

# King James's School Newsletter



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## Drowning Prevention Week June 13th to June 20th 2026

Recent tragic incidents across the UK have brought this issue sharply into our focus, with the majority of lives lost being teenagers and all within open water. These heartbreaking events serve as a reminder that water can be dangerous, even for those who are confident around it. Drowning remains one of the leading causes of accidental deaths in children and young people.



We want to raise awareness of National Drowning Prevention Week by sharing water safety messages with students. These messages were delivered to Year 7, 8 and 10 through the NY Water Safety assemblies at the end of April. Year 9 will have the presentation from NY Fire Service as part of their 'Safe Beyond the Gate' day in July.

This video from the Royal Lifesaving Society will be shown to students in tutor time next week to help them to understand the dangers and remind them of the key information they need to know to enjoy water safely.

<https://vimeo.com/514252164>

## Message from Ms Oakley

Dear parents, carers and students,



### World Cup Mania!

It's been fantastic to visit tutor groups this week and hear staff and students discuss the World Cup; but not as we know it! No, this week the discussions I've heard have been about our World Cup attendance challenge. Which team will be knocked out first? Will pizza come home to England?!

### Year 10 PPEs – Can you rise to the challenge?!

Our Year 10 PPE reward launched this week – with a separate letter going home to all parents and carers outlining the challenge. Please make sure that the consent form is completed.

### And finally...

Training has been done...designs have been turned into amazing creations ... and the excitement has been building as all attention turns to the Bed Race this weekend! I'd like to give a public thanks to the Design and Technology department for the fantastic work that has gone into the Staff Bed; it's quite incredible. I'd also like to wish the very best of luck to our Sixth Form and the Staff Team and all our students who are taking part representing local community groups. I hope the weather is kind to you!

Thank you as always for your on-going support,

Kind regards,

Miriam Oakley  
Headteacher

## Student Achievement

A huge congratulations to Aimee O in Year 9 for achieving a merit in her ABRSM Grade 3 Singing for Musical Theatre exam. Well done Aimee!

## Opportunities! Sixth Form & beyond

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



<https://wakelet.com/wake/hOPLuy0Xrky73rMfYlr>

## The Week Ahead: 15th June 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Start of Year 10 exams Year 7 French trip departs	7		
Tue	Year 11 Leaver's Assembly Studio Production 1	11 All	Morning 6.00pm	S1 Drama Balcony
Wed	Studio Production 2	All	6.00pm	Drama Balcony
Thur	UCAS Discovery Day	12	All day	Leeds Beckett University
Fri				

### Bees creating a buzz!

Staff, students, and visitors were treated to an unusual sight last week when a large swarm of bees temporarily settled on a car belonging to a member of staff in the school car park.

The swarm, consisting of thousands of honeybees, gathered around the vehicle during the day, creating quite a 'buzz' among those who spotted them. While the sight of so many bees together can appear alarming, swarming is a natural part of a honeybee colony's life and is usually a peaceful process. During a swarm, bees leave their existing hive with their queen in search of a new home.

To ensure the safety of everyone on site, the area around the swarm was carefully monitored and access was restricted while assistance was sought. We were fortunate that a local beekeeper was able to attend promptly and safely collect the bees.

Using specialist equipment and years of experience, the beekeeper carefully gathered the swarm and transferred it into a secure hive box. The bees were then relocated to a suitable environment where they can continue their important work of pollination.

We would like to thank the beekeeper for their swift response and expertise, as well as everyone who followed the safety guidance while the bees were on site.



### Community Football News

Last weekend Harrogate Railway Football Club hosted a football gala, which included teams of predominantly King James's School students in years 7 and 9.

The Under-12 girls Team (Scotton Scorchers) won the Europa League, the Under-14 boys team for Knaresborough Celtic also won the Europa League and the Under-15 boys team, known as 9ine Guys, won the Champions League!

Well done to all those involved in this exciting community event.





