



# King James's School

## Easter Newsletter 2018

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### J'adore....

Who likes Justin Bieber? Who loves marmite? Who adores koala bears?

In the week of Valentine's Day, Year 7 and 8 students had the opportunity to find out who/what their teachers really loved! Staff throughout the school wore pink "I love..." badges in either French, German or Spanish. Students had to find out as many names and 'loves' as possible before the end of the week. The students with the most complete entries were put into a prize draw.

Dear Parents / Carers

As you can see from this newsletter there has been a lot of activity in the Spring Term with a wide range of opportunities for our students. Please do enjoy the reports about the various trips and visits and extra-curricular activities but can I draw your attention to the key notices at the back of the newsletter. There are some really important messages about various matters including exam entries for Year 11 and Year 13 and reporting student absences.

The summer term will see exam preparation step up a gear as we prepare for the new GCSE's in many subjects along with the continuing demands of A Level. We have a record number of applications to our Sixth Form and we will give the Year 11 students every support as they go into their exams.

Our Sixth Form next year will also include some students from Boroughbridge High School being taught alongside the King James's Students. This is part of our initiative to work more closely with Boroughbridge High School, it strengthens our Sixth Form provision by increasing our student numbers and it allows us to offer more courses in the long term. This collaboration will be enhanced by the building of a new Sixth Form centre which will take shape over the next 12 months and replace the old building.

If you are taking a break over Easter I hope that we have seen the last of the snow and that we have some Spring sunshine. Thank you for your continued support for the school.

**Carl Sugden**  
Headteacher



### Bebra in the Snow

2018 was our 44th Bebra German Exchange. This year it was the turn of our students to make the trip to Germany where they met the Mayor of Bebra and had a wonderful time in the snow.

## KJS Takes to the Slopes



94 students and 10 staff set off for Austria during February half-term. We were flying for the first time and so arrived strangely refreshed for not having to endure the usual 25 hour coach journey. Flachau is an excellent resort for all ski abilities and gave us extensive access to the entire Wagrain region. The snow conditions were possibly the best I've ever experienced, with deep powder being laid most days interspersed with blue sky skiing. Evening entertainments were fun-filled and action-packed with our Year 9s throwing themselves into the Tyrolean evening of music and dance. The Lucky Fitzer

was genuinely one of the most fun activities we've offered on the ski trip – a toboggan style rollercoaster sending us flying down the mountainside at 55mph to a backdrop of the setting sun sinking behind snow-capped mountains. The professional ice hockey match at Zell Am See is always a favourite, with the students getting up close to the high speed action and pretend brawling!

We ended the week with a timed slalom where students got to show off their new-found skills and race against members of their own ski groups with medals up for grabs. I'd just like to say that this year,

Ms Bowe beat me to first place in the staff race but, upon a stewards enquiry, we discovered she cheated and so I have graciously accepted first place after all (I'm still waiting for the medal Ms Bowe!). Despite this, the true joy came after seeing Mr Keeble's face drop after it was announced that he came last in the staff race. Oh how we laughed.

The students gained so much from the week being out of their comfort zones on so many levels. Showing determination, independence and resilience and learning to ski along the way. As usual, they were a real credit to the school and their parents, with passengers on both flights commenting to me on how well-behaved they were and that it was a pleasure to have shared the flight with them. It was a real pleasure to have shared the week with such a lovely bunch of kids. As usual, a huge thank you to my team: Ms Rees, Mr Keeble, Ms Watson, Mr Atton, Ms Bowe, Mr Penn, Ms Cooper, Mr Nicholson and Ms Wilson.

**Mr Bolger**

Lead school:  
King James's School  
Knaresborough

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for September 2018

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The poster features a central logo with a stylized rose and text. It is surrounded by several small images showing students in a classroom, a group of graduates in caps and gowns, and students in a laboratory setting.

## Sixth Form Council

The Sixth Form council have been meeting regularly throughout this term, discussing many issues of interest to the students including the Sixth Form Café, the use of facilities and re-cycling. This included a very productive meeting with the school chef to discuss all things related to food and drink, which is important to everyone!

## Year 11 Applications

It has been great to meet and work with the Year 11 students who want to continue studying at King James's Sixth Form next year. This term we have had Post 16 Options Evening, Moving Up Day and individual meetings with the students who have made an application. We look forward to continuing to build on these relationships with what will be the new Year 12s in September. It is a time for all Year 11 students, regardless of their destinations next year, to work hard, revise and prepare thoroughly for the summer GCSE examinations.

## Enrichment

We have welcomed several guest speakers into school this term including North Yorkshire Police and Fire Service, Kirk Newsholme Chartered Accounts and Business Advisors, A Star Future and Leeds Trinity University. They have spoken to students about a range of issues including driver/road safety, employability skills, studying abroad and university applications. We will welcome more guest speakers into school after Easter.

Our very talented Sixth Form tutors have also been delivering some enrichment through joint Year 12

and Year 13 registration sessions. These have ranged from Knitting to 'Life and Lego', and Music Appreciation to Puzzles & Problem Solving. The aim of these sessions is to enable students to develop new skills and interests and they are a great way for Year 12 and Year 13 students to work together and balance their academic studies with important extra-curricular activities. They have proved to be very popular with the students.

