



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

26th May 2023

Dear Parents

I want to start by saying a huge 'thank you' to all parents and carers for your support during my first half term at King James's. It has been a privilege getting to know you and your children, and I am looking forward to continuing our relationship over the coming months and years.

In this letter you will find:

1. The Week Ahead
2. Uniform
3. Year 12 Scientists
4. Vaping

1. The Week Ahead: 5th June 2023

Personal Development Focus:				
RESPECTFUL – Empathy				
“What small changes can I make that will make a big difference to others?”				
Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Start of Half Term 6			
Tues	Start of internal exam period German Trip Parent's Information evening	12	6.00pm	S1
Weds	Parents' evening	7	4.30-7.00pm	Online meetings
Thur				
Fri				

2. Uniform and punctuality

Due to the lovely warm weather this week, we moved to the summer uniform earlier than anticipated and students have been allowed not to wear their jumpers or blazers, so they are more comfortable.

As already conveyed in previous letters, we would very much value your support in raising standards of personal presentation and punctuality after half term. This is a reminder of our expectations, which have also been communicated to students in assemblies today:

- Entry to school – students will enter the building via their 'hub' before 8.40am. Pastoral staff will be there to check their uniform and support them in correcting anything, so they are 'ready' for the rest of the day.
- Punctuality – gates will be locked at 8.45am and any student arriving after this time will have a lunchtime detention on the same day. Clearly, if problems arise due to school transport, then this will be taken into consideration. Over the last few weeks, we have been talking to students arriving late and we are pleased that this has already had the impact of halving the number of late arrivals. Not many students are still arriving after 8.45am – please support school in reducing this to zero so that all students have a good start to the day and can access tutor time and assemblies.

- Kilts – should not be modified. Girls should not roll the top of their kilt over and will be asked to roll it down if necessary. They may choose to wear plain black trousers instead, with black socks. Trousers may be slim fit, but leggings/jeggings/joggers/denim/cargos are not permitted. A helpful guide is that the trousers should have a button and zip.
- Jumpers – students do not need to wear jumpers this half term, but if they do so then girls' jumpers should not be tucked into their kilt.
- Make-up – should be minimal. Girls should not wear false eyelashes or have acrylic nails.
- Hoodies – should not be worn inside the building.

After half term we will be communicating any changes for September based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers, enabling parents to make the right purchasing decisions over the summer holidays. However, please do be aware that if you need to buy new school shoes in the meantime, they should be formal black leather-looking shoes with a flat sole and not trainers. This is not changing in September.

3. Year 12 Scientists

It has been an exciting week for Year 12 Science students. Year 12 Biology students went to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park for an inspirational talk on the work of the Wildlife Foundation, in promoting, conserving, and sustaining the world's biodiversity and improving animal welfare. A few days later, Year 12 Chemistry students were busy synthesising and analysing paracetamol at Leeds University. Visiting this lab gave students the chance to use equipment not available in school and gave a taste of what it's like to work in an actual laboratory. Professors and University students were incredibly helpful and knowledgeable, answering any questions and helping wherever they could. Dr Kyriacou said that the students were a credit to the school on both visits; they learnt a lot about university and career paths in both areas and had two great days out.

4. Vaping

I am sure you will have seen much in the news this week about the health risks associated with young people vaping. As this is such a serious issue, the secondary schools and colleges in the Harrogate area have agreed to have a united stance on raising awareness and tackling incidents in school. I attach a letter outlining our approach [here](#).

Yours sincerely



Clare Martin
Headteacher