

Friday 17th July 2026

King James's School Newsletter

⇒ Celebrating a Fantastic Year! ⇐

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Save
the
Date!

Please add the following dates to your diary for next term!

SEN Careers Transition Event – 1st October
2026-4pm. Years 9-11. Invitation only.

Careers Fair – 22nd October 2026 – 4-6pm
– Years 9-13.

Have a
great
summer

Message from Ms Oakley

Dear parents, carers and students,

Thank you!

I want to start by thanking everyone that goes to make up our King James community – the welcome you have shown me since January has been overwhelming, and I really appreciate it.

I also want to publicly thank the staff here; I have been so impressed by their dedication and willingness to go above and beyond to support our students.

This week has been typical of the way that staff seek to ensure our students get to experience as many opportunities as possible from Safe Beyond the Gate, The Trading Game, Sports Day, Art Exhibition, German Trip, Geography Field Trips, STEM Day and more - having worked in education for a very, very long time, I can assure you that this isn't the case in every school.

And finally, I want to thank our students – you are the reason why we do the very best job in the world. Your enthusiasm and commitment as demonstrated by the outstanding work on display at this week's Art Exhibition, the high numbers of Year 12 students standing to be elected as Student Leaders and of course, the incredible participants at Sports Day are just some of the reasons why I am so very proud to be your Headteacher.

I hope everyone in our school community has a safe and enjoyable summer holiday and I look forward to welcoming you back in September.
Kind regards,

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher



We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the following members of staff who will be leaving us this summer.

- Mr Phillips
- Miss Jarrett
- Mrs Blythe
- Miss Caldwell
- Ms Ingham
- Mrs Bassett
- Miss Burton
- Mrs Seddon

We are very grateful to them for their hard work, dedication and the positive impact they have made on our students, and we wish them every success and happiness as they move onto their next chapters.

The Week Ahead: 7th September 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon	• Year 12 Registration Day	12		
Tue	• Years 7 and 11 return to school	7 & 11		
Wed	• All year groups return to school	All		
Thur	• Year 7 Supporting Success Evening	Year 7 & parents	6.00pm	
Fri				



Headteacher's Awards

At the end of each Learning Cycle students are awarded with our Ready, Respectful and Engaged tokens. These are awarded to our students in the following way:

- Ready - Form tutors award students who have excellent attendance & punctuality and attend all lessons with a positive mindset. We also award students who have made excellent progress in this area.
- Respectful - Year Managers award students who have been excellent role models and have demonstrated personal qualities of kindness towards others.
- Engaged - Departments award students who have made excellent progress in their subjects, made specific contributions or completed an outstanding piece of work.



Across the year students aim to collect all 3 so they can gain the Headteachers Award. Congratulations to the following students who have been received this prestigious award for this academic year.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Rosie W	Jess B	Aimee O	Tasmin D
Amie G	Charlie T	Hugo T	Chloe F
Matthew C	India A	Hollie B	Chloe M
Abbey D	Caitlin A	Tommy C	Theo R
Issac K	Sophie B	George H	Lucy E
Jaques O	Islay C	Alfie H	Ethan W
Daisy B	Oscar C	Sera S	Ewan A
Aleksandra C	Rufus C	Alex S	Luke B
Dylan C	Lucas D	Eva A	Joseph C
Evie C	Max G	Milena H	Zack L
Alice G	Flynn H	Daniel H	Jacob P
Isla K	Eden J	Annabelle H	
Angel-May L	Annabelle L	Andrew M	
Billy M	Elijah M	Emma P	
Oliver O	Annie M	Isabelle T	
Cassie R	Oliver P	Grace W	
Lily S	Jessica P	Lily W	
Lilly T	Hattie R	Sophie W	
Will T	Owen S		
Martha W			

Pastoral Support in September

We are delighted to be able to confirm the pastoral teams for each year group from September. The structure will remain the same, with an Associate Assistant Headteacher being responsible for two year groups, with the exception of Year 7 who will also manage the transition from primary school. These Associate Assistant Headteachers will have oversight of each year group's behaviour, attendance and academic performance, and will lead their Year Managers to support students daily.

