

King James's School Newsletter

Inside this issue:

- Message from Ms Oakley
- Assemblies
- The Week Ahead
- Little Shop of Horrors
- Reading
- Sixth Form Taster day - Photography
- Attendance
- Intermediate House Maths Challenge
- Rewards Celebrations
- Careers
- Children's Mental Health Week
- Revision Sessions



Message from Ms Oakley

Dear parents, carers and students,



Spotlight on Safeguarding

Earlier this week, to coincide with Safer Internet Day, The Department for Science, Innovation, and Technology (DSIT) launched the 'You Won't Know until You Ask' campaign, providing parents and carers with practical support they can use immediately and the confidence they need to have a conversation with their children about the content they see online.

The new guidance focuses on safety settings, conversation prompts, and age-appropriate advice for tackling misinformation and harmful content – including ragebait and misogynistic content.

Ready for the next half term!

Assemblies and tutor time this week have been spent reminding our students of our expectations in relation to mobile phones, equipment and uniform, ready for our return after half term. As a brief reminder students are expected to:

- Be in full uniform, this means no hoodies or outside coats inside the building
- Ensure their mobile phones and headphones are switched off and out of site, gate to gate
- Have a school bag, with their equipment including their planners

Thank you so much for helping ensure that students are Ready to Engage with their learning.

And finally...

It's not often that I am speechless – but wow! What a treat I, along with many of you, have had this week watching "The Little Shop of Horrors." I had been lucky enough to catch a glimpse of rehearsals, but seeing the actual show was something else. A huge public thank you to all the staff involved, you have given up hours of your time to support our students to put on something that was truly spectacular. There are some wonderful photographs from the show on page 2 of the newsletter.

Students – whether you were acting, singing, dancing or playing a musical instrument, you brought the show to life. It was so clear to see how much time you have put into rehearsals, both in school and at home. I felt so proud when members of the audience took their time to speak to me, to praise you – thank you!

And as for the Stage Crew – I know that the show could not take place without you and that both the cast and staff put their trust in you. You were professional and ensured that the show ran smoothly – thank you! The entire production really was a fitting way for me to celebrate joining King James's School!

I hope you all have a lovely half term,

Kind regards,

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher

Assemblies

During the week beginning 23rd February, we will be raising awareness of LGBTQ+ History month through assemblies. These assemblies link with our school value of RESPECTFUL and will be led by a range of staff members.



The assemblies will highlight the importance of kindness, understanding, and standing up for others, reminding students that respecting everyone's identity helps make our school a safe and welcoming place for all.

The Week Ahead: 23rd February 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Second Half Spring Term begins			
Tue				
Wed				
Thur	Year 12 Pastoral Parents' Evening	12	4.00pm	
Fri				

Little Shop of Horrors

On behalf of The Drama Department, we want to offer a heartfelt thank you and congratulations to the cast, crew and band of this year's School Production. Every single one of you has been dedicated, committed, professional, positive and shone on and off the stage. We also want to extend a huge thank you all of the staff support around school and to the parents and carers of all students involved, for the months of support leading up to this event - every packed lunch for a Sunday, drop offs and collections to rehearsal, gathering items of costume and having the soundtrack repeatedly played at home. It does not go unnoticed and is always so appreciated.

We are reminded each year what an incredible community we have at King James's School. Tuesday night was opening night and every student involved made us so proud as we stood at the back of S1 cheering them on, as they did on Wednesday and Thursday as well, which were just as successful! The post show blues are going to hit hard after what is always our favourite - albeit busiest - week of the year! Thank you. And congratulations. See you in February 2027.



KJS IS A
READING
SCHOOL
We are all readers



 Follow us
@readingkjs

This week's Staff and Student Reading Recommendations

STAFF BOOK RECOMMENDATION

CLASSIC 1930S READ SET ON THE FRENCH RIVIERA

TAKES ME BACK TO INTERRAILING 1987

TENDER IS THE NIGHT
F SCOTT FITZGERALD

RECOMMENDED BY: PAUL WADDINGTON
TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY




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

ON STARLIT SHORES

Shortlisted for the Leeds Book Awards 2026, this may well be the best graphic novel I have ever read! It's full of twists, turns and secrets waiting to be unlocked. It blends magic and fantasy with stunning illustrations. The mystical creatures make this a great novel!

