



October 2018

Dear Pupils, Parents & Carers,

OPEN EVENING, THURSDAY, 25th OCTOBER 2018

OPEN MORNINGS, TUESDAY 16th & WEDNESDAY 17th OCTOBER 2018

At this time of year you will be thinking about leaving primary school and taking the next exciting step to secondary education. To assist in your decision making, I should like to invite you to our Open Evening at John Kyrle on Thursday, 25th October.

The school will be open from 6.00pm until 9.00pm and you will be able to see our facilities, buildings and resources. They include £1m art studios and an exclusive sixth form centre. Over the past few years we have opened a music technology suite, two science data-logging labs, and an innovative learning centre (the WyeLearn). The school restaurant has been refurbished and extended and the cashless system we operate is very successful. We have invested in our new £1.25m *Centre of Excellence* for Mathematics, given our success in this subject and its popularity, including at A level. Last year we refurbished the English department to include a literacy resource centre, a library and a computer suite. This summer we refurbished all the modern foreign language classrooms and the school hall.

Sports facilities at school have been enhanced with our extensive multi-purpose games pitches. We opened a new building in October 2013 which houses a large multi-gym, together with geography and RE classroom facilities and a conference centre. In the summer of 2017 we fully refurbished our PE changing rooms.

The school received a visit from Ofsted inspectors in March 2017. Our gradings of '*Outstanding*' for Leadership & Management, Student Behaviour & Safeguarding and the Sixth Form were upheld. Ofsted noted,

- 'Pupils are well behaved, polite and friendly'
- 'Because of excellent attitudes to learning and strong academic results, pupils are very well prepared for life after school'
- 'Parents value the education that the school provides'
- 'Staff are proud to work at the school'.

In a letter to me following the inspection, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors wrote, "You are effective in your aims to develop young people who are 'happy, healthy and successful'".

My focus continues to be on providing the best learning opportunities for young people. My staff, trustees and I want high academic standards and a full range of exciting extra-curricular activities for all. In the summer of 2018 we, once again, achieved outstanding excellent results at GCSE and A level. In both sets of examinations we were significantly above local and national averages. The success at GCSE came from all subject areas, including English, maths, science, computing, PE, business studies and technology. Our performance led to a letter of congratulations from Herefordshire local authority. We are the most successful provider of sixth form education in the region, including schools and colleges. This is evidenced by the large number of higher grades of A*-B that our students attain, and our being placed consistently in the top 5%-10% of post-16 organisations across the UK by ALPS (A-Level Performance System), a nationally-recognised, independent body.



Please feel free to visit us at any time between 6pm and 9pm, on Thursday 25th October. There will be a formal session at 7.00pm in the main hall with a talk from myself, Assistant Headteacher and head of lower school, Trixie Clarke and Julie Markey who will be head of Year 7 for the academic year 2019/2020. There will also be student perspectives from current Year 7 and sixth form students.

Refreshments will be served in our restaurant throughout the evening. Staff will also be available to advise on transport arrangements to John Kyrle from Herefordshire and Gloucestershire.

In addition to the formal element of the evening, you will be able to sample the all-important 'atmosphere' of the school. I am certain that you will find it to be a friendly and welcoming one. We are a successful, award-winning and inclusive school, continually oversubscribed in all year groups. As Ofsted noted we are effective in our aim for students to be *Happy, Healthy and Successful*.

Current students will be available to give 'consumer points of view' during our Open Evening. There will be displays, demonstrations and 'hands-on' exhibits. The subject areas represented will include:

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| ▪ Maths | ▪ Geography | ▪ Learning Support |
| ▪ English | ▪ Art | ▪ Design Technology |
| ▪ Science | ▪ PE | ▪ ICT |
| ▪ Modern Foreign Languages | ▪ Sixth Form | ▪ Music |
| ▪ History | ▪ RE | ▪ Drama |

If parents/carers are not able to attend Open Evening, or would like to see the school during a normal working day, we are holding two Open Mornings on Tuesday, 16th and Wednesday, 17th October from 9.30am – 12 noon. These sessions will include a tour of the school and a chance to ask questions of senior staff, students and trustees. **Please telephone the school to make an appointment for the most convenient of these mornings. It is important that we ascertain numbers attending in order to offer you the best service on the day.**

I do hope to see as many of you as possible during the Open Mornings and Open Evening. I am sure that you will be favourably impressed with what you see and will decide that you and your son/daughter will wish to play an active part in the exciting future at John Kyrle.

Yours sincerely



NIGEL GRIFFITHS
Headteacher