

Progress from KS2 to KS4 at Sir James Smith's School

At Sir James Smith's School, we are committed to ensuring that every student makes strong and sustained progress from their starting point in Year 7 through to their GCSE outcomes in Year 11.

Starting in Year 7

Students join us with Key Stage 2 outcomes from primary school, including SATs results in English and Maths. These provide an important baseline. We use this information to:

- Identify prior attainment
- Set ambitious but realistic targets
- Provide early support or stretch where needed
- Place students on the most appropriate curriculum pathway

From the outset, our focus is on high expectations, strong routines, and building secure knowledge foundations. We build on Foundational Knowledge gained at KS2 to support their journey with us.

Click [here](#) to read about foundational knowledge expectation at KS2

Progress at Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9)

In Key Stage 3, progress is measured against our carefully sequenced curriculum in each subject. Assessment includes:

- Regular low-stakes knowledge checks
- End-of-unit assessments
- Extended written responses
- Practical and subject-specific performance tasks

This allows teachers to identify gaps quickly, adapt teaching, and provide timely intervention. Parents receive clear reporting on attainment, effort, and progress throughout the year.

Our aim at KS3 is to secure the knowledge, skills and habits that enable success at GCSE and beyond.

Progress at Key Stage 4 (Years 10–11)

At GCSE, progress is measured through:

- Topic assessments
- Mock examinations
- Exam-style practice under timed conditions
- Coursework or practical assessments where required

We track performance against GCSE grade boundaries and national benchmarks, enabling targeted intervention and structured revision support.

National Measures

At the end of Year 11, student outcomes contribute to national performance measures:

- **Progress 8** – how well students progress from their KS2 starting point across eight GCSE subjects
- **Attainment 8** – overall achievement across these subjects

Our priority is ensuring that students at Sir James Smith's School achieve outcomes that reflect both their potential and the quality of education they receive.

Our Commitment

We are proud to serve our local community and remain focused on:

- High-quality teaching in every classroom
- Clear expectations and strong routines
- Regular assessment and responsive support
- Ambition for every student

At Sir James Smith's School, progress is not left to chance — it is planned, tracked, and supported at every stage.