Year group	Name of Associate Assistant Headteacher		Year Managers
7	Mr T King		Year 7: Mrs S Lovell Year 7/8: Mrs R Roberts
8 & 9	Mr D Berry		Year 7/8: Mrs R Roberts Year 8: Miss L Bramham Year 9 : Mrs L Morland
10 & 11	Mr A Atkinson		Year 10: Miss G Flintoft and Mrs S White Year 11: Miss M Dennis
12 & 13	Ms J Watson		Years 12 & 13: Mrs M Simmons and Mrs S Austin

The Trading Game

On Tuesday, Year 8 had the opportunity to experience what it is like to work on the Stock Market as they took part in The Trading Game. It was a brilliant experience of the workplace for the students and an opportunity for them to develop and use their communication, listening and teamwork skills.

A big thank you to Olivia and Rachel from NYBEP who delivered the event and to our employers, Jake from Stockeld Park and Amelia from Quickline who did a great job working in the 'pit' selling the shares.



'Safe Beyond the Gate'

On Monday, Year 9 took part in a 'Safe Beyond the Gate' event which focused on delivering key messages to students to help them build confidence, to recognise risks, make safe decisions and know where to turn for help if they need it. We were delighted to welcome a range of external speakers into school to deliver a carousel of workshops, presentations and talks and we thank them all for taking the time out of their day to help support this event.

- Laura Thompson – North Yorkshire Police
- Lauren Doherty & Rebecca Blunstone – Road Safety Talks
- Loren Fidler, Angela Parnell & Hollie Stevenson – Network Rail
- Joseph Walker & Dave Ransom - North Yorkshire Fire Service
- Jess, Maz and Hayley – Inspire Youth





Sports Day 2025

Wednesday saw the annual Sports Day take place. The atmosphere was incredible, filled with excitement and energy. Support from both students and staff encouraged the competitors throughout, with a great sense of teamwork. It was fantastic to have the whole school together enjoying an afternoon in the sunshine.

The event started with the Olympics style parade. Competitors from each house proudly did a lap of the field, led by their House Captains and a marching band.

The ever-popular staff races also took place. Well done to all staff who competed. It really did add to the atmosphere of the afternoon and the students absolutely loved it!



House Competition 2026

What a fantastic year it has been for our House Competition! From the very start of the year, every student has had the opportunity to contribute to their house, whether by taking part in Cross Country, competing in the Senior and Junior Maths Challenges, supporting Christmas Jumper Day, enjoying the ever-popular Masked Reader with Mr Phillips, or performing in the outstanding House Drama competition.

The year reached a brilliant conclusion on Wednesday with a wonderful Sports Day, where students demonstrated exceptional determination, teamwork and house spirit. It has been fantastic to see so many students getting involved, supporting one another and representing their houses with pride throughout the year.

After all the points have been added up and the numbers carefully crunched, the final House Competition standings are:

- 1st – Wharfedale: 161 points
- 2nd – Airedale: 142 points
- 3rd – Swaledale: 139 points
- 4th – Nidderdale: 136 points

A huge congratulations to Wharfedale, who have successfully retained their House Competition crown from last year – a fantastic achievement!

A massive well done to every student and member of staff who has taken part in, organised or supported the House Competition this year.



mind in Harrogate District

At [Mind in Harrogate District](#), we're here to support children and young people's mental health throughout the summer holidays and beyond.

With the summer holidays bringing changes to routine, reduced access to school-based support, support and, for some young people, increased feelings of anxiety, isolation, or uncertainty; our [Young People's Services](#) are available over holiday period to students and their families/carers.



Last chance to get your ticket

Join Mind in Harrogate District for our feel-good Go Bright 5K Fun Run in the beautiful grounds of Fountains Abbey.

Whether you run, walk, or jog, this family-friendly event is all about coming together for better mental health. Expect colourful fancy dress, fun prizes, and activities to keep younger runners smiling.

