

King James's School Newsletter

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Student Contact Details and Information



Please remember to let the school know as soon as possible if any of your contact details or personal circumstances change. This includes changes to your home address, telephone numbers, email address, emergency contacts, or your child's medical needs, allergies or other relevant health information.

Keeping our records up to date ensures that we can contact you promptly when necessary and provide the appropriate support and care for your child.

Please use the main school email (admin@king-james.co.uk) to inform us of any changes. Thank you for your support.



Message from Ms Oakley

Dear parents, carers and students,

Thank you!

Our annual Open Evening was a record-breaking event, with more visitors than ever visiting our school. And their feedback?



"Your students are wonderful"

"Your staff have been so helpful!"

"Your students are so knowledgeable, confident and polite"

"I just wanted to say a massive thanks to the whole team last night for a wonderful fun, interactive and welcoming visit"

Thank you to every single student who gave up their evening (especially given that it was dark, wet and the Traitors was on!) - you did yourselves and us proud.

A special mention must go to the four students who delivered the most incredible speeches during the presentation, not once but three times. Thank you for your bravery, confidence and eloquence – Emily, Martha, Solly and Will.

But the praise doesn't end here.

Thank you also goes to our Year 11 students, whose excellent behaviour in the community prompted a member of the public to write to me:

"Just a message for the school. We popped to Knaresborough for a day out, we went into the local Subway. Not long after, lots of your students came in. I was a little apprehensive as there was lots of them and expected a little disarray. They were courteous, respectful and seemed a nice bunch. They were polite to staff and each other. Aware of their surroundings and others."

Thank you for representing King James's School so brilliantly!

Thank you as always for your on-going support,

Kind regards

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher



Cross-Country Kicks Off the House Competition

Over the past week, approximately 1,000 students from Years 7 to 10 have taken part in our cross-country event, with each year group now having completed the course. It has been a fantastic start to the new house competition calendar, with impressive participation and enthusiasm throughout.

Students approached the event with determination and a willingness to give their best. Alongside the effort shown by all those taking part, there were some impressive performances, highlighting the talented runners we have in every age group. Whether competing towards the front or challenging themselves to keep going, students had plenty to be proud of.

Cross-country is the first of a wide variety of sporting and non-sporting house events planned for this academic year. These competitions will give students opportunities to contribute to their house, demonstrate their talents and enjoy working towards a shared goal.

Reigning champions Wharfedale will be battling hard to retain their crown, while the other three houses will be doing everything they can to claim the title for themselves!

Congratulations to everyone who participated. The enthusiasm shown this week promises an exciting year of house competition, teamwork and friendly rivalry.



Sixth Form absence reporting

Unexpected absences: (illness/emergency appointment) must be reported online by 8.30am. Please report on each day of illness.

Planned absences: (driving test, University open day, specialist medical appointment etc) must be requested at least 5 days in advance via the online absence form with evidence.

Routine appointments: We do not authorise time off for routine appointments - where possible these must be booked in a free period/ after school.

Self reporting: Year 13 students can self report absences provided their attendance is 95% or above.

Please contact the Sixth Form directly at sixthform@king-james.co.uk if you have any questions about attendance or absence processes in Sixth Form.

Best Start in Life Portal

The link below details courses that are available to parents who feel they may benefit from support around neurodiversity.

<https://www.beststartinlifenorthyorks.co.uk/Training>



The Week Ahead: 12th October 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Hate Crime Awareness Week			
Tue				
Wed	Flu vaccinations Part 2 English Schools Cross Country Cup	Y7-11 (Catchup) 7-10	Morning All day	S1 Stockton-on-Tees
Thur				
Fri	Restart a Heart Day Show Racism the Red Card	Y8 All	All day	S1

Careers Fair

We are delighted that we have 47 confirmed exhibitors for our Careers Fair this year. They include a mix of employers, apprenticeship providers, colleges and universities.



The Careers Fair is an important event as it is a great opportunity for students to:

- speak directly with employers and industry professionals.
- learn about apprenticeship and employment opportunities.
- explore further and higher education pathways.
- gain insight into different career sectors and industries.
- ask questions about qualifications, training and skills required for various careers.

