

Friday 4th July 2025

King James's School Newsletter

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Theatre trip

On Thursday evening, 40 Year 10 & 12 students enjoyed a trip to Leeds Grand Theatre to see 'The Girl on the Train'. We all really enjoyed the production and several students were on the edge of their seats! We loved hearing all their theories at the interval. The students represented school beautifully as always and were a pleasure to take.



Thought for the Fortnight

Thought for the Fortnight for the week beginning 7th July is "A comfort zone is a beautiful place, but nothing ever grows there" and is linked to the assemblies delivered by Jack Senior.

The key takeaways are:

- Growth happens when there you challenge yourself, take risks and step into the unknown.
- Discomfort is a necessary part of learning and growing as a person.

Year 13 Prom Celebrations

On Friday 27th June, Year 13 students celebrated the end of their exams and KJS education at the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate. The theme was Midsummer Night's Dream and Mrs Sewell and Mrs Stone did a fantastic job of decorating the venue. Staff welcomed the students as they arrived in style and Year 13 certainly dressed to impress. It was a fabulous evening with a buffet, photo booth, music, and dancing (lots of dancing!). An awards ceremony recognised some very memorable moments and people, then staff and students danced and sang until midnight. A wonderful evening with a wonderful year group; it was an absolute pleasure and honour to celebrate with them.



Student Success Stories

On Monday evening, Year 11 student Zac W celebrated the signing of a scholarship contract with Manchester United in a special ceremony at Old Trafford. Zac, along with other new recruits and their families joined together to be officially inducted into the Professional Development phase group ahead of the 2025/26 season. We wish Zac all the very best in this exciting stage.

Congratulations to Daniel H in Year 8; he qualified for the "Kangaroo" follow-on round due to his score on the UK Maths Trust Junior Maths Challenge. We are delighted and very proud that Daniel performed exceptionally in this and achieved a silver award. This represents one of the highest awards in the additional rounds that we have ever had at King James. Awesome work!

On Saturday 28th June, Oliver T in Year 8 completed the Yorkshire 3 Peak 24 mile challenge in 11 hours. He did the gruelling challenge in driving rain and wind, a truly fantastic achievement!

Oliver did the challenge with his dad and uncle to help to help raise funds for Oliver's sister and her dance family Freedom in their dream to compete in the Dance World Cup in Spain next week!



House Drama

This week saw the ever-popular House Drama performances, and despite the extreme heat in S1, both nights were a huge success and there was so much positive feedback from staff and members of the public. It truly is a wonderful group of students involved from Year 7 up to 13.

The overall winning house was Nidderdale, with their performance of Matilda. Both evenings were exceptional, with the following prizes also being awarded:

Best KS3 Performer Joe C (Runner Up Lydia S).

Best KS4 Performer: Jamie D (Runner Up Finnian L).

Best Rehearsal: Wharfedale

Best Design: Airedale

House Drama is entirely student led and the work they create is outstanding. It is truly wonderful to see the way in which the students are so supportive of each other, even when they are in competition!



National English Schools Athletics Finals

This weekend, 15 Year 8 boys are heading down to Essex ready for the National English Schools Athletics Finals on Saturday.

To reach this level, as one of the top teams in the country, is a phenomenal achievement and a very first for KJS!

Congratulations and best of luck to Lucas S, Fabian N, Charlie M, Harry C, Harry W, Noah R, George G, Archie D, Dylan R, Lucas R, Seb M, Felix M, Andrew M, Charles B and



Careers Fair

It's not too late to sign up for our Careers Fair which is taking place on Thursday 23rd October 4pm-7pm. We're looking to recruit employers, tradespeople, entrepreneurs, colleges, universities and other professionals who can inspire and inform our students about future pathways. We'd love to fill the room with a diverse range of voices and experiences to give students the best possible exposure to real world opportunities.

If you can help, please sign up using the QR code.

Careers Fair October 2025



The Week Ahead: 7th July 2025

Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	German Rhine Trip departs HPV Vaccinations	9 8	All day	
Tue	Year 10 End of Year BBQ	10	1.00pm	
Wed				
Thur	SSG Ripley Castle Trip & Sleepover Sixth Form new student Induction Morning			
Fri	SSG visit to The Kiosk, Knaresborough Year 7 End of year BBQ			

Attendance

We're heading into the final stretch of this half-term, and we know this time of year can feel especially intense. With exams, assessments, warmer weather, and changes to routines due to school events, it's understandable that some students (and parents!) may be feeling the pressure.

In the coming fortnight, we'll continue to experience some disruption both in and out of school. One highlight in the local calendar is the Great Yorkshire Show, which takes place next week. While we appreciate what a fantastic event it is, we must remind families that we are not able to authorise absences for attending. If you do plan to go, please consider visiting after the school day, it remains open until 6pm (5pm on the final day).

Back in school, we're looking forward to a variety of exciting activities, including year group BBQs (with non-uniform days), Sports Day, and end of year assemblies. These events provide a fun and rewarding break from the usual routine and are always a highlight for students and staff alike.

That said, we also recognise that changes to structure and routine can be unsettling for some young people. If your child is feeling anxious or overwhelmed, we encourage you to continue sending them in, but please do let us know so we can offer support and make any reasonable adjustments to help them feel more comfortable.

As always, if you have any concerns about your child's attendance or wellbeing, please feel free to get in touch with our Attendance Champion.

Apprenticeships Assemblies

We welcomed Sharon Maddison from NYBEP into school today. Sharon delivered informative presentations to Year 8 and 9 students on apprenticeships as part of our key Stage 3 careers programme. They learned about the wide range of apprenticeship opportunities available across industries as well as how apprenticeships combine paid work with formal training. The session aimed to help students understand how apprenticeships can offer an alternative pathway to traditional routes, while still leading to valuable qualifications and career progression.



Assemblies

Assemblies this week have a sports theme!

Year 7 & 8 have a 'Preparation for Sports Day' assembly and Year 10 have their end of year Sports Awards assembly.

All of these are being delivered by Miss Burn (Head of PE).

Inspiring Assemblies

This week, students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 were fortunate to take part in a series of powerful and thought-provoking assemblies led by guest speaker Jack Senior.

Jack, aged 21 and from Leeds, spoke openly and honestly about his journey with anxiety during his teenage years and how those challenges shaped his outlook on life. His story was not only deeply personal but also incredibly relatable, and it was clear that many students took inspiration from his message.



Through his engaging presentation, Jack explored key themes such as growth mindset, resilience, self-belief, accountability and the importance of stepping outside your comfort zone. His message about turning negatives into a positive direction really resonated — encouraging our students to embrace who they are, and to see challenges as opportunities for growth.

More than anything, Jack showed the power of speaking up about mental health and reminded us all how vital it is to take care of ourselves and support those around us.

We hope students walked away feeling empowered, inspired and reminded that it's okay to not be okay — and that they always have a network of support around them.

A huge thank you to Jack for sharing his story so openly. It was a fantastic week of assemblies that we're sure will leave a lasting impression.

