



John Ruskin School  
Lake Road  
Coniston  
Cumbria  
LA21 8EW

September 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to have this opportunity to present you with our school prospectus.

I am confident that John Ruskin School is the ideal establishment to further the education of your child. At this school we pride ourselves on valuing the individual and enabling every young person to achieve their full potential.

The school has an excellent reputation for its open and friendly nature and for its care and concern for each individual student. This was confirmed by our last OfSTED report: 'It capitalises on its small size by providing a very welcoming and friendly ethos where relationships are very good and students and staff know each other well'.

All students have access to a wide and varied curriculum that is personalised to meet their individual needs, so that when they leave they are prepared for the future challenges of further education and employment. We strongly believe in nurturing the individual gifts and talents of all our students, whether they are academic, vocational, artistic or practical.

We are proud of our achievements and would be pleased to discuss with you how we, at John Ruskin School, can help you and your child at this most important stage in their education.

Please feel free to contact school to arrange a visit so that you can see the school in action.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Miriam Bailey  
Headteacher

## About John Ruskin School

John Ruskin School is a fully comprehensive mixed 11 – 16 community school. We provide education at the heart of the Lake District for the communities of Coniston, Hawkshead, Langdale and Broughton. However, many students from other areas also choose to travel to our school. It is a thriving community that promotes high levels of academic and personal achievement for its students.



### The South Lakes Federation

The South Lakes Federation consists of eight secondary schools, a special school, Kendal College and the University of Cumbria. There is close collaboration between all the schools within the Federation providing an opportunity for curriculum enrichment; access for students to vocational courses and support for Gifted and Talented students with the one aim of giving all of the students of the SLF the best possible educational experience.

### The Rural Academy

John Ruskin School is a member of the Rural Academy of Cumbria. This comprises the seven smallest secondary schools in Cumbria who work together and share good practice with a mutual understanding of what it is like to be a small secondary school.

### Community Links

John Ruskin School has a strong history of being an active participant in community events and has hosted the Coniston 14 Run, the Guide Dog for the Blind Challenge and is a member of the Coniston and Crake Partnership.

John Ruskin School  
Lake Road  
Coniston  
Cumbria  
LA21 8EW  
Tel: 015394 41306/41411  
Fax: 015394 41123  
Email: [admin@johnruskin.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@johnruskin.cumbria.sch.uk)  
Web site: <http://www.jrs.org.uk>

Headteacher: Mrs Miriam Bailey  
Chair of Governors: Miss Stella de Gruchy

## The aims and ethos of John Ruskin School

### Vision

We aim to encourage life-long learners who value their education, and are confident and ambitious for their own futures, while respecting the rights of others.

### Goals

We aim to:

- Incorporate the opportunities offered by technology
- Build students' self-esteem
- Encourage the view of school as a step on the learning process
- Ensure that we see ourselves as part of a wider community
- Enable people to excel
- Develop the joy of learning



## Timings of the school day

9.05 a.m.	Locker Time
9:10 a.m.	Registration / assembly / tutor time
9.25 a.m.	Period 1
10.15 a.m.	Period 2
11.05 a.m.	Break
11.15 a.m.	Locker Time
11.20 a.m.	Period 3
12.10 p.m.	Period 4
1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1.45 p.m.	Locker Time
1.50 p.m.	Registration
1:55 p.m.	Period 5
2.45 p.m.	Period 6
3.33 p.m.	Key Stage 4 to lockers and then to the buses
3.35 p.m.	Key Stage 3 to lockers and then to buses



## **Dates for the School Year 2011 - 12**

### **Autumn Term 2011**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

INSET Days: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September

INSET Day: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October

Half term: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

Number of school days: 68

### **Spring Term 2012**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Half term: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

Number of school days: 58

### **Summer Term 2012**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July

Bank Holiday: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Half term: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June

Number of school days: 63

Number of days in the year:

189 (reduced from 190 due to additional Bank Holiday on 5<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee)

## **Provisional Dates for the School Year 2012 – 2013**

### **Autumn Term 2012**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September to Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December

INSET Days: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September

INSET Day: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October

Half term: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Number of days: 72

### **Spring Term 2013**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Half term: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Number of days: 54

### **Summer Term 2013**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July

Bank Holiday Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May

Half term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May

Number of days 64

Number of days in the year

## Staff at John Ruskin School, 2011 to 2012

<b>Headteacher</b>	Mrs M Bailey
<b>Deputy Headteacher</b>	Mr I Walker
<b>Leader of Student Progress</b>	Mr A Callaway
<b>Leader of Student Development</b>	Miss J Flanagan

