

Friday 24th January 2025

King James's School Newsletter

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Message from the Headteacher

Thank you for your support for the renewed clamp-down on mobile phones and air pods, it has been very successful. I was lucky enough to take part in a school review at another secondary school last week and, as part of it, interviewed some students. It was lovely to hear them say that they value the no-phone policy because it makes school a 'safe place' where they can 'forget all about them and talk to each other'! I hope that our students feel the same way.

Clare Martin
Headteacher

Monday 27th January - Holocaust Memorial Day

The 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz – Birkenau.

Mrs Dunstan has put together an activity that tutors across all 3 Key Stages will deliver during tutor time next week to mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz – Birkenau. It is an opportunity to remember the six million Jewish men, women and children brutally murdered by the Nazis and reflect on the lasting impact of the Holocaust.



Queen: A KJS Concert

As you may be aware, due to a number of unforeseen circumstances, our school production of 'We Will Rock You' will not be able to go ahead as planned this February. If you purchased tickets, please contact our finance team at finance@king-james.co.uk stating the total cost of your tickets, whether you paid cash or card and your bank details to allow our finance team to issue you a refund.

In light of the above, to celebrate the hard work of all of the students and staff involved, we are still bringing two nights of 'Queen' songs' to you on February 12th and 13th. These will be performed by the amazing live band and supported by singing and dancing from the cast! Featuring famous hits such as 'Somebody to Love' and 'Bohemian Rhapsody', and an interval with refreshments. A guaranteed brilliant night out! Tickets will be just £5 and will be sold from Monday at lunchtimes outside the library as well as on the door. We hope to see as many of you there as possible to support the students involved from Years 7-13 and to support the ongoing work and opportunities for students with the Music and Drama department!



Assemblies

A big thank you to Oddballs Foundation for coming in to talk to the Year 10 students in assembly on Monday. They came to raise awareness around testicular cancer and how you can check yourself for abnormalities. The most important thing to remember is – if in doubt, get yourself checked out!



Students from Year 7 to 13 will come together within their Houses next week. House assemblies are more than just a meeting, they are a space to recognise success, encourage teamwork & healthy competition and an opportunity to build a sense of identity and belonging. Our staff House leaders will deliver the assembly supported by the student House captains.

Tuesday – Swaledale House Assembly led by Mr Bell
Wednesday – Wharfedale House Assembly led by Mrs Northcott
Thursday – Airedale House Assembly led by Mr Phillips
Friday – Nidderdale House Assembly led by Mx Joynson

CHECK YOURSELF Oddballs FOUNDATION

- 01 USING BOTH HANDS FEEL ONE TESTICLE AT A TIME
- 02 BETWEEN YOUR THUMB AND FINGER INSPECT BY ROLLING THE TESTICLE
- 03 FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH THE SPERMATIC CORD AND EPIDIDYMIUM TUBE THAT CONNECTS TO THE BACK SIDE OF EACH TESTICLE
- 04 FEEL FOR LUMPS, BUMPS AND CHANGES IN SIZE. IT IS NORMAL FOR ONE TESTICLE TO BE LARGER THAN THE OTHER

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS, PLEASE SPEAK TO A DOCTOR.

Mobile phones – Information & Advice for parents & carers



To help with any challenging conversations you may have about mobile phones with your child, the following information may be of use. These have been published by the Department for Education as part of their messaging to schools about the need to prohibit mobile phones.

