

*“Pupils enjoy attending this thriving and popular school.
They feel a strong sense of belonging to the
school community.”*

- Ofsted 2023



PROSPECTUS

AMBITION | RESPECT | BELONGING

WELCOME

TO SIR JOHN THURSBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

At Sir John Thursby Community College everyone matters. We encourage kindness, resilience and success, and prepare our students for a bright future.

Our vision is built around our 3 core values.

AMBITION | RESPECT | BELONGING

OUR VALUES

- We are ambitious for our students
- We value and invest in our staff
- Our students deserve great teaching every lesson
- Strong positive relationships make a great school
- We treat each other with care, respect and kindness
- All members of our school community are known, valued and loved
- Our families play a key role in supporting our students to be successful
- We ensure our curriculum includes opportunities outside the classroom
- All of us at SJT have the capacity to improve what we do

Message from the Headteacher

A warm welcome to Sir John Thursby from myself, the Staff, Students and Governors. We are very proud of our successful, friendly, supportive and inclusive school. I am delighted that you are considering us as you make the important decision about schooling for your child. Everything we do at SJT is framed around our values of **ambition**, **respect**, **belonging**, and we always take actions to make the biggest differences to our students, families and community

I am incredibly privileged to be leading our fantastic school. We are a successful, popular and vibrant learning community and we have been graded as "good" by OfSTED in all areas over the past three inspections. We are committed to an exciting curriculum, great teaching and the highest standards of support, guidance and pastoral care. We believe that great qualifications change lives and we offer an ambitious and varied school experience to all our students. We are also a school seated in our community and we are open to all.

We believe that our students should be "known, valued and loved" and we want them to find their own talents and thrive during their time with us. We have an extensive cultural, careers, sporting and artistic offer alongside our formal curriculum. We have an active student leadership team and a brilliant group of Year 11 prefects. Quite simply, our aim



is to make our young people full and active participants in their school. This will lead to them becoming successful and responsible members of their own communities. Your child will be supported by great teaching and we invest heavily in ensuring all our staff are driven by the commitment to provide excellence.

We are fortunate to have a great building and facilities to work in – but the real "Thursby Difference" is the way we treat our people. We are characterised by kindness, fairness and a commitment to equity of opportunity. I am always humbled by the warmth that visitors feel when they come and see us.

We want you to make the right choice for your child and we welcome visits to school at any time so you can see us in action. Our staff and students would love to show you why we believe this is a great place to learn.

Matt Renshaw
Headteacher

We are a confident, vibrant and successful 11-16, non-selective school. Everyone is supported and challenged to achieve their individual best.

We are an extremely popular and over-subscribed school with many students eager to become part of our family at SJT.

The staff are dedicated to helping all students to learn and achieve the best they can for the next stage in their life. Our young people are developing into happy, kind and caring members of society.

We are proud of our high standards of teaching and learning as we only employ the very best teachers. We train new teachers and provide ongoing training for experienced staff.



What our staff and parents say

- 88% of staff say "this is a great place to work"
- 97% of parents say "their child is happy at school"
- 91% of parents say "school has high expectations"
- Attendance is well above national average

“Pupils feel safe in school. They appreciate the support that they receive for their well-being.”

- Ofsted 2023



GREAT TEACHING SEATED IN RESEARCH THROUGH NEW STUDY PROGRAMMES

We know that to create great learners you need great teaching and at SJT we have a great team of teachers and support staff who are always willing to go the extra mile to support all our students. At SJT, we are research-focused, which ensures that all learning is tested to identify any gaps in our young people's knowledge and understanding. Teachers then focus on those gaps in the learning to ensure that all our students are successful.

English is a compulsory subject for all students

We have an extremely strong team of English teachers, who are able to both inspire our students and enable them to become confident writers and communicators.

We know that literacy is key to ensuring success for students. At SJT we have an extremely effective literacy programme that enables our students to exceed national reading levels.

Maths is compulsory for all students

We use a brand-new study programme for all younger students to develop problem-solving skills, and we work with engineering companies to explain to students how their excellent Maths skills can be used in a range of exciting jobs.

Maths is an important subject for so many careers. We challenge all of our students to gain the highest possible qualification and we work with local colleges to prepare our students for their next step.

Our students regularly enter and gain great success in local and national contests.

Our curriculum is varied, academic and robust.

Our students all study a wide range of subjects. We have invested time in ensuring all programmes of study identify the vital knowledge needed to thrive and be successful.

Phone free school

We value high standards of behaviour and have a policy of using lockable Yondr pouches if children need a phone for on their way to and from school. This supports our value of Belonging and is a proactive approach to mental health.

“Pupils with Special Educational Needs benefit from high-quality care and effective support in lessons.”

- Ofsted 2023

SIR JOHN THURSBY

PROVIDES AN AMBITIOUS CURRICULUM THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS

We adapt to our students

We offer our students a challenging and ambitious curriculum. In Years 10 and 11, we offer a strong academic curriculum based around the EBacc subjects of English, Maths, Science, a Modern Foreign Language (French, German or Urdu) and either Geography or History. These subjects are seen as 'Gateway' subjects for A-Levels and University, and we are proud that over 70% of our students study these subjects compared to only 40% nationally.

