



# John Ruskin School

**'John Ruskin School is a welcoming school where staff know every pupil. There is a strong sense of community spirit. Relationships between pupils and their teachers are warm'**

Ofsted 2019

John Ruskin School  
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Head teacher: Mr P Blackburn  
Chair of Governors: Mrs J Hallam

School years are vital to young people. Our school years give us not just qualifications, but also develop our character so we can go on to achieve our ambitions. At John Ruskin School our detailed knowledge of every student allows our exceptional staff to ensure that every child achieves and makes the very most of their school time with us.

We have developed a reputation for our students making outstanding progress in their time with us, as evidenced in the published league tables. We value the importance of academic success and ensure students leaving John Ruskin School are effective 21<sup>st</sup> century citizens.

Ofsted visited the school in October 2019 and recognised that John Ruskin School is a 'good' school – a great accolade to the hard work of students and staff. The many positive messages from parents received by the Ofsted team prove that John Ruskin School is a place where every child is cared for, valued and respected as an individual. The report states that 'there is a culture of academic success.'

Despite all the challenges presented by the past two years, John Ruskin School remains a school where students succeed. Seeing the passion of staff and students makes me incredibly proud to be head teacher of such a wonderful learning community.

Peter Blackburn  
Head Teacher

## OUR VISION

Our small size allows us to know each student as an individual yet still provide big school success and a range of opportunities. We aim to provide a caring, but challenging environment that pushes students to achieve the very best academic outcomes. Staff and students agreed on the following vision which runs at the core of everything we do.

Our vision is to create a school community in which you can:

- **Be respected**
- **Be resilient**
- **Be valued**
- **Be ready for your future**
  
- **BE YOU**



**Our last inspection in October 2019 judged us to be a good school in all areas. You can find a link to the full report on our website. Here are a few quotes from the report, which recognise the many strengths of the school:**

'Teachers say that they love working at the school. They have high expectations of themselves and their pupils. In lessons, pupils have positive attitudes to learning and are proud of their work'

'The school takes advantage of its surroundings. Pupils take part in an array of extra-curricular activities, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme, outdoor education and the annual fell-racing competition'

'Teachers encourage pupils to follow John Ruskin School's vision:  
'Be Respected, Be Resilient, Be Valued, Be Ready for Your Future, Be You.'  
Pupils' individuality is celebrated. Pupils are confident and can express themselves well'  
Ofsted: October 2019'

'Leaders are keen to foster pupils' appreciation of music, art and literature. For example, all pupils play a musical instrument, take part in performances and read challenging books'

'In English, religious education, music and science, content is demanding and teachers make sure that they give pupils the chance to recall prior learning'

'Pupils benefit from clear routines and high expectations. They behave well, show interest in their learning and have positive relationships with each other ... Parents and carers praised the support that the school gives'

'Pupils act as school councillors and raise money for charity. They learn about respect and democracy. Leaders place a high priority on pupils' mental health and well-being'.

## The Curriculum

At John Ruskin School we provide a rich, high quality and varied learning experience for all of our students. The curriculum is taught through exciting and engaging lessons that stimulate the students' interest and enjoyment of learning. The arts are celebrated in displays around the school and regular performance evenings such as Rock Night and The Spring Concert.

The school boasts a large playing field and, in order to support the curriculum, subject related trips and visits are regularly organised making use of our local environment.

### Key Stage 3

In Years 7, 8 and 9 all students have lessons in the following subjects:

Mathematics, English, science, design technology, history, geography, French, art, music, physical education, religious education, computing, catering and personal development.

In some subject areas, students are taught in sets. In most instances, class sizes are smaller than in a typical

comprehensive school. This allows teachers or teaching assistants to cater for the individual needs of students at all times.



To promote reading skills and reading for pleasure, Years 7, 8 and 9 follow the Accelerated Reader Programme.



### Key Stage 4

Our KS4 curriculum includes a core offer of English, maths, science, PE and RE that every child must follow. We also provide a range of choices with a degree of flexibility to allow for a variety of personal learning routes. English, science and humanities are particular strengths of the school. High achievement across the school allows many students to progress to the post-16 courses of their choice.

We offer GCSE courses in computing, art, music, French, history, geography, resistant materials, catering, drama and wherever possible will meet each and every student's needs with a bespoke curriculum.