## Vantage Work Experience

During February half term, two Year 12 students spent the week on a fantastic work experience at the Vantage Motor Group. This included working and shadowing in all aspects of the business, writing social media content and developing their understanding of the recruitment process and how to enhance their own CVs.

We received glowing feedback on how the students had conducted themselves. They were truly a credit to King James's Sixth Form.

## Oxbridge Visit

In March, we arranged a visit from an academic and some student ambassadors from Oxford University to discuss Oxbridge applications. They met a large group of Year 10 students and a smaller group of Year 12s. The presentations were excellent and students in both year groups were engaged and asked meaningful questions throughout. The staff and students from Oxford commented on their enthusiasm and insightfulness. For some of the Year 12 students this will be followed up by a visit to the Oxbridge regional conference in Newcastle.



## Looking Forward

We have a very busy time ahead after the Easter holiday. Year 12 students will be starting to plan and think more seriously about their Post 18 options. There will be an evening for parents and several activities for students to help with their planning and preparation for this.

Year 13 will return after Easter to start their last term at King James's School. Whilst the pressure to revise and prepare for exams starts to build, so does the realisation that their time at King James's is coming to an end. This is often a time when students reflect positively on some of the great memories they will take from their time here. The Sixth Form team and all the staff wish the Year 13 students the best of luck in their exams.

**John O'Hara**  
**Director of Sixth Form**

## African Drum Workshop

On 14th and 15th of March, two students from York St. John University, with whom we have a teacher training partnership, came to the KJS music department and gave workshops on African Drumming to some Year 7 and 8 classes. This was a great opportunity to develop closer partnerships with the University and for the students to experience a completely different style of music making. Thank you to Mr. Laird for setting it up and helping it to run smoothly.



## Grease the Musical!

Our hit musicals go from strength to strength and this year was no exception with the production of Grease! The live student orchestra was fifteen people strong and had pride of place on stage with the cast. Both cast and band worked hard to put on the show which was a sell-out, even with the bad weather. Another superb way to end the first half term of 2018. Well done from the music department to all of the orchestra for their commitment, musicality and professionalism. Extra mentions must go to Ben Munro (Year 13) and Georgia Corrin (Year 12) who helped to

arrange the music for our musicians which required a lot of skill and was no small job! A big thank you also to Mr. Laird and Mr. Whitehouse for supporting us on Bass and Guitar.

What will we be doing next?!!

## Instrumental Lessons

Due to popular demand, Katie Bell from the Bell School of Music has now been able to recruit two more teachers (singing and drumming) so we have some availability for lessons for these specialisms. Information sheets with prices are available in the music department.

Got an instrument for Christmas? Get started with lessons to develop your talents!

## Easter Concert

Another excellent night of music making with such a varied programme of groups and pieces, from a folk group to handbells, rock groups, wind bands and vocal groups to mention a few. We always put this concert on at Easter to give time for students in Years 11 - 13 to focus on their studies for their upcoming exams. Thank you to all students for their commitment to rehearsals and showcasing their talents, and thank you as always to the staff that make this happen both inside and outside of the department.

Students also received their music colours and half colours for their

commitment to ensembles and music making throughout the year. It was great to see so many students receiving these awards this year.

**CONGRATULTIONS** to Leo Hicks and Alex Lines who received the School of Rock Trophy and the Lions Commitment Cup for their continued commitment and development of music at KJS and for pushing themselves that bit further as musicians.



Music is all about getting together and making more than you can do on your own. Do you play an instrument but don't play in any groups? Come and join us and your ability will increase dramatically! Rehearsals for the senior groups start again in September.

## Instrumental and Vocal Exams

Congratulations to students who took exams last term:

Ellie Douglass - Grade 2 voice  
Beth Izon - Grade 4 Voice  
Rose Velez-Colby - Grade 2 voice



# Science Slides



Students from the A Level Biology course were able to learn about conservation and breeding programmes at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. Here they were examining some confiscated ivory after discussing the Trade in Endangered Species. This piece of ivory was worth about £5000!



Molly on a walk through the lemur enclosure at Yorkshire Wildlife Park. The Ring Tailed Lemurs are endemic to Madagascar and students could get very close to these animals (but were not allowed to touch). The natural habitat for all lemurs is rapidly being destroyed and students studied ways that these and many other species can be saved from extinction through conservation.

Miss Rigden with several KJS pupils at the Leeds Town Hall for the GCSE Science Live event in March this year. Pupils had an exciting day of talks from world famous scientists to inspire and encourage them in their up and coming GCSEs. Speakers included Professor Lord Robert Winston, Dr Maggie Aderin-Pockock and Professor Steve Jones



Students listen to Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, one of the country's leading Astro physicists and presenter of the iconic BBC series 'The Sky at Night'. Her talk entitled "Reach for the Stars" was a great inspiration to the students.



Professor Lord Robert Winston giving a fabulous lecture about fertility and embryo research.

