

King James's School Newsletter

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Student Photographs

Student photographs will take place next week on the following days:



- Years 7-11 - Thursday 24th September
- Years 12 & 13 - Friday 25th September

There will be an opportunity for sibling photographs to be taken during lunchtime on Thursday 24th September in S1. Should you require these, please advise students that they are responsible for finding their siblings and making their way to S1 at lunchtime to have these taken.

Message from Ms Oakley

Dear parents, carers and students,

Thank you for a positive first week back!



Assessment, Reporting and Progress Evenings

A key strand of our School Development Plan 2026-27 is to review our assessment policy and practice. The first stage of this is to move to Tracking Points, staggered across the year for each year group. The dates for these are published below.

We are also moving to Progress Meetings, rather than Parents' Evenings. This move reflects the true purpose of these meetings, which is to discuss a student's progress in a specific subject area. Progress Meetings will remain online, other than our Year 7 Meet the Form Tutor event and some Post 16 meetings. The dates for these are outlined on page 2 of the newsletter, along with dates for our Pre-Public Examinations for students in Years 10 – 13 and our Options Evening for Year 9.

Information about what our students are learning is available on the subject pages of our website.

As always if you are worried or concerned about your child's progress in a subject area, please do not hesitate to contact their class teacher or the Head of Department.

Thank you as always for your on-going support, and I look forward to a year where our students "put no limit on what they can achieve."

Thank you as always for your on-going support

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher

The Week Ahead: 21st September 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon				
Tue	Maths Olympiad for Girls Year 11 Supporting Success Evening	11	6.00pm	S1
Wed				
Thur	School Photographs Buggy Malone auditions	7-11 8-13	All day After school	S1 S1
Fri	School Photographs	12 & 13	AM	S1

Assessment, Reporting and Progress Evenings

Year 7	
Tracking Point One: Attitude to Learning Only	Friday 23rd October
Tracking Point Two	Friday 15th January
Tracking Point Three	Friday 28th May
Meet the Tutor	Monday 9th November - appointment only
Progress Meeting	Thursday 15th April

Year 8	
Tracking Point One	Thursday 5th November
Tracking Point Two	Friday 19th February
Tracking Point Three	Friday 2nd July
Progress Meeting	Wednesday 10th March

Year 9	
Tracking Point One	Thursday 17th December
Tracking Point Two	Friday 9th April
Tracking Point Three	Friday 9th July
Options Evening	Thursday 4th February
Progress Meeting	Wednesday 13th January

Year 10	
Tracking Point One	Friday 20th November
Tracking Point Two	Friday 19th February
Tracking Point Three	Friday 7th May
Progress Meeting	Monday 10th May
PPE 1	Begins Monday 5th April for two weeks

Year 11	
Tracking Point One including PPE results	Friday 27th November
Tracking Point Two including PPE results	Friday 19th March
Progress Meeting	Wednesday 9th December
PPE 2	Begins Monday 19th October for two weeks
PPE 3	Begins Monday 1st February

Year 12	
Tracking Point One: Attitude to Learning	Friday 13th November
Tracking Point Two: Including PPE results	Friday 5th February
Tracking Point Three	Friday 30th April
Supporting Success	Tuesday 29th September 6.00pm
Progress Meeting	Tuesday 23rd February
PPE 1	Start Monday 11th January

Year 13	
Tracking Point One	Friday 20th November
Tracking Point Two: Including PPE results	Friday 22nd January
Progress Meeting	Wednesday 27th January
PPEs	Start Monday 7th December for two weeks

Homework

At KJS we believe that homework is an important part of learning because students need to be able to study independently in preparation for their exams. Students will be given a range of tasks to help them consolidate their learning and research homework to prepare for lessons.

At Key Stage 3 students will be set bronze, silver and gold tasks dependent of the length of time they take. (Bronze = 15 minutes, Silver = 30 minutes and Gold = 1 hour+)

At Key Stage 4 students will be set up to one hour of homework per subject every week.

At Key Stage 5 students will be set between 4 and 5 hours of homework a week.

