

Friday 16th May 2025

King James's School Newsletter

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Thought for the Fortnight

Thought for the Fortnight for the week beginning 19th May is "Every journey you take on foot is a step towards a healthier you and a greener planet". It links to Walk to School Week which is 19th – 23rd June.



Tutors will use the questions below to encourage discussion and debate.:

Key questions to discuss are:

- How does walking to school affect your mood or focus?
- What impact could it have on the environment if everyone walked to school one extra day a week?
- What barriers stop people from walking to school?
- What can we do to remove those barriers?

The key takeaways are:

- Walking boosts physical fitness and supports mental wellbeing
- Walking helps reduce traffic congestion and pollution in local communities.
- Walking to school encourages responsibility and a sense of routine.
- Even walking part of the journey makes a positive impact.

Ready for School

We welcome parental support in maintaining our high expectations during the final half term of this academic year.

Our school values of student being 'Ready' for school is vital in achieving this. Please can you remind your child and work with us on the following key areas

Uniform - Presentation both in school and in the community impacts on our reputation. Wearing uniform like business dress supports having the right mindset to learn. Shirts should be tucked in and skirts worn at least mid-thigh length. We do now allow plain black, flat, leather-looking leisure shoes, in addition to more formal footwear. However, trainers are not permitted. In addition, please ensure that students are wearing the correct PE uniform, i.e. KJS PE tops, shorts or skirts (plus leggings if required). Plain black cycling shorts are not permitted.

Mobile devices - in order to avoid unnecessary distractions, students are expected to switch mobile phones off and remove airpods, placing them in their bags before they enter the school gates, and they should remain out of sight until the end of the day at 3.15pm.

Water bottles - remaining hydrated helps students to focus.

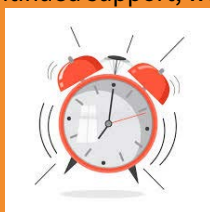
Punctuality - at King James, we truly value both attendance and punctuality, as they play a key role in helping students get the most from their school experience.

Over the past few months, we've been looking more closely at punctuality across the school. We've introduced a punctuality contract for students who are regularly late to class, not to penalise them, but to support them in developing better habits that can make a real difference to their learning.

It might not seem like a big deal, but arriving late, especially first thing in the morning, can mean your child misses out on important moments that set the tone for the day. Our school day starts at 8.40am, with form time beginning at 8.45am. Those first 25 minutes are about much more than registration. They give students a chance to get organised, hear key messages, and check in with their form tutor, someone who is there to support their wellbeing as well as their learning.

When students miss even just a few minutes each morning, it can add up over time and begin to impact their progress. We know mornings can be challenging times, and occasional lateness is sometime unavoidable. That said, we really appreciate your help in encouraging your child to arrive on time whenever possible.

Our shared goal is to give every student the best chance to succeed, and with your continued support, we can make that happen, together.



Girls Football Success - Area Champions!

On Monday this week, the U15 girls football team beat St Aidans in the Area Cup Semi Final. Last night was the final where they faced Ripon Grammar at QE. Ripon had a strong team including an U15 England player.

KJS won 3-0 and are now the U15 Area Champions. Our girls were fantastic. They showed such grit & determination, chasing every ball right up until the final whistle. They played exceptional team football and should be congratulated on their performance & sportsmanship.

The sideline was filled with KJS parents, and it was a great atmosphere and evening.



Careers

York College - Getting Sorted Drop-in Events

York College will be holding two 'Getting Sorted' events in the summer holidays.

- Tuesday 29th July 10am – 3pm
- Tuesday 5th August 10am – 3pm

These events are aimed at students who plan to start at York College in September and may be feeling particular anxious about this and their new environment. Parents and carers are very welcome too!

Students will meet the Wellbeing team, discuss the support available, and can visit key areas of the College and their subject classrooms if they feel it would be reassuring to see where they will be based once they start.

There will also be a wide range of support teams to chat to if you have questions about travel, funding, careers choices etc.