## KJS HOUSE DRAMA 2026

29th & 30<sup>th</sup> June 6pm S1



*Tickets £5 - available outside the library at lunchtimes!*

### House Drama

House Drama tickets are selling fast and are available for just £5 for the 29th and 30th June! They can be purchased by cash or card outside the library on Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes. Don't miss out!

Hundreds of students from Years 7-13 are working exceptionally hard to prepare and getting ready for their Saturday in school next weekend to prepare their lights, sound and smoke. What a night it is going to be!

KING JAMES'S SCHOOL PRESENTS  
**"WINGING IT!"**  
 A NIGHT OF IMPROV: WHERE EVERYTHING IS MADE UP!  
 JUNE 16 & 17 6PM BALCONY  
 TICKETS £5 AVAILABLE FROM DRAMA OFFICE AT LUNCHTIMES (Mondays/Wednesdays & Fridays)

### 'Winging it'

Studio Production is on next Wednesday 17th for one night only with £5 tickets still available to buy at lunch or on the door (if we don't sell out!) The cast have been working exceptionally hard on their skills to prepare for a night of 'Winging It' based on audience suggestions and ideas. If you've seen 'Whose Line Is It Anyway?', this gives you an idea. Don't miss out on our first ever improvised show!

### Uniform donations

As we approach the end of the school year, we would be very grateful 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.



# Summer Term and Attendance

Believe it or not summer is here! Looking out of the window, it may not always feel like it, but the calendar certainly tells us otherwise. With the FIFA World Cup now underway, many families and communities will be enjoying the excitement and opportunities it brings to come together and support their teams.

We appreciate that for some students, football is a real passion. However, we would like to remind families that our expectations around attendance remain unchanged. Over the next two weeks, we will continue to monitor attendance closely, particularly for Year 10 students who are beginning their mock exams. We kindly ask parents and carers to remain mindful of bedtimes and to ensure that students attend school unless there is a genuine reason for absence.

To celebrate the World Cup spirit, we are launching our own Attendance World Cup Challenge between tutor groups. Please see the attached poster for more details. From next week, tutor groups will represent different countries, with their attendance percentages determining the number of goals they score in each fixture. The competition will run throughout the tournament, and the overall winning tutor group will receive a pizza lunch reward, with suitable alternatives available for students with dietary requirements. Good luck to all involved.

**ATTENDANCE WORLD CUP 2026**  
KICKING OFF EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE!

**HOW IT WORKS**  
Each day, your country plays one match based on yesterday's attendance.  
Attendance % = Goals

**ATTENDANCE = GOALS**  
95% and above = 4 GOALS  
90% to 95% = 3 GOALS  
85% to 90% = 2 GOALS  
80% to 85% = 1 GOAL  
Below 80% = 0 GOALS

**COMPETITION DATES**  
WEEK 1 - GROUP STAGE  
Mon 16th June - Fri 19th June  
WEEK 2 - KNOCKOUT STAGE  
Mon 22nd June - Fri 26th June

