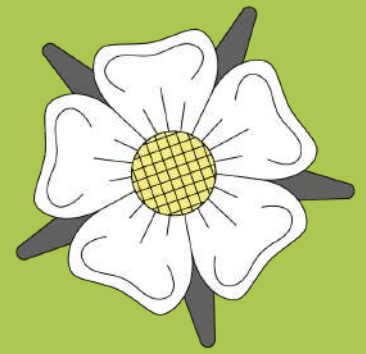




JOHN TAYLOR
FREE SCHOOL



2027
2028
PROSPECTUS



JOHN TAYLOR
FREE SCHOOL

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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 exceptionally proud of our vibrant, ambitious, and supportive school community, where every student is encouraged and empowered to fulfil their potential.

At John Taylor Free School, we believe that every child deserves the opportunity to **succeed and thrive**. Our dedicated and highly skilled staff are committed to supporting, challenging, and inspiring students every day. Through an ambitious and carefully-designed curriculum, we nurture curiosity, creativity and a love of learning, ensuring that every student develops the knowledge, skills and confidence needed for future success. We are immensely proud of the academic achievements of our Year 11 and Year 13 students and remain committed to building upon these successes year after year.

Our outstanding facilities provide an exceptional environment for both learning and personal development. From specialist classrooms and modern technology to excellent sporting and performing arts facilities, our students benefit from resources that help them discover and develop their talents.

At John Taylor Free School, we are passionate about providing an education that extends far beyond academic achievement. Our extensive enrichment programme, wide range of educational visits and residential experiences, comprehensive careers provision and numerous student leadership opportunities allow students to develop valuable skills and qualities beyond the classroom. These experiences foster confidence, resilience, independence and teamwork, while creating memories that last a lifetime.

We have high expectations of every student, encouraging them to take pride in their work, embrace challenge and make a positive contribution to our school community. Our guiding principle of **'Turn Up, Work Hard, Be Nice'** sets clear expectations and helps to create a culture that is respectful, inclusive and supportive. We celebrate success together, support one another when challenges arise and work collectively to ensure everyone can thrive.

Additionally, throughout their time with us, every student is supported by a dedicated Personal Tutor and Head of Year, who provide guidance, encouragement and exceptional pastoral care.

There has never been a more exciting time to join our school community, and we look forward to sharing this journey with you. We hope this prospectus gives you a glimpse of what makes our school such a special place, and we encourage you to explore further to discover the opportunities that await. If you would like to find out more, please visit our website and newsletter and if you have any specific questions relating to your child, do not hesitate to get in touch. We would be delighted to answer your questions and welcome you to our school community.

Mrs S Martin

Headteacher

John Taylor Free School





Who We Are

.....

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Led by Mrs Martin, our Leadership Team works together to ensure every student is supported, challenged and inspired to achieve their very best.



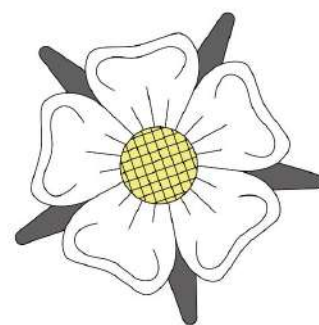
Mrs S Martin
HEADTEACHER



Ms E Pugh
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER



Mr S McAusland
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER



Mrs C Broughton
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER - SENDCO



Mr T Bithell
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER -
TEACHING AND LEARNING



Mr M Davis
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER - PERSONAL
DEVELOPMENT AND WELLBEING



Mr K Johnson
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER - BEHAVIOUR



Mr P Robinson
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER -
POST 16 AND ATTENDANCE



Mr D Thompson
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER - DATA



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

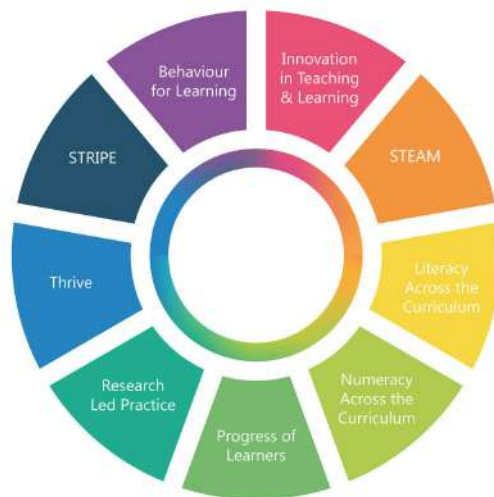
- A welcoming community that respects different cultures, races, genders, abilities and disabilities
- A listening school that engages students in improving school life
- A sustainable school that involves itself in the community at a local, regional, national and international level
- A civilised school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

Our Curriculum

Our curriculum is ambitious, broad and balanced, designed to inspire curiosity, develop knowledge and skills, and ensure every student is prepared for future success.

