

King James's School Newsletter

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Allergy Awareness

We would like to inform parents that we have a number of students in school who have a severe allergy to nuts. Whilst we are not a "nut-free" school, as part of our commitment to the health and safety of all students we kindly ask that parents are mindful of this if sending snacks and packed lunches into school.



Thank you as always for your support.

School Council

A big congratulations to the following students who were successful with their Student Council application and will be joining our Year 13 Senior Leaders - Will Davies, Solly Graham, Matilda Little, Bohdan Antonychev to form this years KJS Student Council:

- Ben W and Chloe W (Year 7)
- Tiff W and Conor S (Year 8)
- Hazel B & Cecile G (Year 9)
- Jack H and Willow M (Year 10)
- Rose W & Nancy C (Year 11)
- Aidan L and Beatrice M (Year 12)

Student Council meetings will take place once a half term. The first meeting took place on Thursday 8th October. The next Student Council meeting will take place on Thursday 10th December.

Message from Ms Oakley



Dear parents, carers and students,

It's starting to feel a lot like autumn...but that hasn't stopped our students from attending school! Congratulations to every single young person who has battled the elements, to ensure that our attendance is at 94%, significantly better than this time last year!

We know that being in school, day in day, day out, makes a difference and want to thank you for being in to win!

Praise, Praise, Praise!

This week started with the first of our new Praise Breakfasts; over hot chocolate, hash browns and pan au chocolate we listened to some of Mr Berry's "Top Tunes" and celebrated our young people who have shown that they have been "Ready" for learning. Well done to all our nominated students, and I look forward to next half term's breakfasts where the theme will be "Respect"

Parents and carers, make sure you check your emails after half term as throughout the week staff have been nominating young people for a Praise Postcard. Students can receive one or more of the following under these categories:

READY POSTCARD - Form tutors, will nominate 1 student that has impressed them this Half Term.

RESPECTFUL POSTCARD - Year Managers and Associate Assistant Heads will nominate 10 students per year group.

ENGAGED POSTCARD - Class teachers will nominate 1 student per class

As you can see it's not easy to receive a postcard, so I'd like to extend my huge congratulations to any worthy recipients.

And finally...

A message for Year 11 – I want to praise you for the efforts you have put into your PPEs. I know it's stressful and exhausting, but you have remained in good spirits, and I promise you that it will be worth it this summer. Use half term to recharge and revise – and remember, we are here to help!

I hope everyone else has a safe and enjoyable half term.

Thank you as always for your on-going support,

Kind regards
Miriam Oakley
Headteacher

Year 7 Football

Year 7 football is thriving at King James's School, with around 50 students attending Thursday training sessions. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by the boys have been fantastic, providing an encouraging start to their school football journey. Congratulations to the squad who represented the school in their first County Cup fixture, securing an impressive 3-1 victory against Malton in the opening round. The team have also played a friendly against St Aidan's, producing a very impressive performance. They are now looking forward to finding out who they will face next in both the Area Cup and County Cup.

With so many students keen to get involved, the school hopes to arrange further friendly fixtures to give more boys the opportunity to represent their year group.

The team are also seeking sponsorship from a local business to help fund a new set of football shirts. This offers a wonderful opportunity to support young people and school sport, with the sponsor's contribution recognised through the school's social media channels. Anyone interested is warmly invited to contact School.

Well done to all the boys attending training and representing the school, we look forward to following their progress throughout the season!



Year 10 GCSE Art Sculpture Park trip

Our Year 10 GCSE Art students had a brilliant day visiting The Yorkshire Sculpture Park! Thankfully, the rain stayed away, giving us plenty of time to explore the park and create lots of drawings of the sculptures. We enjoyed seeing the incredible work of Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth, gathering ideas to develop work for the students sculpture and printmaking projects.

A big thank you to Mr King and Mrs Moorey for their help and support alongside the art department in making the trip such a success!



The Week Ahead: 2nd November 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Year 11 PPEs continue Attendance: Parents Workshop	11		
Tue	Talk about Trust	Sixth Form		
Wed				
Thur	House Football (Boys)	7	Period 3	
Fri	House Football (Boys) MP visit	8,9,10 Sixth Form Politics students	Periods 4,6,2 10.30am	



Share the Spirit of Christmas: Support our local Food Bank

Christmas is a time for giving, kindness and coming together as a community. However, for some families in our local area, the festive period can bring extra financial pressure, making it difficult to afford essential food and everyday necessities.

The King James's School community is working together to make Christmas a little brighter this year for those who need support by collecting foodbank donations.

A list of essential items are listed below:

- tinned fish / tinned meat
- tinned goods- soups, veg, pulses
- cooking sauce
- flour, plain and self-raising
- sugar, tea, coffee, biscuits
- breakfast cereals
- long-life milk / fruit cordials
- kitchen / bathroom cleaners / toilet rolls
- shower gel / shampoo / toothpaste / deodorant
- washing powder or tabs / fabric conditioner



Please leave any donations in the Christmas Collection area in reception. Please give what you can, share the kindness and help make a difference this Christmas.