All students at Key Stage 3&4 are expected to write homework in their planner. Teachers will also set homework on MyChildAtSchool so parents can access this online. Students can access this on the Bromcom Student app. They will need to follow the instructions above to access this on their phone.

Thank you for your support.

How to log-in to Student Portal

Getting the App

Download 'Bromcom Student app' using the relevant QR code shown

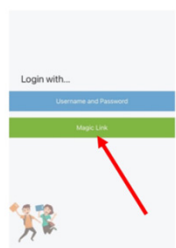
Create a **5 digit pin code** that you will need to remember

Select to use a **Magic Link** and type in the **School ID 11433**

Enter your **email address** e.g. 24asmith@king-james.co.uk

Now open your school email on the same device and **verify the link**





Celebrating Success at KJS

At KJS, we recognise the importance of celebrating and rewarding our students. Rewards and recognition are an important part of school life, helping to motivate students, create a strong sense of belonging, reinforce our school values and encourage positive behaviour and attitudes to learning.

This week, we have launched our weekly rewards and recognition programme, with a range of opportunities for students to be acknowledged for their achievements, progress and positive contributions.



Week B – Positive Phone Calls Home

Each Year Team nominates 5 students per year group to receive a positive phone call home. These students are recognised for making good progress in an aspect of school life or for going above and beyond in some way. We hope these calls provide an opportunity to celebrate success with families and recognise the positive choices our students are making.



Week A – Tutor Nominations

Our Tutor Nomination awards will begin next week. Tutors will have the opportunity to nominate students who have demonstrated positive attitudes, effort, progress or contributions to the school community.



Friday High Five

Each Friday, members of our Year Teams will recognise a student who has had an exceptional week and deserves a special acknowledgement. Mr King will lead this for Year 7, Mr Berry for Years 8/9 and Mr Atkinson for Year 10/11. Students receiving a Friday High Five will be rewarded with a special Friday treat.



Positive Bromcom Points

Alongside these weekly awards, staff and curriculum areas are regularly awarding students positive Bromcom points in recognition of their achievements and positive contributions in lessons. Parents and carers can view these through MCAS, allowing you to see and celebrate your child's successes at home.

Students can also receive weekly recognition points on Bromcom for: 100% attendance

- 100% attendance
- Having no late marks
- Receiving no negative behaviour events

We encourage parents and carers to regularly check Bromcom/MCAS and, most importantly, to celebrate these achievements with your child at home. Positive recognition from both school and home can make a real difference in motivating our students and helping them to feel proud of their progress.

Well done to all of our students who have already received recognition this week — we look forward to celebrating many more successes throughout the year!

KJS Student Council Applications are open!

Want to have your say and help make a difference in school?

Student Council applications are now open to Years 7–12! Whether you've been involved before or this is your first time, everyone is welcome to apply.

We are looking for two representatives from each year group to form the KJS Student Council and represent the student voice across the school.

As a representative, you will:

- Represent the opinions and views of your year group.
- Share ideas and suggestions for change and improvement.
- Get involved in school-wide projects and initiatives.
- Work directly with the Senior Student Leaders
- Work directly with the Senior Leadership team
- Feedback to your year group on council discussions, actions and projects.

Being a member of the student council is an important role which will provide you with the opportunity to be at the forefront of whole school projects and initiatives. This allows you to gain valuable leadership, teamwork and communication skills that will benefit you all throughout your school life and life beyond school.

Successful applicants will be expected to attend a student council meeting each half term and play an active role in making a positive difference to our school community.

To apply, follow the link and complete the form: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/MnaaDgbJnL?origin=lpLink>

The deadline for applications is 4pm Friday 25th September

If you feel you need support with your application, there is an application support workshop on Wednesday 23rd September, 12.45 - 1.10pm in L14

Good luck! The Senior Student Leaders



Introducing the SEN Team 2026-27 – Leadership and Teaching

For more information please visit our website [Learning Support - King James's School](https://www.kjschool.co.uk/learning-support)



SENCo
Amy Fearnley



Assistant SENCo
Emma Wilson



AHT / Senior SENCo
Alison Knight

Specialist teachers of SEND and Inclusion



Specialist Teacher (SSG)
Fran Riley



Teacher of inclusion
Louise Crabtree



Specialist Teacher (SEMH)
Lindsay Cooper

Reading

Y8 Competition Winners!