National Reading Champions

We are thrilled to be able to tell you that students in Years 7 and 8 have received a letter from Tom Gordon (MP for Harrogate and Knaresborough) praising their fantastic performance in the National Reading Champions Quiz. All four students were very excited when they noticed the headed paper from the House of Commons and to have received such a wonderful acknowledgement from Westminster. A copy of the letter is attached at the end of the newsletter:

“The dedication you have shown to your education is exceptional. You have all done an amazing job at demonstrating your love for reading and all the knowledge you have gained from it. It is inspiring to see young people take the initiative in their education and represent our constituency at a National level. With the determination you have shown, it is clear that we can expect great things from all of you in the future.”

Furthermore, the students were selected as winners of the 'Participation Prize' awarded to the school who demonstrated engagement, enthusiasm and tried hard throughout the quiz. They received a £25 book token to select books of their choice for the library.



Congratulations to Aimee O in Year 8 and Bethany W, Joseph T and Hazel B in Year 7.

1953 Knaresborough Squadron Annual Awards night

On Friday night, the 1953 (Knaresborough) Squadron Air Training Corps held their annual Awards night. The cadets were called individually to receive certificates for all their achievements over the last year. Attendees included Wing Commander Wayne Yeadon, Sqn Leader David Walker, Lady Mayoress Margy Longhurst and Acting Headteacher of King James School, Mr Paul McIntosh, alongside staff, cadets and their families.



The Week Ahead: 19th May 2025

| Day | Session | Year | Time | Location |
|------|---|------|---------|----------|
| Mon | Year 9 English Exams week | 9 | | |
| Tue | | | | |
| Wed | | | | |
| Thur | | | | |
| Fri | Year 11 Leavers Assembly FIRST HALF SUMMER TERM ENDS | 11 | 11.30am | |

Assemblies

There will be no assemblies this week due to the GCSE and A-Level exams.

Geography Fieldtrip

On Thursday, Year 12 Geography students visited the Holderness Coast to study features of coastal erosion. The weather was a little chilly and blustery, but the students managed a great walk around Flamborough Head, and then moved onto Hornsea, where the students had the opportunity to practice data collection techniques for their NEAs in Y13.

A little bit of free time to finish the day, where many enjoyed the delights of local fish and chips, apart from Will K who dropped his on the floor (just after announcing how great they tasted). Needless to say, Mr Keeble found this slightly amusing!

Thank you to all the students for their excellent behaviour and work ethic.



The Wonderful World of Dissocia



10th & 11th June - 6pm in the Drama Balcony.

"Come with Lisa Jones on a quest through a surreal world, filled with insecurity guards, flying cars, singing bears and wild-goose chases...all in search of her missing hour."

A small cast and crew of fantastic students from Year 10-13 have been working so hard on the production and it would be lovely to see as much support there for them as possible! There are only 40 tickets available for each evening and the second night especially is selling fast, so if you'd like to grab a ticket, there are students outside the library each lunchtime selling tickets for £5!

House Junior Maths Challenge

Well done to the 90 Year 8 pupils and 30 Year 7 pupils who took on some tricky problem solving puzzles set by the UK Mathematics Trust. Everyone who took part will have gained house points for their houses. The results are now in and we are delighted to announce we have been awarded 2 gold awards, 13 silver and 28 bronze.

Special congratulations to Daniel H in Year 8 who takes the "best in school" crown and Flynn H who gained the best score in Year 7; both boys have qualified for the follow-on round on the 10th June.

You can access the full challenge paper [here](#).

