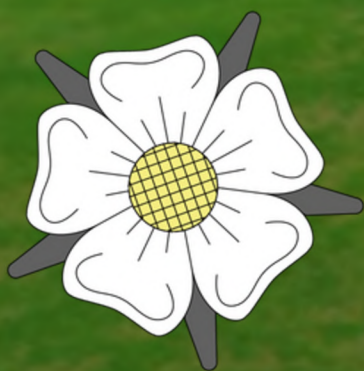




JOHN TAYLOR
FREE SCHOOL



2026
2027
PROSPECTUS



JOHN TAYLOR
FREE SCHOOL

Contents

Welcome	4
Our Values	7
Our Team	8
Safeguarding	9
Our Curriculum	10
The House System	13
Individual Needs	14
Routines for Learning	15
Our School Day	16
Enrichment Programme	18
School Uniform	20
PE Kit	22

Welcome

TO JOHN TAYLOR FREE SCHOOL

I am delighted to welcome you to John Taylor Free School; the first new school to be built in Staffordshire for a generation. We are extremely proud of our vibrant, ambitious, and supportive school community where all students are empowered to succeed and thrive both academically and personally.

Our dedicated staff, inspiring and ambitious curriculum, and positive climate for learning ensures that every student is challenged, supported, and encouraged to reach their full potential. We are proud of the academic successes of our first two Year 11 cohorts, as well as our first Year 13 cohort in the summer of 2025. We look forward to building on these successes and welcome students into our Sixth Form, many of whom have been with us for the last five years and have chosen to continue their education with us.

At JTFS, we are passionate about offering more than just academic success. Our wide-ranging enrichment programme, array of trips and visits, extensive careers provision, and student leadership opportunities, all allow students to develop skills and qualities beyond the classroom. 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 try, fail and learn so they can be even more successful next time around. Teamwork, resilience, respect and a passion for excellence are all central to our culture and climate, and prepare our students for the next stage in the education journey and beyond.

We have high expectations of our students and expect them to be respectful, kind, polite, and supportive of each other to ensure all feel safe and valued. We celebrate their successes together and help each other when needed. Our vertical tutoring system further supports this and allows students from different year groups to build meaningful relationships with each other, as well as their Personal Tutor who truly understands their individual needs. These sessions provide a positive and focused start to the day through reading, mentoring, and progress discussions.

Our staff are dedicated and hard-working, and keen to continuously develop their craft. As a creative and innovative learning environment, we are at the forefront of educational research and deliver success through a coaching for excellence model that all staff are committed to.

This is an exciting time at JTFS as we continue to grow as a school community and I look forward to what the future brings and sharing this journey together. I invite you to explore this prospectus further and discover what makes JTFS such a special place to learn and grow. If you would like further information, please explore our website and newsletter and if you have any specific questions relating to your child, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Martin
Headteacher







Our Values

TO ENABLE OUR STUDENTS TO SUCCEED AND THRIVE



OUR VALUES

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

OUR SCHOOL

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

OUR STUDENTS

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

OUR STAFF

- Innovative, creative and passionate about teaching
- Respect and care for the students they teach & the colleagues they work with
- Have high expectations and set positive examples to students and colleagues
- See themselves as lifelong 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 respects different cultures, races, genders, abilities and 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 and 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 & ATTENDANCE



THRIVE



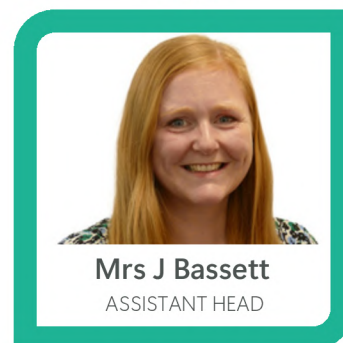
RESEARCH INFORMED PRACTICE



INCLUSION



DATA





Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We keep the 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.

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 below:



Mrs L Bosworth

**DESIGNATED
SAFEGUARDING
LEAD (DSL)**



Mrs M Hassell

**DEPUTY
SAFEGUARDING
LEAD**

Each Student Support Officer is also part of the Safeguarding Team.

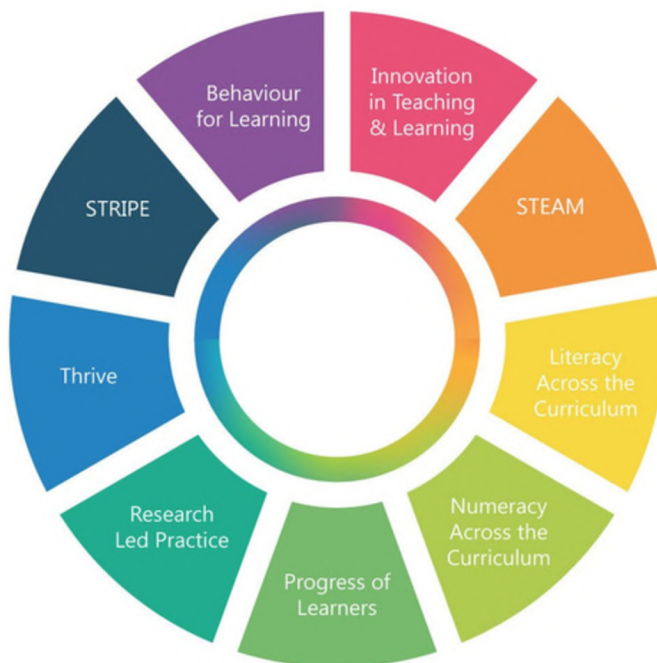


Our Curriculum

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 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.

