

King James's School Newsletter

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Assemblies

We have a safeguarding theme to our assemblies next week. Mrs Knight our Designated Safeguarding Lead is delivering assemblies to Year 7, 8, 12 and 13.

We also have North Yorkshire Fire Service coming into school on Friday to deliver assemblies on Fire Safety to Year 7, 8 and 9.

Little Shop of Horrors 2026

Tickets selling fast outside the library so don't forget to get yours!" Payment by card or cash is fine.



KJS PRESENTS
LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS
10TH, 11TH, 12TH FEBRUARY - 7PM - S1

TICKETS:
£10 FOR CHILDREN
£12 FOR ADULTS
ON SALE OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY AT LUNCHTIMES. CASH & CARD ACCEPTED.

2003 BROADWAY VERSION. BOOK & LYRICS BY HOWARD ASHMAN. MUSIC BY ALAN MENKEN.

Message from Ms Oakley

Dear parents, carers and students,

Excitement is certainly building for our school production "Little Shop of Horrors" with ticket sales up on previous years! Don't leave it too late to secure your ticket for what looks like being an incredible show.



Students – have you entered the KJS Writing Competition yet? If not, why not write your entry this weekend before the deadline of the 31st January. All you need to do is showcase your talents by writing a piece of no more than 1000 words based on the title "The Shadow." You can create any type of writing; a poem, a song, graphic novel, diary entry, short story – the choice is yours! All entries should be submitted via email to library@king-james.co.uk

And finally...don't forget that from Monday 26th February to Friday 6th March we are shining a spotlight on attendance with our Valentines' attendance challenge. Every student with 100% attendance during this period will be entered into a prize draw – don't forget you've got to be in to win!

Thank you for your on-going support,

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place next Tuesday (27 January) to remember the six million Jewish men, women and children who were murdered in the Holocaust, and the millions more murdered under Nazi persecution. It also commemorates the victims of atrocities in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, and encourages remembrance in a world scarred by prejudice and persecution.



Our RS department have planned and prepared a tutor time activity that is reflective, encouraging students to consider the importance of tolerance, courage and standing up for what is right.

DofE Congratulations

Dan C in Year 13 completed his Gold Duke of Edinburgh at the end of 2025. He completed his practice expedition in the Lake District in fine weather at Easter, but spent 5 lovely days in the rain soaked hills of the Yorkshire Dales for his qualifying expedition during August!



As part of the Duke of Edinburgh Programme Dan volunteered at Inspire Youth working alongside Harrogate Town Community Team. Dan will hopefully be collecting his award from Buckingham Palace in May. Well done Dan on this fantastic achievement.

The Week Ahead: 26th January 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon				
Tue	Holocaust Memorial Day			
Wed	Intermediate Maths Challenge Year 9 Parents Evening	10 & 11 (selected students) 9	Period 5 4.30-7.30pm	Chaloner Online
Thur	DTP & Meningitis Immunisations	9	All day	S1
Fri				

Careers

Year 9 GCSE Options

Year 9 have presentations this week linked to the GCSE options process to ensure they have all the information they need to get the most out of the GCSE options evening on 4th February.

Lloyds Banking Group Insight Opportunity

Join Lloyds Banking Group for an opportunity to network and discover what it's really like to be part of a leading financial institution. These events are for school students where you can find out about internships, work experience, and apprenticeship opportunities at Lloyds Banking Group's flagship offices.

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 an FTSE 100 company. Under the Lloyds Banking Group business, they also own Halifax and Bank of Scotland and other financial institutions such as Scottish Widows.

The insight day promises an exciting journey into the world of finance and digital banking, offering a unique opportunity to explore these fields through the lens of Lloyds Banking Group. Here, you will have the opportunity to engage in interactive workshops, gain hands-on experience, and network with industry professionals and potential employers.

Event Details:

- Leeds- 11 & 12 WELLINGTON PL, LEEDS LS1 4AP - Saturday 31st January
- The events have 2 slots and will run from 10am - 12.30pm & 2pm - 4.30pm - Please only apply for ONE time slot.
- Dress code is smart/casual. No tracksuits or hoodies, please.

Application Links (Click Below)

[Leeds - Saturday 31st January](#)

Lloyds Banking Group – Free Information Session on T-levels

Thursday 26th February 6pm-7pm

The session covers an overview of what T levels are and how placements work within their organisation.

If you are interested and would like to join the event, here is the link:

[All about T levels Tickets, Thu, Feb 26, 2026 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Food Tech lessons

Please could we remind parents that when students have a practical food technology lesson, they will need to bring in a container in order that they can transport their cooked product home.



Empower

COMMUNITY FUND

Are you aged 13-15?

Want to feel better about yourself?

"...no pressure to talk about anything if you don't want to."

"I feel more aware of myself."

Our next Empower course...

Thursday 29th January 2026
6.30pm-8pm

Where...

Wellspring House,
78 High Street,
Starbeck, Harrogate,
HG2 7LW

Contact Jo & Jane to find out more...

✉ empower@wellspringtherapy.co.uk

☎ 01423 881 881

wellspringtherapy.co.uk/youth/empower/

Registered Charity, number 1100420, and a Company limited by guarantee, Number 4728609

8 sessions, all FREE

Talk about real stuff

Trained counsellors

Positive group work

"I love coming because I feel seen and I don't feel weird."

wellspring
therapy & training



Netball News

Year 9: We are delighted that over 30 Year 9 students are actively involved in after-school Netball club this year. Fourteen of those Year 9 girls travelled to Boroughbridge High on Thursday after school to play a match. The girls played some fantastic netball, defending well and attacking with confidence which lead to a 15-2 win for KJS.

