

King James's School Newsletter

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Assemblies

Year 9 continue to have assemblies linked to careers and GCSE Options and we have a representative from Askham Bryan College coming into school to speak to students about what it is like to study at Askham Bryan, the courses they offer and the qualifications our students would need to access them.

The other year groups have assemblies delivered by their Associate Assistant Headteacher focused on their year group priorities.

Sporting Successes

Congratulations and commiserations go to the U16 girls who earlier in the week travelled to Yarm in the National Cup. Despite a solid effort, they were unfortunately beaten by a strong opposition. We are incredibly proud of the team, who managed to get to the last 32 from a starting point of 400 teams.

On Monday, the Year 7 girls football team took part in the Harrogate area 7-a-side tournament. They competed with great enthusiasm and skill, winning 1 and drawing 3 of their 5 games. The girls took turns going in goal and Sienna was given 'save of the tournament'! The girls defended extremely well and only conceded 1 goal, eventually finishing level 3rd. A really creditable performance, well done girls! Congratulations to all involved.

KS3 Art Club

This week in Key Stage 3 Art Club, we have started working on themes that art club members have requested to look at, starting with Pointillism.

Pointillism is a painting technique that uses tiny, distinct dots of pure color applied in patterns to create an image.

Here are some examples of fruit drawn using the pointillist technique of using dots to build up tone and detail.



Message from Ms Oakley

Dear parents, carers and students,

Spotlight on Post 16!



Congratulations to our Year 13 students who had a tough start to their term with two weeks of mock examinations. I would like to publicly thank them for their outstanding conduct in their examinations and their positive, can-do approach to their exams.

I would also like to thank our Post 16 Team for last night's Sixth Form Open Evening. It was lovely to get to meet so many parents, carers and prospective students. Our sixth form really is quite rightly something we are immensely proud of, and I look forward to welcoming many of our current year 11 students back to school next year.

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher



Little Shop of Horrors 2026

Tickets are now on sale outside the library at break and lunchtime. Card and cash payments are both accepted.

KJS PRESENTS
LITTLE SHOP
OF
HORRORS

10TH, 11TH, 12TH FEBRUARY - 7PM - \$1

TICKETS:
£10 FOR CHILDREN
£12 FOR ADULTS
ON SALE OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY AT LUNCHTIMES. CASH & CARD ACCEPTED.

2003 BROADWAY VERSION. BOOK & LYRICS BY HOWARD ASHMAN. MUSIC BY ALAN MENKEN.

The Week Ahead: 19th January 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon				
Tue	Y12 Hackathon	Y12	All day	University of Leeds
Wed				
Thur				
Fri				

Sixth Form Open Evening

It was lovely to welcome so many students and parents to last night's Sixth Form Open Evening.

The hall was full for the presentation and school was buzzing with a great atmosphere in the subject areas. Students and parents had lots to think about and many questions to ask. There were long queues at the Sixth Form cafe where hot chocolate seemed to be the drink of the night!

Thank you to everyone who came and looked around the school. We hope you found the evening informative and a useful step towards making those important Post 16 decisions.

If you require any further information, please use these links for the Sixth Form pages on the school website and the Sixth Form Prospectus.

<https://www.king-james.co.uk/joining-our-sixth-form/>

https://www.king-james.co.uk/6thFormProspectus-2026_27/

If you have any questions please email sixthform@king-james.co.uk

We look forward to receiving your applications.



Careers

Insight opportunity for Year 12 & Year 13.

Insight into BDO. The World's 5th Largest Accounting & Professional Services Firm



Tuesday, 20th January from 5pm - 6:30pm

We're excited to invite students to an exclusive, virtual insight event with BDO on Tuesday, 20th January 2026, from 5pm - 6:30pm. This event is designed for students eager to learn more about business and accounting.

Students will hear directly from BDO professionals about their experiences and career journey. They will learn about BDO's renowned graduate, apprenticeship, and work experience programs and they will explore opportunities in audit, tax, advisory, and more!

Why Attend?

- Discover pathways into a career in accounting and professional services.
- Gain valuable insights into the skills and attributes BDO looks for in future talent.
- Get your questions answered directly by BDO's team.

Event Details:

- Date: Tuesday, 20th January 2026
- Time: 5pm – 6:30pm
- Location: Virtual via Zoom (Link provided upon registration)
- For: Year 12 and 13 & university students

[Register now to Secure Your Place](#)

Attendance

At King James's, we recognise just how serious anxiety can be and the significant impact it may have on a young person's wellbeing and attendance. Anxiety-related difficulties are one of the more common reasons for school absence, and we understand how overwhelming and debilitating these feelings can be for both children and their families. As parents and carers, it can be helpful to understand the difference between anxiousness and anxiety, as this can guide how to best support your child.

