

JOHN TAYLOR
FREE SCHOOL



2022
2023
PROSPECTUS



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Welcome

TO JOHN TAYLOR FREE SCHOOL

Welcome to John Taylor Free School. This is the first new school to be built in Staffordshire for a generation and I am delighted to be the founding Headteacher. Our school is about to start the next phase in its journey as we start delivering our first set of GCSE courses in September. We are also now able to deliver on our promise of vertical tutoring – a personalised approach to ensuring that students are well supported during their time with us. Students will, for the first time, meet every day in small, mixed age groups where the Personal Tutor will get to know each student really well. This enables a positive start to the day with reading, mentoring and discussions about their progress. As a school, it is important that we enable academic success as well as developing those characteristics which enable students to thrive personally and in society – as a JTFS student you will “succeed and thrive”.

We expect students to explore the world around them with a curious and open mind, to learn to lead and know when to be led; to be prepared to try, fail and learn so that they can be even more successful next time around. Team work, resilience, respect and a passion for excellence are all be central to our culture and climate. Students, staff and the community around the Free School should be prepared to support each other to live and learn together.

John Taylor Free School is a creative and innovative environment. We are at the forefront of educational research and deliver success through a coaching for excellence model. Our staff are as committed to this vision as I am, and together, we will not settle for anything less.

This is an exciting time as the community comes together and our school grows over time - I hope you are just as excited as I am about the opportunities available for students. Our school is a vibrant and warm community with a positive climate for learning at its heart.

This booklet will give you all the information you need as you prepare for the next step in your educational journey. If you would like more information, please explore our website and newsfeed and if you have any specific questions relating to your child, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Plant
Head of School





Our Values

TO ENABLE OUR STUDENTS TO SUCCEED AND THRIVE

OUR VALUES

- Positive
- Civilised
- Inclusive
- Self-disciplined
- Proud of our school, our students & our achievements
- Generous of spirit & supportive of each other

OUR SCHOOL

- Self critical yet dynamic & forward looking
- Inclusive & accessible
- A centre of excellence for teaching & learning
- An exciting place in which to learn

OUR STUDENTS

- Confident, mature, respectful
- Creative, enquiring, independent learners
- Happy, kind & caring, supportive of others & ready to help
- Enjoying learning & participating in the enriched curriculum
- Proud to fulfil their potential

OUR STAFF

- Innovative, creative & passionate about teaching
- Respect & care for the students they teach & the colleagues they work with
- Have high expectations & set positive examples to students & colleagues
- See themselves as life long learners
- Trained to use the best approaches & resources
- Committed to research led practice within a coaching for excellence culture

OUR COMMUNITY

- A welcoming community that respect different cultures, races, genders, abilities & disabilities
- A listening school that engages students in improving school life
- A sustainable school that involves itself in the community at a local, regional, national & international level
- A civilised school that produces mature, well balanced young people

Our Team



Mrs S Plant
HEAD OF SCHOOL



Miss E O'Mara
DEPUTY HEAD

I joined JTFS at the start of our journey as Assistant Head and I am excited to have been promoted to Deputy Head Teacher this year. As such, I am responsible for ensuring there is an innovative and integrated curriculum so that all students can succeed and thrive. High quality learning extends also to staff where I oversee the Professional Learning programme with a research led focus. Staff are committed and have created a KS3 model which provides an outstanding quality of education and offers smooth progression for the depth of learning at KS4 and beyond.

I joined JTFS in the first year as a Lead Teacher and been fortunate to be promoted to Assistant Head. Throughout my time at the school I have undertaken a number of roles and now as the school moves into its next phase, I have the strategic responsibility for the development of the Post 16 curriculum and progress of Post 16 learners. Working closely with others, I will also have the oversight of careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) and ensure that students in all year groups are aware of the range of opportunities available to allow them to help them to thrive at school, in the community and beyond.



Mrs C Broughton
ASSISTANT HEAD



Mrs L Ceney
ASSISTANT HEAD

I have worked at JTFS as a Teacher of English since opening in 2018 and am excited about my new role as Assistant Headteacher and SENDCo from September 2021. I will work closely with students and their families to understand their individual needs and then use this information to enable all staff to deliver our personalised and inclusive curriculum. Supporting every child's individual needs and working with the whole school community to strategically develop the inclusivity of our environment is a role I feel privileged to hold.



