

JOHN TAYLOR  
FREE SCHOOL



2025  
2026  
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.

After a highly successful Ofsted report, and a great first set of GCSE results, we are now entering our final year of growth. We have a rich and vibrant community, including students from Year 7 to Year 13. John Taylor Free School has established itself as a school with high standards in everything we do and we are proud to say that our students embody our motto of 'Turn Up, Work Hard and Be Nice'.

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 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.

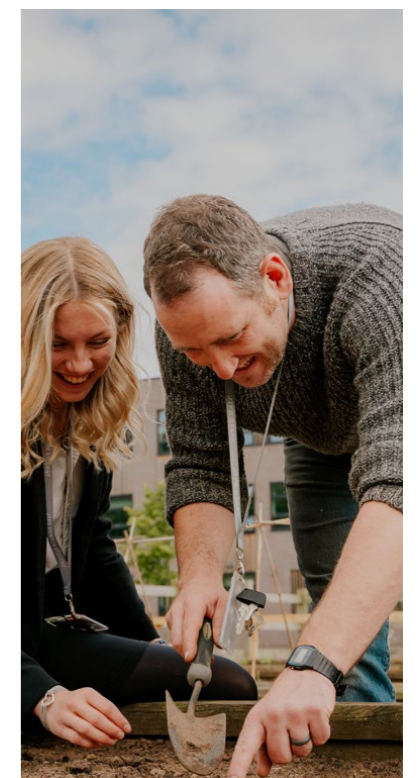
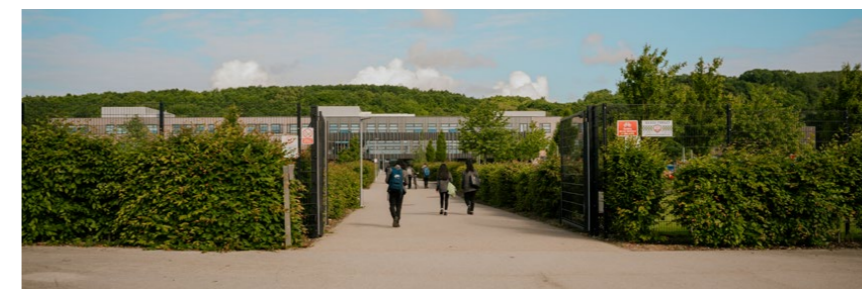
John Taylor Free School is a creative and innovative environment. We are at the forefront of educational research and deliver success through a coaching for excellence model. Our staff are as committed to this vision as I am, and together, we will not settle for anything less.

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  
Headteacher





# 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
- Enjoy 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

## OUR SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



## OUR ASSISTANT HEAD TEAM

### POST 16 PROVISION



### BEHAVIOUR



### THRIVE



### EVIDENCE INFORMED PRACTICE



### INCLUSION & DSL



# Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We keep your child in focus at all times. We never judge, but we keep an open mind, knowing that 'it could happen here'.

We take our responsibilities regarding welfare concerns seriously and encourage our students to talk openly about any worries they may have. We strive to create an educational environment in which all students feel safe and have trusted adults with who they can share their concerns.

All of our staff are fully trained to support our students in accordance with the Department for Education's Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance. Our robust Safeguarding policies serve to protect our students to support them in being able to Succeed and Thrive.

If students have a safeguarding concern in school, they should contact the staff members listed below:



Mr A Warner  
DESIGNATED  
SAFEGUARDING  
LEAD (DSL)



Mrs M Hassell  
DEPUTY  
SAFEGUARDING  
OFFICER



# 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 on each tie. We have a virtual tutorial system with students arranged in mixed age groups. These small groups are an excellent way to build confidence and develop positive working relationships with students across the school.

## STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM

The Student Support Team focus on breaking down barriers to attendance, safeguarding issues and the overall wellbeing of the students. There is a member of the student support team attached to each house.



Mr Cornell



Miss Perry



Miss Hill



Mrs Haslam



Mr Conlon



Mrs Squire



# Our Curriculum

## KEY STAGE 3

Our KS3 curriculum is broad and balanced. In Years 7 and 8, Driving Questions link the subjects together to ensure that students understand how concepts are inter-connected. 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.



