

Friday 9th May 2025

King James's School Newsletter

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Spring Concert

Last week over 50 pupils from years 7-13 took part in the Spring Music Concert. It was a lovely evening with performances from Sing Up, Sax Group, Brass Group, Year 10 Band and Handbells.

There were also some fabulous solo & duet performances as well as some emotional final performances from our year 13 and 11 music students.

We would like to thank Hannah, Leon, Luke, Dani, Neve & Lewis for all their support over the years with Music concerts and wish them lots of luck for the future.



Assemblies

There will be no assemblies this week due to the GCSE and A-Level exams. We will be raising awareness and discussing Mental Health Awareness week in tutor time.

County Cup winners!

A huge congratulations to the Year 11 football team on winning the County Cup on Tuesday night, on penalties. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, determination and team spirit; what a great way to end their last game together at KJS. The goal scorers in the final were Harry L and Ryan H.

The team have managed to reach 4 finals in the last two years, been unbeaten playing at home in that time frame and never lost a penalty shootout.

The team also managed to reach the 6th and 8th round of the National cup.

They have been the most consistent team in the County and it was good to see them crowned champions on Tuesday night.



Year 7 Rewards Trip

On Thursday 1st May over 130 Year 7 students travelled to York for a rewards evening. Pupils showed off their bowling and crazy golfing skills before enjoying time in the arcades.

Thank you to all staff involved in supporting the evening, to students for representing KJS in an outstanding manner and to Mr Hall for his organisation of the fantastic event.



KJS Studio Production



Tickets are now on sale for the KJS Studio Production of 'Wonderful World of Dissocia'. The cast of Y10-13 students are working very hard in rehearsals! The play follows Lisa as she embarks on a surreal journey into a world of vibrant characters and peculiar scenarios, all while grappling with a missing hour that has thrown her life out of balance.

Performances are on the 10th and 11th June at 6pm in the Drama Balcony. Tickets are £5 and can be purchased from Drama at lunchtimes. Audiences for studio productions are limited so get yours fast! Trigger warning: some adult material, strong language and themes of mental health.

VE Day Celebrations

On Thursday, the Humanities Department commemorated VE 80 by throwing a VE Day party at lunchtime. There was dancing from Year 8, cakes from Mrs Dunstan, flag waving and general celebrating from Year 12 and a ration pack from Miss Key.

Pupils were able to learn how much a weekly family ration was, hear Churchill's speech from VE Day 80 years ago and immerse themselves in a conga led by Ms Westerman. Some pupils were brave enough to try beef paste too in order fully to engage in the wartime experience.

Thank you to all pupils and staff for your engagement and support - we had a ball!



Summer Examinations

King James's extends its best wishes to students in Year 11 and Year 13 for their final examinations. It is a challenging time, but we know how much hard work has gone into the preparation. Staff at King James's are available to provide continued support throughout May and June. Good luck everyone.

Students from other year groups will be completing internal examinations later in the summer. The arrangements for those are being finalised. We will communicate this information to you over the next two weeks.

Basketball Success

Congratulations to Florence Win Year 7 who was awarded Girls U12 MVP (most valued player) at York Eagles Awards 2025 last weekend. Florence has been playing basketball for 3 years and this is her second season with York Eagles. She has become skilful at shooting and dribbling and is one of the team's top scorers. She will be playing for U14's girls' team next season in the National League.



In November 2024 she was also nominated by her coach to take part in the Aspire Talent programme. It's a basketball England programme which brings together talented players in age categories 11 to 15 and enables them to train together and play at regional and national level through a selection process. She has attended 3 of their camps.

She also plays for the KJS Y7 basketball team - most of the time she is the only girl playing matches. She would love it if more girls at KJS wanted to join her.

The Week Ahead: 12th May 2025

Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Opal Coast Trip Parents Information Evening		6.00pm	
Tue				
Wed				
Thur	Geography Fieldtrip (Coast)			
Fri				

What is Fast Tracking? Understanding Attendance Support at King James

As parents and carers, you may come across school terms that aren't always familiar, Fast-Tracking may be one of them. Schools use fast-tracking as an early intervention tool to support students whose attendance is falling below expected levels. It's part of a wider strategy to help children attend school regularly and avoid persistent absence.

