

# King James's School Newsletter

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## Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 19th December, we will have our annual Christmas Jumper Day.

Students are encouraged to wear their Christmas jumpers alongside any other Christmassy accessories, such as hats etc. This is not compulsory, but it would be brilliant to see as many students as possible getting into the festive spirit!



House points will be awarded to those who participate.

## Reverse Advent Calendar Challenge

There is still time for students to contribute towards their tutor group Reverse Advent Calendar Challenge. Tutor groups from Year 7-13 have been set a challenge to see if they can collect 24 items between them that can be donated to the local food banks to help support local families this winter.

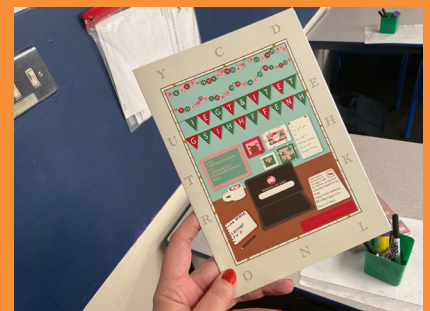
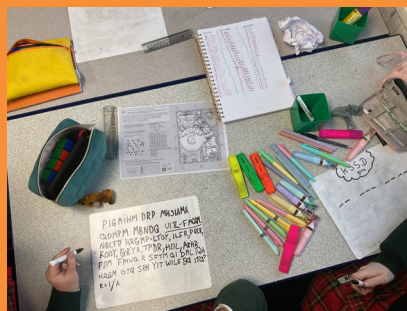
Students have until Friday 19th December to complete the challenge.



## GCHQ Christmas Challenge

You may have seen this challenge on breakfast television on Wednesday. King James's pupils enthusiastically embraced the challenge of solving a series of puzzles set by Government security and spy agency, GCHQ. You can find the challenges [here](#) if you would like to have a go as a family.

We are especially proud of Cecile in Year 8 who, back in September, entered a competition to design the Christmas card and whose entry was so impressive it features on the official [GCHQ launch video](#).



## Assemblies

We have Christmas Celebration assemblies next week led by the Associate Assistant Headteachers.



**KING JAMES'S SIXTH FORM**  
Your future in safe hands

# OPEN EVENING 2026

Thursday 15th January  
6:30pm - 8:00pm



A festive poster for King James's Christmas Concert. The background is dark blue with white stars and a large white piano keyboard on the left. At the top, there's a red beaded garland and a white poinsettia. The text 'King James's' is in a cursive font, followed by 'Christmas Concert' in a large, bold, white serif font.

# King James's Christmas Concert

**16th DECEMBER**

When: 7pm Where: S1 Hall

Tickets available on the door.

£4 Adults, Children Free!

## KS3 Art Club: Festive activities

This week we have been finishing Christmas decorations using embroidery cotton to stitch our glitter snowflakes to felt and adding a ribbon to be able to hang them. We've had a lot of fun doing this and we also prepared press foam tiles to print tags and wrapping paper- hopefully next week.



## Year 11 MVPs

As part of our new Rewards system, and to recognise the hard work, determination, and positive attitude shown by our Year 11 students throughout LC1, Mr Atkinson, Miss Jarrett and Mr Phillips hosted a special celebration event this week for the Most Valued Performers.



Students were treated to delicious hot chocolate and a selection of flavoured cupcakes as a token of appreciation for their outstanding effort and resilience. This was a lovely opportunity for staff and students to come together and acknowledge the commitment Year 11 have shown, particularly during their recent mock exams. Well done to all of Year 11 for your continued dedication. We are incredibly proud of you and look forward to seeing your hard work continue into the new year.

A 'Keep Calm' poster with a blue background. At the top is a white crown. Below it, the text 'KEEP CALM' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Underneath that, the word 'JUST' is written in smaller, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom, the text 'ONE WEEK LEFT' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

KEEP  
CALM  
JUST  
ONE WEEK  
LEFT

KeepCalmAndPosters.com



## Year 10 MVPs

Well done to the Year 10 Most Valued Performers, who were treated to delicious cupcakes in recognition of their hard work and outstanding effort throughout Learning Cycle 1.



The Week Ahead: 15th December 2025

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon				
Tue	Winter Concert	All welcome	7.00pm	S1
Wed	Year 7 Pantomime Rewards Trip Senior Prize Giving	7 13 (2025 leavers)	7.00pm	Harrogate Theatre S1
Thur	Christingle Service	7	Morning	St John's Church
Fri	Christmas Jumper Day Autumn Term finishes - <b>School closes at 12.35pm</b>	All		

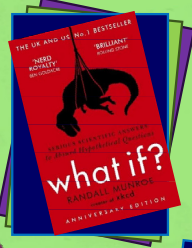
This Week's Student Book Reviews



This book is about two confident friends called Libby and Connie who get caught up in scandals during a Christmas holiday. It involves mystery, missing paintings and secret passageways, all taking place in Connie's family's Scottish castle. It's a great book for Y7 readers and I love this book because of the mystery and suspense!

