

King James's School Newsletter

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Message from Ms Oakley

Dear parents, carers and students,

Mobile Phones in Schools:



You will have seen in the news recently a government spotlight on mobile phones in schools. I would like to take this opportunity to remind students that mobile phones are not to be seen within the school building; this includes using them as a means of checking timetables and the time. A review of our Mobile Phone policy and practice is currently underway, and further information will be shared with students, parents and carers in the coming weeks.

A Visit from the Local Authority:

On Wednesday we welcomed a visit from a Local Authority advisor, Jon Norden. His role was to review our Special Needs provision and inclusive practice. It was lovely to visit lessons with him and see our students so engaged with learning. I was particularly struck by the stunning artwork produced by Year 8, the perceptive poetry analysis in Year 11 and the brilliant discussions about characters and rafts in SSG!

Jon Norden came away full of praise for our students and school and I felt incredibly proud!

And finally...

The countdown to the school production is well and truly on – rumour has it that some shows are close to selling out! Don't leave it too late to get your hands on a ticket.

Thank you for your on-going support,
Kind regards,
Miriam Oakley Headteacher

KJS PRESENTS LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

10TH, 11TH, 12TH FEBRUARY - 7PM - S1

TICKETS:
£10 FOR CHILDREN
£12 FOR ADULTS
ON SALE OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY AT
LUNCHTIMES. CASH & CARD ACCEPTED.

2003 BROADWAY VERSION. BOOK & LYRICS BY
HOWARD ASHMAN. MUSIC BY ALAN MENKEN.

Little Shop of Horrors 2026

Tickets selling fast outside the library so don't forget to get yours! Payment by card or cash is fine.

Assemblies

Students and staff are excited to get a preview of the school production next week in tutor time. Every year group from Year 7 to Year 13 will have the opportunity to see the cast and crew performing a short section of the production. It's a fantastic opportunity for the students involved in the production to showcase what they have been working so hard to put together.

On Friday, we welcomed Andy Coope, Lead Community Safety Officer for Craven, Richmond, Hambleton & Harrogate Areas into school. Andy delivered fire safety presentations to Year 7, 8 and 9. The presentations were engaging, informative and highly relevant and the students gained valuable knowledge about fire safety and personal responsibility. We want to express our thanks to Andy for taking the time to support our students and for the vital work he does within the community.



The Week Ahead: 2nd February 2026

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon				
Tue				
Wed	Inner Sparks Workshop Y9 Options Evening	9-13 Year 9	Various 6.30pm	
Thur	Sixth Form Taster Day	11		Various
Fri				

Careers

Post 16 Pathways

York College and Harrogate College are hosting Open Events on 12th February. Students from Year 10 and Year 11 are welcome to go along. Please click on the links below for more details.

[York College Open Event](#)

[Harrogate College Open Event](#)

Get Into Law Workshop Evening

This event is designed for students exploring options such as legal apprenticeships, solicitor training contracts, and university pathways. Whether you are looking for an alternative to university or seeking clarity on the legal profession, this session will give you the information you need to make an informed decision about your future.

You will have the opportunity to engage with representatives from some of the most prestigious law firms in the UK (Slaughter and May, Browne Jacobson, Charles Russell Speechlys, University of Law & Farrer & Co)

Date: Monday 9th February

Time: 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

For: Year 11, 12 and 13

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

Year 11 Science Revision

A message from Mrs Wallace, Head of Science: I've been so impressed with the fantastic attendance and attitude of Year 11 students at Monday night revision so far this year. Students should be very proud of themselves.



From next week we have made some small changes to teaching groups to ensure students are getting targeted lessons for Higher and Foundation tier as the exams approach. All students should now have their revision schedule to guide their revision - if your child hasn't received one please get them to ask one of their science teachers.

Lunch time revision sessions on Wednesdays (Biology) and Fridays (Chemistry) work along the schedule to support students' revision. I look forward to seeing more students for these sessions.

Hockey Success

Huge congratulations to Ivy R in Year 8 who has been selected for the U13 North East Regional Hockey Championship Team. Since October, Ivy has progressed through four assessment stages and has been selected as one of the top 18 players, competing against 97 of the best county players from across the region to secure her place.

Over the next six months, Ivy will be training with the squad in preparation for the highly competitive Lions Championships in July, where she'll be playing against the top regional teams from across the UK.



Netball Success

Last weekend, two of our Year 8 students, Orla S and Amber S-B represented North Yorkshire in an U13s county netball tournament and finished in first place. What a fantastic achievement, well done to both girls.