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

Pippa Rogers (Y7)

WOLF SIREN

This book spoke to me! It takes inspiration from Red Riding Hood but adds a unique twist, linking the character in red to the wolves in ways the original story does not. It is a must read, a truly excellent book - I loved it so, so much!

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

Hazel Brodie (Y8)

Sixth Form Taster Day - Photography

These images were produced by Year 11 students during the Sixth Form Taster Day, and were made using collage layered images and inks, which were then placed on a light box to reveal images. This work was inspired by the artist and photographer Sven Pfrommer.



Attendance

An Attendance Valentine for Our School Community:

This Valentine's, we're sending cheer,
To every student far and near.
With hearts set strong and futures bright,
Each day you come, you take a step right.

By coming to school, you plant the seed,
For growth, for dreams, for all you need.
Each lesson learned, each challenge faced,
Builds confidence that can't be replaced.

In every choice, both big and small,
Kindness and effort can guide us all.
Do what is right, be brave, be true,
Success begins inside of you.

So stay positive, keep shining through,
There's so much ahead waiting for you.
With every day and all you do,
Our school is brighter because of you.

When Getting to School Feels Hard,
Boundaries, Anxiety and Practical Strategies for Parents

Monday 9th March, 7pm - 8:30pm
Click [Here](#) to Register



- Understanding EBSA and school refusal
- Common causes, anxiety, overwhelm, emotional regulation and avoidance cycles
- Boundaries that feel supportive, balancing empathy with consistency
- Practical tools for mornings, transitions and reducing power struggles
- When to seek extra support, next steps and helpful resources for parents

Presented By The Well Connections Therapy Team

WELL CONNECTIONS
KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

MUSIC
11TH MARCH



UNITES
THE MUSIC FEELS BETTER WITH YOU

AN EVENING TO CELEBRATE RESPECT, EQUALITY, AND DIVERSITY.
WE'RE BANDING TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE OUR COMMITMENT THAT EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT KJS AND OUR COMMUNITY IS STRENGTHENED THROUGH DIVERSITY AND UNITY.

Have a fantastic half term – we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 23rd February.

2nd-6th Feb	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
	90.4%	94.5%	91.2%	87.7%	88.3%	90.6%	92.5%	93.8%

Revision Sessions

Year 11 and 13 revision schedules are listed at the end of this newsletter and are also available on the school website.

Intermediate House Maths Competition

At the end of January, a group of Year 10 and 11 students took on the opportunity to enter the Intermediate Maths Challenge, set by the UK Mathematics Trust and gained house points in doing so. This week we received the results and are absolutely delighted with their achievements. Stellan C in Year 10 gained the best in school accolade for his score, which also saw him achieve a Gold Award and qualify for the next round of the competition. Long Hei Year 11 will join him there.

Other notable mentions are for Jenny B and Henry M in Year 11 who also achieved a much-coveted Gold Award. A further 16 students gained silver awards, and 25 students bronze awards. Well done to all who took part. Mr Foster will announce full house competition results shortly.

Any parents or students wanting a little brain exercise over the holidays can try the first five questions below or find the full paper [here](#).

1. Which of these has the largest value?

A $\frac{1+2}{2}$

B $\frac{1+2+3}{3}$

C $\frac{1+2+3+4}{4}$

D $\frac{1+2+3+4+5}{5}$

E $\frac{1+2+3+4+5+6}{6}$

2. What time will it be 2026 minutes after 20:26 on Monday?

A 06:12 on Tuesday

B 16:12 on Tuesday

C 20:12 on Tuesday

D 06:12 on Wednesday

E 20:12 on Wednesday

3. A cuboid has side-lengths, in cm, which are three consecutive positive integers. It has volume 120 cm^3 . What is the area, in cm^2 , of its largest face?

A 15

B 20

C 24

D 30

E 41

4. When 35 is shared in the ratio $1 : \frac{1}{2} : \frac{1}{4}$, what is the smallest part?

A 4

B $4\frac{1}{4}$

C $4\frac{1}{2}$

D $4\frac{3}{4}$

E 5

5. The diagram shows an octagon which is formed by two overlapping rectangles. Which of the following is a correct expression for the perimeter of the octagon?

