



HEAD'S NEWSLETTER

September 2009

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**School closes
12.35 p.m on 6th
October in
preparation for
Open Evening**



Welcome back

to a new term, although not, strictly speaking, a new academic year! Our big decision to start the 'new academic year' in June was certainly the right thing to do. The frenzy of a September start has been avoided, as the majority of students have simply settled back into their existing curriculum. The sense of purpose in June and July in school was far greater than in the past, when the summer term has seen a good deal of teaching time lost as we 'wind down'. The Year 8 students, now year 9, even began their Design and Technology options, another curriculum shift which gave this year group a greater sense of purpose. In addition 80% of year 9 (current year 10) have already achieved the equivalent of a GCSE pass in ICT. The Year 11 have received their first science GCSE grades and students are beginning to see the results of our more modular curriculum.

The new Year 7 seem to have made a confident and purposeful start. It is daunting for them as they try to integrate into a school where, on a normal working day, they are the smallest amongst almost 2000 people. Their tutors, peer mentors, teaching assistants, and of course Mr Gausden, are dealing with their day to day needs, and within a few weeks they will be settled into a routine. I would ask the parents of Year 7's to encourage them to join at least one additional club or activity as our extra curricular programme begins in the next few weeks. This is vitally important for their personal development and we have a huge range of activities in music, sport, drama and beyond. The list of activities currently available is included further on in this newsletter.

We were delighted with our results at A level this year. Another good performance and another large cohort of students sent off to university. There were some lovely photographs in the Knaresborough Post of happy students on results day.

The GCSE results were similar to previous years; still very good by national standards, but we know that we have hit something of a plateau and that we can improve still further. The new curriculum that we have introduced will lift the results in 2011 as we see the benefits of early entry and the more flexible curriculum design. We still have it as priority to increase the number of students achieving grade C (or above) passes in both English and Maths.

We have invested £1.1 million in refurbishing the school during the summer. It has been incredibly difficult fitting in this scale of work into a few weeks. There are finishing touches required to a number of rooms, and the final phase will be finished by mid October. We have refurbished 3 science labs, a suite of English and Maths rooms and Learning Support along with various cloakrooms and corridors. The largest scale project has been a complete refit of Design and Technology. The quality of the refurbishment is very high and our youngsters have the very latest equipment and facilities to support their work in graphic design, resistant materials, food technology, hospitality and textiles. We are very proud of the new facilities and later this term we will arrange an opportunity for parents to see the new rooms.

We are excited about the coming year as we strive to provide the young people of Knaresborough with the highest quality education. As always, if you have any concerns, please contact the relevant tutor, head of year, subject teacher or member of the Leadership Team. All of our contact details are on our new look and re-launched website which also contains up-to-date news.

Heads of Year—2009/10

Head of Year 7	Mr Tom Gausden	
Head of Year 8	Miss Liz Allenby	Assistant Head of Year: Mr Tony Parker
Head of Year 9	Mr Steve Keeble	Assistant Head of Year: Mr Simon Bentley
Head of Year 10	Miss Janet Keighley	Assistant Head of Year: Mrs Ross Roberts
Head of Year 11	Mr Michael Barker	Assistant Head of Year: Mrs Bev Treloar
Heads of Sixth Form	Mrs Tracy Burt	
	Ms Jo Watson	
	Mr Eddie Churchill	

Well Done On An Excellent Start After Summer !

Thank to all students and parents /carers who have ensured that the first couple of weeks of the Autumn term have been a success in school. Attendance, punctuality, behaviour and uniform (apart from the odd exception!) have all been very pleasing and it has resulted in a great atmosphere both in and out of lessons.

There are a couple of issues we do need your support with please:

Requests For Holidays:

Please be aware that the school policy on holidays in term time has changed this academic year. We will only authorise a maximum of 5 days per academic year and if a student's attendance is below 93% (the national average) or they have a poor punctuality record any request will not be authorised.

Please do not book holidays until the request has been authorised and please do not request holidays that would mean your child missing an exam.

Uniform:

Black pumps are being worn by some students as shoes and, although they look smart when new, they are not practical in winter weather and are not in line with our guidance on footwear. Please ensure that if your child is wearing black pumps they are replaced with shoes as soon as possible.

If you have any other queries about school policies and systems please contact us via e-mail, telephone or letter.

Thank you for support.

Mr Simpson
Deputy Head, Student Services

Mobile Phones

One of the difficult school rules is in relation to mobile phones. On the one hand they cannot be allowed to disrupt lessons so must be switched off, and socially we don't want students wandering around the corridors constantly plugged into their i-pod. It is for this reason that we have tightened up the rules on mobile phones in school.



