

Friday 3rd October 2025

King James's School Newsletter

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Appointment of new Headteacher

For some time now, Mr McIntosh has been doing a great job as Acting Head of King James's School whilst we looked to recruit a new Headteacher. I'd like to thank Mr McIntosh and all the staff for working so hard to keep the school moving forward in this period.

I'm delighted to be able to let you know that in January we will be welcoming Miriam Oakley as our new Headteacher. Miriam will join us from Sherburn High School where she is currently the Headteacher. Miriam really impressed the interview panel with her student-focused, inclusive and collaborative approach and her enthusiastic personality. I'm sure she'll be a great fit for King James's.

I know the whole school community will give Miriam a warm welcome when she arrives, and I look forward to seeing our students go from strength to strength in the next few years.

Mr A Howard, Chair of Governors

Arriving at school

A reminder that students are **not** able to access the school site before 8.20am. At this time, staff will open gates and will be there to meet and greet students, who may go to their Year Hubs or to the dining hall for breakfast.



Early Closure & Training Day

A reminder that school will close for students at 12.35pm on Thursday 9th October in preparation for the Open Evening. Friday 10th October is a staff training day and school will be closed to students.



Assemblies

It's World Mental Health Day on Friday 10th October so our assemblies next week focus on mental health awareness. We are using assembly time to raise awareness, reduce stigma, encourage support and to empower students by giving them tools and strategies.



Our Student Health and Wellbeing Coordinator, Miss Jarrett is organising and leading mental health awareness assemblies for all year groups. Year 8 and 9 have had their assemblies this week. Year 7, 10, 11, 12 and 13 will have their assemblies the week beginning 6th October.

Vaping

Please see below for a reminder of our policy around vaping:

- Vaping is prohibited on school grounds.
- Any vape products found will be confiscated and disposed of.
- Possession or suspected use will result in serious sanctions.
- Possible suspension, even for association or presence during vaping.
- Suspensions will remain on a student's school record.

Government guidance allows authorised school staff to search pupils, even without their consent, where they have "reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item. This includes vapes. The flyer included at the end of this newsletter provides useful information for parents/carers around vaping.

READY RESPECTFUL ENGAGED

Careers

Careers Fair: Our annual Careers Fair will take place on Thursday 23rd October 4pm – 7pm. This is a fantastic opportunity for students and parents to connect with employers, apprenticeship providers, colleges, universities and KJS sixth form. Students and parents from Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 are invited to attend.

Amazing Apprenticeships Opportunity: Discover exciting apprenticeship opportunities at the BBC in business, data and digital technology, engineering, journalism, and production!

This engaging webinar is designed for school leavers, career changers, or anyone curious about what it's like to work behind the scenes of the UK's leading public service broadcaster.

During the session on 7th October, you'll hear directly from the BBC about what it's like to be an apprentice, gain valuable insights into the structure and benefits of the apprenticeship schemes and more!

Book your place now: <https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/workshops-webinars/>.

Lloyds Banking Group: Tuesday 7th October, 5pm - 6pm

Lloyds Banking Group is one of the world's biggest financial services companies with over 30 million digital customers. Find out how they help Britain prosper, what makes their culture inclusive, and how their well-known brands are driving real change.

What to expect:

- You will be shown how to write applications that grab attention, ace assessment centres, and navigate the recruitment process with confidence.
- You will learn how to make your CV pop, answer interview questions, and research companies so your application hits the mark.
- You will hear from a current apprentice who's been through it all—sharing real stories, honest advice, and what helped their application shine.
- You will get hints and tips on how to make an impactful application.
- You will learn how to prep for assessment centres- mini exercise/examples of what they can get asked.
- You will find out more about the recruitment process/dates

In addition, all who attend this virtual event will be the first to hear about and apply for over eight in-person events at their offices all across the UK. These events take place on Saturdays, so they don't impact time out of school or university. In-person opportunities are very rare, especially at huge banks, so this will be your head start to getting your foot in the door!

Event Details:

Date: Tuesday, 7th October

Time: 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

For: Year 11, 12 and 13 students

Location: (Zoom link provided upon registration)



Student Netball Success

Orla S in Year 8 has recently been successful in two netball trials and has earned a place on both the U13s North Yorkshire County Performance Pathway and the U13s Leeds Rhinos Academy Pathway. She's also continuing to play for the Grangetown performance netball club.

Well done Orla - we're so proud of all your hard work.



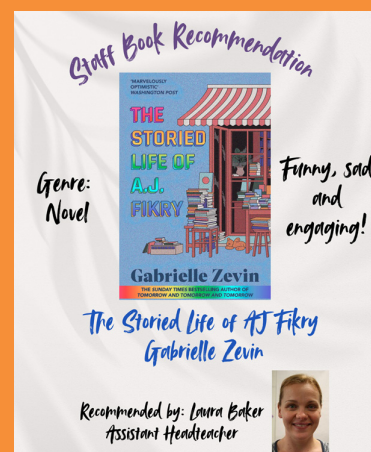
UKMT Success

Well done to our Year 12 students who took part in the inaugural Maths Competition for Girls organised by the UK Mathematics Trust last month.

The competition includes some difficult problems and we are proud of you all for stepping up and having a go. We are delighted that two students performed so well that they gained merit certificates. Congratulations to Keira and Rowan (who also achieved the best in school award).



