

King James's School Newsletter

Inside this issue:

- Message from Ms Oakley
- Visit from our School Improvement Partner
- Water Bottles
- The Week Ahead
- Uniform updates
- Feedback from local resident
- Football News
- Respect in the Community
- Water Safety Assemblies
- Attendance
- Careers
- Your Harrogate Local Heroes Award
- Book Reviews

Visit from our School Improvement Partner

This week we hosted a visit from Jon Norden, a Local Authority Advisor, who is our School Improvement Partner. The visit included time in English classrooms, a review of students' work and meetings with students in Years 9 and 10.

Jon Norden was incredibly impressed by our students' hard work, book pride and ability to articulate themselves. Special thank yous go to Evie L, Spencer M, Dylan R, Sam V, Gabriella K, Leo S, Morgan H, Jack M and Jess P for your valuable feedback during Student Voice meetings.

Water Bottles



As we move into the warmer months of the year (hopefully!) students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school each day, which they are able to fill up around school during break and lunchtimes.

Having access to water throughout the day helps students stay hydrated, focused, and ready to learn.

Thank you as always for your support.

Message from Ms Oakley

Dear parents, carers and students,

Preparing for September

Thank you for the feedback on our updated Uniform Policy. I hope the information below helps to clarify things further.

I will be writing home early next week with an update in relation to our curriculum model for September, thank you in advance for your support with the changes which are designed to improve student outcomes and build on the success of the school.

Have you ever considered becoming a Governor?!

We are incredibly at King James's School to be supported by a strong governing body who work across the Federation between Boroughbridge High School and ourselves. To get an insight into what the role means, take a read of the words of one of our existing governors below:

"I am a KJS and BHS Federation school Governor and I feel incredibly privileged to be one. Being a governor carries real responsibility and a genuine commitment of time. Governors provide oversight, ask the right questions, safeguard standards and support school leaders to make often difficult decisions in the best interests of children. That means reading papers, attending meetings, understanding data and, at times, offering constructive challenge with care and respect. You have to show up prepared and engaged."

"As a parent, I hadn't fully appreciated the scale of the workload and responsibility carried by school leaders and governors, nor how often decisions are judged without full insight into the pressures involved. Much of their work happens behind the scenes to protect education quality, inclusion, safeguarding, wellbeing and the long-term sustainability of the school, and its impact on pupils is profound."

"As a governor, you bring your skills and experience to help shape the strategic direction of a school, support headteachers and staff, and ensure the best possible outcomes for pupils. You gain insight into the realities schools face, which has certainly given me a different perspective, as well as the opportunity to celebrate successes and help tackle challenges head-on. Importantly, you become part of a group of people who care deeply about the schools and local community."

You don't need to be an education expert, I'm still learning all the acronyms! Schools benefit from governors with diverse backgrounds, strong values, curiosity and a willingness to learn. Training and support are available, and you grow into the role over time. If you want to make a difference beyond the school gate and are ready for the commitment involved, I'd really encourage you to consider becoming a school governor.

Feeling inspired? Find out more here: [Become a school governor - Governors for Schools](#)

Kind regards,

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher



The Week Ahead: 11th May 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon	A-Level exams start Opal Coast trip Parent Information Evening		6.00pm	Sixth Form Centre
Tue				
Wed	Holocaust Museum Trip 1	9	All day	Nottinghamshire
Thur	Holocaust Museum Trip 2 Young Enterprise Programme Final	9	All day All day	Nottinghamshire
Fri				

Uniform updates

As you will have seen, a letter was sent out this week to all parents of students in Years 7-10 regarding some uniform updates for September 2026. This is in line with DfE guidelines, which state that from September 2026, schools must limit compulsory branded items to three or fewer, with a fourth allowed if it is a tie.