The Careers Fair takes place on Thursday 22nd October. It starts at 4pm and finishes at 6pm.

All students and parents from Year 9,10,11,12 and 13 are invited.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Maths Competition for Girls

In September a group of female mathematicians from our sixth form took part in this competition set by the UK Mathematics Trust. It is designed to inspire and enthuse females to study Maths beyond school level.

We are delighted to announce our best results for this competition to date. Congratulations to Jennie B, Isobel C and Tabitha S in Year 12 for achieving distinction awards and to Maggie A, Florence H and Susanna S, also from Year 12 on their merit awards.

Any students or adults wanting to test their brain power this weekend can find the 2026 paper and solutions [here](#)

Well done to all our young women Mathematicians who pushed themselves out of their comfort zone by entering this challenge.



For more information please visit our website [Learning Support - King James's School](#)

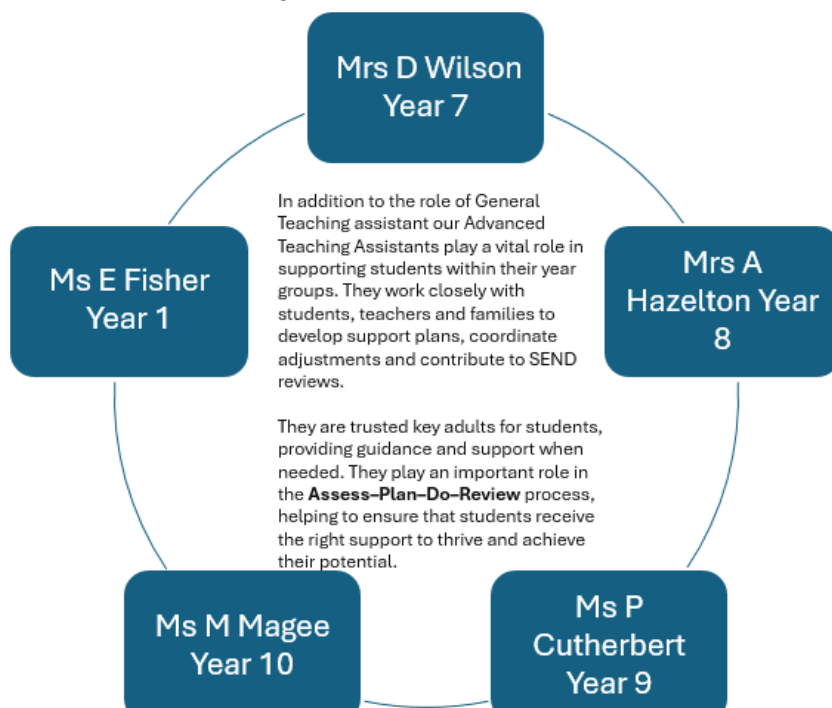
Introducing the Support Staff within the SEND department

Mrs Dobson
Senior Advanced Teaching Assistant

Plans and deliver targeted interventions to support students' individual needs. They provide guidance and advice to ATAs and teaching staff on effective strategies, helping to remove barriers to learning and promote student progress and independence

General Teaching Assistants

Our Teaching Assistants work alongside teachers to support students in accessing learning and developing their confidence and independence. They provide in-class support, help deliver targeted activities and interventions, and use agreed strategies to meet individual student needs.



Attendance

Parent Workshop: Working Together to Support School Attendance

We are delighted to announce that our next parent workshop, 'Working Together to Support School Attendance', will take place on Monday 2nd November, from 7.00pm to 8.30pm, in the Sixth Form Common Room.

We are thrilled to welcome Ruth Watson, a Trainee Educational Psychologist working with North Yorkshire Council's Educational Psychology Service, who will be leading this important and informative session.

The workshop will focus on developing a greater understanding of the challenges some young people face when attending school, alongside practical strategies that parents and school staff can use to support them. A key theme of the evening will be how we can work together, both at home and in school, to encourage and support students who find regular school attendance difficult.

We recognise that the challenges faced by families can vary considerably, from those with children in Year 7 who are still adjusting to secondary school, to those supporting students in Year 11. Our aim is to provide helpful guidance, reassurance and practical advice that will be relevant to parents and carers across all year groups.