## Marlie Takes the Prize

Writer and poet James Nash chooses the winner of King James's short story competition - 'Imagine':

*'These stories touched me, filled me with horror and made me smile. From Dan Thorpe's Rubik Cube to James Maddick's snake story I was SO entertained. It was hard to judge, but ultimately I was gripped entirely by Marlie Beaumont's brilliant story, which was beautifully written, chilling and felt like the work*

*of an adult writer. There is so much talent in King James's School; it was a privilege to judge these pieces.'*

This is a tremendous accolade for a Year 7 student and as well as winning the 'Skrentny' prize of £60, Marlie will be invited to become King James's 'Writer in Residence' for future events at King James's.

## Battle of the Books

This annual regional competition always brings out the best in our students and this year was no exception. Our team's literary knowledge was outstanding, and after six rounds of fiercely difficult questions, we achieved second place.

*"The 'Battle of the Books' was a great experience - I was so grateful to take part in the competition. It's definitely a bookworm's dream to spend an afternoon talking and quizzing about books (plus we got free sweets!). I loved working as a team as we all motivated each other. However, the best part of the afternoon was meeting the author Lucy Adlington; she was really funny and inspiring. I wish I could do it again". (Heather Robinson, Year 10)*



## Reading Accolades

Our seventeen Year 8 Royal Readers have achieved Master Class status awarded by Renaissance Learning for excellence in reading.

*"This is an impressive achievement for all concerned, and class Royal Readers 2017-2018 now takes pride of place on our Honour Roll". (Renaissance Learning)*

The group, led by Mrs Chapman, have met twenty five times since September and have worked consistently hard reading, reviewing and discussing award-winning

fiction. They are presently participating in the Leeds Book Awards and their reviews are online:

<http://www.leedsbookawards.co.uk/shortlists.php>

Many congratulations to the following students:

Anna Cope, Hannah Courts, Samantha Crebbin, Evan Donninger, Olivia Golding, Joan Greenwood, Alasdair Hassall, Emily Jameson, Ben Laverack, Will Mortimer, Poppy Ngbaronye-Burgess, Maddie Olden, Oliver Prince, James Ryder, Charlie Stevens, Ellie Wilson and Jem Young.



# Exam Notices

**A Level and GCSE Exam dates:** 11th May - 22nd May GCSE and 26th June A Level. Students have received their exam timetables and will receive another copy nearer the time of the exams showing rooms/seat numbers. The timetables must be checked and any errors reported to the Exams Manager as soon as possible.

**Exam results days:** A Level - Thursday 16th August 2018. GCSE - Thursday 23rd August 2018.

**Candidate Entry Sheets** were sent out in February and should have been checked and signed by parents and students. If these have not been signed and handed back in the fee for any changes may be charged to

parents.

**Exam Certificates:** Exam certificates are awarded at the annual Prize Giving ceremonies. Students who were unable to attend can collect their certificates from the exams office. Uncollected certificates are retained for a minimum of 12 months after the date of issue. After this time they may be destroyed or returned to the exam board.

**Equipment:** During the Easter holidays, please can students ensure that they have all stationery/equipment ready for the exam season including clear pencil cases and make themselves aware of the exam rules and regulations.

## Key Notices

**Contact Information:** Please ensure school has your up-to-date mobile phone number and email address in order for us to keep you aware of important documents such as letters home, impending events and general communications.

**CCTV:** Due to regular damage in our student toilets we will be installing CCTV over Easter. The installation of the CCTV is in line with our data protection and CCTV policies and the privacy of students will be protected.

**Student Photographs:** Throughout the school year we regularly take photographs of students participating in lessons, trips and other activities, e.g. sport, music, art and drama. Largely these photographs are used internally but on occasion we publish photographs on the website or on the school Twitter feed and use them for other purposes. If you do not wish your child to be in any photographs or articles, please inform your child's Form Tutor as soon as possible.

**Lost Property:** In the event that your child loses something in school, in the first instance students should look for their belongings in the lost property bins in the locker areas. All lost property bins are sorted through at the end of every half term and all labelled items will be returned to students. All other items will be stored centrally for a period of time in case students wish to look for a particular item.

**Reporting Student Absence:** If your child is unfortunate enough to be ill, please ensure that you call the school absence line (01423 798728) by 8am on the day of the absence clearly stating your child's name, form and reason for absence. Please authorise the absence in your child's planner on their return. If your child has a medical appointment during school time, please make the school aware as soon as possible.

**Pick-up and Drop Off:** Please be thoughtful when picking up and dropping off students. Please do not park on the zig-zags and yellow lines on King James Road and the surrounding streets. It causes additional congestion and safety issues.

**Mobile Phones:** A reminder that once on school grounds students' mobile phones should be turned off and not taken out unless they are being used as part of a lesson or activity. This includes before and after school, and break and lunchtimes. If these items are seen being used on school grounds then they will be removed from the student and kept safe until parents come to school to collect them. This also applies to items of jewellery which do not meet school guidelines. Please see your child's planner for more details.

We wish you and your family a restful break.



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @kingjames\_tweet for more news and photographs and for more school information visit [www.king-james.co.uk](http://www.king-james.co.uk).