When Getting to School Feels Hard,

Boundaries, Anxiety and Practical Strategies for Parents

Monday 9th March, 7pm - 8:30pm

Click [Here](#) to Register



- Understanding EBSA and school refusal
- Common causes, anxiety, overwhelm, emotional regulation and avoidance cycles
- Boundaries that feel supportive, balancing empathy with consistency
- Practical tools for mornings, transitions and reducing power struggles
- When to seek extra support, next steps and helpful resources for parents

Presented By The Well Connections Therapy Team



Attendance

When Getting to School Feels Hard, Boundaries, Anxiety and Practical Strategies for Parents

Presented by Well Connections Therapy Team

Monday 9th March, 7pm - 8:30pm - Click [Here](#) to Register

- Understanding EBSA and school refusal, what it is and what it isn't
- Common causes, anxiety, overwhelm, emotional regulation and avoidance cycles
- Boundaries that feel supportive, balancing empathy with consistency
- Communication strategies that reduce conflict and help your child feel safe
- Practical tools for mornings, transitions and reducing power struggles
- When to seek extra support, next steps and helpful resources for parents

If you are a parent or carer who is experiencing challenges around your child's attendance, or feel this may be becoming a concern, we warmly invite you to join us for this supportive and informative workshop.

Open to all parents and carers, whether your child has a SEN need or not, the session will offer practical tools and strategies for navigating a range of situations. Just as importantly, it provides a welcoming space to connect with others who may be facing similar experiences, reminding you that you are not alone.

One of the most valued outcomes of these workshops has been the strong sense of community and mutual support that develops among parents, alongside closer and positive partnerships with the school. Together, we share the same goal: helping every child feel happy, confident, and supported in school.

We would be delighted to see you there.

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
19th - 23rd January	91%	94.7%	92.9%	87.8%	88.5%	90.9%	94.8%	90.8%

KJS Presents: Music Unites

We're thrilled to announce that KJS is hosting a night of music and performance to celebrate and raise the profile of our continued work to promote respect, equality and diversity. Look out for further updates and mark your calendars for Wednesday 11th March.

We're excited to share further updates with you soon!





Follow us
@readingkjs



Last chance to enter the Skrentny Creative Writing Competition!

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".

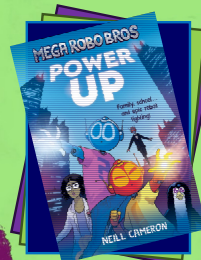
You might decide to write a short story, poem, song, graphic novel, diary entry or any other form of creative writing; the choice is yours!

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 with the subject "KJS writing competition 2025".

The deadline for submissions is 31st January 2026

This Week's Student Book Reviews



Fantastic vibe, with two brothers working together to fight evil and uncover the mysterious identity of Robot 23. This book is great for fans of Dog Man, Bunny vs Monkey, Donut Squad and more! I really enjoyed it because the pictures and the build-up made it so exciting to read, and lots of my friends love it too!

I would rate this book 5/5 stars.

(Recommended reading age – Y7)

Brendon M. (Y7)

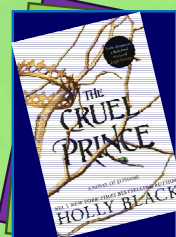


I loved this book! A perfect mix of romance and finding your identity. I really enjoyed how the author turned a cliché into something that felt real, and how the story focuses on a deeper struggle rather than just a single issue. You must read this book – it's amazing!

I would rate this book 5/5 stars.

(Recommended reading age – KS3/4)

Eden Sadler (Y7)

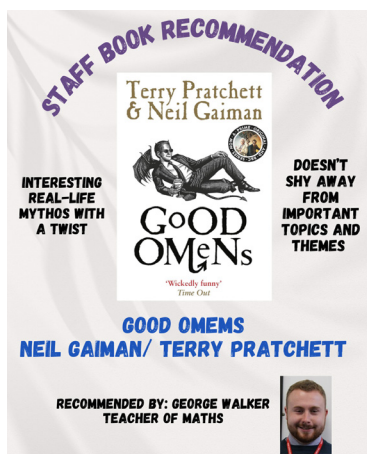


Get lost in the Land of the Faerie in this magical fantasy book. With a touch of romance, this mystical book follows the story of Jude a mere mortal among faerie folk. See as she treads the dangerous path to gain power at every turn while the beautifully dangerous Prince Cardan watches on.

I would rate this book 3.5/5 stars.

(Recommended reading age – KS4+)

Martha Garrett (Y8)



This week's Staff Reading Recommendation

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

