



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

16th June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was great to join students and staff at the Knaresborough bed race last week, for what was another amazing community event. The weather was perfect for enjoying our lovely town, and there was a fantastic atmosphere as people admired the decorated beds and watched them race down the streets. As a school we are keen to work with community groups, local schools and businesses, to enhance what we do as a school and to work collaboratively to benefit young people. We have had several meetings recently which have the potential to yield huge mutual benefits, with a genuine commitment from all parties to work in partnership with real professional generosity. If you are connected to an organisation or business that would like to work more closely with the school, please do make contact with us, it would be lovely to hear from you.

In this letter you will find:

1. The Week Ahead
2. Year 6 to 7 Transition
3. Awards
4. School Council
5. UCAS Discovery Day
6. Geography Fieldwork
7. Uniform Donations
8. Punctuality

1. The Week Ahead: 19th June 2023

Personal Development Focus: ENGAGED – Aspirations “who are my positive role models in society and why?”				
Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	French trip departs	7 & 8		
Tues	Great Big Live Assembly – World Refugee Day Rewards trip to Headingley T20	ALL 9	Form Time 5pm	
Weds				
Thur	SEN Transition Day	6	All day	In school
Fri	SSG visit to ISG site	SSG group	2pm	
Sat	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze assessed exhibition			

2. Year 6 to 7 Transition

We have now almost completed our visits to primary schools to meet our 2023 cohort of Year 7's. It has been lovely to meet with them and to talk about life at King James's – they are all very excited to move up to high school and we are very much looking forward to them joining our community. We

have a series of transition events and opportunities to meet the needs of different groups of children, and this week we welcomed children with additional needs. The two main transition days for *all* students are on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th July. These will involve a programme of activities involving some lessons, meeting their tutor and tutor group as well as an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the school site. A parents' event on Thursday 6th July will provide an opportunity for parents to meet their child's form tutor. An information booklet containing key information to help support transition into life at King James's School will be made available on the school website, which also includes a video welcome from Mr Keogh. [Transition to King James's](#)

3. Awards

This week have been celebration assemblies to recognise the effort, positive attitude to learning, and wider achievements of students in different year groups. It has been lovely to hear of students' successes. For example, we have 59 students who have 100% attendance and 457 students who have between 99-96% attendance – a total of 457 students with fantastic attendance to school. We also have students who have been awarded well over 400 positive points with many of them also having no negative points at all. These students demonstrate our school values day in day out and we are extremely proud of them all.

As Headteacher, I have given out KJX Awards to recognise the children who have gone over and above for the community or for taking part in extra-curricular activities, for example, by taking part in the school production 'School of Rock'; helping out in the library or in Learning Support; taking part in clubs such as debate club, coding club or photography; coaching netball and regularly supporting other students at LGBTQ+ club.

4. School Council

Goodbye and thank you to Billy Fox and Evan Donninger for leading the School Council this year. They have done an amazing job - leading younger members to represent students' views; help shape decision-making; and supporting them to develop a project. Each year group is working on a different development - well-being, creating an outdoor learning area, recycling, careers – which they will continue into next year. There will be an election for new School Council members to join them in September and we would like to encourage those students who feel passionate about leadership and improving the school to get involved.

5. UCAS Discovery Day

As part of the Post 18 careers programme, Year 12 students attended a UCAS Discovery Day at Leeds Beckett University on Wednesday this week. Students had the chance to meet with over 100 Universities, Colleges and Apprenticeship Employers and spent the day exploring different career options available to them and speaking with experts to gather information.

Year 12 students will now be supported in school to use the information they gathered to help them plan their Post 18 pathway.

6. Geography Fieldwork

Half of the Year 10 Geographers enjoyed a trip up to Littondale on Tuesday, measuring features of a river. Whilst this is a compulsory trip, it is no hardship being in the Dales in such beautiful weather. The students were a credit to the school and focused on the work in hand, and we are hoping for more of the same on Friday with the other half of the cohort. We sometimes think that we forget there is such beauty on our doorsteps, and whilst many of us plan holidays beyond the Yorkshire Borders, spare a thought for the Dales, well worth a visit this summer.

7. Uniform Donations

If you have any uniform that your child no longer needs, could I ask that you please consider donating it to school. We like to have a stock of pre-loved uniform to offer families and to support students who may need it. Please drop any donations off at the school reception, where it will be warmly received – thank you.

8. Punctuality

Finally, I just wanted to thank parents for your support of the strategy to improve punctuality to school. Today we had fewer than 10 students arriving to school after 8.45am, which is a big improvement. Being on time has a huge impact on being 'ready' for the day and for accessing pastoral support and personal development during form time and assemblies - thank you.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Yours sincerely



Clare Martin
Headteacher