

Friday 19th December 2025

# King James's School Newsletter

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## Reverse Advent Calendar Challenge

It was humbling to see the amount of items donated for the local food banks through the Reverse Advent Calendar Challenge. Students from Year 7-13 along with staff worked in teams to collect 24 foodbank items that will be donated to help support local families through the winter period.



## Winter Concert

Congratulations to all those students who performed in The Winter Concert on Tuesday. The audience enjoyed fantastic performances from Concert Band, Brass Group, Choir, Handbells, Ukuleles and the Year 11 Band, as well as some stunning solo performances.

The event finished with the audience, bands and choir all singing Christmas carols and feeling very festive!



## Annual Christmas Service

On Thursday morning, Year 7 students walked down to St John's Church to take part in the annual Christmas service. We arrived to a warm welcome from Rev. Gary Hinchcliffe and a beautifully decorated Church, featuring dozens of Christmas trees sponsored and decorated by local businesses, groups, and charities.

A special thanks to our RS department for organising a fantastic morning out, as well as Mrs Jackson and those students involved in the Brass Band who accompanied our carols as well as playing us in and out of the church.







# KING JAMES'S SIXTH FORM

## Your future in safe hands

# OPEN EVENING 2026

Thursday 15th January  
6:30pm - 8:00pm



## Careers

The Year 9 Careers programme provides students with information on a range of Post 16 options including sixth form, college and apprenticeships. Year 9 students have already had presentations from KJS Sixth Form and Leeds City College to explain to students what courses are available at their Post 16 establishment and what GCSE subjects are needed. After the Christmas break Year 9 will have presentations from Harrogate College & Askham Bryan.

We also encourage students and parents to access online resources to help gather information to help them match their GCSE's to their chosen career.

Websites such as:

[www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)

[www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk)

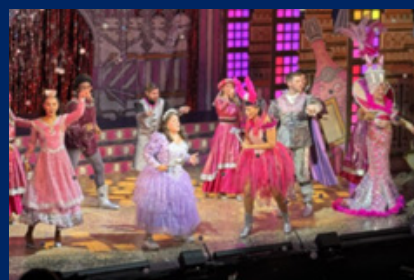
[www.icloud.com](http://www.icloud.com)

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrjh92p](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrjh92p)



## Year 7 Pantomime Trip

On Wednesday afternoon 187 Year 7 students travelled to York for a festive afternoon watching Theatre Royal's Pantomime, Sleeping Beauty. From the moment we arrived, pupils were on their 'A' game lifting the atmosphere through



an incredibly energetic rendition of Golden and all the boos and cheers and laughter expected from a fantastic show.

Throughout it all, our pupils were a real credit to themselves and to the school. Their behaviour was exemplary, and they showed respect, enthusiasm and fantastic manners from start to finish.

So impressive were our pupils that a member of the public approached staff afterwards to share their praise, saying that we had "made their afternoon." Comments like this highlight just how positively our pupils represent the school within the wider community.

It was a memorable and joyful afternoon for all involved, filled with laughter, music and a touch of pantomime magic. We are extremely proud of our pupils and grateful to staff for making this wonderful experience possible.



## The Week Ahead: 5th January 2026

Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	SPRING TERM BEGINS Y13 Mock Exams Week 1	1		
Tue				
Wed	Year 11 Parents' Evening	11	4.30-7.30pm	Online
Thur				
Fri				

## Wellbeing Ambassadors Christmas Celebration

On Wednesday lunchtime, our incredible Wellbeing Ambassadors met with Miss Jarrett, our Student Health & Wellbeing Coordinator, and Sarah, our Lead Wellbeing in Mind Clinician, for a festive get-together. They enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch and a fun Christmas quiz as a special thank you for all their hard work, dedication, and positivity throughout this first term. We're so proud of everything they do to support our school community—well done, Ambassadors!



