



Miss R Smith
7A RSM

Job Title: Teacher of Design and Technology

What makes KJS a special place?

KJS was where I did my first ever teaching and I feel really lucky to be back here teaching in such a great community.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

The best thing about being a year 7 is, whether you have come from a small or big primary school, you are going to meet so many new friends and have lots of opportunities to try out new clubs and activities.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Be yourself!

Not many people know this about me but...

I have done a number of solo sky dives



Mrs L Niven
7A LNI

Job Title: KS4 Coordinator for Science

What does that actually mean you do?

I teach science (chemistry mostly), but also help to organise how the Science department prepares pupils for their Science GCSEs.

What makes KJS a special place?

This will be my first year at KJS, but I can already tell that it's a very welcoming place with lovely people who enjoy helping each other.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

The chance to make new friends and get involved in clubs and other activities.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Try out as many different activities as you can, particularly ones you've never tried before. And get your bag ready the night before.

Not many people know this about me but...

my highest degree is a Masters in Later Medieval Studies (I studied the Black Death & the translation of surgical texts). I also LOVE music and while I can play all of the clarinets & saxophones, my favourite is the baritone saxophone.



Miss F Thompson
7N FTH/LAB

Job Title: English teacher

What does that actually mean you do?

As your form tutor, I'll be there to help you with anything you need, or have questions about, on a morning!

What makes KJS a special place?

King James's is a great school. It's really friendly and inclusive, and I'm sure you'll all soon feel very at home here.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

Being in Year 7 is brilliant because you will have so many opportunities to make new friends, try out new clubs and develop your interests. The lessons are pretty good, too!

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

My top tip would be to ask if you need help.

Not many people know this about me but...

I used to be a post lady!



Mrs L Abeyawardene
7N FTH/LAB

Job Title: Teacher of Maths

What does that actually mean you do?

I teach maths lessons in key stage 3 and I also teach maths to small groups of students who need some extra support to make sure they continue to make progress.

What makes KJS a special place?

We are interested in everyone succeeding and being happy at school.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

Your timetable is packed with all sorts of new and interesting things, you meet lots of new people whilst still having your old friends and the staff are extra friendly to you.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Always pack your bag the night before school.

Not many people know this about me but...

I have a Masters degree in Soil Science



Mr R Cloughton
7N RCL

Job Title: Geography Teacher

What does that actually mean you do?

It means I am passionate about helping young people understand the world around us.

What makes KJS a special place?

It's in Yorkshire (the best place in the world) and the amazing history of the school.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

All the opportunities you will get to try out new things that you might never have been able to try before.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Make sure you always have your equipment for the day.
Don't worry if you lose your way – just ask someone if you are lost.
Be nice and polite to people and they will be nice back.
Never treat anybody in a way you wouldn't want to be treated and you can't go far wrong!

Not many people know this about me but...

Not many people know this about me but.... I used to be a train driver.



Mrs H Farmery
7N HFA

Job Title: Teacher of Geography

What does that actually mean you do?

My main teaching role at King James's is as a Geography teacher, making lessons engaging and enjoyable. I also teach a bit of History and Religious Studies. The second (but equally important) part of my role is as a Year 7 Form Tutor where I will be looking after you and making sure you have a great time at King James's.

What makes KJS a special place?

I completed my teacher training at King James's and loved the school and the people. It's so good that I was delighted when I was given the opportunity to come back and work here. As soon as you walk in the door you are welcomed into a kind and caring school community. You will find the teachers are friendly and happy and have your best interests at the heart of what they do. They are here to make sure you have the best experience you can while at King James's. Although there are 1,500 pupils, you will meet new people and make friends for life. You couldn't ask for a better school in which to start the next chapter of your learning journey.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

There is so much on offer at King James's. Try and join in as many things as you can. It's a great chance to try new activities and meet new friends.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

It's an exciting time but you are also very likely to feel nervous (I always feel nervous at the start of the new school year). Don't be scared, it's a new experience for all of you, try and relax and don't be afraid to ask questions if you are unsure of something. We are all here to help you.

Not many people know this about me but...

I love to set myself challenges and love walking. During lockdown I decided that I needed to get fitter and decided to combine this with raising money for a local charity that has been set up by some close friends. I chose to do the challenge of 300,000 steps in 30 days, after 10 days I decided this was too easy and raised the bar to 400,000 steps in 30 days. Some days were incredibly tough, especially when it was tipping with rain and my legs were tired but I pushed on and completed a massive 425,000 steps in the 30 days, walking 300 kilometres (the same as walking from Knaresborough to Holyhead, Anglesey) and raising a few hundred pounds for charity.



Miss D Key
7S DKE

Job Title: Teacher of History and Politics

What does that actually mean you do?

It means I teach two very interesting and important subjects to students all the way from year 7 up to year 13.
It is my job to enlighten you all and get you excited about the past!

What makes KJS a special place?

It is a school which appreciates that everyone is different and encourages you to follow your strengths, whilst developing other important skills for later life.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

You gain a new sense of independence which you never had at primary school, whilst learning lots of new subjects.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Just try your best - that's all we can ask!

Not many people know this about me but...

I once sang Taylor Swift at a festival in front of a few thousand people!



Miss L Saywood
7S LSY

Job Title: Teacher of Religious Studies

What does that actually mean you do?