In READ+ lessons, Y7 students practised their research skills in the summer term using a variety of print and digital resources. They experienced first-hand the hard work that goes into producing a book (Zine) on a subject of their choice. The detail and creativity that all our students produced was outstanding.

It was very hard to select only five prize-winning students. Congratulations to the following students:

Joint Winners: Alfie F and Amie G

Runners-Up: Alice G, Lottie G and William K



Book Clubs

At King James's, we are proud to be a Reading School, and our love of books extends far beyond the classroom. Whether we are recommending a new favourite, debating a character's decisions or simply sharing what we have been enjoying, reading is something we love to talk about!

Our lunchtime book clubs are a fantastic opportunity for students to make new friends, meet other students who share their interests and enjoy reading together. There really is something for everyone!

Five reasons to join a book club:

1. Discover your next favourite book

The top floor of our library provides a welcoming space for students to relax, explore and discover books they may not otherwise choose. From thrilling adventures and gripping mysteries to thought-provoking stories, there is always something new to discover!

2. Meet other readers

Book clubs are a great way to meet new people and make friends with others who enjoy reading. There is always plenty to talk about and lots of different opinions to share.

3. Read more widely

With busy lives and so many distractions, finding time to read can sometimes be challenging. Book clubs give students the perfect opportunity to make reading a regular part of their week and encourage them to explore books beyond their usual choices.

4. Share ideas and build confidence

Talking about books gives students the opportunity to develop their communication and debating skills. Discussing characters, themes and different viewpoints encourages students to consider stories from different perspectives, helping them to develop a deeper understanding of the world around them.

5. Most importantly... have fun!

Book clubs are a chance to relax, enjoy a great story and spend time with people who share their enthusiasm for books. Whether students already love reading or are looking for a book that might change their mind, everyone is welcome!

Our Book Clubs begin next week, on Monday 21st September

- Monday – Years 9 & 10 Book Club Miss Gilbert
- Tuesday – Years 11, 12 & 13 Book Club Mrs Middleyard
- Thursday – Year 8 Royal Readers Miss Thompson

All book clubs take place on the top floor of the library from 12:35–1:05pm.

If your child would like to join a book club this year, please ask them to come along to the library and speak to Mrs Bryden. We would love to welcome even more students to our reading community and hear about the books they are enjoying!

Attendance

A Positive Start to the New School Year

As we come to the end of our first full week at King James's, we have been delighted to see how well our students have adapted to their new school routines, from P1 beginning at 8:45am right through to the end of P6 at 3:15pm.

We appreciate that changes to familiar routines can sometimes feel a little unsettling. However, we can already see new habits forming and students becoming increasingly comfortable with the new system. In fact, some might say that our students have adapted even quicker than the staff!

Our New Attendance Procedures

This week has also seen the introduction of our new attendance procedures. Our two new members of the attendance team have been fantastic in getting to grips with our school systems while also taking the opportunity to introduce themselves to many of our students and parents.

Some parents may have received a call from one of our Attendance Officers this week. These calls are made when an absence form has not been completed on the first day of a student's absence, or on subsequent days, or they may be a simple check in.

If a student has not returned to school by the second day of absence, parents may receive a further call to provide an update. During this call, parents will also be advised that if their child does not return on the third day, a welfare check may be carried out by our Attendance Champion.

The home visits that have taken place this week have all been very positive. We are grateful for the understanding shown by parents, who recognise that these procedures form an important part of our responsibility to safeguard students when they have been absent from school for three days or more.

A Reminder for Parents and Carers

We appreciate that mornings can be extremely busy for families. However, if your child is going to be absent, please remember to complete an absence form each morning of their absence. Doing so ensures that we know your child is safe and helps to avoid an unnecessary telephone call from our attendance team.

On occasion, we may also ask parents and carers to provide medical evidence to support an absence. This will generally be requested where a student's attendance was below 90% during the previous academic year, or where their attendance during the current academic year is approaching 90%.

