

King James's School Newsletter

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House Cross Country

The annual House Cross Country will take place next week. This is a fantastic opportunity to gain house points - the first ones of the year! We ask that all students give it a go, try their best and get stuck in.

Year 10 students will participate during their PE lessons next week.

Students in Year 7, 8 & 9 will complete the cross country on Thursday 1st October at the times below.

- Year 7: Thursday 1st October P3
- Year 8: Thursday 1st October P5
- Year 9: Thursday 1st October P6

Please support this event by ensuring all students have their PE kit and give it their best shot.



Message from Ms Oakley



Dear parents, carers and students,

Year 11 Supporting Success

Thank you to all the parents, carers and students who attended our Year 11 Supporting Success event on Tuesday; it was wonderful to meet so many of you!

Please look out for a letter at the start of next week which summarises the information that was shared, contains key dates of Pre-Public Examinations and links to useful revision resources.

A Visit from our School Improvement Partner

On Wednesday we hosted a visit from our School Improvement, Mr Norden, who was in school to review our approach to bullying, PSHE and enrichment. During his visit he spoke with staff, students and toured the school. At the end of his visit, he shared the following:

“Students spoke highly about the enrichment opportunities on offer, it was clear from some of the older students that Duke of Edinburgh is really enjoyed!”

“Opportunities for discussing controversial topics are embedded into your PSHE programme, and students were also able to provide examples of tricky topics being covered in other subjects like RS, English and drama. Students explained how teachers ensured different viewpoints were heard, whilst they maintained a neutral stance.”

“Students were able to describe a range of rewards, explaining how the new Halloween attendance challenge will work, and the introduction of new rewards this year like Positive Postcards, Year 7’s First Fifty Days and the Year 11 Christmas Market trip.”

“Bullying was described by students as something that might happen when friends fall out, but when it was more serious all students knew at least one trusted adult they could speak to and were clear that actions were taken to support students.”

Thank you to all those students who met with Mr Norden, for speaking so honestly and openly about your experiences at King James’s.

And finally...

Whilst Headteacher post tends to be full of junk mail, this term started with a lovely surprise, a letter from an ex-student with a very generous cheque in it.

Enormous thanks go to Christopher Metcalfe who wrote to me sixty years after leaving King James’s! It was lovely to hear that he had been inspired to go into teaching and that his donation was made in memory of his late Uncle who worked here as “woodwork master” even making some items of wooden furniture, decorated with his trademark fish, which are in school to this day!

Thank you as always for your on-going support,
Miriam Oakley
Headteacher

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Last weekend 51 students took part in their Bronze D of E Assessed Expedition and 20 students completed their Silver Practice Expedition.

Students had to put their skills and strengths to good use as they faced light showers and strong winds. Students got off to a good start on the Saturday morning with the Bronze Groups setting off from Brimham Rocks and the Silver Group walking from Madge Hill Scout camp to the North. Students had to walk through the rain showers, but at this stage the temperature was good, and students were very confident. All groups made the occasional wrong turn but were quickly back on track. On arriving at the campsite, the wind picked up again and students did have to battle with the wind when pitching their tents and keeping their belongings from being blown away. Once camp was made students began cooking their planned meals. Most students went for pasta and sauce followed by toasting marshmallows.

Sunday morning had students up early as we wanted to get away early as Pateley Bridge Show was on and we knew the area would be busy. Breakfast varied from porridge to pancakes. The first students left camp before 7.45 a.m. Some students struggled with the directions, but all managed to work it out and get back on to their routes.

All the students arrived hot and tired at the finish point near Dacre Bank and were relieved to be met by family. We are happy to announce that all students taking part in the Bronze Assessed did pass this element of the Bronze D of E Award. The Silver group will hopefully complete their Assessed Route next year.

A big well done to the students and a huge thank you to the staff for supporting the event and the two parents who helped us out and made the whole weekend such a success.



The Week Ahead: 28th September 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon				
Tue	Year 12 Supporting Success Evening	12	6.00pm	Sixth Form Common Room
Wed				
Thur	House Cross Country SEND Careers Fair	7,8,9	Periods 3,5,6 4.00pm	
Fri	Flu vaccinations	7-11	All day	

Bugsy Malone Auditions

A huge thank you to the almost 100 students who auditioned for Bugsy Malone on Thursday evening. It was an exceptional night, filled with an incredible level of talent, energy, and preparation. We were genuinely blown away by the standard of the auditions and feel incredibly honoured that so many students wanted to be part of the production. The difficult reality is that we can only cast 40 performers, despite easily having enough talent to cast the show twice over.

The cast list will go up on the Drama notice board on Monday. If you were not successful this time, please do not feel disheartened or put off. We are extremely proud of everyone who auditioned, and there will be many more exciting opportunities throughout the year, including performances, productions, workshops, and events.