**PRIZE**  
The winning tutor group will enjoy A PIZZA LUNCH!

**WEEK 1 - GROUP STAGE FIXTURES**  
Each country plays 4 matches and has 1 rest day.

MONDAY 15TH JUNE	TUESDAY 16TH JUNE	WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE	THURSDAY 18TH JUNE	FRIDAY 19TH JUNE
<b>GROUP A</b> England v Brazil Morocco v Japan BEST: Canada	<b>GROUP A</b> England v Morocco Canada v Brazil BEST: Japan	<b>GROUP A</b> England v Japan Canada v Morocco BEST: Brazil	<b>GROUP A</b> England v Canada Brazil v Morocco BEST: Morocco	<b>GROUP A</b> Brazil v Morocco Japan v Canada BEST: England
<b>GROUP B</b> France v Argentina Australia v Netherlands BEST: South Korea	<b>GROUP B</b> France v Australia South Korea v Argentina BEST: Netherlands	<b>GROUP B</b> France v Netherlands South Korea v Australia BEST: Argentina	<b>GROUP B</b> France v South Korea Argentina v Netherlands BEST: Australia	<b>GROUP B</b> Argentina v Australia Netherlands v South Korea BEST: France
<b>GROUP C</b> Spain v Portugal Belgium v Denmark BEST: Mexico	<b>GROUP C</b> Spain v Portugal Mexico v Croatia BEST: Portugal	<b>GROUP C</b> Spain v Belgium Mexico v Portugal BEST: Portugal	<b>GROUP C</b> Spain v Mexico Portugal v Denmark BEST: Belgium	<b>GROUP C</b> Portugal v Belgium Denmark v Mexico BEST: Spain
<b>GROUP D</b> Germany v Italy Croatia v Switzerland BEST: United States	<b>GROUP D</b> Germany v Italy United States v Italy BEST: Switzerland	<b>GROUP D</b> Germany v Switzerland United States v Croatia BEST: Italy	<b>GROUP D</b> Germany v United States Italy v Switzerland BEST: Croatia	<b>GROUP D</b> Germany v Italy Switzerland v United States BEST: Germany
<b>GROUP E</b> Nigeria v Uruguay Egypt v Turkey BEST: South Africa	<b>GROUP E</b> Nigeria v Egypt South Africa v Uruguay BEST: Turkey	<b>GROUP E</b> Nigeria v Turkey South Africa v Egypt BEST: Uruguay	<b>GROUP E</b> Nigeria v South Africa Uruguay v Turkey BEST: Egypt	<b>GROUP E</b> Uruguay v Egypt Turkey v South Africa BEST: Nigeria
<b>GROUP F</b> Ghana v Colombia Senegal v Ireland BEST: Wales	<b>GROUP F</b> Ghana v Senegal Wales v Colombia BEST: Ireland	<b>GROUP F</b> Ghana v Ireland Wales v Senegal BEST: Colombia	<b>GROUP F</b> Ghana v Wales Colombia v Senegal BEST: Senegal	<b>GROUP F</b> Colombia v Ireland Ireland v Wales BEST: Ghana
<b>GROUP G</b> Poland v Chile Norway v Czech Republic BEST: Scotland	<b>GROUP G</b> Poland v Norway Scotland v Chile BEST: Czech Republic	<b>GROUP G</b> Poland v Scotland Chile v Czech Republic BEST: Chile	<b>GROUP G</b> Poland v Norway Czech Republic v Scotland BEST: Norway	<b>GROUP G</b> Czech Republic v Scotland Norway v Poland BEST: Ireland
<b>GROUP H</b> Sweden v Peru Australia v New Zealand BEST: Northern Ireland	<b>GROUP H</b> Sweden v Australia New Zealand v Peru BEST: New Zealand	<b>GROUP H</b> Sweden v Australia New Zealand v Australia BEST: Peru	<b>GROUP H</b> Sweden v Norway Australia v New Zealand BEST: Norway	<b>GROUP H</b> Peru v Australia New Zealand v Northern Ireland BEST: Sweden

**WEEK 2 - KNOCKOUT STAGE**  
Top 2 teams from each group qualify (16 teams)

MON 22ND JUN	TUE 23RD JUN
<b>ROUND OF 16</b> 8 MATCHES	<b>QUARTER-FINALS</b> 4 MATCHES
<b>WED 24TH JUN</b> SEMI-FINALS 2 MATCHES	<b>THU 25TH JUN</b> 3RD PLACE PLAY-OFF 1 MATCH
<b>FRI 26TH JUN</b> THE FINAL 1 MATCH	

**HOW TO WIN**  
• Your attendance decides the score!  
• Win your matches and earn points.  
• Top 2 teams from each group qualify for the knockout stage.  
• Can your tutor group become ATTENDANCE WORLD CUP CHAMPIONS?

