

St John's

Catholic School for the Deaf

For boarding and day pupils aged 3 - 19 years

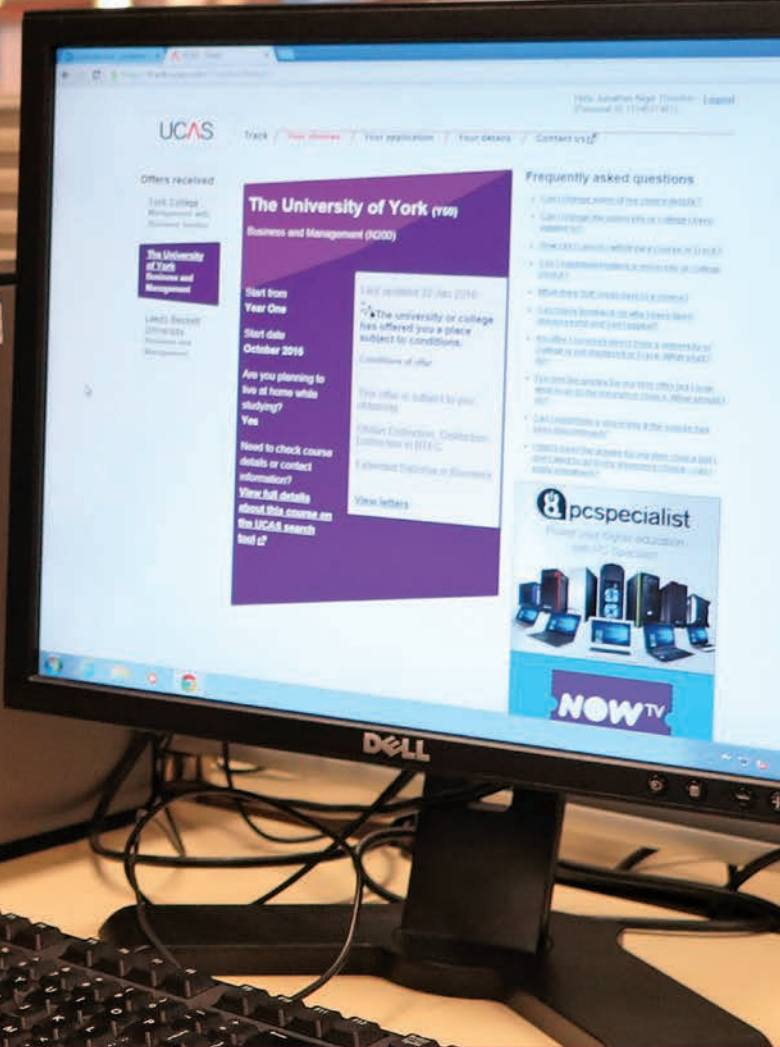
Where every voice is heard and celebrated





'We are all thrilled and very proud that Jonathan has received an offer from York University. This is testament to all the hard work and determination that Jonathan has put in. This journey started at St John's primary, on through secondary, and with St John's assistance at York College. It clearly demonstrates the quality and perseverance of the teachers at St John's and their teaching methods. The support from the whole school is amazing.'

MR & MRS THORNTON



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Welcome to St John's...

A Centre Of Excellence For
Sensory And Communication Needs

a school where spoken language is used across every department and where every young person communicates equally and successfully with others.

As a specialist school for sensory and communication needs, we understand how to help our students develop a love of learning and achieve their best.

We provide an optimum listening environment through small class sizes and sound-field technology in acoustically treated classrooms.

We remove barriers to learning by having specialist teaching staff who are qualified teachers of hearing and multisensory impairment as well as specialist speech and language therapists who provide 1:1 and group therapy.

Working in our learning community with good role models and peer support encourages ambition in all our young people as well as self-esteem and confidence.

At St John's we are proud of the school, the staff and the outcomes we achieve for our young people. We warmly welcome prospective parents and pupils to come and visit to learn more about the school and how our approach might help your child.

Ann Bradbury, BA(Hons) MSc NPQH
Headteacher



Speech & Language Therapy

We believe the development of language and communication skills is vital to help our young people thrive both academically and socially. To support this, we have our own team of specialist speech therapists who plan and deliver personal programmes for each child.