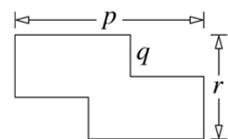
A $2p + 2r$

B $2p + 2q$

C $2q + 2r$

D $2p - 2q + 2r$

E $2p + 2q - 2r$



WELLBEING IN MIND TEAM | NHS | Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust

ONLINE WEBINAR SCHEDULE SPRING TERM 2026

- Thursday 29th January 4pm - 5pm - Sleep
- Monday 2nd March 4pm - 5pm - Understanding and Managing Emotions
- Monday 23rd March 4pm - 5pm - Self Esteem
- Monday 20th April 4pm - 5pm - Exam Stress

All webinars can be accessed through Microsoft teams and are free to join. We welcome young people, parents and carers, teachers and other professionals to join. Joining information will be posted on our social media channels closer to the time.

@wellbeinginmind.mhst | @WIMT_MHST

If you have any questions please contact teww.wimtsa@nhs.net

INSPIRE YOUTH YORKSHIRE Presents

EMPOWERHER

Girls Support Girls

Aimed at ages 10-16 years

A safe, welcoming space for girls to build confidence, share experiences, and support each other's health and wellbeing, speaking up for change

Where - Inspire Youth Yorkshire Community Hub, Halfpenny Close, Knaresborough, HG50 1TG

When - 19th December 2025 & alternative week from 16th January 2026 At 4-5:30pm

Scan below to sign up

Kindly Supported by THE LOCAL FUND

YOUNG LEADER TRAINING

Next Session: February Half Term 18th February 11am-3pm (Lunch Included)

- Be a Leader** and Support other young people
- Make It Happen** Learn to lead projects that matter to you
- Make a Difference** for Young People and Your Community
- Build Confidence** in Yourself and Your Ideas
- Youth Friendly Ripon** Youth Inspector Project to Make Ripon more Youth Friendly
- Campaign for Better** Support and opportunities for Young People
- Learn New Skills** Training in Confidence, Wellbeing & Communication

Learn Skills for Life : Become a Young Leader

YMCA Ripon
5 Water Skellgate, Ripon, HG4 1BQ
youth@riponymca.org
01765 607609
Charity No. 1180902

Reward Celebrations

Around 100 students from Years 7–11 have been recognised for their outstanding commitment to our school values this half term. Their positive attitude, dedication to learning and consistent demonstration of Ready, Respect and Engaged have truly stood out.

To celebrate, our KS3 students enjoyed an extended break time celebration, where they were treated to a cupcake and a delicious hot chocolate with friends – a well-deserved reward for their hard work and commitment.

Meanwhile, our KS4 students marked their achievement with a special trip to Butter and Bean in Knaresborough town, where they enjoyed celebratory cake together in a lovely setting.

We are incredibly proud of all the students recognised. Well done to each and every one of you! We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half term.



Careers

National Apprenticeship Week

We have been raising awareness and developing understanding of the subject specific apprenticeships this week. Amazing Apprenticeships is a brilliant website that offers information and resources for schools, students and parents. We encourage you to develop your own understanding of apprenticeships by reading “Apprenticeships: Hints & Tips for Parents & Carers” using the link below:

<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/apprenticeships-hints-tips-for-parents-carers/>



February Half Term Virtual STEM Work Experience with NESO

Tuesday 17th February 10am - 2:30pm

Are you interested in an exciting career in engineering and energy systems? Sign up for a Virtual STEM work experience with National Energy System Operator (NESO) to discover opportunities in the engineering and energy sector and learn how you can help shape the future of sustainable energy.

NESO is part of the UK Government, so it is publicly owned and has a core responsibility for the entire distribution of the UK's electricity and gas supply.

This is a fantastic opportunity to:

- Learn About Engineering Roles: Gain insight into the innovative work of the National Energy System Operator to balance supply and demand across the UK's energy grid.
- Explore Career Pathways: Discover opportunities for school-leavers and graduates and meet current and former apprentices/ graduates working towards a sustainable future.
- Hear From Experts: Meet engineers working at the forefront of the energy transition, tackling real-world challenges to create a greener and more sustainable future.
- Ask Your Questions: Participate in a live Q&A session to get tailored advice about the skills, qualifications, and experiences needed to succeed in this field.