I am delighted to be joining JTFS as an Assistant Headteacher at this exciting time in its journey. Whilst leading on progress, I look forward to supporting learners as they embark on their GCSE courses. I will also be supporting staff to use data effectively to enhance student performance and will take the lead for key groups of students such as pupil premium.



Ms E Peers
ASSISTANT HEAD



Mr D West
BUSINESS MANAGER

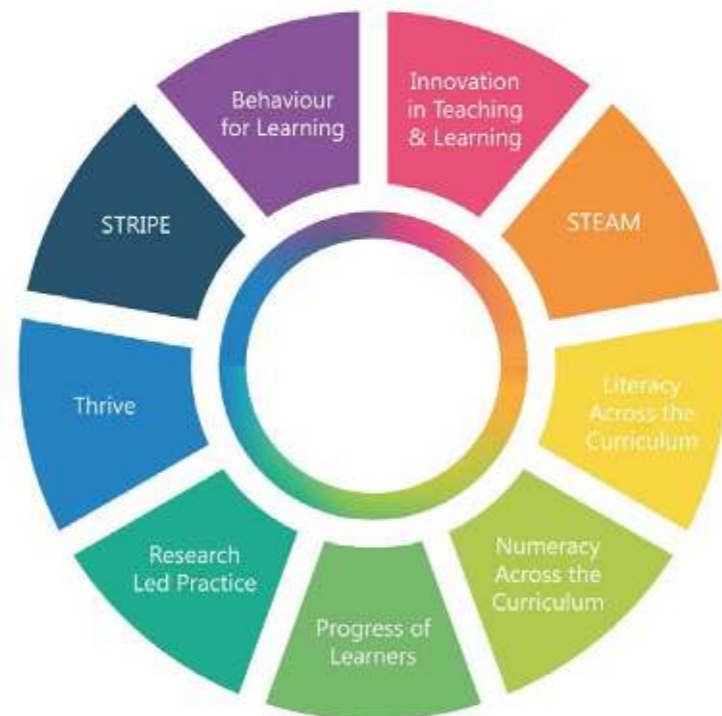
I have worked for the school from April 2018, helping to establish our teams for administration, premises, catering and cleaning. As Business Manager, I am responsible for our support staff, finance, external contracts and Health and Safety on site. Prior to joining the JTFS team, I worked in purchasing and logistics in the private sector for many years and have extensive experience in these fields. I am committed to ensuring that the education of our young people is supported by excellence in our business and administration services.

Our Curriculum

Our enriched curriculum is broad and balanced.

In Years 7 and 8 Driving Questions link the subjects together to ensure that students understand how concepts are interconnected. In Year 9 we have curriculum themes so that during the first three years, students are able to develop their STRIPE skills effectively to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

At Key Stage 4, students will be highly competent learners and confident with their STRIPE skills. They will continue to develop them as they progress throughout their GCSE course to ensure they are ready for the next stage of their education.



HAVE YOU EARNED YOUR STRIPES?

Students will be rewarded for behaviour which goes "above and beyond" our expectations with merits. The merit system is based on praising behaviour which allows students to succeed and thrive or develops their STRIPE skills.

- S**elf Manager
- T**eam Player
- R**eflective & Resilient
- I**nnovate & Create
- P**articipant
- E**nquirer



Turn Up, Work Hard, Be Nice.

It is very simple. John Taylor Free School has the highest expectations of students in all aspects of life including behaviour, uniform, attendance and punctuality. We have a firm, but fair approach to student conduct at all times.



Students have two questions to consider at JTFS

Does my behaviour allow me/others to **succeed**?

Does my behaviour allow me/others to **thrive**?

These are the basic expectations for all students. Going above and beyond the expectations will be recognised via our reward system. Falling short of these expectations will lead to our positive behaviour management strategy being implemented.



PERSONAL TUTOR GROUPS

Every student will join a Personal Tutor group. Each group will consist of approximately 22 students from years 7 – 10. This vertical system enables mentoring and student leadership which supports all learners to achieve. The Personal Tutor is the main point of contact for students and parents and should be the first person you refer to with any questions about your child during their time at John Taylor Free School.

The Personal Tutor will monitor attendance, punctuality and your child's progress throughout the year. During the first half term of Year 7, you will have the opportunity to meet with them to see how your child is settling in.

