

King James's School Newsletter

Inside this issue:

- Message from Ms Oakley
- Careers Fair - reminder
- Show Racism the Red Card
- The Week Ahead
- Restart a Heart Day
- Spotlight on SEND - access arrangements
- Sixth Form Open Evening
- Drama Council Recruitment
- Year 9 Netball News
- Year 11 Art Craft & Design
- Leisure Centre Car Park
- Attendance Matters
- Youth Reporter Recognition Report
- Chess/Homework Clubs
- Resilience Webinar

Careers Fair

Another reminder about our Careers Fair! We have 47 confirmed exhibitors this year, with a mix of employers, apprenticeship providers, colleges and universities.



The Careers Fair is an important event as it is a great opportunity for students to:

- speak directly with employers and industry professionals.
- learn about apprenticeship and employment opportunities.
- explore further and higher education pathways.
- gain insight into different career sectors and industries.
- ask questions about qualifications, training and skills required for various careers.

The Careers Fair takes place on Thursday 22nd October. It starts at 4pm and finishes at 6pm.

All students and parents from Year 9,10,11,12 and 13 are invited.

Message from Ms Oakley

Dear parents, carers and students,

More praise for our students!

This week my in-box has been full of lovely emails from visitors to our Open Evening, which again have praised our staff and students. Comments have ranged from:

"Your students were so welcoming"

"I couldn't pull my child away from the sports hall – the activities were so much fun"

"The pin-the-tail on the Daschund in German was inspired!"

Thank you again to all the young people involved last week; you made us so proud!

Life beyond the classroom

The personal development of our students is a key priority of King James's and it's been fantastic to see such an abundance of enrichment opportunities on offer. This week our students have run miles in Cross Country, demonstrated excellence in football, rehearsed for our musical and our year eights have learnt how to "Restart a Heart."

And finally...

Staff may have looked a little different today, as red was the colour of choice – be it a bow tie, jumper or even a ribbon – but the message is always the same; racism has no place in our school.

I am incredibly proud of our endeavours as a RED school, and want to take this opportunity to publicly thank Mr Gordon and the RED staff team for all that they do in raising awareness.

Thank you as always for your on-going support,

Kind regards

Miriam Oakley



Show Racism the Red Card

Today, staff wore red to show our support for the national Show Racism the Red Card initiative, which is celebrating its 30th year. We wanted to start a conversation with students, so we kept the reason a secret until later in the day. As a result, KJS was buzzing with students trying to work out why so many staff had suddenly turned up wearing red!

This is just one part of our wider commitment to anti-racism and, more broadly promoting respect, equality and diversity across our school community. This week, students have taken part in assemblies for Hate Crime Awareness Week, alongside recent assemblies marking Black History Month.

We were also proud to showcase our ongoing work towards the RED Award at Open Evening.

We have also launched Voices for Equality, an exciting opportunity for students to take an active role in leading and shaping respect, equality and diversity initiatives at KJS. The Microsoft application form is available below and on SharePoint.

[Voices for Equality Application – Fill in form](#)

If you have any questions, please see Mr Gordon.



The Week Ahead: 19th October 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Year 11 PPEs begin	11		
Tue				
Wed	Art trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park	Y10	All day	
Thur	Careers Fair	9-13 + parents/carers	4-6pm	S1/Library
Fri	TRAINING DAY - school closed to students			

Restart a Heart Day



Restart a Heart Day raises awareness of the importance of learning CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and knowing how to respond in an emergency. The initiative highlights how learning simple, life-saving skills can make a real difference and help give someone the best possible chance of survival following a cardiac arrest.

Today, Year 8 students took part in Restart a Heart sessions, led by Community First Responders and the North Yorkshire Ambulance Service, equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to act in an emergency.

We would like to publicly thank everyone who organised and delivered the event and who were brilliant in enabling all the students to learn a valuable life-saving skill.