The government defines persistent absence as attendance falling below 90%, which is equivalent to 19 missed school days over the academic year. While this may not sound like much, it can have a significant impact on a child's learning and well-being.

Fast-Tracking is not the first step. Before we consider this approach, we take several supportive actions – meeting with students and families, identifying any barriers to attendance, and offering tailored support. Common challenges can include academic difficulties, social or friendship issues, SEND needs, or problems at home.

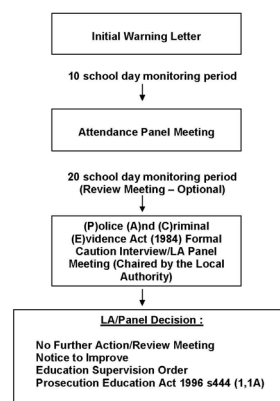
Only when all other avenues have been explored do we begin the fast-track process, which follows a clear and structured framework. This process is designed to support improvement and is always used with the goal of preventing legal action – not enforcing it.

You can view the fast-track process below, which outlines each stage where improvements can be made. We believe that working in partnership with parents, carers and students is essential for achieving positive outcomes.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance or would like to talk about the support we can offer, please feel free to get in touch.

Leg 1a - Flow Chart of School/LA Attendance Procedure – Time restricted

The following procedure will be undertaken by the school should there be no significant improvement in your child's attendance and unauthorised absence continues to be recorded.



If at any stage in the above procedure your child's attendance improves significantly the school will not proceed to the following stage.

However, your child's attendance will continue to be monitored by the school and should there at any time in the future become further concerns the above procedure will be continued onto the next stage or recommenced from the first stage depending on the severity of the situation.

Thought for the Fortnight

The Thought for the Fortnight for the weeks beginning 5th May and 12th May is linked to the Assemblies that have been delivered by Mr Green. It is a powerful quote from Winston Churchill. "If you are going through hell, keep going".

We want students to reflect on and discuss this quote to open up conversations about resilience – What is resilience? What does resilience look like? What can we do to be more resilient?

The Key Takeaways are:

- It's important not to give up when things get difficult.
- It's important to seek support from people around you to help you when you are facing difficult situations.
- Things in life will be difficult. You can't avoid it so it's best to learn how to get through it.



Student Health and Wellbeing

Next week marks Mental Health Awareness Week 2025, and at King James's, we continue to make the emotional wellbeing of our students a key priority. During form times, all year groups will be taking part in sessions designed to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and encourage open and honest conversations about mental health.



Key Stage 3 students will be working with materials from Mind in Harrogate, Mental Health Support, which include a task focused on recognising and managing anxiety. They will also be guided through a calming breathing exercise to help develop techniques for self-regulation and emotional wellbeing.

Key Stage 4 will explore resources provided by the Wellbeing in Mind team, which focus on managing exam stress and building resilience. The session includes discussion points to encourage students to reflect, share, and consider strategies for coping with pressure.

These activities are designed to promote a culture of openness around mental health and to ensure that all students know where they can turn for help.

Over recent months, I have been working closely with the Wellbeing in Mind team to expand the support on offer in school. We have launched a boys' mental health drop-in club, where students can speak confidentially with a member of the team. It's an open and flexible space for anyone who may need to talk.

