



The Joseph Whitaker School

An Academy specialising in Sport and Performing Arts



Prospectus

Intake September 2026



Proud to be Me. Proud to be Us.

Be Ready

Be Kind

Be Safe



Welcome from the Headteacher

Choosing the right secondary school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make with your child. At The Joseph Whitaker School we believe that we have a culture and ethos which enables every child to thrive and develop into a confident young adult whilst achieving excellent qualifications in readiness for their future. We are very proud of our students and their achievements both within, and outside of school.

This truly is a wonderful school where we cater for all students' needs and ambitions, whatever their starting point. Examination outcomes are strong and we offer a broad and balanced curriculum throughout all key stages. In addition to the taught curriculum, we offer a multitude of additional opportunities and I hope that your child takes full advantage of the activities that we have to offer.

The welfare of our students is of the greatest importance to us and we pride ourselves on the high standard of pastoral care that we provide through the House and Tutoring system. We continually talk to the students about the importance of being ready, kind and safe and we encourage them to take personal responsibility; their levels of effort and commitment will be reflected in their final examination outcomes. We maintain an ordered and calm environment with high standards of uniform and behaviour. All of our students are expected to be polite and courteous at all times.

Parental engagement is actively encouraged in order to create a culture of mutual support through which, along with regular, effective communication, we will continue to provide the very best education for each one of our students. Everything that we do is intended to enable all students to fulfil their potential. In order to achieve our ambitions we expect that all parents and carers will provide unwavering support in ensuring that our high expectations and standards are upheld - we are unapologetic in our drive for excellence.

I hope that you find this prospectus useful and informative, giving you a flavour of The Joseph Whitaker School. We very much look forward to meeting you.

Warmest regards,

Carey Ayres



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The Joseph Whitaker School is part of the East Midlands Education Trust



East Midlands Education Trust (EMET) is a partnership of schools, originally formed in September 2014. The Trust now consists of 24 schools with a geographical focus on the counties of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Derby City and Leicestershire.

The collective mission is to raise the educational standards and improve the life chances of all the children within our partnership. Our schools are high performing schools and we place great emphasis on collaborative working across the Trust, within a family of schools' approach.

Our schools enjoy a high degree of aligned autonomy, whilst being supported by a central team who help to ensure our schools provide the highest quality of provision possible.

Schools within the Trust are committed to supporting each other in providing the very best quality of education for all our students.

All partner schools pledge to achieve the Trust's mission through following our six guiding principles:

- Providing outstanding opportunities for everyone associated with our Trust and delivering a lasting legacy for each individual student.
- Helping all our students realise their full potential by raising aspirations, boosting self-esteem and growing in confidence to aim high and achieve well.
- Developing work ready students with the skills, knowledge, expertise and character aligned to the needs of employers in a diverse world, which will prepare them for future success in further and higher education as well as employment.
- Developing active citizens with a sense of moral purpose who will contribute positively to their local community, wider society and by leading successful, economically independent lives.
- Reducing disadvantage by closing the gap through inspirational teaching and outstanding enrichment opportunities for all students regardless of ability, social background and cultural diversity.
- Ensuring, through collaboration with all stakeholders, that each school is the preferred choice within its local community.

The Joseph Whitaker School Curriculum



Students all follow a broad and balanced curriculum. In Key Stage 3 students study English, Mathematics, Science, Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish), Geography, History, Religious Studies, Physical Education, Technology, Drama, Information Technology & Computing, Art, Music and PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education).

Throughout Key Stage 4 students complete their GCSE programmes of study which include a core of English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, Religious Education and PSHCE. The majority of students complete all courses required to fulfil the English Baccalaureate (Geography and/or History AND Spanish and/or French). Students may opt to study other courses which currently include: Art, BTEC Sport, Business Studies, Computing, Drama, Film Studies, Design Technology (focus on Graphic Products or Resistant Materials), Health and Social Care, Hospitality and Catering, iMedia, Music, Philosophy and Ethics, Physical Education, Triple Science.