## KEY STAGE 4

At Key Stage 4, students begin to specialise, taking a combination of core subjects and optional courses leading to GCSE qualifications. Students choose from a wide range of GCSE subjects, allowing them to tailor their studies to their interests and career aspirations. Although students are highly competent learners and confident with their STRIPE skills, we continue to foster development in this area. This will be taught throughout their GCSE courses to ensure they are ready for the next stage of their education. Students are explicitly taught how to revise for their subjects so they are fully prepared for their examinations and have a greater awareness of how to succeed in their exams.



## KEY STAGE 5

Our Key Stage 5 curriculum is designed to inspire and challenge students, providing them with the knowledge, skills, and experiences needed to succeed in their future academic and career endeavours. We are committed to supporting each student's individual growth and preparing them for the opportunities and challenges of the modern world. Students have a wide range of courses available to them to ensure they can succeed and thrive.



## 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**articipator  
**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. 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 behaviour management strategy being implemented.

Students have two questions to consider at JTFS

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

## PERSONAL TUTOR GROUPS

Every student will join a Personal Tutor group. Each group consist of up to 25 students from years 7-13. 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 monitors 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 report on their progress 6 times a year and this is available to view on Bromcom. 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.

# Individual Needs

## EVERY STUDENT IS AN INDIVIDUAL AND THEREFORE HAS DIFFERENT NEEDS.

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".

Mrs Bosworth is our SENDCO who oversees the needs of students who have additional needs. 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 research led 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 Bosworth'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. There are 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 or quad.

Students have a  
**20 minute break in the morning**  
and a **40 minute lunch break** each day.

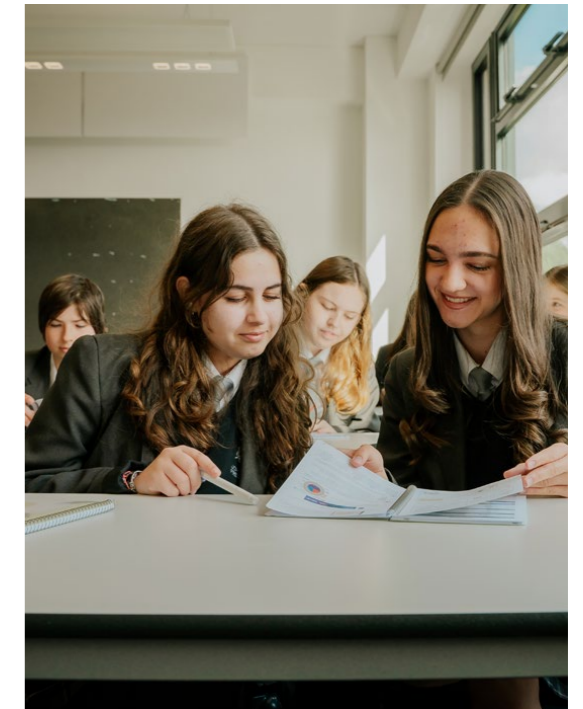


## EQUIPMENT

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
- Spanish language dictionary (recommended Oxford School Spanish 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.



## 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. Parents will be expected to collect the item from school.



## TRANSPORT

Students may travel to school 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. Students should dismount and walk with their bicycle when on the school premises. 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 or the local estate



# 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.

## FOREST SCHOOL

At John Taylor Free School, we are fortunate to have a large, planted woodland on site where we deliver Forest School sessions. Our Forest School program offers a holistic approach to developing the whole student in a natural environment.

Students take part in a range of craft activities, woodland management, fire safety, cooking, nature observation, den building and responsible use of tools to develop STRIPE behaviours for the classroom and beyond. We have links with the Land Trust who engage with community wildlife projects on the land surrounding the school site, encouraging students to engage with wildlife and the wider community. Forest school is currently offered as an enrichment activity and as alternative provision for students who require further support to succeed and thrive at John Taylor Free School.



# Enrichment Programme

An important part of education at John Taylor Free School is our enriched curriculum; a half termly enrichment programme with activities taking place both during 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!

In addition to the formal programme of events, we also have concerts/performances, guest speakers, visits to places such as the theatre, Art Galleries, Museums, areas of interest and events such as the ski trip. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is another important element of the enrichment programme which sees students volunteer to support a worthy cause, develop their own understanding of both themselves and the wider world, and work together as a team to overcome a challenge in a new environment.

