



SHIRELAND  
CBSO ACADEMY | SIXTH FORM



SIXTH FORM  
PROSPECTUS

# WELCOME

## Welcome to Shireland CBSO Academy Sixth Form

We're delighted that you're considering your future with us. Whether you're a prospective student or a parent, this prospectus will introduce you to our unique sixth form experience – one that blends academic excellence with creativity and opportunity.

Our Sixth Form combines rigorous study with the inspiration of music and the arts, creating an environment where students are encouraged, supported, and challenged to achieve their best. Through our partnership with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, students experience learning that is both innovative and enriching, helping them develop into confident, independent, and ambitious young people.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form.

**Miss Jo Lawrence**  
Head of Sixth Form





## Life at Sixth Form

**Our two-year programme is built around independence, opportunity, and aspiration.**

Students benefit from excellent facilities, cutting-edge technology, and a welcoming atmosphere with staff who genuinely care. We focus on developing skills and experiences that ensure our students stand out from the crowd, ready to succeed in their future pathways.

# CBSO

City of  
Birmingham  
Symphony  
Orchestra



## What Makes Us Unique

**City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** – world-class mentoring, workshops, hands-on industry experience and opportunities to perform and collaborate.

**Futures Programme** – dedicated sessions preparing students for higher education, creative industries, and careers beyond sixth form.

**Strong Employer and Arts Links** – access to guest speakers, workshops, careers days, and real-world projects, working with partners such as Laney Amplification.

**University Connections** – opportunities for taster sessions, masterclasses, and visits to leading institutions.



**Tailored Enrichment** – developing the skills, creativity, and confidence that help students stand out.

**Performance and Collaboration** – from concerts and ensembles to leadership roles in creative projects.

**Dedicated Spaces** – sixth formers enjoy their own study areas and common room, with each student provided with a laptop.

**Supportive Staff and Community Feel** – where every student is valued, known, and encouraged.

# Leadership, Giving Back & Guidance

## Leadership Opportunities

We actively encourage student leadership through a range of programmes, such as:

- Mental Health Ambassadors
- Peer Reading Buddies
- Change Societies

## Give Back Programme

Our Give Back initiative enables students to volunteer and support the academy community. Opportunities include helping as lunchtime supervisors, running clubs, supporting in lessons, or assisting at reception. Students can also volunteer with external organisations such as the Salvation Army, developing employability skills and a strong sense of community.

## UCAS & Careers Support

We begin the UCAS process early in Year 12 to give students the best possible start for their post-18 pathways. Every student receives one-to-one careers guidance and ongoing support with applications, personal statements, CVs, and interview preparation. Whether aiming for university, a gap year, apprenticeship or employment, students are supported every step of the way.







COME AND SPEAK TO US ABOUT OUR  
**LEVEL 2 COURSES**  
LAUNCHING SEPT 2026





## CONTACTING US

We hope this publication gives you an insight into what life is like at the University of Birmingham. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact us.

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# Curriculum & Courses

Delivered in partnership with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO), our broad and balanced curriculum is designed to prepare students for careers in music, the creative industries and beyond. While our specialism lies in performance, composition and music technology, we also offer a wide range of academic, vocational and creative subjects. Students benefit from excellent pastoral care and high-quality teaching, ensuring they are supported to achieve their full potential.

## A level Subjects

- Music
- Art
- Drama & Theatre Studies
- English Literature
- History
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Geography
- Maths
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Computer Science

## Applied & Vocational Qualifications

- AAQs: Applied Science, Health and Social Care, Early Childhood Development, Medical Science
- BTEC: Sound Engineering

## What is an AAQ?

AAQ is a Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification and provides a BTEC National in the course choice. It is accredited by Pearson Education; it is the equivalent of one A level. Assessment is via exam and coursework.

Our curriculum combines academic rigour with hands-on, practical experiences, carefully aligned to the future ambitions and needs of our students.

**Come and speak with us about our Level 2 pathways, focused on our specialisms, including English and maths resits.**

# Specialist Pathways

At Shireland CBSO Academy Sixth Form, students can choose from two exciting specialist pathways, created with world-class partners. These routes provide exceptional opportunities to learn from professionals, gain real-world experience, and prepare for ambitious futures in music and the creative industries.

## Music Pathway

In partnership with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, this pathway develops performance and composition skills through:

- Workshops and lessons with CBSO musicians
- Access to rehearsals, concerts, and live performances
- Career guidance and mentoring from industry professionals

To study this pathway you must choose A level Music alongside 2 additional courses.

## Music Tech Pathway

Delivered with Laney Amplification, this pathway focuses on the technical side of the music industry, offering:

- Hands-on workshops in sound engineering and amplification
- Masterclasses and mentoring from industry experts
- Real-world work experience with a global music brand

To study this pathway you must choose BTEC Sound Engineering alongside 2 additional courses.





# Support, Bursaries & How to Apply

We are committed to removing financial barriers to education, ensuring that every student can access the education and training they need. The 16-19 Bursary Fund supports students with costs such as travel, course resources, UCAS fees, and more—tailored to individual needs to ensure full participation in sixth form life.

We aim to offer a specialist programme full of opportunities, tailored to the talents, interests, and ambitions of every student.

As part of our provision, all students benefit from:

- State-of-the-art facilities.
- Dedicated study and social spaces.
- The latest technology, including **a personal laptop** with industry-leading software
- Access to our online learning platform and study resources.
- Bespoke pastoral and wellbeing support
- An extensive enrichment programme to develop skills, qualities, and experiences for higher education or the world of work.





# APPLYING

- September – Applications open. We are now using Appicaa – apply via our website.
- October/November – Attend our Open Evening.
- From November – Attend a consultation evening to discuss your goals and receive a conditional offer.
- May–June – GCSE exam season.
- June – Induction programme: meet your teachers and classmates.
- August – GCSE Results Day and enrolment. If entry requirements aren't met, we'll discuss alternative options.
- September – Your sixth form journey begins.



Scan this QR code  
to apply for your place.

At Shireland CBSO Academy Sixth Form students receive personalised support to achieve **excellent results while developing their creativity, independence and ambition**. Whether progressing into university, conservatoire, apprenticeships, or employment, we are proud to guide students towards exciting futures.

We are dedicated to following the impressive legacy of other sixth forms with the Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust, guiding our students to remarkable destinations. As well as music pathways, our students pursue a diverse range of subjects, including:

**Recent Destinations Include:**

- Music – Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- English Literature – University of Warwick
- Drama – University of Manchester
- History – University of Birmingham
- Sociology – University of Bristol
- Engineering – University of Leeds

**Apprenticeship Destinations Include:**

- BBC
- City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra
- Local Authority Arts Teams
- National Highways
- Capgemini

**“Whether your ambitions lie in music, the arts, or another field entirely, our Sixth Form will give you the skills, confidence and experiences to succeed in whatever future you choose. From collaboration and self-discipline to creativity and resilience, the lessons our students take with them will last a lifetime.”**

# DAVID GREEN, PRINCIPAL



**SHIRELAND  
CBSO ACADEMY**

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SCAN ME

