

King James's School Newsletter

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STEM Fest

Last week, some of our Year 8 and 9 STEM club students went to STEM Fest in Leeds.

STEMFest Leeds 2026 is the region's largest immersive, industry-led educational event for young people aged 10 to 13.

The festival is geared towards driving curiosity in critical STEM disciplines like manufacturing, engineering, cybersecurity, health sciences, and space exploration.

Students were outstanding taking part in all the activities on offer.



Message from Ms Oakley

Dear parents, carers and students,

Congratulations!

This week marks the start of celebration assemblies – from attending Year 7 assembly where awards for Reading were presented, to attending a special breakfast for those students with 100% attendance, it has been lovely to see how wonderful our students are and learn about their many talents!

I look forward to next week where it will be my privilege to award students with their Ready, Respectful and Engaged certificates and awards for participation in Extra-Curricular life at our school.

Uniform Adjustments for the Final Week of Term

With the hot temperatures forecast to last until Thursday next week we have made the decision that students can adopt the following uniform:

- (Optional) PE kit Monday – Thursday
- Wednesday – in celebration of Sports Day students may wear their PE kit and a top in their House colours
- Friday – remains a non-uniform day

Preparations for September

If you haven't had the chance to read my letter sent home last week about our return in September, please do make sure you do. There are some key points of information in relation to uniform, equipment and our staggered start to the school year.

And finally...

In a week of World Cup and Wimbledon excitement it is only right that I spend a moment celebrating our sports stars! Huge congratulations go to our students who despite the hot weather have excelled in athletics, football and tennis this week – I particularly enjoyed seeing the girls' football team in their final, and despite the outcome not going our way, their positive attitudes and team spirit were a joy to witness!

Thank you as always for your on-going support,

Kind regards,

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher



The Week Ahead: 13th July 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon	- Geography Local Study - Year 8 Summer Festival - Wellbeing & Safeguarding Workshops	8	1.15-3.15pm	
Tue	- Year 8 Trading Game - Year 9 Summer Festival	8 9	All day 1.15-3.15	In school
Wed	- Sports Day - Art/DT Summer Exhibition	All All	AM/PM 4.30pm	Art Department
Thur	- Reserve Sports Day - Year 7 Stem Day	All 7		
Fri	- Non uniform day - Year 12 Celebration Assembly and Summer Festival - Summer term ends - School closes at 12.35pm	All 12		

SAVE THE DATE

Careers Fair

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting our annual Careers Fair on Thursday 22nd October 2026, 4pm - 6pm. The event is designed to inspire and inform our students about the wide range of career paths available to them.

Year 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 students and parents are invited to the event.

The Careers Fair will include:

- Businesses showcasing their sectors and roles.
- Post 16 and Post 18 Provider stands to share and inform the range of qualifications on offer.
- Opportunities for Q&A and networking.

York Theatre Royal Trip

On a warm Wednesday evening, we took 65 Drama & English students from Year 9 right through to Year 12 to see 'The Complete Works of Shakespeare' at York Theatre Royal, performed by the Reduced Shakespeare Company. The performance had us laughing out loud and even joining in with some lines!

Our students were exceptional and a member of the public commented 'your students were a credit to you.' Thank you to all students who attended and all staff who supported. We are always so proud to take you to the theatre!



Uniform donations

Just another request for any donations of school uniform items in good, clean condition, such as green kilts/ties, blazers, jumpers, PE tops etc.

Donated uniforms help support other families within our school community by providing affordable access to quality school clothing.

By donating your unwanted uniform, you will be helping to reduce waste, support sustainability, and assist fellow students. Every contribution, no matter how small, can make a real difference.

Any uniform donations can be dropped off at school before the end of term. Thank you for helping us build a caring and environmentally responsible school community.



Resurrected Bites

Resurrected Bites is a Charity and Community Interest Company that gives surplus food a new lease of life at their community cafes and 'grocery stores' in Harrogate and Knaresborough.

They will be open throughout the school holidays to support local families who may need a little extra help. Everyone is welcome to come along, whether you're looking for a meal or a helping hand during the holiday period.



