

I am delighted to welcome you to our website for John Smeaton Academy. I hope you find it provides the information you need and that we are able to give you a sense of the extraordinary journey of transformation that John Smeaton Academy has been on since it joined The GORSE Academies Trust on 1 September 2021.

As you will most likely be aware, The GORSE Academies Trust is one of, if not the, highest performing trust in the country and this is not something that has been achieved by chance; indeed John Smeaton's rapid transformation has been made possible because of the exceptional student experience afforded by the outstanding nature of the work that underpins the deep-rooted success of the trust.

Our established schools consistently dominate the top of the performance tables both regionally and nationally. Furthermore, our students experience an 'Enrichment++' offer that provides the opportunity to acquire a skillset that has previously only been afforded to students in the private sector, for example through experiencing our 'BIG 3', rowing, karate and volleyball, all taught by specialist coaches, or through learning Mandarin or one of the more traditional extra-curricular options such as debating, science club/STEM or performing arts; within this offer, students' confidence and self-esteem flourish.

The trust's Positive Discipline system, in place within all our 11-16 mainstream academies, gives rise to an outstanding climate for learning where students feel safe and are able to engage fully in the awe and wonder of their lessons. Within each lesson students also experience the 'Purple Zone' which is a period in the lesson where they work independently on challenging content that supports their ability to develop resilience and assists in the crafting of the skillset which is needed to be successful in rigorous external examinations. Ultimately we are seeking for students to 'Secure the Gift of Choice', the Gift of Choice being their ability to choose their next steps at any point in their future rather than having avenues closed off to them as a result of a poor skillset or qualification suite.

Students at John Smeaton Academy are now working in partnership with professionals and the wider community to ensure they are able to achieve outcomes aligned with their top performing peers nationally. These outcomes will, in turn, give them access to progress into their chosen, high quality destinations in Education, Employment and further Training (EET) securing their opportunity, if they wish, to go on to study in some of the best universities in the world.

Our students understand the importance of 'Securing the Gift of Choice' and its link to their current and future happiness and, as Principal of John Smeaton Academy, I feel privileged to lead the academy at this exceptionally exciting time.

If you would like to find out more about our remarkable academy please do not hesitate to contact us. We will be delighted to arrange for you to visit.

Pascoe Gill
Principal, John Smeaton Academy