This week's Staff Reading Recommendation



Please note that the staff recommended reads are for KS5 students and adults.

[Reading - King James's School](#)

The Week Ahead: 6th October 2025

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon				
Tue	Next Gen Choices Careers Fair			
Wed				
Thur	Senior UKMT Maths Challenge Open Evening (School closes to students at 12.35pm)	All	5.30pm-8.30pm	Various
Fri	Staff training day - school closed to students			

Spooktacular Attendance Challenge

From Monday 6th October to Friday 17th October, we're running a spooky attendance competition!

If your child achieves 100% attendance during this period, they'll earn the chance to take part in our Witches Cauldron Lucky Dip filled with Halloween Surprises.

Everyone starts with a clean slate, previous absences won't be counted. All they need to do is be at school between the 6th and 17th October to qualify.

Prizes will be collected during the last week of half term. A winner from each year, drawn randomly, will dip into the cauldron to claim one prize from a variety of Halloween treats!

Make every day count...

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
22nd Sept	93.7%	96.6%	94.5%	90.8%	93.6%	92.8%



Harvest Festival Collection

A reminder about our Harvest Festival collection for Gracious Street church again this year, to help give back to our community. We are collecting food and household donations that will be shared between Harrogate Homeless Project and Resurrected Bites. Please place any donations in the trolley located in main reception, up to and including Friday 18th October 2024.

Many thanks for your support.

Spotlight on SEND

SEND Careers Event 02/10/25

Preparation for adulthood and life after King James's school is an essential part of the support we provide to students. On Thursday evening we proudly hosted a careers event for students in Key stage 4 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), designed to inspire, inform, and support our young people as they plan their next steps.

The event brought together a fantastic range of training providers, and local organisations, all passionate about promoting inclusive opportunities for students. Representatives from local colleges and supported internships offered valuable guidance on a wide variety of career paths. Students had the chance to explore post-16 education and ask vital questions around course options and requirements, as well as find out about funding and transport.

Thank you to

- Right2Work Learning
- Choices College
- Harrogate College
- York College
- Askham Bryan College

for providing your expertise and offering valuable insight to the students at King James's.



Preparing for Adulthood Opportunities Event

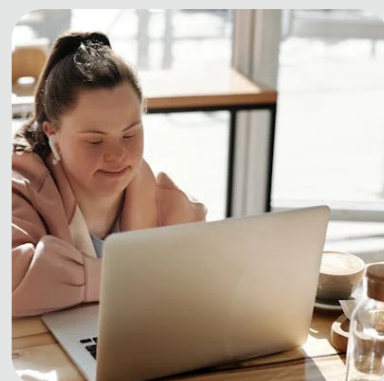
Tuesday 14 October 3.30-6.30pm
Askham Bryan College

For parents and carers, and young people in year 9 and above with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities in York, Leeds and North Yorkshire.

Drop in any time and:

- ✓ **Get inspired and explore** post-16 options in employment or education
- ✓ **Speak to** education providers, employers and support services
- ✓ **Book onto** provider open days

For more information, email skills@york.gov.uk or scan the QR code to book a place (not mandatory)



Quiet space
available and
quieter time usually
from 5.30pm

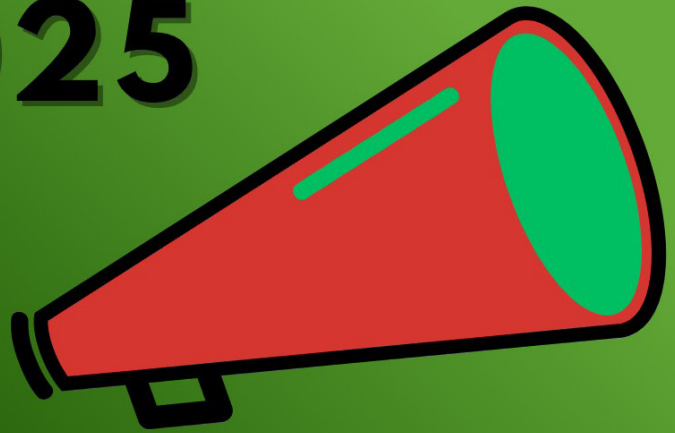


We are using Eventbrite to help run our event, find out more about what they do with your information at [Eventbrite Privacy Policy](https://eventbrite.co.uk/help/en-gb/articles/460838/eventbrite-privacy-policy/). (eventbrite.co.uk/help/en-gb/articles/460838/eventbrite-privacy-policy/)

STUDENT COUNCIL

2025

THE YEAR 13 SENIOR STUDENT
LEADERS WANT YOU TO JOIN
THEIR STUDENT COUNCIL!



WHY SHOULD YOU APPLY?

- MAKE REAL CHANGES AT KING JAMES'S
- GAIN LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK SKILLS
- STAND OUT ON CV'S AND UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS
- REPRESENT YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS

SCAN HERE!

- OPEN TO YEARS 7-12
- DEADLINE TO APPLY: 17TH OCTOBER
- HOW TO APPLY: SCAN QR CODE AND FILL OUT FORM

WHAT YOU WILL DO...

- VOICE YOURS AND YOUR PEERS CONCERNS OR IDEAS
- HELP PLAN EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOL
- WORK WITH STAFF TO MAKE CHANGES
- BE A ROLE MODEL FOR STUDENTS