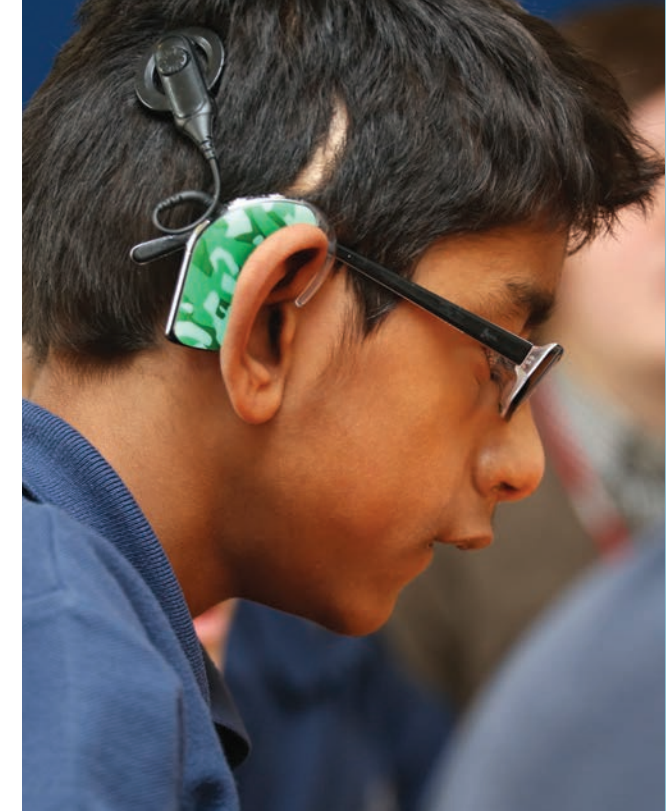
All our pupils have individual speech and language sessions as well as therapy in small groups, where they practise the social use of language.

Sixth form work includes sessions on subject specific vocabulary and discussions relevant to young adults.

Our therapists work with staff across the whole school and maintain close contact with parents so everyone is clear how to maximise children's progress.

'Staff from different disciplines - audiology, speech and language therapy, residential and education staff - all work closely together and promote the holistic needs of pupils.'

OFSTED



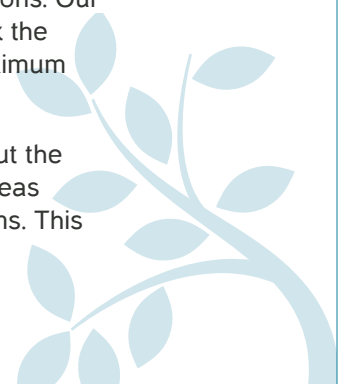
Audiology

Promoting speaking and listening skills is integral to our teaching approach and, for hearing impaired children and young people, this means providing the best possible access to high quality amplification.

We recognise the commitment our pupils and their families make to use hearing aids or cochlear implants and the importance this technology has in supporting speech and language development.

We have our own clinical audiology suite, to enable our school audiologist to monitor pupils' hearing and access to speech in a variety of different listening conditions. Our audiologist can re-programme and replace faulty hearing aids and fast-track the replacement of cochlear implant components to ensure pupils have the maximum possible learning time with good amplification.

Our audiologist also ensures we achieve good listening conditions throughout the whole school environment. She monitors the acoustics of all our teaching areas and the effectiveness of the digital sound field systems used in all classrooms. This maximises pupils' ability to hear their teachers and each other.



'Staff work very closely together and provide a nurturing environment for the children in their care.'

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Primary

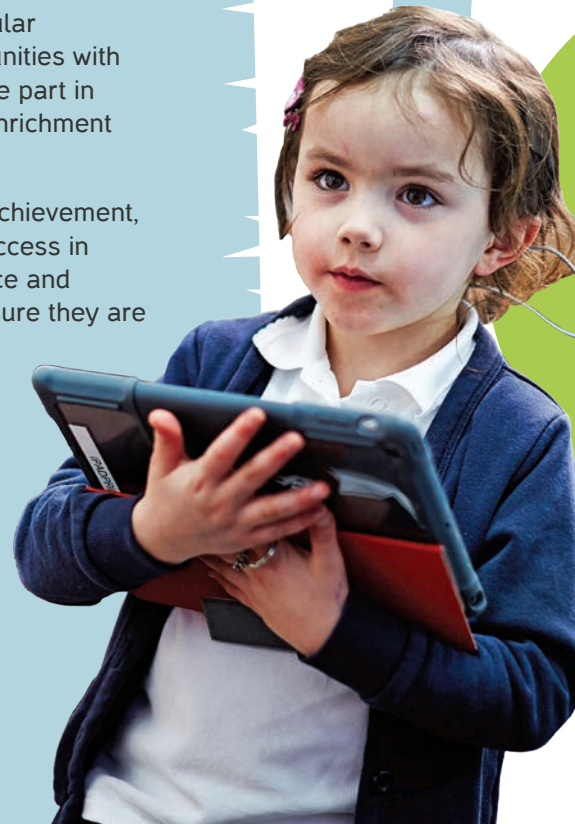
In the primary department, we introduce children to school life in an enjoyable and positive way. We foster each child's appreciation of their own self-worth and of respect for others, and lay the foundations for high educational achievements.