Raising Awareness, Celebrating Differences

October includes several awareness days and weeks that recognise different needs, experiences and ways of learning.

Small actions matter

Listen. Understand. Include.

Be patient
Celebrate differences
Ask what helps
Remove barriers

OCTOBER SEND AWARENESS CALENDAR

UK • 2026

1-31 OCTOBER  ADHD Awareness Month	1-31 OCTOBER  Dyslexia Awareness Month	5-11 OCTOBER  Dyslexia Awareness Week
6 OCTOBER  World Cerebral Palsy Day	8 OCTOBER  International Dyslexia Day	10 OCTOBER  World Mental Health Day
12-18 OCTOBER  Dyspraxia Awareness Week	14-20 OCTOBER  National Braille Week	22 OCTOBER  International Stammering Awareness Day

At KJS, we recognise that every student has individual strengths and needs.

We promote inclusion through adaptive teaching, appropriate adjustments and collaboration with staff, students and families.

By listening to students and understanding what helps them learn we aim to remove barriers and help every student feel valued.

"Who can I speak to for queries and support with special educational needs?"

Building Success Together

Every member of staff plays a part in helping your child succeed.

In secondary school, supporting pupils with SEND is a shared responsibility. Teachers, teaching assistants, pastoral teams, leaders, families and external professionals work together to help every child achieve and thrive.



Many roles. One shared goal: *helping every child reach their potential.*

At KJS, SEND is a whole-school responsibility.

We believe that *every teacher is a teacher of SEND and every leader is a leader of SEND*

All staff play a part in recognising individual needs, adapting teaching and providing an inclusive environment where every student can thrive.

Our SEND team works alongside teachers, pastoral staff and families to coordinate support and help ensure that every student can succeed.

For more information please visit our website
[Learning Support - King James's School](#)

Attendance Matters - A Positive Start to the Year!

Well, we made it! The first half-term of the academic year is officially over, and there is plenty to celebrate as we reflect on the past few weeks.

From an attendance perspective, we have bounced back from a slight dip earlier in the term and are now almost in line with the national average. This is an encouraging position to be in, and one we are determined to build upon as we head towards Christmas. Of course, there are many factors that contribute to good school attendance, but one of the most important is the strong partnership between home and school. When parents, carers and staff work together, we give our young people the very best opportunity to succeed, both academically and personally.

Celebrating Our Year Groups

A special mention must go to our Year 7 students, who have made an almost seamless transition into secondary school life. By now, we hope they have mastered the corridors and found their way around the school — although, to be fair, there are probably still a few Year 11 students who take the occasional wrong turn!

One of the most pleasing aspects of this half-term has been the determination and resilience shown by Year 11 as they tackle their PPE examinations. Their commitment to arriving on time, being prepared and giving their best effort has been particularly encouraging. With PPE examinations continuing during the first week back after half-term, we would be extremely grateful for your continued support in ensuring students arrive at school promptly, ready to perform at their best.

Looking Ahead – Attendance, Rewards and a Little Festive Competition!

Next half-term, we will be placing an even greater emphasis on encouraging and celebrating attendance across the school. We have a range of rewards and incentives planned in the lead-up to Christmas, but our approach will not simply focus on those students who already have excellent attendance. We also want to recognise and encourage students whose attendance may currently be below expectations, for whatever reason, and celebrate the positive steps they take towards improvement. Our aim is to create a sense of achievement, strengthen students' feelings of belonging within our school community and perhaps introduce a little healthy competition along the way. After all, a bit of festive motivation can go a long way!

Parent Workshop – Supporting School Attendance

A reminder that our parent workshop will take place on Monday 2nd November at 7.00pm in the Sixth Form Common Room. We are delighted to be joined by Ruth Watson, Trainee Educational Psychologist with North Yorkshire County Council, who has experience of working with local schools and understanding the challenges that can affect children and young people's attendance. Ruth will share practical advice and strategies that parents and carers can use at home, alongside the support available in school, to help young people overcome barriers and feel more confident about attending. We would warmly encourage parents and carers to join us for what promises to be an informative and supportive evening.

Click here to register: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/B4JsvzTM3V>

Finally, Enjoy the Half-Term!

As we reach the end of a busy first half-term, thank you to all our students, parents, carers and staff for the effort, encouragement and support that have helped us make such a positive start to the year. We hope everyone enjoys a well-earned half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming students back for what promises to be an exciting few weeks. With Christmas on the horizon, plenty of attendance rewards to look forward to and a renewed focus on supporting every student, we are optimistic about what we can achieve together.

