



Headteacher / Mr Sugden

What does that actually mean you do?

I have responsibility for making sure the school is a good place to learn. This means I have to know a lot of what is going on, but allow everyone to get on with their job.

What makes KJS a special place?

It's special because we are a community. This means working to support each other, to help each other to be the best that we can be. It's special because most pupils enjoy being here to learn and to take part in the wide range of activities and trips on offer.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

All the new experiences and subjects, totally different to primary school.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Make new friends and ask for help if you need it.

Not many people know this about me but...

I have climbed every Scottish mountain over 3,000 feet, that's 282 mountains.



Deputy Head / Mr McIntosh

What does that actually mean you do?

Helping you feel safe, happy and looked after in school. This means supporting your teachers so that your lessons are places where you can learn, have fun and make the most of every minute.

What makes KJS a special place?

It is such a caring and a brilliant place to learn, enjoy yourself and meet new people who will stay your friends for the rest of your life.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

Having so many new opportunities in front of you. Make the most of them all!

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Don't worry, be happy!

Not many people know this about me but...

I used to be in a TV show when I was younger called Byker Grove with Ant and Dec!



**Assistant Headteacher/
Director of KS3
Mrs Holdsworth**

What does that actually mean you do?

It means I am responsible for the Care, Wellbeing, Support and Learning for all the students in Years 7-9. It is by far the best job in school.
In my spare time I also Teach PE

What makes KJS a special place?

It is a wonderful place to grow up! It will provide you with the opportunities, experiences, challenges and care to develop and reach your potential.
Embrace this opportunity and make the most of it.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

Their enthusiasm, motivation and energy

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Don't worry about growing up too quickly! Live for the moment and enjoy being in Year 7, it will never happen again.
You make your foundations in Year 7 for the next 5 years. Make sure they are strong and solid.

Not many people know this about me but...

I started my teaching career at KJS when I was a trainee teacher at the age of 20!!! Since then I trained for a further 3 years (in 3 different schools.) Taught in another school for 7 years and then moved back to KJS where I have stayed ever since! I love it
And..... Mr Keogh even helped me when I was a trainee teacher at KJS ALL those years ago! **You couldn't be in a safer pair of hands.**



**Assistant Headteacher/ Special
Educational Needs Co-ordinator
Miss Jones**

What does that actually mean you do?

I have a brilliant job because my job is to help you! I arrange support and help for students. I organise Teaching Assistants to come into lessons to help students with their learning.

What makes KJS a special place?

It is a really friendly, happy place. The teachers and the students work together to build our community.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

You have lots of new and exciting opportunities. You get to learn new things; try out different activities; meet new people; make new friends.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Be positive. Have a go. Try everything and anything. Be happy.

Not many people know this about me but...

In 1976 I won an award for Gymnastics. My favourite sport is rugby - but it has to be Union. I can play the guitar and love horse riding - but not both at the same time.



Year 7 Learning Manager / Mr Keogh & Head of Transition

What does that actually mean you do?

It means that I am responsible for making your transition from primary to secondary school as seamless and successful as possible. I will be working very closely with your Pastoral Officer, Mr Bentley, to celebrate your successes, monitor your attitude to learning and support your academic progress throughout your first year at King James's.

What makes KJS a special place?

KJS is a happy place where pupils can thrive academically in the classroom, socially or in whatever they do. It is where you will make new friends, be safe and enjoy yourself. Both my children went here and they loved it, even with their dad as a teacher!

Best things about a Year 7 student:

You are very special to us as you are the future of King James's. You have your own locker area, playground and get to go early for lunch every day. Everyone will help you settle in, especially your tutor, teachers and all the pupils at King James's. They were all in Y7 once and know what it is like.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Try not to be too anxious and get involved in all the new opportunities, lessons, clubs and friendships. The more you put into it, the more you will get out of it. For parents and carers, I also have a top tip: Please label all their uniform and PE kit!

Not many people know this about me but...

I was once asked to perform in a ballet on stage with Rudolph Nureyev!
(Famous Russian ballet dancer)



Year 7 Pastoral Officer / Mr Bentley

What does that actually mean you do?

I look after the Year group day to day. Helping with your welfare and any worries/queries from pupils, teachers and parents. Oh and making sure you are behaving 😊

What makes KJS a special place?

There's so much to do: Sports, Music, Drama, Art and Design, Library.....

Best things about a Year 7 student:

Chance to join so many clubs.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

If you are lost, ask for directions, everyone will help.

Not many people know this about me but...

I have been on Look North twice. Once wearing a top hat!



Receptionist / Mrs Dale

What does that actually mean you do?

I am one of two School Receptionists. I am the 'Yorkshire One' (my colleague Caroline is the 'Scottish One'). We both do exactly the same role but at different times. We are to be found at the Reception desk at the front of school during the school day. Our role is to welcome any visitors to the school. We also answer the main school telephone and transfer calls and pass on messages. If you need to sign in after the start of the normal school day or leave during it, you will need to come to see us and sign in/out using our electronic pad. If you have lost any small personal items such as memory sticks or items of jewellery you should come and see us too as it may have been handed into Reception. In the early days if you find yourself lost or worried and there are no teachers on hand to help, you can always find us in the same place and we are happy to help with any questions that you may have.

What makes KJS a special place?

It's the people. All the staff are very friendly and have the best interests of the students at the heart of everything that they do. I feel very privileged to be working in a place where I can literally see children flourish and transform into great young adults during their time at school. We welcome you in Year 7 and then reluctantly say goodbye in Year 11 or Year 13. It's amazing to see the transformations that have taken place during that time.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

Being let out for lunch ten minutes before the stampede starts and having the Quad which is your own special space. It's an exciting time to meet new people too. It's lovely to see all the new Year 7's arriving in brand new uniform with a look of excitement on their faces.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Don't worry about not knowing the answers to things straight away. Never be afraid to ask. You will learn the layout of the school very quickly and how things work and what is expected of you. Grasp all the opportunities on offer, especially the extra-curricular activities, these will enhance your experience at school.

