

King James's School Newsletter

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Reporting Absences

A reminder to parents/carers that if your child is going to be absent from school or has a medical or other appointment during the school day, please use the 'Report Absence or Appointment' button on the homepage of the school website to notify us.

Any requests for absence during term time should be submitted using the Term-Time Absence Request Form, which can be found on the Attendance page of the school website.

Illness during the school day

We would also like to remind students that they should not contact home themselves if they feel unwell during the school day. Students should speak to their Year Manager or teacher, who will ensure they are seen by the School Nurse where appropriate. The School Nurse will then contact home if they feel this is necessary.

This process helps us to ensure that students are properly supported and that parents/carers are contacted through the appropriate channels.



Message from Ms Oakley

Dear parents, carers and students,

Ofsted's new report cards and grades

As you may be aware, Ofsted is now inspecting using a new assessment framework which no longer includes one-word judgments of a school's overall performance. The previous inspection grades of Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement and Inadequate have been replaced with a five-point scale with 'Expected Standard' being the new benchmark for a high-performing school.

As we move into the Ofsted inspection window we know we will be inspected against seven key areas (as we have Post-16 provision) and receive a grade for each area.

These areas are:

- Achievement
- Attendance and Behaviour
- Curriculum and Teaching
- Inclusion
- Leadership and Governance
- Personal Development and Wellbeing
- Post 16 Provision

Schools are also assessed on whether they have 'met' or 'not met' their safeguarding responsibilities.

Ofsted has stressed that the old grades cannot be compared to the new outcomes due to its different approach to inspections and the new way of reporting to parents and carers.

The report cards under the new framework show that the Expected Standard is a high benchmark to reach. More details regarding the new report cards can be found below, on Page 2.

Ofsted also share what inspectors found during their inspection. This is to help parents and carers understand why Ofsted has awarded the different grades and what it's like to be a child or young person at that school. Preparations for their visit are well underway, and we look forward to sharing updates as soon as we have them.

And finally...

A central strand of our School Development Plan has been to enhance our Rewards System. This week school leaders met to review progress against this objective, and I look forward to increased opportunities to meet with our students and praise their wonderful work, contributions to the community and positive attitudes to learning! Thank you as always for your on-going support,

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher



Ofsted Report Cards

Expected Standard (Green)

The new Expected Standard demonstrates that all students are receiving everything they need and deserve in that area. The Expected Standard also indicates that a school is doing everything it should to meet all statutory and non-statutory legislation.

Strong Standard (Dark Green)

Moving up the grades, the new Strong Standard is even harder to secure than the Expected Standard and marks out areas where excellent and consistent work is making a real difference to children and young people.

Exceptional (Blue)

This is the top tier and is reserved for practice that truly stands out on a national level. Exceptional means exemplary - approaches that are so effective they should be shared widely to inspire and support improvement elsewhere. It's rare, and it's intentionally so.

Needs Attention (Orange)

Schools not meeting the Expected Standard in a particular area will receive a Needs Attention outcome. This is not a failure but highlights where further improvements are needed to secure the Expected Standard. It also indicates that Ofsted is confident school leaders are likely to be able to make the necessary improvements.

Urgent Improvement (Red)

The lowest grade, Urgent Improvement, is used when schools need to urgently address any problems preventing them from providing the Expected Standard of education.



Bugsy Malone Auditions

A huge thank you to the almost 100 students who auditioned for this year's school production. We were blown away by the talent, commitment and preparation on display, making the casting process incredibly difficult.

Unfortunately, with only around 40 roles available, we simply could not cast everyone. For those who were unsuccessful this time, please know that this is not a reflection of your ability or talent. The standard was exceptionally high, and many difficult decisions had to be made. We hope you will continue to get involved in Drama and return for future auditions.

Congratulations to all those who were cast. We have already held our first read-through and rehearsal this week, and the excitement is building! Visitors to next week's Year 7 Opening Evening will have the chance to see a small preview performance, offering a tiny snapshot of what promises to be a fantastic show. We can't wait to share more as rehearsals continue.