At Key Stage 3, students follow a three-year curriculum in Years 7, 8 and 9. This allows subjects to be taught in greater depth, ensuring secure understanding and strong foundations before students begin their GCSE studies. Driving Questions link subjects together, encouraging students to make connections across their learning and understand how concepts are inter-connected.

In Year 9, students receive guidance and support to make informed decisions about their future studies and the subjects they would like to pursue for GCSE. Alongside their chosen subjects, all students continue to study a strong core curriculum that provides the qualifications and knowledge needed for future education, employment and life beyond school.





STRIPE LEARNING BEHAVIOURS

At every stage of their education, we are committed to developing students' STRIPE skills.

These learning behaviours underpin success across the curriculum and equip students with the confidence and character to thrive throughout their educational journey. Such skills are also essential for future careers and life beyond the classroom.



Pastoral Care and Support

We know that students achieve their very best when they feel happy, safe and supported. Therefore, at John Taylor Free School, pastoral care is at the heart of our school community, ensuring that every student is known as an individual and receives the guidance and encouragement they need to succeed and thrive.

Every student belongs to a tutor group, which includes students from Years 7 to 11. Post 16 students have separate tutor groups to provide further bespoke guidance and support. Personal Tutor Time activities allow students to build connections across year groups, receive advice from their peers, and ensure students are fully prepared for the day ahead. Through a carefully planned programme, students engage with personal development, literacy and numeracy, current affairs, careers education and assemblies that reinforce our values and expectations. Their Personal Tutor knows them as individuals and is the first point of contact for students and families.

Additionally, each tutor group is part of a House, building a sense of community within school. Throughout the year, students have opportunities to participate in a range of House activities, events and competitions, fostering healthy competition, teamwork and school spirit.

OUR HOUSES



CHARNWOOD



KINGSTONE



MARCHINGTON



NEEDWOOD



ROSLISTON



SHERWOOD



PASTORAL TEAM

Our pastoral system is further strengthened by Heads of Year and Pastoral Support Officers, who work closely with Personal Tutors, teachers, families and external agencies to provide additional guidance whenever needed. This team supports students with attendance, behaviour, wellbeing and personal development, helping all students to succeed and thrive. Through our caring and inclusive approach, students develop not only the academic knowledge they need, but also the character, confidence and life skills required for the future.

HEADS OF YEAR



Mr Ross
Head of Year 7



Mr Conlon
Head of Year 8



Mr Machin
Head of Year 9



Mrs Squire
Head of Year 10



Mrs Haslam
Head of Year 11

We believe that education is most successful when students, staff and families work together, and we place great importance on positive home-school relationships. Throughout the year, parents and carers will receive feedback on their child's progress and have an opportunity to meet with teaching staff and learn how they can further support at home. We value open and honest communication and encourage families to contact us whenever they have a question, concern or require additional support.

Individual Needs

At John Taylor Free School, we recognise that every student is unique and that some students require additional support, while others benefit from further challenge. We provide an inclusive education where every young person can succeed and thrive, regardless of their starting point or individual circumstances.

Our dedicated Individual Needs Team, led by Mrs Broughton (SENDCo) and Mrs Woolley (Deputy SENDCo), work closely with students, families, teachers and external professionals to identify needs early and provide appropriate support. Through careful assessment, regular monitoring and a personalised approach, we ensure that students receive the guidance, interventions and resources they need to flourish both academically and personally.

Our Individual Needs team work closely with students who may find the transition to Secondary School more challenging than their peers. Our Enhanced Transition Programme familiarises students with our school and our staff, ensuring they start September feeling confident about the next stage of their education.





Safeguarding

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do at John Taylor Free School. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and all members of our school community play an important role in promoting the welfare of young people. Our approach is underpinned by the principle of "it could happen here." This means that we remain vigilant at all times and take every concern seriously.

We encourage all students to talk to a trusted adult if they are worried about themselves or someone else. We take a non-judgemental approach, and work to provide the right support to ensure the best possible outcomes for young people.

Our staff receive regular safeguarding training and follow the latest statutory guidance set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE). Safeguarding procedures are robust, and we work closely with parents, carers and external agencies whenever necessary to ensure all students can succeed and thrive.

Our safeguarding team is led by the following key staff, who are supported by all members of our Student Support Team.



