

# The John Driver Award



WORKSOP COLLEGE  
AND  
RANBY HOUSE





## The John Driver Award

**At Worksop College, our academic curriculum lays the foundation for success, while our extensive extra-curricular programme empowers young people to step confidently into their futures.**

Achieving good grades unlocks opportunities, but it's a well-rounded education that equips students with the self-assurance and resilience to thrive. That's why we've developed the John Driver Award – a new initiative designed to nurture character, broaden horizons, and support personal growth.

With a rich offering of sport, music, drama, academics, outdoor education, and over 100 clubs, societies, and activities integrated into the school day, Worksop College has always provided an environment brimming with opportunity. The John Driver Award builds on this foundation, channelling these opportunities into a structured, purposeful programme.

Initially introduced to Lower School (Years 7 and 8), the John Driver Award will help students make informed choices about their co-curricular involvement. By encouraging exploration and discovery, the programme enables young people to uncover their passions, learn from their experiences, and identify what truly resonates with them.

These early experiences will serve as building blocks for future decisions, guiding students through Middle and Senior School and shaping them into confident, resilient individuals ready to embrace life beyond Worksop College.

## John Driver

John Driver (or JASD as he was affectionately known) came to Worksop College in 1977 from Giggleswick and the University of London to teach Biology and Chemistry.

In the near 40 years that followed, he became a driving force behind countless curricular and extracurricular pursuits at Worksop College. In addition to being a highly respected teacher of science, he was Housemaster of Mason House until the late 1990s. At the same time he also commanded Worksop College's CCF contingent, coordinated countless World Challenge/Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and was heavily involved in the College's cross country. For the latter, he helped support two Olympians in the form of Tom and Jack Buckner and was the driving force behind some of Worksop College's most successful seasons.

He is the true embodiment of what a teacher should be. He was involved in all facets of College life for almost 40 years and was equally popular with his contemporaries in the Common Room and with the Worksopians he both taught and helped - no easy feat. His calm and rational approach undoubtedly moulded countless Old Worksopians into the people they are today.

In recognition of his tireless efforts and transformative impact, this award is named in his honour. It serves as a lasting tribute to his commitment to enriching the lives of pupils through co-curricular activities. The John Driver Co-Curricular Award celebrates those who embody his legacy of dedication, leadership, and excellence.



## Developing Body, Mind and Soul

We recognise that every pupil is unique: some are passionate about sports, others prefer a good book; some thrive in the spotlight, while others prefer the background. Through the core strands of Body, Mind, and Soul, we encourage students to embrace new experiences and broaden their horizons.

For those who don't enjoy team sports, options like Archery or individual challenges are available. Pupils can also contribute through initiatives like the EDI or Catering Committee, or explore clubs like Electronics and Astronomy to deepen their interests in Science and Maths. Beyond winning matches, activities like rugby or cricket foster teamwork, resilience, and commitment to others.

Even organising a cake sale for your House Charity teaches budgeting, teamwork, and leadership, while a session in Ancient Greek for Beginners might spark a lifelong passion.

In Years 7 and 8, we prioritise exploration. Pupils may identify as a "hockey-playing drummer" who's "not good at Maths," but we encourage them to step outside their comfort zones. Discovering what doesn't resonate is just as valuable as finding new passions.

With our ever-evolving co-curricular programme, pupils can adapt their choices as interests change, and we recognise the value of external commitments. Tutors guide students in choosing and reflecting on activities, laying the foundation for confident, informed decisions as they progress.







## Embracing Opportunity Over Achievement

While we don't force pupils into uncomfortable situations, we know life demands communication, collaboration, and the ability to build resilience. No one can get through life without experiencing setbacks, and there are going to be times when we need to pick ourselves and others up off the ground. The 3 strands allow pupils to experience enough to begin the journey of doing just that. The Award is something to aspire to if you feel that you want to (and it is not something to feel pressurised over), but it is not the most valued prize; what is of greatest worth, is the journey and the young men and women this breadth of opportunity begins to create.

# Exploring the Strands: Examples of Body, Mind, and Soul in Action

## **Body:**

Speed school, performance S&C, additional sports skill clinics, golf, hockey club for all, tennis club, squash club, Strong Women, polo, etc.

## **Mind:**

Science clubs, chess, astronomy club, Ancient Greek for beginners, Vox, choir, art club, junior psychology club, electronics, rock band, board games, popular music appreciation.

## **Soul:**

House charity activities, EDI committee, catering committee, DofE, CCF, weekend golf, Worksop College Junior Parkrun, weekend trips, school drama productions, painting the school production set, sign language club, podcasting courses, peer listener training, attending a concert to support your peers.

The “soul” category is especially important to us here at Worksop College as this encompasses a lot of the things that we really value as a community. A strong, healthy body and an active enquiring mind are of course important for a variety of reasons, but activities that fit in the “soul” category build different skills. Resilience, care of self and others, emotional and social intellect, listening and speaking about emotions are all very important. These 3 strands will help to build and shape the overall character of the pupil.

To achieve the award, pupils must engage with all three strands on four separate occasions throughout the school year - click [\*\*HERE\*\*](#) to see an example. They simply complete the form to document their journey, which is then signed off by their tutor and, ultimately, the Assistant Head Co-Curricular.

To complete the Award a pupil will also have to tick off 3 challenges in the school year:

1. Staying overnight away from home.
2. Speaking in public
3. Doing something for charity or the community.





**WORKSOP  
COLLEGE**

[i.parkin@wsnl.co.uk](mailto:i.parkin@wsnl.co.uk)  
[wsnl.co.uk](http://wsnl.co.uk)  
01909537100