Friday 6th November 2026

King James's School Newsletter



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Poppy Appeal

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We will be selling poppies in school next week to support the Royal British Legion and remember those who have served.

Donations of any amount are gratefully received. Cash donations only. Thank you for your support.



Message from Ms Oakley



Dear parents, carers and students,

I hope you had an enjoyable half term, despite the storm conditions at the start of the week!

See below for some important dates for your diary and key reminders:

Save the Date!	
Monday 9th November	Yr7 Meet the Form Tutor
Week beginning 16th November	Maths Week
Friday 20th November	Yr11 York Christmas Market Reward Trip
Tuesday 24th November	Post 16 Open Evening
25th and 26th November	Yr7 First 50 days celebration
Friday 27th November	School closed for staff training
Tuesday 1st December	GCSE Prize Giving
Thursday 3rd December	Yr13 Pre-Public Examinations begin
Tuesday 8th December	Christmas Concert
Wednesday 9th December	Yr11 Progress Evening
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 17th December	Yr7 Pantomime trip and Senior Prize Giving
Friday 18th December	School closes at 12.30pm for the holidays
Monday 4th January 2027	School re-opens for the Spring Term

Please see Page 2 for some key reminders regarding hair, make-up and jewellery, as well as an equipment list confirming what students are expected to have with them in each day in school.

Worried about the cost of uniform and equipment?

Please contact us! Unsure who to contact? Please email admin@king-james.co.uk and your email will be shared with the right member of staff.

As you can see this half term is a busy one; but by getting the basics right – with correct uniform and equipment, our students will be Ready for Learning!

Thank you in advance for your support,

Kind regards,

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher

Key Reminders

HAIR, MAKE-UP AND JEWELLERY FOR YEARS 7-11	
Jewellery and Make up	**Jewellery**: Jewellery must not be worn, except for one discreet necklace, plain studs/small earrings in each ear and one bracelet. No jewellery should be worn during physical education or other practical activities such as DT or Food Tech. Ensure that jewellery can be removed for these subjects. Facial Piercings: Students can wear a nude-coloured retainer; no other nose piercing is allowed. Tongue piercings, facial jewellery, including eyebrow piercings or similar body piercings must never be worn. Any new piercings/flesh tunnel procedures that require a "healing period" must only take place during school holidays that are long enough to accommodate this healing process. **Make up**: Obvious or extreme makeup is not allowed, e.g. bright lipstick, light or heavy eyeliner, fake eyelashes. Students are allowed to have short false or painted nails, unless they are doing food technology lessons.
Hairstyles and colours	Extreme hairstyles are prohibited: this includes full or partial shaving (including 'tramlines' or other patterns). Hair should not be dyed (either permanent or semi-permanent) beyond colours close to natural hair colours (e.g. green, blue, pink or purple are NOT permitted)

EQUIPMENT
As well as their school bag and planner, students are expected to have: • 2 blue or black pens • a pencil • a ruler • an eraser • a highlighter pen • a glue stick • a blue or black whiteboard pen



PSHE: What are we learning this half-term?



This half term, students in Years 7–10 will move on to the second Jigsaw PSHE unit, Dreams and Goals, delivered during Period 1. Year 11 students will complete *Being Me in My World* before moving on to *Dreams and Goals*.

Year 7: Students explore their hopes and ambitions, the importance of perseverance and how positive attitudes can help them overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

Year 8: Students consider how to set realistic goals, develop financial awareness and understand how their choices, attitudes and aspirations can influence their future.

Year 9: Students explore their ambitions for the future, including the influence of money, financial stability and personal values on their goals and decisions.

Year 10: Students consider their future aspirations, financial independence and the challenges they may face as they move towards adulthood, including managing money and making informed decisions.

Year 11: Having completed *Being Me in My World*, students will explore their future goals, aspirations and plans for life beyond school, considering the choices, skills and attitudes that can help them succeed.

Please ask your child about what they are learning, as conversations at home will help reinforce their learning in the classroom.

