



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

7th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

In this letter you will find:

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2. House Drama
3. Star in the making
4. Cambridge University essay competition winner
5. Post 18 Careers programme
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1. The Week Ahead: 10th July 2023

Personal Development Focus:				
RESPECTFUL – Empathy; Celebrate your own and other achievements				
Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	German trip departs	7&8		Rhine/Moselle
Tues	Hospitality & Catering trip Y12 End of term celebrations	10 12	All day 12.45	Great Yorkshire Show
Weds	STAFF TRAINING DAY	School closed to students		
Thur	Sports Day	All	Afternoon	School field
Fri	Bastille Day celebrations Wellbeing day	All All	Lunchtime All day	Tetra area, outside Chaloner Various

2. House Drama

It was a great privilege to take part in judging the annual House Drama event this week – not an easy task, given the standard of their productions! It is amazing to think that these productions were all student-led – from writing the scripts, directing and all the technical production – they were absolutely first class! After much deliberation, Swaledale won the award for best production with their version of Beetlejuice and an incredible lead performance from Leon P-M, Year 11. Well-deserved winners of the awards were:

- Overall Winning House - Swaledale
- Best Stage Design – Wharfedale
- Best Director & Rehearsal Process – Ryan A, Y13, Airedale
- Best KS3 Performer – Finnian L, Y8, Wharfedale
- Best KS4 Performer – Leon P-M, Y11, Swaledale.

3. Star in the Making

Watch out for Leo Hicks, one of our Year 13 students, who has launched his debut single this week. Heavily influenced by the likes of Fleetwood Mac to Sam Fender to Biffy Clyro; Leo's debut single 'Break of Day' is now available on Spotify. Leo plans to study song writing and performance, with a focus on vocals, at Leeds Conservatoire next year. We all wish him the very best of luck and look forward to following our very own KJS superstar over coming years.

4. Cambridge University Essay Competition Winner

We are delighted that one of our Year 12 History and Politics students, Edward Morgan has been awarded First Prize in the Magdalene College Arts and Humanities Essay Competition 2023. The judges were very impressed with Edward's essay about Artificial Intelligence and found him thoroughly deserving of the First Prize. Edward has been informed and has been invited to a prize-giving celebration at Magdalene College, Cambridge in September. Well done Edward!

5. Post 18 Careers Programme

We have had three different guest speakers come into school this week to provide a wealth of information for Year 12 as part of their Post 18 Careers Programme.

We were delighted to welcome Amy Abba who spoke passionately to Year 12 students about hidden jobs in Morrisons. Amy explained the apprenticeship and graduate training opportunities Morrisons offer in the manufacturing side of their business.

Fred Binley from Lancaster University delivered an engaging assembly about the UCAS application process and clearing and gave students an insight to what the University route would look like.

We also had Emily Leslie from Grantley Hall visit us to explain the vast range of careers opportunities and apprenticeships they offer at their 5* Luxury Hotel just outside of Ripon. Emily also gave some helpful advice and guidance on how to put together a CV that will help you to stand out to an employer.

A small group of our Year 12 students took part in the University of Oxford overnight stay last weekend. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to experience what it would be like to live and study at the University of Oxford. They spent time on campus, stayed overnight in student accommodation and gathered lots of information from current students and university staff about university life and courses offered.

6. Duke of Edinburgh Volunteering

At the beginning of June, it was volunteering week across the country and, as you will be aware, volunteering and supporting the community plays an important part of DofE. To celebrate the incredible contribution made by our students, DofE have calculated the social value they have made in volunteering hours over the last financial year. Our King James's students have spent 663 hours volunteering and the social value of these hours is £3188. We are immensely proud of the dedication, effort, and achievement of our students and of what they have given to our local community.

7. Farewells

At the end of this term, we will be saying goodbye to several staff, some of whom are retiring after a long time at King James's. I am sure you will join me in wishing them a very happy retirement.

Paul Keogh has been a part of the KJS community for 35 years, serving generations of Knaresborough residents. Recognised for the quality of his teaching, Paul won 'Teacher of the Year' in 2003. He was an Advanced Skills Teacher across North Yorkshire, supporting teachers in many schools and spreading the joy of teaching modern foreign languages. In recent years, Paul has been Learning Manager for Year 7 and has supported transition by visiting all our partner primary schools. There is no doubt that the positive relationships Paul fosters with our youngest children has helped them begin their secondary experience with excitement and confidence.

Cath Flatley has taught English since 1994 and so has inspired children with a love of literature for nearly 30 years, as well as contributing to the development of this successful department. Originally leading on Key Stage 3 English, she has also led Key Stage 4 and 5 and was even Head of Department for a time. Known for the warmth of relationships with students and colleagues, Cath has influenced many trainee teachers through her supportive mentoring and students through excellent tutoring. Cath is semi-retiring in the summer but continuing to do two days a week in the autumn term.

Alison Jones has been Assistant Head and SENCO at the school since 2006. She has led fantastic support for children with special educational needs - a huge strength of our school. Alison has worked closely with families, agencies, and colleagues, to ensure a nurturing environment and the very best provision for their learning. As Assistant Head, she has contributed to the success of the school in a broader strategic sense, and we will very much miss her wisdom, experience and expertise within our team.

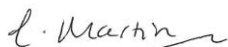
We also have colleagues who have secured promotions at other schools, or who are moving to roles closer to home. Many parents may know **James Hamer**, who is moving on from having worked here for sixteen years and leads the IT and Computing department. We are grateful for all James has done to teach students about this rapidly changing area of the curriculum and to help them both to keep themselves safe and to take advantage of the opportunities these innovations bring.

Despite the national recruitment crisis, we are delighted that the reputation of our school has meant we have successfully appointed high calibre replacement teachers for all our vacancies and were delighted to have them join us this week for our new staff day. We are sure there will be a smooth transition next year and that high-quality learning and experiences will continue to prevail at King James's.

8. Give Fly-Fishing a try

AJS flyfishers, who own the rights to fish the river in Nidd Gorge, are offering free taster sessions for youngsters aged 10-16 to give fly fishing a try. The sessions are on Monday 24th July at Maran Lakes near Wetherby Racecourse. All equipment is provided, the instruction is by DBS checked and Angling Trust qualified coaches, and the session is free. To book a slot please email paula.ajsflyfishers@gmail.com

Best wishes,



Clare Martin
Headteacher

School's Out Take an emotional health check



Head into the summer with a better understanding of your **child's brain development** and their **emotional wellbeing** as you support them into their next new phase.

FACT

Our brains develop most rapidly in childhood shaping our emotional health and wellbeing for the rest of our lives.

HERE FOR YOU

Online courses developed by clinical psychologists can help you to **understand your child, read their behaviour** and **help them look after their emotional health.**



inourplace.co.uk

Understanding your child online course has been paid for by **North Yorkshire County Council**, so you can access it **completely free** using the code **NYFAMILIES**

Short courses on **Understanding the impact of the pandemic on your child or teenager** also included.