



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

12th May 2023

Dear Parents

It was lovely to meet those of you who attended the Spring concert last night. It was fantastic to see the degree of talent evident among our students, and the ethos and sense of pride that shone through. I thoroughly enjoyed it and am looking forward to many more in years to come. May I take this opportunity to thank all the staff involved.

Today marks the start of study leave for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, and so we say 'goodbye' and 'good luck!' as we enter exam season for real. It was great to share in their leavers' assemblies and to gain a little insight into their wonderful journey at King James's school. We wish them every success in their next steps; be it at university, apprenticeships, gap year adventures, or to college; and we look forward to seeing most of our Year 11's returning to our sixth form in September. Please note, for any students still considering their post-16 options from KJS, or any other school, we still welcome applications.

In this letter you will find:

1. The Week Ahead
2. Raising Uniform Standards
3. Punctuality
4. Toilets
5. Sporting Success!

1. The Week Ahead: 15th May 2023

Personal Development Focus:				
Ready – Resilience 'how can my behaviours & habits impact on the wider community'				
Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	French trip parents' information evening	8	6pm	
Tues	Geography Coastal trip	12	All day	
	ASK apprenticeships presentations	12	11.30am	
Weds				
Thur	Parents' evening	8	4.30pm	Virtual by appointment
Fri	Conservation trip	12	All day	Yorkshire Wildlife Park

2. Raising Uniform Standards

Being 'ready'...

Thank you for responding to our parent survey regarding the KJS uniform last week. We appreciate your comments and will be using them alongside staff and student voice to support our collective endeavours in ensuring KJS students meet our expectations around being 'ready' by consistently wearing the uniform correctly. We are having two phases to our uniform strategy. The first phase, after May half term, is to ensure that the core elements are worn well and with pride. The second phase, in September, is to include any minor 'tweaks' identified through our review. These will be communicated to parents after half term to give due notice for any uniform purchases typically made over the summer holidays.

Phase 1: Raising uniform standards after May half term w/c 5th June

We would be very grateful if you could support the school by speaking to your child(ren) over the next couple of weeks, and the half term holiday, to ensure that they return to school wearing our uniform correctly. If there are any issues we can support with, then please do let us know (via your child's year team). For example, if there are medical issues, we can make adaptations in accordance with doctor's advice. We also have an excellent pre-loved clothing store in school for other items that your child may need but not have.

Summer Uniform

As we are starting to see more sunny, warm days, we will be moving to our 'summer uniform'. After May half term, blazers or jumpers do not need to be worn, and students may wear short-sleeved shirts or blouses. They must still wear long trousers or skirts with tights.

Hoodies

During Covid, when increased ventilation in school was required, we made a reasonable adjustment to the uniform by allowing students to wear the KJS PE Hoody as an extra layer in addition to their blazer/jumper. We have decided that now is an appropriate time to **permanently** withdraw this addition to the uniform. Therefore, the hoody can no longer be worn in the school building. We hope that the move to our summer uniform will help students adapt to this permanent change.

Skirts

The KJS kilt is an extremely smart part of our school's distinct brand and links directly to our heritage. We expect this to be worn with pride, as intended, and not to be modified, such as by rolling it up at the waistband. Any students doing so will be told to roll their skirts down. We do not wish to spend time correcting students on this matter, and so please speak to your daughter about the option to wear black trousers instead if you think this may be an issue.

Make-up

We allow students to wear discrete make-up, and have nails painted in a subtle colour, which many schools do not allow at all. However, heavy make-up is not permitted, and this includes the wearing of false eyelashes which students will be asked to remove.

Jewellery

Again, our school is relatively lenient and allows students to wear a pair of studs or sleepers, a flat necklace, and a ring. However, bracelets are not permitted; students will be asked to remove them, and they may be confiscated.

3. Punctuality

Students should be 'ready' to learn, in form time at 8.40am and most of our students meet this expectation every single day. However, unfortunately, a minority of students are arriving at school after this time and are therefore late to school. As we all know, being organised and punctual is an important life skill and one that is expected by employers in all lines of work. Being late to school also means that students miss important learning and the opportunity to access support from their form tutors. Therefore, from Monday, our gates will all be locked at 8.45am. Until half term, any student arriving after 8.45am will need to sign in at reception and will be given a warning. We will liaise with parents about any students who are repeatedly late to school as we know you will want to address this with them. Students who are late after half term will receive a sanction. We will also continue to recognise all those students whose attendance and punctuality is exemplary.

4. Toilets

We fully appreciate that there are occasions when students may need to go to the toilet during lessons and there is a system in place to allow them to do so in exceptional circumstances. However, we do encourage students to make use of the toilets during social times – before school, break and lunchtime. This is so that they do not miss any learning during the lesson or disturb the flow of the lesson for the teacher or other students. Form time, periods 3 and periods 4 are directly after social times and so there should be no need to go to the toilet during these times. We appreciate parents' support in reinforcing this message with your child(ren).

5. Sporting Success!

One of the many strengths of our school is our extensive extra-curricular offer. This includes a wide range of sporting activities, and the standards achieved both in school and when playing fixtures against other schools are outstanding.

We are delighted that our Year 8 and Year 11 boys' football teams have won the 2022-23 Area Cup. All the boys have been fantastic and represented the school to a high standard – congratulations to them all!

It was lovely to see Year 8 and 9 students excited to be going on the Manchester pro-development football tour this weekend. I am sure they will have a wonderful time, with an itinerary that includes training sessions at the state-of-the-art City Football Academy, a behind the scenes tour of the Etihad stadium and tickets to the Premier League match between Manchester United and Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Finally, I would like to thank you once again for the support and wish you a good weekend,

Yours sincerely



Clare Martin
Headteacher