

King James's School Newsletter

Inside this issue:

- Message from Ms Oakley
- Assemblies
- Textiles Needs You!
- Netball news
- The Week Ahead
- Careers
- International Day of Happiness
- Year 11 Revision
- Rotary Technology Competition
- House Drama
- Arts Award
- Harrogate Festival of Music and Drama
- Expectations from the Leisure Centre
- Punctuality to lessons
- Does attendance really make a difference?
- Book Reviews



Assemblies

Year 12 & 13 have rewards assemblies this week delivered by Ms Watson.

The focus of the Year 7,8 & 9 assemblies are year group priorities delivered by the Associate Assistant Headteachers.

Years 10 and 11 have Andrew Coope from North Yorkshire Fire Service delivering an assembly on Fire Safety.

Netball News

This week, some of our Year 13 students played their last ever Netball match for KJS, after representing the school for 7 years!

The U18 netball team, which had girls from Year 11, 12 & 13 in, competed against St John Fishers in an outstanding game of netball. It was an excellent standard, played with the perfect balance of competition and fun.

A very proud moment for us all, and it has been an absolute privilege to work with these girls, both on the court & in the classroom.

Ruby, Connie, Liv, Lily & Abi - Good luck in your exams and thank you for always making Netball a joy to coach.



Message from Ms Oakley

Dear parents, carers and students,



"I'm late ... I'm late..."

"For a very important date", said the White Rabbit to Alice; but have you ever wondered why some of our students find themselves in a "Time Owed" detention?

"Time Owed" detentions are generated not only because a student arrives late to school at the start of the school day; but also, if they arrive late to lessons during the school day. Why? Because learning waits for no-one! And our teaching and learning principles ensure that students on entry to lessons take part in our "Do Now" tasks to engage their brains at the start of lessons.

Parents and carers, did you know you can track your child's punctuality to lessons by viewing the Bromcom App, which provide a daily update in relation to punctuality. Help us make learning a priority, by being on time – every time!

Thank you for your generosity

Staff and students alike have joined forces to mark Comic Relief 2026 by wearing our own clothes in exchange for donating money. Our target is £2000, fingers crossed that we manage to beat that, and help support a well-worth cause.

And finally...

Eid Mubarak! To all of the members of our school community who will be celebrating today, we wish you a happy and peaceful Eid.

Thank you as always for your warm welcome and on-going support,

Kind regards,
Ms Oakley



Textiles Needs you!

Have you ever started a knitting or crochet project and found yourself with leftover wool? The Textiles Department would love to put it to good use.

We are currently collecting yarn of all types and colours. Chunky and textured yarns would be especially appreciated, but all donations are very welcome. If you have any wool you can spare, pupils can bring it to the DT Department or drop it off at the main reception.

Thank you in advance for your generosity — every contribution makes a difference!

The Week Ahead: 23rd March 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon	House Drama Auditions (N'dale & S'dale) Spring Concert	7-11 Everyone welcome	3.15pm 7.00pm	Balcony/Stalls S1
Tue	Year 11 Pastoral Parents' Evening	11	4.00pm-6.30pm	In School
Wed	House Drama Auditions (W'dale & A'dale)	7-11	3.15pm	Balcony/Stalls
Thur	Year 7 Easter Disco	7	5.00pm-7.00pm	S1
Fri	SPRING TERM ENDS			

International Day of Happiness

The International Day of Happiness (20th March) aims to make people around the world realize the importance of happiness within their lives. The day is a global call for increased, collective action to create a more supportive, compassionate, and happy world.

To enhance your happiness, you could try exercising, interacting with friends/family, treating yourself to something you like, or trying out a hobby (such as baking or riding your bike)! Make sure you look after your happiness: today and every day!

Matilda, Sixth Form Wellbeing Ambassador.



Careers

Lloyds Banking Group – Virtual Work Experience

Lloyds Banking Group is a world-renowned commercial, personal, and investment banking management firm and the UK's biggest Bank. LBG has over 30 million customers and around 60,000 employees globally and is a FTSE 100 company. Under the Lloyds Banking Group business, they also own Halifax and Bank of Scotland, as well as other financial institutions such as Scottish Widows.

What to expect:

- We'll show you an introduction to LBG
- How to evolve your presentation skills
- Take part in business-related challenges
- Commercial awareness and building essential skills workshops
- Learn about banking, finance, and digital technology
- Learn about a SWOT analysis and putting it into practice

Your future starts now. Let's unlock it—together.

