

Friday 14th November 2025

King James's School Newsletter

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U16 Girl's Football

The U16 girls football team travelled to Rotherham on Wednesday in the National Cup. They represented the school really well under some tough conditions and won the match 3-0, with 2 goals from Lucie R and a goal from Rosie G. They now progress to round 4.

Best of luck in the next stage girls.

Year 7 Boys Football

This week, the Year 7 boys' football team played in the Area Tournament. They played some very hard-fought matches and were unlucky to finish in third place, losing only to the eventual winners, despite dominating the match. Well done to all the boys!



Assemblies

There are no assemblies next week due to the Year 11 mock exams taking place in both S1 and Chaloner Hall.

Children in Need

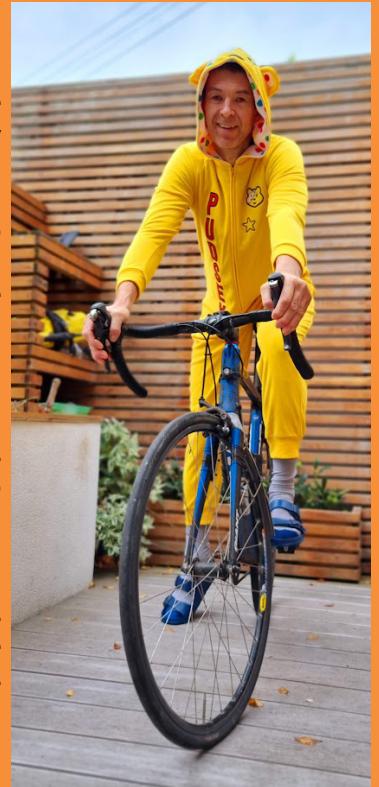
Today's non uniform day was a success and we are grateful for the enthusiasm and generosity shown by our staff, students and families.

Thanks to your support we were able to raise valuable funds to support Children in Need, making a meaningful difference to the lives of many children and young people.

A special thank you goes to Mr Dumont, who cycled from Otley to Knaresborough this morning dressed as Pudsey Bear and has taught all of his classes today dressed as Pudsey Bear. A brilliant way to raise awareness and encourage extra donations.

Donations to Children in Need can be made via Parent Pay and we will continue to accept donations until 4pm on Monday 17th November. We will update you with the total amount raised in next week's newsletter; we are hoping to raise a total of £2,000.

Thank you for your continued kindness and support.



Football Success!

Last week the Year 8 girls made it through to the 4th round of the National Schools cup by beating Immanuel College on penalties.

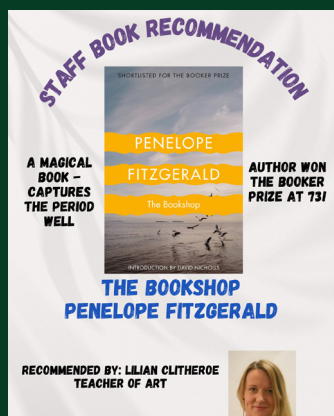
The girls showed great resilience coming back from 1-0 and 3-2 down to draw 3-3 with a goal from Honour in the last minute! We then won the penalty shoot out 3-1 to start some great celebrations from the team and the boys team who were watching!



On Friday, the girls then played in the Harrogate Town 7-a-side tournament. We entered two teams, and the B-team acquitted themselves admirably against strong opposition to finish 5th. The A-team managed to beat a strong St Aidan's team and finished runners up after a narrow 1-0 loss to St John Fishers.

Well done to all the girls for playing so well and managing to keep smiling despite the rain!

This week's Staff Reading Recommendation



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

Frankenstein viewing

It was a dreary night in November when Year 13 beheld the accomplishment of Mary Shelley's toils - a screening of a new film adaptation of the sci-fi classic Frankenstein. Our A-Level English Literature students were treated to 'Frankenstein Fanta' and 'Creature Cola' with 'Prometheus Pringles' and 'Strawberry De Laceys'. We had a fabulous time debating the changes made and symbolic elements after, and occasionally during, the film.



GCSE Drama/Performing Arts Exam Pieces

Welcome to new Parent Governors

Our congratulations go to Hannah Barrett and Will Hairsine, who have been appointed as Parent Governors to the Boroughbridge High School and King James's School Federation.

We look forward to working with them and benefitting from their expertise.

Drama and Performing Arts Careers

It was fantastic to have some of our Year 13 students chat to Josh Wichard on video call for the next session of our 'Careers Series'. Josh is a professional voiceover, motion capture artist and actor.



He had invaluable advice for further education, drama school and life in the industry, including if you want to spend your life in the arts, you've got to "fall in love with it every day over and over"; "see yourself as a problem solver" when you walk into auditions, and that "comfort zones are a nice place to be, but nothing grows there." Keep your eye out for more Careers Q&A opportunities coming up in the Drama Department!