### MONDAY

Cereal Club  
Mr Glaze | 8:10 - 8:40

Badminton (YR7 & 8)  
Mr Joyce | Sports Hall

LRC  
8:15 onwards

Chess Club  
Miss Griffiths | 2026

### TUESDAY

Cereal Club  
Mr Glaze | 8:10 - 8:40

Student Ambassador  
Mrs Besenzi | 0067

LGBTQ+  
Mrs Ceney | 2029

Badminton (YR9 & 10)  
Miss Furniss | Sports Hall

### WEDNESDAY

Cereal Club  
Mr Glaze | 8:10 - 8:40

Origami Club  
Mrs Cresswell | 2030

Table Tennis (YR11)  
Mrs Ridley | Sports Hall

Badminton (YR11)  
Miss Furniss | Sports Hall

### THURSDAY

Cereal Club  
Mr Glaze | 8:10 - 8:40

Table Tennis (YR7 & 8)  
Mr Joyce | Sports Hall

LRC  
8:15 onwards

Chat and Chill  
8:00 - 8:40 | 2026

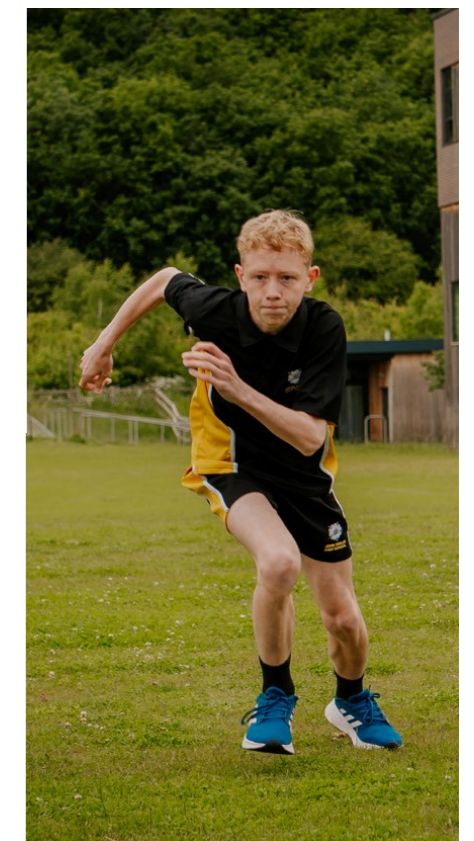
### FRIDAY

Cereal Club  
Mr Glaze | 8:10 - 8:40

Basketball  
Sports Hall

Vocal Group  
Miss Barber | 0066

KS4 & KS5 Drama Rehearsals  
Mr Jordan | Theatre







## TIMETABLE

On Wednesday, we operate a slightly different timetable to enable students to leave at 3:05pm via their normal mode of transport.

As a research-led school with a coaching for excellence model, our staff take part in weekly 2 hour Professional Learning Sessions. These include 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

08:50 - 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 - 13:40	Year 7,8 & 9 Lunch
13:40 - 14:30	Lesson 5
14:30 - 15:20	Lesson 6

### WEDNESDAY

08:50 - 09:05	Personal Tutor Time
09:05 - 09:55	Lesson 1
09:55 - 10:45	Lesson 2
10:45 - 11:05	Break
11:05 - 11:55	Lesson 3
11:55 - 12:45	Lesson 4
12:45 - 13:25	Year 7,8 & 9 Lunch
13:25 - 14:15	Lesson 5
14:15 - 15:05	Lesson 6

Lunch time is split so that Year 7-9 take lunch together and Year 10-13 take lunch together at a different time.

