

King James's School Newsletter

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GCSE Prize Giving

It was lovely to celebrate with our 2025 GCSE cohort and their parents on Wednesday night at their annual Prize Giving ceremony. Awards were presented across all subjects, along with special commendations and prizes. Students also heard an inspiring speech from Mr Peter Mackreth, Dean of Carnegie School of Sport at Leeds Beckett University. Peter spoke to students about his career journey, the importance of hard work and focus in preparing for their next steps, as well as building confidence and resilience to overcome challenges to achieve their goals.



The evening highlighted the hard work of our students and the dedication of the teachers who supported them throughout their studies. Special thanks to Sixth Form students Evelyn P and Ed W, for their vote of thanks.

Karate Championships

Last weekend, Lottie H in Year 10 competed in the North East Open Karate Championship. She achieved first place in the pairs kata and fourth place in the individual kata.



Kata is a Japanese term for "form" and refers to a detailed, choreographed sequence of martial arts movements practiced to learn and perfect techniques, balance, coordination, and breathing. Well done Lottie, on this fantastic achievement!

Year 8 Netball Success

On Thursday night, the Year 8 netball teams put in an outstanding performance against St Aidans.

The A team were superb - the level of their performance and work rate was incredible and they showed so much potential. They won their cup match 21-3. They were excellent and it was a real team effort. Players of the match were Ivy & Honour.

The B team played their first competitive match as well and although they lost, it was a close match and a brilliant experience for them all.



Children in Need

Thank you so much for everything you did to help raise awareness and donations for Children in Need. A special thank you to Giles Dumont who cycled from Otley to Knaresborough in the rain, dressed as Pudsey Bear and then taught dressed as Pudsey Bear all day!



Our fundraising target was £2,000, and we are pleased to announce that the total amount raised was £2,410. This is an amazing amount of money for us to donate and it will make a big difference to the children who access the services provided by the charities supported by Children in Need.

Thanks again for your support and generosity.

Music Performance

We would like to thank our brass players who have been working really hard over the last few weeks to prepare for Armistice Day. They braved the rain to play the last post all around the school at 11am and performed beautifully. We are incredibly lucky to have such talented and dedicated pupils at our school.

The brass group meet every Monday lunchtime and are now busy preparing for Christmas. They are always looking for new members to join so please see Mrs Jackson for more information.

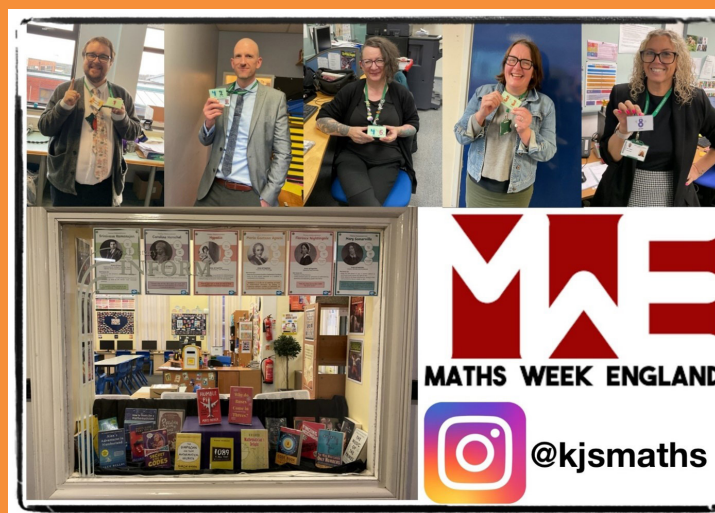


Maths Week England and how to support students at home with Mathematics

This week we have been celebrating all things mathematical by participating in this national week of activities across school. Pupils have been solving specially produced puzzles at the start of their maths lessons, competing in a year group tutor challenge and Year 7 have completed a teacher treasure hunt. Every pupil has also completed a Maths Week lesson during their timetabled maths lessons.