- By the age of 12, 97% of children own a mobile phone. While mobile phone ownership is very high once a pupil starts secondary school education, it remains parents' responsibility for deciding whether their child has a phone or not.
- The majority (93%) use social media and messaging apps. By understanding which apps their children are using, parents can make informed choices about their child's mobile phone use and support schools in providing education about online safety.
- The National Behaviour Survey (2021-2022) found that 29% of secondary school pupils (rising to 40% for key stage 4 pupils) reported mobile phones being used without permission in most of their lessons. This not only distracts the single pupil using the phone, but disrupts the lesson for a whole class, and diverts teachers' efforts away from learning. Parents can play an important role in supporting the school in effectively implementing its policy and eliminating this distraction.
- Mobile phones have already been prohibited or restricted in one in four countries worldwide, including France, The Netherlands and several Australian states and territories.
- Screen time can displace positive activities. Socialising, exercise, and good sleep are positive influences on wellbeing. All these can be displaced by screen time. By prohibiting the use of mobile phones during break and lunchtimes at school as well as in lessons, more time for socialising and exercise can be created during the school day.
- One in five children have experienced bullying online. Data from Office of National Statistics (2020) suggests that one in five children (19%) aged 10-15 experienced at least one type of bullying behaviour online, and out of them, around three quarters (72%) said they experienced at least some of it at school or during school time.
- Three in ten pupils cite making and maintaining friendships and their mental health as a cause of worry, anxiety or depression. By removing mobile phones, children and young people can spend more time staying active and socialising face to face with their peers, activities which have a positive impact on wellbeing.

For advice on how to talk to your children about mobile phones, and how to explore parental controls, please follow the link below:

[Phones - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Thought for the Fortnight

The Thought for the Fortnight for the weeks beginning 20th and 27th January is:

“Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start.”

As we start 2025 with new year resolutions on our mind and as we enter the options process for Year 9 and Year 11, we are encouraging students to reflect on this quote during tutor time.



The Key Takeaways are:

- Your potential is unlimited.
- Everyone starts somewhere.
- Your mindset and perseverance play a more significant role than your starting point.
- Progress is possible regardless of where you begin.
- Don't dwell on the obstacles or barriers that appear to be in your way, focus on your actions, decisions and opportunities ahead.

The Week Ahead: 27th January 2025

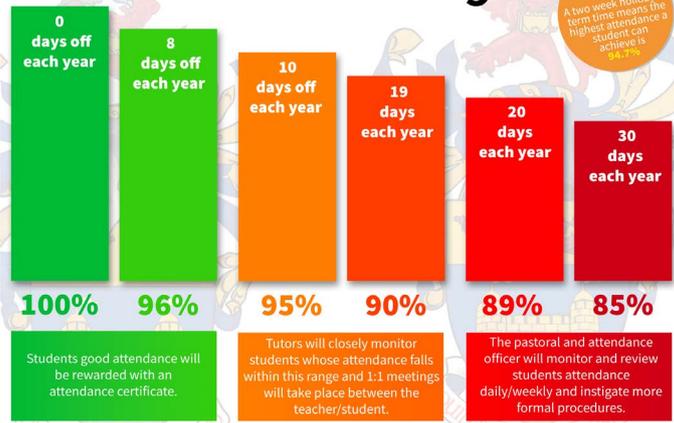
Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	House Rugby & Football week	All year groups	Various	PE
Tue	Y11 Photography Mock Exam	11		
Wed	Intermediate Maths Challenge Y9 Parents' Evening	9	4.30-7.30pm	Online
Thur	A-Level Music Performance Mock Exam	13	2.15-3.15pm	
Fri	A-Level PE Mock Moderation Day	12 & 13	All day	

Attendance

Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school for your child, such as their learning, wellbeing and wider development. As we approach the February half term, we are asking parents to check their child's attendance, which can be accessed via My Child At School (MCAS). Our expectation at King James's School is 96% attendance and above.

These charts provide more information regarding the importance of good attendance at school.