A huge congratulations to our Year 11 GCSE Drama and Performing Arts cohorts this year.

GCSE Drama students performed their devised exam pieces this week, whilst Year 11 Performing Arts students had their scripted exams!

Every single member of all three classes was professional, focused and extremely successful in their performance!

We are very proud of you all!

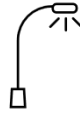


The Week Ahead: 17th November 2025

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Y11 Mock Exams start	11		
Tue				
Wed	GCSE Prize Giving	11 (2025 cohort)	7.00pm	Chaloner Hall
Thur				
Fri	Knitting & Stitching Show trip	12		

Spotlight on SEND

Exam Access Arrangements – What Parents Need to Know



Our school follows the JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) 2025–26 guidance to make sure all students can access exams fairly and consistently.

What are Access Arrangements?

These are adjustments put in place for students who have a special educational need, disability or temporary injury that affects their exam performance. They do not change the demands of the exam—just remove barriers so the student can show what they know.

How decisions are made

- Arrangements must reflect a student's normal way of working in lessons.
- The school gathers evidence from teachers to show the support is needed in the classroom and that without such arrangement a students would suffer significant disadvantage.
- External reports (e.g., from assessors or medical professionals) are helpful but do not automatically guarantee an arrangement. The final decision lies with the school under JCQ rules.

Approval process

Some arrangements must be applied for through the JCQ online system and approved before use. Deadlines apply, so early communication with school is important.

What we ask from parents

- Keep us informed of any relevant needs or changes.
- Understand that we must follow JCQ regulations exactly; we cannot grant arrangements that do not meet the criteria.
- Be aware that arrangements during mocks exam and learning cycle test are used to trial possible reasonable adjustment to help gather evidence of need; they cannot be guaranteed without strong evidence and in some situation additional assessments are also needed.

More information for parents can be found on the document at the end of this newsletter.

Attendance

It can sometimes be all too easy to focus on what isn't working well. As a school, we work hard on attendance, and that often means looking closely at why students may be struggling to come in. We support families, listen to our young people, and try to understand the barriers they face, because we want every student to have access to the education they deserve. We also feel, like all schools, the pressure of government expectations to keep improving our attendance figures.

But this week, we want to shine a light on something wonderfully positive: the 92.7% of our students who are consistently coming into school. This isn't just the students with 100% attendance. It includes those who've been unwell and return ready to catch up; those who face anxiety but bravely push through each morning; those experiencing challenges at home yet still walk through our doors; those managing medical needs and attend whenever they can; and those who find school tough but keep giving it their best.

We see the effort, the resilience, and the determination behind every one of those students, and we know it's often a team effort. So, to all parents and carers, please give yourselves a well-deserved pat on the back.

And to the 7.3% of students who are working just as hard, overcoming just as many challenges, but aren't always able to attend as often, we see you too. You are part of our community, and your story matters every bit as much as the numbers.

On Children in Need Day, we want to celebrate every small win and every act of perseverance. Keep going, you're doing brilliantly.



	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
3rd-7th Nov	92.7%	95.8%	94.2%	89.2%	91.2%	92.8%

Careers

Insight into Farrer & Co Virtual Law Event for Y12, 13

Monday, 24th November 2025, 5pm - 6:30pm

Farrer & Co is renowned for its work with high-net-worth individuals, charities, institutions, and businesses across the UK and beyond; they also represent the Royal Family. This event is your chance to learn directly from professionals at the firm and gain a deeper understanding of what it's like to work at the forefront of the legal world.

Here's what you'll experience during the event:

- Exclusive Insights from Legal Experts: Hear from Farrer & Co lawyers and trainees as they share their career journeys, daily experiences, and advice for aspiring legal professionals.
- Understanding Farrer & Co: Learn about the firm's practice areas, including private client work, intellectual property, commercial law, and more.
- Career Pathways: Explore the opportunities available for students, including solicitor apprenticeships, internships, training contracts, and work experience programmes.
- Application Advice: Receive practical tips on how to stand out in your applications and interviews to secure a future in law.
- Interactive Q&A Session: Ask your questions directly to the Farrer & Co team and get tailored advice for your career aspirations.
- This virtual event is open to all students interested in law, but spaces are limited —register now to secure your spot and take the first step toward a successful legal career.

Register Here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Farrer_Co_Law

Askham Bryan College Taster Day – 13th and 15th January 2026

This is a fantastic opportunity for our current Year 11 students who are considering a Post 16 application to Askham Bryan. The Taster Day sessions offer a chance for students to experience a subject area they're interested in, meet the college tutors, and get a feel for studying at Askham Bryan.