On the other hand everyone has a phone and some of the technology is great (and we are a technology school)!

In late June we had a very brief visit from Ofsted, who had heard about our innovative work using 'mobile technologies' (mainly mobile phones) to video lessons, bluetooth to our plasma screens, podcast and to make short films. Ofsted were impressed.

We still have the slight tension of making sure students use phones at the right time for the right things but overall our policy of ensuring phones are used only for specific lesson activities seems to be working.

▶▶▶ Open Evening: Tuesday 6th October, 6.00 - 9.00 pm - All Welcome ◀◀◀

Open Evening

This year's Open Evening is to be held on *Tuesday 6th October from 6.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.*

It is always an enjoyable, busy, event for prospective and current parents and students, with an opportunity to see departmental displays, participate in hands-on activities, and explore all aspects of the school. Although it is aimed at prospective parents everyone is welcome.

Considerable preparation is necessary for such an event and therefore students will finish at 12.35 p.m.

Full details of the arrangements will be issued shortly.

Information Booklet for Parents

Our School Prospectus and Information Booklet for Parents will shortly be available to view on the website, www.king-james.co.uk

The Information Booklet for parents contains a variety of information including a list of correct school uniform, subject information, staffing list, examination results, destinations of Sixth Form students and much, much more.

All Year 7 students will be given a copy of the booklet to bring home but families with students in other years who may be unable to access the website and would like a copy of the booklet can request one via their child's planner.

Communication with Parents

E-Portal: You may be aware that parents are now able to access information about their child's attendance, behaviour and academic progress on line. This is achieved via the E-Portal button that is on the school website. **New parents in year 7 will be given their password and full details at the pastoral parents evening on 6th October.** If you have lost your password or have any problems with the system please e-mail the school for support.



Text message service: Please ensure school records are updated with new mobile phone numbers. We are now able to contact parents through a texting service to inform parents about important issues and events. If this is something to which you do not wish to subscribe please contact the school.

Photographs of Students for Publicity Purposes

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 occasions we publish photographs on the website and use them for other purposes. We would never name a student on a photograph without the express permission of parents and only in very limited situations, e.g. articles in the Knaresborough Post. If you do not wish your child to be in any photographs or articles, please inform your child's Head of Year, in writing, by the end of September.



September 2009

The Times and Sunday Times newspapers are, once again, running a "Books for Schools" offer in which we can collect vouchers and exchange them for books.

If you would please cut out, collect, and send the vouchers into the school Library with your child we would be extremely grateful.

Many thanks
Mrs. Hussey
School Librarian

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IMPORTANT CHANGE

The date for the Senior Prizegiving has been moved to Thursday 7th January 2010. Please see below for other dates for your diary. The school website www.king-james.co.uk is also updated regularly and is well worth a visit to catch up with all our news.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 30th September	7.00 p.m. Sports Presentation Evening	* note new date
Friday 2nd October	7.00 p.m. Friends of KJS Quiz Night	
Tuesday 6th October	6.00 p.m. Open Evening (school closes 12.35 pm for students)	
Tuesday 6th October	6.00 p.m. Year 7 Pastoral Parents Evening	
Wednesday 7th October	Staff Training Day—school closed to pupils	
Tuesday 13th October	Founder's Day Service	
Saturday 17th October	Family Learning Day	*note new date
Friday 23rd October	end of 1st half of Autumn Term	
Monday 2nd November	start of 2nd half of Autumn Term	
Monday 9th November	Year 9 Parents Evening	
Saturday 28th November	Friends of KJS Murder Mystery Evening	
Monday 30th November	7.00 p.m. Winter Music Concert	
Thursday 3rd December	Prospective Year 12 Evening	* note new date
Wednesday 9th December	Year 10 Parents Evening	
Wednesday 16th December	Carol Service	
Friday 18th December	12.35 pm departure for students. End of Autumn Term	

Picking up and dropping off



Please be thoughtful when picking up and dropping off pupils. It seems that everyday there are examples of cars stopping on the double yellow lines on King James Road to drop off or collect pupils. This causes congestion on the road and creates more obstacles for pedestrians to negotiate. We know that this is a problem but would ask that you use York Place car park or one of the adjoining streets, other than King James Road, to deposit and collect pupils.

Family Learning Day—Saturday 17th October 2009

If last year is anything to go by, the Family Learning Day on Saturday 17th October will prove as popular as ever. The programme is currently being finalised but there are almost 30 different activities, offering families the chance to come into school to experience a diverse array of pursuits that they may not have ever dreamt of doing before. Last year over 360 people came through the doors with queues forming outside the school from 9.10 a.m. The full programme will be issued nearer the time.