Enjoy the break, keep up the great work, and let's make next half-term our best yet!

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
19th - 22nd Oct	92.7%	95.8%	92.3%	92.9%	88.1%	94.6%



PARENT WORKSHOP

Working Together to Support School Attendance

Supporting young people and families

MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2026

7:00-8:30 pm

Sixth Form Common Room

Meet our speaker: Ruth Watson

Ruth Watson is a Trainee Educational Psychologist working for North Yorkshire Council Educational Psychology service. She works across Primary, Secondary and specialist provisions across North Yorkshire supporting young people and their families and working with school staff to support inclusive practice.



Ruth has been involved in supporting young people experiencing attendance difficulties, exploring ways to capture pupil voice and ensuring their views are heard. She works with schools to identify practical, evidence-informed strategies that promote psychological safety, reduce anxiety and increase engagement in learning.

Ruth also works alongside parents and carers, helping them to understand anxiety and its impact on school attendance, while exploring strategies that can be used at home to support emotional wellbeing, build resilience and encourage positive engagement with education.

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers



Make Half Term Count: Encourage Your Child to Read with Wheelers ePlatform!

As parents, we all want our children to enjoy their school holidays, relax and have fun. At the same time, half term is also a wonderful opportunity to encourage a love of reading, without the pressure of homework or school routines.

With Wheelers ePlatform, helping your child discover the joy of books has never been easier! One of the biggest advantages of Wheelers ePlatform is that our students can access a wide selection of eBooks anytime, anywhere.



This half term, why not encourage your child to log in to Wheelers ePlatform and find their next favourite book. Even 10-15 minutes of reading a day can help our students maintain their reading habits over the holidays, without making it feel like another school task.

To get started, download the free ePlatform by Wheelers app from the Apple App Store or Google Play. Click Add New Library and enter King James's School. Sign in with your school email address and password. If you experience any problems logging on, please email library@king-james.co.uk.



Proposed School Admission Arrangements 2028/2029

In accordance with our statutory duty under The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulation 2012. North Yorkshire Council is consulting on proposed school admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2028/2029. The consultation opens on 22 October 2026 and closes on 9 December 2026. You may view this at

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/proposed-school-admission-arrangements-2028-29>

If you wish to respond, please use the QR code shown below or via the following link
<https://survey.northyorks.gov.uk/t/UCAWZD/>

Voluntary Aided, Foundation, Academy, UTC and Free Schools

The determination of admission arrangements for Voluntary Aided, Foundation, Academy, UTC and Free Schools is the responsibility of the schools' governing bodies as the admission authority for the school. Any comments relating to a Voluntary Aided, Foundation, Academy, UTC or Free Schools should be addressed directly to the school in question.



King James's Sixth Form
warmly invite Year 11 students
and their parent/carers to our



Post 16 Options Evening

6:30pm – 8:00pm

Tuesday 24th November 2026

Please join our introduction in S1 at
6:30pm with our Headteacher,
Assistant Head and Director of KS5

All welcome, no need to book



October Half-term Holiday Fun



**INSPIRE
YOUTH
YORKSHIRE**

OCTOBER HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES

Inspire Youth Yorkshire

**MONDAY
26th OCT
10:00-16:00**

Trip to Harewood House
• SEE FULL POSTER FOR INFO



**TUESDAY
27th OCT
11:00-15:00**

Halloween Party
AT INSPIRE YOUTH YORKSHIRE COMMUNITY HUB



**WEDNESDAY
28th OCT
09:00-15:00**

Haunted Trail Launch
supporting KYC at Knaresborough Market



**FRIDAY
30th OCT
14:00-18:00**

Glow Ride
• SEE FULL POSTER FOR INFO



ALL WEEK

Mile-A-Thon
SIGN UP TO JOIN US. SEE HOW MANY MILES YOU CAN COVER OVER HALF TERM, AND HELP FUNDRAISE FOR INSPIRE YOUTH YORKSHIRE



VISIT WWW.INSPIREYOUTH.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION

INSPIRE YOUTH YORKSHIRE

Harewood House

Come and join us for a wonderful day out at Harewood House, Leeds!

**Monday 26th October 2026
10:00 AM - 16:00 PM**

Meeting at Inspire Youth Yorkshire Community Hub, Halfpenny Close, Knaresborough HG5 0TG

Enjoy a fun-filled day exploring the beautiful surroundings and take part in a Christmas Decoration Workshop. Open to 11-16 year olds

We will travel and return by Minibus.
Lunch provided. Donations welcome towards costs

Visit www.inspireyouth.uk for more information
Scan the code to book a place

INSPIRE YOUTH YORKSHIRE

Glow Ride

JOIN US FOR A FUN, GLOWING EVENT

STARTING AT INSPIRE YOUTH COMMUNITY HUB AND ON TO HOPE WELL DOG PARK FOR A HOT CHOCOLATE!