John Ruskin school has been able to evidence how it makes best use of its local environment and its cross-curricular links and as a result was awarded the 'Geography Mark'. We are proud to be a Global Partner School in recognition of its links with other schools and organisations to promote partnership work and its understanding of its place in the wider community.

## Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Outside of the formal curriculum John Ruskin School offers a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities including:

### Clubs, trips and residential activities

- Homework club (run at lunchtime each day)
- Science club
- Fell running club
- Regular sports clubs including football, rugby, netball, baseball and cricket
- Biennial residential trip to France
- Annual ski trip for Years 7 to 10
- Peripatetic music tuition covering woodwind, guitar, brass, percussion, keyboard and strings
- Duke of Edinburgh Award during Year 9
- Evening and weekend trips to sporting events
- Dance/drama workshops with professional companies; theatre trips
- Rock Night, Spring Concert and School Ceilidh
- The Big JRS Picnic at the end of the summer term
- Swimming pool on site, with community-led clubs in the Summer term



## Student Roles

Our students play an active and important role in the life of the school. They willingly volunteer to take on responsibilities to support staff and their peers. As a result of this our students leave us with the self-awareness, leadership qualities and employability skills that allow them to go on to be successful at A-level and apprenticeships.

### Prefects

Year 11 students apply to become prefects and then receive training so that they gain a full understanding of their role and their responsibilities. On a daily basis, they oversee the smooth-running of the dining room, monitor behaviour around school at lunchtime and on buses, escort visitors around school and support other students when the need arises.

Some prefects apply to become head boys and girls, and their deputies. They make speeches to the whole school and are then voted for by their peers and staff. In these roles they oversee the prefect teams and work with senior staff as the need arises.

### School Council

The school council is run by our head boys and girls. Each tutor group votes for a representative from each key stage. The outcomes of these meetings are then discussed with the head teacher on a regular basis. This is their opportunity to have any concerns and opinions heard.



### Dining Room Assistants

Young people in Key Stage 4 help the dining room staff by operating the tills at lunchtime. Although we run a cashless system, students who are on duty have to register the information about the meals that other students purchase

## Staff at John Ruskin School

### **The Senior Team**

**Head Teacher**

**Deputy Head Teacher**

**Assistant Head Teacher**

**Assistant Head Teacher**

**SENDCO**

Mr Peter Blackburn

Mr Ian Walker

Miss Julie Flanagan

Miss Carolyn Metcalfe

Mrs Caitrin Pursell

### **English Department**

Mr I Walker

Mrs D Wright

Mrs E Ribchester

Miss C Metcalfe

Ms K Kirkby

Mrs H Tyson

### **Mathematics Department**

### **Science Department**

Mrs R Gaskell

Mrs E Rawlinson

Mrs R Mallett

### **ICT Department**

Mr R Palin

### **P.E. Department**

Mr I Rose

Mrs S Walker

### **R.E. Department**

Mrs S Tennant

Mr P Blackburn

### **Languages Department**

Mrs C Pursell

Ms A Houssaye

Mrs J Topping

### **Geography Department**

Mrs S Hodgson

Ms A Richards

### **History Department**

Miss J Flanagan

Ms A Richards

Mr D Rawcliffe

### **Art Department**

Mrs P Hunt

### **PSHE/Citizenship & Careers**

### **Co-ordinator**

Mrs S Tennant

### **Technology Department**

Miss H Curbishley

Mrs R Phillips

Mr T Stacey

### **Music Department**

Mrs G Duckering

### **Specialist Teacher**

Miss M Jones

### **Learning Support**

Mrs D Colagiovanni

Mrs L Jones

Ms S Pass

Mrs H Woodhead

Mrs J Hutchinson

Mr O Ronfell

Mr D Canns

Mrs E Debreceeny

Mr R Phinn

### **Cover Supervisor**

Mrs S Walker

### **School Business Manager**

Mrs L Askew

### **Exams Officer/Admin**

Ms S Bennett

### **Attendance Officer/ Admin**

Mrs L Dugdale

### **School Business Assistant**

Mrs K Dawson

### **Administrator**

Mrs J Blaney

### **Science and Catering Technician**

Mr D Lunn

### **Site Supervisor**

Mrs E Hill

### **Cleaner**

Mrs P Airey

### **Chair of Governors The Fells Federation**

Mrs J Hallam

For further details of the Governing Body for The Fells Federation, please see our website  
[www.fellsfederation.org.uk](http://www.fellsfederation.org.uk)

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## Why choose John Ruskin School?