Event Details:

- Date: Tuesday 17th February
- Time: 10:00am - 2:30pm
- Location: Virtual via Zoom (Link provided upon registration)

Who Can Attend? Years 10,11,12 and 13

[Register Here](#)



Children's Mental Health Week at King James's School

This week at King James's, we have been shining a light on the importance of Children's Mental Health Week and this year's theme: "This Is Our Place." Throughout the week, students and staff have explored what it truly means to belong—looking at how we connect with others, how we support ourselves, and how we build a community where everyone feels valued.

Each day focused on a different aspect of belonging, encouraging students to reflect on their place within school, friendships, home, and the wider world. These discussions helped students think about how they can support their own wellbeing as well as the wellbeing of others.

A special thank you goes to some of our Student Wellbeing Ambassadors—Imogen, Rosie, Hannah, Jessica, and Hattie—who created thoughtful and informative posters that were shared on our wellbeing Instagram page @KJS_Cares. Their creativity and dedication played a key role in promoting this year's theme across the school.

Across PSHCE lessons, students linked their learning to Children's Mental Health Week, exploring important themes such as identity, resilience, healthy relationships, and emotional wellbeing.

On Thursday, the Wellbeing in Mind Team hosted an interactive lunchtime stall in school. With games, conversation starters, and activities centred around belonging and wellbeing, students had the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions, ask questions, and learn practical ways to support their mental health.

Although Children's Mental Health Week lasts for just one calendar week, we want to emphasise that at King James's, mental health awareness and support continue all year round. We remain committed to creating a safe, supportive environment where every

WHAT IT MEANS TO BELONG AT KJS AND HOW TO GET SUPPORT

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BELONG AT KJS?

Belonging at KJS means that you are part of a community that recognises and accepts you for who you are.

KJS IS...

- About creating a safe environment for everyone.
- There to support you when you are down or struggling.
- A community.

KJS DOES NOT TOLERATE:

- Any kind of bullying
- Racism
- Homophobia
- Transphobia
- Violence

WHO TO SPEAK TO FOR SUPPORT:

- Your pastoral
- Your head of year
- The safeguarding team
- The nurse
- A teacher
- A trusted adult

If you are struggling in any way, it is important to speak up and tell someone you trust. By telling a member of staff in school, they can help you to the best of their abilities and support you through your struggles.



HOW WE CAN HELP OTHERS FEEL THAT THEY BELONG.

01. Be open to learning about perspectives different from your own.
02. Validate their emotions as validation communicates respect.
03. Don't force them to talk about things they aren't comfortable discussing.
04. Ask for their opinions, ideas and include them in conversations and plans.
05. Be patient and give them time to think or feel safe enough to speak to you.

CHILDRENS MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

09-15 FEBRUARY 2026

why is it important?

shines a spotlight on the emotional wellbeing of young people and reduces stigmas towards mental health

its gives them a voice which encourages children to understand their emotions, strength and challenges. which can help with building their resilience

what is this years theme?

The theme this year is 'this is my place' which focuses on the building on the importance of belonging for mental health

WHEN BELONGING GETS COMPLICATED

REMEMBER THAT:

- 1 IT'S OKAY TO OUTGROW PEOPLE
- 1 IT'S OKAY TO FEEL CONFUSED
- 1 IT'S OKAY TO CHOOSE PEACE OVER FITTING IN

ASK YOURSELF:

- AM I CHANGING WHO I AM TO STAY ACCEPTED?
- DO I FEEL DRAINED AFTER SPENDING TIME HERE?
- DO I FEEL SAFE BEING MYSELF HERE?

LOOK FOR:

- PEOPLE WHO MAKE YOU FEEL SAFE
- PLACES WHERE YOU CAN SPEAK HONESTLY
- SOMEONE OR A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND YOU

WHY BELONGING MATTERS

adolescence is when identity is being built. belonging gives people permission to try new things and fail without being crushed

Young people who feel they are more likely to engage in learning, take healthy risks, and reach out for help when they need it.