Supporting you emotionally and academically. Being that ear that you need when things get a little tough, but also to share in any excitement and achievements.

What makes KJS a special place?

It's a community and one where everyone looks out for each other. There's a sense of nurturing and support enveloping the school.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

You get to start from scratch! Be whoever you want to be and grab every new opportunity that comes your way. It's also lovely getting to know the new additions to the KJS family!

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Just go with it! It's not a test, be who you are and try to smile. Remember that everyone is in the same boat!
Be organised, keep on top of things. If anything seems confusing or difficult, just ask for help. It's what we are here for 😊

Not many people know this about me but...

I also have Canadian citizenship as my mother's side of the family are from Canada!



Miss L Clayton
7W LCY/MDE

Job Title: Art and Photography teacher/ Head of Wharfedale House

What does that actually mean you do?

I have the best job in the world doing what I love which involves drawing/painting and sculpting with students all day everyday. I also get to present assemblies on how amazing Wharfedale house is and celebrate all the students' fantastic achievements.

What makes KJS a special place?

It's a really friendly and welcoming place with so many opportunities. Lots of clubs, trips and exciting things to get involved in. Everyone works together which creates a real family feel.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

Everything is brand new! Even your new super smart uniform. You also make new friends and have the opportunity to get involved in so many different things way beyond what you did at primary school.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Always be positive and keep smiling! Get involved in as many clubs as you can. Do not worry. You have got this!

Not many people know this about me but...

I was a cheerleader in the first UK stage production of High School Musical... GO WILDCATS! I have also just trained my 10kg Norwegian Forest Cat to sit on command. 🐱



Miss M Dennis
7W LCY/MDE

Job Title: Year 7 ATA

What does that actually mean you do?

I'm very lucky to help and support students in class across Year 7. I also work with some Year 7 students on a 1 to 1 basis out of the classroom. I always have my door open for anyone who wants a chat.

What makes KJS a special place?

The students are well mannered and polite.
The staff are brilliant at what they do, Oh and the school dinners!

Best things about a Year 7 student:

Going to lunch earlier than everyone else and Mr Keogh's film club on a wet lunch time.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Don't worry about getting lost at first - everyone does!
You will make lots of new friends.
Join a club - there are loads

Not many people know this about me but...

I have lived in Austria, Italy and Tunisia.



Mrs F O'Brien
7W FOB

Job Title: English Teacher

What does that actually mean you do?

This means deducing the structural forms, problem solving linguistics and deciphering the writer's intentions with my students... I see us all as, English detectives!

What makes KJS a special place?

A wonderful rich history with an amazing team of students and teachers.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

Creativity, engagement and dedication.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Trust your form tutor to support you, do your best in your subjects and have fun!

Not many people know this about me but...

I lived in Australia and had a pet kangaroo!

Look forward to meeting you all in September:)



Mrs S Thompson
7W STO/PNB

Job Title: MFL Teacher

What does that actually mean you do?

I have the great job of teaching you Modern Foreign Languages. I teach what it means to not just speak, write, listen or read in a different language but also to learn about the culture, its people and history. We sing and listen to silly songs which you will remember long after you leave King James's school.

What makes KJS a special place?

I love the sense of history about the place. It is full of lovely, caring people who look out for each other- a real sense of community which isn't manufactured or forced but is genuine and sincere. I love seeing the interaction between students, adults in school and members of the public. I love how the school community gets involved in the wider community whether that be taking part in the annual bed race, selling wares for the enterprise scheme at the market and helping out at Henshaws. It really is a place where you can take your interests or find new ones and let them flourish.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

You are ready to learn, you are excited to be at King James's and you have the chance to expand your social circle by joining exciting clubs and making lots of friends in the process. The amount of choice of food in the dining hall (the cookies are delicious!).

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Don't be afraid to ask for help. No question is a silly one.
At the first sign of a problem e.g. homework, talk to your teacher and they will be able to put your mind at rest.
Join different clubs to widen your social circle.
Be kind and look out for others who might be struggling and offer your friendship and help.

Not many people know this about me but...

I lived in Warsaw and Radom in Poland teaching English to students, the youngest being 4 years old and the oldest being 70 years old. As a result I can speak a little bit of Polish- cześć.



Mr P Newband

7W STO/PNB

Job Title: Cover Supervisor & Head of Airedale

What does that actually mean you do?

I cover teaching staff who are absent from their lessons. Every day I will be teaching different subjects to a variety of year groups. So, you could say I am an English, Maths, Science, PE, Technology, Geography, RE, History, Languages and ICT teacher! Also, I am Head of Airedale House. I am responsible for planning Airedale's assemblies and keeping track of Airedale's results when Airedale pupils participate in house events.

What makes KJS a special place?

The diversity of the subject departments and being able to use the fantastic equipment and facilities it has to offer to help with your academic work. Whether that is using S1 stage for drama, the music department's instruments, the library and the many sport facilities.

Best things about a Year 7 student:

You are able to go to lunch before all the other year groups, to make new friends who have similar interests to you, and you can join as many extra-curricular clubs as you want.

Top Tips for starting in year 7:

Don't be afraid to ask if you are unsure about anything. Make sure you double check you have all your equipment and PE kit before school, before you leave your lessons and when you are about to leave school.

Not many people know this about me but...

I had a poem published in a children's poem book when I was in Year 9.