Staff work together to provide a rich language environment and accelerate the development of children's language and communication skills.

Teaching is tailored to pupils' individual needs by specialist teachers and a broad and imaginative curriculum inspires creative and enthusiastic learners. We have indoor and outdoor learning zones to provide a vibrant learning environment as well as soft play and sensory rooms for sensory integration.

Our primary pupils enjoy regular integration and social opportunities with neighbouring schools and take part in an extensive programme of enrichment activities.

As well as formal academic achievement, we measure our children's success in terms of developing confidence and passion for learning, making sure they are prepared for the next stage of education which may be in St John's secondary department or a mainstream school.



'Pupils make particularly good progress in their reading and writing skills which are given a high priority in the curriculum.'

OFSTED



Secondary

In our secondary department, there is a high level of personalisation in our curriculum and more than sixteen different subjects can be studied at different levels, from entry level to GCSEs and their equivalent. The development of literacy and numeracy is a key priority for our school and we provide intensive specialist teaching as well as whole-school strategies to build confidence in English and maths.

‘Don’t worry about your shyness - you will gain confidence and achieve.’

PUPIL

‘My daughter is so much happier since she came to St John’s. She has achieved more than I thought possible. She has become the person she was meant to be.’

PARENT



Different curriculum pathways are planned for individual students. Matching each young person's learning to their needs and interests enables them to aim high and achieve their very best. As well as traditional academic subjects, our secondary curriculum includes a strong focus on creative and practical subjects that develop social communication and other essential skills for future adult life. While some students follow wholly school-based courses, we also offer a high quality vocational curriculum strand, from year 9 onwards, in conjunction with a small local skills centre. All pupils have college taster days and work experience in years 10 and 11.

'The school curriculum is enriched with a myriad of visitors and visits away from the classroom. These experiences bring learning to life for pupils.'

OFSTED

'We have an excellent partnership with the school and look forward to the regular "open house" afternoons where we can spend time in the school and see him happy and relaxed with his peers.'

PARENT



Sixth Form

The sixth form offers our students the opportunity to study a wide range of academic and vocational courses, linked to two local colleges.

Students have full time individual support from learning mentors who are all trained to support the communication needs of deaf people.

Additional tuition is provided by St John's teachers and is managed by the sixth form coordinator who is also a specialist teacher of hearing impaired students.



Linking with mainstream colleges helps students build wider friendship groups and offers new social opportunities.


The sixth form residential setting provides a full life-skills programme which is also accessible for young people with a range of additional needs such as visual or physical impairments.

By the end of their time with us, students have well-developed independence skills for adult life.

They learn to budget, cook, plan their own social lives and travel independently. We also help students pass their driving tests by arranging driving lessons and providing driving theory tutorials.

'By the time they reach their late teens, they possess a range of outstanding skills in social communication, self-help and making a positive contribution to wider society.'

OFSTED



'When I started college I was nervous but my support is really helpful'

STUDENT



Many of our students receive awards as best students on their courses or from industry sponsors. This success builds confidence so, by the time they leave St John's sixth form, our young people are well-equipped to go onto employment, further or higher education. They have the social and communication skills to participate in the wider world.

'Teaching is excellent and leads to outstanding outcomes for all students.'

OFSTED



Multi-sensory Impairment

We have a small specialist unit for pupils who have more complex needs including multi-sensory impairment (MSI) and autism. These young people are supported by expert staff, and learning concentrates on presenting meaningful experiences that avoid sensory overload.

Communication systems are built around the child's preferred communication mode. We are flexible in our approach and use a range of methods to support

communication. These include PECs (Picture Exchange Communication system), Makaton, hand over hand signing, and computer aided systems.

Pupils have individual support from our speech therapists complemented by other intensive interaction experiences such as Jabadao, where therapists use music and movement to promote communication.



The curriculum is highly personalised and includes a balance of learning experiences inside and outside the classroom to help pupils develop a secure understanding of their world.

One of the most important aspects of our work is close liaison with families, supporting them to develop meaningful communication with their children.

'Staff have very high expectations of what each pupil can achieve and this message is at the heart of the school's ethos.'

OFSTED

Boarding

Our residential setting is welcoming and homely, an extension of the pupils' own family homes. Students live in small groups of between five and eight young people and each group is cared for by a small team of residential care staff.

Living in small groups with supportive staff helps our young people to form positive relationships and develops the ability to negotiate and co-operate with each other. Pupils learn to plan and prepare their own meals with staff and increase their independence skills.

At the end of each school day, pupils have support in homework club and, afterwards, choose their own activities. There are lots of opportunities to build on personal interests: visits to theatres and cinemas, bowling, swimming, using the multi-gym and going out for special meals.