We will never ask families to incur a cost to obtain medical evidence. Evidence can include a doctor's note, an e-consultation confirmation, a note from a pharmacist or other healthcare professional, or a photograph of prescribed medication or its packaging.

Working Together to Support Attendance

As always, our aim is to work in partnership with families to help every student achieve our attendance target of 96%.

We also recognise that there can be many reasons why a young person may find attending school difficult. If your child is struggling with attendance, or if there are circumstances affecting their ability to attend regularly, please get in touch with us. Our priority is to work with you, offer support where we can and help your child maintain the best possible connection with their education.

Thank you to all our students, parents and carers for your support during our first full week. It has been wonderful to see our new routines beginning to settle into place, and we look forward to building on such a positive start.



SAVE THE DATE

**Supporting Children Who Find
Coming to School Difficult**

MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

**Does your child struggle to get into school,
experience barriers to attending, or find that anxiety,
worry or other circumstances make attendance difficult?**

Parents and carers of students in Years 7-11
are warmly invited to an evening offering
understanding, practical guidance and support.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Led by an Educational Psychologist
from North Yorkshire, exploring barriers to school
attendance and supportive ways forward for families.

**Whether difficulties are new, ongoing or becoming
a concern, you are very welcome to join us.**

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

Further details will follow



KJS PE

Extra Curricular Clubs

After school. 3.15-4.30

READY
 RESPECTFUL
 ENGAGED

MONDAY



Year 11 & 6th Form Boys Football (DBE)



TUESDAY

 Year 7, 8 & 9 Girls Football (ECH)
  Year 9 Boys Football (RCO)
  Year 7 Netball (RBU)



WEDNESDAY

 Year 10, 11 & 6th Form Girls Football (RBU)
  Year 8 & 9 Girls Netball (LBK)
  Year 8 Boys Football (KWI)



THURSDAY

 Year 7 Boys Football (AAK)
  Year 10, 11 & 6th Form Netball (LHO & AFE)
  Year 8 Rugby (PMC)
  Year 9 & 10 Rugby (SFO) Week 8 only

FRIDAY

 Year 10 Boys Football (KHL)
  All Years Basketball (ECH)



TEAMWORK
 RESILIENCE
 RESPECT
 FAIR PLAY
 DETERMINATION

Set no limits on what we can achieve.

School Production auditions



Following last year's success with 'Little Shop of Horrors', we will be holding auditions for our 2027 School Production of Bugsy Malone after school on Thursday 24th September for students Y8-13. Students will meet in S1 for their acting and singing audition and will be allowed to leave when their audition is complete.

It is not too late to get an audition pack from the drama office and sign up on the sheet in the Drama Circle if you want to get involved. We can't wait to see you all there!

Student achievement

A huge well done to Lucy G in Year 9 who qualified earlier in the year for the National Championships at Offchurch with her junior Horse and Pony care team. They came 10th overall out of 44 teams and actually won the Newcomers Award with Lucy also being awarded 2nd placed individual overall.



Lucy also went to the Regional Championships where she placed 2nd in her section in the PC70 Dressage meaning she went through to the ride off and ended up placing 8th overall. She also competed in the eventing and came 2nd finishing on her dressage score after a double clear showjumping and cross country.

Thank you!

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who have kindly donated pre-loved school uniform. We have received a fantastic response and, for the time being, we have enough donations to meet our current needs.

We will begin collecting pre-loved uniform again after Christmas, so please hold on to any good-quality items that you may no longer need. Your continued support is greatly appreciated and helps us to support families across our school community.



Junior Parkrun Knaresborough

parkrun is a free, community event where you can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate. parkrun is 5k and takes place every Saturday morning. junior parkrun is 2k, dedicated to 4-14 year olds and their families. parkrun is positive, welcoming and inclusive, there is no time limit and no one finishes last. Everyone is welcome to come along. This Sunday (20th September) is the first Knaresborough Junior Parkfun, taking place at Conyngham Hall at 9.00am.

More information can be found [here](#).