Maths, whilst challenging, provides pupils with lots of transferrable skills such as problem solving and logical thinking. It is also a subject that can provide massive satisfaction when achieving a solution which we hope we give all pupils the opportunity to experience in their lessons at King James.

Winners of the various competitions and challenges will be announced next week via our Instagram account @kjsmaths and on the big screens sound school.



Well done to all for embracing the challenges this week with enthusiasm and resilience.

If you wish to support your children with Mathematics at home, the Education Endowment Foundation recommend the following:

- Create a daily routine for mathematical practice with your child and reinforce this with praise and rewards. This can increase the amount of time spent 'on task' and improve the effectiveness of how that time is spent. You might want to consider linking this routine to the rhythm of a normal school day but be realistic in what you can manage as a family.
- Encourage your child to set goals, plan, and manage their time, effort, and emotions. This type of support can help children to regulate their own learning and will often be more valuable than direct help with mathematical tasks. As children become older, more independence can be expected but support will still be needed.
- Having a place to study mathematics is helpful. This could be a desk in a bedroom or a place at the kitchen table. Ensure your child has the materials they need. Whatever they may tell you, a notebook and pen will always be needed for working out (even when tasks are online). Also, a calculator (scientific whenever possible), and a ruler as a minimum.

Away from providing structure, there are some tips for engaging in mathematical content with older children at home:

- Many children enjoy practising times tables either online or on paper. There is value in this: evidence shows that pupils need to develop a fluent recall of mathematical facts, and times tables are among the most important of these.
- It can be difficult to learn new mathematical content away from the classroom, but evidence suggests that we should provide opportunities for children to retrieve the knowledge that they have previously learnt. Parents should encourage practice of previously studied content. This might be via an online learning platform – a textbook – or simply revisiting questions from their school exercise book. As a school we recommend the online platform CorbettMaths for this.

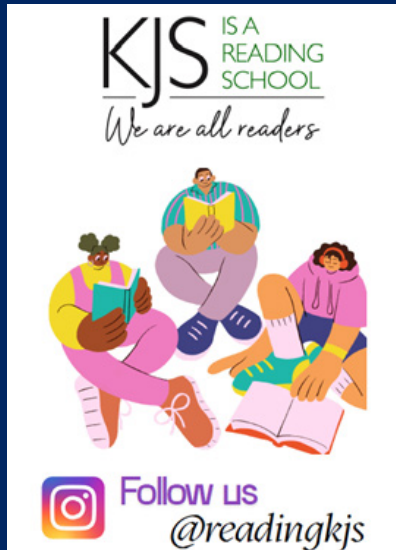


The Week Ahead: 24th November 2025

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Y11 Mock Exams Week 2	11		
Tue	Geography Field Trip Digital & Cyber Skill Finals	12 By invitation	6-7pm	University of Hull
Wed	Y9 Science Exams	9		
Thur	Wellbeing Fair	All	4.30-6.30pm	S1
Fri	LC1 reports distributed to students			



Reading News



ReadingKJS Instagram

We are delighted to launch our new Instagram account where we will collate staff, pupil and celebrity book recommendations as well as details of competitions and in-school reading challenges and activities. Please give us a follow and if you have older pupils in school encourage them to follow too.

Sixth form library

Year 12 and 13 students will be reading extracts of some key texts which tie into the themes of their units of study for PSHCEE, there are copies of these texts available to loan from the Sixth Form Library.

Year 13 will also be reading some extracts of some great non-themed fiction once their UCAS applications are finalised. We hope they enjoy the books we have selected.



Year 13 Devised Exam Pieces

A huge congratulations to our year 13 A-level students who performed their devised exam on Tuesday evening. They created an investigation into the factors the impact peer on peer violence has in today's society.

They made the audience really think and created a highly engaging performance.



UK Parliament Week

UK Parliament Week is 24th – 30th November.

