

Friday 27th October 2023

King James's School Newsletter

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The Headteachers Message

Dear Parents/Carers

At the end of a very long half term, I would like to thank parents for your support. Together we have kept children on track for eight weeks – Year 7's are fully settled in; Year 11's are focused on success; and Year 12's are rising to the challenge of A Level study with prowess. All other year groups are flourishing too – so thank you to you all, and I wish you a very happy holiday.

Clare Martin
 Headteacher

Fire Safety Assemblies

Students in years 7-10 have had a fire safety assembly this week, led by the Fire Service. Please see the link below for advice and guidance in relation to fireworks and Bonfire Night:

Fireworks and bonfire night - North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service (northyorksfire.gov.uk)



Year 7 half-term task

Miss Key has set a task for year 7's for over half term. The aim is to:

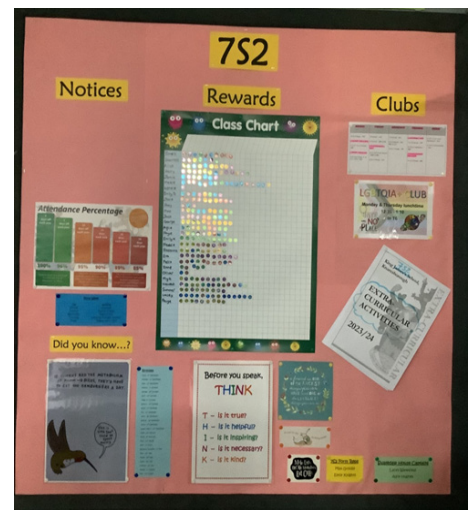
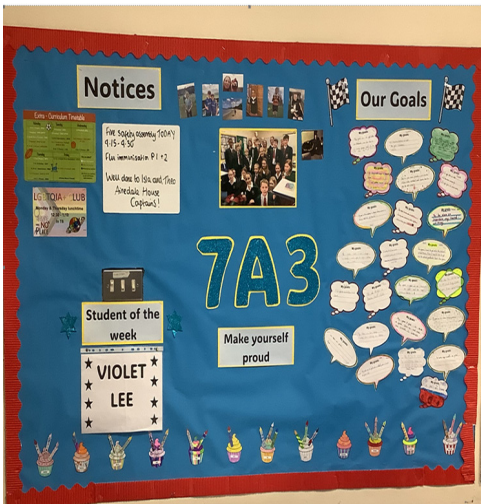
- Bridge the gap between the quality of work from primary / secondary school.
- To celebrate excellent work through departments and the year 7 team.
- Engage and increase communication with parents.
- Raise expectations.

The task is for students to:

- Look over their books to make sure they are tidy, worksheets stuck in etc.
- Review and talk to your parents about pieces of work you are proud of.
- Discuss with parents and think about their targets for next half term.
- Think about ways they can become more involved. Share dates for House events and extra curricular programmes.

Year 7 form board challenge

Congratulations to form 7A3 who were awarded 1st prize in the form board challenge. Their board, along with some of the other contenders, can be seen below



Islamophobia Awareness

As you are aware, our personal development curriculum incorporates national awareness days and events. As November is Islamophobia Awareness Month, on Tuesday 7th November, students in years 7 to 13 will be having a workshop provided by Educate Against Islamophobia.



Netball News

This has been a busy half term for our Netball A & B team, they have put in some strong performances against some good schools. Special mentions to players of the matches, Megan, Lexi, Edie & Leah. Next half term is another busy one for our C & D team. Well done to all my girls, we encourage everyone to come along to practise on Wednesdays afterschool.



Rugby News

Year 9 and 10 boys had a tremendous win this week against a very strong Ripon Grammar side, with a well-deserved 35-5 victory! They were an absolute credit to the school in how they conducted themselves. Special mentions must go to Will A who captained the team superbly, debut appearances for Blake R and Stan H and outstanding performances from Will M, Luke R, Luke D and Charlie A. Well done boys

Year 11 revision support for mock exams

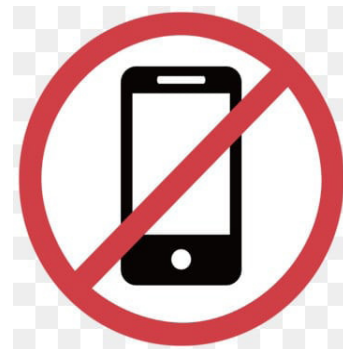
Year 11 mocks start on Monday 20th November. We wish our students well for their mocks and hope that they spend some time revising over the half term break. They have a lot of support available to them and have had an assembly about the most effective ways to revise. Please follow the link to the Year 11 revision page to find the revision support available for students and the subject revision programmes that will help students to organise their revision timetables. There is also a guide for parents and students about the best ways to revise.

<https://www.king-james.co.uk/year-11-revision/>

Personal Development Focus: RESPECTFUL - Empathy "Understanding the impact I can have by having empathy"				
Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Second Half Autumn Term begins Poppies for sale in form time			
Tue	Islamophobia Awareness Workshops	All years		
Wed				
Thur	Bowling trip	Year 8	3.30pm	Xscape Castleford
Fri	Visit by Andrew Jones MP	Years 12 & 13	10.00am	

Reminders about mobile phones in school

New guidance from the Department for Education expects schools to ban mobile phone use throughout the school day, including at break times, to tackle disruptive behaviour and online bullying while boosting attention during lessons. This brings England in line with other countries that have already implemented a ban, including France, Italy and Portugal. It follows warnings from the United Nations on the risks of smartphones in schools and government data that found that a third (29%) of secondary school students reported mobile phones being used when they were not supposed to.



To remind parents, this is our clear policy at King James's;

All mobile devices and AirPods/headphones need to be turned off and away from when students come onto site, until the bell at the end of the day.

After half term, we will be clearly reminding students of this policy and, from Monday 13th November, any student found with their phone out, without permission from staff, will have it confiscated.

Attendance

As discussed in the Expectations Evenings at the start of the year, research shows there is a very clear relationship between academic achievement and excellent school attendance. Every lesson at KJS matters and absence over time will also impact negatively on a child's social and emotional wellbeing. With this in mind, where possible, students attendance should remain above 95% (equivalent to 9 days of absence over the year.) At this stage in the year we are aware that any absence, will have a big impact on this figure and after a few weeks this will bounce back. However, we still feel it is necessary to raise awareness and introduce supportive measures so early intervention can be put in place for students who have genuine barriers regarding coming into school.

To help you and your child to monitor their attendance we will be doing the following at the start of each half term:

- Tutors will be asking students to record their current Year to Date attendance in their planners so they are aware and responsible for monitoring it
- Any students below 95% will be supported by their tutors (if necessary) with any barriers they may have
- Parents of students with an attendance figure of under 95% will receive communication, so you are aware & can monitor.
- Rewards and celebrating excellent attendance through different ways
- Providing useful guidance for parents through the website

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

After half term, students will have the opportunity to purchase poppies as well as other merchandise on behalf of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice and raising money for those who have been left disadvantaged by their time in Service. Sixth Form students will be visiting students in form time and during break times from 6th November, so students will need to bring in cash donations should they wish to donate.

We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 6th November, and wish to remind families that we have a training day on 29th November.

