

Friday 10th November 2023

King James's School Newsletter

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The Headteachers Message

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! I hope you had a good half term holiday.

You will see from today's newsletter that we have returned to some great successes and rich experiences. Such successes are testimony to our fantastic ethos, underpinned by our values of Ready Respectful and Engaged.

This week we have reinforced our expectations to uphold these standards and we would be very grateful if parents could reinforce these at home.

Clare Martin
Headteacher

Armistice Day

This week, students received assemblies based on the theme of Remembrance. On Friday at 11.00am, students and staff observed a 2-minute silence to remember those who have died in conflict. Five students played the Last Post at several locations around school and did a fantastic job, well done to them all.



Expectations

This half term we are having three main areas of focus to reinforce our values of Ready Respectful Engaged. These have resulted from student and parent voice, as well as staff observations and guidance from the government.

Corridor conduct – the way in which students move about the corridors will, inevitably, affect their state of mind when they arrive at lessons and we want students to be able to focus quickly on their learning, as well as respect others so they feel safe and happy when moving around the school. We ask students to keep left on corridors and stairs and walk calmly and quietly.

Mobile phones & devices – new guidance from the DfE expects schools to ban mobile phone use throughout the day, including at break times. Our policy is that all mobile devices should be turned off and out from sight from when students enter the school site to the bell at the end of the day. This week we have reminded students of our policy, and from next week (Monday 13th November) any student found with their phone out will have it confiscated.

Coats/Hoodies and Outdoor Clothing – a reminder that these should be removed once inside the school building. There are hooks for coats around the school site (e.g in Wharfedale) that students may use if they do not want to carry coats..

Local Heroes

We are so proud of one of our Year 8 students, Lucy Sturley, who is a finalist for the Harrogate Local Hero Award - Child of Courage. Lucy was an amazing carer for her father, who sadly passed away from Motor Neurone Disease in 2021, and continues to care for her mother who has Crohn's disease. She is amazingly resilient, brave and conscientious and it is a pleasure to have her as part of our KJS community. More information on the awards can be found [here](#).



Rotary Shoebox Scheme



Since 1994, the Rotary Shoebox scheme has been sending shoeboxes full of gifts to disadvantaged families, adults and children in Eastern Europe, all year round, not just at Christmas. The scheme has no religious or political affiliations, and seeks to "spread a little happiness".

Last year, Year 7 alone gathered over 100 shoe boxes for the Rotary Club appeal and this year, we'd love to surpass this goal with the help of the entire school. We have enough shoe boxes so that each form can create 4 boxes and we really appreciate the help of families to give what they can to help fill them – thank you.

MCAS Update

You may have noticed that an update to MCAS over the half-term break means that students' attendance is now only displayed for AM and PM sessions. This brings us in line with other schools in the area and still reassures parents that students are present in school for the morning and afternoon sessions. Should there be any issues during the day, please be assured that school will contact parents if necessary.

Attendance texts

Parents/carers will have received a text this afternoon which provides information on their child's current attendance figure. Students have also been given this information during form time and have written it in their planners. This information will be shared with students and parents/carers on a half-termly basis. Please do not hesitate to let school know if you require any support with your child's attendance.

House Events

Our second whole school house events will take place next week. The boys will take part in house football whilst the girls will take part in house netball. Dates and times of the events are shown opposite.

This is a great opportunity for the students to add to the house leaderboard. Nidderdale are currently in the lead... who will be top after these events?



Year 7: Wednesday 15th November - P1

Year 8: Tuesday 14th November - P3

Year 9: Thursday 16th November - P5



Year 10: Thursday 16th November - P4

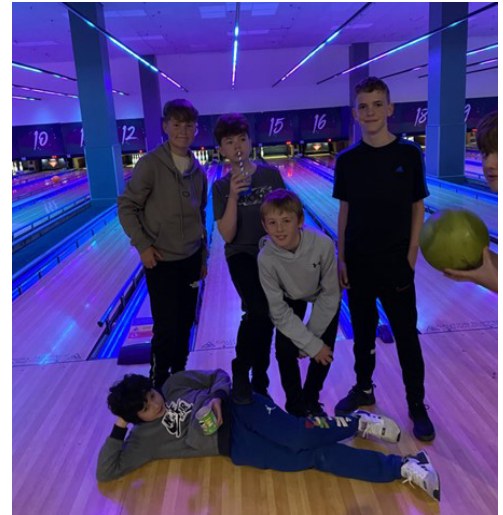
Year 11: Wednesday 15th November - P2

The Week Ahead: 13th November 2023

Personal Development Focus: RESPECTFUL - Empathy "Understanding the impact I can have by having empathy"				
Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Harrogate & Craven Cross Country Championships			
Tue				
Wed	GCSE Prize Giving	Year 11 (2022-23)	7pm	Chaloner Hall
Thur	Harrogate Knitting & Stitching Show A-Level Research trip	A-Level Textiles students	All day	Harrogate Convention Centre
Fri				

Year 8 Bowling trip

On Thursday evening, the Year 8 team took 156 students to Tenpin in Xscape, Castleford for two games of bowling and food. The students had a fantastic time bowling, hanging out with their friends, drinking slushies and playing on the arcade games. They were a credit to King James's. Thanks also to the staff that gave up their time to allow this trip to run - they also really enjoyed it.