The Week Ahead: 5th October 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon				
Tue	Next Gen Careers Fair	Y11 invitation only	Morning	
Wed	Senior Maths Challenge	Y12/13 Maths students		In school
Thur	Open Evening School Council Meeting		5.30-8.30pm	In school
Fri				

Assemblies

A big thank you to Miss Cermak and the History Department for delivering assemblies to Year 7-13 this week.

We are grateful for the thoughtful work that went into making these assemblies meaningful and engaging, and for supporting our students to learn about and celebrate Black history and culture.



Careers in Performing Arts

This term, we launched our new Careers in Performing Arts series, giving Sixth Form students the opportunity to hear directly from industry professionals about their career journeys, training pathways and experiences working in the creative industries.



Our first session welcomed Josh Wichard, a film and television actor, video game performer and voiceover artist. Josh shared valuable advice for aspiring performers, discussed his training route into the industry, and offered fascinating insights into his recent work on Project Hail Mary and House of the Dragon. Later in the week, students also heard from Sean Hollands, movement director, theatre-maker and motion-capture artist, whose work includes collaborations with the internationally renowned theatre company Frantic Assembly. Sean explores the role of movement in performance and provided further guidance on careers within the theatre industry.

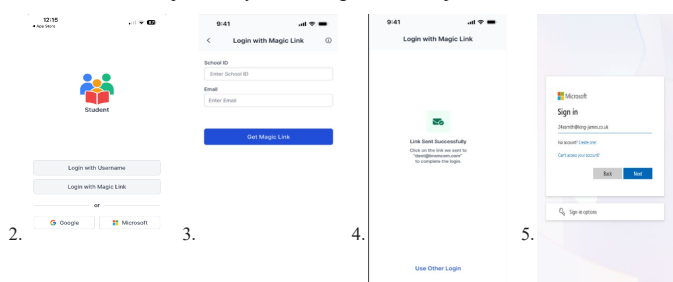
A huge thank you to all students who have attended and engaged so positively with these sessions. We are excited to continue expanding the programme throughout the year, with many more industry professionals, workshops and Q&A opportunities planned.

All sessions are open to Sixth Form students, and recordings are available via KJS Video Stream for anyone unable to attend live, ensuring every student can benefit from these inspiring career insights.

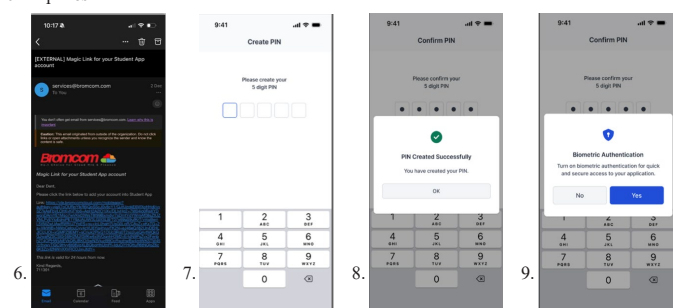
Logging onto the Bromcom Student portal

Guidance below for logging onto the Bromcom student portal:

1. Download the **Bromcom Student app** from the App store or Google Play.
2. Tap **Login with Magic Link**.
3. Enter your **School ID (11433)** and your **email address** - this is your login for the computers in school with **@king-james.co.uk** on the end e.g. **24asmith@king-james.co.uk**, then tap **Get Magic Link**.
4. A **confirmation** message will appear to confirm the link was sent successfully.
5. **Open your email on the same device.** Go to outlook.com and sign in with your school email address and the password you use to login to the computers at school.

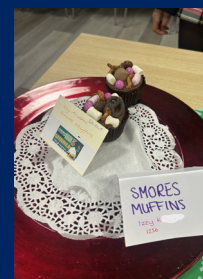


6. Once opened you should have an **email from Bromcom** with a long link inside. **Tap on the link.**
7. This will open the app and ask you to **create a 5-digit PIN**. This can be anything you can remember, then re-enter it to confirm.
8. A **confirmation** message will appear once your PIN has been created successfully. **Tap OK.**
9. Tap **Yes** to enable Biometric Authentication if desired.



MacMillan Coffee Morning

Last week's Sixth Form Coffee morning raised a very impressive £240.69. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed, with a special mention to all those who donated cakes, including some particularly impressive homemade creations, some of which can be seen below!