## Little Shop of Horrors 2026

A down-on-his-luck florist's assistant discovers a mysterious plant that promises fame, fortune, and romance—but it has a dark secret. As the plant grows, so do the outrageous demands, leading to increasingly chaotic consequences. Little Shop of Horrors is a wickedly funny, toe-tapping musical about ambition, love, and what happens when you make a deal that's just too good to be true.

The cast of our school production have been working hard from September right up until the Christmas break, including their full Sunday rehearsal in November. They are an exceptionally professional, dedicated and hard-working cast. We are very excited for the show nights in February! Make sure you keep an eye out for tickets going on sale shortly after Christmas! It's definitely going to be a show to remember!



## Christmas Break Wellbeing Support

We are conscious that the Christmas break can be a difficult period for some families and young people. Therefore, we are even more mindful of support families may need over the break.

Please see our website for lots of useful sources of support and information if needed:

[Safeguarding and Wellbeing - King James's School](#)

In addition, [www.thegoto.org.uk](http://www.thegoto.org.uk) is a website developed by the NHS North Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group. It is a single point of information that promotes different mental health support services (like a signpost). The website is designed primarily for young people but there is information for parents and carers too.



## Attendance - We've made it!

The first full term of the academic year is always hard. It's long, often cold and dark, and usually comes with the unwelcome arrival of winter bugs viruses. Despite this, our school community has shown resilience, determination, and a fantastic spirit throughout the term.

This week has been a wonderful reward, as we've enjoyed celebrating the many successes and achievements of our students, including those who rose to the challenge in our 100% Attendance Two-Week Christmas Challenge. We are absolutely delighted by the number of students who achieved full attendance, earning their place in the prize draw for festive treats, including a special present and the much talked about second prize of Roast Turkey Pringles.

Year 7	175
Year 8	150
Year 9	113
Year 10	124
Year 11	135

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents, carers, and students for their continued support and commitment. Your dedication to regular school attendance plays a vital role in students' wellbeing, success, and long-term, academic outcomes, and it does not go unnoticed. As we head into the holiday season, we wish everyone a well-earned rest, a joyful celebration, and a very Merry Christmas!

Whole School 5th-12th Dec	87.7%
Year 7	92.2%
Year 8	90.8%
Year 9	83.6%
Year 10	84.5%
Year 11	88.1%
Year 12	90%
Year 13	90%

## Changes to Transdev Multi-Journey Tickets

Please note major changes to the multi-journey tickets sold for travel on the Harrogate Bus Company services which will be implemented on 18th January 2026. From this date Harrogate Bus Company are introducing a new multi-journey product allowing travel on all their buses. This will replace all the current area tickets West Yorkshire and West Yorkshire + which will not be sold from this date. (but remain valid as previously until they expire). There will be 1-day, 7-day, 28-day and annual versions of the new ticket.

Further information can be found on their website:  
<https://www.transdevbus.co.uk/the-harrogate-bus-company/>





## Christmas Wellbeing Guide

Our fantastic Wellbeing Ambassador, Lily, has created this thoughtful Christmas wellbeing guide to remind us all how to look after ourselves during the festive season. From taking time to relax to connecting with loved ones, her tips help make Christmas a little brighter for everyone.



## Senior Prize Giving

On Wednesday evening we celebrated with the YR13 Class of 2025 at the Sixth Form Senior Prize Giving. It was fantastic to welcome back many of last years YR13 students and their parents to honour their successes, hand out their well-deserved certificates and award special prizes, including an award presented to Esther M by the Chairperson of the Knaresborough Historical Society.

The informal gathering was the opportunity for many students to catch up with friends for the first time since they left school in July. Many have gone on to study at university, start full-time employment or travel and volunteer. It was great to hear what they have been doing since leaving school and reflect on their time in the Sixth Form.

We look forward to starting the recruitment process for new Sixth Form students at the Sixth Form Open Evening after the Christmas break, on Thursday 15th January 2026.





