



# John Ruskin School

**'Pupils' behaviour in class is exemplary. Pupils understand how to learn well, and routinely do so. As a result the progress that pupils make across a broad range of academic subjects is amongst the strongest nationally.'**

Ofsted 2018

**Top of the league tables in Cumbria for Progress 8;  
top 6% of schools in England overall; top 1% for English; top 6% for  
science and top 6% for humanities -2017**

John Ruskin School  
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Email: [admin@jrs.org.uk](mailto:admin@jrs.org.uk)  
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Head teacher: Mr P Blackburn  
Chair of Governors: Mr J Murray



School years are vital to young people. Our school year give us not just qualifications, but also develops 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 years.

In 2017 we were in the top 6% of schools nationally and the top performing secondary school in Cumbria. In 2018 our success was sustained, every child left us with ten academic GCSE grades and over one fifth of grades were a 7, 8,9, A or A\*. 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 July 2018 and recognised that John Ruskin School is a 'good' school and that it has the potential to be outstanding in a full inspection – a great accolade to the hard work of students and staff. The many positive messages from parents received by the Ofsted team proves 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.'

John Ruskin School is 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 huge 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 was in July 2018 when we were judged to be a good school in all areas and that a full two day inspection would likely to judge us to be outstanding. 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:**

'Current pupils make very strong progress.'

'(JRS is)... a caring and successful school community'

'Pupils' individuality is prized, and this underpins a strong culture of diversity and inclusion, where pupils prosper'

'Pupil's good conduct is a strength of the school ... Bullying is extremely rare'

'Pupils are articulate, and this underpins their confidence as leavers, and their academic success.'

'...pupils are confident, responsible and outward-looking citizens'

'Pupils ... demonstrate high levels of pride in their work ... (their) attitudes to learning are a huge strength of the school'

'Current pupils are aware of the very high standards set by pupils who have taken their GCSE examination in recent years. As a result there is a culture of academic success; these pupils wish to emulate their peers'

## 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, basketball court and tennis courts as well as a heated 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.

### 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, dance/drama, computing, catering and personal development.

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. 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 A-level courses of their choice.

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



John Ruskin school is a member of the Royal Geographical Society and has the Eco-Schools Bronze Award. The 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
- Dance clubs
- Fell running club
- Technology club
- Regular sports clubs including football, rugby, netball, hockey, basketball and cricket
- Debating club
- Residential trip to France biennial
- Year 7 residential in autumn term
- Annual ski trip for Years 7 to 10
- Reward trips at the end of Autumn and Summer terms
- Peripatetic music tuition covering woodwind, guitar, brass, percussion, keyboard and strings
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Evening and weekend trips to theatre and sporting events
- Dance/drama workshops with professional companies
- 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



## GCSE Outcomes 2017

**Our Progress 8 score of +0.70 placed us as the top performing school in Cumbria**

John Ruskin School was also:

- in the top 6% of schools nationally overall
- in the top 1% of schools nationally for English
- in the top 6% of schools nationally for science
- in the top 6% of schools nationally for humanities

## GCSE Outcomes 2018

- 65% of students achieved a 4<sup>+</sup> in English and maths
- 39% of students achieved a 5<sup>+</sup> in English and maths
- 87% of students achieved a 4<sup>+</sup> in English
- 65% of students achieved a 4<sup>+</sup> in maths
- 100% of students achieved a 4 or higher in:
  - Biology
  - Chemistry
  - Physics

Every child left with 10 academic GCSE's.

Our attainment 8 score of 49.2 is well above the national average.

More than one fifth of all grades were an A, A\*, 7, 8 or 9.

## 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 behavior around school at lunchtime and on buses, support the head teacher when visiting primary schools, 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.

### Peer Mentors

In Year 10, students volunteer to become peer mentors. They receive special training to be able to support Year 7 students when they start secondary school. Both year groups benefit from the relationships that are built and Year 7 feel more confident about their transition to secondary school. The programme is supported throughout the year by Charlie Day who works for a Christian school work organisation, NISCU .



### 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**

<b>Head teacher</b>	Mr P Blackburn
<b>Deputy Head teacher</b>	Mr I Walker
<b>Leader of Student Development</b>	Ms J Flanagan
<b>Lead on Data Analysis</b>	Miss C Metcalfe

<b>English Department</b>	Mr I Walker	Mrs D Wright	
<b>Mathematics Department</b>	Miss C Metcalfe	Mrs K Kirkby	Mrs H Tyson
<b>Science Department</b>	Mrs R Gaskell	Mrs R Mallett	Mrs E Rawlinson
<b>ICT Department</b>	Mr J Brew		
<b>P.E. Department</b>	Mr I Rose	Mrs S Walker	
<b>R.E. Department</b>	Ms J Flanagan	Ms A Richards	
<b>Languages Department</b>	Mrs J Topping		
<b>Geography Department</b>	Mrs S Hodgson	Ms A Richards	
<b>History Department</b>	Ms J Flanagan	Ms A Richards	
<b>Art Department</b>	Mrs P Hunt		
<b>PSHE/Citizenship co-ordinator</b>	Mrs B Cutts		
<b>Technology Department</b>	Miss K Dutton	Mr N Johnson	
<b>Music Department</b>	Mrs B Cutts		
<b>SENCo</b>	Mrs C Purcell		
<b>Learning Support</b>	Mrs D Colagiovanni	Mrs S Stergiaki	Mr N Johnson
	Mrs M Hull	Mrs H Woodhead	
<b>Key Stage 3 Progress Assistant</b>	Mrs S Stergiaki		
<b>Cover supervisors</b>	Mrs S Walker	Mrs B Cutts	Mrs D Wright
<b>Business and office manager</b>	Mrs V Tunnah		
<b>Exams officer/Administrator</b>	Mrs E Dyson		
<b>Adminstrator</b>	Mrs K Dawson		
<b>Network Manager</b>	Mr A Leather-Barrow		
<b>Senior Technician</b>	Mrs A Sture		
<b>Site Supervisor</b>	Mrs E Hill		
<b>Kitchen Staff</b>	Mrs D Leather-Barrow		
<b>School Nurse</b>	Gail Howarth		
<b>Educational Psychologist</b>	Kate Naylor		
<b>Police Community Support Officer</b>	Debbie Ross		

### **School Governors**

<b>Chair and SEN representative</b>	Mr J Murray
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Mr P Dyson
<b>Head Teacher</b>	Mr P Blackburn
<b>Staff Governor</b>	Mr I Walker
<b>Parent Governor</b>	Mr A Steele
<b>Co-opted Governor</b>	Mrs J Hallam
<b>Clerk to the Governors</b>	Mrs K Dawson

The Clerk may be contacted at the school address

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**Tel: 015394-41306/015394-41411**

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

## 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!

As well as making the most of the wonderful environment surrounding the school, JRS also celebrates creativity too! John Ruskin School gives students every chance to show off their talents in art, drama, music and sport. If you're musical you can either 'shake your thing' on Rock Night; get all classical at the Spring Concert or Strip The Willow with our Ceilidh band in the summer term! Something for everyone, I'm sure you'll agree!

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.'

'This is my last year as a parent at John Ruskin school. What can I say except just reiterate everything I have said for the last 10 years, This school is fantastic, all my children have thrived here thanks to every member of staff and their helpful, caring way with everyone. Thank you.'

'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.'

**TOP OF CUMBRIA LEAGUE  
TABLES FOR PROGRESS 8  
2017**

