

King James's School Newsletter



Inside this issue:

- Message from Ms Oakley
- Assemblies
- Year 11 Revision
- The Week Ahead
- Paris Trip
- Teen Wellbeing
- Careers
- KJS: Music Unites
- Opportunities: Sixth Form & Beyond
- House Drama
- International Women's Day
- Year 11 Food Tech Exams
- Challenging Conversations around Attendance
- Comic Relief
- End of Learning Cycle Awards
- Arts Award
- Fully Booked!
- Duke of Edinburgh Award News

Assemblies

We are delighted to welcome Andrew Coope into school again next week. Andrew will be delivering a Fire Safety assembly to Year 10.

All other year groups will have an assembly led by their Associate Assistant Headteacher this week focused on Year Group Priorities.

Year 11 Revision

Many thanks for your attendance at the Year 11 supporting success evening. If you didn't make it the resources from the evening are on the website. There are also lots of revision materials for Year 11 on our website including our subject revision programmes which help them to structure their revision, useful online resources, revision sessions on offer in school and advice on the best ways to revise.

Please do look at our website for further information and we wish all our students the very best of luck in the summer.

[Year 11 Revision - King James's School](#)

Message from Ms Oakley

Dear parents, carers and students,

The RED Award – Music Unites!



On Wednesday, musicians from all year groups and staff came together on stage to perform in our first ever “Music Unites” evening. The evening was to celebrate our commitment to Respect, Equality and Diversity and is part of our drive to achieve the RED Award, a public recognition of our commitment to creating a community where everyone is welcomed, valued and respected.

The talent on stage was incredible! Thank you to all involved – it really was a special night. More information about the evening can be found later in this newsletter.

To learn more about the RED award and the journey we are on see [here](#).

What do school staff do on a training day?!

Ever wondered what happens in a school on a training day?

Well, yesterday all staff were involved in training that spanned Safeguarding, PSHCEE, Adaptative Teaching, allergy awareness and exam moderation and revision preparation. Staff also spent time learning about some key curriculum updates for September 2026 as well as some critical updates on some of our students with Special Education Needs.

It felt exciting and positive to be working together to support our students!

And finally...

The data for Learning Cycle 2 has been well and truly analysed and digested and 5 students have been identified for Headteacher Awards! I look forward to meeting with them over the final weeks of this term and celebrating their success with you.

Thank you as always for your on-going support,

Kind regards,

Miriam Oakley



The Week Ahead: 16 March 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon				
Tue	Rotary Technology Competition	8,10,12 (selected students)	All day	St Aidans School
Wed	Lego League Year 8 Parents Evening	7,8,9,13 (selected students) Year 8	All day 4.30-7.30pm	University of Bradford Online
Thur				
Fri				

Paris trip

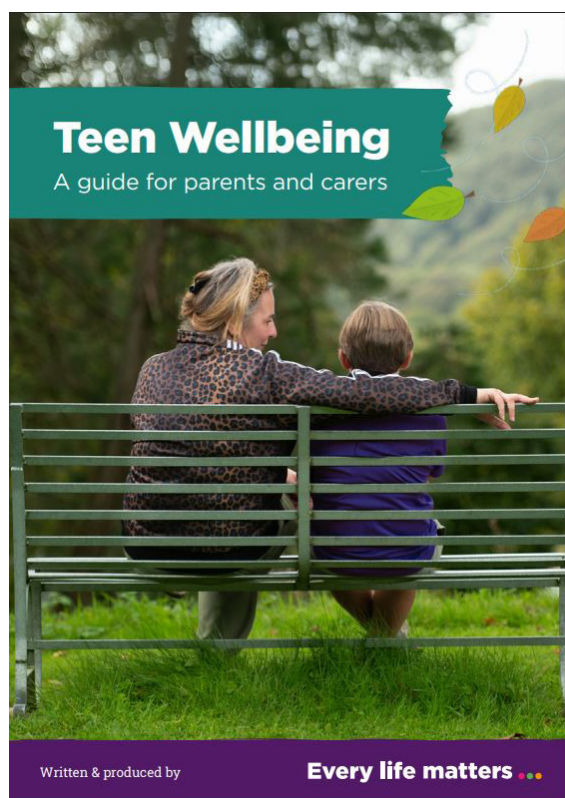
Last weekend, 40 Year 9-11 students, accompanied by 4 members of staff, spent a wonderful few days in Paris, where they enjoyed time at the Louvre, shopping on the Champs-Élysée, a boat trip on the Seine and time at the Sacré Coeur and the surrounding area. They also had the opportunity to watch the Lion King at the theatre in French.