Personal Tutors are supported by Progress Leaders to ensure that students are able to succeed and thrive. The Progress team monitors attendance, progress against targets and attitudes to learning and will support you and your child throughout their journey at John Taylor Free School.

We will report on their progress 6 times a year and this will be available to view on Go4Schools. Please see the website for details on how to log on and access details about your child.

There will be opportunities to see your child's work and understand how to support them with their progress throughout the year. However, if you have any concerns, you should talk to the Personal Tutor in the first instance.

NEEDWOOD

CHARNWOOD

MARCHINGTON

SHERWOOD

ROSLISTON

KINGSTONE

The House System

Each student will belong to a house as we believe this creates a community ethos. Each house has its own colour, which depicts the colour stripe on each tie. After the first year, we will have a vertical tutorial system with students arranged in mixed age groups. This will become more embedded as the school grows and is an excellent way to build confidence and develop positive working relationships with students across the school.

PROGRESS LEADERS



STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM



Individual Needs

Every student is an individual and therefore has different needs however, some students find learning more challenging than others. Some students need to be stretched or challenged even more. At John Taylor Free School, we provide an inclusive education where everyone can “succeed and thrive”.

The SENDCo is Mrs L Ceney who oversees the needs of students who have additional needs (LAC, EAL, SEND). Students are assessed to support the identification of additional needs. Learning Support Assistant deployment (i.e. in-class support/withdrawal etc.) is dependent upon the needs of the student cohort.

We have arrangements in place to ensure that students are supported throughout their time at the Free School. This includes a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND. We also have effective provision that improves the long-term outcomes for students. We use our resources and expertise to:

- use their best endeavours to make sure that a student with SEND gets the support they need
- ensure that students with SEND engage in the activities of school alongside students who do not have SEND
- inform parents when the school is making special educational provision for a student

It is Mrs Ceney’s responsibility to support students at key stages of transition, particularly those students who have EHC plans. We work with a range of professionals from education- and health-related organisations to ensure that key milestones are met and that the plans are reviewed every 12 months.



Routines for Learning

MEALTIMES IN THE JTFS RESTAURANT

All students and staff eat together in the restaurant at lunchtime. No food or drink is to be taken out of this area or consumed anywhere else.

Breakfast will be served from 8.15 – 8.45am every day

Morning break is at 11am*

Lunchtime is at 1pm*

** See Wednesday timings.*

There will be a range of healthy options including wraps, jacket potato with fillings and a salad bar. A two course meal is also available every day. The restaurant operates a cashless payment system where accounts are accessed using a thumb scan of each student. Parents credit the account online via ParentPay. If you prefer not to use the thumb scan, we can provide a 4-digit passcode. Students who wish to bring a packed lunch must eat it in the restaurant.

EQUIPMENT

Students should come to school prepared for learning every day. They must take care each evening to pack the correct items for the following day’s timetable, as we do not have student lockers.

It is suggested that your child has the following:

- A school bag of a moderate size
- Pens, pencils, eraser, coloured pencils etc
- Pencil case
- School dictionary and Thesaurus
- French Language Dictionary (recommended Oxford School French Dictionary)
- Calculator and Geometry Set
- Reading Book
- Refillable Sports Style Water Bottle

Parents are asked to ensure that all items of clothing and equipment are marked with their child’s name.

TRANSPORT

Students may travel to school by school bus, by public service bus, by cycling or walking. Cycle racks are available at school; students must ensure their bike is of a roadworthy condition with lights and a helmet must be worn whilst cycling. We advise students to bring an adequate lock to keep their bike secure. Please note the school cannot be held responsible for items brought onto site.

With all these options, we discourage parents from driving students to school. If this is essential, there is a pick up/drop off point opposite the school gate. Under no circumstances should parents park on Branstion Road on the approach to the school.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mobile phones should be switched off and kept out of sight at all times when students are on the school grounds. There may be occasions when a member of staff gives permission for students to use their phone but this will be to contribute to learning and in a supervised context.

Headphones may not be used unless directed by a member of staff in a lesson. If a device is used inappropriately, it will be confiscated and given to Mrs Plant. We will expect a parent to collect the item from school.

Our School Day



EXTENDED LEARNING

No extended learning will be set during the first 2 weeks of term. Thereafter, a range of extended learning opportunities will be offered and we will expect students to complete as directed.