If you would like to attend, please click on the link to sign up. There will be plenty of parking available, and tea and coffee will be provided.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/B4JsvzTM3V>

As always, if there are any concerns or particular issues you would like to discuss with our Pastoral or Attendance Teams ahead of the workshop, please feel free to get in touch. We are always happy to offer support and guidance.

Halloween Attendance Challenge – Final Update!

Today marks the final day of our Halloween Attendance Challenge, and what a fantastic two weeks it has been! We are currently collating the final attendance figures, with the winning groups set to be announced on Monday. Our much-anticipated celebratory pizza lunch will take place on Tuesday.

It is fair to say that one particular year group has been leading the charge throughout the competition, although we have also been especially impressed by the number of P1 groups who have achieved an incredible 100% attendance across the two weeks!

We have been delighted by the effort, enthusiasm and commitment shown by students throughout the challenge. It has been wonderful to see so many groups working together and encouraging one another to attend school regularly.

A huge well done to everyone who has taken part. We look forward to announcing our winners on Monday and celebrating with our successful students over pizza on Tuesday lunchtime!

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
28th Sept - 2nd Oct	91.1%	95.7%	93.2%	89.6%	87.5%	89.7%	98%	94%



PARENT WORKSHOP

Working Together to Support School Attendance

Supporting young people and families

MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2026

7:00-8:30 pm

Sixth Form Common Room

Meet our speaker: Ruth Watson

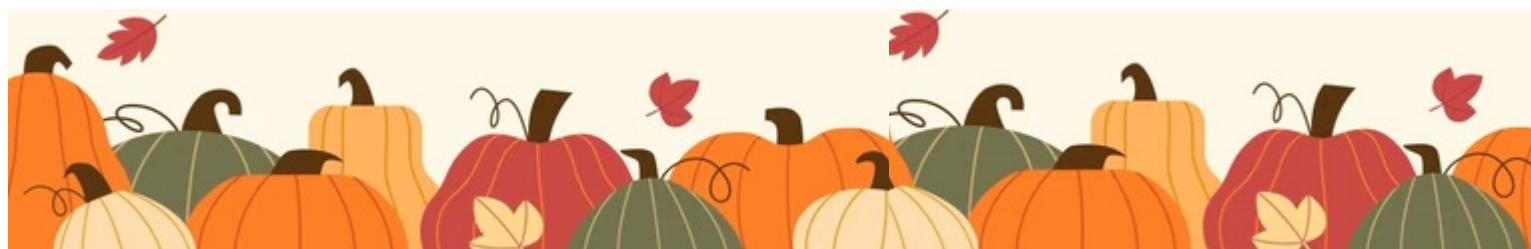
Ruth Watson is a Trainee Educational Psychologist working for North Yorkshire Council Educational Psychology service. She works across Primary, Secondary and specialist provisions across North Yorkshire supporting young people and their families and working with school staff to support inclusive practice.



Ruth has been involved in supporting young people experiencing attendance difficulties, exploring ways to capture pupil voice and ensuring their views are heard. She works with schools to identify practical, evidence-informed strategies that promote psychological safety, reduce anxiety and increase engagement in learning.

Ruth also works alongside parents and carers, helping them to understand anxiety and its impact on school attendance, while exploring strategies that can be used at home to support emotional wellbeing, build resilience and encourage positive engagement with education.

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers



Home to School Transport Consultation

Have your say on proposed changes to North Yorkshire Council's Home to School Travel Policy.

Following a Post Implementation Review of the updated Home to School Travel policy introduced in 2024, North Yorkshire Council is inviting views on a number of recommended changes. The consultation is open now and runs until 4 November 2026.



The review found that the policy is largely working as intended, helping to create a fairer and more consistent approach to transport eligibility while remaining in line with national guidance and on track to deliver planned savings. It also identified areas where improvements could be made.

Executive member for Education, Learning and Skills, Councillor Annabel Wilkinson, said:

“We know that school travel arrangements are incredibly important to families and that the changes introduced in 2024 have affected some households more than others. When the policy changed, we promised to review how it was working in practice and to listen to the experiences of families. We have carefully considered feedback from parents and carers, schools and other stakeholders, alongside appeals, complaints and operational data.