### English Department

Mr I Walker  
Mrs J Kinsella

### Art Department

Mrs J Walton

### Mathematics Department

Mr J Murray  
Mr A Delph

### Technology Department

Mr P Burns  
Mrs C Bale (Catering)

### Science Department

Mr A Callaway  
Miss M Shuttleworth

### Music Department

Mr P Crompton

### ICT Department

Mr J Brew

### SENCo

Mrs M Bailey

### Expressive Arts Department

Miss G Sharp

### Learning Support

Mrs D Colagiovanni  
Ms A Cocksey  
Miss S Cropper  
Mrs H Dunstan  
Mrs S Stergiaki  
Mr A Tomkins

### P.E. Department

Mr I Rose  
Miss G Sharp

### Cover supervisors

Mrs A Anderson  
Mrs S Walker

### R.E. Department

Miss J Flanagan  
Mrs A Anderson

### PSHE/Citizenship co-ordinator

Mr A Delph

### Languages Department

Miss R Nelson

### Enterprise and Careers Education/Guidance

Connexions PA

### Geography Department

Mrs S Hodgson  
Miss R Holland

### Parent Teacher Association

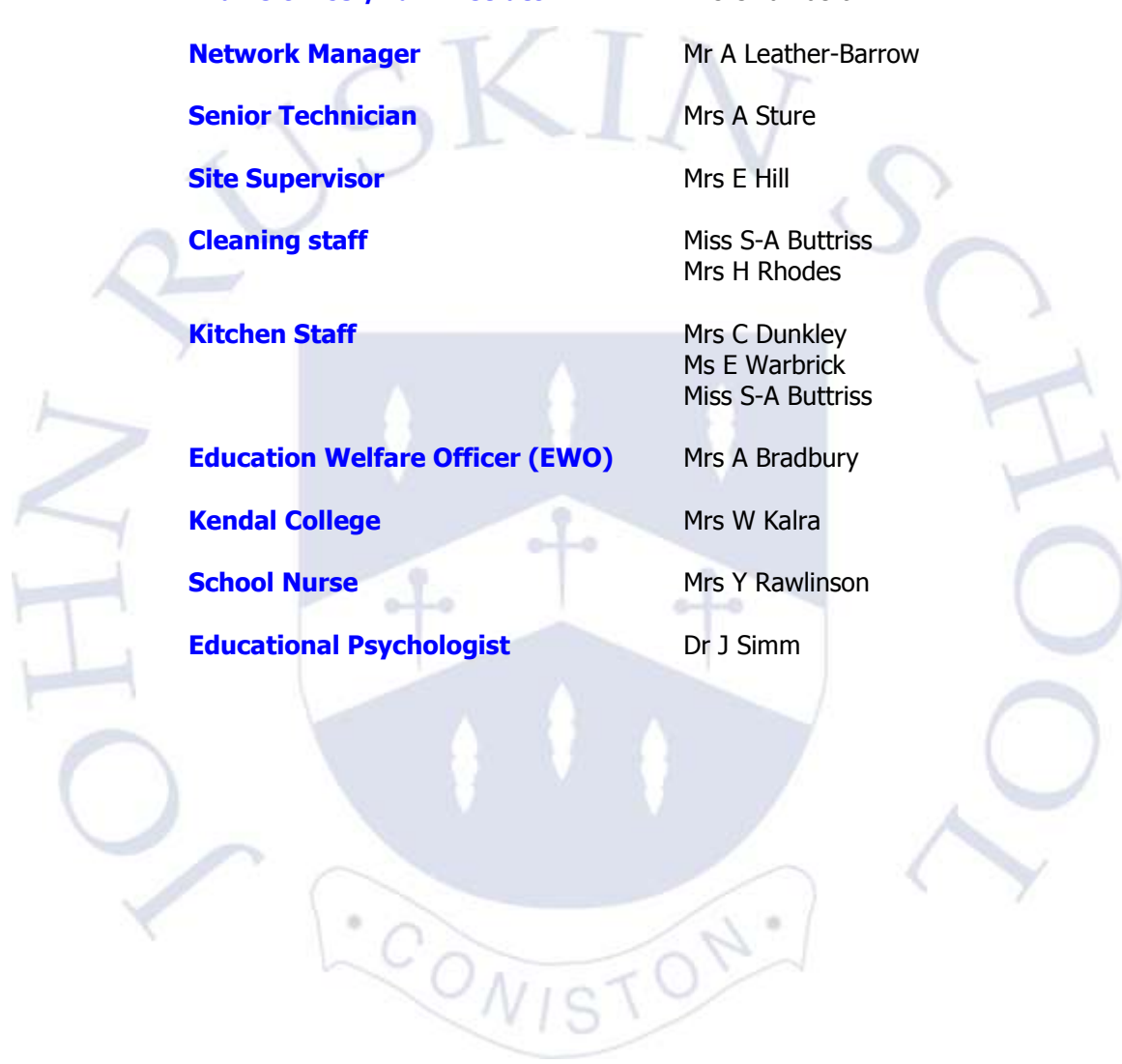
Mrs J Kinsella

### History Department

Miss J Flanagan  
Mrs Anderson

## Associated Staff 2011 - 12

<b>Business and office manager</b>	Mrs V Tunnah
<b>Administrator/Librarian</b>	Mrs E Emmett
<b>Exams officer/Administrator</b>	Mrs C Lambert
<b>Network Manager</b>	Mr A Leather-Barrow
<b>Senior Technician</b>	Mrs A Sture
<b>Site Supervisor</b>	Mrs E Hill
<b>Cleaning staff</b>	Miss S-A Buttriss Mrs H Rhodes
<b>Kitchen Staff</b>	Mrs C Dunkley Ms E Warbrick Miss S-A Buttriss
<b>Education Welfare Officer (EWO)</b>	Mrs A Bradbury
<b>Kendal College</b>	Mrs W Kalra
<b>School Nurse</b>	Mrs Y Rawlinson
<b>Educational Psychologist</b>	Dr J Simm



## School Governors 2011 – 2012

### LA Representatives

Miss S de Gruchy (Chair)  
Mr I Culley  
Mrs C Salisbury

### Parent Representatives

Mrs A Alger  
Mrs H Glennon  
Mrs M Hale

### Staff Representatives

Miss J Flanagan  
Mrs J Kinsella  
Mrs C Lambert  
Mr I Walker

### Community Representatives

Mr G Cooper  
Mr C Davies  
Miss V Slowe

### Child Protection Governor

Miss J Flanagan

### Clerk to the Governors

Mrs V Tunnah

The Clerk may be contacted at the school address:

**John Ruskin School**  
**Lake Road**  
**Coniston**  
**Cumbria**  
**LA21 8EW**  
**Tel: 015394 41306/41411**  
**Fax: 015394 41123**

**Email: [val@jrs.org.uk](mailto:val@jrs.org.uk)**

## 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.

### 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 and Dance/Drama, Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Catering. Students are sometimes taught as tutor groups or mixed ability classes.



In some subject areas, students are taught in sets. In most instances, class sizes are smaller (approximately 20 students per class) than in a typical comprehensive school allowing teachers or teaching assistants to cater for the individual needs of students at all times.

