

A close-up portrait of a young girl with long brown hair, smiling brightly. She is wearing a dark school blazer over a white collared shirt and a red and white striped tie. In the blurred background, other students in similar uniforms are visible, suggesting a school setting.

BENTON PARK SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS 2026/27

A MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST ACADEMY

EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER WELCOME



It is wonderful to be able to welcome you to Benton Park School and - from August 1st 2025 - to Moorlands Learning Trust (MLT). This is an exciting time to be joining Benton Park as it begins a bright new future as a Moorlands Learning Trust school. Our Trust is based on the values of integrity, collaboration and empowerment. Put simply, our goal is to enable every student within our care, from whatever background and starting point, to receive an exceptional education and achieve their very best.

At MLT, professional trust and integrity are at the core of our work; we respect the importance and value of individual schools having and retaining their own unique character, and recognise that schools know their local communities best. We therefore take a bespoke approach to working in partnership with our schools according to their particular needs and context, ensuring that all schools within MLT learn from and challenge each other. For Benton Park this gives all staff the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from other secondary schools in the Trust. This includes schools such as Ilkley Grammar School, The Skipton Academy and Nidderdale High School, all of which are "Good" or "Outstanding." They work together to improve provision by drawing on the best practice and expertise from across the Trust, to enhance the achievement of all students and to enrich their lives and the opportunities that they have.

As Executive Headteacher, I want every student to feel valued and inspired to thrive in all areas. I want parents and the wider community to be proud of Benton Park, and proud to be part of MLT. The school has already achieved a great deal, and, with MLT now providing further support on its improvement journey, I believe it will quickly become the school of choice in the local community - delivering a first-class education for all the young people who attend.

I look forward to welcoming you to our Open Day or Open Doors events where you will get the chance to see the school, and experience and understand what makes Benton Park such a fantastic place to learn.

Richard McManus
Executive Headteacher

HEADTEACHER WELCOME

WELCOME TO BENTON PARK SCHOOL – PROUD TO BE PART OF MOORLANDS LEARNING TRUST

I am delighted to welcome you to Benton Park School – a proud member of the Moorlands Learning Trust, and a school rooted in the heart of its community. We are a school in the community, for the community, and we are committed to doing whatever it takes to ensure every student achieves their full potential.

At Benton Park, we believe that education should be inclusive, ambitious, and transformative. Our students are supported to grow in confidence, character, and resilience, and to develop the skills and values they need to make a positive difference to their own lives and the lives of others.

We are proud to offer a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum that promotes a love of learning and supports every student to succeed in whatever they aspire to do. Our curriculum places high value on the breadth, acquisition, retention and application of knowledge, and is designed to enrich cultural understanding and bridge gaps in opportunity. Students are actively engaged in their learning journey, supported by expert teaching and a learning environment that inspires curiosity, creativity and excellence.

Beyond the classroom, our students benefit from a vibrant and wide-ranging extracurricular

programme. This year alone, they have taken part in everything from Live in LS19, our student-led music festival, to our spectacular production of School of Rock. We offer a rich variety of local, regional and international trips, alongside opportunities in sport, the arts, leadership, and volunteering – all designed to help students grow into confident, compassionate and well-rounded individuals.

As part of Moorlands Learning Trust, we benefit from a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement. We share best practice across schools, challenge ourselves to be better every day, and remain focused on our mission: to provide a world-class education that enriches lives and expands opportunities.

Our school culture is built on inclusivity, kindness and high expectations. Visitors often comment on the calm, purposeful atmosphere and the respectful relationships between students and staff. We teach the importance of good manners, pride in appearance, and doing the right thing – not just because it helps students succeed in school, but because it prepares them for life.

We are also fortunate to learn in a state-of-the-art school building, designed to inspire learning and unlock potential. Every space – from our creative studios to our sports facilities – supports our students to thrive.

We know that strong partnerships with families are key to student success. From the moment your child

joins us, we work closely with parents and carers to build a supportive, united community around each learner.

