



The John of Gaunt School  
*A Community Academy*

Excellence Every Day





*"This is a good school, Senior leaders communicate the highest of expectations"*

OFSTED, JUNE 18

## Our vision statement

### 'Excellence Every Day'

- We challenge, support & encourage every student to achieve their potential
- We believe effort and dedication lead to success and we raise aspirations
- We personalise our provision to meet the needs of individuals
- We enable our students to flourish as confident learners and leaders of our community
- We create a culture where all stakeholders feel valued, supported and proud
- We work collaboratively to improve outcomes for our students and support other schools to improve.

## Welcome from the Headteacher

The John of Gaunt School is a unique, vibrant and highly successful school. The School has a strong reputation for both academic and pastoral excellence and it is a great honour to be the Headteacher. Whilst we are first and foremost a place of learning, we strive to ensure that students are academically nurtured and cared for in a safe environment in which they can be happy, grow, gain in confidence and be challenged to achieve in all aspects of school life.

Our school provides a learning environment that is rich in encouragement and enthusiasm along with a belief in every individual. We offer a curriculum and a pastoral system designed to enrich the learning experience of all our students, whatever their ability. Helping our young people develop into confident, sensitive and reflective adults is fundamental. During their time at The John of Gaunt School, we will ensure young people meet or exceed their potential; this is achieved through outstanding teaching and careful support for each young person throughout their time with us.

We pride ourselves in being a community school, we thrive on strong supportive relationships with parents and carers and believe that students are best educated when parents, students and staff all work in unison. Our strong and growing links with local businesses and community organisations add tremendous value to the development of our young people. We are passionate in our belief that every young person should be encouraged to raise their aspirations and have the opportunity to become

accomplished independent learners so that they are able to achieve and be successful in the rapidly changing and competitive adult world.

At The John of Gaunt School we believe in regularly celebrating the success of learners, no matter how small the accomplishment. The school offers a wide range of extra-curricular clubs, before school, during lunch times and after school, as well as cultural trips and visits, foreign exchanges and residential trips, we believe these opportunities enrich the lives of our young people and enhance our already thriving curriculum offer.

I hope that you find the enclosed information helpful as a means of getting to know us and what it means to be part of The John of Gaunt School. Additionally I would like to encourage you to come in and visit us at any time, we have a fantastic reputation and are proud of the excellent recent OFSTED inspection. We would be delighted to show our school on a normal school day in order for you to sample our open, caring and nurturing ethos. Choosing a school is a very important decision but I believe our student centred approach, high standards, outstanding teaching and personalised care, will ensure your child has a very successful and enjoyable future.

*Paul Skipp*  
Headteacher



# Learning & Progress

We believe that every student deserves an engaging, inclusive and dynamic curriculum which prepares them for life in the 21st century. We have a strong focus on literacy and numeracy, providing the foundation to academic success. Our curriculum is personalised to meet the needs of all individuals, ensuring students are appropriately challenged.

The curriculum is much more than just lessons. It includes the ethos, attitudes and relationships which create the high quality life in our school. Our aim is to provide a broad balanced and extensive curriculum that meets the needs and aspirations of every young person and leaves them well prepared for their future.

In Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 & 9), students follow a wide curriculum, immersing themselves in all academic, practical and creative curriculum areas. In Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11), students follow a core academic curriculum plus subjects they choose from our broad curriculum offer. Students are provided effective independent advice at all transition points and receive personalised careers guidance.

Throughout their time with us our young people study a dynamic Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education and Citizenship programme. The course is targeted to the age and stage of the young people. The programme includes a breadth of areas of study from Sex and Relationships Education to International Politics and includes preparation for examinations and quality careers information for each young person. All elements combine to help students grow and become confident adults and future international citizens.

We have high expectations. All students are given challenging targets in each subject and their progress is measured frequently throughout the school. Teams of key staff monitor the progress of individuals within each year group with early support and intervention provided where required.

As a parent you can expect to be regularly updated on your child's progress and we always welcome communication.

***“The curriculum meets the needs of all students. It provides high-quality advice, support and care to address students’ academic and social needs to enable all students to be able to achieve their potential.”***

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*“Students show a real determination and resilience in lessons.”*

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*“Teachers know students well and plan learning activities that engage and excite them.”*

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# Stretching our most able students

## How do we identify the most able?

We identify our most able students using a variety of information. In Year 7, we look at KS2 SAT results, Cognitive Ability Scores, reading ages and subject specific baseline assessments. We continuously review our students' capacity to excel through our reviews of current attainment levels and recent exam results.