We are also able to offer a wide range

of vocational subjects including catering, engineering, childcare, hair and beauty and sports and fitness.

Most of our young people study at least one vocational subject along with their EBacc subjects to ensure that they have a balanced education.

We offer a three-year Key Stage 3 (Y7, 8 and 9) curriculum which delivers the key knowledge and skills that our students need in order to be successful in years 10 and 11.

“Pupils achieve well.”

- Ofsted 2023



“The ambitious curriculum provides appropriate breadth and depth so pupils learn all that they should.”

- Ofsted 2023

Our modern sports facilities include a large field area for a range of sports and athletics, a dance studio, fitness room, sports hall, hard courts and a brand new top of the range full size 3G pitch.

Our students excel in a wide range of sports, including football, cricket, rounders, and athletics.



Some feedback from our Year 7 Parents.

“ Teachers are friendly, encouraging, positive and supportive in their feedback. ”

“ Staff have been very responsive to my child’s needs. ”

“ Senior leaders have designed a curriculum that is broad and inclusive. It is underpinned by a genuine desire to enable all pupils to aspire and achieve. Pupils study three separate sciences, a language and a humanities subject at GCSE. ”

SUPERB STUDENT SUPPORT

“Staff know students very well.”

- Ofsted 2023

WE ARE PROUD OF THE SUPPORT
THAT WE OFFER TO ALL OF OUR STUDENTS.



Students at Sir John Thursby receive excellent support in terms of pastoral care, careers advice, Special Educational Needs, Mental Health and Well-being, and in relation to safeguarding. We have dedicated teams delivering our vision that all members of our school community should be known, valued and loved.

We were delighted that Ofsted saw and praised how well we know our students, which means that we can provide the support all of our young people need.

We are proud that we offer an outstanding careers education for our students and that we meet 100% of all 8 Gatsby Benchmarks for careers.

“Pupils are very well informed about their options when they leave school.”

- Ofsted 2023

LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL.

At Sir John Thursby, we believe that a great education includes learning and experiences beyond the classroom. We offer a wide range of leadership opportunities, educational visits, and after-school clubs for all of our students to support their personal development. For example, we have over thirty after-school clubs running and over seventy trips a year outside of school. All students

in Year 9 complete the Bronze Arts Award and, as part of this, all students are taken free of charge to a professional theatre performance e.g., *The Lion King* or *Wicked*.

We have a wide range of leadership opportunities for our young people, including our prefect systems, librarians, mental health, anti-bullying and EAL ambassadors.

“Pupils benefit greatly from a range of leadership opportunities.”

- Ofsted 2023



FANTASTIC FACILITIES

FOR OUR STUDENTS AS WE WORK TOGETHER FOR WORLD-CLASS ACHIEVEMENT

Excellent modern facilities

The ICT facilities in school are fabulous. All classrooms have interactive whiteboards and state of the art visualisers. We have 5 fully equipped specialised ICT classrooms that support a range of subject learning.

We also have computer programmes to help develop specific reading and numeracy skills. New courses in ICT, Engineering, Construction and Design Technology enable all students to develop skills used in the industry every day, and help students to gain employment through our industry partners.

We have a Robotics Club for students using Raspberry Pi computers, and students in our Engineering and Construction Centre also build and maintain buggy vehicles and motorcycles.



“Almost all pupils successfully move on to apprenticeships, A levels, or other forms of education, employment or training.”

- Ofsted 2023

OPPORTUNITY AND AMBITION FOR ALL



Our curriculum is tailored to provide academic and challenging content and experiences for all our students.

We are also focussed on the highest levels of support and guidance to ensure that all individual needs and starting points are met.

We value personal development and drive passions through developing leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication as a core part of our offer.



SIR JOHN
THURSBY



COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

STRATEGIC VISION AND VALUES

2025 - 2028

	AMBITION	To enable social mobility and to make a difference in the lives of our students.
	RESPECT	To enable our young people to become confident, resilient, informed, adaptable and caring members of society.
	BELONGING	To be a community-centred school, where all students achieve the academic success needed for further study and employment.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES “WE WILL”

1. Deliver a well-structured, knowledge-based and research-driven curriculum
2. Invest in the development of high literacy levels
3. Ensure that all students benefit from mixed-attainment teaching
4. Accurately assess to address gaps in learning
5. Achieve high standards of respectful behaviour
6. Invest in impactful and transformational leadership at all levels, taking the actions that make the biggest difference
7. Ensure we recruit, train and retain high-quality professionals

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MEASURES OF OUR SUCCESS

AMBITION

We will have academic outcomes in the top 20% of schools and ensure all our students can access high-quality apprenticeships, degrees or training.

RESPECT

Our students will behave well, leading to teachers being able to deliver exciting and engaging lessons and experiences linked to our ambitious curriculum. We will maintain a commitment to well-being, workload, research and career progression for staff.

BELONGING

We will be characterised by how we treat, train and develop our people. Our team will be empowered to make a difference.





SIR JOHN
THURSBY



COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

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