countries, like Spain, France, Germany, Iceland and the USA which helps them to reflect on their place in the world. Challenges closer to home include the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and residential activities. Some subjects take students out to explore the world around them through local field trips. Being within easy reach of a number of cities means rarely a month goes by without our students visiting the theatre to enjoy the latest touring productions. Additionally, theatre companies have visited Byrchall to stage live productions.

Performing arts events are calendared to run throughout the academic year and students' contributions are welcomed in any form, such as: singing, playing an instrument, dancing, writing a poem, creating a piece of artwork, welcoming guests.

We offer multiple learning routes which extend our most capable students through both enrichment and acceleration and support students effectively who require extra time and attention. Each student has their own personal journey which encourages and motivates them to develop a lifelong love of learning as well as building an internal sense of determination and resilience.





# Embracing technology

Our children are growing up in a digital world where social media is second nature. At Byrchall, we embrace this smart technology and use much of it to communicate with students and their families. We take every opportunity we can to celebrate our students' successes inside and outside school through the social networks. In the classroom, we harness and build on our students' natural ability to use technology. As well as interactive white boards, we provide a host of modern facilities equipped with the latest state-of-the-art technology, set against the backdrop of a school steeped in history.

We offer a robust remote learning experience with students able to access lessons and revision sessions online, at the touch of a button, through Microsoft Teams. Our EduLink system is our school information platform and can be accessed on any electronic device, for example: PC, laptop, tablet, mobile phone. The system is used by students, teachers, parents and carers.

Promoting a love of reading can be continued at home as we offer a number of online reading platforms so students can choose from a wide range of texts. This means they have continuous access to free books regardless of their location.

All of this helps us to promote and live our 'Anytime, Anywhere, Anyplace' learning concept.

## Great facilities

Away from technology, our students enjoy some fantastic onsite facilities. We have a large floodlit multi-use games pitch, sports hall and gym.

Students can eat in modern dining facilities for breaks and lunchtimes, with a cashless catering system to reduce queue times, or for an even quicker experience, use our snack hatches.

Students enjoy the use of performance art spaces, science laboratories, ICT suites, music rooms, a film-editing suite, a recording studio, a radio broadcasting studio, a well-stocked library and even a 3D cinema.





“Pupils are confident and courteous. They are polite and wear their uniform with pride. They demonstrate positive and aspirational attitudes about themselves, others, and their expectation of their futures.”

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# Learn to Live: Now and in the Future

## Personal development beyond the classroom

Through our extra-curricular activities and trips, your child will discover their best and truest self, gaining the confidence to express who they really are. Whatever their interests or passion, we encourage every child to participate in activities outside the classroom.

Leading as a local fundraiser, mentoring younger students, joining our Student Leadership team, starring in, or directing a live performance, programming and experimenting with robotics, and rocket science, engaging in molecular gastronomy, playing boardgames, watching the latest Hollywood blockbuster in 3D, building a world in Minecraft– they will enjoy a wide range of activities.

Our sports clubs – designed to support a healthy and balanced lifestyle – provide outstanding opportunities to suit all, from novices to aspiring sportspeople. The list of activities available is practically endless, but usually includes: trampolining, netball, hockey, football, basketball and even futsal. Students have access to video analysis software to review, reflect and improve their sporting capability.

Our Performing Arts faculty stages a large-scale musical every year. The production involves a generous team of students (and staff) who are involved in singing, dancing, acting, technical and backstage work, promotions and art work. Rehearsals take place at lunch and after school, with some weekend rehearsals before opening night.

Music plays a central part in school life and students get involved in our school choir, ukulele ensemble, brass group, steel pans group and keyboard club with instrumental lessons being offered for a wide range of instruments, including piano, percussion, brass and strings. Students perform in school as part of our musical events, award nights, carol concerts, and outside in events such as: Let's Sing, local festivals and open mic nights.

Knowing which route to take post-GCSEs is a big decision, so our careers service offers independent advice and guidance to help our students make informed decisions about their future and confidently prepare for life beyond Byrchall.