In tutor time next week we are raising awareness of UK Parliament to help our students gain a better understanding of the role that UK Parliament plays. This directly links to the KS3 and KS4 Citizenship programme of study. For more information on UK Parliament week, please click on the link below.

[UK Parliament Week](#)

SEND Support in Mainstream Schools Information Session for Parents & Carers.

Tuesday 9th December 2025, 10.00-11.00am

Are you looking for advice on Mainstream SEND without an EHCP? This sessions covers topics s including the law around SEND, school duties and reasonable adjustments, the Broad Areas of Need, SEND Support Plans and attending meetings to discuss SEND support. Please use the link below to book a place:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/send-support-in-mainstream-schools-information-session-for-parentscarers-tickets-1793975441839?aff=oddtcreator>

KING JAMES' SCHOOL WELLBEING FAIR

PARENTS & CARERS-YOU'RE INVITED!

📅 Thursday 27th November- Less than 1 week to go!

🕒 4:30-6:30pm

📍 S1 Hall- arrive through reception.

We recommend allowing 30-45 minutes to give yourself time to speak to all stalls. You are welcome to attend anytime between 4:30 and 6:30pm (Last entry 6pm).

Come along to our Wellbeing Fair, organised in the style of a Careers Fair, where you'll have the chance to speak with a wide range of professionals about how to support your child's health and wellbeing. Whether this is something you're currently concerned about or simply want to be prepared for the future, this event is for you!

- Meet professionals offering advice on mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing
- Support and guidance for parents and carers
- Musical performances by students throughout the evening
- Opportunities for private follow-up discussions with services

Please register to attend by scanning the QR code

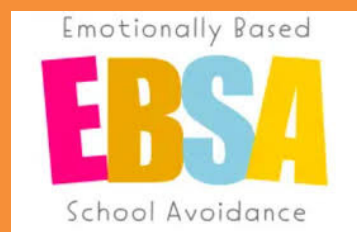


Emotional Based School Avoidance Support for Caregivers

King James's School is fortunate to work with the Harrogate, Knaresborough, Ripon Locality Board. Through this partnership, we have access to regular training materials and meetings where we explore the many factors affecting school attendance. This collaborative approach allows us to share common challenges and learn new strategies to better support our families.

A recent resource shared with us focused on Emotional Based School Avoidance Support and how caregivers can recognise early signs of difficulty. The guidance outlines key indicators that may suggest a young person is beginning to struggle emotionally with attending school. Identifying these signs early enables caregivers to communicate concerns with us so that we can begin offering the right support and/or guidance. They include:

- A particularly negative view of school
- Low confidence and/or self-esteem
- Behaviours which seem challenging, particularly relating to school
- Expressions of worry around separating from a caregiver
- Complaints of illnesses particularly only on school days
- Patterns of school absences



If you recognise any of these indicators at home, the following conversation starters are recommended as helpful first steps:

"I've noticed that you seem a little quiet this evening. I have been wondering if you are worried about something. Is there anything you need my help with?"

"When you say that you don't want to go to school, I wonder if you don't feel confident at school yet. I wonder what might help you feel more confident?"

"I wonder what your teacher/friend was thinking when they said this?"

"You've had tummy ache a few times this week. Sometimes when we worry, we can get tummy ache. Is there anything worrying you today?"

"Thank you for telling me about your day. I am sorry it sounded like a difficult day for you. What can you do differently tomorrow to make it feel easier?"

If you have any of the above concerns, please contact the Attendance Champion, Cathryn Sutherland, sutherlandc@king-james.co.uk who will be happy to have a conversation with you and provide you with material which may be helpful.

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
10th - 14th Nov	91.5%	94.3%	92.5%	87.9%	90.2%	92.7%	92.3%	93.4%

Procedures for Snow Closures

The flurry of snow earlier on this week has prompted us to remind parents of our procedures in cases where snow requires us to close school for the day.