In summary, the key changes are as follows:

- Red kilts and red ties will be phased out: in September, Year 8 students (current Year 7) can continue to wear red kilts and red ties should they wish, or they can wear a green kilt/green tie instead. Ties are compulsory if wearing a blazer.
- Branded PE shorts and socks will also be phased out. The bottle green short-sleeved PE top will be the only compulsory branded item of PE kit. The rest of the PE kit will comprise of plain black shorts (no leisure style or "hot pants"), plain black football socks for outdoor activities and plain white short socks for indoor activities.
- Students in Year 8-11 can continue to wear their existing branded PE kit items if they still fit, including the white short-sleeved PE top.
- There will also be an optional long-sleeved bottle green quarterzip top available to purchase through the uniform shop/Rawcliffes for use during the colder months.
- King James's School branded items are shown below:



OR



Feedback from local resident

We were delighted to receive the following message in the post this week:



"Dear Ms Oakley, As a resident of Knaresborough I would like to congratulate the young people of your school on their thoughtful behaviour. All my interactions with them out and about in the town have been positive. This week I paused to let some of your young men pass me going up the hill to town and they all thanked me. On more than one occasion one of your students has offered to pull my shopping trolley for me, when I was proceeding very slowly! When I think of myself and my friends at that age, I am sure that we were not so kindly and public-spirited.

There is far too much negativity about young people in the media these days and I thought you would be glad to know that your students are a credit to their families and their school and will make great citizens of the future."

Football News

The KJS football season is still going strong with lots of silverware up for grabs!

Firstly, on Monday 11th May, we have 3 teams through to the County Cup Finals at QE. What a phenomenal achievement, and we wish them the best of luck. U15 Boys play Ermysteds and U13 boys play St Aidans with a 1.30pm KO. Following yes, the U13 girls play Fulford with a 4pm KO. Parents are invited to watch and support.

Not only that, but we have 5 teams still progressing in the Area cup with some playing for places in the final this week! The U15 boys and U13 boys are hoping for a double this season but need to face off tough opposition this week in the semi finals from South Craven and Ermysteds.

The U15 girls team face QE in the semis - in the hope to reach the finals and retain their title from last year. Both the U14 girls & boys teams, are already into the final of the Area Cup.

A big thank you to the KJS PE staff who give up so much of their time to run these extra-curricular clubs, to parents for their unwavering support, and of course to the students for their enthusiasm and energy.

Good luck to all the teams over the next few weeks.

Year 13 Leaver's Assembly

This morning's Year 13 Leavers' Assembly was a memorable and emotional occasion as we came together to celebrate the achievements and contributions of our departing students, and wished them well as they begin their exams.

The event featured a range of musical performances, special leavers' awards were presented and staff also shared heartfelt good luck messages and words of encouragement, wishing the Year 13 cohort every success in their exams and happiness as they move on to university, apprenticeships, employment and new opportunities beyond school.



Values of Respect in the Community

At KJS it is essential that ALL students understand their responsibility as members of the wider community. The vast majority of our students behave impeccably within the community, however over the past couple of weeks we have had a small number of complaints from members of the public which we need to address. Next week all tutors will deliver a consistent message that respectful, responsible behaviour is expected at all times when our students are out and about in our local community. This includes:

- When travelling to and from school, particularly on public transport
- When passing residential properties when travelling to and from school
- When visiting local shops
- When using shared community facilities

Thank you in advance for your supporting us with this important message from home.



Attendance

At King James's, we kindly ask all parent and carers to complete the online absence form at the start of the school day if their child is going to be absent. This helps us know whether or not to expect your child in school and ensures that we can account for every student's safety.

If a form has not been completed and your child does not arrive at school, this immediately raises a safeguarding concern. While it is the responsibility of parents and carers to ensure children arrive at school, from 8:45am, if a child is absent and we have not been informed, we must take steps to establish why.

Our first action is usually to send a text message home to alert you that your child has not arrived. In many cases, this serves as a helpful reminder to complete the online absence form. If we still do not receive a response, the Year Manager will attempt to contact the relevant parent or carer directly.

If we are unable to make contact and there are ongoing concerns, the Attendance Champion may carry out a welfare check at the home address.

Your child's safety will always remain our highest priority. We would therefore like to remind all families to inform the school as soon as possible if their child will not be attending. This allows us to record absences correctly and helps avoid unnecessary safeguarding procedures and additional follow-up work for staff.