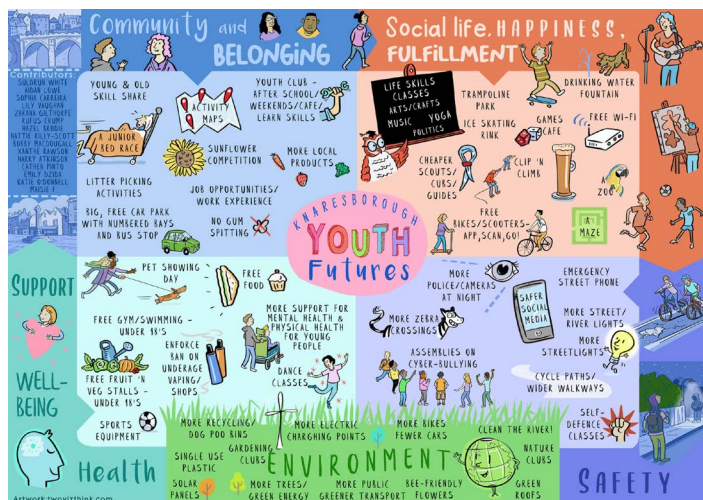
In addition, we're developing targeted intervention groups across all year groups, providing tailored support for a small number of students who may need more focused mental health help.

Our year teams are always available to listen, support, and guide both students and families. Mental health and wellbeing is something we take incredibly seriously at King James's, and we will continue to work hard to provide meaningful support both in and out of lessons.

Thank you for your ongoing support at home. Warm regards, Mr Phillips

Link to the application - [Volunteer Police Cadet](#)

Register here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StJamesPlace-Virtual>

ST. JAMES'S PLACE
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

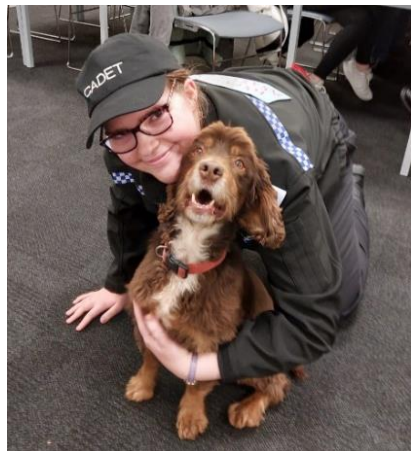
<https://chainlane.org/communitydevelopment/youth-engagement-knaresborough/>

Deadline is the 18th May, please apply online: [Museum and Art Gallery Work Experience](#)

North Yorkshire Volunteer Police Cadets



Are you aged between 13 and 18 years old and interested in becoming a Police Cadet in North Yorkshire?



Want to make a difference and learn more about Policing?

Why not join Police Cadets!

Harrogate

Monday 6-8pm

Scarborough

Monday 6-8pm

Malton

Wednesday 6-8pm

Catterick

Thursday 6-8pm

Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC) are a uniformed police youth group throughout England and Wales.

The police cadets teach young people new skills and show what it's like to be part of the Police Service. Cadets get involved in fun events and assist Officers with activities in their local community.

- Learn about policing
- Increase your confidence
- Get involved in your local community at exciting events and make a difference
- Gain new skills and experience
- Make new friends

North Yorkshire police cadets are currently recruiting for their 2025 cohort, you can submit an application on North Yorkshire Police's vacancies website or by scanning the QR code below. The application will ask for your details and a couple of short questions.

If successful at shortlisting, the next stage will be a short online or face-to-face interview which will last approximately 20 minutes where we want to know more about you.

If successful, you will officially begin as a new recruit in September when you will start your learning and receive your own Police Cadet uniform.

Recruiting now! Scan the QR code or head to the NYP vacancies website to apply now!

For more information about Harrogate & Malton cadets contact

gina.cormack@northyorkshire.police.uk

Scarborough & Catterick cadets contact

sarah-jayne.byrom1@northyorkshire.police.uk



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Are you interested in policing and want to make a difference in your community?

- Learn about Policing
- Have fun!
- Get involved in your local community and make a difference
- Gain new skills and experience
- Make new friends
- Get involved in exciting events



Recruiting now! Scan the QR code or head to the NYP vacancy website to apply now!

For more information about Harrogate & Malton cadets contact

Gina Cormack 07717355121

gina.cormack@northyorkshire.police.uk

Scarborough & Catterick cadets contact Sarah-Jayne Byrom 07764146746

sarah-jayne.byrom1@northyorkshire.police.uk