We would encourage people to take part as this is your opportunity to have your say and help us to shape the future of our home to school travel policy in North Yorkshire.”

If any recommendations are approved, they would not take effect before September 2027 and will apply to children starting in Reception and Year 7 in September 2028. Families should continue to make school preference decisions based on the existing arrangements while this process is completed.

Eligibility for free travel would continue to be based on a child's nearest suitable school with available places. The review does not propose a return to catchment-based transport eligibility.

Find out more about the review and take part in the consultation at www.northyorks.gov.uk/PIRsurvey

Student Success Story

Following a number of trials, Orla S in Year 9 has successfully gained places on both the U15s North Yorkshire County pathway and the U14s Leeds Rhinos pathway for netball.

This will be Orla's third season with the County pathway and her second season with Leeds Rhinos, which is a fantastic achievement and a real reflection of her hard work, dedication and commitment to the sport.



Year 8 Netball News

Miss Baker took the Year 8 Netball team across to St Aidan's on Wednesday to play their first competitive fixture of the season. Miss Baker was really proud of all of the players for their excellent teamwork and effort. Well done to Cayleigh M and Sofia S for being voted as players of the match by the St Aidan's team.





Book buzz

A huge thank you to all parents and carers who have made a voluntary contribution to the Bookbuzz programme. This week, Year 7 students have had the opportunity to choose a book they will love from a selection of 16 fantastic titles.

With both fiction and non-fiction on offer, the collection spans a wide range of genres, interests and reading levels, ensuring there is something to inspire every reader.



Work with an author: Dan Ingram-Brown

We are delighted, thanks to the generous support of Knaresborough Rotary, to offer students the exciting opportunity to work with Dan Ingram-Brown, an award-winning Yorkshire author, educator and our Patron of Reading, in a series of creative writing workshops.

Dan is the author of *Bea's Witch*, a ghostly coming-of-age story set in Knaresborough, and the award-winning *Firebird Chronicles* series. With a doctorate in Creative Writing and Education, he has inspired young people across Yorkshire through his work with schools, universities and creative writing projects.



Could your ideas become our next school story?

"As part of my Patron of Reading role, I'll be working with a group of students from Years 7-13 to create and write an original story that the whole school will read on World Book Day (Thursday 4 March 2027).

Over a series of interactive after-school creative writing workshops running from November to February, we'll take a story all the way from first ideas to a finished book, exploring character creation, worldbuilding and plotting before drafting, editing and preparing the story for publication. Along the way, we'll play with themes including belonging, home and ghostly presences, drawing on my novel *Bea's Witch*, which is set locally in Knaresborough. I'll also share some of my own writing process and use *Bea's Witch* to explore how ideas, places and themes can be developed into a story.

You don't need to be an experienced writer to take part, just interested in stories and willing to bring your ideas to the group. Students who get involved will also have the opportunity to join the launch team for my next book, *Inks Academy: The Ghosts of the House of Time*, with access to early review copies and opportunities to hear about and ask questions about the publishing process."

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to work with an award-winning author, develop your creative writing skills and help bring an original story to life. Click on the link below to complete the Expression of Interest Form and apply by Friday 16 October.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/D9bsghJjb1>



NATIONAL CADETS WEEK

5 - 11 OCTOBER 2026

PEOPLE
SKILLS
ADVENTURE
COMMUNITY
OPPORTUNITY



**ARMY
CADETS**
GOING FURTHER

*SAME
VALUES.
BRIGHTER
FUTURES.*

A WEEK TO **INSPIRE** RECRUIT AND **CELEBRATE.**

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE UK'S CADET FORCES



MEET
OUR CADETS



SEE
WHAT WE DO



DISCOVER
NEW OPPORTUNITIES



SUPPORT
YOUR COMMUNITY



BE PART OF
SOMETHING BIGGER

OPEN DAY



SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 2026



DUNCOMBE BARRACKS, YORK



10:00 - 16:00

ALL WELCOME - CADETS, FAMILIES,
SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND DIGNITARIES



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
YOUR LOCAL ARMY CADETS

YORKSHIRE (N&W) ARMY CADET FORCE