Schedule:

- Arrival from 9:15
- Introduction at 9:30
- Taster session in chosen department from 10:00
- Departure at 12:30

Students will need to make their own travel arrangements and will be out of school for the morning/day. Parents will need to submit an absence request for this event. Bookings close at 16:00 on Friday 9th January 2025.

Please book your place using the following link : [Askham Bryan Taster Session 2026](#)

The British Army

Ever wondered what life in the British Army is really like?

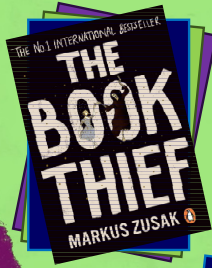
Behind the Camo is a four-part virtual event series that gives a real, honest look at life in the British Army. Each episode features serving soldiers answering questions people don't usually ask - covering different topics like career options, daily life, and common myths. It's a great opportunity to hear personal stories, explore the wide range of roles available, and see how Army life can be more supportive and rewarding than you might expect. Get insider knowledge, hear directly from those living Army life, and have your unanswered questions tackled.

In our first episode, we explore the Army's core roles in defence, peacekeeping, and humanitarian missions, brought to life through personal stories from serving soldiers. You'll also have the chance to ask questions live during the event, with our team on hand to respond in real time, giving you direct access to honest answers and real experiences from Army life.

- Episode 1 – Behind the CAMO - What does the Army do?
- Wednesday, 19th November 2025
- 6:00 PM – 6:45 PM

Link to register – [Register Today](#)

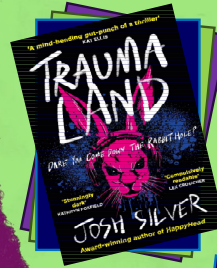
This Week's Student Book Reviews



This book is really useful for GCSE History as it follows the life of a German girl during the Second World War. Although it's quite sad, it's a great book for understanding the atmosphere of Nazi Germany at the time. It's beautifully written, and you can't help but fall in love with the characters.

I would rate this book 4.5/5 stars.
(Recommended reading age - Y8 and above)

Triana Y12



Absolutely amazing! This book is so dark, thrilling and brilliant. I would recommend it to anyone in Y9 and above who loves horror, mystery and dark twists.

I would rate this book 4.5/5 stars.

Bethany Wallis Y8

KING JAMES' WELLBEING FAIR

Supporting Parents & Carers to Support Their Children

 Thursday 27th November

 4:30–6:30pm

 Room S1

What's Happening:

-  Meet professionals offering advice on mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing
-  Get support and guidance tailored for parents and carers
-  Enjoy live musical performances by students throughout the evening
-  Opportunities for private follow-up discussions with services

Why Attend?

Whether you're currently concerned or simply want to be prepared, this event is designed to help you feel informed, empowered, and supported.





Guidance for parents, carers and students about access arrangements



WHAT ARE ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS?

- Access arrangements allow students with specific needs, such as special educational needs or disabilities, to access an exam.
- They allow students to show what they know and can do without changing the demands of the exam.



HOW WILL THE PROCESS START?

- Parents and carers should let the SENCo know as soon as possible if their child has additional needs. Good and open communication is important.
- Students in further education should record their additional needs on the college's enrolment form.
- The SENCo will work with teachers and the student to identify possible arrangements.
- Various access arrangements are available. For example, support for students who have difficulties with reading, writing, speed of working or concentration.
- Not all students with additional needs will require access arrangements. This depends on whether their difficulty affects their access to exams. Additional needs or a diagnosis alone do not entitle a student to access arrangements.



WHO WILL MAKE THE ASSESSMENT?

- If a student has learning difficulties, the school or college's appointed assessor must conduct the assessment to determine the need for access arrangements, such as 25% extra time.
- If an external assessor diagnoses a learning difficulty (for example, dyslexia or dyscalculia), the assessment can only be used as evidence for access arrangements if the assessor has liaised with the school or college and received the necessary access arrangements paperwork in advance of the assessment taking place.
- Specialists (for example, a medical consultant or a psychiatrist) are responsible for providing a formal diagnosis. They are **not** responsible for decisions about access arrangements.
- The school or college must decide which access arrangements a student has for their exams.
- Teachers must give evidence to show that an access arrangement is needed. The school or college will record how effective the arrangement is in the classroom, in internal tests or in mock exams.



WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE DONE?

- The school or college will have to apply for some arrangements.
- If a student has complex needs, a school or college can discuss their needs with the exam board.

FINALLY

Schools and colleges **must** follow the rules. They are inspected and if they are found to be breaking the rules, this will be malpractice.

**If you have any questions about access arrangements,
please speak to the school, college or SENCo.**