### Key Stage 4

The curriculum at KS4 provides a wide range of choices with a degree of flexibility to allow for a variety of personal learning routes. A personalised approach to option choice aims to design a curriculum at KS4 for each student rather than direct individuals to option blocks. Each student is expected to take a technology option as part of our Technology School status. Currently the options offered are Resistant Materials, Catering and Graphics.



Occasionally there are mixed Year 10 and 11 groups in Art, Music and PE. This allows flexibility in the choice of courses offered at KS4.

Short course GCSE RE taken in Year 10 provides early opportunity for students to experience GCSE expectations. Some students can opt to do further study to enable them to sit the full GCSE RE at the end of Year 10. R.E. is delivered in Year 11 by three full days where the timetable is collapsed to allow students to explore different areas of religious doctrines, usually through off-site visits to a variety of religious institutions.

We also offer GCSE courses with a very strong vocational input in ICT, which is compulsory, Geography through Leisure and Tourism and also in Catering.

Our links with Kendal College through the SLF mean that some students travel to Kendal one day a week to follow Level 1 and Level 2 National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ's) and Young Apprenticeship (YA) courses in a range of areas including Child Care, Catering, Motor Vehicle Engineering, Construction and Hair and Beauty.

## The Learning Environment

All classrooms have a data projector and sound system, nine classrooms have interactive whiteboards.

The school is generously equipped with two full classroom suites of computers and a mobile class set of electronic notebooks.



All teaching spaces have access to computers and the internet.

In most instances, subjects are taught in a designated specialist teaching space. There are two science laboratories, a practical catering room with space for 20 students with an area for theory lessons too, a resistant materials workshop with an adjacent computer suite and an ICT suite.

The library is equipped with computers, some non-fiction and a good range of fiction books. It is open daily at lunchtime.

The school boasts a large playing field, basketball court and tennis courts as well as an outdoor swimming pool.

