

# King James's School Newsletter

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## Message from Ms Oakley

Dear parents, carers and students,

Welcome back to the final half term of the academic year! In the next few weeks, we will be sharing with you our exciting plans to celebrate the end of the year but for now some important reminders:



### Year 10 Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs)

Year 10 students will be sitting their first set of PPEs starting on Wednesday 17th June. Pre-Public examinations follow the same principles as actual GCSEs, with students sitting in the exam hall, under exam guidelines and regulations. They are supervised by examination invigilators and will be marked using GCSE mark schemes.

Information has already been shared with students in terms of helpful revision strategies and resources, but as a reminder our website has lots of useful information, including the PPE timetable, in the section under King James's News, and the heading [Year 10 Revision](#).

### Students – A Reminder to have your voices heard!

Don't forget that Dame Rachel de Souza is keen to hear what young people across the country think and feel through participation in "The Big Future". To take part visit [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TheBigFuture/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TheBigFuture/)

### Summer Uniform

Following last week's hot weather (please don't say that's our summer!) we have made the move into Summer Uniform. This means that students do not have to wear either a jumper or a blazer. All other uniform expectations remain as per our Uniform Policy; this is especially important in relation to sweatshirts and hoodies, which are not permitted.

### And finally...

It's been a positive start to half term with external examinations, sporting events, House competitions, a visit from a governor and recruitment in preparation for next year – thank you to our students for the excellent return!

Kind regards,

Miriam Oakley  
Headteacher

**KING JAMES'S SCHOOL**  
KNARESBOROUGH

**NEED PARKING FOR  
BED RACE DAY?**

**£5 FOR  
ALL DAY  
PARKING**

**SATURDAY 13TH JUNE**

In aid of  
**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**

- ARRIVE FROM 9 AM  
- CAR PARK LOCKED AT 7 PM

KING JAMES'S SCHOOL PRESENTS  
**"WINGING IT!"**  
A NIGHT OF IMPROV: WHERE  
EVERYTHING IS MADE UP!  
JUNE 16 & 17 6PM BALCONY  
TICKETS £5

AVAILABLE FROM DRAMA  
OFFICE AT LUNCHTIMES  
(Monday/Wednesday & Friday)



## The Week Ahead: 8th June 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Start of Year 12 exams			
Tue				
Wed	Year 9 Pastoral Parents' Evening		4.00-6.30pm	In school
Thur				
Fri				

### Work Experience Placements– A Big Thank You!

As our Year 11 students have now finished their time at any alternative placements in their individual packages and have begun their GCSE exams, we would like to take the opportunity to thank the local businesses who have worked in collaboration with us to provide valuable opportunities throughout Key Stage 4.

From the Year 11 team and the wider KJS community, we would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Nippers Nursery and Knaresborough Golf Club for their continued support with work experience placements.

Indie completed her placement at Nippers Nursery, where she gained valuable hands-on experience supporting early years children through play-based learning. She was involved in helping to plan and deliver engaging activities, as well as assisting staff with day-to-day routines and ensuring the children felt supported and included. A particular highlight for Indie was taking part in the nursery's 'welly walks', which she thoroughly enjoyed and spoke very positively about. Throughout her placement, Indie demonstrated a caring nature, a willingness to learn, and a positive attitude towards every task she was given. She has shown real commitment and enthusiasm, and we are incredibly proud to hear that this experience has led to her being offered an apprenticeship at the nursery next year. Indie is very excited to begin this next step, and it is a fantastic reflection of the impression she has made during her time there.



Tom completed his placement at Knaresborough Golf Club, working alongside the greenkeeping team. During his time there, Tom developed practical skills in grounds maintenance, including preparing and caring for the course, and demonstrated a strong work ethic throughout. He consistently showed enthusiasm for learning, a willingness to take on new tasks, and an ability to work effectively as part of a team. His positive attitude, reliability, and respect for colleagues made him a valued member of the team during his placement. Tom has left a very positive and lasting impression on the staff at the club, who were impressed by both his commitment and his professional approach.



Working in partnership with local businesses is incredibly important. These opportunities allow students to develop real-world skills, build confidence, and make informed decisions about their future pathways. At the same time, local employers benefit from engaging with motivated young people, helping to nurture future talent within the community. We are very grateful for these partnerships and the positive impact they have on both our students and our local businesses.