Share the Spirit of Christmas: Support our local Food Bank

Christmas is a time for giving, kindness and coming together as a community. However, for some families in our local area, the festive period can bring extra financial pressure, making it difficult to afford essential food and everyday necessities.

The King James's School community is working together to make Christmas a little brighter this year for those who need support by collecting foodbank donations.

A list of essential items are listed below:

- tinned fish / tinned meat
- tinned goods- soups, veg, pulses
- cooking sauce
- flour, plain and self-raising
- sugar, tea, coffee, biscuits
- breakfast cereals
- long-life milk / fruit cordials
- kitchen / bathroom cleaners / toilet rolls
- shower gel / shampoo / toothpaste / deodorant
- washing powder or tablets / fabric conditioner

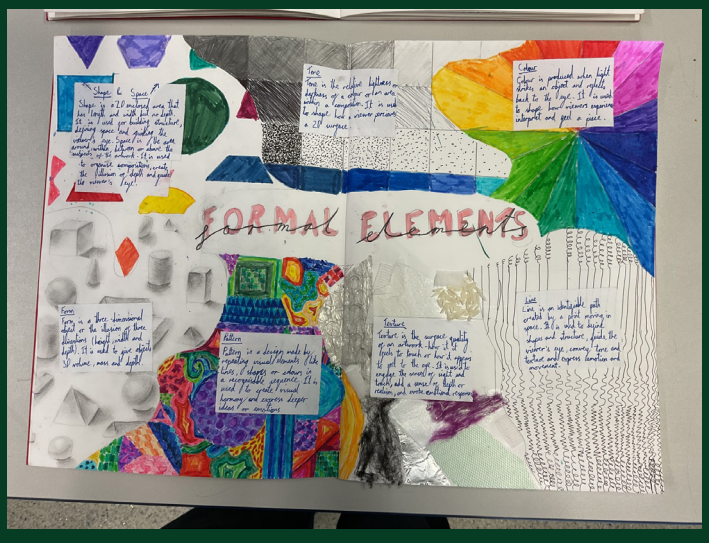
Please leave any donations in the Christmas Collection area in reception. Please give what you can, share the kindness and help make a difference this Christmas.

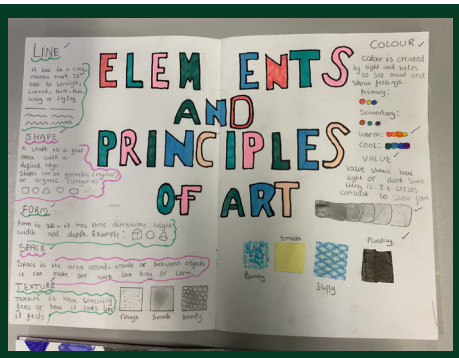
The Week Ahead: 9th November 2026

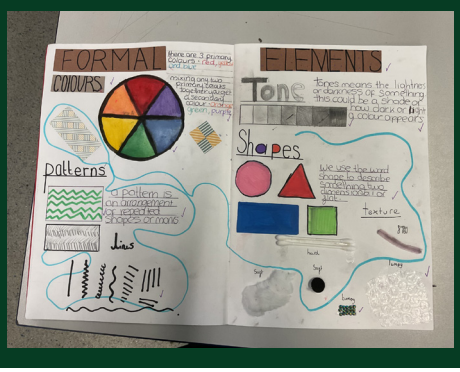
Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Meet the Tutor	7	3.25-5.25pm	In school
Tue				
Wed	SSG Cinema Trip	SSG students		
Thur				
Fri	Catch up photographs	All	AM	S1

Year 7 Art Homework

In Art, Year 7 students were asked to research formal elements over a two week period. Here are some examples of the work they produced (thank you to Chloe W, Jess S and Lily K).











Attendance Matters - A Positive Start to the New Half-Term!



As we begin the second half of the autumn term, we are delighted to launch our 'Remember, Remember… Attendance November!' campaign. Throughout November, we are encouraging students to make every school day count. Any student who achieves 96% attendance or above and receives no detentions during November will be rewarded with a special treat from their Year Team at the end of the month. Further details will be shared in due course. We would really appreciate your support in encouraging your child to attend school regularly, arrive ready to learn and make the most of every opportunity.

