

King James's School Newsletter



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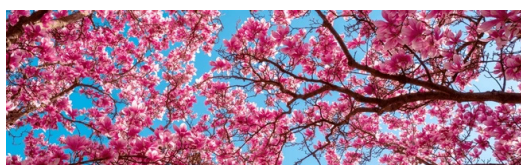
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Assemblies

Next week we have House assemblies. House assemblies are a fantastic way to bring the House communities together and celebrate a shared sense of belonging.

Student achievements will be showcased, an update on the house points will be given and further opportunities for students to gain house points for their house will be promoted.

A big thank you to our Head of House Mr Foster, our staff house leaders and our student house captains for leading the assemblies.



Message from Ms Oakley



Dear parents, carers and students,

Looking ahead to 2026-27

Plans are well underway for next year and in forthcoming newsletters I will be sharing updated information in relation to uniform, the curriculum and our reporting and assessment cycles. Please do look out for these key changes.

Our website has recently been updated with the revised days that the school will be closed to students for staff training. Please update your calendars with the revised dates.

The start of the academic year, will be as in previous years a staggered start:

- Monday 7th September – School will only be open to Year 12 students for registration for Post 16
- Tuesday 8th September – The return to school for Year 11 students and the first day of term for Year 7 students
- Wednesday 9th September – The return to school for students in Years 8, 9 and 10 and day two for students in Years 7 and 11

Students in Post 16 will receive further information about the start of lessons from the sixth form team.

An Evening to Remember!

Last Friday I had the privilege of attending the Knaresborough Air Cadets awards ceremony. Not only did I learn about the community work the Air Cadets undertake, but I also learnt about the qualifications and training, camps and challenges that the young people complete. I felt incredibly inspired by the speeches students at our school had the bravery to deliver in front of a crowd of adults, including the Mayor and the Town Crier, as well as dignitaries from the Air Cadets. Congratulations to all our students who were involved and to the many award winners!

And finally...

It's been a busy week here at King James's as we have been recruiting for additional teaching staff to join our school as part of our September preparations. For all staff joining one of the most daunting tasks is the interviews by our student leaders! From questions about favourite ice-cream flavours, teaching pedagogy and desert islands our student leaders fully tested each candidate. I watched in awe – you were truly wonderful ambassadors for our school; thank you.

Kind regards,

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher

The Week Ahead: 27 April 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon				
Tue				
Wed				
Thur	Junior Maths Challenge	Years 7 & 8 (selected students)	Period 2	S1
Fri	Water Safety Assemblies	Years 7,8,10	Assemblies	

Fundraising for Parkinsons

On Sunday, a group of friends from King James's School turned a personal connection into an inspiring fundraising achievement - raising more than £1,300 for Parkinson's UK.

Annabelle L, along with her friends Olivia C and Jessica P, came up with the idea after seeing the impact Parkinson's disease has had on their own families. All three have grandparents affected by the condition, which led them to want to make a difference in a meaningful way.

With support from parents and friends, the group set out to climb two of Yorkshire's highest peaks: Whenside and Ingleborough. Their campaign has already raised over £1,400.

The funds raised will go towards supporting Parkinson's UK's vital work, including research into new treatments and improving quality of life for those living with the condition.

The group hopes their effort will inspire others - especially young people - to take on challenges for causes they care about.



Careers

Harrogate College & York College are both hosting Open Events on Wednesday 29th April 5.30-7pm. This is an opportunity for any Year 11 students who are still undecided with their Post 16 pathway to get

help and support with applications and also for our Year 10 students to get a head start in gathering information for their Post 16 pathway.

The links below take you to the college website where students and parents can access more information.

[York College](#)

[Harrogate College](#)



A Night Under the Stars

YEAR 11 PROM

25th June 2026

An Evening to Remember

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Counselling Room

We are delighted to share that our new school counselling room is now complete, providing a welcoming and supportive space for our pupils.

We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to our new counsellor, Stella, who has already begun to make a positive impact. A heartfelt thank you goes to all staff for their kindness and generosity in supporting this project through donations. We are especially grateful to Essential Needs in Harrogate for their very kind donation of a fridge, which has helped us create a comfortable and well-equipped environment for everyone who uses the space.



YOUR LOCAL CHARITY COMMUNITY FURNITURE STORE

Supplying quality used furniture, electrical appliances and other household items to the Harrogate District.



We sell a wide variety of quality re-useable items to help furnish your property and make it feel like a home.

OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

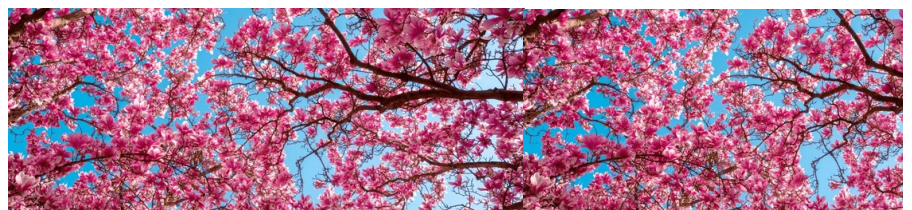
Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm and Saturday 9am to 12.30pm
(Closed on Bank Holiday Weekends)

ON A LOW INCOME OR MEANS TESTED BENEFIT?

Customers on a low income or means tested welfare benefit are eligible to receive a discount (evidence required)

We also sell brand new beds at incredible prices

Facebook: Essential Needs Instagram: Essential_Needs_Harrogate Twitter: @EssentialNeeds



Attendance

What is the Fast-Track process?

This week, we have held several attendance meetings under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE). These formal interviews are only used in cases of significant unauthorised absence, where there are concerns that a child's regular attendance is not being secured.

Reaching this stage is always a last resort. Before this, we make every effort to work closely with families and students to understand any barriers to attendance and to put supportive measures in place. Where we see positive engagement and improvement, we will always continue to support progress.

If attendance does not improve, a formal monitoring period of 10 school days may be introduced, alongside clear guidance for parents / carers about attendance expectations and processes. Should concerns continue, families are invited to an Attendance Panel Meeting to explore challenges in more depth and agree a supportive action plan over four-weeks.

If targets are still not met, the case may be referred to the local authority for a PACE meeting. At any stage, families have the right to see legal advice. Outcomes can vary and may include further monitoring, a Notice to Improve (which can lead to a Penalty Notice if not improvement is shown over three weeks), an Education Supervision Order, or, in more serious cases, prosecution.

Our aim is always to work in partnership with families and avoid escalation, wherever possible. Ensuring children attend school regularly is a shared legal responsibility, and it is central to giving every child the best possible start in life.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please get in touch with us.

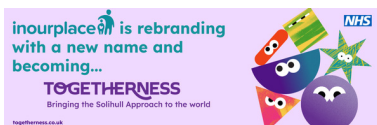
- 96% - KJS Expected Attendance Level (8 days off each year)
- Less than 90% - Persistent Absence (19 days off each year)
- Less than 50% - Severe Absence (190 days off each year)

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
Year to Date	90.89%	94.34%	92.66%	87.35%	88.86%	91.18%	95.49%	87.51%

Emotional Resilience and Mental Health Support

The following resources offer parenting and mental health support

[Togetherness](#) - please use the access code NYFAMILIES to create an account
[Youngminds](#)
[Parents' Helpline](#)




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