Opportunities! Sixth Form & beyond

Bespoke opportunities for Years 12 & 13 updated weekly from KJS Sixth Form Knaresborough:

https://wakelet.com/wake/hO_PLuy0Xrky73rMfYrlr



Year 10 Sixth Form Taster Day

Today was an exciting day for the Year 10 pupils who were learning about their options after completing their GCSEs. Those thinking about a Sixth Form application got the opportunity to sample five Sixth Form subjects and enjoyed their break and lunchtime in the Sixth Form centre. We also had visitors from the local colleges in school in the morning providing information and guidance for pupils considering a Level 2 or vocational route.



Their behaviour and engagement in the day was fantastic. We also welcomed around 50 Year 10 pupils from Boroughbridge High School and our amazing KJS students made them feel very welcome.

We hope the day helped pupils to start thinking about the key decisions they have ahead of them. We also hope it gives them the motivation to come back in September ready to work hard and achieve excellent GCSE grades.

We look forward to working with them and supporting their Sixth Form applications further in the new academic year.



'The wonderful world of work'

Over the past 3 weeks, around 30 students from Year 12 have successfully completed a period of work experience with local employers. They have taken part in a wide variety of different sectors including banking, retail, marketing, education, health and aviation.

They have undertaken a wide variety of roles and tasks with Olivia C producing a published article for a local newspaper and Sam E modelling flood risks in Welsh valleys!

The feedback from the students is that they have found their placements very informative and useful as they have gained an insight into the world of work.



Hana said 'While I was at work experience. I was responsible for upcycling clothing. These are a series of patches I made from old damaged clothing



that can be used on bags or clothes. They taught me a lot about recycling fashion and limiting waste.'

The employers have been very complimentary too, describing our students as articulate, interesting and great team players. A big thank you to all the employers who have hosted the students during this time, we really appreciate the time and effort they have put in.

National Athletics Final for our KJS boys

On 4th July, King James's School's Inter boys athletics team competed in the English schools' track and field cup National final. The final was held in Chelmsford, Essex. To reach this stage the team had qualified through several rounds and were down to the last 13 schools in the country.

The team travelled down on Friday and had a team meal before the big day. Although the sun was shining on the Saturday it was windy conditions for the boys to run their track events in. It was to their credit that they still managed to achieve 7 personal best performances throughout the day. The competition was extremely high, and it was amazing to see the boys competing in that setting, wearing the KJS badge with pride. There were notable performances from Jed P, Remi F, Andrew McN, Solomon H, two PB's from George G and a county standard 47m Javelin through from Archie D.

It has been incredible to see how the team have fought to be competitive this year and the focus they have shown to try and be the best they could be at each event we have attended. They have made history as the only Inter boys' team from the school ever to reach this stage and they should finish the season feeling proud of all their effort, just like we do as staff working with them.

The team in full: Ben P, Lucas S, Jed P, Solomon H, Remi F, Jack S, Oscar S, Zach L, Alex M, Sam V, Felix M, Andrew McN, George G, Archie D, Finlay G.

Well done to all the team and let's hope for more KJS athletics success in the future.



Attendance Matters – Celebrating a Fantastic Year

As the sun shines and we look ahead to the final week of the academic year, it's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate everything our students have achieved over the past year. It has been a year full of successes, and we are incredibly proud of the commitment, resilience and determination shown by so many of our young people.



From an attendance perspective, there has been plenty to celebrate. Approximately 450 students have received certificates recognising their excellent attendance of 96% and above, while many more have been recognised for the significant improvements they have made compared to last year. Every step forward deserves to be celebrated, and it has been fantastic to see so many students making positive progress.

Yesterday, we also had the pleasure of celebrating our students who achieved 100% attendance throughout the year. They enjoyed a well-earned Full English breakfast during form time, where they had the opportunity to chat with members of the senior leadership team about their experiences this year, what they have enjoyed most, and the successes they are most proud of. It was a lovely opportunity to hear first-hand about the positive impact school has had on their year.

From the outside, it can sometimes appear that schools place a great deal of emphasis on attendance. The reason is simple: strong attendance is consistently linked with better academic outcomes. However, attendance is about much more than examination results. Every day a student is in school is another opportunity to build friendships, develop confidence, take part in enriching experiences and contribute to our vibrant school community.

It is these moments of engagement, enjoyment and belonging that help make our school such a positive place to learn. They also set a wonderful example for the students who will be joining us in September, showing them that they are becoming part of a welcoming, successful and ambitious school community.