Managing Illness During the Colder Months

As the evenings grow darker and temperatures begin to drop, we inevitably see an increase in seasonal coughs, colds, flu and other winter bugs. We appreciate that deciding whether your child is well enough to attend school can sometimes be difficult, particularly at this time of year.

We encourage all parents and carers to familiarise themselves with the NHS guidance, 'Is my child too ill for school?', which provides helpful advice on when children should remain at home and when they can safely attend. Is my child too ill for school? - NHS

Please remember that we can store and administer medication through our school nurse, in line with school procedures, where this may help your child manage their symptoms and remain in school. Similarly, if your child wakes up feeling unwell but improves as the morning progresses, please do consider bringing them into school later in the day, provided they are well enough to attend. Even attending for part of the day can make a valuable difference in reducing missed learning.

Of course, we recognise and respect that parents and carers know their children best, and we appreciate your judgement when deciding whether your child is well enough for school.

Reporting Absence and Supporting Attendance

We would also like to remind families of a few important aspects of our attendance procedures. If your child is absent, please ensure that the school's absence form is completed. Where we have not received notification, a member of our Attendance Team will contact you by telephone to establish the reason for the absence.

In line with our attendance policy, where a student has been absent for three days, a member of the team may also carry out a welfare visit. These visits are an important part of our safeguarding responsibilities and help us maintain contact with families and offer support where needed.

For students whose attendance is below 90%, particularly where there is a history of persistent absence, we may request medical evidence to support further periods of illness-related absence. Where requested evidence is not provided, absences may be recorded as unauthorised. We appreciate the pressures currently facing the NHS and recognise that obtaining a GP letter can be difficult and may involve a cost. Medical evidence does not have to be a doctor's note. We can accept a range of supporting information, including:

- Evidence of an e-consultation.
- A copy or photograph of a prescription or prescribed medication.
- An appointment card or hospital letter.
- Confirmation from another healthcare professional or service.
- A screenshot of a text message or appointment confirmation from a GP surgery, hospital or other healthcare provider.
-

Our priority is always to understand the circumstances surrounding absence and work constructively with families. Where a pattern of absence develops and a student is missing a significant amount of education, we have a responsibility to explore the reasons behind this and identify what additional support may be needed.

If illness is regularly preventing your child from attending school, we would encourage you to seek advice from a healthcare professional. This is not simply about providing evidence for school, but, more importantly, ensuring that your child receives the right support to manage their symptoms and maintain their wellbeing. We would also welcome conversations with families about any reasonable adjustments or arrangements we could make in school to help students manage ongoing health concerns and continue accessing their education wherever possible.

Attendance continued...

Working Together to Improve Attendance

Finally, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to Ruth Watson, Trainee Educational Psychologist from North Yorkshire County Council, who joined us on Monday evening to deliver our parent workshop. We are also extremely grateful to the parents and carers who took the time to attend, share their experiences and explore how we can work together to support improved attendance.

One of the key messages from the evening was the importance of the shared responsibility between schools and families, as highlighted in the Department for Education's Working Together to Improve School Attendance guidance.

The guidance makes clear that where pupils are at risk of, or are already experiencing, persistent absence, schools are expected to work with individual pupils and their families to understand and address the reasons behind their absence, including any barriers they may be experiencing within school. Equally, parents and carers are expected to work with schools and local authorities to help identify and overcome the challenges that may be affecting their child's attendance.

This reflects the approach we are committed to taking as a school. Improving attendance is not simply about numbers or percentages; it is about understanding individual circumstances, removing barriers and ensuring every child has the opportunity to succeed. We know that attendance challenges are not always straightforward, and we remain committed to working alongside families with understanding, consistency and a shared focus on what is best for each child.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance or feel there is anything we can do to help, please feel free to get in touch. We would always much rather have an early conversation and explore solutions together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership.