Attendance Percentage



The importance of arriving at school on time

Lateness	Week	Month	Half term	Term	School year
If your child is 5 minutes late they lose	25 minutes a week	1 hour 40 minutes a month	2 hours 30 minutes a half term	5 hours a term	16 hours 15 minutes a school year
If your child is 10 minutes late they lose	50 minutes a week	3 hours 20 minutes a month	5 hours a half term	10 hours a term	32 hours 30 minutes a school year
If your child is 15 minutes late they lose	1 hour 15 minutes a week	5 hours a month	7 hours 30 minutes a half term	15 hours a term	48 hours 45 minutes a school year
If your child is 20 minutes late they lose	1 hour 40 minutes a week	6 hours 40 minutes a month	10 hours a half term	20 hours a term	65 hours a school year

It is important for your child to arrive punctually for school so they do not miss out on valuable learning experiences



Morning sessions begin at 8:45 am - 12:35 pm
Afternoon sessions begin at 1.10 pm - 3:15 pm



Careers

As part of their Careers programme, Year 11 had an assembly on Friday informing them about the apprenticeship opportunities available at Post 16 and Post 18. Apprenticeships are a brilliant option for people of all ages to launch their careers in a huge range of exciting industries or upskill at various levels.

There are a wide range of apprenticeship vacancies locally and nationally and students were encouraged to explore what is available by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

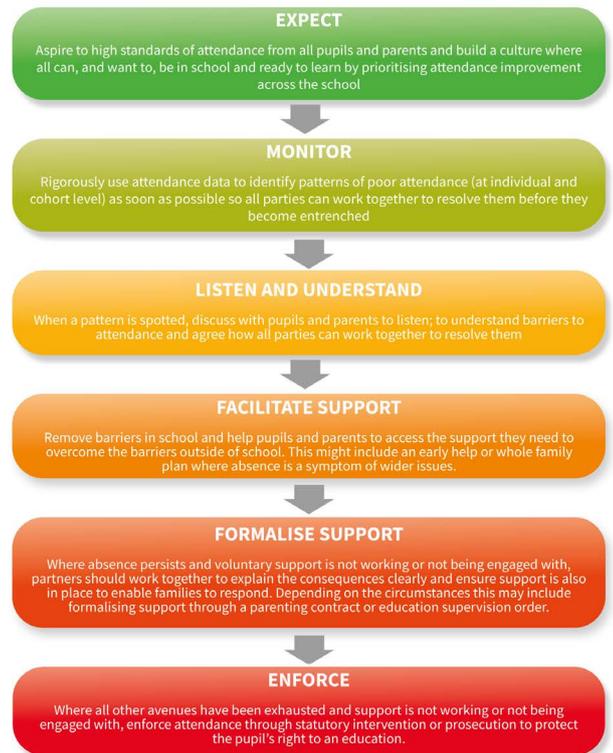
Students were also encouraged to visit <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/real-stories> to view a range of videos that tell the stories of people who have taken an apprenticeship route.



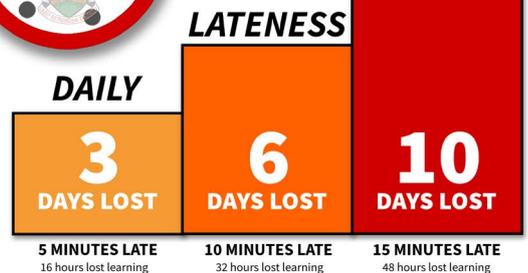
Working together to improve attendance



Successfully treating the root causes of absence and removing barriers to attendance, at home, in school or more broadly requires schools and local partners to work collaboratively with, not against families. Working together to:



EQUATES TO



Unlocking Autism for Parents

North Yorkshire County Council are running a FREE 2 day course for parents and carers of children and young people with communication and interaction needs.

This is an opportunity to find out more about autism and gain practical tools and strategies to help support your child or young person.