The students were a credit to the school and an absolute pleasure to take. A fantastic time was had by all!



Teen Wellbeing

Please click on the image below for a useful guide in supporting your young person with their wellbeing:



Careers

It has been great to hear lots of careers focused conversations taking place throughout National Careers Week.

There are many excellent careers websites available to help students and parents explore future education, training and employment opportunities.

We encourage students and families to access these trusted websites. Spending a little time exploring these websites together can support informed decisions and help students feel more confident about planning their future.

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers>

<https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-levels>

<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/>

<https://www.ucas.com/>

Apprenticeship webinar - sign up!

Beyond the stereotype: trailblazing women apprentices at IBM

IBM

Jessica Smith
Digital and Technology Solutions Degree Apprentice

Gemma Hall
Junior Management Consultant Apprentice

Hear about:

- apprenticeships in the tech industry
- insights on how to apply
- advice for students considering similar pathways

Register to join live on Monday 16th March at 3.30pm

If you can't join live, register anyway to receive a recording you can watch any time.

Register here: amazon.substack.com/p/ibm

QR code:

KJS: Music Unites

We were proud to host an evening celebrating our continued commitment to respect, equality and diversity this Wednesday. Students shone on stage with a wide variety of musical acts including choirs, bands, Little Shop of Horrors and a range of solos and duets all professionally coordinated by our student tech team.

We even had the inaugural performance of our KJS Staff Choir built from colleagues from all corners of our staff body; thank you to Mrs Waddington, our choir master.

The positivity and warmth of the evening radiated throughout S1 and, as ever, students staggered the audience with the depth and breadth of their talents, and we were equally proud of how the students supported and celebrated each other - further proof of the quality of character displayed by our student's day after day.



Opportunities! Sixth Form & beyond

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

https://wakelet.com/wake/hO_PLuy0Xrky73rMfYlr

Opportunities



House Drama

The time of year is upon us again! Students will soon see posters around school and Instagram posts on our Drama page @kjs_drama, but you can see below the days and rooms for auditions for each house, as well as the show they have chosen.

Years 7-11 can audition; auditions will take place after school on the following days. There will be posters and more information in next week's newsletter.

This is a fantastic whole school event to be involved in, performed in the summer - on the 29th and 30th June. The second night is 'Judging Night' with trophies up for grabs as well as house points.

Monday 23rd March - Nidderdale - Shrek the Musical - Balcony.

Monday 23rd March - Swaledale - High School Musical - Stalls.

Wednesday 25th March - Wharfedale - Descendants - Balcony.

Wednesday 25th March - Airedale - Frozen - Stalls

We can't wait to see lots of students there!



International Women's Day

Sunday 8th March was International Women's Day. Students across all year groups received an assembly on the history of International Women's Day as well as being asked to 'Give to Gain', this year's theme. Students posed in the Give to Gain position to show they are committed to equality for all as well as making pledges on how they would promote inclusion around school. There were some in-depth discussions about rights for all across the school and how we can continue to guarantee them in our fight for equality.



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

Year 11 Food Tech Exams

Many thanks to the parents of the Year 11 Food students for their continued support throughout the examinations over the past three weeks.

Your help in providing ingredients and supporting students in practising their dishes at home in preparation for the exam has been greatly appreciated.

As a result, we have seen some excellent outcomes.

Challenging Conversations Around Attendance

On Monday evening, we held our latest Parent Workshop, led by our new Mental Health Practitioner, Stella Forster.

Around 40 parents attended, representing a range of experiences with attendance, which was wonderful to see. Thank you to everyone who came along and contributed to the discussion.

Year to date	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
	90.95%	94.50%	92.77%	87.51%	88.96%	90.95%	95.71%	92.15%

During the session, some important and sensitive issues were shared, particularly by parents supporting young people who have experienced significant and prolonged absence from school. While there are rarely quick or simple solutions to these challenges, the evening created space for an honest and thoughtful conversation about attendance and the ways schools and families can work together to support children.