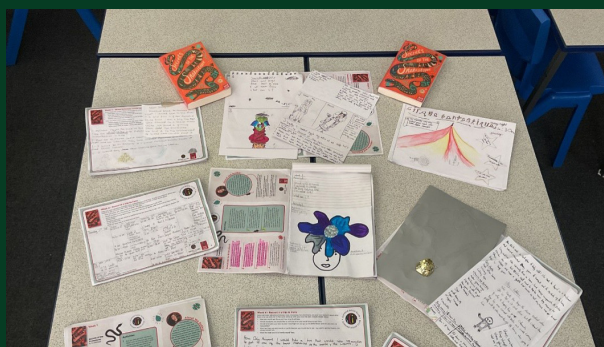
We hope to see you involved in those too!



Summer Book Club Success

A huge thank you to all parents and carers for encouraging your child to take part in our Summer Book Club.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Knaresborough Rotary, whose generous funding helped make this initiative possible. After reading *Secrets of the Snakestone* by Piu DasGupta, students completed a wide range of creative and engaging activities, from drawing or constructing models of the mysterious locket to researching and planning a trip to Paris. The quality of work produced was exceptional, and we were thoroughly impressed by the creativity, effort and enthusiasm shown by so many students.



Congratulations to all Year 7 students who took part and earned between +1 and +4 positives for their outstanding contributions. What a fantastic start to their reading journey at King James's, and we look forward to seeing their love of reading continue to grow throughout the year.

Careers

Year 11 – Post 16 Pathways

Students in Year 11 are starting the process of making applications for their Post 16 Pathways. There are several ways students can gather information to help them make informed decisions.

- All students in Year 11 have a personalised account on Xello which they can use to access information on a range of careers and the pathways used to get there.
- We have our Careers Fair coming up on Thursday 22nd October 4pm – 6pm where students and parents have the chance to:
 - speak directly with employers and industry professionals.
 - learn about apprenticeship and employment opportunities.
 - explore further and higher education pathways.
 - gain insight into different career sectors and industries.
 - ask questions about qualifications, training and skills required for various careers.
- Students can attend the KJS Post 16 Open Evening on 24th November.
- Students can attend the local college open events – links to these events are below



- [York College Open Event](#) - 6th October 5.30-8.00pm
- [Harrogate College Open Event](#) - 15th October 5.30 - 7.00pm
- [Askham Bryan Open Morning](#) - 17th October 9.30am - 1.00pm

Student Leadership

A big thank you to our Chair of Governors, Greg Stewart, who led a training session for our newly appointed Senior Student Leaders this week. The session focused on building skills and confidence to plan, structure and chair effective meetings that are focused, inclusive and productive.

The Senior Student leaders will put their training to the test when they lead their first Student Council meeting of the term on 8th October.

The Senior Student leaders have been delighted with the number of applications they have received for the Student Council Year Group Representative role. Applications opened last Friday and close at 4pm today. Once the deadline has passed, the recruitment process moves into the shortlisting and selection stage.



Year 11 Exam Support

Many thanks to those parents, carers and students who attended the Support Success evening this week. All the revision materials for their Pre Public Exams can be found on the school website. Here you also find the revision and coursework support sessions that are running at lunchtime and in period 7 (after school). This has also been emailed out to all Year 11 parents and carers. Students will receive their exam timetables very soon!

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

MacMillan Coffee Morning

The Sixth Form held their annual coffee morning on Friday in aid of Mcmillan Cancer Support.

The judges of our 8 Star Baker prizes were Mrs Braden & Mrs Oakley, some of our helpers (pictured) were YR12s were Soraya, Honey & Lydia.

Look out for more photos, winners & total raised tin next week's newsletter!