In order to support the curriculum, subject related trips and visits are regularly organised making use of our local environment, historical and geographical places of interest.

Every Key Stage 3 year group participates in a geography field trip to support their classroom learning. Students study the rivers, the rocks, explore the impact of man on the local environment and how the local environment is managed.

Key Stage 4 students of History and Expressive Arts take part in field trips which are intrinsic to their coursework.

There are poetry writing days in Wordsworth's cottage, cross-curricular visits such as Art and Science or Art and French and visits to catering establishments for KS4 students.

Theatre trips to Manchester, Keswick and Lancaster are made available as the opportunity arises.

Trips abroad are arranged to support the development of language and understanding of other cultures.

## Learning Support Information

John Ruskin School has an inclusive approach to its students who have special educational needs.

Our policy states that 'teachers take into account in their planning a student's special educational needs. The provision made therefore enables them to participate effectively in all curriculum and assessment activities, in addition to broader aspects of school life.'

We respect the fact that students:

- Have different educational and behavioural needs and aspirations
- Require different strategies for learning
- Learn at different times
- Require a range of different teaching strategies

We use a variety of strategies for support including:

- Individual and small group tuition for students with specific learning difficulties
- Classroom support
- Enhanced access to ICT for students with SEN
- Reading partner scheme/peer support
- Differentiated teaching
- Extra classroom support by members of the community
- Individual education plans with suggested teaching strategies.

Our April 2009 OfSTED report stated that:

'There is outstanding care and support for students with learning difficulties and / or disabilities which is enhanced by links with external agencies'.

The full Special Educational Needs policy is available at school should you wish to read it. If you are interested in reading the full policy please ring in advance so that a copy can be made available for you.

## **Assessment and Reports**

### **Internal assessment**

Assessment forms an important part of students' progress at John Ruskin School and will come in a variety of forms. These will include: -

- The regular marking and commenting on work by subject specialists
- Student generated written and verbal self evaluation
- Staged testing and examinations
- Group and individual target setting by both teacher and students

### **Liaison with home**

The main point of contact for new parents will be the form tutors. Miss Flanagan is our Transition co-ordinator and is in charge of all matters concerning new entrants.

Parents and carers of Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 students are expected to attend a new academic year induction day at the beginning of the Autumn Term each year. At this meeting tutors will discuss and review the progress made by the student throughout the previous year and set appropriate targets for the next year. Student planners will be issued at these meetings. Parents or carers are expected to review the student planners on a regular basis, signing weekly to indicate that this has been done.

Every year group has a parents' evening that provides a formal opportunity to discuss progress and future targets. We are, however, happy to discuss any problems or questions you may have regarding your child's progress at any point in time. As a small school we pride ourselves in knowing our students well and providing a caring and welcoming atmosphere.

We welcome all contact with parents and are very proud of our active Parent and Teachers Association.

### **Homework**

Homework is part of the school curriculum. Its purpose is to generate a variety of worthwhile learning experiences, additional to those provided in the school. Ultimate success in public examinations depends upon the early establishment of the habit of independent learning/study to which regular homework contributes. We ask parents to support us in seeing that homework is done conscientiously and in the best possible conditions. A staffed homework club is available every lunchtime. This provides students with a quiet place to work, with staff on hand to help with any problems.

In order to ensure good channels of communication between home and school, we give students a student planner. Homework is recorded in the planner each day and parents are asked to check and sign the planner each week, before it is countersigned by the student's form tutor. Homework can take a variety of forms and might include: preparation for a future lesson; practice questions to consolidate learning; private reading, coursework drafting or completing final assessments.

## Gifted and Talented

The South Lakes Federation has an agreed policy on what qualifies a student to be on the Gifted and Talented Register. The SLF also provides opportunities for gifted and talented students to meet and develop their interests with other similarly talented students.

The school facilitates early GCSE entry for able students with progression to AS level in Year 11 and has provided the opportunity for students to complete Open University modules in their interest areas. The KS4 curriculum can also be personalized to provide the challenge appropriate for Gifted and Talented students.



Silver and Gold Mathematics Challenge Award winners

Academically able students have been involved in an astronomy masterclass, a geography masterclass and P.E. masterclasses, quizzes and competitions held locally and especially arranged evenings at the sixth form college.

## John Ruskin School Uniform

All students are expected to wear the correct school uniform. We expect students to take pride in their school uniform and wear it appropriately.