Every entry helps support Mind in Harrogate District's Children and Young People's Mental Health service.

25% OFF to celebrate the end of the school year!
Use code: SCHOOLS

[For more information visit our website.](#)

World Cup Fever hits King James's!

Last week, Year 10 students were given the chance to act as officials in the World Cup!



Thanks to an initiative from Loughborough University, the students carried out the same experiments on the balls used at this year's World Cup as the real officials do. The tests included checking the weight of the ball, its pressure, checking it doesn't absorb water too quickly and the dimensions of the ball.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and now know about the work that goes into something like the World Cup before the ball is even kicked!



We've made it!

As we reach the end of another academic year, it's a wonderful opportunity to reflect on everything our students have achieved. There has been so much to celebrate this year, and we would like to thank our students, parents, and carers for the support they have shown throughout.

Although we did not quite achieve our whole-school attendance target of 91.5%, we have made significant progress in developing a clear, strategic and proactive approach to attendance for the year ahead. Our focus is not simply on reaching a percentage target, but on ensuring that every student has the best possible opportunity to access learning, fulfil their potential and achieve the very best outcomes.

Attendance is about far more than academic success alone. School provides young people with countless opportunities to develop the wider life skills that prepare them for the future: resilience, perseverance, confidence, teamwork, communication, and problem-solving, to name just a few.

We also recognise that every family experiences challenges from time to time. However, one of the most valuable lessons schools can teach is that, by facing difficulties with the right support, solutions can often be found. Regular attendance gives students the opportunity to build resilience, strengthen relationships and develop the confidence to overcome obstacles that may initially seem overwhelming.

This is why the partnership between home and school is so important. When families and school work together, we can identify barriers early, provide the right support and help students remain engaged in their education before small concerns become bigger challenges.

As we look ahead to September, we are excited to build on the work we have started this year. Through earlier intervention, stronger partnerships with families and a continued focus on celebrating excellent attendance, we are confident that we can continue to improve attendance across the school and, most importantly, give every student the best possible chance to succeed.

We wish all of our students and families a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another successful year.

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
2025-2026 Academic Year	90.5%	94.3%	92.3%	87.2%	88.7%	90.1%	93.67%	91.97%

WE
MADE
IT!

German Trip

A group of 44 Year 8 students and 5 staff had a fantastic trip to Cologne in Germany.

During their stay, they visited the famous cathedral, climbing 533 steps to the top of the tower, did some shopping and experienced German food. They also visited the Lindt chocolate museum and enjoyed the free samples! The following day there was a visit to the lovely Rhine town of Boppard, a chairlift ride and a river cruise, with bowling in the evening. The group finished the trip at Phantasialand – a famous German theme park.

A fantastic time was had by all and the students were a credit to the school!



Arts Award

This term, students in KS3 and KS4 have been taking part in the Arts Award programme, delivered by Yorkshire CREATE with the generous support of Knaresborough Rotary. The programme has provided students with exciting opportunities to explore their creativity, build confidence and develop leadership skills through a wide range of inspiring artistic experiences.

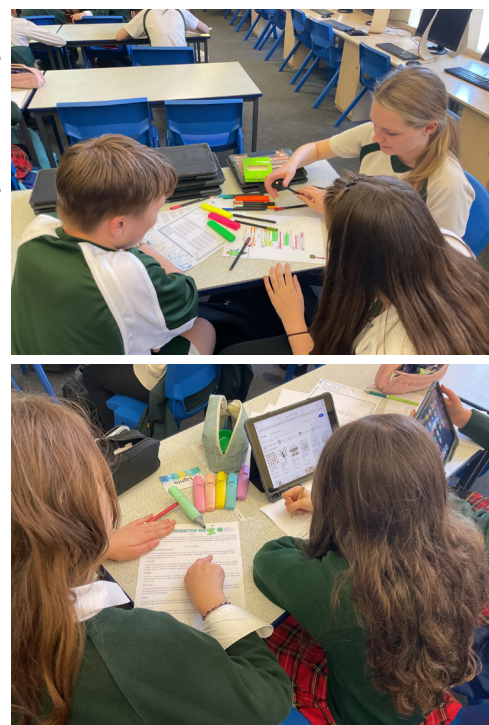
Our students have been focusing on the second level - Discover - providing opportunities for them to participate in different art forms from clay modelling and felt landscapes to putting on a play and creating dream catchers. They have also researched artists and arts organisations that interest them and created their own individual art projects on the theme of Dreams, reflecting on and sharing their creative journeys along the way.