## What do we expect for our most able students?

We expect our most able students to make rapid progress and we challenge them to do so in each subject throughout Key Stage 3. At Key Stage 4 we expect our most able students to study a range of EBacc subjects, including Modern Foreign Language (MFL), complemented by their choice of creative, physical and technological subjects. We challenge our most able students to achieve Grade 8/9 in as many subjects as possible so that they are able to progress to further success in our 6th Form with the aspiration to gain access

### Our Curriculum Offer

- We provide a three-year Key Stage 3 to ensure students do not drift. Top sets in year 8 start a second language.
- We provide a two-year Key Stage 4, ensuring a personalised curriculum that encourages deep learning.
- Additional examined courses are offered to capable students.
- Our pathway 1 students follow an English Baccalaureate curriculum that ensures academic rigour and develops a breadth of knowledge and skills.
- Separate sciences are delivered to our most able.
- Further mathematics is also studied by our top mathematicians at Post-16.

We have a dedicated member of the senior leadership team responsible for championing our most able students and ensuring they fulfil their potential. Teachers are fully aware of who are our most able students and record how they will challenge those students to achieve within their subject. All teachers have received bespoke training on challenging able students and regularly share best practice.



# Opportunities outside the classroom

We feel it is vital for all our students to enjoy a full and rounded education and this means encouraging them to take part in the many clubs and extra-curricular opportunities on offer to explore and develop their talents. Talented musicians are able to opt for additional music tuition and take part in our concerts as well.

The John of Gaunt School is proud of its record of performing strongly in debating competitions as well as the national Maths challenge. Many of our able students choose to complete the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award; some represent the school in the Ten Tors competition and others take part in STEM clubs and extra activities.

We have strong links with a number of Universities and we organise day trips to encourage our most able students in all Key Stages to visit them so that they can experience university life for themselves.

If you have any further questions, please do contact Mrs Nichols on **01225 711156** or email [snichols@jogschool.org](mailto:snichols@jogschool.org)





## High Quality Teaching

We believe that high quality teaching is the core purpose of our school. Recruiting, developing and retaining high quality teachers is of the utmost importance to us. School systems ensure that learning takes place in a calm and purposeful atmosphere. Teachers are expected and supported to ensure lessons are personalised for the individuals within each class.

We know that learning is maximised when students play an active role in lessons and develop the independent skills required to become confident, lifelong learners. As a school we believe that effort leads to success and teachers seek to develop dedication and resilience in all students.

Our class teachers and other staff closely monitor the progress made by all students and differentiate

the learning tasks to meet the breadth of ability in each class. Group interventions are put in place for any children who need support in a particular area to meet nationally expected progress. Support could take place before school or during Period 6. If teachers are still concerned, they will ask for specialist advice from the SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator). The SENCO will advise class teachers how to plan activities to meet the learning needs of the individual. If the child or young person still does not make good progress, the SENCO and Class Teacher/Tutor and/or Head of Year will meet with parents/carers and together agree what additional SEND support will be put in place, involving external agencies where necessary. The student is central in every part of this process, and is kept informed throughout to ensure their complete inclusion in decision making.

## Individuals Matter

At The John of Gaunt School there is an exceptional pastoral support system. We believe that happy children who feel safe and well supported are more likely to succeed. We pride ourselves on how well we know our students as unique individuals and thrive on tailoring support to ensure they flourish.

All students will be a member of a year based tutor group and will quickly be able to establish firm relationships with other students of a similar age. They will meet with their tutor on a daily basis and will quickly form a strong supportive relationship with them. In turn, each year group is supported by a head of year. The year heads provide a key role in monitoring progress, behaviour and attendance of all the students in their year group.

Young people will also belong to a 'house' and enjoy the competitive elements that are associated with taking part in 'inter house activities'. Each year group also has a non-teaching pastoral leader to support the young people; they are experts in removing barriers to learning so that all students and families can access effective and timely support if required.

We understand that individuals learn differently and will make progress at different rates. As a school that recognises the needs of all learners we have consistently provided opportunities for our most able students to be stretched and make excellent progress.

For those requiring greater levels of academic support, our Individual Learning Department offers outstanding expertise and further personalises the curriculum where required. We employ additional teaching staff in maths and English so that any student not making expected levels of progress can be offered targeted intervention.



*"A positive ethos permeates throughout the school."*

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# The Full JOG Experience

We believe that our rich and diverse curriculum must be enhanced by experiences beyond the classroom. Enriching the learning experiences of our young people beyond the classroom is integral to life at The John of Gaunt School. We have a rich tradition of after-school activities, sporting opportunities, educational trips, national and international visits and events. In every aspect of learning we provide wider opportunities for personal development designed to enthuse and inspire our young people and contribute to the overall character of a lively healthy school.