Event Details:

- Date: Monday 30th March or Tuesday 7th April - please choose one session only
- Time: 10am - 2pm
- For: Years 10,11,12 & 13

Location: (Zoom link provided upon registration)

Application Link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LBG_VWEX_MAR

Year 11 Revision

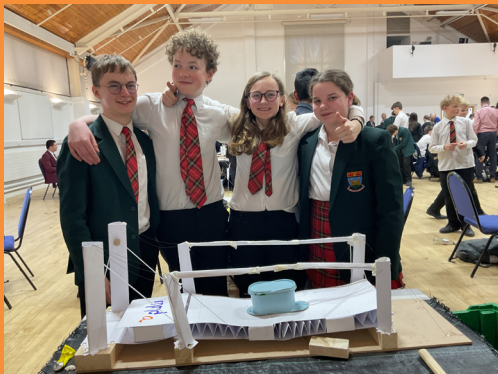
Don't forget that there are lots of revision materials for Year 11 on our website including our subject revision programmes which help them to structure their revision, useful online resources, revision sessions on offer in school and advice on the best ways to revise.

Please do look at our website for further information and we wish all our students the very best of luck in the summer.

[Year 11 Revision - King James's School](#)

Rotary Technology Competition

This week 12 pupils from years 8, 10 and 12 took part in the Rotary Technology Tournament which was held at St Aidan's School. KJS pupils did very well at designing and making a bridge out of card. We just missed out on a win but took second place in the KS4 category. It was great to see the teamwork and problem solving skills on show.



House Drama

The time of year is upon us again! Students will soon see posters around school and Instagram posts on our Drama page @kjs_drama, but you can see below the days and rooms for auditions for each house, as well as the show they have chosen.

This is a fantastic whole school event to be involved in, performed in the summer - on the 29th and 30th June. The second night is 'Judging Night' with trophies up for grabs as well as house points.

Years 7-11 can audition; auditions will take place after school on the following days:

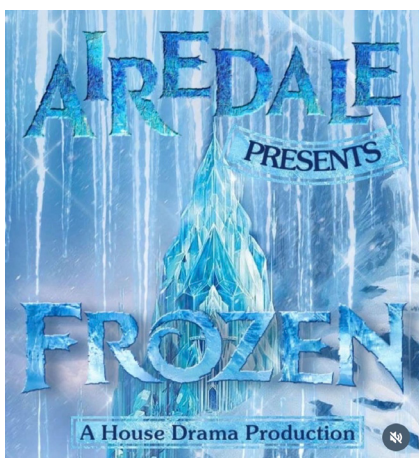
Monday 23rd March - Nidderdale - Shrek the Musical - Balcony.

Monday 23rd March - Swaledale - High School Musical - Stalls.

Wednesday 25th March - Wharfedale - Descendants - Balcony.

Wednesday 25th March - Airedale - Frozen - Stalls

We can't wait to see lots of students there!



Opportunities! Sixth Form & beyond

Bespoke opportunities for Years 12 & 13 updated weekly from KJS Sixth Form Knaresborough:

https://wakelet.com/wake/hO_PLUy0Xrky73rMfYrlr



Arts Award

A reminder that there is still time for your child to apply for the Arts Award, the details of which were included in last week's newsletter.



If you think your child may be interested in this fantastic opportunity, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at library@king-james.co.uk using 'Arts Award' as the subject heading.

Harrogate Festival of Music and Drama

On Sunday 15th March, KJS brass players Ella G, Dan H, Alicia M and Max G, took part in the Harrogate Festival of Music and Drama. Performing with both the Knaresborough Silver Training Band and the Tewit Youth Intermediate Band, the students took to the stage in front of experienced brass adjudicator Mark Sidwell, with Knaresborough Silver Training Band taking the community band trophy and Tewit Inters coming runners up! Mark had lots of positive comments about the young people on stage, and how enjoyable both performances were to watch.

Ella G, Dan H, Alicia M and Sam O-H will also perform next Sunday, in Durham, with the Knaresborough Silver Band, at the North of England Brass Band Championships. The band has been newly promoted to the 3rd Section and will perform Three Haworth Impressions by Gordon Langford, a tricky original work for brass band which musically depicts the landscapes around West Yorkshire. Good luck to all students competing.



Expectations from the Leisure Centre

Students gather at the Leisure Centre before school and we want to work with them to improve the way our students use this space. After Easter they will be displaying these expectations in the cafe to remind students about how they should use this public space so everyone has a positive experience.