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
2nd - 6th Nov	90.6%	94.3%	92.5%	91.8%	88.1%	94.6%





KJS IS A READING SCHOOL

We are all readers





A Warm Welcome to Our Library



Our library is a wonderful resource for students and a welcoming space for everyone to enjoy. We encourage all students to make the most of everything it has to offer, whether during break times, lunchtime or after school.

During break times, students from all year groups are very welcome to pop in and enjoy the library without needing a library stamp in their planner.

If your child would like to visit during lunchtime, they simply need to speak to Mrs Bryden at break time, who will be happy to issue them with a stamp.

There is always something happening in our library! We offer book clubs for students across all year groups, a chess club led by one of our science teachers, and study support both during and after school. Study support sessions provide a fantastic opportunity for students to get help with homework, as well as work on their GCSE and A-level coursework.

One of our favourite weekly traditions takes place on Fridays, when all students are invited to join us for 'Reading by the Fire'. This is a lovely opportunity to slow down, switch off and enjoy some quiet reading for pleasure, surrounded by the cosy glow of an on-screen fire and the gentle sparkle of fairy lights.

Please encourage your child to make the most of everything our library has to offer. We always look forward to welcoming them and hope they enjoy making it their own special space to read, learn, create and unwind!





King James's Sixth Form

warmly invite Year 11 students and their parent/carers to our

Post 16 Options Evening

6:30pm – 8:00pm

Tuesday 24th November 2026

Please join our introduction in S1 at 6:30pm with our Headteacher, Assistant Head and Director of KS5

All welcome, no need to book

KING JAMES'S SIXTH FORM



Junior Parkrun

Junior parkrun has been going strong in Knaresborough for several weeks! If you are under 15, why not come along on a Sunday morning and give it a go?

The team would also be very grateful for volunteers. Older students and parents who can spare an occasional Sunday morning are invited to get involved.

To find out more or volunteer, please email conynghamhalljuniors@parkrun.com.



LGBTQ+ Pride Club

Come along to a safe and relaxed space to socialise and make new friends, or just chill out quietly to have a break for the day

Mon & Tues Lunchtime In T6



Join Labcorp's **FREE Virtual Work Experience Programme** and explore careers within the life sciences industry. Hear from industry professionals, learn how new medicines and therapies are developed, and gain insight into the skills, qualifications and career pathways available, including **apprenticeships, graduate opportunities and scientific careers**.

Register Today

Scan the QR code to sign up for these free virtual sessions.

Session 1 – Introduction to Labcorp
Wednesday 11th November 2026 18.00-19.30

Learn more about Labcorp, the drug development process, career development and apprentice and graduate opportunities across the UK.

Session 2 – How Labcorp use Biology and Chemistry
Thursday 12th November 2026 18.00-19.30

Learn how science fits into the drug development process. Discover roles in Biology and Chemistry disciplines and the skills required to be successful and develop long term careers.

About Labcorp

Labcorp is a global leader in laboratory testing and drug development services, supporting drug discovery, preclinical research, companion diagnostics and commercial testing solutions. **Labcorp supported over 85% of new drugs and therapeutic products approved by the FDA in 2025 through its drug development services.** With nearly 70,000 employees across 100 countries and four UK sites in **Harrogate, Huntingdon, Eye and York**, Labcorp offers a wide range of careers across science and business functions.

Questions? email: labcorp-harrogate-careers.group@labcorp.com

WELLBEING IN MIND TEAM

If you have any questions prior or issues logging on to the webinar, please contact tewv.wimtwsa@nhs.net

FRIENDSHIP WEBINAR

MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER - 4PM TO 5PM

This webinar is aimed at young people and parents needing support and advice around maintaining positive friendships.

WEBINAR FOCUS

- Understanding what being a friend means.
- Explore thoughts, feelings and emotions linked to friendship.
- How to understand different perspectives.
- Empathy and moving on from disagreements.



@wellbeinginmind.mhst

SCAN HERE

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

To join our webinar please scan the QR code and follow the instructions to join using **Microsoft Teams.** You can also join using the following details:

Meeting ID: 363 693 780 517 957 1
Passcode: cL2vj68C