

King James's School Newsletter

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Year 6 Transition Days



We were delighted to welcome our new Year 6 pupils for two fantastic Transition Days this week, packed with exciting activities and opportunities to experience life at King James School.

Students enjoyed getting hands-on in science by learning how to safely use Bunsen burners, took part in fun team-building challenges in PE, and explored their creativity during engaging Drama sessions. They also reflected on the importance of kindness, respect and inclusion by making Equality Pledges, before enjoying a performance from our talented House Drama teams. The visits were rounded off with a brilliant performance from our Year 10 band, showcasing the wonderful musical talent within our school.

To finish the two days, we celebrated our Transition Superstars students who demonstrated enthusiasm, resilience and a positive attitude throughout the programme.

It was a pleasure to meet our new pupils, and we can't wait to welcome them back in September!



Message from Ms Oakley

Dear parents, carers and students,

Welcome to our New Year 7!



It's been a busy week welcoming our new Year 7 students into King James. From attending lessons, earning their Bunsen Burner licenses, to taking part in PE and watching our House Drama winners perform for one last time; our new students have been kept on their toes!

Throughout their two days we were impressed by the way they were Ready to learn, showed Respect to one another and the environment, and got fully Engaged in all activities – what a brilliant start to life at our school; we can't wait to see you again in September.

A Truly Difficult Decision

I'm sure everyone expects the judges of the House Drama competition to say it was a "Really difficult decision to pick a winner" but truly, honestly, it was! I could not believe the talent on the stage, from the singing, the acting and the incredible choreography. I loved every moment of it.

Thank you especially to our sixth form directors, you went above and beyond in your determination to create such wonderful performances – and a huge shout out to our drama department; your support for our students is second to none!

Countdown to the End of Term and Getting September Ready!

As we approach the final two weeks of term our attention turns to September. A detailed letter was sent home earlier today which outlines our plans for both.

Please, take time to remind yourselves of:

- The different events and uniform expectations during the next two weeks
- Which days each year group returns in September
- Our revised uniform and equipment expectations from September

And finally...

This time last week the winners of the World Cup Attendance Challenge were announced – congratulations to 10W3 who got to enjoy pizza on Monday! Remember, just like this tutor group showed us, attendance always wins – and regardless of how England do in the early hours of Monday morning, we will be open as normal!

Thank you as always for your on-going support,

Kind regards,

Miriam Oakley

The Week Ahead: 6th July 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Year 8 German trip departs	8		
Tue				
Wed	Theatre Royal York trip			
Thur	SSG visit to Yorkshire Create	SSG students		Yorkshire Create
Fri	Sixth Form Taster Day	10		



Commitment to Equality and Diversity

We are proud to announce that as part of our ongoing work around respect, equality and diversity we have been awarded a Certificate of Commitment to Equality and Diversity.

This is in recognition of the efforts of all stakeholders as we progress towards the full RED Award.

We'd like to thank everybody in the KJS community for everything they do, both big and small, to make KJS a place that celebrates respect, equality, and diversity.



This is to certify that

King James's School

has been awarded the

Red Kite Alliance

Certificate of Commitment to Equality & Diversity

In recognition of the commitment shown to working towards the Red Kite Alliance RED Award, and to embedding a cohesive, inclusive, respectful ethos across the whole school

Signed:

Will Carr
Chair of Red Kite Alliance

Date: 31/05/2026



Year 11 Prom Professional Photographs

Year 11 Parents/Carers – Exciting News!

We have now received the professional photograph album from the Year 11 Prom. The Year Team have thoroughly enjoyed looking through the photographs and reminiscing about what was a fantastic evening celebrating our students' achievements.



All Year 11 parental contacts should have received an email from Miss Jarrett containing the link to the professional photograph album from the evening. Please use this link to view the photographs and make any purchases should you wish to do so.

If you have not received the email, or if you experience any issues accessing the album, please contact Miss Jarrett at jarrettk@king-james.co.uk, who will be happy to assist.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to our professional prom photographer, Nicole Wilcox, for capturing so many wonderful moments throughout the evening. Her beautiful photographs have provided lasting memories of a very special occasion for our Year 11 students and their families.

Opportunities! Sixth Form & beyond

Bespoke opportunities for Years 12 & 13 updated weekly from KJS Sixth Form Knaresborough:

<https://wakelet.com/wake/hOPLuy0Xrky73rMfYrlr>



House Drama 2026

House Drama 2026 was a fantastic success, with two sell-out performances and incredible support for the Drama Department from our school community. We are so grateful.

A huge thank you to our parents and carers for supporting weeks of after-school rehearsals, sourcing costumes and giving up their weekends to bring students to Saturday rehearsals. Your commitment helps to make these productions possible.