Arts Award Adviser Clare Lucy said: "It has been a delight seeing the students getting involved, especially when working in an art form that is unfamiliar. It has been wonderful seeing all the beautiful pieces they have created."

The students' Arts Award journey will continue over the summer, with opportunities to further develop their work through participation at Space to CREATE sessions and to exhibit their artwork at CREATE Studios, a local creative engagement venue. In September, they will begin the final stage of the qualification with a new project.

We are incredibly proud of our students for the enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment they have shown throughout the programme. Yorkshire CREATE would like to extend its sincere thanks to every student who has taken part, embracing new artistic experiences, developing their talents, and approaching each challenge with such positivity and dedication. We look forward to seeing their artistic journeys continue to flourish and celebrating their future achievements.

To learn more about Yorkshire CREATE and its work across the region, visit <https://www.yorkshire-create.co.uk>.





Staff Appreciation Award 2025/26

As her final contribution in her role as Student Health & Wellbeing Coordinator, Miss Jarrett was delighted to launch the inaugural Staff Appreciation Award 2025/26, celebrating the dedication, kindness and commitment of staff across the King James's School community.

The award received an overwhelming number of nominations, recognising colleagues from a wide range of roles both in front of and behind the scenes. Following two rounds of anonymous staff voting, six members of staff were shortlisted:

- Andy Kaye – Site Team
- Georgina Petrie – DT Technician
- Miss Lawrence – English Teacher and White Rose Teacher Training Alliance Lead
- Miss Jarrett – Year 11 Year Manager and Student Health & Wellbeing Coordinator
- Mr Gordon – English Teacher and Respect, Equality and Diversity Advocate
- Miss Flintoff – Year 9 Year Manager

All shortlisted staff were recognised at the school's staff celebration event, with the overall winner receiving a hamper kindly donated by local businesses. We are incredibly grateful for the continued support and generosity of our local community.



We are proud to announce that Andy Kaye from the Site Team was named Staff Appreciation Award Winner 2025/26. Colleagues described Andy as someone who “lives, breathes and sweats KJS”, praising his unwavering commitment, reliability and willingness to go above and beyond. From responding to alarms in the middle of the night to supporting school events and daily operations, Andy plays an invaluable role in school life. Known for his kindness, approachability and support for others, Andy makes a lasting difference to both staff and students alike.

Congratulations to Andy, and thank you to everyone who was nominated and supported this wonderful initiative, which highlighted the care, teamwork and commitment that make King James's School such a special place to learn and work.

Y7 Reading Awards: Celebrating Outstanding Achievement

Students in Year 7 were recently recognised for their dedication, enthusiasm and success in reading at this year's Reading Awards celebration. The awards highlighted a wide range of achievements, from exceptional reading progress and resilience to commitment and teamwork.

The Star Reader awards celebrated students who have excelled in their reading throughout the year. Winners included Abigail C, Charlotte B, Alice G, Marcia G, Bella H, Eden S, Amber D, Aria M, Joe S and Charlie R. Students Isla S, Abbey D-W, Lucas B and Orin B were recognised for their Resilience in Reading, demonstrating determination and perseverance in developing their reading skills.



Congratulations also go to 7A1, who were awarded Best Class Team Effort in recognition of their collective commitment to reading and the support they have shown one another throughout the year.



The competition for the House Reading Trophy was closely contested. Nidderdale emerged as the winning house, achieving an impressive total of 11,543,615 words read, followed by Airedale with 10,631,435 words. Together, students across all houses read millions of words, demonstrating the strength of the King James's reading culture.