Netball Success

The year 11 netball team had a match against Ripon Grammar this week; the game was of a very high standard and extremely competitive. In a recent tournament, KJS drew with Ripon 8-8 so both teams really wanted to win! It was a very close game; after 2 quarters, we were tied 5-5. However, our girls remained level-headed when under pressure and at the final whistle, after some amazing shooting, the score was 11-9 to KJS! A fantastic victory that was thoroughly deserved. The attitude and determination of our KJS team was outstanding. Well done to all involved.

A Level Politics

This week, our A-Level Politics students have been discussing hot political issues with global leaders. On Wednesday, students engaged in a digital democracy session with some US Congress people, providing challenging questions on issues such as their relationship with China, their geopolitical position, the future of democracy, misogyny, and the experiences of a female congresswoman breaking into the arena 20 years ago. We all learned a lot of useful information and the Y12 and Y13 students were an absolute credit to the school. So much so that the chairperson who organised the session reached out to congratulate them afterwards. They were mature, professionally dressed and sat silently for over an hour between asking questions. Closer to home, today they have been debating politics with our local MP, Andrew Jones. Thank you to the Politics team for organising these fantastic enrichment experiences.



Vacancies

King James's School is a great place to work, having a lot to offer to prospective candidates. First and foremost, the students here are great to work with and reflect the full range that you would find in any area. The local community is supportive of the school, the extra-curricular life of the school is rich and there is a vibrancy here which is difficult to match.

More information about our current vacancies can be found [here](#).



Newsletter

Supporting your child with bullying *The Wellbeing in Mind Team*



Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys
NHS Foundation Trust

Autumn Term 2

What is bullying?

Bullying is behaviour that hurts someone else. It includes name calling, hitting, pushing, spreading rumours, threatening, or undermining someone.

It can happen anywhere – at school, at home or online. It's usually repeated over a long period of time and can hurt a child both physically and emotionally (NSPCC).

Types of bullying can include:

- Physical bullying: hitting, slapping or pushing someone
- Verbal bullying: name calling, gossiping or threatening someone
- Non-verbal abuse: hand signs or text messages
- Emotional abuse: threatening, intimidating or humiliating someone
- Exclusion: ignoring or isolating someone
- Undermining, constant criticism or spreading rumours
- Controlling or manipulating someone
- Making silent, hoax or abusive calls.

Signs that your child is being bullied

Every young person is different, but typical signs that your child is being bullied may include:

- Appearing more withdrawn, low in mood or more anxious than usual.
- Having sudden outbursts of anger at home which can't be explained.
- Seeming less confident within themselves.
- Beginning to avoid school or refusing to go to school altogether.
- Complaining of physical symptoms of anxiety and saying they are unwell.
- Changes to their behaviour, for example, beginning to dress differently or doing new activities to meet the demands of peer pressure.
- Having unexplained physical injuries such as bruises or scratches.
- Personal belongings becoming damaged or missing.

Top tips for helping your child

Open up a conversation

An effective way of opening up a conversation about bullying is explaining what bullying is and how it can make people feel. This can normalise what your child might be feeling and can it easier for them to open up. Conversation starters can include:

- "I've noticed you've been feeling... lately, do you want to talk about it?"
- "What has been on your mind recently?"



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- “You’ve not seemed yourself in the past couple of weeks, is there anything you want to talk about?”
- “What has been the biggest challenge you have had today?”

Listen to their experiences

At times, it can be difficult to discuss with your child how they’re feeling, especially if you are concerned that they are having hard time. You might be worried that you don’t know what to say or how your child could react or respond, here are some tips that could help:

- Find a suitable time and place.
- Think about what you want to say.
- **Be patient** – remember it can be difficult for young people to collate their thoughts and feelings and find the right words to express themselves.
- **Try not to feel disheartened** at your first attempt, sometimes it can take young people a while to open up.
- **Remain calm** - it can be difficult to hear that your child is being bullied and struggling, try to remain calm and manage your own emotions.
- **Give your child the space that they need** – pressuring your child to talk about their experiences can adversely push your child away.
- **Be non-judgement** – it is important to try and set aside pre-conceived judgements and try to avoid expressing those judgements.

Help your child build their self-esteem

- Tell them how much you love them and what makes them special.
- Gently challenge some of their negative beliefs about themselves.
- Encourage them to be themselves, and show you value who they are and not what they do or perfection.
- Help them to identify their identity, qualities and strengths, and their sense of belonging.

Encourage them to spend time with people and do the things that they enjoy

Encourage your child to spend time with peers who treat them well. Help them to think about who these people are and support them to arrange times to hang out or do activities with them.

Take action to stop the bullying

Giving your child emotional support is very important, but they can only begin recovering from their experiences when the bullying has stopped and they feel safe again. You can find tips and advice to help you address the bullying on the following websites:

- <https://www.kidscape.org.uk/> (includes a parent advice line)
- www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk





Proposed School Admission Arrangements 2025/2026

In accordance with our statutory duty under The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulation 2012. North Yorkshire Council is consulting on proposed school admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools 2025/2026.

The consultation opens on 27 October 2023 and closes on 15 December 2023. You may view this at www.northyorks.gov.uk/consultations

If you wish to respond please email schoolorganisation@northyorks.gov.uk bearing in mind that this consultation ends on 15 December 2023.

Voluntary Aided, Foundation, Academy, UTC and Free Schools

The determination of admission arrangements for Voluntary Aided, Foundation, Academy, UTC and Free Schools is the responsibility of the schools' governing bodies as the admission authority for the school. Any comments relating to a Voluntary Aided, Foundation, Academy, UTC or Free Schools should be addressed directly to the school in question.