Anxiousness is a normal and expected response to stressful or unfamiliar situations. It is usually temporary and manageable. Many students experience anxious feelings at predictable times of the school year, such as before exams, performances or events. It can also arise in everyday situations that may feel small to adults but very real to children, such as friendship difficulties, non-uniform days, or worries about incomplete homework. This often shows as mild nervousness, butterflies, or slight tension.

In these situations, gently encouraging your child to attend school can be very beneficial. Worries can often feel much bigger on the moment than they turn out to be, and facing them helps children build confidence and resilience. Attending school also allows issues, such as misunderstandings with friends or concerns about schoolwork, to be addressed sooner rather than later, with support in place.

Anxiety, however, presents differently. It is typically ongoing and persistent, often lasting weeks or months, and the intensity of the fear may not match the situation. This can have a wider impact on a young person's physical and emotional health and may lead to school avoidance or refusal. Symptoms may include panic attacks, frequent headaches or stomach aches, sleep difficulties, or a constant sense of fear or distress.

In these circumstances, additional support is often needed. This may involve speaking with your GP or accessing services such as Wellbeing in Mind or CAMHS. It is also essential that school is aware of what your child is experiencing so we can work alongside you, offer appropriate support, and help navigate this challenging time together.

Please be assured that we are always here to support you and your child, whether they are experiencing anxiousness or anxiety. Understanding the difference can help when deciding how best to respond if your child feels unable to attend school. If you have any concerns or would like to discuss your child's needs further, please feel free to contact us.

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
5th-9th January	91.0%	94.5%	93.3%	87.2%	88.1%	92.0%	94.3%	Study Leave



 **Empower**

Are you aged 13-15?
Want to feel better about yourself?
"...no pressure to talk about anything if you don't want to."
"I feel more aware of myself."

Our next Empower course...
Thursday 29th January 2026
6.30pm-8pm
Where..
Wellspring House,
78 High Street,
Starbeck, Harrogate,
HG2 7LW

Contact Jo & Jane to find out more...
✉ empower@wellspringtherapy.co.uk
📞 01423 881 881
wellspringtherapy.co.uk/youth/empower/
Registered Charity, number 1100420, and a Company limited by guarantee, Number 4728609

8 sessions, all FREE
Talk about real stuff
Trained counsellors
Positive group work

 "I love coming because I feel seen and I don't feel weird."





Follow us
@readingkjs



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 with the subject "KJS writing competition 2025".

The deadline for submissions is 31st January 2026

STAFF BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THE TENANT
FREIDA MCFADDEN

FROM JUNIOR TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
GRIPPING PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER

DESPERATE FOR CASH
BLAKE RENTS A ROOM TO THE
SEEMINGLY PERFECT WHITNEY...

RECOMMENDED BY: SAM JACKSON
ACTING HEAD OF MUSIC

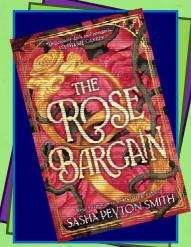


This week's Staff Reading Recommendation

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



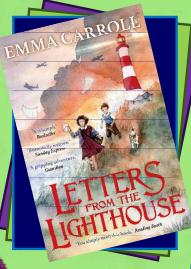
This Week's Student Book Reviews



This book was BRILLIANT! It's follows a girl called Ivy who must face a series of trials to win the hand of Prince Bram, but along the way she unexpectedly falls in love with someone else. If you enjoy fantasy-romance, this is the perfect read!

I would rate this book 5/5 stars.
(Recommended reading age – 14+)

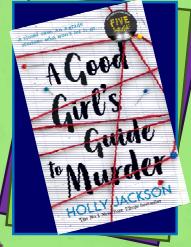
Bethany Wallis (Y8)



I love this book! It's a gripping adventure full of surprises and you don't know what's coming. Set in World War 2, Olive and Cliff are evacuated from London to Devon when their older sister Suki goes missing one night during an air raid. It's a tension builder until the very end making you want to keep reading. This is one of my favourite books of all times!

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

Roux Westwood-Bryant (Y7)



This book hooks the reader in from the start with its central mystery: "Whodunit?". The plot makes you question multiple characters and there are many twists which keep you guessing until the very end. It's a must-read for fans of true crime.

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

Amelia (Y12)



The Library and Science departments invite you to discover why chess is taking the world by storm! This timeless game doesn't just entertain—it improves your reading skills, sharpens your planning, boosts memory, strengthens concentration, and supercharges problem-solving skills.


Join the Chess Club!
Where? Room S60
When? Every Friday lunchtime, 12:30 – 1:05 PM
Come along for a friendly game of chess – open to all year groups and skill levels, from complete beginners to seasoned Chess Masters!



KNARESBOROUGH YOUTH CLUB

Food Music Fun Support Chill
Arts & Crafts Games Relax Socialise

Tuesdays (term time only)

7-9pm @ Gracious Street Methodist Church,

Chapel St, Knaresborough. HG5 8AN

Open to young people in school yr7+

50p per session (first session free)



www.nyy.org.uk