For all years the uniform is as follows:

- Black/navy blue tailored trousers or knee length school skirt – no more than 5 cm above or below the knee.
- John Ruskin School sweatshirt
- John Ruskin School polo shirt *Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) – Blue  
Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) – White*
- Black/brown sensible school shoes – heels no higher than 5 cm, no trainers or boots
- Plain dark socks

### Girls P.E. Kit

*Games (outside):* John Ruskin School Reversible 'rugby' top

Navy/black shorts or cycle shorts

White socks – short for netball etc

Navy stockings – long for football, hockey etc

Navy/black tracksuit leggings may be worn in cold weather

Footwear – Trainers and football boots are both used. In wet weather a studded shoe or boot is needed for safety on grass.



*Please note that for Health and Safety reasons "Blade" boots are no longer allowed – only round screw in or moulded studs are allowed.*

Students will not be allowed to take part in football or rugby with trainers.

*PE (inside)* White polo or T-shirt (KS3), Red polo shirt (KS4)

White games shorts and white socks. Trainers with non-marking sole. (This indoor kit is also worn for dance.)

### Boys P.E. Kit

*Games (outside)* John Ruskin School Reversible 'rugby' top

White shorts and navy stockings (long)

Trainers, football boots, are all used. In wet weather a studded shoe or boot is needed for safety on grass. Students will not be allowed to take part in football or rugby with trainers.



*Please note that for Health and Safety reasons "Blade" boots are no longer allowed – only round screw in or moulded studs are allowed.*

*PE (inside)* White polo or T-shirt (KS3), Red polo shirt (KS4)  
White shorts (as games) and White socks (short). Trainers with non-marking soles  
(This indoor kit is worn for dance lessons also).

The John Ruskin School sweatshirts, polo shirts and P.E. Kit are provided by Coniston Corporate Embroidery UK Ltd and can be ordered through the school website where there is a direct link. Uniform will be delivered to school where parents / carers / students can collect it.

There will be an opportunity to order school uniform at the Year 6 Induction Evening in the summer term.

All clothing should be clearly marked with the owner's name.

### **Protective Clothing**

A protective apron is needed when working in the Design Technology workshop these will be available to buy from school for a small charge.

A separate apron is also required for work in the Food Technology room and again these will be available to buy from school. As with all clothing it is important that these items of protective clothing are labeled.



Any other protective clothing will be provided by school when necessary.

### **Equipment**

Students will need all the basic equipment listed below:

- Pens (black or blue) and pencils (H and HB)
- Coloured pencils/felt tips
- Eraser
- Ruler
- A pair of compasses
- Protractor
- Calculator

Students will find it useful if they have their own USB storage device (pen drive/memory stick), 256MB will be enough memory for their needs in school.

## Canteen and Lunchtime arrangements

All students are expected to remain in school at lunchtime and are therefore not allowed to leave the school premises without prior written permission. John Ruskin School provides comprehensive catering arrangements including a light breakfast before school starts, also a late breakfast which is available during morning break.

All the food is freshly prepared and cooked on the premises. A wide variety of high quality balanced options are available. Our catering staff are keen to suggest healthy options to aid students' choice of meals.

Facilities are also available for students to eat meals prepared at home.

A rota system operates so that all years have the opportunity for first sitting during the week.

### Nutritional Guidelines

Please note that government guidance for school meals, introduced in September 2006, also applies to packed lunches. Packed lunches should include fruit and vegetables, bread, water, pure fruit drinks, milk, yoghurt and milk drinks with less than 5% added sugar. This means sweetened fizzy drinks which have little nutritional value, are no longer allowed. The following foods can no longer be served within school and therefore should not be included in packed lunches:

- *Confectionery such as chocolate bars, chocolate-coated biscuits and sweets should not be available for lunch.*
- *Savoury snacks such as crisps should not be available for lunch.*

Further nutritional advice is available from school upon request.

### Water

Fresh drinking water is available in school. There are three water dispensers for student use around school. Students may bring water to lessons in a clear, plastic drinking bottle.



Y11 GCSE Catering Coursework

## Results

### GCSE 2011

#### (Cohort of 36)

5+ A* to G	100%
5+ A* to C	69%
5+ A* to C including English	53%
5+ A* to C including mathematics	48%
5+ A* to C including English and mathematics	33%
5+ A* to G and equivalents	100%
Number of A and A*'s achieved	58



Year 11 students receiving their results 2011

### Attendance 2010 – 2011

Number of students: 196  
Attendance 91%

#### **Authorised absence:**

Number of students 196

Percentage of students: 95

Percentage of sessions: 8.5

#### **Unauthorised absence:**

Number of students 29

Percentage of students: 29

Percentage of sessions: 0.5

## External Links

### South Lakes Federation

We are part of the South Lakes Federation of schools. This Federation is working actively to develop alternative curriculum opportunities for 14-19 students. Students from this school take vocational courses at Kendal College. Gifted and talented students also have opportunities to work with other students as part of a collaborative programme in Geography and P.E. In response to demand from the tourist related industries the school offers a Catering GCSE. Students also have the opportunity to take vocational courses in Catering at Kendal College as well as a range of other courses leading to NVQ Level 1. Other work-based learning opportunities are also offered by the Inclusion Team all of which lead to accreditation. The Federation is part of the extended school sports partnership working to enhance sporting opportunity both at John Ruskin School and some of our partner primary schools.