The Joseph Whitaker School is not affiliated with any particular denomination; Religious Education in the school follows the agreed County Syllabus. RE is an integral part of the curriculum for all students in Key Stages 3 and 4. Where parents wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child from Religious Education or collective worship, it is requested that contact be made with the Headteacher to discuss alternative provision.

Relationship and Sex Education is taught in accordance with the guidelines issued by the local authority and approved by the Local Governing Body of the school.

The academic curriculum is based around a Faculty structure with Heads of Faculty, Progress Leaders and Subject Leaders linked to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

All students, regardless of their age, gender, ability and background, are entitled to and will be offered a range of educational opportunities. In order to achieve this, the curriculum will display breadth, balance, relevance, differentiation, progression and continuity.

The needs of students with specific learning and/or behavioural and emotional difficulties are catered for by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCo) who will liaise with the support services and faculties to make the necessary curriculum arrangements.

A variety of assessment techniques are used including term time tests, formal school examinations and external examinations.

Reporting takes place through regular Progress Reports and Parents' Consultation Meetings.



Our Curriculum Experience



The Joseph Whitaker School has clear values and ambition for all our students both academically and in the wider curriculum. It is important that our students gain a variety of experiences and skills that will ensure our young people are ready to thrive in the world. We endeavour to achieve this through our formal and informal curricula which runs in parallel to our extra-curricular offer.

Values	Formal Curriculum	Informal Curriculum	Extra-Curricular
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambition • Inclusivity • Kindness • Resilience • Excellence • Leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25, 1 hour, lessons each week • Broad and balanced • Catch-up/intervention • Reading focus • Lexia and Switch-on reading • PSHCE • Online learning e.g. Sparx mathematics • Google classroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student mentoring • Leadership opportunities • Sports and Performing Arts specialism • Assemblies • Careers • Well-being and mental health support • SMSC • British values • Celebration of diversity • Remembrance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After-school clubs • School performances • Music recitals • Student leadership groups/council, student voice • Trips and visits • Competitions • Anti-bullying ambassadors • Charity work • Rewards and celebration events

Key Stage 5 Curriculum

The Post-16 Curriculum is broad, balanced and ambitious. The curriculum is both academic and vocational in order to provide first rate transition either to university, employment or further training. A full suite of A levels is offered alongside a selection of Vocational, Applied and BTEC choices.

English and Mathematics GCSE resit lessons are fully embedded into the students' timetables to best ensure all students leave school with (at least) a standard pass in English and Mathematics

Alongside the academic curriculum is an outstanding enrichment programme to prepare our students for their next steps, this includes, UCAS preparation, apprenticeship opportunities, employment, study skills, Oxbridge support, wider careers advice, mental health/stress awareness, current affairs and work experience.

In addition to timetabled enrichment session, all Sixth Form students use two of their non-teaching periods to complete additional enrichment activities which may include: Directed Study, completing an Extended Project, supporting the School Reading Programme or acting as a mentor for younger students.



Teaching and Learning



At The Joseph Whitaker School we pride ourselves on delivering quality first teaching of a broad and ambitious curriculum, through well-structured and carefully planned lessons. Our highly qualified teachers are specialists in their subject areas and through their expertise and teaching skills, they enable students to progress to reach and exceed their targets. Teachers adopt a teaching strategies that enable all students to achieve their best, no matter their starting points.

Teaching and Learning at The Joseph Whitaker School focuses around our GREAT learning model. We believe that students demonstrating these five areas will have the skills and attitude to learning to progress well both academically and pastorally.

Great lessons begin with a positive start to the lessons and we ask all students to arrive with the necessary equipment and importantly, a positive, can-do attitude. Our lessons start with teacher meeting and greeting their students then a short Do Now Activity to recap prior learning.

Reading remains an important part of our school day as we know that this skill will significantly increase students' achievement in school and beyond. All subjects focus on the development of reading at all ages and we ask all students to bring a reading book each day.

