

Friday 11th July 2025

King James's School Newsletter

Inside this issue:

- Year 6 Transition
- Assemblies
- Learn with the Lords
- SSG Trip to The Yorkshire Wildlife Park
- Year 10 Summer BBQ
- English School Athletics Cup Final
- Sports Day
- Year 10 Careers Support
- The Week Ahead
- Attendance
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Art Exhibition



Year 6 Transition

Last week, we were delighted to host two exciting and positive transition days for our incoming Year 6 students. From the moment they arrived, students embraced the experience with enthusiasm and curiosity.

Students took part in a series of engaging taster sessions across a range of subjects, giving them a true feel for secondary school life. Whether experimenting in Science labs, teambuilding in PE or being creative in Art, the energy and willingness to engage with staff and subjects was incredible to see.

A highlight of the event was our Shared Values Challenge, where students competed to demonstrate their understanding of the core school values – Ready, Respect & Engaged. It was fantastic to see students promoting these both in the classroom, around school and with each other.

Our visitors were also treated to a special performance of 'Matilda' from recent House Drama winners, Nidderdale. The talent, humour and exceptional storytelling by our existing students left a lasting impression and offered a glimpse into the vibrant cultural life here at KJS.

We're very proud of how well the Year 6 pupils settled in and look forward to welcoming them back as fully-fledged members of our school community in the new academic year.

Assemblies

Assemblies next week will take place on Friday for all year groups. Students will be gathered to celebrate the incredible efforts and achievements of Airedale, Nidderdale, Swaledale and Wharfedale over the last year. After much friendly competition, teamwork and spirit, there will be the announcement of this year's House winners.

SSG Trip to The Yorkshire Wildlife Park

The Student Support Group had a fantastic day at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park on Thursday. They saw all of the animals including giraffes, cheetahs, polar bears, sea lions and leopards. They saw the new baby lion cubs as well as the tigers at feeding time. The group enjoyed a fabulous interactive talk by a Park Ranger who told the students lots of interesting facts about the animals. The students were also able to hold a snake, giant cockroaches and some giant snails. We walked over six miles during the day and had a lot of fun. The students were a credit to the school. The day was finished off nicely with a well-deserved ice cream.



Learn with the Lords

Year 12 students scheduled an online meeting with Lord Wills on Wednesday morning. They grilled him with questions on life in the Commons and the Lords and he gave them fascinating, thorough and amusing answers to their varied questions.

All students agreed that Lord Wills had been really interesting and engaging and that it had been a really unique and worthwhile experience. Thank you Lord Wills!



Year 10 Summer BBQ – A Day to Remember!

On Tuesday, our Year 10 students enjoyed a fantastic afternoon at their end-of-year Summer BBQ, and we couldn't have asked for better weather! The sun was shining, spirits were high, and the atmosphere was full of energy and celebration.

Students took part in a variety of fun activities, including a karaoke session where some brave performers wowed the crowd with their vocals, and a lively Tug of War competition that brought out everyone's team spirit and determination. There was also a TikTok Challenge, with students showing off their creativity and dance moves, adding to the laughter and buzz of the afternoon. The photo booth proved to be a massive hit too, with students capturing fun memories with friends using silly props and big smiles.

It was a brilliant way to celebrate the hard work Year 10 have put in over the year and to mark the start of summer.

A huge thank you to all the staff who supported the event and made it such a success. Well done, Year 10 – you were a credit to the school!



English Schools Track and Field Cup Final

The Year 8 Boys Athletics team travelled to Essex to compete in the English schools' Track and Field Cup Final last Saturday. This is the first time a team from KJS has ever qualified for the final and we had done so with a combined score of 373 points in the previous round - the North East Regional Finals. The athletes' times and distances are all converted into points on the scoring tables.



The boys performed superbly on the day against the best schools in the country. We had a victory in a Hurdles heat and there were several other high place finishes. We finished the day with an outstanding relay victory.

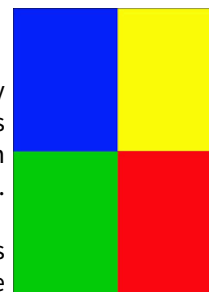


Overall the boys scored a combined total of 461! Which was a huge improvement on our amazing score in the previous round. We finished 10th in the country but our score was only 20 points short of 5th place! We were also the best placed school from North Yorkshire. The boys were fantastic and we are extremely proud of their achievements.

Sports Day

Sports Day will be held on Wednesday 16th July. Please ensure that all students have a water bottle and suncream with them in case of the hot weather continuing.

Sports Day will be a House colours non uniform day for students; please ensure that students' attire is suitable for the event and appropriate for a school environment.



Year 10 Careers Support

We are asking all students in Year 10 to complete a Careers Survey that will help us to personalise their careers support, advice and guidance as they move into Year 11. Some students have had the opportunity to complete this during tutor time, others have not. It is important for our planning that all students have completed the survey.



Please can you ask your child to use the links below to complete the survey if they have not done so already in tutor time? The deadline for the survey to be completed is Friday 18th July.