Whether it is exam preparation support or the wide array of enrichment activities, all students have access to a variety of opportunities beyond the school day. Our students enjoy and excel in activities as broad as sports to the arts and public speaking to computing; the list is extensive. Many of our students participate in our 'JOG Adventure' curriculum and challenge themselves beyond their comfort zones through activities such as The Duke of Edinburgh Award, Ten Tors or overseas expeditions with opportunities for international visits beginning in Year 7.

We place high value on opportunities for students to develop leadership skills. These include formal leadership roles such as the school leadership council, sports leaders, peer-mentors and prefects. We expect our students to take responsibility and make a positive contribution to our community.





## Supporting Transition

We believe in inter-school and community collaboration and work effectively with our local primary schools through Collaborative Schools Ltd – a social enterprise comprising all Trowbridge schools. By gaining a detailed understanding of every child prior to joining us in Year 7 we are able to ensure students settle quickly into their new routines, develop confidence and hit the ground running academically.

Our strong partnerships with local feeder primaries mean that most students join us already knowing the geography of the school, key staff and a number of our older students.

Recognising that some children feel confident and others more anxious about moving into secondary school, we are very happy to organise more personalised transition arrangements in partnership with feeder primary schools. For those still requiring time to develop strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, we run an adapted curriculum within our nurture group, delivered through outstanding primary pedagogy.

## Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

The John of Gaunt School is an inclusive school that caters for a variety of needs. All children are regularly assessed and if a child is experiencing difficulties, parents will be informed. Sometimes we may initiate early intervention support, so that students are closely monitored and additional provision is provided for these children to make progress.

Where action is necessary for the child to successfully access our curriculum, this will be met through greater differentiation of tasks, a variety of materials, resources and support from additional adults.

Practice at The John of Gaunt School is consistent within the guidelines of the SEN Code of Practice regarding school-based intervention. Some children may need an Individual Plan to help them meet the requirements of our curriculum. Support from external agencies may include; speech and language therapists, educational psychologists, occupational therapists and behaviour support. In exceptional circumstances, the child's needs may be met through an Education, Health and Care Plan.



# Literacy & Numeracy

At The John of Gaunt School, we understand the importance of Literacy and Numeracy and provide a plethora of ways from which to encourage the young people to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding.

Whilst discreet opportunities are built into the curriculum, we also encourage all young people to continually improve their number work as well as regularly read books and literature for pleasure.

It is advantageous to young people to be encouraged at home to read regularly and practice their numeracy, a firm understanding in these areas provides a fantastic platform from which to succeed.

We recognise that all young people are different and therefore require differentiated support, if appropriate this can be provided both individually and through small groups.



*"Relationships are very strong across the school. Consequently, students' progress is unhindered and learning is maximised."*

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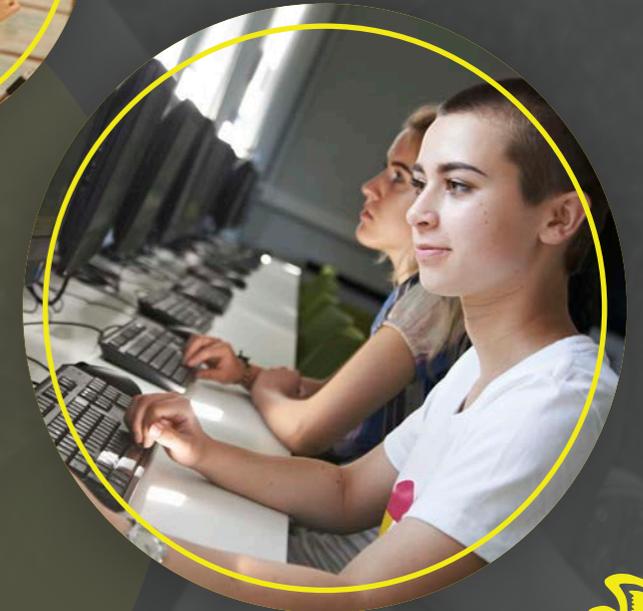
# The John of Gaunt School Sixth Form

The John of Gaunt School includes a long-standing and highly effective Sixth Form with a reputation for excellent academic performance. Many of our students continue into our Post-16 provision and are well supported in making the right curriculum choices through independent advice and guidance. Our diverse curriculum offers all students a substantial choice of academic and vocational courses. Our teachers are experts in their subject disciplines and focus on developing the independent learning skills students require for the future.

We ensure we support all our Post-16 students in following their aspirations beyond the Sixth Form, whether it be joining a top-rated university, a high quality apprenticeship or directly into employment. Their futures matter to us.

The Sixth Form offers a wonderful blend of continued high expectations, greater independence and personalised support. Our Post-16 students are role models within the school community and make an active contribution across the school, including within our House system.

Further details on our Sixth Form can be found via the school's website [www.jogschool.org](http://www.jogschool.org) and our Sixth Form specific prospectus.





# The John of Gaunt School

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