

# King James's School Newsletter

## Inside this issue:

- Message from Ms Oakley
- Year 13 Mock Exams
- Assemblies
- Post-16 Options Evening
- End of Term 1 rewards
- Little Shop of Horrors 2026
- Staff reading recommendation
- The Week Ahead
- Careers
- Attendance
- Student Book Reviews
- Skrentny Creative Writing Competition
- Community Notices

## Year 13 Mock Exams

Well done to Year 13 students for completing their first week of written Mock Exams. This must have been a shock to the system in the first week back after Christmas, but they have handled it admirably. We would like to wish them all luck for the second week. A number of students also have external exams during this period; we hope these are going well for them. Please remember the Sixth Form Team are available for any support needed during the exam period.

## Assemblies

Due to the Year 13 mock exams taking place in S1 there are limited assemblies taking place this week.

Year 9 and Year 11 have a careers focused assembly linked to GCSE, Post 16 and Post 18.

Year 10 and 12 have assemblies delivered by their Associate Assistant Headteachers.

## Post-16 Options Evening

If you are currently in Year 11 and considering your options after your GCSEs, please come along to the Sixth Form Open Evening next Thursday, 15th January between 6:30 and 8pm. Parents and students will have the opportunity to meet with the Sixth Form team, subject teachers, and current Sixth Form students.

It's your chance to find out more about the amazing options available here at King James's and to help you to make an informed choice about your future.

We look forward to welcoming you on Thursday evening.

## Message from Ms Oakley

Dear parents, carers and students,

Thank you for the warm welcome I have received in my first week as Headteacher at King James's. It's been incredibly exciting to start meeting staff and students and slowly begin to learn my way around this incredible site.

I have already been impressed by students' work ethic in many of the lessons I have visited. I have been struck by students' empathy, honesty and open approach. There is clearly so much to be proud of throughout the school community.

As I shared with students in assemblies this week, I have high expectations; expecting young people to work hard, be kind and respect others. I am committed to supporting them on their journeys into adulthood and look forward to celebrating their successes and driving this school forward, building on its current successes.

Thank you in advance of your support,

Kind regards,

Miriam Oakley  
Headteacher



## King James's Sixth Form

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



## Post 16 Options Evening

6:30pm – 8:00pm

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Please join our intro talk at 6:30pm  
with our Headteacher, Assistant Head  
and Director of Sixth Form

All welcome, no need to book



## End of Term 1 Rewards:

### Ready, Respectful and Engaged Tokens



At the end of last term our students who were nominated to receive their Ready, Respectful and Engaged Tokens were presented with these in their end of Term Assemblies. These are our most prestigious awards, which are only given out each term to a small number of students for the following reasons:

- Ready – Each tutor awards two students from their tutor group who have shown consistently high levels of attendance and excellent punctuality and organisation throughout the term.
- Respectful – Year Managers from each year group award 20 students from their year group who have been outstanding role models by consistently shown kindness and respect towards other students, staff, the school environment and their community.
- Engaged – Each Department have nominated students for their consistent approach in their subject, including the presentation and quality of their class and homework as well as their contributions in class.

Well done to all the students who have received this recognition by the members of staff who work closely with them. Your attitude and contributions are hugely appreciated by King James's School and we thank you for being such excellent role models for other to follow. After Term 1 a number of students have already received two different types of tokens and two Year 11 students have already been awarded with a Headteacher Award as they were awarded with all three types of tokens – Ready, Respectful and Engaged. Congratulations to Izzy K and Lucas K on achieving this so early in the year. We look forward to seeing whole else can join them at the end of Term 2.

### Recognition Points at the end of Half Term 2

A maximum of 15 Recognition points are available on a weekly basis for the following:

- Attending School each day
- Having no lates each day
- Receiving no negative entries each day

At the end of each Half Term each Tutor group's recognition points are added up and the each tutor groups average is calculated. Congratulations to the following tutor groups for HT2. Congratulations to **8W3** who had the school's best average points for Half Term 2.

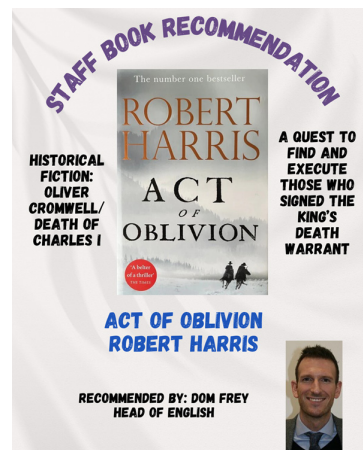
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1st place	7N1 111.00	8W3 111.19	9A3 94.48	10W3 100.00	11W2 108.62	12N1 98.14	13A2 98.76
2nd place	7A3 109.07	8S1 108.86	9A2 91.44	10W1 98.52	11S2 104.96	12S1 97.68	13A1 98.14
3rd place	7S1 108.48	8N1 104.04	9S2 90.35	10N3 92.23	11W1 104.54	12W1 95.05	13N1 95.29
4th place	7A1 107.11	8S3 102.64	9W1 89.15	10A2 87.25	11N1 102.48	12A1 94.14	13S1 91.59

## Little Shop of Horrors 2026

The countdown is on for this year's School Production. The auditions in September are a distant memory and time has flown by. The cast, crew and band are all working incredibly hard on the stage rehearsing their scenes, songs and dances and behind the scenes working to hire costumes, make props, design programmes and tickets and we are all getting very excited as we draw closer. Tickets will be on sale in the next week or so, so keep an eye out for our students outside the library selling them. Card and cash payments are both accepted. It's going to be one to remember!