In the case of significant adverse weather, where we cannot guarantee the safe opening of school due to staffing levels or health & safety considerations, we aim to make the decision to close school by 7.30am. We will send a text to parents to let you know as soon as possible so that you can plan for the day.

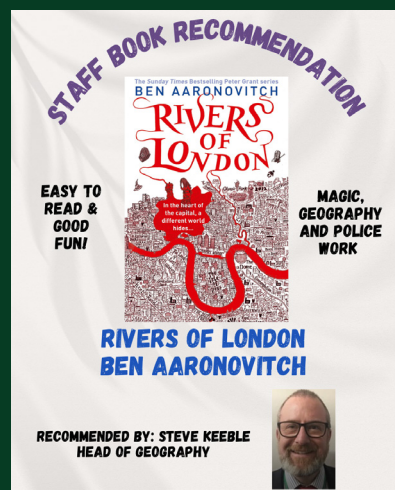
Work for students will be made available on Teams and additional work is always available via Oak National Academy or BBC Bitesize.

Assemblies

There are no assemblies next week due to the Year 11 mock exams taking place in both S1 and Chaloner Hall.



This week's Staff Reading Recommendation



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

Self Care Week - 17th-23rd November 2025

As part of Self-Care Week, our Wellbeing Ambassadors collaborated with Miss Jarrett to create a series of informative posters inspired by the Five Ways to Wellbeing. These posters aim to highlight the importance of prioritising personal health & wellbeing and provide practical strategies for self-care.

One of our Sixth Form Ambassadors, Jessica, shared a key message that Miss Jarrett felt was important to pass on to our parent/carer

“As this week is Self-Care Week, here’s a little reminder that taking care of yourself isn’t selfish; it’s a necessity! Make sure you are taking time to focus on yourself and your mental health, rather than putting all of your energy into other people and/or things. Take a nice walk, bake something, watch your favourite show—just do something that makes YOU feel positive today.”

Five Ways To Wellbeing: Give

Everyone likes receiving gifts, but what many people don't know is that giving to others is one of the best ways to improve your wellbeing and turn your day around if you're having a bad one. Giving to others doesn't have to be extravagant or expensive either, here are some completely free ways you can give to others.

- Give up your time to volunteer at a non-profit organisation e.g. local library or a Scout/Girlguiding organisation.
- Offer to help a friend with a homework or project they might be struggling on.
- Get creative! Make a friend or family member a handmade card or gift, there are many tutorials online for beginners that don't require fancy craft supplies.
- Sit down with a friend, ask them how they are and give up your time to really listen to what they have to say, you don't have to give them advice, just lend them an ear.
- Even just giving a smile, giving your seat on public transport to someone who needs it more, or holding the door open for someone can have a positive impact on your day.
- Most importantly, don't forget to give to yourself, whether it be time to unwind at the end of a long day or a reward for doing something difficult or stressful (e.g. exams).



Be Active

Staying active is extremely important for your mental health and wellbeing. This is because it takes your mind off the things you may be going through.

Staying active during self care week means intergeating, small, enjoyable movements into your daily routine. This benefits both your mind and your body in very positive ways. There are many different ways you can be active, this could be: going for a walk or a run with your friends or family. Going to the gym. Possibly doing a hobby you enjoy. Doing these things are supposed to make you feel alive and happy in your own body and mind. Everyone needs to focus on making physical activity a habit, it shouldn't feel like a chore; it should be a stress reliever to help you manage stress.

Being active doesn't mean running or walking for miles, it isn't meant to be a task that could possibly burn you out even more. It is meant to make you feel positive about yourself. It's meant to take your mind off the bad things that might be going on in your life. Staying active is about finding enjoyable, sustainable ways to move that fit into your life and daily routines. Recognising that physical activity is a crucial part of self-care alongside mental and emotional health.



This Week's Student Book Reviews

