

Friday 17th October 2025

King James's School Newsletter

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Save the Date: Wellbeing Fair – Thursday 27th November 2025

We are excited to announce that on Thursday 27th November, Miss Jarrett will be hosting our first ever Wellbeing Fair here at school!

All parents and carers are warmly invited to join us in the evening to meet and speak with a range of health and wellbeing services. This is a fantastic opportunity to explore how these services can support both our students and their families.

More details will be shared after half term, but for now, please save the date – it's going to be a really important evening that you won't want to miss!

National School's Cup

The Year 8 girls football team have made it through to the third round of the National Schools Cup.

Having beaten Harrogate Ladies College in the first round, they travelled to Richmond this week and won convincingly 6-0. The girls not only played exceptionally well but conducted themselves superbly.

After a tough first half they were 2-0 up thanks to a penalty from Tess D and a nicely taken goal from Caty D.

As the second half progressed, the girls got stronger, and two goals from Honour C, one from Islay C and a final goal from Emily O in Year 7 meant the girls were extremely happy all the way home!

We look forward to the third round after half term.



Assemblies

Assemblies this week are being led by our Associate Assistant Headteachers and are focused on recognising students who have demonstrated the school values of Ready, Respectful and Engaged throughout the first half term.

Congratulations!

The Sixth Form would like to congratulate Jess S in Year 13, who has just been awarded her 'Young Leaders' award from Explorers, in addition to having completed her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. This is an amazing and very impressive achievement.

Huge congratulations Jess!

The Week Ahead: 20th October 2025

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon				
Tue	Yorkshire Sculpture Park Trip	Y10 Art students	8.30am-3.30pm	YSP
Wed	Year 8 Pastoral Parents' Evening	8	4.00-6.30pm	In School
Thur	Y10 Pastoral Parents Evening Careers Fair	10 10,11,12,13	4.00-6.30pm 4.00pm-7.00pm	In school Chaloner Hall
Fri	First half Autumn Term ends			

READY RESPECTFUL ENGAGED

Careers in Drama

On Thursday lunchtime, we had the first of our 'Careers in Drama' sessions, where guest speakers from the industry talk to our students in person or online about their role, how they got into it and students are offered the chance to ask questions and gain more insight!



This week we had professional Stage Manager Sarah Wardle join us via video call, who told us all about the life of a stage manager, her training route, career highlights and future ambitions. Our group of students from Tech Theatre Club (and others) represented the school brilliantly as always.

We hope these sessions will give students a little peek into professional life on and off stage, or on and off camera, and the kind of things they might want to get into in the future!

FREE Inclusion Courses for Parents & Carers

The NYES SEND and Inclusion team have launched a new round of in-person courses designed to support parents and carers of children and young people in North Yorkshire with Autism, SEMH, and ADHD.

- These courses are an opportunity to find out more and gain practical tools and strategies to help support your child or young person.
- Parents will also meet others facing similar experiences or with a shared interest in the topic.
- For multi-day courses parents must attend all days and will receive a copy of the content covered following the course.

Spaces fill up fast so book your place [here](#).



What is Dyslexia?

- Dyslexia is a specific learning difficulty that primarily affects reading, writing, and spelling.
- It is not linked to intelligence,
- 1- 10 people are thought to have dyslexia
- It is a lifelong condition and can often run in families
- Dyslexic difficulties exist on a continuum and can be experienced to various degrees of severity.
- Dyslexia can affect the acquisition of other skills, such as mathematics, reading comprehension or learning another language.
- The most commonly observed difficulty is in phonological processing
- Working memory, processing speed and orthographic skills can contribute to the impact of dyslexia.

At King James's we believe every student deserves the opportunity to thrive, regardless of how they learn and we are committed to creating an inclusive environment where dyslexic learners feel supported, understood, and empowered



How We Support Dyslexic Learners

- **Identification:** We use teacher observation and screening tools to identify signs of dyslexia
- **Learning Support Plans:** Students with dyslexia receive personalised support plans, they may also receive rest-breaks, extra time in exams or access to assistive technology
- **Specialist Staff:** Our learning support department works closely with teachers and parents to ensure consistent support. We also have staff who deliver targeted literacy interventions.
- **Inclusive Teaching Strategies:** Teachers use dyslexia-friendly strategies, and structured lesson formats to reduce cognitive load and support reading fluency.
- **Celebrating Strengths:** We encourage students to explore their strengths—whether in art, drama, problem-solving, or leadership—and celebrate their achievements.