## Merry Christmas from the PE Department

It has been a fantastic term for sport at KJS, and the PE Department would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the staff, parents and students for their continued support and enthusiasm with extra-curricular clubs. Since September, there have been an impressive 65 fixtures in total - thank you to all staff who have given up their time to take a team.

### Girls Football

The U15 & U16 girls football teams are undefeated! Both teams are through to round 5 of the National Cup - this is a phenomenal achievement. They are the only girls team from the area to reach this stage of the competition. In addition, both age groups have reached the Area & County Cup quarter finals. Good luck girls!

The U14s have had a positive start to the season and are in the semi finals of the county cup. Although the U13s got knocked out of the National cup in round 4, they continue to progress through the rounds of both the Area & County cup. Well done to the year 7 team who also came runners up in their tournament earlier this year.

### Boys Football

Over 30 students have represented the year 7 boys football team with some excellent goals and ball winning tackles. The Year 8 and 9 teams have successfully reached the quarter final in the area & county cups after facing tough opposition. The year 10 boys beat a strong Richmond team on penalties to be the first team to reach a semi final this year. Excellent work! Both the senior and the year 11 teams are through to the quarter final of the county cup. Good luck to all teams in their next games.

### Rugby

Mr McIntosh took the year 11 & sixth form team to Ilkley for a highly competitive tournament - well done to all the lads who represented the school and played exceptionally good rugby. The year 9s made it out of a very tough group and progressed to the semi finals of the Yorkshire cup. Good luck to them.

### Netball

The year 7s & 8s have regularly attended training and have shown excellent commitment. The year 8s have demonstrated their ability to play to a very high level, beating St Aidan's in the first round of the cup. They face Ripon in the new year. Over 35 students have attended year 9 netball and 4 teams have represented the school - keep it up girls! The Year 10s have continued to progress this term, winning their last match against St Aidan's. Congratulations to the Year 11 & sixth form teams on how well they competed in the Area tournaments, and fitting in their training around revision. A really positive start to the year for KJS Netball.

### Cross Country

Following house cross country, KJS competed in two area competitions with around 50 students representing the school. 3 of our students have also been selected for the area cross country teams in January. Well done to Imogen (year 7) and George and Hannah (year 11)

The success of KJS has been excellent and we look forward to seeing what 2026 brings.







## Bookbuzz

A Bookbuzz is a brilliant reading programme that gives every student in Year 7 the chance to choose a book they'd love to own from a specially selected list of exciting titles.

Thanks to the kindness and effort of our amazing library ambassadors, Year 7's were treated to opening a gift-wrapped book of their choosing in the library for a festive celebration of reading at the end of term.

We sincerely appreciate the generous support of our parents, which has enabled us to deliver the Bookbuzz programme successfully for a second consecutive year.



## Year 7 Winter Holiday Reads



## 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.

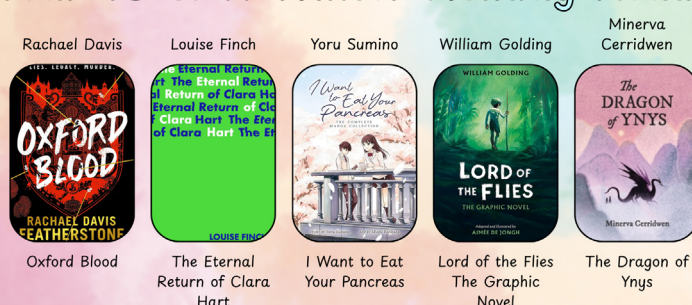
All entries should be entirely original work and submitted via email to [library@king-james.co.uk](mailto:library@king-james.co.uk) with the subject "KJS writing competition 2025".

The deadline for submissions is 31st January 2026

## Year 8 & 9 Winter Holiday Reads



## Year 10 & 11 Winter Holiday Reads



## Sixth Form Winter Holiday Reads



## Staff Winter Holiday Reads

