

Friday 27th June 2025

King James's School Newsletter

Inside this issue:

- Year 7 French Trip
- Student Surveys
- The Week Ahead
- Year 11 Prom - A Night to Remember!
- Respectful Communication
- Assemblies
- EBSA Workshop
- Thought for the Fortnight
- House Drama
- Careers
- Careers Fair

Student Surveys

We value the opinions of our students and want to find out about their learning and reading habits, so we have set up two student surveys to complete. Students can access these surveys [on the Bromcom homework app](#) which will be open for two weeks from Friday 20th June until Friday 4th July.

Form tutors will publicise this next week with their tutor group so that we encourage as many students as possible to complete the surveys. If you can also support from home and ask your child to complete the surveys that would be hugely appreciated.

Year 7 French Trip

Last week, 44 Year 7 students, accompanied by 5 members of staff, went to St Omer in France.

They set off in the early hours of Monday morning, enjoying three full days staying at a French chateau. Whilst in France they experienced bread and croissant making at a French boulangerie, visited a snail farm and got to milk goats for cheese making.

Taking advantage of the glorious weather, the group visited the beach and the seaside town of 'Le Touquet'. They also spent time at Bagatelle theme park and took part in evening activities including archery tag, French games and crepe making.

Students were fully immersed in French culture, trying snails and enjoying a traditional French breakfast. They also improved their French language skills ordering ice creams and learning new vocabulary. A great time was had by all!



The Week Ahead: 30th June 2025

Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	House Drama 1		6.00pm	S1
Tue	House Drama 2		6.00pm	S1
Wed	Year 6 Transition Day 1			
Thur	SSG trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park Year 6 Transition Day 2 Year 6 Transition Evening		6.00pm	Chaloner Hall
Fri	Y8&9 Apprenticeships Presentation	8&9	8.45-9.45am	S1

Year 11 Prom 2025 - A Night to Remember!

On Thursday 26th June, our wonderful Year 11 students celebrated the end of an era in true style at the highly anticipated Year 11 Prom! The evening was filled with glitz, glamour, and unforgettable memories as everyone came together to mark the end of their secondary school journey.

From the very beginning, the excitement was in the air. Students arrived in everything from sleek Rolls Royces to eye-catching John Deere tractors, making quite the entrance and setting the tone for a fun-filled evening.

The venue sparkled almost as brightly as our students, who were dressed to impress in a dazzling array of suits, gowns, and glamorous outfits. The night featured non-stop dancing, laughter, and celebration, as classmates enjoyed their last big event together before heading off to new adventures.

And of course, no prom would be complete without the highlight of the evening – the prestigious awards ceremony! With categories that brought out the biggest smiles and cheers, it was a great way to celebrate the unique personalities and unforgettable moments shared throughout the year.

Thank you to everyone who made the night so special – staff, students, and families alike. It was a truly magical evening, and a perfect send-off for an incredible year group.

Here's to the Class of 2020 – your future is bright!



Respectful Communication – A Reminder for Our School Community

We are always grateful for the support and involvement of our parent community. Your partnership is incredibly valuable in helping us provide the best possible education and care for your children. We understand that there may be times when questions or concerns arise. We kindly encourage you to bring these directly to us so we can work together to find solutions. One of our core school values is being Respectful, and it is vital that, as a whole school community, we model this in all our communication and correspondence with one another.

We fully appreciate that, as parents and carers, your child is naturally your priority. In school, we have responsibility for over 1,500 students every day — keeping them safe, nurturing their wellbeing, and supporting their learning. For this reason, we kindly ask for your patience, understanding, and trust as we take the time needed to thoroughly investigate and respond to any concerns raised. Our priority is always the welfare and education of our students, and while we will always respond to parents, this may sometimes be at our earliest opportunity rather than immediately.

We are also aware that, in the age of social media, it can be tempting to share thoughts online. However, such posts can sometimes lead to misunderstandings or unnecessary worry among other families, and they may not always reflect the full picture. We are always happy to listen and work with you in a respectful and solution-focused manner.

By working together in this way, we can model to our young people how to communicate with courtesy and respect, even in challenging moments — an essential life skill for their future.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us to maintain a positive, respectful and trusting school community. We ask all parents and carers to take a moment to revisit our [Home School Communications Policy](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Assemblies

We are delighted to be back to live assemblies now the exam season is over. Next week, we are proud to be hosting a series of mental health assemblies designed to inspire, support, and empower our students. As part of our continued focus on wellbeing and personal development, we're delighted to welcome Jack Senior, a 21-year-old guest speaker from Leeds, who will be sharing his personal journey with our students.

Jack will speak candidly about the challenges he faced during his teenage years, including his experience with anxiety throughout high school. His story is one of resilience, growth, and determination — and we believe it will deeply resonate with many of our young people.

In his talk, Jack will focus on several powerful themes:

- Growth mindset
- Self-belief
- Accountability
- Pushing beyond comfort zones
- The importance of being authentically yourself



He aims to show students how they can transform negative experiences into positive direction, and how real growth often happens outside the comfort zone. Most importantly, Jack's message is about the power of owning your story and knowing that you're not alone.

