

**BURSCOUGH PRIORY SCIENCE COLLEGE**

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Priory is a mixed 11-16 school which opened in 1958 and underwent comprehensive reorganisation in September 1976. It has pleasant, large, open grounds and a semi-rural location. The catchment area includes Burscough, the villages of Parbold, Newburgh, Bispham, Rufford and Holmeswood and other surrounding areas. The school is within easy reach of Preston, Southport, Ormskirk, Leyland, Chorley, St. Helens, Wigan and Maghull.

At present there are 713 children on roll with 46 teaching staff and 16 support assistants with normally 5 forms of entry. The facilities include a new suite of Science laboratories, mathematics suite, design and technology suite, music and drama studios, gymnasium, large playing fields, hall and library in addition to regular teaching areas. There are three multi-purpose C.D.T. rooms, one Food Technology room, three ICT rooms and two Art rooms, one of which is equipped for Ceramics. Every classroom is networked and has internet access. There are interactive whiteboards in every classroom and staff have their own laptops. In 2004 a £1.2 million building programme was completed to refurbish the Science, Music and Drama areas.

There is a well developed pastoral system, children being in the care of Learning Leaders of KS3 and KS4 Pastoral Managers. Most members of staff have Form Teacher responsibilities and all staff are encouraged to contribute to the wider life of the school. There are varied clubs, societies, foreign holidays and field courses.

The curriculum is designed to cater for the needs of all the pupils in the school, whatever their abilities. In Years 7-9 pupils follow a common curriculum which includes English, Mathematics, ICT, Design & Technology, Science, Modern Languages (Spanish and French), History, Geography, Religious Education, Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education, Music, Art Design, Physical Education and Games. In Year 9, Science is taught in the separate disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

In years ten and eleven all pupils currently study a compulsory group of subjects, including Mathematics, English, Science, (the most able scientists study the three separate Sciences), PSHCE/RE, ICT and PE and a structured core of options – a Humanity, a Modern Language, a Technological subject and an Expressive subject/second Language/second Humanity/second Technology.. The aim is to provide a broad, balanced education for each individual. Students at 16+ continue their education in a variety of establishments including Runshaw College, Leyland, Skelmersdale & Ormskirk College, Preston College, Winstanley College, Wigan College of Technology, Southport College of Art & Technology - as well as other schools and specialist colleges in the region.

The school aims to provide the widest possible opportunities for all its pupils and strives for excellence at all levels. The personal development of the individual is viewed as equally important as academic achievement. Education is viewed as a partnership involving home, school and the community.

The opening statement of the OFSTED report following inspection in February 1994 read 'This is a good school with considerable strengths. It provides a good education for all its pupils'. In January 1996 we were included in the Chief Inspector of Schools' Annual Report as being 'a good and improving school'.

The October 1998 OFSTED report was equally positive and the first sentence was 'the school has an excellent ethos which supports the realisation of high expectations of pupils' behaviour and attainment'. 97% of the lessons observed were satisfactory or better.

The November 2004 OFSTED report began 'Burscough Priory Science College is a good school with strong traditional values that bring considerable strengths. High standards have been sustained and achievement is very good'. 82% of the lessons observed were good or better. In July 2008 the inspectors said we were 'satisfactory'.

The school has recently been reassessed successfully for “Investor in People” status. The School was granted Specialist Status in Science in September 2004, and we were redesignated in September 2008.

The last OFSTED inspection in February 2011 judged the school to be “satisfactory and improving”, with mention to particularly good achievement in Science and Modern Foreign Languages. The inspection made note that the most recent assessments and modular results indicate that the school may be on course to achieve significant improvements in performance in 2011 and 2012.

January 2012