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 PPE exams and in class assessments are a trial to establish the need and impact of the reasonable adjustments and can change not be guaranteed without the evidence.
- More information for parents can be found here [JCQ-Parent-guidance-information-sheet-2025_26 \(6\).pdf](#)



King James's Sixth Form

warmly invite Year 11 students
and their parent/carers to our

Post 16 Options Evening

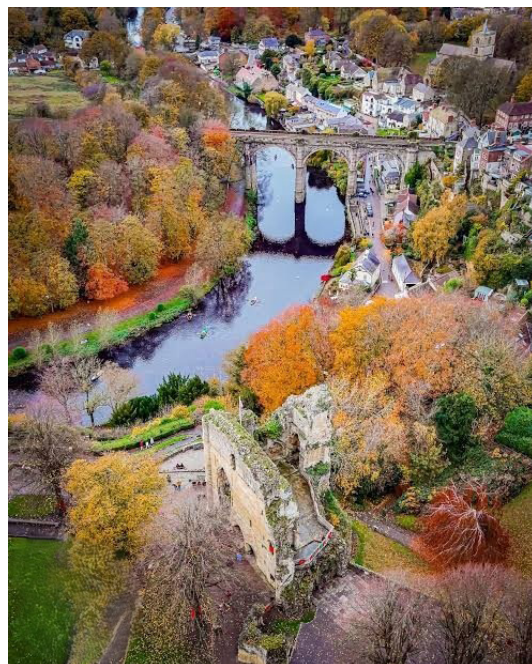
6:30pm – 8:00pm

Tuesday 24th November 2026

Please join our introduction in S1 at
6:30pm with our Headteacher,
Assistant Head and Director of KS5

All welcome, no need to book







Drama Council Recruitment

We already have a Drama Council up and running but are looking for a new Year 9 and Year 10 student to join us to represent their year group. This is a fantastic opportunity to build leadership skills, help in organising events and meet some new people from different year groups.

If this interests you and you are wanting to apply, please contact Mrs Haughton by email at haughtonr@king-james.co.uk. Send her an email stating the reasons why you want to apply, what skills you can bring to the department and why you enjoy Drama.

The deadline for applications is Friday 23rd October.



Year 9 Netball News

A big congratulations to the Year 9 Netball team who have secured their place in the next round of the Schools Cup after their win against Ripon Grammar School.

It was a fast paced, highly contested match from start to finish but King James's School managed to pull away in the final quarter and win the game 30-21.

Player of the match was Orla S, voted for by the Ripon Grammar team.



Year 11 Art Craft and Design

Year 11 Art Craft and Design had a day to create final pieces for their Pre Public Examinations Metamorphosis project - the photos show starting points where our students used wooden armatures to build their forms initially before adding features. Some of them will be based on animals heads, sea creatures and corals, fungi and plant life. They all made an excellent start and work will continue to develop over the next few weeks, adding further textures and details and refining as the clay begins to harden.

They should be very proud of the progress they made and pleased to have this assessed as part of the coursework for their GCSE. Well done year 11! and best wishes for the upcoming exams in other subjects.



Leisure Centre Car Park – Important Reminder

We would like to remind all parents and carers that the Leisure Centre car park opposite school must not be used for dropping off or collecting students from school. This area is reserved for Leisure Centre users, and we ask that parents make alternative arrangements for drop-off and pick-up.

Please be aware that parking enforcement measures will be introduced towards the end of the year to address this issue. We are providing advance notice so that all parents and carers are aware of the arrangements and can make the necessary adjustments.



Attendance Matters – Pizza, Prizes and Positive Progress!

Parent Workshop: Working Together to Support School Attendance

A Slice of Success for 7S1!

The results are in, the points have been counted, and we have our Halloween Attendance Challenge champions! A huge congratulations to tutor group 7S1, who claimed the top spot with a fantastic 93 points! Their brilliant effort and commitment to attendance earned them a very tasty reward indeed! And what better way to celebrate than with a pizza party?



The lucky winners were treated to a delicious selection of piping-hot pizzas, including margherita, pepperoni and meat feast, delivered straight to their tutor room. No queues, no waiting, just a well-deserved feast! Their tutor, Mr Bell, reported that the group absolutely loved their reward and thoroughly enjoyed tucking into their pizzas.

We have been delighted by the enthusiasm shown throughout the challenge. It seems the promise of a crispy pizza base, rich tomato sauce and delicious melted cheese was just the motivation needed to encourage a little healthy competition! Well done, 7S1, you've certainly earned your slice of success!

Half-Term is Nearly Here – Let's Finish Strong!

As we approach the October half-term break, we wanted to share a few important reminders about attendance. Historically, we have noticed a small increase in pupils taking holidays immediately before or after the scheduled half-term week. We fully appreciate the financial pressures families face and understand that holidays during term time can sometimes appear to be a more affordable option. However, every school day really does count, particularly for our Year 11 pupils.

Year 11 – PPEs, Preparation and a Little Encouragement

For our Year 11 students, the weeks surrounding half-term are especially important, as Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) are taking place. These exams are a valuable opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned, experience examination conditions and identify areas to focus on before their final GCSEs.