### Rural Academy



The school is part of The Rural Academy, a group of 7 small schools in Cumbria, which was awarded DfES Technology College Status in 2004. The Academy has a long tradition of mutual support.

### Multi agency support

John Ruskin School actively promotes the use of a multi agency approach to support our students, ensuring that all can access a curriculum suitable to their needs.

Examples of this work include:

- Fortnightly meetings with Educational Welfare Officer
- Termly meetings with Educational Psychologist
- Weekly visits from Connexions PA
- Weekly visits by the School Nurse
- Regular contact with Social Services
- Regular visits from the Community Police Officer

The school has adopted the Extended School Health Service offered by NHS Cumbria School Health Service.

## Life Long Learning

### Partner Primary Schools

John Ruskin School provides opportunities for Year 5 and Year 6 students to work with our staff and students so that the transfer from partner Primary Schools is smooth for those choosing John Ruskin School. Teaching staff regularly work in our partner Primary Schools delivering French and PE. Year 6 are also invited to attend a series of lessons in Science, Mathematics and Technology throughout the year.

### Further Education and employment

John Ruskin School is an 11 to 16 school whose students leave to go to a variety of different educational establishments and employment opportunities.

To support our students in this choice Careers/Education Guidance is delivered to all year groups with more intense work concentrated on Key Stage 4. Just some of the things we provide to students to enable them to make informed and realistic decisions about their future are:

- Visiting speakers from all local Sixth Form and FE colleges
- Visiting speakers from the armed forces
- Workshops with outside providers of enterprise education eg Reality Bites Learning
- Visits to local colleges, including a taster day at Barrow Sixth Form College
- Personalised work experience as appropriate
- A 'mock interview' held off school premises and carried out by local employers and link college tutors.
- Weekly visits from our Connexions Personal Adviser

Students have historically furthered their education at a range of establishments including:

- Barrow Sixth Form College
- The Lakes School Sixth Form
- Ulverston Victoria High School Sixth Form
- Furness College
- Kendal College
- Lancaster and Morecambe College
- Newton Rigg Campus
- Myerscough College

### Post 16 destinations for Year 11 leavers in 2011 (number of students in bracket)

Barrow Sixth Form College	(8)
Ulverston Victoria Sixth Form	(1)
The Lakes School Sixth Form	(2)
Furness College	(6)
Kendal College	(5)
Newton Rigg Campus	(1)
Modern Apprenticeship	(6)
Employment	(1)
Myerscough College	(1)
Lancaster and Morecambe College	(1)
Army from January	(1)
Unknown	(2)

## Enterprise Education

Our Enterprise Curriculum in school aims to equip students with the skills they will need in order to compete in a rapidly changing world; skills such as teamwork, communication, organisation and risk-taking, to name but a few. We do this across the curriculum in all subjects as a matter of course, but we also organise special enterprise events, to really focus students' minds on the whole concept of enterprise.



Year 10 are targeted to participate in enterprise activities to develop skills which will enable them to compete effectively post 16 and ultimately join the world of work.

Students engage in a wide variety of activities and experiences such as peer mentoring and reading partners where older students support younger ones in the school setting.

There are visits to Higher Education institutions and the opportunity to take part in outdoor activities and challenges. On an annual basis each new Year 10 group works with a company to produce, direct and perform a pantomime in two days which they perform for younger students at JRS and the local primary school. Parents are also invited.



When given the opportunity we take advantage of offers from Impact Training Agency who as part of their graduate training programmes, include our students in one-off day long experiences which assist in enhancing social and thinking skills.