A number of students were also recognised for their Commitment to Reading, including Lily S, Bethany S, Theo B, Tiff W, Sarah B, Mary P, Rose O'C, Candice K, Isla K, Sophia S, Ellie H, Lottie D and Evie C. Their dedication to reading regularly has set a fantastic example for their peers.

Finally, special congratulations go to our Reading Millionaires. Angel-May L read an outstanding 2,235,665 words, while Amie Gilbody achieved an impressive 1,876,291 words, earning their place among King James's most dedicated readers. We are also delighted to celebrate Charlotte B, who joined the millionaires club after reading an impressive 1,141,904 words during the year.



Well done to all award winners and participants. Their hard work, enthusiasm and love of reading have contributed to another successful year of reading achievement at King James's.

2026–2027 Reading Challenge (Years 7 - 11)

KJS IS A
READING SCHOOL
We are all readers



Follow us
@readingkjs

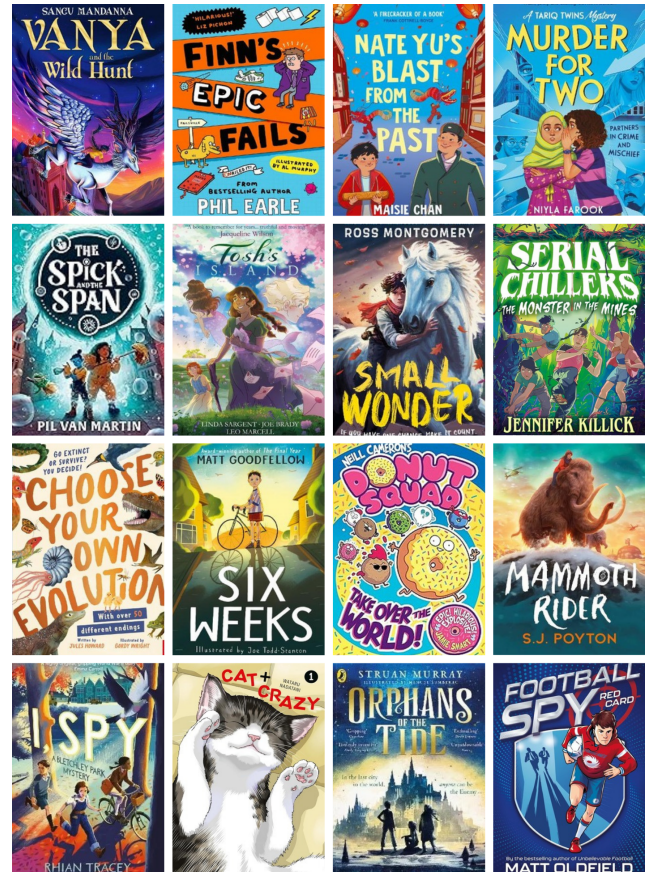
Ready to discover your next great read? Our 2026–2027 Reading Challenge features a carefully selected collection of books for students across all year groups, with something to suit every interest and reading level.

From thrilling adventures and gripping mysteries to imaginative fantasy, inspiring non-fiction, graphic novels and much-loved classics, these recommendations are designed to entertain, challenge and inspire.