Exclusion creates loneliness, anxiety and can push people towards harmful behaviours simply to stop feeling alone.

HOW WE CAN HELP OURSELVES FEEL LIKE WE BELONG

01. **PRACTISE SELF-COMPASSION**
When you make a mistake or feel like you've failed, be kind to yourself. This helps build resilience and reminds you that your worth isn't about being perfect.
02. **FOLLOW YOUR INTERESTS**
Join clubs or groups you enjoy. Whether it's sport, video games, music or art, shared interests is a great way to connect with others.
03. **EMBRACE YOUR UNIQUENESS**
Think about your strengths and qualities. Don't be afraid to be different. Feeling comfortable with what makes you unique is key to building self-confidence.
04. **LISTEN TO YOURSELF**
Pay attention to your feelings and try to understand what you need. For example, if you're feeling lonely, listen to this and think about what might help you feel more connected.
05. **BE AUTHENTIC**
Rather than trying to "fit in", focus on being your true self. Belonging comes from being accepted for who you are.

KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

Children's mental health week

What is belonging?

Belonging is feeling and knowing you are accepted, valued and included

The feeling of belonging may feel like a human need sometimes

And remember don't change yourself to feel like you belong

It is not just about being somewhere, it's also about feeling like:

- you're welcome as you are
- you matter to others
- you don't have to pretend to fit in

Its not always about belonging but when with the right people you will know you belong. You don't always need group approval, sometimes one on one connections are better.

Design

Subject	Type of Revision	Date	Who Is Involved	Day & Time	Location	Other Information
Economics	Revision on request	Thursday afterschool	BFO	3.15pm	SF2	Speak to Mr. Foley
Business	Revision on request	Thursday afterschool	BFO	3.15pm	SF2	Speak to Mr. Foley
Geography	Resources on SharePoint	Lunchtime revision sessions	SKE	Day TBC lunchtime	D11	Details will be published soon, in meantime refer to Yellow Revision sheets
Art & Design Digital Photography	Coursework/Exam	On-going Lunch time & Free periods	BTH LCL SHO	Open door policy	A5 A6	

Year 13 Revision Support Sessions 2025-26

Subject	Type of Revision	Date	Who Is Involved	Day & Time	Location	Other Information
English Lit	Alternative drop in clinic / themed revision lesson	Week A Thursday (drop in) Week B Wednesday (themed)	Mr Gordon and special guests	Wednesday 3:20 – 4:20	M60	Sign up with Mr Gordon
English Lang	Drop in clinic	Week A Tuesday drop ins	Ms Fletcher Markin and Mr Ratcliffe	Afterschool 3.20-4.20	M56	Bring a question/topic to revisit and work on
Media Studies	Revision as requested by students	Thursdays starting after half term.	Mrs Middleyard	After school 3:15-4	M61	Please sign up for sessions with Mrs Middleyard
Maths	Past paper society	Wednesdays	Maths department	Wednesdays 3.15-4.15	L59	Bring a past paper to be working on, staff available to support
Biology	Past Papers, questions and areas of concern to students	Ongoing by arrangement Mon - Wed	Dr Shann	3.15 - 4.15	S50	Students to email and arrange 1:1 or group sessions
Chemistry	Past Papers, questions and areas of concern to students	Ongoing by arrangement	Mr Wilson	3.15 - 4.15	S75	Students to email and arrange 1:1 or group sessions

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Physics	Past Papers, questions and areas of concern to students, as requested by students	Ongoing by arrangement	Mrs May/Mr Wray	Drop in sessions. Open door policy	S27	Students to email and arrange 1:1 or group sessions
French	Revision as requested by students	Ongoing	CDA/ STO	rop in sessions. Open door policy	M17/M10	
Computer Science	Coursework catch up and revision	Thursday	EAL	After school 3:15-5:30	L2	
History	Resources transferring to sharepoint Drop in clinic	Wed lunch Week A	ACE	12.30	L8	
Philosophy and Ethics	Resources on sharepoint. Drop in clinic	Thursday Lunchtime	EST and LDU Alternative weeks	12:30	L15/16	
Product Design	Lunch and after school drop in.	Thursday after school, access to IT rooms every lunchtime	NBR	3.15 - 4.30	D7	

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