It is a genuine privilege to be Headteacher of Benton Park School. We are proud of our students, proud of our staff, and proud to be part of a Trust that is committed to integrity, inclusion, and excellence. Benton Park is a very special place to learn and grow – and we warmly invite you to visit us and experience it for yourself.

Nik Skilton
Headteacher



OUR SCHOOL MISSION

**'TO PROVIDE A TRULY INCLUSIVE
AND ASPIRATIONAL EDUCATION
FOR ALL'**

OUR SCHOOL VISION

**CREATING A CLIMATE
FOR GREAT LEARNING
AND OPPORTUNITY**

HOW WE ACHIEVE THIS

01

Overcoming challenges through **endeavour** and courage.

02

Building **resilience** in our community so that everyone can thrive.

03

Providing **inspiration** for all to achieve their potential.

IMATE FOR NG, SUCCESS NITY.

04

Creating a **collaborative** learning environment in which all succeed.

05

Showing **compassion** to the needs and interests of all.



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

SAFEGUARDING

At Benton Park, the safety and wellbeing of our students is our highest priority. We are committed to creating a secure, nurturing environment where every young person feels safe, supported and able to flourish.

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility across our whole school community. All staff play a vital role in identifying and minimising risk, and we work closely with external agencies to ensure that children who may be vulnerable receive the care and protection they need – both in and out of school.

Our Safeguarding Team is always on hand to provide tailored support for students and families. Whether it's offering guidance, making referrals, or simply being there to listen, the team ensures that no child or family faces challenges alone. If you have any concerns during term time, please don't hesitate to contact the team directly. You can find more information and resources on our website.

Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing

We understand that mental health is just as important as physical health. That's why we offer a wide-ranging and compassionate mental health support programme for all our students.

Our Mental Health First Aid Team is specially trained to support students who may be struggling. Weekly drop-in sessions are available, and staff can make referrals for more personalised support. We offer a variety of strategies tailored to each student's needs, including:

- Wellness Action Support Plans
- Targeted mentoring
- Support from Leeds Faith in Schools, MindMate, and the Cluster
- Access to our in-house counsellor

We also believe in the power of peer support. Our trained MindMate Ambassadors in Years 8-11 are a friendly, approachable team who run their own weekly drop-ins, create wellness zones, and help new students settle in during their transition to Year 7.

Mental health education is embedded throughout our curriculum. From Wellbeing Wednesdays to PD lessons and morning meetings, students are regularly given tools and strategies to support their emotional wellbeing.

We keep families informed through regular updates in our parent bulletins, and our website includes a wide range of resources and signposting to help you support your child at home:

<https://bentonpark.org.uk/our-school/safeguarding/>

INCLUSION

At Benton Park School, we believe that every child deserves to feel seen, supported, and celebrated. Inclusion is not just something we do – it's who we are. We are proud to be a school where every student is welcomed with kindness and given the support they need to flourish, both in the classroom and beyond.

A Whole-School Commitment

Inclusion is a shared responsibility across our school. Every adult in our community – teachers, support staff, and leaders – works together to create an environment where all students feel safe, valued, and able to succeed. We recognise that every child is unique, and we are committed to understanding and responding to their individual needs with care and compassion.

The Inclusion Team

Our Inclusion Team is made up of dedicated professionals who are passionate about helping young people thrive. Led by our experienced SENCo and Assistant SENCos, and supported by a team of skilled inclusion leads and teaching assistants, we work closely with students, families, and staff to ensure that the right support is in place at the right time.

Whether it's helping a student build confidence, supporting them with their learning, or simply being a trusted adult to talk to.

The Hub: A Place to Feel Safe and Supported

At the heart of our inclusive provision is The Hub – a calm, nurturing space where students can access personalised support throughout the school day. It's a place where students can take a moment to reset, receive targeted interventions, or simply feel safe and understood.

The Hub offers:

- Tailored support across all four areas of SEND
- A quiet, welcoming environment for reflection and regulation
- Access to specialist resources and equipment
- A sense of belonging for those who need it most

Inclusive Classrooms and Personalised Learning

We know that great teaching changes lives. That's why our classrooms are designed to be inclusive, supportive, and ambitious for every learner. Our teachers use a range

of thoughtful strategies to ensure that all students can access learning and feel confident in their progress.

Some of the key approaches we use include:

- **Dyslexia-friendly slides** with pastel backgrounds and clear fonts to support readability
- **Scaffolding** to break down tasks into manageable steps, helping students build independence and success
- **Chunking information** to reduce overload and support memory and understanding

These are just a few of the many inclusive practices we embed across our school to ensure that every student feels supported, capable, and ready to learn.

Supporting a Positive Start

We understand that moving to secondary school can feel like a big step – especially for students with additional needs. That's why we offer enhanced transition support, including extra transition days, personalised visits, and early opportunities to meet key staff. These experiences help students feel more confident and connected before they even walk through the door in September.

Support Beyond the Classroom

Inclusion at Benton Park goes far beyond academic support. We work closely with our pastoral and safeguarding teams to ensure that every student's emotional and social needs are met with care and consistency. We also collaborate with a range of external professionals – such as educational psychologists, speech and language therapists, and mental health services – to provide the very best support for our young people.

Working Together with Families

We know that the best outcomes happen when school and home work hand in hand. That's why we place great value on building strong, trusting relationships with families. We listen, we share, and we plan together with our families to ensure all our young people can be successful with us at Benton Park.



There were times I found things really tough, but the staff never gave up on me. They helped me build my resilience and believe in myself again.”.



PASTORAL CARE AND BEHAVIOUR

At Benton Park, we are deeply committed to creating a school environment where every student feels safe, supported, and able to thrive. We understand that young people learn best when they feel happy, secure, and valued – and our pastoral care is designed to make that a reality for every child.

Each year group benefits from a dedicated team of Pastoral Welfare Officers and Year Leaders who get to know students as individuals and provide consistent, compassionate support. These teams are further supported by Key Stage Leaders and a senior leader with responsibility for behaviour and wellbeing, ensuring that no student is ever overlooked.

We believe that every moment matters. That's why there is a visible adult presence on every corridor, every lesson, every day – ready to offer encouragement, guidance, or simply a reassuring smile. Our approach is rooted in kindness, responsibility, and belonging, and we work hard to build a culture where students feel proud to be part of our community.

We set high expectations for behaviour because we care deeply about our students' success. Our behaviour policy is designed to keep students safe and remove barriers to learning, while recognising that some young people may

need additional support along the way. We work closely with teaching staff, the Inclusion Team, and our Safeguarding Team to ensure that every student receives the care and guidance they need.

Our behaviour team is trained in Mental Health First Aid and understands the pressures and challenges that young people face today. We take a proactive, compassionate approach to behaviour, using positive framing and restorative conversations to help students reflect, grow, and move forward.

We are unwavering in our stance against bullying. Every student has the right to feel safe, respected, and free to be themselves. We act swiftly and firmly to protect that right, and we work with students and families to build a culture of empathy and respect.

At Benton Park, we believe that school should be a place where every child can come each day knowing they will be supported, challenged, and celebrated. A place where they can learn, grow, and truly belong.



The pastoral side to the school is excellent. My child has been given extra support during their time at Benton Park."



TRANSITION

Supporting a Successful Start – Our Transition Journey at Benton Park School

At Benton Park School, we understand that the move to secondary school is a significant milestone – and we're committed to making it a positive, exciting and successful experience for every child. Our transition journey begins in Year 5, because we know that getting it right from the very beginning sets the tone for a student's entire school experience.

Our well-established transition programme is designed to help students feel confident, welcomed and ready to thrive. From early visits to primary schools by our staff, to dedicated transition days and family events, we ensure every child feels a strong sense of belonging before they even step through our doors.

We offer two carefully planned transition days. The first provides a smaller, more personal introduction to life at Benton Park, helping students explore the school environment and begin forming friendships. The second is a full-day experience where students meet their check-in tutors—trusted adults who will guide and support them throughout their time with us.

We also build strong connections with families through a

meet-and-greet session with check-in tutors and a parent collaboration meeting, giving parents and carers the chance to ask questions, share insights, and feel fully involved in their child's journey.

Our transition support continues well into Year 7. Students take part in a comprehensive induction week, a team-building day at Nell Bank, and a celebratory welcome party – all designed to help them settle in, build friendships, and feel part of our vibrant school community.

At Benton Park, we believe that every student deserves to feel safe, supported and inspired. Our transition programme reflects our commitment to kindness, inclusivity, resilience and belonging, and ensures that every child has the foundation they need to flourish – academically, socially and emotionally.



My child has settled into Benton very well. The communication home has been very good and incredibly helpful."



Our child is thriving at Benton Park. The teachers are very supportive."



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

At Benton Park, we are proud to be a school where every student feels valued, respected, and included. Our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion is at the heart of everything we do, shaping a school culture where all young people can flourish.

We have published our Equality Objectives on our website, where we outline our aims to challenge discrimination in all its forms. These objectives reflect our aspiration to increase students' awareness, understanding and empathy, and to strengthen community engagement in our work around equality, diversity and inclusion.

In June 2024, we were delighted to be accredited with the Red Kite Alliance RED Award for Respect, Equality and Diversity. This award provided a valuable framework to evaluate our provision and celebrate the richness of our school community. The RED Assessment praised Benton Park for embedding equality and diversity into every aspect of school life, noting that:

“Equality and diversity are fundamentally embedded in everything you do at Benton Park. The school strives to embed Equality and Diversity at the heart of all you do over sustained periods of time. At Benton Park you strive to include all stakeholders and opportunities are maximised to create memorable learning and personal development experiences for all students.”

This recognition is a testament to the pride we take in our inclusive ethos and the meaningful opportunities we create for every student.

In May 2025, our journey continued with the achievement of the UK Feminista Gold Award, a national accolade that celebrates our commitment to tackling sexism and sexual harassment. Over the past two years, we have worked tirelessly to empower students to recognise and report misogynistic and harassing behaviours, and to ensure all staff are trained to support students across every year group.

At Benton Park, equality isn't just a goal – it's a lived experience. We celebrate the diversity of our community and work together to ensure that every student feels safe, supported and inspired to succeed.

“A huge thank you to your inclusion team who really listened and gave some prompt, empathetic and insightful support recently. Benton you are going above and beyond in these areas and absolutely smashing it.”



LEARNING AND THE CURRICULUM

At Benton Park School, high-quality teaching and learning are at the heart of everything we do. Our lessons are designed to inspire, stretch, and support every student. Each one is thoughtfully planned and delivered to ensure that all learners make meaningful progress in a dynamic, inclusive, and collaborative environment, all taking place in our fantastic first-class facilities.

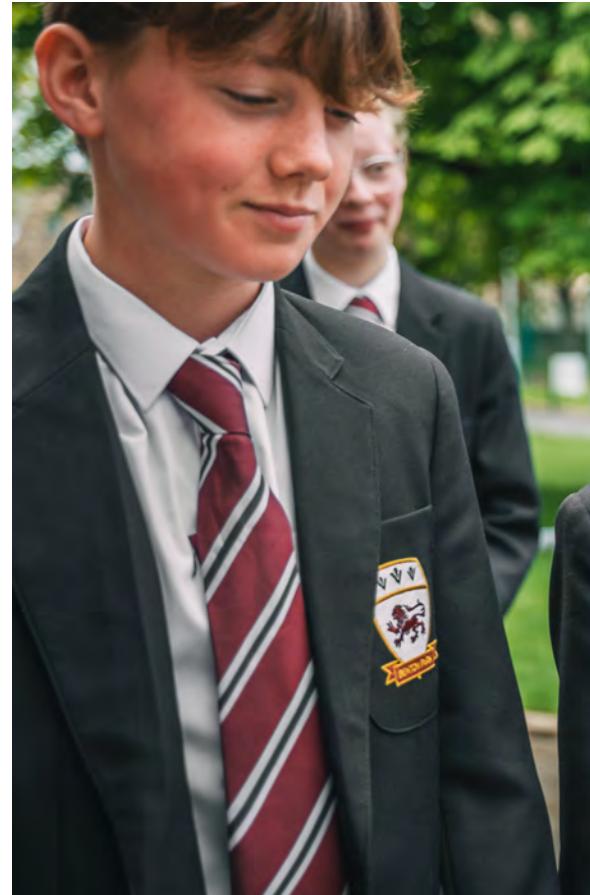
We've recently undertaken a full review of our curriculum, guided by the principles of 'powerful knowledge' and evidence-informed planning and sequencing. This refreshed approach helps students make strong connections within their subject studies, laying the foundation for future success.

Our teaching 'fundamentals' are rooted in delivering exceptional learning experiences for every student, regardless of their starting point. We use a wide range of strategies to support learning in the classroom, and place great value on ongoing professional development for our staff – ensuring our students benefit from the very best in education.

Learning at Benton Park goes far beyond the classroom. We actively encourage our students to try new things, explore their interests, and take part in enriching experiences they'll remember for a lifetime. From local trips to residential adventures, our extracurricular programme offers something for everyone, helping students grow in confidence and curiosity throughout their seven-year journey with us.

Our school operates on a one-week timetable, with six 50-minute lessons each day. Every morning begins with either a check-in session with tutors or a morning meeting that sets the tone for the day. These sessions include subject-based quizzing using Knowledge Organisers and conclude with our shared 'Big Read' – a moment to connect through literature.

We also dedicate weekly curriculum time to Personal Development, where students explore what it means to live a happy, healthy, and successful life in modern Britain. This includes regular careers education and opportunities to reflect on their personal growth.



“

Despite facing challenges, our child achieved a phenomenal set of GCSE results. The staff showed such kindness and professionalism, adapting support and encouraging her every step of the way. She's now thriving and ready for A levels. We couldn't be more grateful.”



OUR SUBJECT OFFER

WE OFFER A BROAD AND BALANCED CURRICULUM THAT INCLUDES:

- **Core Subjects:** English, Maths, Science
- **Humanities:** History, Geography, Religious Studies
- **Languages:** French or Spanish (with the possibility of studying German in future years)
- **Creative Arts:** Art, Music, Drama
- **Technology and Computing:** Design and Technology, Computing
- **Physical Education**
- **Personal Development (PD):** Including Personal, Social, Health, and Careers Education



My child's engagement at Benton Park is due to exceptional teachers. It is these individuals who make their experience of academic learning fun, and they want to do well."



OPPORTUNITIES & REWARDS

“

Shout out to the Music and Drama departments giving up their energy and weekends to put on a great school show. And also for putting on the two trips this year to Hamilton and Animal Farm. What outstanding teachers!"

“

Kindness is everywhere here. Whether it's a teacher helping you understand something or a friend checking in on you, it makes a big difference."

At Benton Park, we believe every student deserves access to a rich and varied school experience – one that extends far beyond the classroom. We are passionate about offering exciting opportunities that allow students to explore their interests, develop new skills, and be recognised for their efforts and commitment to our five core school values.

We know that a busy student is often a successful one. That's why we offer a vibrant and diverse extracurricular programme. Whether it's representing the school in one of our many sports teams, performing in the school production, playing in the Jazz Band, experimenting in Science Club, or attending the Leeds Book Awards as part of our Book Club – there's something for everyone. These experiences are a key part of our wider Personal Development offer, helping students to grow in confidence, discover new passions, and shape their own journey through school.

We also believe that students should have a voice in shaping their school experience. Our Benton Park Youth Council, made up of student leaders from Years 7 to 13, provides a platform for students to represent their peers and influence school life. The council is organised into three working groups, each reflecting our school values:

- Resilience and Aspiration
- Compassion and Collaboration
- Endeavour and Inspiration
- Student Leaders take part in a wide range of activities, from supporting school events and volunteering in the community, to working alongside staff and contributing to key areas of school development.

A WORLD OF EXPERIENCES

We are proud to offer a wide range of local, national and international experiences that enrich our students' learning and broaden their horizons. These include:

- Curriculum-linked trips, such as Geography fieldwork
- Local visits, including employer encounters and community volunteering
- National opportunities, such as university visits and sports competitions
- International residential, including trips to Berlin, Paris, Barcelona, and our ever-popular Ski Trip to Italy

We are also proud to offer all levels of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award to students in Key Stages 4 and 5. This programme continues to grow in popularity and provides students with the chance to develop independence, resilience and vital life skills.

EXTRACURRICULAR

Extracurricular opportunities are an integral part of each child's experience and personal development at Benton Park. We strive to create opportunities for students to try new things, meet new friends and take on new challenges both during the school day, during social times and after school. We have a wide range of activities for students to get involved with, including a broad sporting offer and creative and enrichment opportunities.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS AT BENTON PARK SCHOOL

At Benton Park, we are proud to recognise and reward the efforts, attitudes, and achievements of our students. Our rewards system is deeply rooted in our school values and is designed to celebrate not just academic success,

but the everyday actions that make our community thrive.

HOW OUR REWARDS SYSTEM WORKS

Students earn positive points for showing great effort, respectful behaviour, and a commitment to our shared values. Whether it's supporting a classmate, showing resilience in a challenging task, or simply making someone feel included, we celebrate the moments that reflect the heart of Benton Park.

- **Golden Tickets** are awarded for an excellent attitude to learning.
- The **Clean Slate programme** recognises outstanding attendance and positive behaviour each week.
- **Stamp milestones** are celebrated with exciting rewards.
- A **"fresh start" approach** ensures every student has the chance to succeed each day.
- **Milestone badges and certificates** mark personal growth and achievement.

We focus on the journey – recognising **progress, perseverance, and pride in learning** – because every act of kindness and every step towards excellence deserves to be acknowledged.

A RANGE OF EXCITING REWARDS

We understand that motivation looks different for everyone, so our rewards system offers a wide variety of incentives to suit all interests and achievements:

Everyday Treats

- Sweets and queue jumps at lunch and break
- Off-timetable activities like PE, golf, and football
- Breakfasts in the Sixth Form café

Mid-Level Rewards

- Games and film afternoons
- Cinema trips, bowling, and visits to the ever-popular Arcade Club

Big Celebrations

- Pizza parties and trips to Ninja Warrior
- Prize draws with fantastic prizes and vouchers worth up to £100
- Special trips, including a visit to Flamingo Land!

OUR SIXTH FORM

A JOURNEY THAT BEGINS IN YEAR 7

At Benton Park, we are proud to offer a continuous and connected seven-year journey. From the moment students join us in Year 7, they are nurtured to grow in confidence, character, and ambition – developing the skills and values that will carry them through to Sixth Form and beyond.

By the time students reach our Sixth Form, they are not just learners – they are leaders, role models, and young adults ready to take the next step. We place great importance on fostering a sense of belonging, where every student feels seen, supported, and valued throughout their time with us.

OUR SIXTH FORM CENTRE

Our Sixth Form Centre, located in a carefully repurposed building, offers a vibrant and welcoming space that reflects the independence and maturity of post-16 study. It's a place where students feel respected, supported, and inspired to achieve their best.

The Centre includes:

- Bright, modern classrooms equipped with up-to-date technology
- A dedicated Sixth Form café serving hot and cold food throughout the day
- A spacious common room for socialising, relaxing, and building friendships
- Silent study rooms and private workspaces with access to computing facilities

We offer a wide range of Level 3 courses, including both A Levels and vocational qualifications, allowing students to tailor their learning to their interests and future aspirations. Whether students are aiming for university, apprenticeships, or employment, our curriculum is designed to support every pathway.

Our partnership with Guiseley FC provides exciting opportunities for students interested in sport and

performance, combining academic study with professional coaching and development.

Beyond the classroom, students benefit from access to excellent sports facilities, including a 3G all-weather pitch, a fully equipped sports hall, trampolines, table tennis, and a dance studio. These spaces support both physical wellbeing and a rich extracurricular life, helping students to build resilience, stay active, and enjoy a healthy balance between study and personal growth.

Our Sixth Form students consistently achieve strong results and progress to a wide range of positive destinations, including top universities, competitive apprenticeships, and meaningful employment. We are proud of their success – and even prouder of the people they become: young adults who lead with kindness, take responsibility, and strive for excellence.

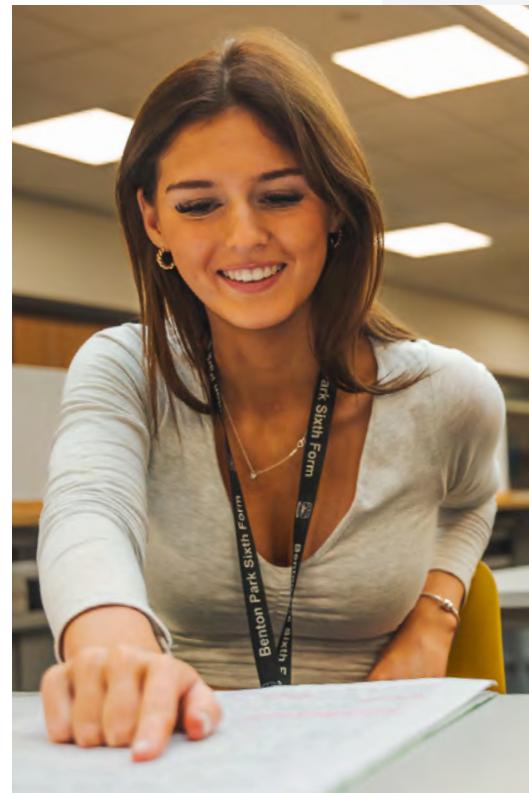
SIXTH FORM STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Leadership is at the heart of our Sixth Form experience. We believe that every student has the potential to lead, and we provide opportunities for them to do so in ways that are meaningful and empowering.

Every Sixth Form student takes on a mentoring role, supporting younger students in Key Stages 3 and 4. These relationships help build a culture of kindness, responsibility, and mutual respect across the school, and foster a strong sense of belonging for all.

Our student leaders also coordinate the Sixth Form Student Council, acting as a vital link between students and staff. They help shape Sixth Form life, organise social events, and represent Benton Park within the wider community.

Through these roles, students develop confidence, communication skills, and a strong sense of purpose. Leadership at Benton Park isn't about titles – it's about making a difference,



We're always encouraged to aim high. Excellence isn't just about grades – it's about doing your best and being proud of who you are."

ADMISSIONS

Benton Park School is an academy and part of Moorlands Learning Trust. Admissions for the start of Year 7 are processed by Leeds City Council Children's Services. Parents with children in the final year of Primary School will receive an application form from the Local Authority to express a preference for a Secondary School. This must be completed and returned by the due date to the Local Authority.

Full details of all the deadline dates as well as further information can be found on the Admissions Department website. See the Further Information section below for details.

FURTHER INFORMATION

To help guide you through the process and to find out how to apply for your place at Benton Park School, please visit the Leeds City Council Admissions site at: [www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/
school-admissions/apply-for-a-secondary-school](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/apply-for-a-secondary-school) where you can contact the admissions team directly and apply for a place online.

Leeds City Council Admissions Department
Tel: 0113 222 4414

Benton Park School
School Office Tel: 0113 2502330
Email: secretary@bentonpark.mlt.co.uk

 I have always found staff to be friendly and approachable. I appreciate the positive communications home."

 We are absolutely thrilled with our son's GCSE results – top grades in every subject! The teachers at Benton Park believed in him from the start and pushed him to aim high. Their commitment to excellence and the way they nurtured his confidence made all the difference."