### Careers

The British Army offer a wide range of career pathways. You can search Army jobs using this link: <https://jobs.army.mod.uk/how-to-join/find-your-fit/>



There are some British Army online virtual events taking place in July that will help students gather more information about a career in the army. To access details of these virtual events, please use this link: <https://jobs.army.mod.uk/meet-your-army/?cid=mail3401020464>

There is also a helpful British Army parent podcast which gives access to parent-focused resources, including step-by-step guidance, myth-busting information and practical tools to help you feel confident discussing career choices with your young person. Real families share honest stories from application to training. You can also hear directly from parents through testimonials, offering reassurance, lived experience and practical advice.

You can access the parent podcast using this link: <https://jobs.army.mod.uk/base/parents-guardians/?cid=mail7786406873>

## More Brass News!

Well done to brass musicians Ella G, Alicia M, Dan H, Sam O-H and Jacob P who used the Friday of their half-term break to participate in the "Saddleworth & Oldham Whit Friday Band Contests", an annual competition steeped in history, staged across 11 picturesque villages in the hills of Saddleworth Moor (famously featured in the 1990's hit film "Brassed Off").

The students travelled with Knaresborough Silver Band and Tewit Youth Band to compete in as many villages as they could in one evening, playing both a "road" and "contest" march, against up to 80 other bands per village. The students competed against bands of all levels, including national champions the Black Dyke Band, and the famous Brighouse & Rastrick Band from West Yorkshire.

Students playing with Knaresborough Silver Band brought home prizes for "Best 3rd Section Band" in 2 villages and those with Tewit Youth clocked up an impressive 5 prizes across the Youth categories, as well as the "Best Overall Youth Band" award. We hope they enjoyed this important cultural experience at "the greatest free show on Earth"!

## Year 12 Study Leave & Exams

Year 12 will be on Study Leave for their end of year exams from Monday 8th June until Friday 19th June. Timetables and further details were emailed out to parents and students on Tuesday 2nd June. If these have not been received, please contact the Sixth Form.

The exam timetable and subject revision schedules are also available on the Sixth Form website. Students should wear full uniform, including lanyards for all exams and revision sessions in school during this period.

There are no exams on Thursday 18th June as all Year 12 students will be attending a UCAS Discovery Day at Leeds Beckett University. This will be non-uniform and students should be in school by 9.45am.

## House Drama

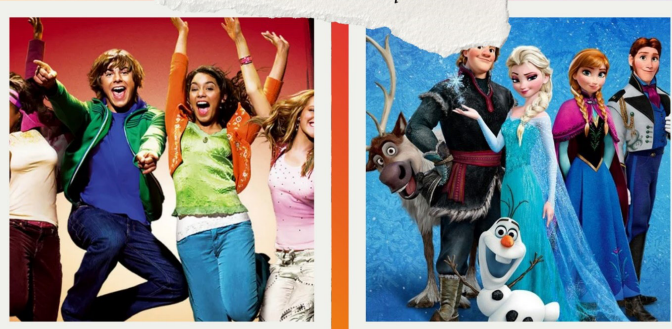
House Drama tickets on sale Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays outside the library. Payment can be made by cash or card for just £5 a ticket for 4 theatre shows on one night!



*A Night Under the Stars*  
**YEAR 11 PROM**  
*25<sup>th</sup> June 2026*  
*An Evening to Remember*  
**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**



**KJS HOUSE  
DRAMA 2026**  
29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June 6pm S1



*Tickets £5 - available outside the library at lunchtimes!*

## Year 11 Prom Tickets - Reminder

This is a reminder that Year 11 Prom tickets are now on sale via Parentpay. The deadline for purchasing tickets is 12 noon on Monday 15th June. Please note that no late purchases can be accepted, so don't miss out. We strongly encourage you to secure your child's place ASAP to avoid risking disappointment.

Prom planning is coming together really well, and it is guaranteed to be a night to remember with memories to cherish. The Year Team have picked their outfits and are very excited to celebrate this special occasion with the year group!

