



HEAD'S NEWSLETTER

September 2011

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**School closes
12.35 p.m on
4th October in
preparation for
Open Evening**



Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to the new term. I would like to start by congratulating the students who received final examination results this summer. Our performance at both GCSE and A Level was very strong, once again. Most pleasing was that we maintained the record GCSE results that we achieved in 2010.

Outstanding individual performances with 10 or more A*-A grades came from Kimberley Almond, Jenny Astley, Fiona Booth, Lydia Broadley, Hannah Carass, Charlie Clissitt, Lydia Clissitt, Rosalind Corner, Beth Crabtree, Natasha Downton, William Earl, Bronny Embleton, Samuel Evans, Emma Halstead, Charlotte Hitchinson, Samuel Hudson, Gareth Jones, Nina Kingham, Hayley Moore, Lucie Moss, Susannah Parry, Louise Reed, Emily Rowntree, Chloe White and Charlotte Whiteley.

What is important to me, the staff, and the governors is that we have achieved these results without compromising the quality of the qualifications that we put into our curriculum, and without compromising our commitment to sport, music, art, drama and other enrichment activities. The English Department enabled 82% of students to achieve a grade C and above, and Maths 74%. A good curriculum must have a strong foundation in the core skills and it is pleasing that English and Maths have provided a strong platform for these students to take further courses.

Students achieving 5 or more A* to C grades including English and Maths.

2007: 60%
2008: 61%
2009: 60%
2010: 68%
2011: 68%

It has been a very tough year for students taking their final A Level exams as the pressure for university places has been the most intense ever. Thankfully we managed to place the vast majority of our students either through their first or second choice, or through 'clearing'.

Our performance at A Level is measured using a national results service called 'ALPS'. This looks at how students perform compared their ability and expected outcomes. It then benchmarks our Sixth Form against the other schools and colleges nationally. Using this system we have been ranked in the top 25% of Sixth Forms nationally since 2007. The results have just come through for 2011 and I am pleased to say that we have maintained our ranking for the fifth consecutive year.

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 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.

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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.

As always, if you have any concerns, please contact the relevant tutor, head of year, learning manager, subject teacher or member of the Leadership Team. All of our contact details are on our website which also contains up to date news.

Thank you, in anticipation of your support this coming year.

Carl Sugden
Headteacher

Pastoral Structure – 2011/12

The Learning Managers of Years 9, 10 and 11 are responsible for monitoring the students' academic progress, whilst the Pastoral Officers of Year 9, 10 and 11 will be the first point of contact for parents, along with the Heads of Years 7 & 8 for all issues concerning pastoral care.

Head of Year 7	Mr Tom Gausden	
Head of Year 8	Mr Tony Parker	
Learning Manager, Yr 9	Miss Janet Keighley	Pastoral Officer, Yr 9: Mrs Ross Roberts
Learning Manager, Yr 10	Miss Laura Baker	Pastoral Officer, Yr 10: Mr Daniel Berry
Learning Manager, Yr 11	Mr Steve Keeble	Pastoral Officer, Yr 11: Mr Simon Bentley
Heads of Sixth Form:	Mrs Tracy Burt	
	Mr Eddie Churchill	
	Ms Jo Watson	



Open Evening



This year's Open Evening is to be held on *Tuesday 4th 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 updated Information Booklet for Parents will be available shortly 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.

All Year 7 students will be given a copy of the booklet to bring home in the next couple of weeks 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.

Refurbishment

Three years ago we asked for the views of a cross section of the school, from pupil to governor, what they saw as the top priority for refurbishment. The overwhelming response was PE "because it's worn out", with which few will argue.

This September marks the end of this £500,000 project. The changing rooms have been improved more or less beyond recognition, there is better access to the gyms, a new group room and a 95m sq fitness suite with sweeping views of the countryside to the south. This room has been fitted with new equipment generously funded by the KJS Friends, so if you have supported any of their events, many thanks go to you too!

Do come and see the improvements, along with the recently refurbished tennis courts on Open Evening (4th October) or, if you are able to come to the Sports Presentation Evening (13th October), you will also have full access then.

▶▶▶ Open Evening: Tuesday 4th October, 6.00 - 9.00 pm - All Welcome ◀◀◀

Communication with Parents

E-Portal: A reminder 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 4th October.** If you have lost your password or have any problems with the system please e-mail the school for support.



Text messaging service: Please ensure school has your up-to-date mobile phone number. We are now able to contact parents through a texting service to inform you about important issues and events. If this is something to which you do not wish to subscribe please contact the school.

Pupil records: Please remember keep the school informed of changes of circumstances, including new addresses, students' medical condition, etc. in order that we can keep our student database up to date.

Year 7 Playground

In order to help the year 7's settle in to such a big school with lots of older students who can appear intimidating (even if they don't mean to!) we have continued our policy of providing them with their own play ground (The Quad) at break and lunchtimes. Year 7's are also encouraged to join the many extra curricular activities which are on offer (*see list later on in this newsletter*) and they can visit the library on Monday, Wednesday and Friday breaks and lunchtimes.