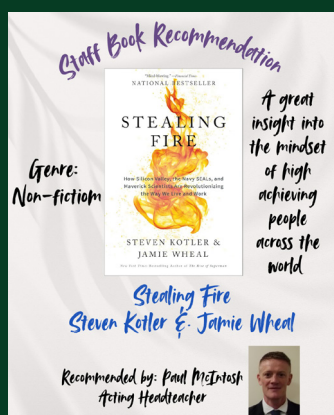


Support for Parents

- **Open Communication:** We understand that navigating dyslexia can be challenging for families. Our staff are always available to discuss concerns, progress, and next steps.
- **Resources** [Sign Up - FREE Guide for Parents download - British Dyslexia Association](#) [Are you a young person with dyslexia or a parent of a dyslexic child? - British Dyslexia Association](#)
- **Community support**
 - [British Dyslexia Association](#) (www.bdadyslexia.org.uk)
 - [Dyslexia Action](#) (www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk)
 - [Local SENDIASS services](#) for advice and advocacy
 - [SEND Local Offer | North Yorkshire Council](#) [1 Parents Information Dyslexia.pdf](#)

REMEMBER: Dyslexia is not a barrier—it's a different way of thinking.

This week's Staff Reading Recommendation



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

Curriculum Reads and positives for reading

We are delighted to announce that we have secured funding for our Curriculum Reads. We now have a copy of every book in the library for students to borrow. They are currently being catalogued and will be available to borrow after half term. There are five books for every subject for each key stage which we are encouraging our students to read. If students are engaged in reading which means reading in class and at home, they can get positives on Bromcom to recognise their efforts.

We are also encouraging students to log any reading they do in their Reading Record in their planners so they can track their reading and we can monitor their engagement with reading. This can be any reading they are doing including reading articles, blogs, magazines and books.

Many thanks for all your support with reading.

<https://www.king-james.co.uk/reading/>



Careers

We would like to encourage students and parents from Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 to attend our Careers Fair which is taking place in Chaloner Hall on Thursday 23rd October 4pm-7pm.



It's a fantastic opportunity for students to connect, communicate and gather information about their options at Post 16 and Post 18. We look forward to seeing you there! The list below shows the Post 16 and Post 18 providers who will be exhibiting:

Army	Northern Powergrid
Askham Bryan College	Partou Day Nursery
Bettys and Taylors of Harrogate	RAF
Coffey Geotechnics	Saffery Champness
Derwent Training Association	Spec Savers
Double Tree by Hilton Harrogate Majestic Hotel & Spa	Springfield Health Care
DSSR Engineering	Techbuyer
Envirovent	The Northern School of Art
Happy Futures (Yorkshire Care Group)	University of Sheffield
Harrogate College & Leeds City College	University of York
King James's School 6th Form	Verity Frearson
Kirk Newsholme	White Rose Alliance
Lancaster University	Wm Morrison Supermarkets Ltd
Newcastle University	York College
North Yorkshire Police (Harrogate)	York St John University
Northern Performance Academy	Yorkshire Create

EDF

Hear from the Early Careers team at EDF on 17th November at 4pm to learn more about their amazing apprenticeship opportunities and the exciting range of vacancies available, opening for applications on 26th January 2026.



Offering apprenticeships ranging from Nuclear Engineer to Project Management, Health Physics to Business Administration, Chemistry to Data/DevOps and more, EDF's early careers programmes offer the opportunity to develop an exciting green career, whilst helping to create a more sustainable energy future.

They will also be releasing a new guide for parents and carers all about EDF apprenticeships following the live webinar, so make sure you join us to be amongst the first to receive it! This helpful guide will give an overview of the apprenticeships and careers available with EDF and how parents and carers can support their child to apply.

All are welcome, whether you're a student, parent or carer!

Visit the link below to book on:

<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/events/discover-apprenticeships-with-edf-webinar/>

To explore other apprenticeship webinar opportunities use the link below:

https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/workshops-webinars/?utm_source=october&utm_medium=w%26w&utm_campaign=navigate

Attendance

As we approach the end of the first half-term, we want to take a moment to acknowledge the effort and resilience shown by our students, staff, and families. The first half-term of a new academic year is always one of the most challenging; routines are being re-established, expectations set, and it is also one of the longest half-terms in the school year.

It's encouraging to see that our attendance figures continue to sit above the national average. While we know that numbers don't always tell the full story, they do reflect the strong partnership we share with families. We truly value these relationships, especially when navigating attendance matters that can sometimes be complex. By working together, we can generally find the best way forward for each child.

We're also delighted by the fantastic response to our upcoming Parent Workshop on Monday 10th November, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, when we will be joined by Jude Crooks from Wellspring Therapy and Training, who will be leading a session on "Strengthening Connections", focusing on the importance and value of parental emotional availability in conversations with your children (see flyer below). To sign up, please click [here](#).

Today also marks the end of both the Spooktacular Competition and Power Play week. The enthusiasm from students has been infectious, especially the curiosity about what the prizes might be! All will be revealed next week in assembly when the names of those with 100% attendance from each year group will be put into a lucky dip and the winners crowned.