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to a fantastic evening. Many thanks, The Year 11 team

## Attendance: Free Parent Workshop

From Overwhelmed to Confidence: Supporting Anxious Children Without Losing Yourself.

- Monday 22nd June 2026
- 7pm – 8:30pm
- The Sixth Form Common Room
- Parking Available

Following the last workshop, it became clear that many parents and carers are carrying a great deal of responsibility as they support their children through periods of anxiety and emotional difficulty. For some families, this can have a considerable impact on their own wellbeing, confidence and day-to-day lives.

This workshop is being delivered by a Forensic Psychologist from Well Connections, Jo Cheetham, who will provide practical strategies to help you better understand anxiety and support your child while also maintaining your own wellbeing. We hope this workshop will provide a supportive space, practical guidance, and reassurance that you are not facing these challenges alone.

The workshop will cover:

- The impact of chronic stress, burnout and overwhelm on parents.
- Helping parents recognise anxiety and threat responses within themselves and their children.
- Understanding how parental responses can unintentionally reinforce anxiety cycles and avoidance patterns.
- Boundaries as structures that create predictability and emotional safety.
- Maintaining consistent boundaries from a calm and regulated position.
- Supporting children through distress without immediately rescuing or removing discomfort.
- Practical scripts for challenging situations.
- Grounding techniques for parents and children.
- Compassionate strategies to help parents feel more confident and emotionally resourced.

Places are free, but registration is essential. To register, please click [here](#)

We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be an informative and supportive evening.

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
18th-22nd May	84.4%	92.2%	90%	83.5%	85.8%	70.1%	91.52%	Study leave

### FROM OVERWHELM TO CONFIDENCE: Supporting Anxious Children Without Losing Yourself

**Parent Workshop: Speaker, Jo Cheetham**  
Monday 22nd June | 7:00pm – 8:30pm  
Sixth Form Common Room  
Parking Available

This workshop is particularly relevant for parents and carers of children who experience anxiety, especially where anxiety impacts school attendance, wellbeing, confidence and day-to-day functioning.

The workshop will cover:

- The impact of chronic stress, burnout and overwhelm on parents.
- Helping parents recognise anxiety and threat responses within themselves and their children.
- Understanding how parental responses can unintentionally reinforce anxiety cycles and avoidance patterns.
- Boundaries as structures that create predictability and emotional safety.
- Maintaining consistent boundaries from a calm and regulated position.
- Supporting children through distress without immediately rescuing or removing discomfort.
- Practical scripts for challenging situations.
- Grounding techniques for parents and children.
- Compassionate strategies to help parents feel more confident and emotionally resourced.

Register  
[Here](#)



Jo Cheetham | Forensic Psychologist

Psychologist with over 14 years' experience supporting children, young people and adults with anxiety, trauma and emotional wellbeing difficulties.



This book has loads of unexpected twists and turns and is definitely my favourite in the whole series. It's not for the faint hearted, and once you start reading the series (*Death Cloud* is the first book), you just can't put the books down! They're packed with murder and mystery, and this book (No.5) is my absolute favourite!

I would rate this book 5/5 stars.  
(Recommended reading age – KS3)

Elisabeth Spencer (Y7)

## Opportunities! Sixth Form & beyond

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



<https://wakelet.com/wake/hOPLuy0Xrky73rMfYrIrlr>

**STAFF BOOK RECOMMENDATION**

INCREDIBLY MOVING TALE OF END OF LIFE REFLECTIONS AND COGNITIVE DECLINE: BRING TISSUES!

I DEFY YOU NOT TO FALL IN LOVE WITH BO AND HIS DOG. SIXTEN

LISA RIDZEN

WHEN THE CRANES FLY SOUTH  
LISA RIDZEN

RECOMMENDED BY: HANNAH RADCLIFFE  
HEAD OF MATHS

Inspired by *My Last Duchess*, this book is told from the perspective of Lucrezia who marries a Duke and dies in suspicious circumstances just a year later. It explores powerful themes such as patriarchy, coercive control and forced marriage. The writing is beautiful and vivid, making the story feel completely alive.

I would rate this book 4/5 stars.  
(Recommended reading age – KS5+)

Olivia Powell (Y12)