## Being content and safe

Byrchall High School is proud of its feeling of community. Our students are supported in such a way that they feel a sense of belonging. We believe in making their high school experience enjoyable and safe within an environment where they are able to reach their full potential in a culture of positive behaviour and learning.

For us, your child's happiness is as important as their academic success. We believe results and happiness are inseparable; students thrive and achieve when they are happy in school.





“The programme of activities develops pupils’ wider academic, cultural, artistic and sporting interests. Pupils respond effectively to supporting charities and recognise their role in helping others.”

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“Pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is a strong feature of the school’s curriculum. Pupils value the community and self progression lessons which leaders have introduced as part of their timetable. Their learning in these lessons tackles and explores a range of spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects and helps secure pupils’ mature approach to relationships.”

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# Celebrating Achievement

Byrchall High School has a strong record of academic achievement. According to recognised published national data, we are one of the top schools in Wigan for attainment and progress. Our 'basics' in English and Maths are a particular strength of the school.

Student progress is carefully monitored and discussed regularly with students and their families throughout their learning journey.

Our students participate in a wide range of academic competitions, including: The Big Book Quiz, the UK Maths Challenge, essay writing for the Winstanley College History Magazine, Aldi's Get Set to Eat Fresh, Peter Jones' Make Your Mark with a Tenner, NHS Careers, ICAEW's BASE accounting, Spelling Bee and Speaker of the Year.

Our sporting teams compete in local school leagues, and our track and field athletes enjoy a chance to shine at our annual Sports Day in Robin Park.

We enjoy a range of partnerships with professional theatres and cultural organisations, resulting in several of our students being talent-spotted and progressing on to be involved in national productions and competitions.



## Beyond Byrchall

It is practically impossible to know what world your child will experience in the year 2030, 2040 and beyond.

What we are confident about though, is that we provide academic knowledge and practical skills, coupled with experiences and understanding, wisdom and values that will support our students on their life's journey and enable them to thrive in life and their chosen careers.

Our former students are settled throughout the world and in all kinds of careers. These alumni have many things in common – happy memories of their student experiences, a wealth of friends and a genuine appreciation of the support and preparation they received, while attending Byrchall High School.



# Promoting Good Citizenship

We place significant importance on the personal development of our students. We aim to help them develop from newcomers to the school community into settled citizens, confident to take on leadership responsibilities within school and the wider community.

On their first day, students join the House they are going to be part of during their time at Byrchall: Romans, Spartans, Trojans or Vikings. Whilst most activities take place in year groups, House events develop a sense of community throughout the school and encourage strong bonds and friendships across year groups.

We have strong links with our local church, St Thomas', and also hold joint services with St Edmund Arrowsmith. Christian values are present in everything we do.

Every year, our students organise a wealth of events to raise money for a multitude of national charities, such as: Comic Relief, Barnardo's, Cancer Research UK, Unicef, the British Heart Foundation, as well as many local charities.

Our School Rewards Scheme allows successful students to choose 'Fair Trade' products as a treat or donate reward stamps to support the purchase of Oxfam gifts for life for those in developing countries, such as goats, toilets and water irrigation systems. We are always proud of our students' generosity in their selfless donation of reward stamps rather than rewarding themselves.

Students enjoy a five-year Personal Development learning journey. The curriculum is designed to provide students with the skills and knowledge to thrive in modern Britain. The course covers essential personal, social, and health education as well as careers and citizenship. Students consider real-life issues that affect them, their families and the wider community. We encourage active citizenship through a range of initiatives and by utilising the House system. As students progress through the course, they organically grow in confidence, independence and resilience. They learn to acknowledge, accept and celebrate diversity in all.





“Choose a school that believes  
in your child’s potential.”







### Find us in a flash!

Scan the code with your phone camera or search using our id below:



#### School Website

Find us by searching for [www.byrchall.co.uk](http://www.byrchall.co.uk)



#### Twitter

Find us by searching for @byrchall



#### TikTok

Find us by searching @byrchall\_high\_school



#### Facebook

Find us by searching for Byrchall High School



#### Instagram

Find us by searching @byrchall1

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