Staff work with the students to teach learning behaviours so that students can engage and progress academically. We are a school that has developed a relational approach to behaviour management and we understand that students sometimes need guidance on dealing with various situations secondary school can bring.

Students arrive at The Joseph Whitaker School with a variety of starting points and our staff understand and know how to help all students progress and they adapt their lessons accordingly. We want our students to have the resilience to try when things get difficult and to challenge themselves in lessons, knowing that we will be there to support them.

Students will face various assessment points at their time in secondary school and we are here to support them on their journey. Key Stage 3 assessments and reflections will help students achieve in the final GCSE and A-Level external examinations.



The Joseph Whitaker School GREAT Learning

- G** Good Starts and Finishes
Be ready with equipment and smart uniform
Arrive with a positive attitude
Get on with the Do Now and keep focused
- R** Reading
Ask the teacher about any words you don't know
Follow when a teacher is reading out loud
Don't be sad or embarrassed if you make a mistake
- E** Engagement for All
Listen to others
Put your hand up and ask for help if you need it
Reset yourself and stay calm
- A** Achieve your Potential
Ask and accept help from others
Be brave and challenge yourself
Use the support and scaffolds given
- T** Targeted Assessment
Accept mistakes and build on these
Try your best and make sure it is your own work
Go back and make the improvements

Made by JWS Students for JWS Students



The Joseph Whitaker School Sixth Form



The Joseph Whitaker School has a high performing Sixth Form with outstanding academic success. Each year a significant number of our students successfully go on to Russell Group universities. We also welcome applications from students currently attending other schools, many such students join us each year and have a very positive experience both academically and socially.

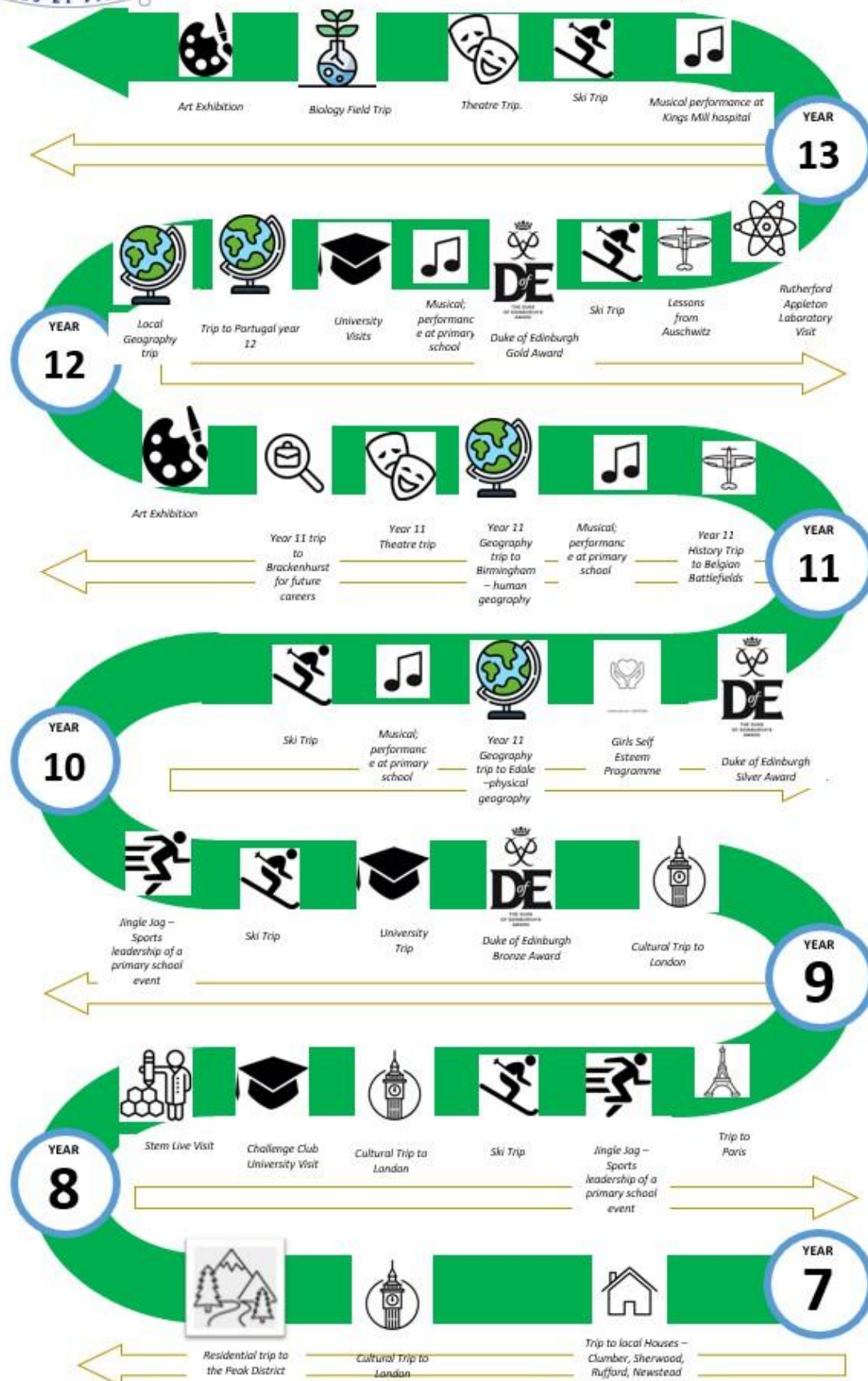
- Students are also encouraged to speak to their subject teachers, in order to gain more information about each individual subject, alongside reading the Post 16 Prospectus
- The wider benefits of Sixth Form life:
 - ⇒ Enrichment opportunities
 - ⇒ UCAS Support
 - ⇒ Careers Advice
 - ⇒ Work Experience
 - ⇒ Leadership
 - ⇒ Duke of Edinburgh Award
 - ⇒ EPQ
 - ⇒ The Sixth Form Centre in which both the café and the private study areas unique to our Sixth Form students are based
 - ⇒ Annual 6th form Ski Trip to Austria
 - ⇒ Volunteering experience in Morocco
 - ⇒ First Aid Training
 - ⇒ University Open Day visits
 - ⇒ Apprenticeship Advice and Support
 - ⇒ Mentoring Programme
 - ⇒ Oxbridge Support including visits