Boston Spa is a busy village in a lovely setting where our pupils can walk to cafes, shops or restaurants and join local clubs. Being well-known to local businesses also helps us to provide a wide range of work experience placements within easy reach of the school.

Our school is close to Harrogate, York and Leeds, all of which offer wider social experiences, and the summer term would never be complete without a visit to the coast for fish and chips in Whitby!

**'The school
has become part
of our extended family.
My son is learning so much
more and his confidence has
improved massively.**

PARENT





Learning outside the classroom

At St John's, we pride ourselves on providing a holistic education that encourages young people to believe in their own potential and brings real meaning to learning. Learning for life is the foundation of our curriculum.

We are committed to offering an extensive range of opportunities for outdoor education and sporting competitions, developing pupils' skills, fitness and teamwork.

Interfaith week celebrates the beliefs of all our families, and annual visits to Rome and Normandy offer experience of other cultures, developing trust and mutual respect.

Our arts education includes collaboration with the Northern Ballet Company, visits to West End productions and performance workshops.

To nourish creativity and embed social relationships in the local community, we participate in drama, music and art projects with the eight other schools in our learning partnership.

Educational enrichment continues throughout the whole school and, for older students, includes university and college links as well as supported work experiences in different industries to develop work readiness and achieve employment in skilled jobs.

'Students love coming to school and appreciate the exceptionally well-organised curriculum which enables them to achieve a wide range of accreditation.'

OFSTED

Health and wellbeing



Preparing young people to navigate a complex and ever changing world is at the heart of everything we do.

As well as meeting pupils' medical needs, staff work together to promote healthy and active lifestyles, develop good social relationships and help pupils manage the online world safely.

Pupils have a voice and influence throughout the school, as food or care group ambassadors and members of the school council. They choose their own keyworkers and can contact independent listeners outside St John's.

Our aim is to promote a sense of identity and self-worth in all our young people, empowering them to make positive choices and develop psychological resilience.

We work closely with the Deaf Child and Adolescent Mental Health team who have a base in school. The school nurse coordinates their work across the school which includes staff training and family or individual therapy sessions.

This focus on emotional wellbeing promotes better learning, enjoyment of life, and sets a pattern for good mental health in the future.



'A nurturing and caring ethos which is promoted throughout school is reflected in the caring attitudes pupils show to each other and adults alike.'

OFSTED



Our journeys

Sophie's story

Sophie is in her second year in the primary department. She boards with us weekly and enjoys being with the older girls and boys in the family care group.

Sophie loves going to the local Rainbows group in Boston Spa and, in school, her favourite activity is going to the choosing room and playing with the cars.

Sophie's Mum says, "There has been a huge improvement in Sophie's speech and language and behaviour since she started at St John's School and everyone comments on this transformation. At Christmas, people commented that Sophie was joining in conversations around the table and how her speech was really clear and that they could follow what Sophie was saying without much difficulty at all."



'Pupils in school and those who access residential care agree they feel very safe and secure because staff are there to help them day and night. They feel there is always someone there who will listen should they have concerns.'

OFSTED



Kamran's story

Kamran is in year 10 and has been at St John's since year 6. He is a weekly boarder and is now studying nine subjects at GCSE level. His favourite subjects are English and ICT and, in future, he hopes to work in IT support.

In the residential care group, Kamran enjoys hanging out with his friends. He is a great role model for our younger pupils, who all aspire to being as cool as he is.

Kamran says, "Achieving my GCSEs and doing my work properly are important to me. Looking after the people and family in my life, too."

Destinations

We are very proud that all our students leave St John's to continue in education or employment and that they have the courage and confidence to follow their dreams.

We have a comprehensive careers programme and prepare students well to achieve the qualifications they need. Students are able to have course tasters with other deaf students and can also have extended work experience in different industries.



Our students have joined enrichment visits across Europe and even New York and have won regional and national skills competitions.

The pathways our students have followed include:

- BA (Hons) drama and performance.
- Care assistant in Deaf mental health
- BA (Hons) in animation
- Level 3 course in early childhood studies
- HND in fine art
- Diploma in hair and beauty
- BA (Hons) in graphic design
- Apprenticeship in construction
- Professional cookery diploma
- BA in English literature
- Travel and tourism Level 3
- Joinery apprenticeship
- Level 3 diploma in patisserie, bakery and confectionery
- BA (Hons) in business studies
- Level 3 course in horticulture



Interested in
visiting the school in
person? Please get
in touch to arrange
a visit.

We look forward to
meeting you!

CONTACT

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STAY CONNECTED



St John's Catholic School for the Deaf



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HOW TO FIND US