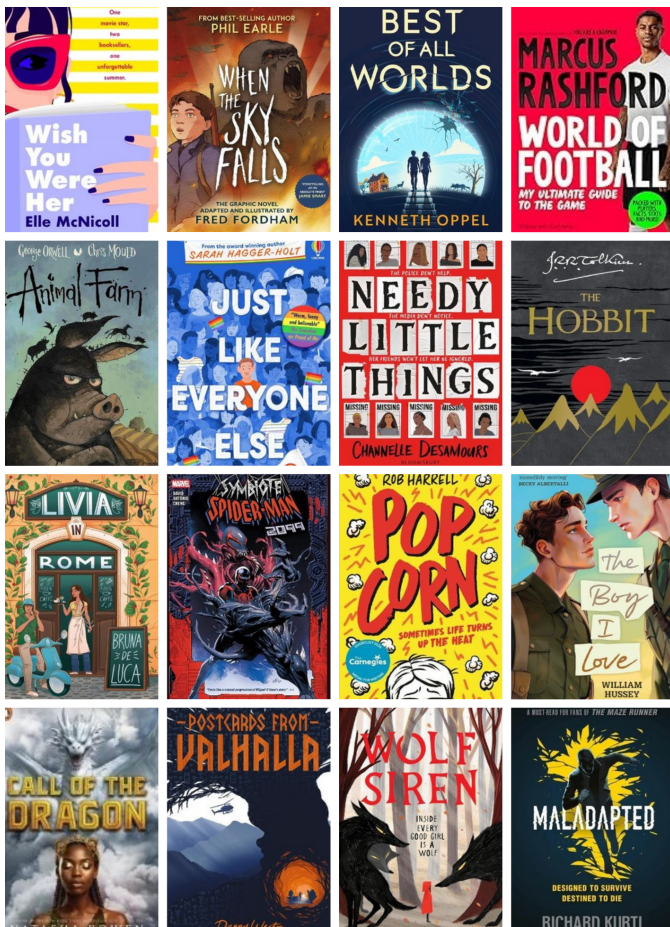
Whether you're looking to explore a new genre, discover a favourite author or simply enjoy getting lost in a good book, we encourage you to take on the challenge and see how many titles you can read throughout the year. Happy reading!



Year 7



Year 8/9



Year 10/11



Staff and 6th Form Summer Reads



Summer Wellbeing Support

in association with Well Connections | For King James School Parents & Carers

Wellbeing over Summer holidays

Summer can be a challenging time for some children and families. If you're worried about your child's mental health or emotional wellbeing, there is support available throughout the holidays.

If you have concerns about your child's emotional wellbeing over the summer, Well Connections can help.

We are offering King James families a free consultation to talk through your concerns, answer any questions and help you identify the most appropriate support.

Where ongoing support would be helpful, discounted private counselling is available for King James students throughout the summer holidays, helping to provide continuity until school-based counselling resumes in September.

Book your free consultation:
www.wellconnections.co.uk

WELL
CONNECTIONS
Through connection, people thrive

The Go To
A fantastic first place to start for parents and young people.

- Anxiety and low mood
- Self-harm
- Eating difficulties
- School anxiety and EBSA
- Sleep difficulties
- Exam stress
- Neurodiversity support
- Advice for parents and carers

www.thegoto.org.uk

Compass Phoenix
Free emotional wellbeing support for children and young people across North Yorkshire.

- Emotional wellbeing advice
- Telephone support
- Anxiety and low mood
- Self-esteem and bullying
- Stress management
- Self-harm support
- Buzz Us text support (ages 11-18)

Buzz Us: 07520 631168
www.compass-uk.org/services/compass-phoenix

Mind in Harrogate District
Local mental health charity supporting children, young people and families.

- Counselling
- Children's and young people's services
- Befriending
- Rural wellbeing support
- Weekly wellbeing groups including relaxation, arts, writing, allotment sessions and peer support

01423 503335
mindinharrogate.org.uk

North Yorkshire's FEAST programme provides hundreds of holiday activities including:

- Outdoor adventure and sports
- Creative arts and forest school
- Climbing and paddle sports
- Youth clubs and holiday clubs
- Healthy meals

Many activities are free for children receiving benefits-related free school meals, although open to all families.

northyorkshiretogether.co.uk/feast-activities

If Your Child Needs Urgent Support

Shout
Text SHOUT to 85258
24-hour confidential mental health text support
giveusashout.org

PAPYRUS HOPELINE247
Support for young people under 35 experiencing suicidal thoughts
0800 068 4141 | Text: 07860 039967
papyrus-uk.org

Samaritans
Call 116 123
samaritans.org

NHS 111
For urgent mental health advice, contact NHS 111
111.nhs.uk

Emergency
If a young person is at immediate risk of serious harm, call 999 or attend your nearest Emergency Department.