Cultural Trips and Visits at The Joseph Whitaker School

"It is not about the destination, it's about the journey"
Ralph Waldo Emerson



Performing Arts Specialism Events

- Blidworth Oaks concert (y10,11,12)
- 'Inspired Christmas Concert' – all years choir concert at The Royal Concert Hall
- JWS Christmas Concert – all years
- Kings Mill Caroling
- Music Recital Evening
- Music Industry Careers Talk – Y9
- School Production
- Sing Up – primary school festival concert with our choir 'A Night at the Musicals' Summer concert – all years
- Tour of Primary Schools concerts – y9,10,12
- TDLFest – Singer-Songwriter concert in KS3
- Community Concert – with Mansfield Male Voice Choir and Redhill Band – y9+
- Public speaking competition
- KS5 trip to backstage at a music venue
- Staff Panto
- Theatre Trips
- Music provided for Party in the Park, Celebration Evenings, open evenings, art exhibitions and assemblies

Sports Specialism Events

- Football boys and girls play in district, county and national competitions
- Netball girls play in district and county competitions
- Rugby boys play in county competitions
- Cross Country compete in district, county and national competitions
- Indoor athletics compete in district and county competitions
- Athletics compete in district and county competitions
- Badminton district competitions
- Rounders district competitions
- Leadership academy

Clubs

- Instrumental/Vocal Lessons
- Samba Drumming Group
- Junior Band, School Band, Advanced Swing Band
- Musical Theatre Club
- Choir
- Singer-Songwriter Club
- EcoClub
- Fitness club
- All sporting teams have afterschool clubs to support and develop
- German Club
- History Club