<https://forms.office.com/e/F0sLzyiZJ9>

The Week Ahead: 14th July 2025

Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	STEM Careers Event Y9 End of Year BBQ Bastille Day Celebrations	8 9 All	AM/PM 1.00pm onwards Breaktime	
Tue	Holocaust Memorial Museum trip	9	All day	
Wed	Art Exhibition (see flyer below) Sports Day	All All year groups	4.30-6.30pm	Art Department
Thur	Reserve Sports Day HPV Catch up session	8		
Fri	Y12 End of term celebrations SUMMER TERM ENDS - SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 12.35	12		

Attendance

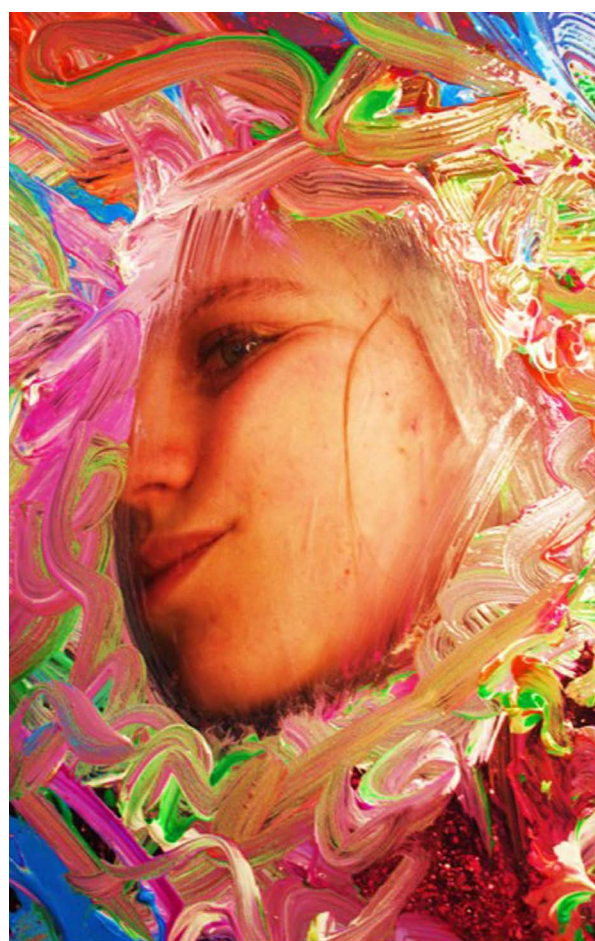
As we approach the end of the summer term, it's the perfect time to reflect on the progress, determination, and successes we've seen throughout the academic year. Next week, we look

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
04/07/25	92.29%	95.17%	90.30%	91.71%	91.83%

forward to celebrating many of our students for their contributions and achievements across school life, including a focus on attendance.

This year, an impressive 492 students reached or exceeded our expected attendance level of 96%, with a further 78 students achieving a perfect 100% attendance. These are remarkable figures that reflect not only the dedication of our students but also then tireless support from parents / caregivers, many of whom play the crucial role of morning motivators and alarm clocks. On behalf of everyone at school, thank you for the role you've played in helping your child reach this milestone.

However, achievement isn't just measured in percentages. We'll also be recognising some of those students who may not have hit the highest figures but have shown meaningful improvement and resilience throughout the year. We know that challenges arise, and we deeply admire the students who have made a conscious effort to improve their attendance, even when it hasn't been easy. Every small step forward matters, and we are proud of the determination they've shown. Next week promises a host of fun and rewarding events, and we're excited to see everyone in school, enjoying the end of term festivities together. Whether your child is being recognised for achievement, improvement, or consistent effort, they are all part of what makes our school community so special.



ART EXHIBITION

2025

A-LEVEL ART & DESIGN // PHOTOGRAPHY
16/7/25 // 4.30-6.30pm // King James Art Department

Free days out in Yorkshire

Yorkshire is a great place for free days out. There are plenty of museums, parks and adventure trails to explore.

<https://yorkshiretots.com/free-days-out-in-yorkshire/>



Duke of Edinburgh

On the last weekend of June, 25 students took part in their D of E Expedition. Nine students were completing their Silver Practice, and 43 students were taking part in their Bronze Assessed Expedition.

Students had to put their skills and strengths to good use as they faced both rain, wind and the heat during the weekend. Students got off to a good start on the Saturday morning with the Bronze Groups setting off from Brimham Rocks and the Silver Group walking from Madge Hill Scout camp to the North. Students had to walk through the rain showers, but at this stage the temperature was good, and students were very confident. All groups made the occasional wrong turn but were quickly back on track. On arriving at the campsite, the wind picked up and students did have to battle with the wind when pitching their tents and keeping their belongings from being blown away. Once camp was made students began cooking their planned meals. Most students went for pasta and sauce followed by toasting marshmallows.

Sunday morning had students up early as we wanted to get away before the heat of the day. Breakfast varied from porridge to pancakes. The first students leaving camp before 7.30 a.m. Some students struggling with the directions but all managed to work it out and get back on to their routes. The Sunday was hard work as the temperature went up, with regular re-filling of water bottles along the route.

All the students arrived hot and tired at the finish point in Darley and relieved to be met by family. We are happy to announce that all students taking part in the Bronze Assessed did pass this element of the Bronze D of E Award. The Silver group will hopefully complete their Assessed Route in the Autumn.

A big well done to the students and a huge thank you to the staff supporting the event: Ms Matvejevaite, Dr Brodie, Ms Baker, Mr King, and Mr Dumont.