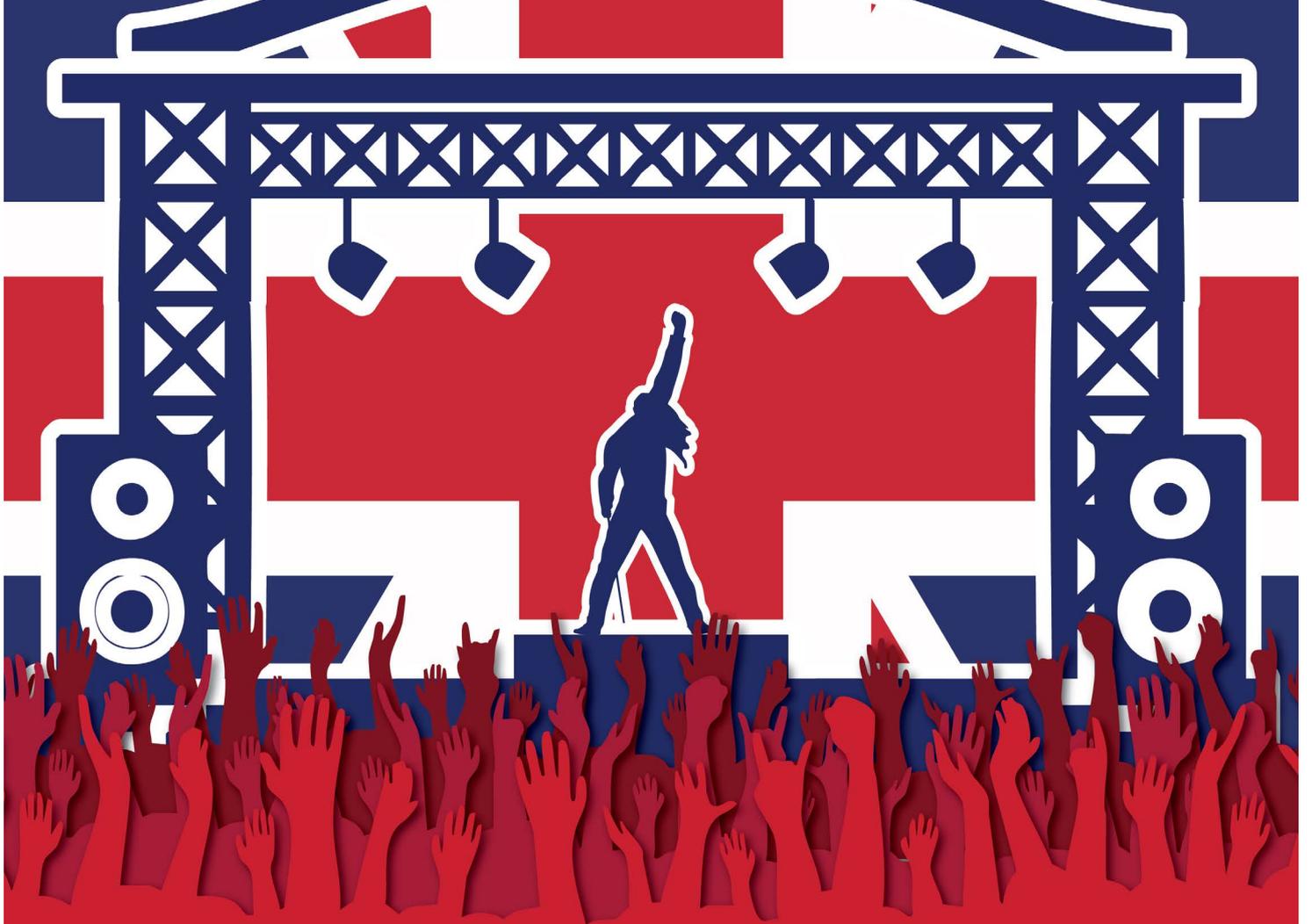
Parents will also meet others facing similar experiences or with a shared interest in the topic.

Children do not need to have a diagnosis of autism in order for parents to attend. Parents need to be able to attend both days and will receive a copy of the content covered following the course.

[Click here to book.](#)

QUEEN:

A KJS CONCERT



Date: 12th and 13th February 2025

Time: 7pm

Location: S1

Tickets £5