In Years 10 to 13, students are highly competent learners and confident with their STRIPE skills. They will continue to develop them throughout their courses to ensure they are ready for the next stage of their education.





STRIPE LEARNING BEHAVIOURS

Students will be rewarded for behaviour which goes above and beyond our expectations with praise points. The system celebrates behaviour which allows students to succeed and thrive or develops their **STRIPE** skills.

Self Manager

Team Player

Reflective & Resilient

Innovate & Create

Participator

Enquirer



Turn Up, Work Hard, Be Nice.

.....



At John Taylor Free School we keep our expectations for behaviour and conduct very simple, which is why we are confident that everyone can achieve them all the time. Two questions can help to guide us to do so:

Does my behaviour allow us all to **succeed? Does my behaviour allow us all to **thrive**?**

We do have some specific requirements of our students for punctuality, how to dress, and how we act around other people. Almost all our students meet these expectations consistently, and we recognise those students who go above and beyond with our praise system. If students choose to fall short of the expectations, our behaviour management procedures help them to make better choices in future and to reduce the impact on everyone else.

PERSONAL TUTOR GROUPS

Every student belongs to a Personal Tutor Group which includes students from years 7 to 13. Each Personal Tutor Group belongs to one of our six Houses, led by a Progress Leader. This vertical system builds a student's identity as part of the whole school community, not just one year group. New students quickly come to feel at home in their Personal Tutor Group, and everyone feels a responsibility to one another. The Personal Tutor is the main point of contact for students and parents and should be the first person to talk to 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, students and their families will visit the school for a conversation at our settling-in evening, but the Personal Tutor can be accessed at any point in the year. Families will receive a progress report at regular points in the year, but you can look at behaviour, attendance and other information at any time through the **My Child at School** account. More information on how to do this is shared when students join our school, as well as via our website and newsletter.

You should find that you can easily keep up to date with your child's experiences at JTFS, but you can always talk to the Personal Tutor if you have any questions.

The House System

Each Personal Tutor Group belongs to a House, and all the students wear their house colour on their tie and sports kit. Assemblies usually take place in House groups with students from all year groups attending. The House system builds a sense of community, responsibility and relationships across the school but there are only a few students of each year group in each Personal Tutor Group.

This means that when students might need support during the year – such as UCAS applications, summer exams, or arriving to the school in year 7 – their tutor can give them the focus and attention they need.



CHARNWOOD



KINGSTONE



MARCHINGTON



NEEDWOOD



ROSLISTON



SHERWOOD

PROGRESS LEADERS



Mrs Challis



Mrs Squire



Mr Ross



Mr Cornell



Mr Conlon



Mrs Haslam

STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM

The Student Support Officers, Family Liaison Officer and Safeguarding Officer complement our House system by providing guidance, mentoring and support. Alongside the Personal Tutor, this team will help to break down barriers and help students succeed and thrive.



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**.

Mrs Bosworth is the Assistant Head for Inclusion and is the strategic lead for students who find school a challenge, including those with individual needs. The SENDCo 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 the SENDCo'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

Students and staff eat together in the restaurant or the designated seated areas outside. Breakfast is served for all years from 8:15am-8:45am every day, and food is available to purchase at break and lunch times. There is a water cooler available for students to fill their own water bottles at break and lunch time.

There are a range of healthy options including sandwiches, jacket potatoes and a salad bar. A two-course meal is available everyday which includes a vegetarian and halal option. The restaurant operates a cashless payment system where accounts can be accessed using a thumb print for each student. Parents credit the account using the My Child At School app. Students may also bring a packed lunch if they choose to.

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.

- **Reflective Journal:** All students are issued with a journal. Check your timetable and diary sections daily to prepare for your learning. This should be on your desk in every lesson.
- **Required Stationery:** At least two blue or black pens, a pencil, a pencil sharpener, an eraser, a glue stick, a ruler, a scientific calculator, a maths set (compass, set square, protractor). No Tippex or permanent markers are allowed. A transparent pencil case is needed for examinations.
- **Reading Book:** All students should have a reading book, either their own or borrowed from our LRC.
- **Revision Materials:** Always be prepared with material to learn and revise.
- **Reusable Eater Bottle:** Single use plastic will not be allowed out of the restaurant areas.
- **Optional Resources:** A jotter or notebook, a small dictionary, pencil crayons, coloured pens, headphones, flash cards for revision, folder for storing extended learning.

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 the Headteacher. We will expect a parent to collect the item from school.