I would rate this book 5/5 stars.  
(Recommended reading age – Y7)

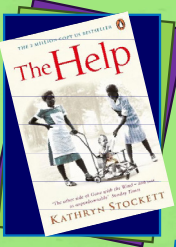
Lilly Cowie Y7



A book exploring fun philosophies of science and the world in creative hypotheticals posed by the general public.

I would rate this book 4/5 stars.  
(Recommended reading age – KS3+)

Sam O-H Y13



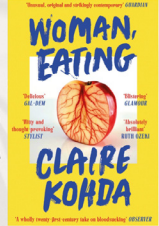
This timeless novel about breaking through boundaries and defying social expectations is a must read for any serious readers and historians. Go back to the early 60's and follow the lives of Minny, Aibileen and Skeeter as their stories become increasingly entwined as they strive for justice. I highly recommend this heart-wrenching book that encourages you to stand up for what you believe in.

I would rate this book 5/5 stars.  
(Recommended reading age – KS4+)

Martha Garrett Y8

This week's  
Staff Reading  
Recommendation

STAFF BOOK RECOMMENDATION




DEALS WITH FEMALE AND MIXED RACE IDENTITY VIA VAMPIRES!

HORROR IN A YOUNG ADULT STYLE

WOMAN, EATING  
CLAIRE KOHDA

RECOMMENDED BY: KATIE PRESTON  
TEACHER OF ENGLISH



Please note that the staff recommended reads are for KS5 students and adults.

Latest attendance figures

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
1st - 5th Dec	86.4%	91.8%	89%	79.8%	85.4%	85.8%	92%	90%

## Join our annual Skrentny Creative Writing Competition!

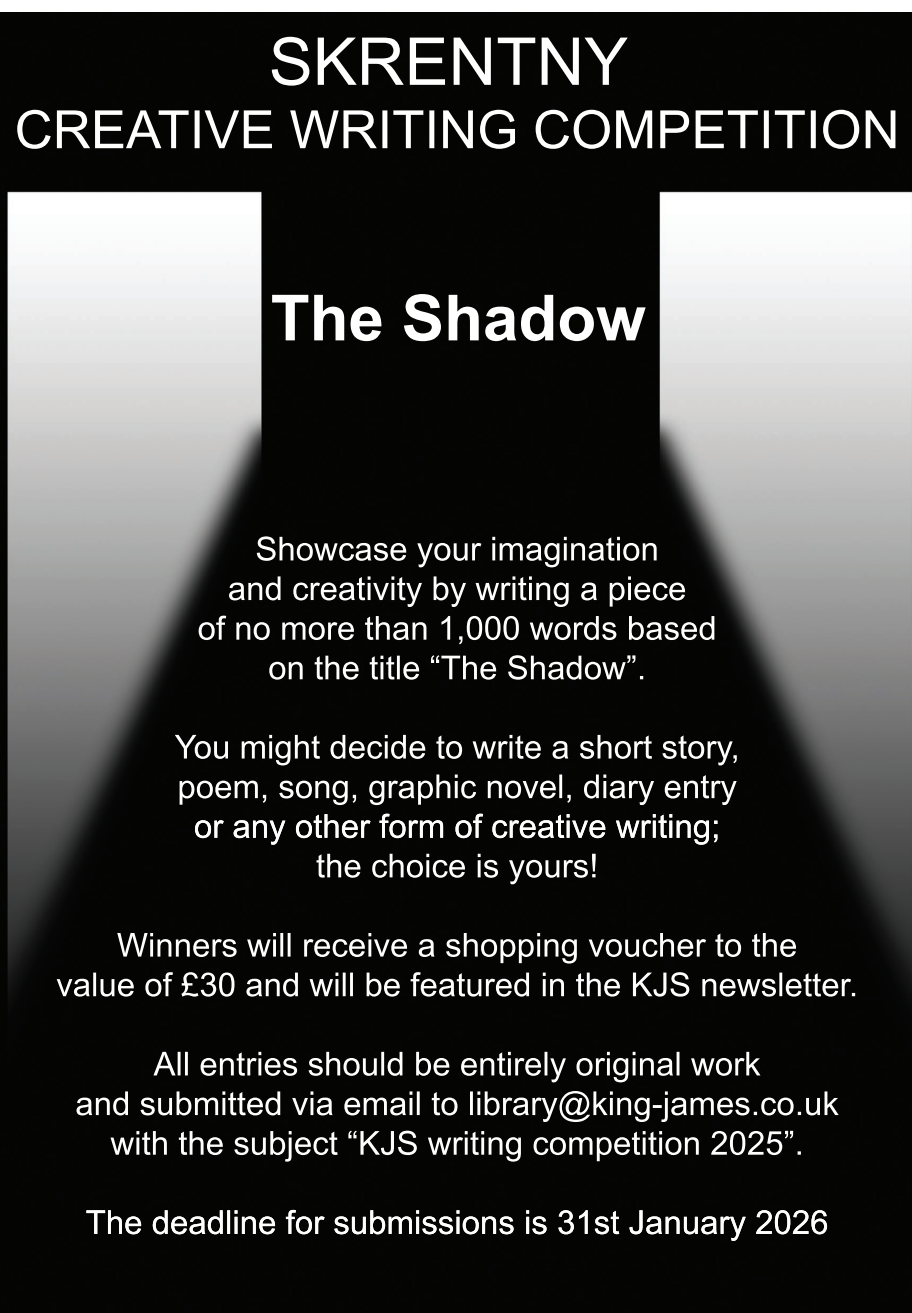
We are excited to announce our eighth annual creative writing competition. This year's title 'The Shadow', chosen by our Year 11 book club, will undoubtedly showcase your imagination and creativity. This year we have also opened the competition to all parents and carers.