Year 7: The Year 7 "Green" team put in a strong performance against St Aidans to secure a 6-3 victory, showing great teamwork and determination throughout the match. Solid defending and quick attacking play helped keep the pressure on the opposition and maintain control of the game. Player of the Match went to Allegra, whose outstanding effort, skill, and leadership on court made a huge difference and helped drive the team to a well-deserved win.

In a closely fought game, the Year 7 "Yellow" team battled hard to claim a 2-1 win against what they feared to be strong opposition. Despite being under pressure at times, the players showed great determination and teamwork to stay in the contest and take their chances. A special mention goes to Lily, who made her debut and showed real potential with a confident performance, settling into the game well and making a positive impact for the team, with Mrs Fearnley naming her coach's player of the match.

Year 10: Over the course of this season, the number of students attending Year 10 netball has continued to grow, so much so that we now have enough students to have two teams. This week all our new players played in their first school fixture against Rossett High School's A-team. Our team were a credit to school and played some amazing netball, demonstrating the progress they have made.

At half time we were level however in the final two quarters Rossett's experience started to pay off and the final score was 9-6 to Rossett. Congratulations to all those girls who played.

Football News

The U15 girls have had a fantastic run in the National Cup - they made it to the last 32 schools from over 400. That is two of our teams to make it to the last 32 - what a brilliant achievement.

On Wednesday, the U16 girls team played Archbishop Holgate in the County Cup - it was a very close match in muddy, wet conditions - but the girls clinched a victory on penalties thanks to Alice T's brilliant save! They now face Fulford in the quarter finals.

The U14 girls played Ripon Grammar in the Area Cup and managed a very convincing win in torrential rain. It finished 10-1 to KJS! They are now in the semi-finals.

All girls football teams are still in the County & Area Cup - good luck to all of them in the next round.



Attendance update & Valentine's Challenge

For those of you who love keeping an eye on our weekly attendance stats, here's a little context behind this week's Year 11 figures.

Year 11 is always a big one academically, and their attendance is usually impressively high. You may have noticed a small dip last week, but this was very much expected, and for a great reason! Several local colleges were running taster sessions, giving our Year 11 students the chance to explore their exciting next steps. Many took advantage of this opportunity, and while these absences were authorised, they do still show in our overall figures. We hope our students found the day inspiring and informative as some start planning for life beyond school.

And now for some exciting news... it's challenge time!

We're launching our Valentine's 100% Attendance Challenge, giving all students a fresh start and chance to achieve 100% attendance over a two-week period. Students who succeed will be entered into a Year Group prize draw, with prizes awarded in assemblies during the final week of term.

Good luck to everyone, we're looking forward to seeing lots of perfect attendance...

"Roses are red, Violets are blue,
Being in class,
Helps dreams come true".

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
12th-16th January	90.5%	94.7%	92.9%	89.5%	89.9%	85.3%	95.5%	Study Leave





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This Week's Student Book Reviews



AMAZING! The world-building is incredible (I want to live there!). This is absolute PEAK literature. The book is a magical whimsical story, and you'll have the best time of your life reading it. Also, the author is an awesome person.

I would rate this book 5/5 stars.

(Recommended reading age – Y7)

Maggie (Y11)

SKRENTNY CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

The Shadow

Showcase your imagination and creativity by writing a piece of no more than 1,000 words based on the title "The Shadow".

You might decide to write a short story, poem, song, graphic novel, diary entry or any other form of creative writing; the choice is yours!

Winners will receive a shopping voucher to the value of £30 and will be featured in the KJS newsletter.

All entries should be entirely original work and submitted via email to library@king-james.co.uk with the subject "KJS writing competition 2025".

The deadline for submissions is 31st January 2026



A beautifully written coming-of-age novel that follows a girl as she navigates high school while reflecting on her childhood spent with her ex-best friend. Depicting the harsh realities and ups and downs of school life, the novel takes us on a compelling journey.

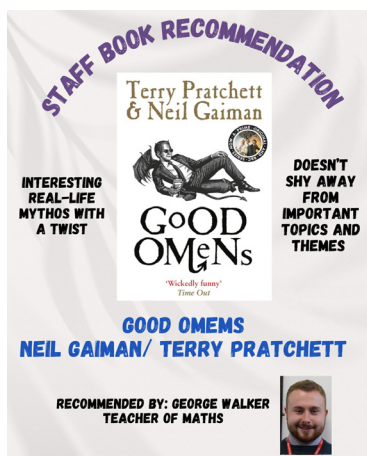
I would rate this book 5/5 stars.

(Recommended reading age – KS4+)

Alicia (Y12)

This week's Staff Reading Recommendation

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



KNARESBOROUGH YOUTH CLUB

Food Music Fun Support Chill
Arts & Crafts Games Relax Socialise

Tuesdays (term time only)

7-9pm @ Gracious Street Methodist Church,

Chapel St, Knaresborough. HG5 8AN

Open to young people in school yr7+

50p per session (first session free)



Youth
Youth development at North Yorkshire Youth

www.nyy.org.uk