We also recognise that attendance can be challenging for some families. If your child has found this year particularly difficult, please know that every improvement is an achievement. Every effort to attend school has been recognised and appreciated. We remain committed to working alongside you and your child to understand any barriers they may face and to ensure the right support is in place for a positive start when we return in September.

Over the coming weeks, we will also be sharing details of some updates to our attendance procedures that will come into effect from September. These changes are designed to help us identify attendance concerns earlier, strengthen communication with families and continue improving the support and processes we have in place.

As we approach the final week of term, thank you for your continued support throughout the year. Together, we have much to celebrate, and we look forward to building on these successes in the new academic year.

In the meantime, enjoy the sunshine this weekend, and here's to a fantastic final week of term!

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y12
29th June-3rd July	89.2%	94.7%	91.9%	84.5%	85.8%	90.48%

FEAST vouchers

We have issued FEAST vouchers to all families whose children/young people receive benefits-related free school meals. These vouchers entitle your child to fully-funded places on FEAST activities this summer holiday, where they'll also receive a free heathy meal. You should have received this voucher via email or text, from a platform called HolidayActivities. Follow the link to redeem your voucher and book your child's place on some of the fantastic activities on offer in our area.

If you believe your child is eligible and you have not yet received your voucher, or you have lost it, please contact the school office before the end of term.

To learn more about FEAST, and for information on activities, eligibility and how to manage your bookings, visit the [website](#).

Sixth Form Welcome!

In another busy week for the Sixth Form we welcomed students from other schools who have applied for a place in our Sixth Form. The students had the chance to find out how the Sixth Form operates, met the Sixth Form team, chat to groups of students and were given a tour of the school by our current Sixth Form students. We really enjoyed hosting them for the morning and they were suitably impressed with our facilities and students. We look forward to meeting them all in September. A lovely morning all round!

The Dog's Trust - Inspire Youth Project

Two of our Year 10 students spent time this week at the Dogs Trust, as part of a 10-week project run by Inspire Youth and Taylors of Harrogate, who support the local community through their Inspire Growth initiative. The students planned, prepared and delivered a pop-up cafe to raise funds for the Dog's Trust charity and went to present the money to them at their site in Leeds.

The Youth & Community workers at Inspire Youth said "We would like to say a huge thank you to the girls for visiting Dogs Trust. It was such a special experience, and we couldn't be prouder of how they represented the school and Inspire Youth Yorkshire.

The girls arrived with generous donations, including tins of hot dogs, cheese, treats, toys, and even watermelon for the dogs to enjoy. Seeing their kindness and enthusiasm was wonderful, and the team at Dogs Trust were incredibly grateful for everything they had brought.

During the visit, the girls met puppies and dogs who are currently looking for their forever homes. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to learn about the important work Dogs Trust does to care for and rehome animals, while also understanding the responsibility and compassion involved in looking after pets.

The staff commented on how thoughtful, polite, and caring the girls were throughout the visit. They were genuinely thankful for the girls' generosity and kindness, which made the day even more meaningful. We are so incredibly proud of the girls. They were a real credit to the school and the Inspire Growth Project. They demonstrated kindness, empathy, and respect from start to finish. It was an unforgettable visit, and we are very grateful to everyone who helped make it possible."



ART & DT EXHIBITION 2026

A LEVEL & GCSE // ART // PHOTOGRAPHY
3D DESIGN // PRODUCT DESIGN // TEXTILES

15/7/26 // 4.30-6.30pm // King James's Art Department



INSPIRE YOUTH YORKSHIRE

YOUTH MATTERS

MOBILE YOUTH CLUB

STARBECK

BELMONT FIELD / CAMWALL PLAYGROUND
TUESDAYS 6.30-8.00PM WEEKLY
11YEARS+

A safe, welcoming space straight to your community.
 Connect, relax, and be yourself.
 Packed with sports, games, music, snacks, and chill-out spaces,
 Arrive, bring your friends, and get involved.
 Youth workers are on hand to listen, support, and make sure you
 feel heard. No sign up needed. Free to attend.