Some of these will be challenges presented in the lesson to deepen or develop understanding, knowledge or skills. Other tasks may include preparing for a lesson, for example reading an article or creating a list of questions on a topic. Some activities will require work after school, either at home or in the Learning Resource Centre if appropriate.

Students are encouraged and rewarded for reading both fiction and non-fiction books in addition to their other learning challenges. Parents can support with this by talking about the books chosen and discussing the content with their child regularly.

All extended learning activities contribute to the lessons and therefore the development of the student in that subject. We welcome any support that parents are able to give students in their work. It is very important that parents talk to their child about their learning in school and what extended learning they have taken part in each week.



TIMETABLE

On Wednesday, we run a slightly different timetable. The morning Personal Tutor time is for a whole lesson during period 3 and there is a slightly shorter lunchtime. At the end of period 6, students leave school via their normal mode of transport. Buses will depart at 15.10.

As a research-led school with a coaching for excellence model, our staff take part in weekly 2 hour Professional Learning Sessions. These includes research projects to inform teaching and learning, analysis of lessons to share best practice and further reading of current research into effective teaching, learning and assessment. This will ensure the quality of every lesson remains high and at the forefront of educational practice.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY

09:00 - 09:20	Personal Tutor Time
09:20 - 10:10	Lesson 1
10:10 - 11:00	Lesson 2
11:00 - 11:20	Break
11:20 - 12:10	Lesson 3
12:10 - 13:00	Lesson 4
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 14:50	Lesson 5
14:50 - 15:40	Lesson 6

WEDNESDAY

09:00 - 09:50	Lesson 1
09:50 - 10:40	Lesson 2
10:40 - 11:00	Break
11:00 - 11:50	Personal Tutor Time
11:50 - 12:40	Lesson 4
12:40 - 13:20	Lunch
13:20 - 14:10	Lesson 5
14:10 - 15:00	Lesson 6
15:00 - 17:00	Staff Professional Learning Time



Enrichment Programme



An important part of education at John Taylor Free School is our enriched curriculum. This is a half termly enrichment programme which takes place at lunchtime and after school. Every student will take part in at least one activity per half term. Activities will rotate so that everyone has a chance to participate in a range of sessions. We like our students to try something new, be adventurous and persevere with a new challenge!

A typical enrichment programme:

Day	Time	Description	Location
Monday	1:20 - 1:50	Book Club	LRC
	1:20 - 1:50	Historical Adventures	History Room
	3:40 - 4:30	Dance Club	Activity Studio
Tuesday	3:40 - 4:30	Football Practice	Field
	1:00 - 1:30	Debating Society	LRC
	1:00 - 1:30	Gardening Club	Garden
	1:15 - 1:50	Basketball Practice	Sports Hall
	3:40 - 4:30	STEM in Action	Science Lab
Thursday	3:40 - 4:30	Netball Practice	Games Court
	1:20 - 1:50	Band Practice	Music Room
	1:20 - 1:50	Art Innovation	Art Room
Friday	3:40 - 4:30	Badminton	Sports Hall
	1:15 - 1:50	Football Practice	Field



School Uniform

The uniform standards at John Taylor Free School are exceptionally high. We believe that high standards of appearance reflect high standards elsewhere. Our uniform is distinctive and creates a sense of school identity, linked to the house system.

We make no apologies for our expectations and we expect students to take pride in wearing the uniform appropriately and that parents support with this. If your child is not meeting our expectations, your Personal Tutor will arrange a meeting with you and your child to resolve this. Non-compliance is seen as defiance which is not acceptable.

Uniform can be obtained from our suppliers. We strongly advise you to look at the full guidance on our website, which clearly shows what is/is not allowed. Please contact the school if you need a paper copy.

Blazer	School specific grey blazer with school emblem on pocket (available from school uniform suppliers). Blazers are expected to be worn at all times, unless permission has been given by staff to remove it.
Tie	All students wear a clip on tie reflecting their house colour: CHARNWOOD KINGSTONE MARCHINGTON NEEDWOOD ROSLISTON SHERWOOD
Jumper	A V neck jumper with the school logo is optional. There is a choice of long sleeve or no sleeves from our uniform suppliers. Cardigans, vest-style etc are not permitted.
Skirts	School specific, tartan skirt only. These must be knee-length (i.e. the skirt touches the floor if the student kneels) at the start of September. We appreciate that students grow over the year so suggest that parents take growth into consideration when buying a skirt. It will be the school's decision if we deem the skirt to have become too short i.e. it is sitting above the knee.