We know that attendance difficulties can be complex and deeply stressful for families. Our goal as a school is to listen carefully to each individual situation, offer the support and options available to us, and continue learning more about how we can best help. Meetings like this are also valuable for our staff, helping us deepen our understanding and develop practical ways to support students and families.

More importantly, we want parents and carers to know that you are not facing these challenges alone. Open conversations and strong partnerships between home and school are key to helping young people feel supported and able to attend.

Please do keep talking to us if you are experiencing difficulties with your child attending school. We are here to listen, to support, and to work together in the best interest of every child.

Comic Relief

Red Nose Day this year is a celebration of 41 years of fund raising for Comic Relief. We are hopeful that we can pull together as a school community to support incredible projects which help children to be happier, families stronger, women safer, communities prouder, and millions of lives fairer.



As a school, we are hoping to raise money and awareness of this important charity by having a non uniform day on Friday 20th March. In return for wearing casual clothes, we are asking for donations via Parentpay.

To ensure the day has a good balance of fundraising fun and students meeting our values and expectations, please can you talk through the points below with your child prior to Friday.

- Non uniform days are a chance to express your personal style so pick clothes that represent you and make you feel good within the school's guidance.
- The schools guidance for non uniform days are - Comfortable clothing. No low cut tops, crop tops or very short shorts or skirts. Please avoid clothing that exposes too much skin. No clothing with inappropriate language, symbols or images.
- If you have PE on a non uniform day you must still bring your PE kit.
- Behaviour expectations in lesson and during unstructured times remain the same and students are expected to meet them.

KJS shared values of

READY

“ Succeeding at KJS starts with arriving at school mentally, socially and emotionally ready. ”

Set no limits on what you can achieve

IN LESSONS	AROUND SCHOOL
<p>We show we are organised by arriving on time & having the correct equipment for lessons.</p> <p>We behave by following instructions promptly & staying on task.</p> <p>We communicate effectively with our teachers by completing homework on time & catching up with work.</p>	<p>We show we are ready by wearing our uniform correctly both in school & in the community.</p> <p>We behave in a resilient manner & attend school every day we can.</p> <p>We communicate daily with members of staff to help us solve problems.</p>

Attendance Percentage

0 days late	8 days late	10 days late	19 days late	20 days late	30 days late
100%	96%	95%	90%	89%	85%

Daily Lateness Equates to...

5 Minutes Late	10 Minutes Late	15 Minutes Late
3 DAYS LOST	6 DAYS LOST	10 DAYS LOST

KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KJS shared values of

RESPECTFUL

“ Treat others as we would want to be treated ourselves, showing kindness and understanding. ”

Set no limits on what you can achieve

IN LESSONS	AROUND SCHOOL
<p>We show good listening skills by giving our full attention to others when they are speaking.</p> <p>We behave in a way that embraces diversity and makes everyone feel valued & included.</p> <p>We communicate with empathy and try to understand other people's perspectives before we respond.</p>	<p>We show patience & good manners by walking around school quietly & calmly on the left.</p> <p>We behave safely & take responsibility for our own actions.</p> <p>We communicate politely, using appropriate language which is considerate towards others.</p>

KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KJS shared values of

ENGAGED

“ Be proud of the work we do, the people we are and the difference we can make at KJS. ”

Set no limits on what you can achieve

IN LESSONS	AROUND SCHOOL
<p>We show aspiration by embracing opportunities to learn & challenging ourselves.</p> <p>We behave by being motivated to learn, resilient and having a positive mindset.</p> <p>We communicate by taking part positively in class discussions & responding to feedback.</p>	<p>We show commitment through our involvement in opportunities outside of the classroom.</p> <p>We behave as role models to others by always meeting the KJS Values</p> <p>We communicate positively by listening attentively & responding thoughtfully.</p>

KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

End of Learning Cycle Awards

At the end of LC2 we have awarded our students with their our Ready, Respectful and Engaged Tokens, these are highest level of award given to students who have consistently demonstrated our school values at a high level over the full learning Cycle:

Ready - Awarded by our Form Tutors Teams. Approximately 100

Respectful - Awarded by our Pastoral Year Teams. Approximately 100

Engaged - Awarded by our Department/ subjects Teams. Approximately 150

At the end of Learning Cycle 1, two Year 11 Students managed to receive the Headteachers award by gaining all 3 tokens in the first Learning Cycle, which was amazing!