FOR MORE INFO CONTACT US BELOW OR CALL 07547 287892

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY
 SUPPORTED BY DAVID SKAITH, YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE MAYOR AND FUNDED BY YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

DAVID SKAITH MAYOR
 Premier League Kicks



INSPIRE YOUTH YORKSHIRE

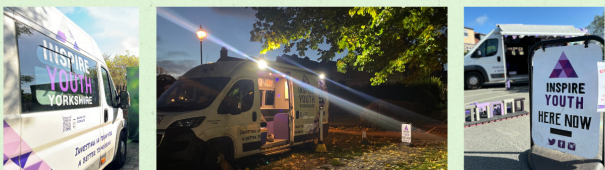
YOUTH MATTERS

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A safe, welcoming space straight to your community.
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INSPIRE YOUTH YORKSHIRE

STARBECK CAMWALL PLAYGROUND

Grand Opening

SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2026
2PM - 4PM, HG1 4PT

FOLLOWING THE REGENERATION OF CAMWALL PLAYGROUND, WE INVITE EVERYONE TO JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THIS COMMUNITY PROJECT!
 A TEAM OF YOUTH WORKERS WILL BE THERE OFFERING ARTS, CRAFTS, GAMES. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE.
 ALL WELCOME TO THIS FREE EVENT



INSPIRE YOUTH YORKSHIRE

FREE EVENT

INSPIRE YOUTH YORKSHIRE

FAMILY PADDLE BOARDING EXPERIENCE

MONDAY 24TH AUGUST 2026
10-4PM
KINGFISHER KIOSK, CONYNGHAM HALL, HG5 9AY
CHILDREN AGED 8+ WELCOME (MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WHERE REQUIRED)

JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR A FUN, ACTIVE AND COMPLETELY FREE PADDLEBOARDING EXPERIENCE ALONG THE RIVER NIDD!

INSPIRE YOUTH YORKSHIRE HAVE TEAMED UP WITH LIVE FOR TODAY WITH THANKS TO EVENTURE KNARESBROUGH, SUPPORTED BY DAVID SKAITH, YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE MAYOR AND FUNDED BY YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY AS PART OF THE VIBRANT AND SUSTAINABLE HIGH STREET FUND.

THIS EXCITING OPPORTUNITY IS DESIGNED TO HELP PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES TRY SOMETHING NEW, BUILD CONFIDENCE ON THE WATER, INTERACTIVE RIVERSIDE ACTIVITIES AND ENJOY THE OUTDOORS.

SCAN TO BOOK



LIVE FOR TODAY

EVENTURE KNARESBROUGH

PARTNERSHIP KNARESBROUGH

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

DAVID SKAITH MAYOR

INSPIRE
YOUTH
YORKSHIRE

Summer Trips

Malham Cove

**29th July
11-4pm, 10-16 years**

**Live for Today
Junior**

**3rd August
11-4pm, 8-12 years**

See individual posters or
visit www.inspireyouth.uk
for more info

**Live for Today
Seniors**

**10th August
11-4pm, 11-16 years**

Scarborough

**17th August
10-5pm, 11-16 years**

**Harewood
House**

**18th August
11-4pm, 10-16 years**

Scan to book



Meet and Drop off point

Inspire Youth Yorkshire Community Hub

9-10 Halfpenny Close, Knaresborough, HG50TG

Join us for a varied selection of fun activities to keep you busy this summer. Meals and snacks provided.



Funded by
UK Government



INSPIRE
YOUTH
YORKSHIRE

Summer Sessions

Lego Builders

20th July

Trash To Treasure

27th July

Explore The Senses

28th July

NY Rotters Change Makers

4th August

Inspires Got Talent

17th August

Mini Movie Makers

18th August

**Open to
Ages 6-16**

Scan to book



11-4pm

Find us at

Inspire Youth Yorkshire Community Hub

9-10 Halfpenny Close, Knaresborough, HG50TG

Join us for a varied selection of fun activities to keep you busy this summer. Meals and snacks provided.



Funded by
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INSPIRE
YOUTH
YORKSHIRE

Free Parent & Child Cooking Class

**CREATE YOUR OWN 2 COURSE MEAL
WITH A COOKERY TEACHER**

**WEDNESDAY 5TH, 12TH, 19TH AUGUST
10:30AM-12:30 PM
@ INSPIRE YOUTH YORKSHIRE
COMMUNITY HUB, KNARESBOROUGH**

SCAN TO BOOK



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