





John Spence



## Welcome

Firstly, I would like to welcome you to John Spence Community High School and thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus.

We are a fully inclusive school that sits at the heart of our community and we believe that in order to excel students need to be supported and challenged through every stage of their school journey.

Our motto 'Fit for Life' encapsulates our purpose as a school; we want our students to thrive in their communities when they leave school as resilient, skilled and considerate individuals. These attributes develop through the opportunities that each student receives within and beyond the classroom. All we ask of our students is that they seize these opportunities and participate fully in school life.

To succeed in our ambition, that all individuals leave us 'Fit for Life', we work in collaboration with local schools and organisations, but the most important partnership is with parents and carers. This partnership is essential if our students are to succeed and we are delighted that our parents work closely with us by supporting the school in the standards and expectations we hold.

The staff and governors are passionate in their drive to provide the very best education; collectively we seek to create an inspiring environment where students feel safe enough to take risks in their learning and where achievement is celebrated by all.

I hope you find this prospectus helpful in providing an insight into all that happens at John Spence Community High School; please look at our website or contact the school office for more information.

I look forward to welcoming you to John Spence in the near future.

**Mr J Heath** Headteacher

Ofsted says... Pupils value the support that teachers and other adults provide for them.







## Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed around our core principle that students leave us at 16 years old Fit for Life. To achieve this we provide extensive curriculum opportunities that allow students to develop into skilled, resilient and considerate individuals. The curriculum functions on three levels:

- · Skills & Knowledge
- Communication
- · Our Community.

# Skills

## & Knowledge

The skills and knowledge curriculum is delivered through the national curriculum and the GCSE specifications that we offer in Key Stage 4. A real strength of the school is the broad and balanced nature of its curriculum. We provide a wide range of subjects for students at Key Stage 4 that build on the learning that takes place during Key Stage 3. Our curriculum is designed for all students regardless of ability and we ensure that opportunities within and beyond the classroom enable everybody, including the most able, to achieve their potential.

In addition students opt for up to four subjects from: Art, Business and Enterprise, Design Technology, Drama, Food, French, Geography, Health and Social Care, History, ICT, PE, RE, Spanish, Textiles and Triple Science. There are a range of GCSE and vocational courses on offer and a small number of students engage with an alternative work related programme.

### KS3 (Year 7-9)

All students study English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages, Art, Drama, Music, ICT, Technology, PE and Fit for Life.

### **KS4** (Year 10-11)

All students study English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science as well as participating in core PE, Fit for Life, Philosophy & Ethics and IT.

#### FIT FOR LIFE

Resilient · Skilled · Considerate



The curriculum is carefully planned and reviewed regularly to make sure that it meets pupils' needs and interests.

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### Communication

Developing the ability to communicate effectively is an essential component of our Fit for Life programme. Our communication curriculum is designed to ensure that no student is disadvantaged by low levels of oracy, reading and vocabulary. We actively seek to provide opportunities where students can develop the necessary skills to be confident communicators in a range of contexts. Activities range from the day-to-day development of communication strategies in lessons to targeted intervention programmes, enrichment clubs and weekly communication homework.

### **Our Community**

Our community curriculum encourages active participation in team building, leadership and volunteering. We provide numerous opportunities that allow students to thrive in this area and genuinely engage with their community both within school and beyond. In Year 7 all students participate in the Young Leaders Award, in Year 8 there is an extensive careers and enterprise programme and by Year 9 we encourage all to participate in elements of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme with many completing the full programme. Developing the ability to engage effectively with the school and local community is a skill that will undoubtedly be of significant benefit to our students and those around them in their future lives.

# **Opportunity**

John Spence is a school full of opportunities for our students and our community.

We recognise the importance and value of activities that take place outside of the curriculum to complement the development of skills that grow in lessons. Our desire to develop the whole child into a well-rounded individual means that we provide an extensive range of additional activities before, during and after school.

Our unique extra curricular offer is available because we have staff who are committed to providing the very best opportunities for all young people in our care.



We are also proud to be a specialist sports college. Our specialism has given us a unique identity at local, regional and national level.

We recognise and support our most talented students through our unique Academy programme, delivered by a team of specialist coaches. We work collaboratively with a number of local sporting clubs and organisations in the community and are the lead school for the Northumbria University Initial Teaching Training programme in PE, which is judged to be outstanding by Ofsted.

We believe that through participation in PE and Sport lives are enriched and research shows that involvement increases levels of academic achievement.

As part of our work to help prepare students for the future we provide extensive Careers Information and Guidance opportunities.

Throughout their 5 years with us a student can expect a wide range of contact with employers, post-16 education providers and universities. This extensive programme helps our students understand the requirements of different pathways when they leave school as well as providing them with experiences in a range of different employment sectors.







# Support

The support and guidance we offer at John Spence Community High School has been carefully designed to enable all our students to thrive in school and beyond so that they build the resilience needed to be 'Fit for Life'.

We are an exceptionally caring community that believes in the overall welfare of our students. We sensitively and effectively manage transition into our school and then on to Post-16 education, training or employment for each individual.

During a student's time with us they have access to a comprehensive system of support and guidance led by our outstanding and highly experienced pastoral team. Each student has two members of staff, their form tutor and Head of Year, who are directly responsible for monitoring their progress and welfare. They take a close interest in each individual student in their care and make contact with parents and carers to ensure that appropriate support and challenge is offered where it is required.

Where a specific need is identified our experienced Special Educational Needs team may well provide bespoke support to enable all individuals to fully access the curriculum. This team is also responsible for running our highly effective Additional Resource Provision for students with moderate learning difficulties.



Ofsted says...

The school provides a comprehensive programme to teach pupils how to keep themselves safe, through regular assemblies and the 'Fit for Life' programme.





### **School Day**

8.40 - 9.00 Registration

9.00 - 10.00 **Period 1** 

10.00 - 11.00 **Period 2** 

11.00 - 11.15 BREAK

11.15 - 12.15 **Period 3** 

12.15 - 13.15 **Period 4** 

13.15 - 14.00 LUNCHTIME

14.00 - 15.00 **Period 5** 

# **Expectations**

Our aim is to create and maintain a community where personal identity is respected and pride in the school is immediately apparent to all.

For everyone to succeed we need to be considerate of each other and ensure that our behaviours only have a positive impact on those around us. As a school we have a clear set of expectations that enable all students to study in a safe atmosphere where learning and achievement is celebrated.

We work closely with parents and carers to help support students to meet these expectations and will seek support from home where individuals are struggling to do so.

We expect that all students wear full uniform, are fully equipped and punctual every day as these are critical elements in their preparation to be 'Fit for Life'. Equally, we expect students to adopt positive behaviours in their lessons and around the school so that they not only learn from staff, but also from each other.

We are unrelenting in these expectations as they establish a positive mindset which facilitates readiness to learn and achieve every day. John Spence is a community where students are happy and thrive in a safe environment. We are immensely proud that they leave as resilient, skilled and considerate individuals 'Fit for Life'









COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

John Spence Community High School is an 11-16 mixed Comprehensive with Specialist Sports College status. Headteacher **Jonathan Heath** 

Deputy Headteacher **Leanne Clay** 

Chair of Governors **Dr Adam Langman** 













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FIT FOR LIFE

Resilient · Skilled · Considerate