**BE HERE. BE COUNTED. BE CHAMPIONS!**

## FROM OVERWHELM TO CONFIDENCE: Supporting Anxious Children Without Losing Yourself

**Parent Workshop: Speaker, Jo Cheetham**  
Monday 22nd June | 7:00pm - 8:30pm  
Sixth Form Common Room  
Parking Available

This workshop is particularly relevant for parents and carers of children who experience anxiety, especially where anxiety impacts school attendance, wellbeing, confidence and day-to-day functioning.

### The workshop will cover:

- The impact of chronic stress, burnout and overwhelm on parents.
- Helping parents recognise anxiety and threat responses within themselves and their children.
- Understanding how parental responses can unintentionally reinforce anxiety cycles and avoidance patterns.
- Boundaries as structures that create predictability and emotional safety.
- Maintaining consistent boundaries from a calm and regulated position.
- Supporting children through distress without immediately rescuing or removing discomfort.
- Practical scripts for challenging situations.
- Grounding techniques for parents and children.
- Compassionate strategies to help parents feel more confident and emotionally resourced.

Register  
[Here](#)



Jo Cheetham | Forensic Psychologist

Psychologist with over 14 years' experience supporting children, young people and adults with anxiety, trauma and emotional wellbeing difficulties.



We are also approaching the time of the Great Yorkshire Show, an event that is a much-loved tradition for many local families. While we understand its significance, we would like to remind parents that attendance at the show during the school day will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Important learning will continue throughout this period, including GCSE preparations for both Year 9 and 10 students. As the show remains open until 6pm each day, there is still an opportunity to attend after school hours for those who wish to do so.

Thank you to the many families who continue to support attendance expectations and help ensure that students make the most of every learning opportunity.

We have also seen an increase in requests for term-time holidays later in the summer term. As a reminder, family holidays taken during term time will be recorded as unauthorised absences. In line with national guidance, where a student accumulates 10 sessions (equivalent of five school days) of unauthorised absence within a ten-week period, information may be referred to the local authority, who are responsible for issuing any penalty notices. Please note that any fines issued are administered by the local authority and are not received by the school.

Although there are many exciting events still to come this term, including Sports Day and Rewards Week, teaching and learning remain our priority. Every school day plays an important role in ensuring that students are well prepared for the next stage of their education in September.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support as we work together to make this a positive, successful, and enjoyable final term.

And finally, enjoy Bed Race!

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
1st-5th June	90.6%	94.8%	91.1%	87.1%	89.4%	Study leave	92.35%	Study leave

KJS IS A READING SCHOOL  
We are all readers



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I loved this book because it was very insightful about Salah's life when he was growing up in Egypt. I also liked that it included his most important games for Liverpool, Fiorentina and Basel, which made it really exciting to read.

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

Conor (Y7)

not even death will tear them apart

*Afterlove*  
TANYA BYRNE

This book is a powerful love story between two girls, Ashana and Poppy, whose relationship is thriving. However, things take a tragic turn, and their world begins to fall apart. Despite everything they go through, their love for each other never fades which makes the story deeply moving and keeps me really intrigued as a reader.

I would rate this book 4/5 stars.  
(Recommended reading age – KS4+)

Mia Hagan (Y12)

## FEAST Summer 2026

Fully-funded summer holiday activities with [FEAST](#)

FEAST is back this summer, offering holiday activities with food for children and young people across North Yorkshire. Better yet, if you're eligible for benefits-related free school meals, your place is fully-funded.

What's happening when?

- From Monday 15th June – browse activities on the FEAST website or view the offline activity listings to see what's on in your area.
- Midday, Monday 22nd June – vouchers go live. Eligible families will receive a text or email from HolidayActivities to redeem their voucher and request places.
- From Friday 24th June – activity providers begin allocating places.

Funded places are available for children who receive benefits-related free school meals (or who are eligible by exception – see the [FEAST FAQs](#) for details). Each activity you book includes a free healthy meal for your child.

If you believe your child is eligible and do not receive your voucher on 22nd June, please contact your school office.

Families who are not eligible for free places may be able to book paid places directly with providers.

Visit the [FEAST](#) website from 15th June to explore what's on this summer.