We know that exam season can bring a few butterflies in the stomach, and many of us can remember those feelings ourselves! A little nervous energy is perfectly natural and can sometimes help students focus and rise to the challenge. However, we also recognise that for some young people, exam anxiety can feel overwhelming. Please remember, you are not on your own, and support is available.

If your child is struggling with exam worries, finding it difficult to attend school or experiencing a last-minute delay on an exam morning, please contact our Attendance Team. We will do everything we reasonably can to help, working alongside our pastoral colleagues where needed, to give your child the best possible opportunity to arrive, settle and sit their exam. Sometimes a little extra reassurance or practical support can make all the difference.

Parent Workshop – Save the Date - Monday 2nd November | 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

We are also pleased to remind parents and carers about our upcoming parent workshop with Ruth Watson, Trainee Educational Psychologist from North Yorkshire County Council. An email containing further details and a booking link has already been sent to all parents and carers. We look forward to welcoming you for what promises to be a valuable and informative evening. If you haven't yet reserved your place, please take a moment to click this link to register:
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/B4JsvzTM3V>

A Final Thank You from the Attendance Team

Whether it's encouraging your child out of the door on a chilly morning, supporting them through exam nerves or simply making sure they're ready for another busy school day, your support makes a real difference. Thank you for continuing to work with us to give every young person the best possible chance to succeed. And who knows? After the success of our Halloween challenge, there might just be another incentive around the corner!

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
12th - 16th Oct	91.9%	94.2%	93.7%	92.4%	88.0%	91.3%

Youth Reporter Recognition Report

Back in September, three of our Year 11 students took part in Coastal Wealth in Scarborough. Coastal Wealth is a community-led environmental and social action programme that connects inland and coastal communities through volunteering, learning, environmental stewardship and community engagement.

The students worked as youth reporters - armed with a microphone, clipboard and phone, they were tasked with capturing the stories, experiences and voices behind the event from a young person's perspective. Throughout the day, they interviewed participants, asked thoughtful questions, recorded responses and documented key moments across the programme. The experience enabled them to develop skills in communication, journalism, digital media, teamwork, leadership and community engagement.

Coastal Wealth Edition 3 achieved significant outcomes, including bringing together 57 participants and volunteers and removing approximately 35kg of litter from Scarborough's coastline. The students played an important role in ensuring these achievements and personal stories were captured and shared.



Make Your Move! Our Weekly School Chess Club

We are delighted to invite students to take part in our School Chess Club, a friendly and engaging initiative led by the Library and Science Department.



Chess is a wonderful way for children to learn, think, and have fun! It encourages concentration, logical reasoning, problem-solving, patience, and strategic thinking, while also helping students develop confidence, resilience, and good sportsmanship.

Every Tuesday lunchtime in S50, students will have the opportunity to discover the game, learn new strategies, challenge themselves, and enjoy friendly matches with their peers. Whether your child is completely new to chess or already enjoys playing, everyone is welcome.

Please encourage your child to come along and give chess a try. It is a lovely opportunity to make new friends, enjoy a stimulating lunchtime activity, and discover the satisfaction of thinking a few

After-School Homework Club in the Library

We are pleased to welcome students to our teacher-led After-School Homework Club in the Library, Monday to Thursday, from 3.15 pm to 4.00 pm. The club provides a friendly, supportive, and focused environment where students can complete their homework or enjoy some quiet reading time.

It is a wonderful opportunity for students to develop independent study habits, build confidence, and make productive use of their time after school.





If you have any questions prior or issues logging on to the webinar, please contact teww.wimtwsa@nhs.net

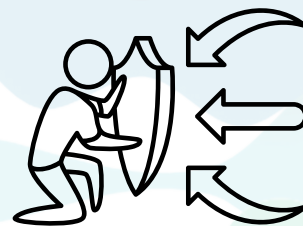
RESILIENCE WEBINAR

MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER - 4PM TO 5PM

This webinar is aimed at young people and parents needing support and advice around supporting resilience.

WEBINAR FOCUS

- To understand what we mean by resilience.
- Explore Negative Automatic Thoughts.
- How to build resilience.
- The cycle of avoidance.
- Positive affirmations.



@wellbeinginmind.mhst

SCAN HERE



JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

To join our webinar please scan the QR code and follow the instructions to join using **Microsoft Teams**. You can also join using the following details:

Meeting ID: 380 925 120 827 591
Passcode: Re7bz3Mx