



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

28th April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of my second week as Headteacher, I wanted to give you my first impressions of the school and to outline how I would like to work with you as our parent community.

It has been great to start getting to know your children over the last two weeks. After introducing myself to them in assemblies, I have been visiting lessons to see their learning in action and spending time with them at break and lunchtime. They are absolutely delightful! I have been overwhelmed by how warm and welcoming they have been - they are a real credit to yourselves and to the school.

I have also been impressed by the quality of teaching that is taking place routinely across the school. There is a real atmosphere of shared purpose; with teachers and students learning together in genuine partnership. Students are clearly enjoying lessons, being inspired to take on new challenges, making great progress, and learning from the opportunity to think deeply, discuss and debate topics of interest.

Around school, students are demonstrating our values of 'ready, respectful, engaged' in the way they conduct themselves, interact with others, and make the most of the wide opportunities to enhance their curriculum.

I believe that having positive parental and community engagement is fundamental in providing the best opportunity for children to achieve. Making sure that you are well informed so you can support your children academically at home, and that we work together to uphold the highest standards and expectations is key to creating conditions for success.

To this end, I intend writing to you every week – on a Friday. I hope to keep the letter succinct, as I know you will all be busy with the demands of work and home life yourselves, but I think it's important to communicate regularly and for you to know when to expect the communication. I hope you will find this helpful and look forward to your feedback.

Some initial areas we wish to work together on are around uniform and homework.

Our school uniform is a special and distinct feature of King James's and the majority of students wear it correctly and with pride. However, not all students are doing so, unfortunately. Some are modifying it, such as by rolling up skirts, not wearing blazers or jumpers when they should, wearing trainers rather than formal shoes, or wearing excessive make-up or jewellery. This week we have been reinforcing the need to wear the uniform correctly, and we will shortly be outlining our strategy to reinforce high standards this term and again in September. I hope that by having absolute clarity about our expectations we can work together to make sure students are smart and well-presented without the need for correction in school.

The second area of development is around homework. A group of middle leaders have been reviewing independent learning opportunities and the way in which students record homework. This term, we are trialling an approach using Bromcom that will enable both students and parents to see the homework that teachers have set. Our initial trial will be with Year 12, with a view to extending this in September if it proves successful. We will keep you informed as to how this is going, but it has the potential to make a huge difference to enable you to support learning at home.

On a final note, I would like to thank you all for your understanding of the industrial action this week and to remind you that the next day is scheduled for Tuesday. All Year 11, 12 and 13 students are expected to attend school but, unfortunately, we are closed to other year groups.

A summary of the week ahead is below:

Day	Session	For	Time	Location
Mon	Bank Holiday – School Closed	ALL		
Tues	Industrial Action	OPEN for Year 11, 12, 13 CLOSED for Year 7, 8, 9, 10		
Weds				
Thur				
Fri	First Aid Training	Year 10		

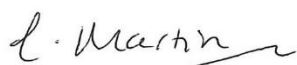
Community Notices

North Yorkshire Council have launched the first climate survey for young people between the ages of 16-25, and feedback from this survey will inform the final climate change strategy of the Council. If your child would like to take part in the survey, it is open until 15th May and can be accessed using the link below:

<https://letstalkny.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/under25-climate-transport>

I wish you all a happy and relaxing bank holiday,

Best wishes,



Clare Martin
Headteacher