

Friday 22nd December 2023

# King James's School Newsletter

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## The Headteacher's Message

Welcome to this festive edition of our newsletter!

The end of term has finally arrived and I want to thank all parents and carers for your support over the last 15 weeks! Together, we have kept students on track, focused and have provided them with the care and support they need to flourish. From all the staff at King James's School, we hope you have a relaxing and very happy Christmas.

Clare Martin  
Headteacher

## Senior Prize Giving

It was lovely to see our ex-sixth form students this week, as they returned from university and attended our Senior Prize Giving. Our class of 2023 students have gone all over the UK to study courses from Architecture to Veterinary medicine, and some to pursue fantastic employment opportunities. It was great to celebrate their success and for them all to be together once again this week.



## Year 7 Christmas Carol service, St John's Church

A highlight of our festive celebrations was when, on Tuesday, Year 7 visited St John's church to sing carols and reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

Led by Revd Gary Hinchcliffe and accompanied by our school band, it was a joyful service, with students and teachers singing along and even attempting to keep up with the actions to the Twelve Days of Christmas..!



During lunchtimes this week, we have been treated to Christmas musical accompaniments from members of our talented music department. Thank you!



## Return to the Forbidden Planet - Tickets on sale 2024!

Our amazing cast, band and tech crew have been working so hard since September and cannot wait to bring our whole school show to you on 6th, 7th and 8th February 2024! Look out for tickets on sale during January at lunchtimes outside the library! £7.50 concessions and £9.50 for adults!

*“Join Captain Tempest and the crew of the Intergalactic Starship Albatross as they travel deep into hyperspace. What’s waiting for them? A mad scientist, a space monster, unrequited love and the mysterious planet D’illyria – a star not yet marked on their cosmic charts. