

INFORMATION ABOUT BLANCHELANDE COLLEGE

College ethos

Blanchelande College is a co-educational Catholic independent school for pupils aged 4 to 18 (Reception – Year 13). The College educates over 420 pupils, of whom approximately one third are Catholic. Blanchelande's Catholic mission and identity, understood and supported by all teaching and non-teaching staff, are at the heart of College life.

History

Blanchelande was re-founded in 1992 by parents and members of the local community after the Sisters of Mercy withdrew their Order from Guernsey. The new College began in temporary accommodation and in its first five years grew from 40 pupils to almost 200. It is now over twice that following a period of strong growth. A full history of the College, dating back to the twelfth century, may be read on our [website](#).

Structure, intake and academic results

Blanchelande has a one-form structure from Reception to Year 4, with room for two forms in Years 5 and 6, and for three forms in the senior school (Years 7-11). The Sixth Form, having been launched in September 2020, is initially a small cohort. Typically, classes contain around twenty pupils. Pupils are required to pass an entrance assessment to ensure that they can access our curriculum, but otherwise Blanchelande is not an academically selective school and the College nurtures a wide ability range. Exam results are excellent: the pass rate is around double the national (UK) average and students benefit from excellent 'value added' in most subject areas (meaning that their actual grades are higher than predicted based on their ability level):

- 2017: 100% of students achieved at least five A*-C grades, with 33% (almost double the 2016 rate) of grades at A*/A.
- 2018: 83% of students achieved at least grades 4-9, with 38% of grades at 7-9.
- 2019: 97% of students achieved at least five grades 9-4, with 42% of grades at 9-7.
- 2020: 96% of students achieved at least five grades 9-4, with 49% of grades at 9-7.

Independent Schools Inspectorate – Blanchelande rated Excellent

The College was inspected by ISI in October 2018 and the full report is available [on the school website](#). Blanchelande was rated 'excellent' in both outcome areas (pupil achievement and pupil development) as well as meeting all regulatory requirements set by the British Government. As a well-run school with a successful inspection report, the College's Principal is affiliated to the Independent School's Association (ISA) which provides guidance and training opportunities.

Leadership/Governance

Blanchelande is administered as a charitable trust and three Trustees oversee the finances of the College. As a grant-maintained College, Blanchelande presently receives a degree of funding from the States of Guernsey.

The Senior Management Team, led by the Principal, consists of the Vice-Principal, Head of Pastoral Care and the Bursar. This team works closely with the Senior Leadership Team, and the combined teams meet weekly.

The Board of Governors meets twice a term and is responsible for working with the Principal in setting the strategic direction for the school, including approval of school policies, and for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the school. The Board operates sub-committees – such as for educational issues, finance, ICT and property management – which also meet regularly.

The Trustees are responsible for the administration of the whole school estate, including the financial administration of the College and the relationships with the site owners and with sub-tenants.

The Principal of Blanchelande College is Mr Robert O'Brien, formerly Deputy Head at Westminster Cathedral Choir School. He joined Blanchelande in 2016.