



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

21st July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to those of you who attended our Art on a Summer Evening on Wednesday. I am sure you will agree it was wonderful to see the creativity and skills of our students.

This week has been filled with celebrations – from assemblies to barbecues - bringing an excellent year to a close today. Please see the attached newsletter showcasing many of the exciting events students have been involved in during the year. It really does highlight what a rich experience – and how much fun! - students have at King James's.

Today is also the end of my first term as Headteacher at King James's, and I wanted to thank parents and the whole community for making me feel so welcome. It has been a great honour to get to know your children and to lead what is such a fantastic school. The term has absolutely flown, and I am looking forward to starting my first full year in September and to welcoming my first cohort of Year 7's.

In this letter you will find:

1. The Week Ahead
2. Uniform
3. Reading
4. Yorkshire Cricket – design a shirt competition.
5. Maths Competition
6. Diabetes Awareness

1. The Week Ahead: 4th September 2023

Personal Development Focus:				
Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	TRAINING DAY – school closed			
Tues	Year 7 only Year 12 Induction & Enrolment 1	7 12	8.40am	
Weds	School OPEN for all year groups Year 12 Induction & Enrolment 2	All	8.40am	
Thur	Year 12 Induction & Enrolment 3			
Fri				

2. Uniform

Thank you for your support for the drive to improve the pride and consistency in the way students are wearing our uniform. As promised, we have spent this term listening to the views of students, parents, and staff, and have made a few short-term tweaks for next year, and commitment to longer-term review in a few instances. Please find the summary below of expectations for next year.

3. Reading

Our staff training day last week was about reading, and we are planning to embed wider reading into lessons from September. Evidence shows that reading improves our memory and helps students make links between information learned in different lessons. This then results in a better understanding of the world around us. Reading fiction allows us to understand people better, build relationships and improves our well-being.

There is a great TED talk about ['Why reading matters' by Rita Carter](#) that is really interesting. It is well worth listening to this to understand why we are going to do more reading in school next year.

We really encourage our students to read over the summer holidays and so at the end of this letter you will find our recommended summer holiday reading list. Please also see our staff and parent recommendations if you fancy a good read this summer. Happy reading!

4. Yorkshire Cricket – design the Yorkshire Shirt Competition

The following message is from Tom Bates at Yorkshire Cricket. “I’m delighted to be writing to you with an opportunity of a lifetime for the children at King James’s School to be part of a ‘Design the Shirt’ competition with Yorkshire Cricket, with the winning entries being worn by Yorkshire Vikings and Northern Diamonds in 2024. Click [here](#) for more information on the competition and the wide ranges of prizes available to the winners. As I’m sure you can imagine, this is truly a great opportunity for students to get involved with Yorkshire Cricket and our professional teams, and you may just have the winner at your school right now. If you have any questions, please contact us at cricket@yorkshireccc.com.”

5. Summer Maths Trail Competition

North Yorkshire County Council are running a competition for families to make their own Maths Treasure Trail anywhere in North Yorkshire. You should start and end your trail at a North Yorkshire Library and include up to 10 maths questions linked to the landmarks, buildings, tourist attractions etc. nearby. The closing date is 4th September. [Poster](#) is attached for further information.

6. Diabetes Awareness

Diabetes UK have asked schools to raise awareness of the symptoms of diabetes as, unfortunately, many children and young people are not diagnosed until they are in diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), a life-threatening condition that requires urgent medical attention. Early action is important and it’s good to know the ‘4 T’s’ of type 1 diabetes:

- Toilet – going to the toilet a lot
- Thirsty – being very thirsty and unable to quench the thirst
- Tired – feeling more tired than usual
- Thinner – losing weight or looking thinner than usual

If you notice these signs and symptoms, you should contact your doctor straight away, For more support, and the latest information, join their ‘Friends of the North’ Diabetes UK Facebook group. : [Diabetes UK chat: Your Friends in the North | Facebook](#) or contact the North of England team on 01925 653281 or north@diabetes.org.uk.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and relaxing summer

Clare Martin
Headteacher

Recommended Summer reads



SEMh Virtual Drop-In for Parents

Do you live in Harrogate, Ripon, Knaresborough or Craven and have a child or young person who faces barriers or difficulty in school due to social, emotional or mental health (SEMh)?

Visit the SEMh virtual drop-in sessions for an individual conversation, support and information.



NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

What is the SEMh Virtual Drop-In?
The virtual drop-in service offers individual conversation between parent/carers and SEMh Specialist Practitioners via phone or Microsoft Teams meeting.

When are the drop-in sessions taking place?
The session will be held on:
Thursday 31st August



Contact Laura.henry@northyorks.gov.uk for more information and to book your slot.