### A Year 11 student's perspective:

'John Ruskin School really is like one big family. It has welcoming pupils, dedicated staff and a positive, all-embracing atmosphere. I enjoy attending this school because as well as interesting lessons, it offers lots of other activities I enjoy. There are plenty of opportunities to experience the great outdoors: like the fell race; the Big JRS Picnic or our whole school sports day or field trips in geography and outdoor learning. These events as well as being physically challenging, are social and enjoyable too. It feels like there is always some sort of trip or event in the offing – and because JRS is a small school, you get to take part in loads of events!

I was able to choose the GCSE subjects I wanted and through the careers convention and the support in school, I am all set for life in sixth form. I guess it's easy to look at bigger schools and think they might be better...but I know that here at JRS everyone knows who I am and I have experienced so much. Without a doubt, John Ruskin School has made me who I am today. The school vision is true; the teachers really do help you to 'be you' and I am proud I belonged to JRS.'

### Comments from Parents:

- 'This is a friendly school with approachable teachers. We are very happy with our daughter's progress in all subjects. Our daughter is very happy at school and it has been a great transition from Primary to Secondary school.'
- 'Since attending John Ruskin School our son is fast becoming a mature young man, whose attitude to learning is growing and he is starting to approach his learning with the respect he should so. Thank you for giving him this fantastic opportunity to give him a good grounding for his adult life.'
- 'My wife and I wanted to pass on our thanks to you and all the staff at JRS for all that you've done for our daughter over the last five years. The ethos and vision of the school has had a very positive influence on her and will continue to serve her well in the future. We are very proud of the results she has achieved which are the icing-on-the-cake of the whole JRS experience.'
- 'I feel very proud of JRS and all it does, I am so glad I chose to send my child to JRS.'

**We asked Year 11 to write a message to potential parents of future Year 7 students, explaining to them why they should send their child to JRS – here are a few of their comments:**

- 'The friendly atmosphere'
- 'The teachers – the atmosphere'
- 'Everything!'
- 'Cakes at lunchtime and seeing my friend's everyday'
- 'The social aspect and the warm atmosphere between teachers and students'
- 'It's been beneficial being in such a small school because we are seen as people rather than numbers on a spreadsheet'
- 'The banter with the teachers and students – having a laugh...'
- 'The memories of friends – just being here...'
- 'The social interaction at all times – the support and the relationships with teachers'

- Personally, I think that coming to John Ruskin School was one of the best decisions I have ever made – you know that you will never be judged by anyone; the students and staff are supportive, approachable and kind. If you want your child to have the best secondary school experience, send them here.
- There is a true personal understanding and relationship with teachers, we can all be helped as individuals and we're not just a large collective
- It's a very welcoming and friendly school where everyone wants the best for you and your future
- I would definitely recommend John Ruskin School. Its small nature creates a safe, understanding environment and the teachers are able to get to know the students very well. The small class sizes and friendly atmosphere really contribute to a positive school environment, unlike any other
- JRS is a very unique school due to its size and location – it offers many exceptional educational opportunities for students. We can engage in family like, whole school experiences with ease, allowing us to mix and converse with students of all ages
- John Ruskin School takes education very seriously and it is a place where people can be themselves
- The size of JRS enables teachers to better help individuals and push them to achieve their potential. There is a very friendly ethos as teachers and students alike get on very well
- JRS is a small school with big opportunities; the teachers are always supportive with every issue – whether it's education, mental health or bullying
- JRS is a friendly and inviting with a welcoming atmosphere and creative and encouraging staff
- The school is inclusive – and offers a close relationship between students and teachers which allows for better understanding
- The school has an understanding environment – everyone feels important and cared for because it's small
- Coming to John Ruskin School was the best decision I ever made after primary school; JRS offers a helpful and caring atmosphere suitable for all students
- Teachers are able to get a deep understanding of students' abilities which leads to more personalised help in lessons
- Kind, caring teachers and personal connections. Being a small school, all the teachers know who everyone is and there is a sense of safety