Customer notice

Junior Customer Expectations

To help keep our space safe, welcoming, and enjoyable for everyone, we ask all juniors to follow these simple expectations:

1. Use facilities appropriately

Please use all facilities, especially toilets, as they are intended. Only one person is permitted in a toilet cubicle at a time.

2. Respect others around you

Be considerate of the environment and people nearby. Keep noise to a reasonable level and behave responsibly at all times.

3. Use respectful language

No swearing or abusive language. Please speak politely to staff, customers, and each other.

4. No vaping or smoking

Vaping or smoking is not allowed anywhere inside the building or around the entrances.

5. Look after the building and equipment

Treat all areas, furniture, and equipment with care. Misuse or damage may lead to restrictions on future use.

6. Seating area for café customers only

Please only sit in the café seating area if you are purchasing or consuming food or drinks from the café.

northyorks.gov.uk/active



Part of



Punctuality to Lessons

At our school, punctuality to lessons plays a vital role in supporting students' learning and progress. The first 10 minutes of every lesson are carefully planned to focus on retrieval practice from previous learning and to set the objectives for the lesson ahead. This time is crucial in helping students consolidate knowledge and feel fully prepared for new content.

When students arrive late, they miss this important introduction, which can impact their confidence and understanding for the remainder of the lesson.

We would also like to remind parents and carers that if a student accumulates more than 20 minutes of lateness across the 25-period week, they will receive an "owed time" detention, which takes place on a Monday.

Please note that lateness is not currently visible on the MCAS app. However, you can monitor your child's punctuality through the Bromcom app.

Thank you in advance for your continued support in ensuring students arrive on time and ready to learn.

Date	Period	Mark	Class
09/03/2026 08:45	Form	U	10W1
05/03/2026 11:30	3	L (2)	10L/Ma2
04/03/2026 08:45	Form	L (1)	10W1
03/03/2026 14:15	5	A	10L/Ma2
03/03/2026 13:15	4	A	10C/Bs1
03/03/2026 11:30	3	A	10L/En1
03/03/2026 10:10	2	A	10L/ScT1
03/03/2026 09:10	1	A	10A/H11
03/03/2026 08:45	Form	A	10W1
02/03/2026 11:30	3	L (2)	10L/ScT1
02/03/2026 08:45	Form	L (3)	10W1
26/02/2026 08:45	Form	L (5)	10W1
25/02/2026 11:30	3	L (4)	10L/Ma2
25/02/2026 08:45	Form	L (5)	10W1

Does good attendance really make a difference?

We know that conversations about attendance can sometime feel repetitive, and some parents may wonder whether schools focus on attendance simply to meet targets set by organisations such as the Department for Education or local authorities. In reality, our priority is much simpler: we want every student to have the best possible chance of success.

The evidence is very clear; attendance plays a crucial role in achievement. Students who attend school more than 95% of the time (missing up to two weeks across the academic year), are twice as likely to achieve a Grade 5 in English and Maths compared with students whose attendance is around 90% (around four weeks missed). Every day in school builds knowledge, confidence and momentum in learning.

Of course, the benefits of good attendance go far beyond academic results. Being in school regularly helps students:

- Build strong friendships and social skills
- Take part in sports, clubs and wider opportunities
- Develop confidence, resilience, and emotional stability during an important stage of their lives

These experiences all contribute to a well-rounded education. At the same time, strong academic outcomes open doors to many future pathways, whether that's further education, apprenticeships, or exciting career opportunities.

Every week really does count. It can be easy to excuse occasional days off for minor reasons, but over time those days can add up and more learning more difficult. By working together to support excellent attendance, we can help ensure every student has the best opportunity to reach their full potential.

Thank you for continuing to support your child, and our school community, by making attendance a priority. Together, we can make every day count.

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
Year to date	91.4%	94.9%	92.8%	88.6%	89.1%	91.4%	94.93%	93.54%



This series has many twists and turns, and its amazing! Everyone aged 15 and over suddenly disappears, leaving only children and teenagers behind. I really liked how the books mix survival, superpower, and friendship. Each book ends in a way that makes you want to pick up the next one straight away.

(Recommended reading age – KS4)

Oscar Yates (Y7)

I read this book in one day and in one sitting-not because it was a quick read, but because it was captivating. I loved the storyline, the characters, and the subtle fantasy elements woven throughout. It's no surprise that it's made the Leeds Book Awards shortlist!

I would rate this book 4/5 stars.

(Recommended reading age – KS3)

Hazel Brodie (Y8)