



# The Joseph Whitaker School

*An Academy specialising in Sport and Performing Arts*

# PROSPECTUS

Intake

September 2022

# WELCOME TO THE JOSEPH WHITAKER SCHOOL

Choosing the right secondary school for your child is one of the most important decisions that 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.

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 encourage our students 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



**Mrs Carey Ayres**  
Headteacher

# 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. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the 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 (SENCO) 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 Progress Reports, a written report and a Parents' Consultation Meeting for each Year.

# PASTORAL SUPPORT

Our aim at The Joseph Whitaker School is to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed during their time with us and as such we value pastoral care and support incredibly highly. Students need to be able to be in the best possible environment to learn and they can only do this if their social and emotional needs are met. This is why our care, guidance and support systems are designed to ensure that every student is ready to learn. We are incredibly proud of the pastoral support that we offer our students at The Joseph Whitaker School and proud that this was recognised by Ofsted in our latest inspection.

The school day begins with tutor time where our students have the opportunity to speak with their tutor about any concerns or worries that they may have. During tutor time we focus the students on being ready for learning, developing resilience and promoting positive mental health. Our House System gives our students a sense of belonging and we are proud of our Inter-House competitions that foster that togetherness throughout their time in the school.

The school operates a pastoral system based on eight mixed ability tutor groups per year with two from each year forming a House. Houses are a significant part of school life. There are four Houses - Clumber, Newstead, Rufford and Sherwood. Each House elects House Captains and has a House Council which links to the School Council which meets regularly with the Headteacher and senior staff.

As a school we believe in recognising differences and diversity in our community. We are a Stonewall Champion school, promoting the idea that we all have skills and qualities that we should be proud of and recognising our achievements. We are a school which promotes The Diana Award anti-bullying messages and train some of our students to be anti-bullying ambassadors. Respect for, and kindness, to each other is expected at all times.

We invest in our pastoral support through our safeguarding team, student services team, behaviour mentors, learning inclusion, counselling services and through our work with many external agencies. All of these are designed to provide our students with the best possible care.

Our provision for those students with SEND is outstanding. Our highly qualified staff work tirelessly to ensure that all students' needs are met and they are supported so they are able to thrive, fulfil their potential and become increasingly independent.

We are proud of the work that we do to ensure that our students get the very best possible start to their lives beyond education and our excellent PSHCE programme, taught through both Key Stages 3 and 4, gives students just that, this is then complimented by the 6th form enrichment programme. All of this is aimed at ensuring that when students leave our care they are well prepared to become adults who make a positive contribution to their local and wider communities.

# POST 16



We are extremely proud of our Sixth Form, both in terms of the students we attract, courses on offer and achieved outcomes. This is attributable to the talent of our students, the quality of the teaching and the support mechanisms within the Sixth Form. I have no doubt that students who enrol within our Sixth Form and who work hard will achieve their full potential.

During the last few years, we have seen increased numbers of students enrolling in our Sixth Form Centre from other local schools; this transition has been very smooth, students have made friends quickly and their results have been excellent.

Being part of the Sixth Form is not just about academic excellence; personal development is equally important. Our students play a crucial role in the school as leaders and mentors to all other year groups. There are numerous opportunities available, including an annual ski trip, a visit to New York, an enrichment programme, various subject visits and an opportunity to undertake and achieve the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. The support programme for UCAS and options Post-16 is also outstanding.

The Sixth Form Centre is purpose-built with a media suite, classrooms, study area, café, fitness gym and a new silent study area with IT provision. Students receive free gym membership and there is also the facility to loan IT equipment for personal use if required. As part of our Sixth Form Dress Code students are expected to wear smart business dress.

Information regarding the courses we offer, and the entry requirements for these, is available through our website.



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*Sixth Form students  
can apply for the  
opportunity to  
become 'Redshirts'  
a paid lunchtime  
supervisory role*

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# EXTRA CURRICULAR

A wide variety of clubs, teams and visits are offered by the school for students. Although the specialist schools programme has ended nationally we have maintained the support for PE, Sport and the Performing Arts. Additionally, staff offer study support sessions on most evenings except Thursday, which is typically reserved for school meetings.

Sporting and musical activities take place during lunchtimes and after-school.

In music, students can learn a musical instrument via paid lessons but also have the opportunity to participate in free tuition at lunchtimes. These are delivered by both our staff and Nottingham Music Tuition. The Performing Arts Faculty organise an annual school production, musical recital evenings, a showcase evening, Christmas concert and offer a residential trip to London for KS4/5. Additionally, a whole range of opportunities including choral events, workshops and song writing are offered during the school day in partnership with outside agencies.

The PE department provide teams in traditional sports such as football, rugby, netball, athletics, badminton, etc. These provide competitive activities but all students are welcome to attend the range of clubs to encourage healthy lifestyles. The school has a purpose built fitness gym available to students each evening. The school has had a long tradition of sports leadership within the East Midlands and nationally. These activities are incredibly important in developing life skills and increasing self-esteem and confidence.

We offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award from Year 9 onwards and we are the second largest provider in the County with completion rates well above national averages in Bronze, Silver and Gold.

School trips and visits are many and varied including a ski trip which is typically oversubscribed, trips to France, Italy, field trips and curriculum visits all very well supported. We have had successful exchange visits with a French school and most recently we developed links to a school in Ningbo, China, with staff and students making the inaugural visit in October 2019.

The House system is a fantastic model for raising money for charity. The students select a school charity for the year but also participate in national charity events such as Children in Need and Sports Relief. Local charities are supported with cake sales, food bank donations and other initiatives that are student led.

This can only give you a flavour of what we offer. Each day students receive a Daily Bulletin via their Tutors and I would also encourage you to follow the opportunities on offer via the school Facebook accounts.

# PARENT PARTNERSHIP

We understand the importance of good communication between the school and parents.

Most correspondence from school is sent out via email with the EduLink One system. EduLink One is a great tool for parents and students to have real-time access to your child's information including;

- Personal information
- School reports
- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Homework
- Parents evening booking
- Exams
- School timetable

We will also send letters via EduLink One to your email address therefore please ensure this is correct and notify school as soon as possible if there are any changes.

Most information you may need is on the website [www.josephwhitaker.org](http://www.josephwhitaker.org) and we also have an active social media account on Facebook. These are updated regularly and inform parents of events in school and the achievements of our students.

If you do need to contact school, Student Services will be your first point of contact. They will gather the information and pass on if necessary to the appropriate member of staff. While we adhere to address issues as soon as possible most staff have multiple roles within school and may be teaching at that time. Our commitment to you is that we will respond within 24hours, unless of course this is a safeguarding matter, this will be referred to the safeguarding team with immediate effect.

We also have an active PTA. The Joseph Whitaker Parent Teacher Association (JWPTA) aims to encourage strong links between parents, students and staff at the school. The members, along with the School Council and Senior Leadership representative, meet regularly to organise and promote activities which support the school and benefit its students. If you are unable to attend the Committee Meetings but are able to support any events or you have ideas about raising funds please contact us: [jwpta@josephwhitaker.org](mailto:jwpta@josephwhitaker.org)



Parents are also elected to the Governing Body and play an active role in the governance of the school.

Information on Governor vacancies are communicated by EduLink One and the school website.



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