6 to Start, 5 to Finish

King James's has re-launched a classroom routine - "**6 to start and 5 to finish**". The idea of this routine is for students to arrive to lessons with the six main requirements for learning in place and leave after checking the five main requirements for an orderly end to lessons. Early indications are that this routine has eliminated many of the time-consuming conversations we previously were having about uniform and equipment because the students are now taking personal responsibility for this, allowing teachers to focus on teaching and learning and less on basic standards. Posters are displayed in every classroom reminding students of the routine:

6 to Start:

1. ARRIVE on time, walking on the left
2. UNIFORM should be worn correctly
3. ENTER calmly and take your usual seat
4. PREPARE to learn with planner and equipment out
5. ENGAGE with the starter and learning objectives
6. LISTEN and contribute to your learning

5 to Finish:

1. ENGAGE in the plenary and review your progress
2. HELP to pack away all equipment
3. STAND behind your chair and wait quietly
4. UNIFORM should be worn correctly
5. LEAVE when dismissed by the teacher

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.

Library News



'Booked Up' is a national programme that aims to give a free book to every child starting secondary school in England.

Its' goal is to support and encourage reading for pleasure and independent choice. Year 7 pupils have selected their free book from a list of specially chosen titles and will be bringing them home soon. So, parents, ask which book they have chosen and why, and they might even let you read it as well!



While we have a great choice of resources on offer here at KJS Library, we suggest that all of our pupils are members of the public library as well. It is our wish to make sure that every Year 7 pupil is a confident reader who enjoys and enters into the world of books.

Encourage your child to join their local Library - it's absolutely free!



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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/Learning Manager, in writing, by the end of the first week in October.

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 strict 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)!

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.

Any misuse of a mobile phone by a student will result in the phone being confiscated and parents will be asked to come in to collect it.

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

Tuesday 4th October	6.00 p.m. Open Evening (school closes 12.35 pm for students)
Tuesday 4th October	6.00 p.m. Year 7 Pastoral Parents Evening
Wednesday 5th October	Staff Training Day—school closed to students
Monday 10th October	Founder's Day Service
Thursday 13th October	Sports Presentation Evening
Friday 21st October	end of 1st half of Autumn Term
Monday 31st October	start of 2nd half of Autumn Term
Thursday 10th November	Year 11 Parents Evening
Friday 11th November	Friends of KJS Quiz Night
Thursday 17th November	Prizegiving—ex Year 11 students
Thursday 24th November	School Swimming Gala
Monday 28th November	Year 9 Parents Evening
Wednesday 7th December	Year 12 Parents Evening
Monday 12th December	Carol Service
Wednesday 14th December	Prospective Year 12 Open Evening
Monday 19th December	Christmas Concert
Tuesday 20th December	End of Autumn Term. 12.35 pm departure for students.
Friday 6th January	Staff Training Day—school closed to students
Monday 9th January	Start of Spring Term for students

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Privacy Notice - Data Protection Act 1998

The following is a statutory notice which we are required by law to issue annually to students. Please discuss this notice with your son/daughter and help them to understand the information.

King James's School is a data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. We collect information from you and may receive information about you from your previous school and the Learning Records Service. We hold this personal data and use it to:

Support your teaching and learning;
Monitor and report on your progress;
Provide appropriate pastoral care, and
Assess how well your school / PRU is doing.

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

We will not give information about you to anyone outside the school without your consent unless the law and our rules allow us to do so.

We are required by law to pass some of your information to the local authority, North Yorkshire County Council, and the Department for Education (DfE) and where appropriate we will send to relevant national health service personnel (e.g. school nurses) information on individual pupils changing school (or address) to ensure continuity of health care. If a child moves to another school we will ensure a handover of appropriate data we hold, and we will cooperate with other schools s/he has attended to endeavour to complete any outstanding issues.

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

If you require more information about how the Local Authority (LA) and/or DfE store and use your information, then please go to the following websites:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/schoolrecords

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/doc/w/what%20the%20department%20does%20with%20data%20on%20pupils%20and%20children.doc> and

<http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/childrenandyoungpeople/a0064391/who-the-department-passes-pupil-data-to>

Data Management Officer
North Yorkshire County Council,
Financial Services,
County Hall,
NORTHALLERTON,
North Yorkshire,
DL7 8AL
website: www.northyorks.gov.uk
email: datamanagement.officer@northyorks.gov.uk
Telephone: 01609 533219

Public Communications Unit
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT
Website: www.education.gov.uk
email: <http://www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus>
Telephone: 0370 000 2288

Post 14 Qualifications: If you are enrolling for post 14 qualifications we will be provided with your unique learner number by the Learning Records Service and may also obtain from them details of any learning or qualifications you have undertaken. Further information regarding the Learning Records Service can be provided by the school's Data Manager, Mr. Nigel Issatt, or found on the Internet at www.learningrecordsservice.org.uk.

Youth Support Services

Once you are aged 13 or over, we are required by law to pass on certain information to the provider of youth support services for young people aged 13 to 19 in this area, North Yorkshire County Council. We must provide the address of you and your parents (and your date of birth) and any further information relevant to the support services' role.

However, until you are aged 16 or older, your parent(s) can ask that no information beyond your name, address and date of birth (and their name and address) be passed on to the youth support services provider. This right transfers to you on your 16th birthday. Please inform the school's Data Manager, Mr. Nigel Issatt if this is what you or your parents wish.

For more information about young peoples' services, please go to the Directgov Young People page at www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/index.htm or the LA website shown above.

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