Attendance

Halloween Attendance Challenge

Our Halloween Attendance Challenge is progressing brilliantly, and we have already seen a number of P1 lessons achieve 100% attendance, which is fantastic! Year 7 are certainly facing some strong competition, with Year 11 and several Year 9 P1 groups determined not to make it easy for them. There is still everything to play for next week, and I'm looking forward to ordering 15+ pizzas as a reward for our winning team!

If your child is well enough to attend school, we would really appreciate your continued encouragement in helping them to come in. The attendance challenge may provide that extra little incentive on more difficult mornings, so please remind them that their attendance counts towards their team and could help them secure the winning prize!

Parent Workshop – Supporting School Attendance

We would also like to remind parents and carers about our upcoming Parent Workshop on Monday 2 November, which will take place in the Sixth Form Common Room.

We are delighted to welcome one of the Local Authority's Educational Psychologists, who will speak to parents and carers about some of the difficulties young people can experience around school attendance. The session will offer practical tips and strategies for supporting young people when they are struggling to get into school.

The workshop will also draw on the Educational Psychologist's extensive experience of working with schools and will consider attendance from a range of perspectives, including SEND and mental health.

A sign-up form will be available from next week. In the meantime, please save the date in your diary.

Keeping Your Contact Details Up to Date

Finally, we would like to make a small but important request regarding contact information.

Through our recent home visits and correspondence with families, we have occasionally found that the addresses we hold for students, parents and carers are no longer up to date. If you have recently moved house, please let the school know as soon as possible so that we can update our records. Similarly, if your telephone number or other key contact details have changed, please inform us at the earliest opportunity.

It is particularly important that the school holds accurate and current contact information so that we can communicate with families effectively and fulfil our safeguarding responsibilities.

As always, thank you for your continued support and encouragement in helping your child attend school regularly. It really does make a difference.



	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
28th Sept-1st Oct	95.5%	99.2%	96.4%	95.6%	91.9%	93.7%	97.3%	95.8%





IS A READING SCHOOL

We are all readers



Work with an author: Dan Ingram-Brown

We are delighted, thanks to the generous support of Knaresborough Rotary, to offer students the exciting opportunity to work with Dan Ingram-Brown, an award-winning Yorkshire author, educator and our Patron of Reading, in a series of creative writing workshops.

Dan is the author of *Bea's Witch*, a ghostly coming-of-age story set in Knaresborough, and the award-winning *Firebird Chronicles* series. With a doctorate in Creative Writing and Education, he has inspired young people across Yorkshire through his work with schools, universities and creative writing projects.

Could your ideas become our next school story?

"As part of my Patron of Reading role, I'll be working with a group of students from Years 7-13 to create and write an original story that the whole school will read on World Book Day (Thursday 4 March 2027).

Over a series of interactive after-school creative writing workshops running from November to February, we'll take a story all the way from first ideas to a finished book, exploring character creation, worldbuilding and plotting before drafting, editing and preparing the story for publication. Along the way, we'll play with themes including belonging, home and ghostly presences, drawing on my novel *Bea's Witch*, which is set locally in Knaresborough. I'll also share some of my own writing process and use *Bea's Witch* to explore how ideas, places and themes can be developed into a story.

You don't need to be an experienced writer to take part, just interested in stories and willing to bring your ideas to the group. Students who get involved will also have the opportunity to join the launch team for my next book, *Inks Academy: The Ghosts of the House of Time*, with access to early review copies and opportunities to hear about and ask questions about the publishing process."

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to work with an award-winning author, develop your creative writing skills and help bring an original story to life. Click on the link below to complete the Expression of Interest Form and apply by Friday 16 October.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/D9bsghJjb1>



Rotary Club signage

We are very lucky to have been given some funding to support reading and literacy from the local Rotary Club who have sponsored our new signage around school. At King James's school we are all readers. This is because we read in every lesson and every day we read different types of texts. During period 1 and in English students in are reading novels, in lessons student read challenging texts and we set reading homework.

We value reading because it improves learning, memory and supports our wellbeing.

Our recommended reads are in student planners and on the website where you can find more information about the importance of reading and how parents can help.



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.