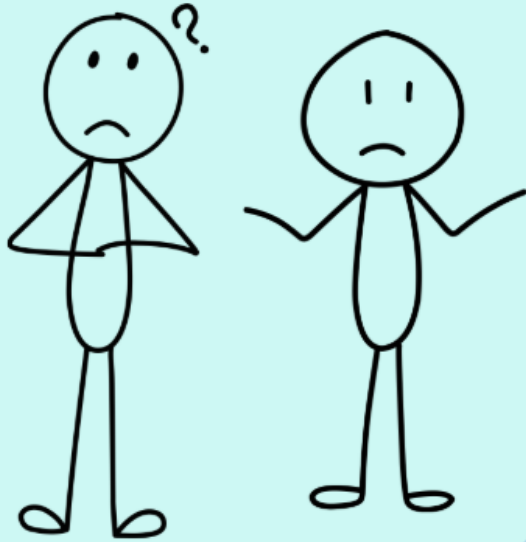
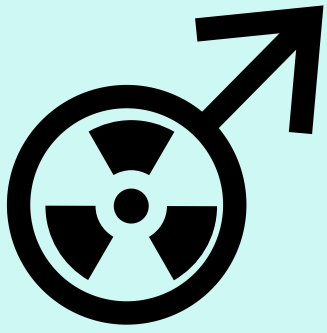


Year 9 Book Club

With Miss Gilbert at the helm, our Year 9 Book Club is diving into something a little different: past winners of the Carnegie Medal, one of the UK's most prestigious book prizes for children's and young adult literature. With a fresh group of enthusiastic Year 9 readers, we're not just reading great books—we're investigating them!

Each week, we meet to chat about the stories we're reading and what makes them stand out. We've been asking some big questions: What makes a book "prize-worthy"? Do the themes change over time? Are today's winners different from those in the past? I am looking forward to hearing everyone's opinions, disagreements, and discoveries; whether someone loved a book or didn't finish it (it happens!).

If you're in Year 9 and love books (or just like talking about them), you're always welcome to join, and it's a great opportunity to make new friends! The club meets every Tuesday at lunchtime on the top floor of the library. Please feel free to bring a packed lunch – we'd love to see you!



Toxic Masculinity Workshop

**Thursday 22th May
6pm - 6.30pm**

The webinar will focus on toxic masculinity in schools and the effects of this. As well as ways in which we can broaden the conversation around toxic masculinity.

This workshop is free for anyone to attend.

Joining Information

To join our workshop please scan the QR code and follow the instructions to join using Microsoft Teams. You can also join using the following details:

**Meeting ID: 363 170 041 590 2
Passcode: Kf9pZ2gd**

If you have any issues logging on or any questions prior to the workshop please contact

tewv.wimtwsa@nhs.net

MAY HALF- TERM

**Make history your family's next
adventure at Ripon Museums**

**Get creative as well as learn fascinating stories
from the past. Join us for family-friendly crafts
across our three museums this half term**

**All activities are included in the price of an
annual pass**

- **Bake in our Victorian kitchen at the Workhouse Museum - May 27th and 28th from 11:30am to 3pm**
- **Make your own Workhouse Wastrel - May 27th from 10:30am**
- **Make wooden spoon dolls in the Workhouse Museum - every day of the hols**
- **Create your own Victorian optical illusion at the Prison & Police Museum - every day of the hols**
- **Play 'Guess Who' at the Courthouse Museum to discover who is a criminal - every day of the hols**

www.riponmuseums.co.uk/things-to-do



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tom Gordon

House of Commons
Westminster
SW1A

King James High School

1 King James Rd
Knaresborough
HG5 8EB

23 April 2025

Dear the competitors at King James High School,

Many congratulations on your recent performance in the National Reading Champions Quiz

I wanted to congratulate you on your recent performance in the National Reading Champions Quiz in the Yorkshire regional heats of the National Reading Champions Quiz.

I was pleased to see that students at King James High School participated in the Yorkshire regional heats. The dedication you have shown to your education is exceptional. You have all done an amazing job at demonstrating your love for reading and all the knowledge you have gained from it. It is inspiring to see young people take the initiative in their education and represent our constituency at a National level. With the determination you have shown it is clear that we can expect great things from all of you in the future.

I wish you all great success with your education and keep up the great work.

Best wishes,

Tom Gordon MP

Member of Parliament for Harrogate and Knaresborough

MALE MENTAL HEALTH DROP IN SESSIONS



Feel free to come to a safe and confidential space to discuss male mental health issues.

Each session will explore a different topic that affects male mental health where we can have an open discussion about what may help to cope.



When: Friday 23rd May during lunch time
Where: room L12

Feel free to bring your lunch!