Not many people know this about me but...

I have a workshop in my garden and enjoy water colour painting and crafting. I also have a Greyhound called Slipper and a Persian cat called Pepper.



Receptionist / Mrs Artindale

What does that actually mean you do?

I answer the school phone, transfer calls, send emails to staff members, deliver mail to staff, frank outgoing mail, look after small items of lost property, take deliveries of parcels and help staff, pupils and visitors sign in and out of school. I'm always happy to answer any questions any student may have, don't be scared to come and ask, if I don't know the answer I will find out for you. There are 2 receptionists, we don't work at the same time.

What makes KJS a special place?

All the staff are very friendly and helpful. It's a community school that's been here for over 400 years and has a real family feel.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

Your uniform always looks lovely, neat and new and you're always polite and very friendly at reception.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Tip for the girls, wear sports shorts under your kilt to keep your tights up and avoid shoes with laces they take too long to do up after PE, shoes with buckles are far quicker.

Tip for the boys, join lots of clubs it's a great way of making friends and don't worry about getting lost there are lots of other people who will point you in the right direction. Don't undo your tie it's easier to put on if the knot is still in it.

Not many people know this about me but...

(I'm the Scottish receptionist but that's obvious) I travelled around the world on my bike for 18 months with my husband before having children.



School Nurse / Tammy Miles

Based in Student Services (near dining hall)
Mon–Fri 9am–4pm

What does that actually mean you do?

For the whole school community:
Provide first aid, general health advice with sign posting, emotional and well-being support, and assist pupils with long term medical conditions in school, when/or only if they need it. My door is always open.

What makes KJS a special place?

Though it's a large school, everyone is invested in every single pupil. There are lots of opportunities to join clubs. It is so good, I came back! (I was a student here many years ago)

Best things about a Year 7 student:

Their excitement and enthusiasm
They get to go to lunch early before the other years – bonus.
Seeing how much they quickly change and grow in confidence in that year.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

First day, try smiling – at everyone, remember everyone is having the same feelings as you.
Talk to lots of different people you don't know, it really helps. Even if you just say Hi.
Keep your planner with you when you get it (it has everything you need to survive!)
Take everything with you, do not leave anything behind. Name all your school items.
Listen in assembly.
Not Sure?Just ask, everyone is here to help.

Not many people know this about me but...

Not many people know this about me but..... I can wiggle my ears, roll my tongue, and touch my nose with it! I have a dog that keeps me fit and I love music and dancing.



Family Liaison Officer / Mrs S Kinsey-Stephens

What does that actually mean you do?

I work with families and students on relationships, any problems at home and in school. I am also the Deputy Safeguarding Officer along with Helen Handley and I am involved in all child protection and child in need meetings. I look after the welfare of each family.

What makes KJS a special place?

KJS is a big part of the local community. We are one large family in school, and we are proud of our students. The staff are a great team and we work closely together to make sure that students get the best opportunity to have only the very best education.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

Year 7 students are always presented well. They are always polite to each other and to staff. They can always ask for help if needed. They look out for each other.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Always be on time to school and lessons. Wear your uniform with pride, you are now part of our family. Don't be afraid to ask questions if you need answers, we are here to help you.

Not many people know this about me but...

I once went out with a famous band member from the 80's.



Head of Learning Resources / Mrs Bryden

What does that actually mean you do?

I think I have one of the best jobs in the school as I get to teach a year 7 class almost every day – I must be one of the only members of staff to see over 270 year 7 students for one hour every week! We have a lot of fun in Accelerated Reader lessons and I like to think of myself as your reading coach. I want to share with you my passion for reading and my goal is always to inspire you to read and love books. I believe if you read, then anything becomes possible!

What makes KJS a special place?

Undoubtedly, it's the students and staff. KJS definitely has the 'WOW' (Wealth of Warmth) factor. Walking through our doors is like entering a magical world of warmth, light and colour. There will always be someone to greet you with a smile.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

In my opinion, you are the best year group in the whole school! I love your enthusiasm, kindness and energy.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

It's an exciting time, you're bound to be nervous but try to relax, be yourself and enjoy every day - we are one big happy family at King James's and we can't wait to meet you.

Not many people know this about me but...

I love a challenge - In lockdown, inspired by bestselling author and body coach Joe Wicks, I felt it was time for me to start exercising. I'm really pleased to be able to tell you that I have recently completed the 'Couch to 5k' running challenge which means I can run for 30 minutes without stopping!



Library Assistant / Mrs O'Callaghan

What does that actually mean you do?

My job is to help you choose the books you will enjoy the most. I know what books we have in the library and after we've had a quick chat I should be able to recommend something that you will like. I research what new books have just been published and make sure we order a copy for the library. I make sure that I know what's happening online in the world of books and writing. I keep up to date on YouTube videos, Instagram posts and events on Twitter that your favourite authors are involved in and make sure you know all about them through our Its Learning Library page or your Transition page on the school website.

What makes KJS a special place?

We are a team. Staff and students working together make this a very special place where you will make life-long friends and learn new things. It is a community that I am proud to be part of and look forward to welcoming you into.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

You are ready to learn, you are excited to be at King James's and because you are proud to be a KJS student you have respect for yourself, other students and all of the staff that work at the school.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Be prepared for your day.

Use your planner.

Ask questions.

Not many people know this about me but...

A few years ago I won €1000 in a radio competition