On a final note, we'd like to highlight a cause close to our hearts. During my time at KJS I have been continually inspired by the compassion and commitment of our staff and the incredible external professionals we work alongside, including CAHMs and Wellbeing in Mind. Supporting our students' mental health is central to everything we do, and we want to do even more.

To that end, we have launched an appeal to fundraise for an additional dedicated mental health profession in school two days each week to work with our students who are struggling with attending school for a variety of reasons (please see flyer below). Any support you can offer by spreading the word or connecting us with businesses or individuals who might help, would mean the world to us. Together we can make a lasting difference for our children.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. With one week to go, let's finish the term strong!

	Whole School	National Average	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
6th - 10th Oct	93.4%	93.1%	95.9%	95.8%	89.4%	91.4%	94.5%

CHANGE A LIFE, CHANGE A FUTURE



SUPPORT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

HELP US FUND A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL



CHANGE A LIFE, CHANGE A FUTURE

ACROSS OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY, MORE YOUNG PEOPLE THAN EVER ARE STRUGGLING WITH ANXIETY, STRESS, AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING CHALLENGES.

AS EDUCATORS, WE SEE THE IMPACT THIS HAS ON THEIR LEARNING, RELATIONSHIPS, AND CONFIDENCE EVERY DAY.

WHILE OUR STAFF ALREADY PROVIDE CARE AND PASTORAL SUPPORT, THE SCALE AND COMPLEXITY OF NEED CONTINUES TO GROW.

TO RESPOND, WE WANT TO EXPAND OUR PROVISION OF PROFESSIONALS WHO CAN WORK DIRECTLY WITH STUDENTS, PROVIDING INCREASED EARLY INTERVENTION, GUIDANCE, AND A SAFE SPACE TO TALK.

"THAT'S WHERE YOU CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE"

WE ARE SEARCHING FOR A BUSINESS WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO FUND THIS. AT A MINIMUM WE ARE LOOKING FOR £15K A YEAR FOR THREE YEARS WHICH WOULD FUND A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL IN SCHOOL FOR 2 DAYS A WEEK.

YOUR SUPPORT WOULD DIRECTLY ENABLE INCREASED SPECIALIST MENTAL HEALTH PROVISION WITHIN SCHOOL, TRANSFORMING OUTCOMES FOR SOME OF OUR MOST VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE.

THIS IS MORE THAN SPONSORSHIP, IT'S A PARTNERSHIP WITH LASTING SOCIAL IMPACT.

"WILL YOUR BUSINESS BE THE ONE THAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE?"

TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP YOUNG PEOPLE OVERCOME BARRIERS, BUILD RESILIENCE, AND ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

IF YOUR BUSINESS WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SUPPORTING THIS INITIATIVE, PLEASE CONTACT:

CATHRYN SUTHERLAND - SUTHERLANDC@KING-JAMES.CO.UK



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL
KNARESBOROUGH

**** Free Parent Workshop ****

Join us and Jude Crook,
CYP Counselling Services Manager from
wellspring therapy and training, on

Monday 10th November, 6:30 - 8:30pm
as she explores the following:

Strengthening Connections

The importance and value of parental
emotional availability in conversations with
their children



Click [here](#) to register

A UK DfE-commissioned review in 2018 found that emotional wellbeing is a key protective factor against persistent absence. –
Source: DfE, 2018 – Mental health and wellbeing in schools

A 2021 Ofsted report noted that emotionally secure children are more likely to re-engage with school after long absences. –
Source: Ofsted (2021) "Why do children miss school?"

This Week's Book Reviews



This book inspired me to read more, and it was the first proper book I ever read. I would really recommend you read it; you will be gripped from the beginning and never want it to end. I hope you enjoy the book!

I would rate this book 5/5

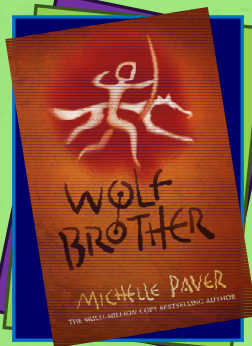
Martha Year 7



This is a dystopian fiction novel about a girl who has to go into the Hunger Games as a punishment for the Districts for starting a war against the Capitol. It has an element of romance which is intriguing and makes me want to read on. I love the different characters and their personalities. The book has an unexpected ending that is definitely worth reading on for.

I would rate this book 4.5/5 stars!

Emma P Year 9



Wolf Brother and its sequels follows the story of Torak as he fights a great evil that ravages the forest, sea, mountains and icefields. I have loved Wolf Brother for a long time and it's in my top 10 all time best series. It has some great quirks, not least of which it's set 6,000 years ago. It has a great fantasy element, as well as good historical links. This book is a good read for anyone between the ages of 11 to 16.

I would rate this book 4.5/5 stars!

Alex W Year 11