## Lunch Clubs

### MONDAY

Crochet Club  
Mrs Curry | 2006

Politics Club  
Mr Bithell | 2007

KS3 Boccia  
Miss Furniss

DofE  
Miss Hill/Mrs Leadbeater | 1025



### TUESDAY

Year 10 GCSE PE  
CH/CV

Student Newspaper  
Mrs Hammond-White | 2031

### THURSDAY

Table Tennis (YR9 & 10)  
AN

Spanish Speaking Games  
Miss Brassington | 2010

Book Club  
Miss Jenkinson | 2029

Business Board Games  
Mrs Pollitt | 1041

### WEDNESDAY

Year 11 GCSE PE  
AR/CV

Reading Club  
Mrs Mycock | 2029

### FRIDAY

A-Level PE (YR12)  
AR/CV/ML

History Club  
Mr McDonnell | 1004

Outdoor ED  
Miss Keeley | Outdoor Ed Area

## After-School Clubs 3:20pm - 4:20pm

### MONDAY

Taylor Swift Club  
Miss Griffiths | 2026

LRC  
Mrs Jenkinson | 3:20 - 4:15

Film Club  
Mr Bowen-Jones

Bike Maintenance Club  
Mr Watson | 0006

Rugby  
Mr Joyce/Mr Gale



### TUESDAY

Art - Support and Challenge  
Ms Gibbs | 0051

Football (KS3)  
Mr Joyce/Mr Vardy

Netball  
Mrs Ridley | Sports Hall

Science Club  
Various Teachers | 2037

LRC  
Mrs Jenkinson | 3:20 - 4:15

Dungeons and Dragons  
Various Staff

School Show  
Mr Jordan/Miss Barber | Theatre

### THURSDAY

Football (KS4 & 5)  
Mr Vardy

Debate Club  
Mr Davis | 2028

Hockey  
Sports Hall

Blooket Club  
Mrs Dring | 1017

Art Club  
Mrs Derby | 0050

School Show  
Mr Jordan/Miss Barber | Theatre

### FRIDAY

Rugby (KS4)  
Mr Joyce

LRC  
Mrs Jenkinson | 3:20 - 4:15

Chess/Uno Club  
Miss Griffiths | 2026

Football (KS3)  
Mr Joyce/Mr Vardy

Football (KS4 & 5)  
ML

Girls Football (KS4)  
JC

### WEDNESDAY

LRC  
Mrs Jenkinson | 3:20 - 4:15





# 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 whilst in the school building, unless permission has been given by staff to remove it.
Tie	All students wear a clip-on tie reflecting their house colour: <b>CHARNWOOD</b>   <b>KINGSTONE</b>   <b>MARCHINGTON</b>   <b>NEEDWOOD</b>   <b>ROSLISTON</b>   <b>SHERWOOD</b> *Ties are available from school (purchased via ParentPay)
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. Alternatively, students may wear a plain black, knitted v-neck jumper underneath their blazer.
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.
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, 'ankle grazers', are tight fitting, low slung or Lycra based, 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, 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.

## 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 tracksuit bottoms/plain black tracksuit bottoms. As per school trousers, these should not be 'skinny fit'.
- Black knee length socks.
- White ankle socks.
- Sports trainers (NOT fashion trainers, non-marking sole).
- Shin pads and gum shields (for some contact sports school will advise when needed).
- Football boots (for football and rugby lessons).

## OPTIONAL

- If your child is cold, they may wear a school specific PE jumper in House colour or school specific rugby shirt in House colour (worn over the top as a jumper or in place of a T-shirt), or their blazer. They can also wear plain black skins underneath their PE top.
- School specific rugby shorts with school logo.
- Plain black 'skins' or equivalent.
- Students can wear plain black leggings beneath their shorts if they wish to. This is not instead of shorts and must be leggings – tights are not allowed due to hygiene reasons.



## 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.
- 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

# Wellbeing & Parents as Partners

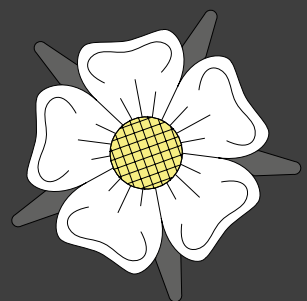
At JTFS, we thrive through our positive attitudes towards Wellbeing and the culture this promotes. We offer supportive staff and students who know how to talk about their mental health and wellbeing, with accessible tools and support. Developing our 'Be Nice' approach is developing the whole child with the support of both staff and families. We also have a team of staff who are trained in Mental Health First Aid.

Through our Parents as Partners work, we welcome parents and carers to attend school and work alongside staff to understand and develop key areas of our school community work. During the year 2023-24, we hosted families to discuss themes around assessment and reporting, effective learning strategies, behaviour and expectations, attendance and individual needs. We will continue to work with parents as partners to ensure that our community is inclusive to all.

We listen to parents and carers, responding to this voice through these sessions. Asking for parents and carers voice throughout your time at JTFS is important to developing our community further.







Proudly part of the  
John Taylor MAT

John Taylor Free School  
Branston Road, Tatenhill  
Burton upon Trent  
Staffordshire  
DE13 9SA