## Extra Curricular Opportunities

John Ruskin School offers a wide range of extra curricular opportunities including:

### Clubs, trips and residentials

- Year 7 residential in autumn term
- Science club
- Chess club and competition
- Annual Y7 to Y10 South Lakes schools skiing trip



- Annual Fell Race in Autumn term
- Cheetah Challenge in Summer term
- Expedition group who have been to Scotland, Wales and The Lake District in recent years.
- Homework club (run at lunchtime each day)
- Swimming pool on site, with community led



clubs in the evening (summer only)

- Residential trips to France
- Peripatetic music tuition covering woodwind, guitar, percussion and piano



- Evening and weekend trips to theatre and sporting events
- The library is open at lunchtimes for students to read, complete homework or play a selection of educational games such as Scrabble. There is also a reading group and the students take part in Spellbinding with other schools across Cumbria
- Dance/Drama workshops with professional companies
- Dance clubs
- Drama productions within the school and beyond (September 2011 – performance in London)



- Animation club
- Language clubs – French and Greek
- Technology Club
- Regular sports clubs including football, rugby, netball, basketball and cricket
- Reward trips at the end of each term

### Sports fixtures

- Rugby
- Football boys and girls
- Cricket, matches and practice take place at Coniston Cricket Club
- Orienteering
- Netball



## Home School Agreement

### John Ruskin School will:

- care for every student's safety, well being and happiness
- value every student as a unique individual and encourage him or her to play a full part in the life of the school community
- support all students to achieve their full potential through high expectations, high standards of teaching and regular homework
- provide a broad and balanced curriculum in line with the National Curriculum, legal requirements and individual need
- keep parents and students informed about the student's progress, development and achievements through reports, scheduled parents' evenings and at other times where appropriate
- welcome contact with parents, listen to their views, seek to keep them informed about general school matters and offer opportunities to become involved in the life of the school.

### As a student, I will:

- foster my progress by attending school lessons regularly, on time, prepared for work and with all the equipment I need get involved in lessons and producing my best efforts in both class and homework
- show my respect for others by being polite and helpful to others, behaving and communicating appropriately and by caring for the environment and looking after property be an ambassador for the school wherever I go. This means being smart in my school uniform and aware of my presence in the community

### As Parent or Carer, I will:

- take an active interest in my child's work and progress in the school and encourage their efforts in homework
- ensure that I familiarise myself with the guidance and information I receive about his/her education and courses
- support the school's policies and guidelines on behaviour and responsibilities
- make sure my child attends school regularly, on time and with the proper equipment and uniform
- make the appropriate staff aware of any concerns or problems that might affect my child's work or behaviour and work in constructive partnership with the school.

## Why choose John Ruskin School?

### A Year 11 student's perspective

'John Ruskin School is a place I like to call inviting. It has welcoming pupils and a happy atmosphere. I enjoy attending this school because it offers lots of activities I enjoy, like our sports day or Cheetah Challenge. These events are both physical and enjoyable. The school provides a lot of out of school activities. There is also the expedition where students experience what it is like to spend a few days in the wild.



I personally am more interested in the creative parts of school. John Ruskin School has many concerts and performances of all of the arts, drama, dance and music. Teachers and older students hold dance clubs where you can take part in many genres of dance such as: jazz, contemporary, hip-hop etc. There are also drama

clubs to take part in your favourite murder mystery or classic fairy tale. Some students have even created their own band playing various instruments: guitars, drums and bass guitar. Our school offers music lessons for a variety of instruments. If it is singing that you are interested in you can become the next Charlotte Church or Madonna with fantastic singing lessons. There are loads of amazing events, lessons and clubs for all your hobbies and interests. Our school provides reward trips to places like Blackpool, ten pin bowling, ice skating, an outdoor education centre and the Trafford Centre.

In my Year 10 and 11 options, I take lots of art subjects because I enjoy them and feel I am good at them. I even took my graphics exam a year early and I am hoping to achieve a good mark. There are loads of different options, so you can excel in your favourite subjects.'





### **The thoughts of another Year 11 student:**

'I think John Ruskin School is FAB! I really enjoy going to this school as I have no worries about anything. It's quite a small school so this means everyone gets on well together – I know everyone from Year 11 all the way to Year 7, I don't know of any other school like this and it's great. Another thing I really love is the events and activities we do in school. Things like the Cheetah Challenge where there is a two-day expedition around the

mountains; walking is not really the thing for me, but I have never had as much fun as I've had on the Cheetah Challenge. I also really enjoy the reward trips we have - every term we go on a trip out of school, Blackpool Pleasure Beach being my favourite, and then there are the school discos three times a year everyone goes and boogies on down at these great nights.'

### **Deputy head boy's leaving speech:**

Up and down England for the past two weeks, parents have stormed into their children's rooms with frowns on their faces.

"Why haven't you tidied your room!? Why haven't you walked the dog. And WHY do you need an extra hours lie in!?"

The reply comes swiftly back; "I'm revising"!