TRANSPORT

Students may travel to school on a 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, a bike lock and a helmet must be worn. Please note that the school cannot be held responsible for items left on the school site.

With all these options, parents are discouraged from driving their children to school. If this is essential, please use the Pick-Up and Drop-Off (PUDO) point opposite the school gate. Only parents with an access pass may part in the main school car park. Under no circumstances should parents park on Branston Road, on the approach to the school, or on the local estate.

Our School Day



EXTENDED LEARNING

A range of extended learning opportunities will be offered, and we will expect students to complete them 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 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 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 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		WEDNESDAY
08:50 - 09:20	Personal Tutor Time	08:50 - 09:05
09:20 - 10:10	Lesson 1	09:05 - 09:55
10:10 - 11:20	Lesson 2/Break	09:55 - 11:05
11:20 - 12:10	Lesson 3	11:05 - 11:55
12:10 - 13:40	Lesson 4/Lunch	11:55 - 13:25
13:40 - 14:30	Lesson 5	13:25 - 14:15
14:30 - 15:20	Lesson 6	14:15 - 15:05

Lunch time is split so that Years 7, 9 and 11 take break and lunch together, and Years 8, 10 and Post 16 theirs together at a different time.

Enrichment Programme

An important part of education at John Taylor Free School is our Enrichment Curriculum. This is a programme with activities which take place before, during, and after school. Every student is expected to take part in **at least one** activity. Activities will change occasionally 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!



EXAMPLES OF LUNCHTIME CLUBS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
What Matters in the News? Quiz & Puzzle Club Cricket Club Forest School LGBTQ+ Allies Politics Club	Mindful Colouring Touch Rugby What Matters in the News? Table Tennis Maths Puzzles	Shikaku Puzzles Uno Club Silent Reading Club Post 16 Canasta Club Rounders	Crochet Club Rounders Mindful Colouring	Pet Portraits Weather Forecasting Tennis Science on TV Trampolining

EXAMPLES OF AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS 3:20PM - 4:20PM

Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday
Gardening & Plant Care Musicals Club Music Theory/Listening Computing Club Year 7 & 8 Football (NGA) Year 8,9 & 10 Cricket	Dance Club Dungeons & Dragons Gola Design Challenge GCSE Practical Science JTFS Singers Touch Rugby	Debate Club Film Club Warhammer Japanime Summer Festival Rehearsals Boxing Club Athletics Girls Football (NGA)	Formula 1 Club Into Film Club

Enrichment Week is our annual tradition in the Summer Term. During Enrichment Week, your usual timetable will not be followed and instead you will participate in a combination of activities taking place both in and out of school. As a Year 7 student, you will enjoy a residential trip during Enrichment Week, before returning to take part in Thrive Day - a traditional sports day with a cultural twist to celebrate all your achievements!



In addition to the formal programme of events, we also have concerts, a school musical, visits to places such as the Theatre, Art Galleries, Museums, and trips abroad to France and Spain. We want to offer an engaging and varied Enrichment Curriculum, so hopefully there will be something for everyone!



JTFS is also proud to be host to the Staffordshire Music Service, and in partnership with the Entrust Burton Music Centre we are the home of music for young people in the region. Come and join an ensemble on Monday nights!

We encourage all students to take music tuition - You will get an instrument at no extra charge while you take lessons at JTFS. This means that you can practice at home and join in ensembles too! You will get plenty of chance to play at our concerts and events through the year.

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.

Only a small part of our uniform bears our logo. Such 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 allowed.

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

Ties are available from school (purchased via MyChildAtSchool)

JUMPER (optional)

A v-neck jumper with the school logo is optional. There is a choice from our uniform suppliers. Cardigans, vests 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.



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 black, tailored school trousers without adornments. 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.
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) standard leather-style school shoes will be permitted. Black trainers, canvas-style shoes, backless shoes 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 wristwatch 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, which includes eyebrows. 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 and should be waterproof/showerproof. 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 tracksuit bottoms/plain black tracksuit bottoms. As per school trousers, these should not be 'skinny fit'
- Black knee length socks
- Black or white ankle socks
- Sports trainers (NOT fashion trainers, non-marking sole)
- Shin pads and gum shields (for some contact sports. We 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 base-layer 'skins' underneath their PE top
- School specific rugby shorts with school logo.
- Plain black 'skins' or equivalent base-layer clothing
- 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.
- There will be strictly no use of any other fashion clothing
- All students MUST have their kit named
- All jewellery must be removed for PE lessons.
- Hoodies are not permitted



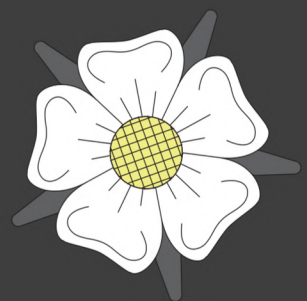
TIPS

- Trainers should be suitable for PE and non-marking; fashion style trainers are not recommended
- No jewellery may 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





Proudly part of the
John Taylor MAT

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