The absence form can be found [here](#).

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
27th - 1st May 2026	90.09%	94.7%	91.91%	87.58%	86.91%	89.27%	94.67%	89.47%

100% SPRING 2-WEEK ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

Complete the challenge for your name to be entered into the draw.



FROM TUESDAY 5TH MAY - FRIDAY 15TH MAY

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL
KS2 • KS3 • KS4 • KS5

Careers

Virtual Experience of the Workplace Opportunities

There is a fantastic two-day opportunity which will enable you to get real, hands-on insight from some of the biggest names in global business. The 2-day virtual work experience is a great way to develop your knowledge if you are considering a career in accounting, consulting, or finance.

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

DAY 1 — Multi-Employer Showcase

Hear directly from BDO, Grant Thornton, S&W, and CIMA. Get the inside scoop on what it takes to thrive at a top firm, and start building your professional network from day one. Plus a business workshop with Dan Miller from The Apprentice, and also the CEO and Founder of Young Professionals.

DAY 2 — A Full Day with KPMG (Big 4!)

Spend an entire day immersed in the world of one of the most prestigious firms in the world. Take part in workshops, tackle real business challenges, and pitch your ideas to KPMG professionals.

WHAT YOU'LL GET:

- Hands-on experience with real business projects — including a live profit & loss analysis
- A chance to take on a consulting brief and pitch to industry professionals
- Access to graduate schemes, apprenticeships & summer work experience opportunities
- Networking sessions with firm representatives in virtual booths
- A certificate of completion to boost your CV (for those completing both days)

EVENT DETAILS:

- Dates: Tuesday 26th & Wednesday 27th May
- Time: 10:00am – 4:00pm (on both days)
- Location: Zoom (link sent on registration)
- Open to: Year 11, 12 & 13 students

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YP_Business_May

Careers

Corporate Law Event

Event Details:

Date: Thursday 28th May

Time: 10:00am - 4:00pm

Location: Zoom (link provided upon registration)

Who: Year 10, 11,12, 13 students

What to Expect:

- Law Work Experience during the May Half Term
- Employers attending are Fragomen, A&O Shearman, Farrer & Co, Charles Russell Speechlys and The University of Law
- An opportunity to take part in legal workshops, hear from international law firms as well as the UK's biggest university offering law degrees
- Networking opportunities in the virtual booths
- Certificate of completion sent out to all students who take part in the day

Please apply via the link below:

[Click here for the Application Link](#)

Sixth Form Student nominated for the Your Harrogate Local Hero Awards

We are extremely proud that Imogen M has been nominated for the Bravery Award. She has shown remarkable courage and determination



following a devastating skiing accident that left her with multiple spinal fractures. Through months of rehabilitation and missed milestones, she remained resilient and focused. Returning to her Sixth Form studies, with university offers secured, Imogen's perseverance and positive outlook make her a truly inspiring nominee. We hope she enjoys the awards ceremony at Ridding Park this evening and understands how exceptional she is.

Water Safety Assemblies

We welcomed Jason from North Yorkshire Fire Service into school on Friday 1st May. Jason delivered Water Safety assemblies to Year 7, 8



and 10. The assemblies aimed to build confidence, awareness and to reinforce key messages that can help keep our students safe. Jason gave students practical guidance on staying safe around rivers and other open water. Students learned how to recognise hazards, make safer choices near water and what to do in an emergency.

Year 9 will have a water safety workshop as part of their safeguarding and wellbeing day in July.



Follow us @readingkjs

This book has an engaging and unpredictable storyline, full of twists and turns. It is a tragedy centred on the protagonist, Othello, who is manipulated by his closest companion, Iago. This ultimately leads to his downfall.

I would rate this book 4/5 stars.
(Recommended reading age – KS4+)

Aretas (Y13)

A girl who loves solving mysteries suddenly finds herself caught up in a real-life puzzle. This is the first book in a trilogy, and if you enjoy reading mysteries and detective stories, you should definitely read the whole series.

I would rate this book 5/5 stars.
(Recommended reading age – Y7)

Amelie Coghlan (Y7)