### Key details:

- Up to 1,000 words
- Any genre/form of creative writing
- Must be the writer's own original work
- Deadline: 31st January 2026

### Prizes

- £30 Love2shop voucher for the winning entries in KS3-5
- £30 Love2shop voucher for the staff winning entry
- £30 Love2shop voucher for the parent/carer winning entry
- Email to: [library@king-james.co.uk](mailto:library@king-james.co.uk)
- Subject line: KJS writing competition 2025
- Include your name, and for student entries, your Tutor Group



**SKRENTNY  
CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION**

**The Shadow**

Showcase your imagination  
and creativity by writing a piece  
of no more than 1,000 words based  
on the title "The Shadow".

You might decide to write a short story,  
poem, song, graphic novel, diary entry  
or any other form of creative writing;  
the choice is yours!

Winners will receive a shopping voucher to the  
value of £30 and will be featured in the KJS newsletter.

All entries should be entirely original work  
and submitted via email to [library@king-james.co.uk](mailto:library@king-james.co.uk)  
with the subject "KJS writing competition 2025".

The deadline for submissions is 31st January 2026

## Community Events



**INSPIRE  
YOUTH  
YORKSHIRE**

# JUNIOR CHRISTMAS PARTY

**18TH DECEMBER  
4-5:30PM**

OUR FINAL JUNIOR SESSION OF 2025

DIG OUT YOUR BEST CHRISTMAS JUMPER OR PARTY PANTS AND JOIN US TO CELEBRATE WHAT A FABULOUS YEAR WE HAVE HAD! PARTY GAMES, PARTY FOOD CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AND A SPECIAL VISITOR!

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**NORTH YORKSHIRE TOGETHER**



**INSPIRE  
YOUTH  
YORKSHIRE**

# STOCKELD PARK TRIP

WE ARE OFFERING THREE CHRISTMAS TRIPS TO STOCKELD PARK

THIS ACTIVITY IS FOR AGES 11-16

29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025 10-6PM  
30<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025 9:30-5:30PM  
30<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025 10-6PM

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE  
FOLLOW LINK TO BOOK AND SELECT HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES



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JOIN US FOR AN

**INSPIRE  
YOUTH  
YORKSHIRE**

# CHRISTMAS FEAST

**22ND DECEMBER  
10-6PM  
FOR AGES 11-16**

@ INSPIRE YOUTH YORKSHIRE  
9-10 HALFPENNY CLOSE  
HG5 0TG

JOIN US FOR A DAY FULL OF  
CHRISTMAS CRAFTS, PARTY GAMES  
AND A CHRISTMAS DINNER

FREE TO ATTEND  
LIMITED AVAILABILITY  
BOOKING ESSENTIAL THOUGH  
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES OR  
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM OUR  
SESSIONS

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# 2026 KNARESBOROUGH TALENT SHOW

Saturday 21st February 2026  
at Frazer Theatre 2pm, 5pm and 7.00pm

Entry deadline 1st January 2026 - £10 entry includes adult ticket  
Open to children from Reception - Year 9



2.00PM



5.00PM



7.00PM

**It's Time To Shine** **CREATE**

A collaboration between Rabbit Head Productions Ltd and Yorkshire CREATE



YOU ARE INVITED TO

# CHRISTMAS AT THE KINGFISHER KIOSK

SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
11-3PM  
CONYNGHAM HALL

FESTIVE FOOD & DRINK  
CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES  
TOMBOLA  
CHRISTMAS STALLS

A VERY SPECIAL VISIT FROM SANTA  
KNARESBOROUGH SILVER BAND AT 12PM  
CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING

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