Year 11 Exam Support

Subject	Day	Location	Other information
English	Wednesday after school	English	Past papers/drop in
Maths	Thursday after school	Maths	Past papers/drop in
Science	Tuesday after school		Past papers/drop in
History	Wednesday after school	L8	
Geography	Tuesday after school	D9	Past paper practice and focused revision with JGA Voiceover PowerPoints and other revision resources also available on geography department SharePoint
RS	Tuesday after school	L15/16	Past paper practice and focused revision of key vocabulary, and sources of authority for exam unit
PE GCSE	Thursday 3.20-4.15	M57	
Business Studies	Wednesday after school	SF2	Following the weekly revision plan
Economics	Lunchtime Wednesday	SF2	Following the weekly revision plan
Computer Science	Lunchtime Wednesday	L2	Exam style programming practice
iMedia	Lunchtime Wednesday	L24	NEA coursework catch up
Languages	Wednesday Thursday	M16 & M17	Revision schedule and extra vocab given for Listening and Reading Independent Vocab practice on Activehub for all topics Drop-in sessions – Wednesday lunchtime in M16 for German and Thursday lunchtime in M17 for French
Music	Tuesday after school	Q6	Coursework catch up Exam style revision
Art	Every day at lunchtime	Art Dept	Everyone welcome to get support with ongoing project work
Digital Photography	Every day at lunchtime	Art Dept	Everyone welcome to get support with ongoing project work
Textiles	Tuesday Wednesday	D7	NEA coursework catch-up with Mrs Armstrong on a Tuesday and Miss Blackwell on a Wednesday
3D Design	Tuesday Thursday	D3	NEA Coursework catch up with Mrs Hewit
Food Prep & Nutrition	Thursday	D10	This will not be every Thursday. Mrs Walker will let students know when it will be on. It will be for catch-up on NEA 1
Drama & PA	Wednesday after school after christmas. Lunch-time if too many clashes	Drama	Written revision after school after Christmas on Wednesdays. Studios can be booked on sheets for practical exam preparation. Day to be confirmed for Performing Arts coursework drop in support. Sixth Form mentors to offer lunchtime sessions.

Attendance

Autumn is here!

We can't quite believe how quickly another week has flown by! As always, attendance remains a key priority for our school and will continue to be so throughout the academic year.

We are delighted with how proactive so many parents and carers have been in letting us know, via the Student Absence Form, when their child is going to be absent from school. Thank you for your continued support with this.

Just a gentle reminder that, if your child is unwell and unable to attend, we do need the absence form to be completed each day they are off school. This helps us ensure that all absences are recorded correctly.

As part of our usual safeguarding and attendance procedures, a welfare check may be carried out on the third day of absence. This may mean that our Attendance Champion visits your home. Please be assured that this is not because we doubt the circumstances surrounding your child's absence; it is simply part of our safeguarding responsibilities and helps us make sure that all is well. We really appreciate your understanding and support.

Let the Halloween Attendance Challenge Begin!

The next two weeks are set to be particularly exciting as we launch our Halloween Attendance Challenge!

For the next two weeks, everyone has a fresh opportunity to take part, regardless of any previous absence. The P1 group with the best attendance during the challenge period will be in with the chance of enjoying a takeaway pizza lunch, with their choice of toppings (within reason, of course!)

We also recognise that some pupils may have exceptional circumstances or authorised medical leave during this period, and these will be taken into consideration so that they can still be included in the challenge.

Parents and carers, we'd love your help too! Please remind your children about the challenge, particularly on those mornings when they might be tempted to ask for a day at home but are well enough to attend school.

Every school day counts, and we're looking forward to seeing who rises to the challenge.

Let the challenge commence!

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
14-18 Sept	93.7%	96.9%	95.9%	93.2%	91.6%	90.8%	98.5%	96.8%



Year 7 Cookery Skills

This week, our Year 7 Food students have been developing their knife skills and using the main oven for the first time as they created delicious 'wrap pizzas':

Students used their knowledge of nutrition to plan balanced pizzas based on the Eatwell Guide, incorporating protein, fruit and vegetables, dairy, fats and carbohydrates.

They worked carefully and enthusiastically throughout the lesson, and did a fantastic job with their finished creations. Well done, Year 7 you should all be very proud of your results!



GIRLS' COUCH TO 5K BOOT CAMP

RUN STRONG. BUILD CONFIDENCE.
REACH YOUR FIRST 5K.

ARE YOU READY TO CHALLENGE YOURSELF?

Whether you've never run before or want to get fitter, our Girls' Couch to 5K Boot Camp is designed to help young women 16+ build confidence, fitness, and resilience in a fun and supportive environment.

-  No Running Experience Required
-  Supportive & Inclusive Community
-  Beginner-Friendly Training supported by two female Running Fitness Leaders

BOOT CAMP DETAILS

-  Starts: Wednesday September 23rd, 2026
-  Time: 18.30 – 19.30
-  Location: Meet at Knaresborough Market Cross
-  Cost: Free
-  Duration: 10 Weeks
-  Goal: MIND Festive Mental Elf 5K Fun Run*, Sunday November 29th, 2026

*Free entry for all Boot Campers and a chance to raise money (if you wish) for a local charity and support your local community too!

Any Questions?



Instagram
Girls5KBootCamp

Every Runner Starts with a Single Step – Take your First Step and come and join us on **Wednesday September 23rd** and we'll help you do the rest!



YOU CAN DO THIS!



Who Can Join?

Girls aged 16+ who want to:

-  Get Active and Improve their Physical Fitness
-  Boost mental health and wellbeing
-  Build confidence and self-belief
-  Connect with like-minded girls
-  Meet a DofE challenge or add to your CV

What to Wear!!



Trainers, joggers, sports top/t-shirt and something to put on or take off if you get too hot or when you are cooling down.