## This week's Staff Reading Recommendation



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



## The Week Ahead: 12th January 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Year 13 Mock Exams continue			
Tue				
Wed				
Thur	Post-16 Options Evening		6.30pm-8.00pm	
Fri				

### Careers

As part of their Year 9 options programme, Year 9 have a representative from Harrogate College coming into school on Tuesday to talk to them about the Post 16 options they offer and the GCSE subjects needed to access them.

#### British Army Apprenticeships Webinar

A great opportunity for any student who wants to find out more about a career in the British Army.

- Tuesday, 3 February 2026
- 16:00 – 17:00
- Online Event



#### Why attend?

- Explore a wide range of roles: engineering, logistics, healthcare, IT, and more.
- Learn how you can earn while you learn.
- Hear first-hand from soldiers and apprentices about training, career journeys, and day-to-day Army life.

Please use the link below to register for this opportunity:

[Register Now](#)

#### Lloyds Banking Group Virtual event for students with an interest in cyber and cryptography.

Lloyds Banking Group is one of the world's biggest financial services companies, with over 30 million digital customers. This makes LBG one of the industry's most prominent players, and they want you to be part of their business via one of their student programmes.

At this event, they will share with you what it's like to work at the bank in their tech divisions, how their teams are driving change on a global scale, and the routes into the bank that are open to you.

You will also get a certificate of completion once the event finishes, which you can use on your LinkedIn profiles and CVs.

#### Event Details:

Date: Tuesday, 13th January

Time: 5pm – 6pm

For: Year 11, 12 and Year 13

Location: (Zoom link provided upon registration)

[Register now to secure your place!](#)

### Attendance

As the Christmas break drew to a close, there was a brief concern that Mother Nature might once again blanket Knaresborough with snow. Thankfully, we managed to avoid any wintry disruption, much to the disappointment of some of our students, but to the great relief of many parents and carers as they nudged their young people out of the door bright and early on Monday morning.

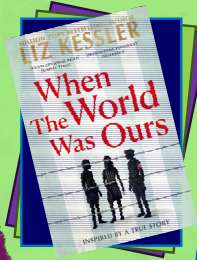
For staff, the new year arrived with the usual mix of fresh resolutions, empty fridges, and a renewed determination to keep inboxes at a manageable level. It has been a pleasure to see the students returning from their breaks, bright eyed and willing to share the tales of the Christmas celebrations. Even more encouraging has been the significant reduction in the levels of illness we experienced towards the end of last term.

Earlier this week, you will have received an email outlining the attendance expectations, along with ways in which you can support good attendance. As we begin the second term, we kindly ask for your continued consideration when deciding whether your child should remain at home. Should you receive a call from a member of staff regarding your child's attendance, please be assured that these conversations are intended to help us understand any underlying reasons and to work collaboratively with you to explore possible solutions.

Here's to 2026!

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
15th - 19th Dec	89.4%	94.2%	91.4%	86.5%	87.4%	87.6%	89.8%	93.5%

## This Week's Student Book Reviews

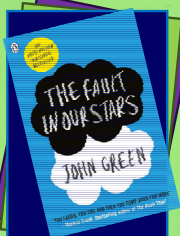


An amazing book! It's a really good mix of comedy, tragedy and action. It tells you so much about World War 2 and opens your mind up to how friendships might have been affected. Each chapter switches between the three main characters and not only gives you one view on the situation but three views. It's an incredible book!

I would rate this book 4.5/5 stars.

(Recommended reading age – KS3)

Aimée O (Y9)



This is an emotional and engaging novel that is quick to draw you in. The story is a perfect balance of humour and heartfelt moments. It is a powerful read that will stay with you long after you read it and will remind you of the beauty of living.

I would rate this book 4/5 stars.

(Recommended reading age – KS4+)

Elora B (Y11)

## SKRENTNY CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

### The Shadow

Showcase your imagination and creativity by writing a piece of no more than 1,000 words based on the title "The Shadow".

You might decide to write a short story, poem, song, graphic novel, diary entry or any other form of creative writing; the choice is yours!

Winners will receive a shopping voucher to the value of £30 and will be featured in the KJS newsletter.

All entries should be entirely original work and submitted via email to [library@king-james.co.uk](mailto:library@king-james.co.uk) with the subject "KJS writing competition 2025".

The deadline for submissions is 31st January 2026

## THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50 % of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

### TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

#### NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

#### ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

#### KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may overbalance or trip and fall in.

#### ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help.

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank, you may find it easier to roll

If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up



### WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for 'HELP' and dial **999** or **112** if you can

**DO NOT** walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to 'KEEP STILL' and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.

StacyWise



## Feeling the squeeze from rising costs?

### You're not alone.

North Yorkshire Council can help point you in the right direction if you're struggling, whether that's emergency support with everyday living costs, benefits, food or energy bills.

There's information about money management, advice for families and free adult learning courses too.

Find out more at [northyorks.gov.uk/NYcostofliving](http://northyorks.gov.uk/NYcostofliving)