At the end of Learning Cycle 2 we have another 5 students who will be joining them with 2 Learning Cycles to go!

Headteachers Awards after Learning Cycle 2:

Izzy K - Y11

Lukas K - Y11

Charlotte B - Y7

Sarah B - Y7

Hollie B - Y9

Lucy E - Y10

Imogen C Y11

Arts Award

We're pleased to share a new opportunity coming to King James's School: a weekly Arts Award programme delivered by Yorkshire CREATE and generously funded by Knaresborough Rotary.

Starting soon, students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 can take part in a one-hour after-school session on Wednesdays in the Library each week. The programme uses creative practice to build real-world arts and literacy skills - through research, creative writing, reflective journals, and exploring artists and organisations. Students can work toward Explore, Discover, Bronze, Silver, or Gold Arts Awards, with higher levels carrying UCAS points.

This is a great chance for your child/children to pursue personal creative interests, strengthen communication skills, and join a supportive, mixed-age creative community.

Places are limited. If you think your child may be interested in this fantastic opportunity, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at library@king-james.co.uk using 'Arts Award' as the subject heading.



Fully Booked!

Last week, our annual literary festival Fully Booked! A Celebration of Reading brought the whole school together to share stories, celebrate authors and illustrators, enjoy creative writing, and, above all, embrace the joy of reading. A highlight of the week was welcoming Matt Abbott, one of the UK's leading poetry facilitators, who brought his infectious enthusiasm for poetry to several of our KS3 classes. Matt's workshops left a real spark, captured perfectly by a student noting 'this lesson was really entertaining, and it has helped me to improve my skills in poetry so much!'

It was also a pleasure to welcome back a former KJS student, Rowena Lloyd, Director of Yorkshire CREATE, a local community arts organisation. Rowena spoke to our students about a new Arts Award programme which is fully funded by Knaresborough Rotary. We are currently offering thirty places to students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 12.

There was also a wide range of engaging departmental activities throughout the week. For example, students in the Maths department explored the history of the metric system by listening to book extracts read aloud by their teachers as well as tackling a vocabulary challenge and taking part in a range of fun activities. In Computer Science, teachers read extracts from 'The Wild Robot' and 'The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy' followed by a series of tasks about Robotics and AI.



Fully Booked! Celebrations



Skrentny Creative Writing Competition Winners



PSHCEE Wellbeing Posters



Matt Abbott Author Visit And Poetry Workshops



Staff World Book Day Fancy Dress



We are all readers



Fully Booked! Celebrations



Dressed Doors



House Competitions



Crafts and Book Reviews



World Book Day Book Sale



We are all readers

Many of our students have taken part in the multiple competitions on offer. The entries to the 'Dress Your Door' competition have ranged from individual book characters to entire scenes and the creativity and craftsmanship on display is inspiring.

Students threw themselves into our house competitions, 'The Masked Reader' and the Y7 'Emoji Book Title Quiz,' with huge enthusiasm. Congratulations to Wharfedale, who topped the leaderboard by correctly identifying the most teachers behind the masks, as well as the excerpts they were reading! Also, a big well done to Nidderdale, who soared to first place in the 'Emoji Book Title Quiz.'

The Fully Booked! festival once again demonstrated the strength of our school community and its commitment to fostering a culture of reading and creativity. We extend our sincere thanks to all staff, students, and visitors who contributed to the success of this year's programme. We look forward to continuing to cultivate a rich and inspiring reading culture in the months ahead.

Duke of Edinburgh Award News

On Thursday, 65 students attended their First Aid training for the D of E Award. Students were engaged with all aspects of first aid including CPR. During the day, students had to put into practice what they had learnt inside. For this they had to brave the challenging weather conditions and go outside to face very strong winds and rain. Students met this challenge with enthusiasm, with some having to chase after their equipment as it was carried away by the wind! Students worked well together and encouraged each other. The students were a credit to King James in their behaviour and attitude. Well done to all who successfully passed their training.