Appointments will be allocated on a first come basis, until all slots are full.

Thank you for responding to our recent parent survey regarding the KJS uniform. We appreciated your comments and used them alongside staff and student voice to devise a uniform strategy with the aim to support KJS students to meet our expectations around being 'ready' by consistently wearing the uniform correctly.

As mentioned in previous communication, there are two phases to our uniform strategy. The first phase, which began after May half term, was to ensure that the core elements are worn well and with pride. Our strategy to reinforce our high standards resulted in a vast improvement with the way the students presented themselves at school day to day. We hope to sustain these high standards as we start the new academic year and thank you for your support. The second phase takes into consideration some pertinent feedback received from staff, parents and pupils and has resulted in us making a few 'tweaks' to our uniform requirements.

The following summarises some of the feedback received and indicates the actions we have taken in response to it;

<i>You said...</i>	<i>We did...</i>
Consider the affordability of the uniform and the number of branded items that are required to be worn A move to a 'single uniform' could be considered or a range of uniform items so students can mix and match	We offer a third uniform option that allows more flexibility and choice and greatly reduces the overall cost of the uniform due to fewer and cheaper branded items being included (see option 3 below). Students are encouraged to wear any combination of items but must include their key stage tartan.
Ladders in tights make the uniform look 'scruffy' yet tights are difficult to replace as few places stock them Green tights are 'grim' and expensive Tights are poor quality, expensive and ladder all the time	From September students will be allowed to wear black tights (60+ dernier) . Black tights are available from a range of high street stores and supermarkets at low prices
Kilts are expensive – it feels an unnecessary expense having to buy another new one at the end of Year 8.	The third uniform option (see below) eliminates the need to buy different kilts as students may wear trousers in all key stages.
More generic PE kit so that passing on items between family members would be possible and more cost effective	Students may wear either of the two colours available for PE tops. There is no requirement for both the skort and shorts to be purchased and students should pick whichever they feel most comfortable wearing for the range of activities.
Is there a need for a skort and shorts? This adds to the overall cost	
The way the uniform is often modified by students can negatively affect the overall appearance of it	The expectation is that students wear the full uniform correctly. It should not be modified in any way and it should be worn as intended. This includes modification and adjustment of kilt lengths. The recent drive to raise standards has seen vast improvements to the overall appearance of the uniform.
Comfort and practicality should be considered – allow variations in styles, fabrics, and fits to accommodate diverse body types. Some students would prefer to wear a skirt instead of a kilt.	Having three options for the uniform (including a range of trouser shapes and fits) addresses this. Slim, straight or tailored fit trousers are acceptable but not leggings or jeggings. As students feel the kilt may not suit different body shapes we are working with our suppliers on an alternative style.
Some students would like to be able to personalise the uniform or allow their individuality to be presented more. Students would like to be able to wear jewellery as they choose	Some practical subjects do not permit certain items of jewellery for health and safety reasons. Students may wear jewellery but are advised not to bring anything valuable into school. It must be removed when asked within practical lessons.
Donations of used/unwanted good quality uniform items could be used to help reduce the cost of uniform.	We have a stock of pre-loved/second hand uniform items and always welcome more donations. Please contact Sarah Kinsey-Stephens via our Admin address for more info

KJS Branded Uniform Options 2023/24

Option 1 (KS3/4)

Unisex Blazer £34 - £37

Unisex Tie £7.50

Max total = £44.50



Option 2 (KS3/4)

Unisex Jumper £22 - £24

Kilt £40 - £44

Max total = £66



Option 3 (KS3/4)

Unisex Jumper £22 - £24

Unisex Tie £7.50

Max total = £31.50

Identified strengths in our current uniform and our uniform policy.

- Distinctive and part of the King James's ethos.
- When worn properly it looks very smart.
- Garments are ethically sourced using companies that adopt the ethical trading code. Ties are made from recycled bottles. Kilts are made in Scotland with fabric from Otley. They are very hard wearing. Although more expensive than a cheap nylon skirt, cost per wear is low due to durability.
- PE kit, although branded, is highly durable.
- We have two suppliers – Knaresborough & Harrogate
- The newly introduced third option includes fewer branded items and therefore the overall cost is greatly reduced.

Additional points:

- The KJS cardigan can also be worn as an alternative to the jumper
- Kilt should not be modified, jumper untucked
- Top button done up when wearing a tie and shirt tucked in
- Trousers with button and fly (not leggings)
- Black socks
- Black formal shoes only (see below)
- Green OR Black tights
- No heavy make up (including false eyelashes or nails)
- Minimal jewellery – students must take responsibility for the items they choose to wear to school and remove them for practical subjects
- No extreme hairstyles and piercings

KJS Branded PE Options 2023/24



Formal School Shoes