We hope these assemblies will not only encourage students to reflect on their own mental health but also to understand the tools and mindset they can adopt to support themselves and each other. Hearing someone speak so openly and honestly about mental health can make all the difference — and we're excited for the positive impact this will have on our school community.

We look forward to seeing the conversations and confidence this experience will inspire.

Emotionally Based School Avoidance Workshop (EBSA)

On Monday evening, we were pleased to host a well-attended workshop based on Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA). With over 30 parents in attendance, the event provided a valuable opportunity to share information, build understanding, and foster a sense of community among the families and staff. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the importance of open dialogue and shared learning around this important issue.

One of the key aims of the workshop was to reassure parents that they were not alone. EBSA is a complex and often misunderstood challenge, but there are clear, evidence-based reasons behind a child's reluctance to attend school. Understanding these underlying causes is essential in developing compassionate, effective support strategies.



“Just like our children need safety and understanding, so do relationships between home and school. When we build trust between parents and educators, we model what we want for our children – connection, not conflict.” Lisa Poole, Perspective Coaching.

The session offered meaningful insights and practical takeaways for both parents and staff. A central message throughout the evening was that successful support requires collaboration: students, families and schools must work together to prioritise the best interests of the child.

As a school we are committed to improving our ability to identify students who may be experiencing EBSA early and to work proactively with families to create tailored support plans. We recognise that most children do want to be in school, but various emotional or psychological barriers may prevent them from doing so. Our focus is therefore on building strong, trusting relationships and understanding the root causes of avoidance so we can help each student feel safe, supported, and ready to learn.

If you are concerned about your child's attendance or would like to discuss your family's experience further, our Attendance Champion, Cathryn Sutherland, is here to help. Please feel free to get in touch.



Thought for the Fortnight

The Thought for the Fortnight for the weeks beginning 30th June and 7th July is “A comfort zone is a beautiful place, but nothing ever grows there” and is linked to the assemblies delivered by Jack Senior.

The key takeaways are:

- Growth happens when there you challenge yourself, take risks and step into the unknown.
- Discomfort is a necessary part of learning and growing as a person.

House Drama - Sold out!

All cast and crew spent 5 hours in school on Sunday preparing and running their technical rehearsal. They were professional, focussed and positive. Thank you to everyone involved.

All tickets for both nights are now sold out. However, if you want to take a risk, there will still be some space available on the door once we have let everyone with tickets in.

What an amazing couple of nights it's going to be!



Careers

There are some fantastic Army Careers opportunities coming up.



- ## 1. Virtual Insight Day at the Army Foundation College (AFC):

This is a fantastic chance for students to gain an understanding of life and training at the AFC. You can register using the link below:

[Register for the Virtual Insight Day](#)

- ## 2. In-Person Insight Day at Sandhurst:

Another brilliant opportunity to experience the Army first-hand at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Please see the above link for full details and registration.

- ### 3. Work Experience Opportunity for Year 10 & 11

We've also attached a flyer outlining a work experience opportunity for those keen to explore the Army as a future career path. If your child is interested in the work experience opportunity, please contact Miss Baker directly at: bakerl@king-james.co.uk

Lloyds Banking Group Virtual Careers Event – A Valuable Opportunity for Year 13 Students.

- Event: LBG Careers Live – Level Up Your Summer: Steps to Smash Your Final Year & Beyond
- Date: Tuesday, 1st July 2025
- Time: 5:00pm – 6:00pm
- Location: Online via Zoom (link shared after registration)

What to Expect:

- An inside look at Lloyds Banking Group's early careers and apprenticeship programmes
- Key application dates and deadlines for 2025
- Practical tips to help boost your CV, grow your confidence, and gain experience
- Live Q&A with early careers experts

This is a great opportunity to ask questions, gain advice, and walk away with a clear plan for the months ahead.

To secure your place, register using the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LBG-Summer>

KJS Careers Fair

We are holding our annual Careers Fair on Thursday 23rd October 4pm – 7pm. We would be delighted to invite you, as parents and carers, to participate as exhibitors at the Careers Fair. Whether you run your own business, work in a particular industry, or have experience in a profession that could inspire our students, your contribution would be incredibly valuable.

What's involved?

- A small stand or table to showcase your role, business, or industry
- Informal conversations with students and parents about your career journey, skills, and advice
- Optional materials such as leaflets, tools of the trade, or interactive displays

No formal presentation is required—just your enthusiasm and willingness to share your experience!

If you are interested in taking part, complete the form via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/SB76eJaw66>



From Arrival to Belonging

SWIFT aims to provide resources to anyone who has migrated to the UK.

SWIFT is connected to key opportunities and organisations within the community and we can support you by:

- Understanding your unique circumstances and identifying the support you may need
- Helping you access professional advice, services, and resources
- Connecting you with local groups, activities, and community networks
- Referring you to relevant initiatives and support organisations
- Offering practical help to support your life in the UK

And much more!



01423 861066



info@chainlane.org



Chain Lane
Community
Hub