Over 150 students from Years 7–13 were involved as performers, student directors and members of the technical crew. We are incredibly proud of all four Houses and the outstanding standard of this year's productions.

Congratulations to our award winners:

Best Stage Design: Airedale
Best Rehearsal Process: Nidderdale
Best KS3 Performer: Martha Garrett
Best KS4 Performer: Hannah Walker

The evening concluded with the announcement of the much-anticipated Best Overall Performance, which was awarded to Wharfedale and their production of 'Descendants' which judges described as 'just electric!' Congratulations to everyone involved in making House Drama 2026 such a memorable event. We will see you back in S1 in 2027 for 'Bugsy Malone!'



Sixth Form Leaver's Ball

Last Friday we held our Sixth Form Leavers 'Masquerade' Ball at the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate.

Thanks to the meticulous planning and preparation of Mrs Sewell and the Sixth Form Leavers Committee, from arrival to finish (at midnight!) it was a wonderful evening. The weather did not disappoint and the students all dressed up for the occasion.

Mrs Sewell also made a fantastic job of decorating the air-conditioned venue, plus the students made full use of the beautiful outdoor seating on the terrace.

With mixed emotions, staff and students received awards, demolished an impressive buffet, and danced the night away. It was lovely to chat to them all about their plans for the summer and next year, and great to realise how much they have matured since joining the Sixth Form.

We will miss them all, and look forward to seeing them all again on results day in August.



A Season of Celebration – Recognising Success Together

This is a wonderful time of year, with plenty of reasons to celebrate both in and beyond school.

Last week, we were delighted to reward tutor group 10W3 with a celebratory pizza lunch after they were crowned winners of our Attendance World Cup. Their fantastic commitment to attending school during that period is a real achievement, and they should be incredibly proud.

We were also pleased to welcome our new Year 6 students, who will be joining the King James’s community in September. During their visit, we introduced them to our expectations around attendance, behaviour and the many opportunities that come with making the exciting transition to secondary school. We look forward to seeing them become part of our school community.

The celebrations continue this week. Like many of you, we’ll be keeping everything crossed for an England victory in their match, despite the rather challenging 1.00 a.m. Monday kick-off! As a school, we’re naturally torn between supporting the national team and ensuring our students arrive ready to learn at 8.40 a.m. on Monday morning. We appreciate your support in helping your child attend school on time, well-rested and ready for the day ahead. Hopefully, we’ll all have another reason to celebrate together.

This week also sees us recognising some of our student attendance champions with a special celebratory breakfast hosted by senior members of staff. Over the coming 2 weeks, we will also be acknowledging students who have achieved over 96% attendance, as well as those who have shown significant improvements in their attendance throughout the year.

We are committed to recognising success in all its forms, and none of these achievements would be possible without the continued support of our families and carers. Thank you for everything you do to help your children attend school regularly and make the most of every opportunity.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday morning, bright-eyed, bushy-tailed and ready for another successful week.

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y12
22nd-26th June	88.9%	89.9%	90.1%	84.7%	90.7%	87.01%





KJS

IS A

READING

SCHOOL

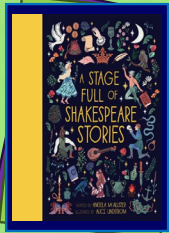
We are all readers





Follow us

@readingkjs

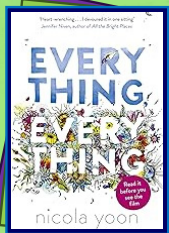


I've wanted to read Shakespeare for a while, and this book made it so much easier to understand his plays. They are retold as exciting stories instead of playscripts, and the main characters are clearly introduced. I loved this book and couldn't put it down!

I would rate this book 5/5 stars.

(Recommended reading age – KS3)

Eden Sadler (Y7)



A compelling novel about a girl whose severe allergy keeps her isolated from the outside world until she falls in love with her neighbour. The use of emails, messages and illustrations makes the story engaging and easy to follow. A highly enjoyable read that I would recommend to Year 9 students and above.

I would rate this book 4/5 stars.

(Recommended reading age – 13+)

Georgina Corpse (Y13)

Art & DT Exhibition

We are delighted to invite everyone to the annual King James's Art & Design Technology Exhibition on Wednesday 15th July, 4.30-6.30pm. The exhibition will showcase this year's outstanding A Level and GCSE work. We hope you will join us for an evening celebrating the hard work, creativity, and dedication of all our students.



ART & DT EXHIBITION 2026

A LEVEL & GCSE // ART // PHOTOGRAPHY
3D DESIGN // PRODUCT DESIGN // TEXTILES

15/7/26 // 4.30-6.30pm // King James's Art Department