AGES 8-16

2-4PM: BIKE MAINTENANCE DROP IN
4-6PM: GROUP GLOW RIDE!

JUST BRING YOUR WHEELS, LIGHTS & ALL THINGS GLOW!

PLEASE DRESS FOR THE OUTDOORS. HELMETS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED.

NO ELECTRIC BIKES OR SCOOTERS PERMITTED. SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

SPOKEY DOKEY BIKES
YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE COMMUNITY HUB
DAVID SKAITH MAYOR

OCTOBER HALF TERM MILE-ATHON

WALK • RUN • SCOOT • CYCLE • SKATE • SKIP

How many miles can YOU do this October half term?
Get moving, have fun and help us raise money for your charity Inspire Youth future projects!

The challenge will run all half term!
Sign up with us, choose your own mile goal and log every mile you travel.

You can get sponsored by your family, friends and neighbours too!

Every mile helps us:
Keep active and healthy
Enjoy the great outdoors
Keep our sessions going

READY, SET, GO!

Get moving • Collect miles • Raise money • Have fun!
Visit www.inspireyouth.uk for more info



North Yorkshire Sport

SCAN TO REGISTER

INSPIRE YOUTH YORKSHIRE
Presents

EMPOWER X Spokey Dokey

Girls Support Girls

23rd October 2026

A special session focused on bike confidence and empowerment.
No need to bring a bike or be able to ride

**Inspire Youth Yorkshire Community Hub,
Halfpenny Close, Knaresborough, HG50TG**

A longer time of 2-5:30pm Ages 10-16

All girls and female presenting young people welcome

Scan below to sign up

Kindly Supported by
YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE COMMUNITY HUB
DAVID SKAITH MAYOR
SPOKEY DOKEY BIKES
North Yorkshire Sport

HAUNTED KNARESBOROUGH

Two free self-guided ghost trails

TOWN TRAIL
9 stops • about an hour • ages 8+

Restless spirits of the town centre

DARK TRAIL
15 stops • 1.5-2 hours • brave explorers

The full haunting. Torches needed

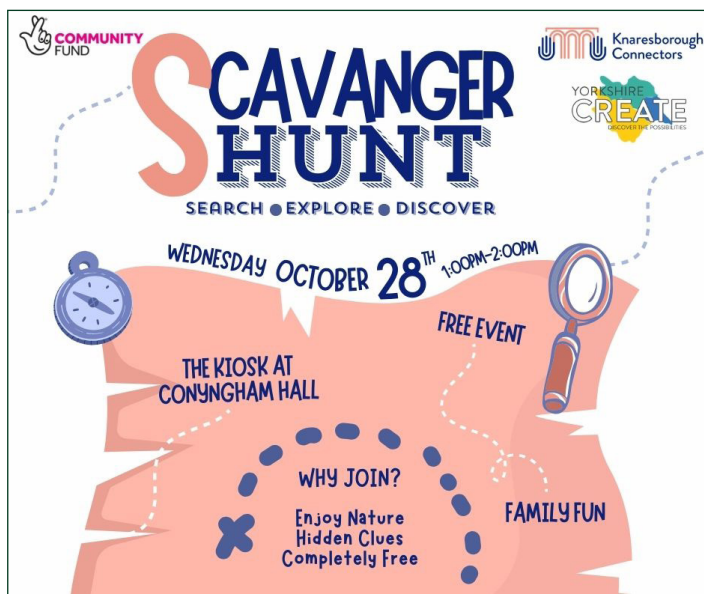
Starts and finishes at the Market Place

SCAN TO START
yorkshire-adventure.co.uk/haunted-knaresborough

Enjoyed it? Please consider making a donation
@knaresborough-youth-council
@Knaresborough-Youth-Council

Supported by
YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE COMMUNITY HUB
DAVID SKAITH MAYOR
Partnership Knaresborough
KYC





Children in Need Challenge



From Monday 9th to Friday 13th November, BBC Look North presenter Amy Garcia and Lindsey Burrow will be taking on an incredible fundraising challenge for Children in Need. The pair will walk routes of 5 to 15 miles or more across Yorkshire, pulling the iconic red Look North sofa along the way!

On Day 1, Monday 9th November, the challenge will take the ladies through North Yorkshire, travelling from Ripon to Knaresborough. They are expected to arrive in Knaresborough at approximately 8.00pm, following Harrogate Road before turning right at World's End and continuing along the waterside to finish at the Castle.

Although the challenge will take place outside school hours, we thought that members of our school community may like to go along to show their support and help raise awareness of this fantastic fundraising effort.

A live tracker will be available throughout the day, allowing you to follow their progress: <https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/pushforpudsey/>

We wish Amy and Lindsey the very best of luck and hope as many people as possible can come out to cheer them on!