TDA Taster Course



Is teaching the challenge for you?

Come to King James's for 3 days & explore the possibilities offered by the Training and Development Agency on our TDA Taster Course to be held 27-29 January 2010.

To help you decide, the course includes mini lessons, time in real lessons, presentations, opportunities to speak with teachers and trainee teachers, plus help and advice.

For an application pack, please email your postal address to suewhite@king-james.n-yorks.sch.uk.

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EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There is an amazing range of activities on offer this year—there really is something for everyone !

LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES

Day	Activity
Monday	Animation Club Design Project Work ICT Lunchtime Drop-in Kings Chronicle Maths Homework Club Netball Shooting Practice Wind 'n' Things
Tuesday	Badminton Year 7 & 8 Chess Club D&T Project Club Drama Duke of Edinburgh Expressive Arts Football, Girls, Year 8 & 8 ICT Workshop Make your Mark Business Club Strings Aloud Time Travellers Club Languages Video Club
Wednesday	ASDAN Club Chess Club D&T Project Club Drama Club Environmental Action Group Handbells, Yrs 7 - 9 Hockey - Boys ICT Drop-in Workshop ICT Scratch Club Table Tennis Club Young Enterprise
Thursday	ASDAN Club Business Help Session Chamber Choir - Seniors and Staff Chess Club Dance Choreography Club DT Project work Business GCSE Coursework Catch-Up ICT Workshop/Drop-in
Friday	Cheerleading Year 7 & 8 D&T Practical Project Work Dodgeball Games & War Games Club Sing Up Volleyball Young Enterprise

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Day	Activity
Monday	D&T GCSE Support Football, Boys, Year 11 Football Senior Football, Year 7 Hockey—Girls Year 10 11 & Senior Netball, Year 7 Riverside Jazz Rugby, Year 10
Tuesday	Basketball, Year 11 & Senior Cross-Country Handbells - Seniors Netball, Y12&13 Netball, Year 10 Rugby - Boys, Year 9 School Production
Wednesday	Football, Year 9 Rugby, Y11 & Senior Rugby, Year 7 Rugby, Year 8 School Production Senior Wind Band
Thursday	Football - Girls, Year 9-11 Greenpower Car Hockey - Girls U13 Hockey - Girls Year 7 Netball KJS Samba Band School Production
Friday	Football, Year 8

Full details of all the clubs, including times, rooms and staff involved can be found in the Extra Curricular Activities booklet which is currently being circulated to Year 7 pupils, and is also on our Website: www.king-james.co.uk

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Privacy Notice - Data Protection Act 1998

The statutory notice of how King James's School handles personal data is presented below. Particular attention is drawn to the final paragraph.

We, King James's School, are the Data Controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. We collect information about your child from you, and may receive information from your child's previous school. We hold this personal data and use it to:

- support your child's teaching and learning;
- monitor and report on your child's progress;
- provide appropriate pastoral care for your child, and
- assess how well the school is doing.

This information includes your child's contact details, national curriculum assessment results, attendance information, characteristics such as ethnic group, special educational needs and any relevant medical information.

We will not give information about your child to anyone outside the school without your consent unless the law and our rules permit it.

We are required by law to pass some of your child's information to the Local Authority (LA), and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

If you want to see a copy of the information we hold and share about your child then please contact Mr Issatt, the school's Data Manager.

If you require more information about how the LA and/or DCSF store and use this data please contact the LA or the DCSF as follows:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Communications Unit
Department for Children, Schools and Families
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT
website: www.dcsf.gov.uk
email: info@dcf.gsi.gov.uk
tel: 0870 000 2288. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• North Yorkshire County Council
Children & Young Peoples' Service
County Hall
Northallerton
DL7 8AE
Website: www.northyorks.gov.uk
Telephone: 0845 034 9494 |
|---|---|

Connexions Services - Once your child is aged 13 or over we are required to pass on certain information to the Connexions services. Connexions is the government's information and advice service for all young people aged 13 to 19 in England.

We must provide both your own and your child's name/s and address/es, and any further information relevant to the Connexions services' role. For more information about Connexions please, please contact North Yorkshire County Council at the address given above.

However, you (or your child, if they are over 16) can ask that no information beyond name and address be passed to Connexions. Please inform Mr Issatt, the Data Manager if you wish to opt-out of this arrangement **in writing within three weeks of receiving this notice.**

18th September 2009