The following items can be purchased at a retail outlet of your choice. Please ensure that the items adhere to the policy expectations. If in doubt, please check with the school before purchase.

Shirt	Plain white with formal collar. Long or short sleeve. The shirt must be long enough to be properly tucked into trousers/skirts and suitable to be worn with a tie. Fitted or fashion shirts are not permitted.
Trousers	Plain (no decorative: buttons, zips, belts etc) black, tailored school trousers ONLY. Trousers which are 'fashion' style, those that become narrower at the ankle, have turn ups, are tight fitting, low slung or Lycra based, are not permitted. Tailored black shorts may be worn from Easter to October. If in any doubt please check with school before purchase.
Tights/Socks	Black, grey or white school socks. Black, grey or natural coloured tights (not patterned). Over-the-knee socks are NOT permitted.
Footwear	Only black, plain (no colour trim or unnecessary adornment e.g. big bows, flowers, studs etc) standard leather-style school shoes will be permitted. Black trainers, canvas-style shoes, backless shoe, suede look etc will not be permitted. Trainer-style school shoes (often displayed in the school shoes section of shops – reputable shoe shops included) are not permitted. Boots are also not allowed.
Belts	Plain black. If a belt is worn it should be for functional not decorative purposes. Maximum width for belt and for plain buckle = 4cms.
Jewellery	No jewellery, except for one wrist watch and a maximum of one plain set of stud earrings, metal-coloured, one in each ear, worn in the lower ear lobe. No other piercings are permitted. Retainers are not permitted.
Hair	Should be neat and tidy without decorative attachments. Extreme styles, unnatural hair colours, tram lines or other shaved shapes in the hair or eyebrows are not permitted.
Make Up	No make-up should be worn. Tinted or cosmetic contact lenses are not permitted. False eye lashes are not permitted.
Nails	No nail polish should be worn, nor should acrylic nails. Nails grown to a length that is deemed a health and safety issue, will need to be cut down. As a guide, when looking at the nail from the inside/palm side of the hand, the nails should not extend over by more than 2mm.
Outdoor Coats	Outdoor coats should be appropriate for school, it would be advised that they are waterproof/showerproof and so should not be a fashion item. These are to be worn over the blazer. Hoodies or tracksuit style tops are NOT permitted.
Scarves/Hats/Gloves	Are permitted but cannot be worn anywhere inside the building.

CLOTHES WORN FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES:

A hijab can be worn but must be plain, black and must not cover either the face or uniform. A turban can be worn but must be plain black. Please contact the school directly should you feel that there is a need for any other item to be worn due to religious beliefs.

PE Kit

The school takes pride in the kit that the students wear; it provides a clear identity and ensures that there are no health and safety concerns. It is advised that students name their kit. No fashionable PE clothing should be worn. The school specific PE kit can be purchased from our school uniform suppliers.

COMPULSORY:

- School specific T-shirt in House colour (there are 2 versions available)
- School specific shorts in House colour
- School specific rugby shirt in House colour (for rugby and football lessons only)
- School specific rugby shorts with school logo (for rugby lessons only)
- Black knee length socks
- White ankle socks
- Sports trainers (NOT fashion trainers, non-marking sole)
- Shin pads and gum shields
- Football boots (for football and rugby lessons)

OPTIONAL

- School specific jumper in House colour
- School specific plain black tracksuit trousers with school logo (Oct-Easter, not for hockey, football, rugby or gymnastics – apart from supporting religious beliefs)
- Plain black 'skins' or equivalent

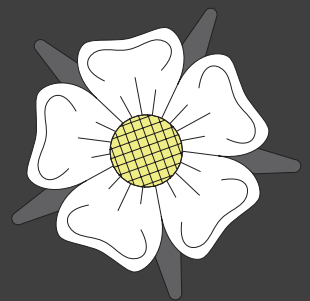


Under Local Authority guidelines, all students must wear protective items for:
Football - shin pads and appropriate footwear
Hockey - shin pads and gum shields
Rugby - shin pads, gum shields and boots

TIPS:

- Trainers should be suitable for PE and non-marking; fashion style trainers are not recommended.
- No jewellery should be worn and hair must be held back.
- **All students must bring their kit regardless of whether they are ill or injured.**





Proudly part of the
John Taylor MAT

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