**DESIGNATED
SAFEGUARDING
LEAD (DSL)**
Mr S McAusland



**DEPUTY
SAFEGUARDING
LEAD**
Mrs M Hassell

The School Day

Our school day comprises of six 50-minute lessons with one break and one lunchtime. Year groups follow slightly different timings with the timings for Year 7 mirroring that of Year 9 and 11. Additionally, we follow a two-week timetable alternating between Week A and Week B.

The school day for Year 7 is shown below:

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 - 10:30	Break	09:55 - 10:15
10:30 - 11:20	Lesson 2	10:15 - 11:05
11:20 - 12:10	Lesson 3	11:05 - 11:55
12:10 - 12:50	Lunch	11:55 - 12:35
12:50 - 13:40	Lesson 4	12:35 - 13:25
13:40 - 14:30	Lesson 5	13:25 - 14:15
14:30 - 15:20	Lesson 6	14:15 - 15:05

On Wednesday, we operate a slightly different timetable to enable students to leave at 3:05pm. As a research-led school with a coaching-for-excellence model, our staff take part in Professional Learning Sessions on this day. These sessions ensure staff are able to share best practice and further hone their craft, thus resulting in consistently high-quality teaching and learning for our students.





EXTENDED LEARNING

Extended Learning is set by teachers to be completed outside the classroom and plays an important role in supporting students' progress. These activities are carefully designed to reinforce, deepen and extend students' knowledge, understanding and skills. Tasks may include preparatory activities, such as reading an article before a lesson, as well as retrieval practice, research tasks or examination-style questions that allow students to apply and develop their learning independently.

We also encourage all students to develop a love of reading by engaging regularly with a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. Our Learning Resource Centre provides a welcoming space for reading, research and study, and is also available for students to use after school.

Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting students' learning at home. We ask families to encourage good study habits and monitor the completion of Extended Learning tasks to help students meet deadlines and achieve their full potential.

Routines for Learning



Students should come to school prepared for learning every day. They should take care each evening to pack the correct items for the following day's timetable, including all required equipment. Mobile phones are not allowed to be used in school and, in line with national guidance, must be switched off and out of sight at all times when on the school grounds.

There is a clear expectation that students attending John Taylor Free School will wear the full uniform appropriately, and that this expectation is supported by parents.

Please ensure you refer to the full uniform guidance which can be found on our school website.

TRANSPORT

We encourage students to 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 and a bike lock. Students must also wear a helmet.

If it is essential for parents to drive their child to school, we have a designated Pick-Up and Drop-Off location opposite the school site. Only parents with an access pass can enter the main school car park. Under no circumstances should parents park on Branston Road, on the approach to school, or on the local estate.





Praise and Behaviour

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Our students make us proud every day, demonstrating our expectations of 'Turn Up, Work Hard and Be Nice'. We believe that this positive attitude deserves to be recognised and celebrated, and our rewards system acknowledges students' achievements and efforts both inside and outside the classroom. Our praise system ensures that we recognise this and reward students for their efforts. Through celebration assemblies, recognition events, praise points, thank you cards and other rewards, we regularly celebrate the contributions, commitment and accomplishments of our students, helping foster a culture where everyone is encouraged to strive for their very best. Equally, should a student's behaviour fall short of expectations, our behaviour management procedures address the concerns but also help students reflect on their choices, learn from mistakes and make positive decisions in the future. By maintaining clear and consistent expectations, we minimise disruption to learning and ensure that all students can learn in a safe environment.

Enrichment Programme

An important part of life at John Taylor Free School is our Enrichment Curriculum. We believe that education extends far beyond the classroom and that students should have opportunities to discover new interests, develop talents and build confidence through a wide range of experiences.

Our Enrichment Curriculum offers a programme of activities that take place before school, during the school day and after school. Every student is encouraged to participate in at least one enrichment activity, becoming an active member of the wider school community. Activities change throughout the year, ensuring that students have the opportunity to explore a variety of interests and experiences.

Recent enrichment activities have included:

- Sports such as cricket and football
- Puzzles and games, including an Uno club
- Arts and crafts, from crochet to mindful colouring
- Musical theatre and film clubs

Alongside our regular clubs and activities, we host a variety of special events throughout the year. These include our annual JTFestival, music concerts, performances and school productions, all of which provide opportunities for students to showcase their talents.

Students also benefit from an extensive programme of educational trips and visits, including to museums, galleries and theatres, as well as exciting international opportunities. Recent overseas visits have included New York, and an unforgettable expedition to Borneo!

In the Summer Term, students take part in our annual Thrive Week. During this week, students participate in a range of experiences both in and beyond school, including trips, activities, workshops, residential visits and our highly anticipated House Sports Day.

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 across the region. Come and join an ensemble on Monday nights!





For all enquiries, please contact:
office@johntaylorfreeschool.co.uk



Proudly part of the
John Taylor MAT

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