Sometimes of course that *can* be used as an excuse, but let me say from first hand experience that usually, it *is* the truth. Or at least partly the truth!

Revision is the bane of every teenager's life. We probably don't do as much as our teachers would like, and we *know* we didn't do enough when we sit down in the exam hall and stare blankly at a question for ten minutes before thinking of anything to say! But, we struggle on and find ways to do it. Why? Because we are all chasing frantically after a set of GCSE results that will take us wherever we wish to go, and unlock the doors that stand in our way.

Of course, the end goal of secondary school *is* that set of precious qualifications, because secondary school is not the end of the road. It is simply a steppingstone on the path to somewhere else. We arrive fresh from primary school, ready to take this next step, and –after we finish here- we step forwards again: whether it be into a job, an apprenticeship or on to sixth form.

I decided quickly when I agreed to write this speech that I wouldn't include anything about how I feel about leaving this school because nobody really needs to hear it from me. Many of us who are leaving *will* be sad to go, but most of us also relish the prospect of what the future holds. Many of you who are in Years 7-10 will be sad to see us go, and I'm sure some of you will also be glad to see the back of us!

When I see my fellow Year 11s sat here in front of me, I feel a sense of belonging, and also... pride:

Pride because I know how successful they could all be at what they want to do. Some of us are headed towards University degrees and city jobs, where as some of us will set up a little garage 'in't Cumbria', and be very happy doing so!

It's this wonderful diversity, which is evident in every year group that makes me so proud of *mine*. And that is my only message for all of you students: play to your strengths, and enjoy what you do, and I'm sure you will all find the right place to be.

A steppingstone John Ruskin may be, but it is the nicest looking steppingstone in the river. Foot holes have been worn away by the countless numbers who have gone before us, and, if we ever threatened to fall in the river and be swept away, there has always been a helping hand nearby.

Whilst we were at this school, we didn't just receive an education. We lived, and made friends, fell out, played, grew and developed into young adults, all under *this* roof.

As Mr. Walker's now legendary leavers assemblies always show, people change a lot between when they arrive and when they leave but change is inevitable, and positive, and hints at things yet to come...

Teachers and staff have been told before, and will be told again what I barely even need to voice: thank you, for all the effort and fun.

Alfred Hitchcock once said "The length of a film should be directly related to the endurance of the human bladder", and I think that the length of speeches should be directly related to the length of the gap between when you sit down and when your bum starts to ache, so I will finish now, with this last thought.

It's always sad, to look back on the times that will never be repeated, but once the final bell has rung, and we walk through the open doors for the last time, we'll head off into a world of opportunity, and leave behind us a perfectly worn steppingstone, for new children to step steadily onto, and know what it is, to be a student at John Ruskin School.

## Comments from Parents

'I am writing to congratulate you, the staff and all the pupils of John Ruskin School on an excellent school project, the Cheetah Challenge.

It must have taken an enormous amount of organisation, much resourcefulness and commitment by all those concerned to have made the 'adventure' such a success.

I know my own daughter enjoyed the challenge despite such atrocious weather conditions and I realise that the whole challenge was a definite character building exercise.

Congratulations – looking forward to next year's Cheetah Challenge!'

'I am writing to thank you and the staff at John Ruskin School for the positive school years our children have enjoyed with you. The opportunities to try new things and the encouragement they have received has been appreciated.

In particular we know both children have valued the opportunity to be involved in the performing arts and have benefited from the support of the staff.

We know all the staff at John Ruskin School have contributed to make their education special.'

'You have turned my son into an optimistic, focused young man; my words will never fully express the gratitude I feel and send to each teacher, administrator, dinner lady and pupil that have dramatically changed my son's outlook on life and learning.

You are all an inspirational breath of fresh air in a world where impressions are made and every child matters!

I remain forever in your debt'

'Just a quick note to say thank you very much to you and everyone involved in making the trip to Le Touquet so fantastic. My daughter had a wonderful time and obviously enjoyed every minute.'

'Thank you for another fantastic year at John Ruskin for (our sons). We really are lucky to have such a caring school to send our boys to.'

'Funny, dramatic, elegant, amazing are some of the words that we want to use to describe the performances ... last week... The talent that is amongst the pupils is quite stunning and an inspiration to younger members of the school and also the support that the pupils give each other is so genuine and comes from the heart'

'After a 'shaky' Year 7 we would never have thought (our daughter) would now be the confident young lady she now is. She has been guided by your exceptional teaching staff and we will never be able to thank you all enough'

'...thanks for all the effort you make to create a very special place of learning and inspiration'.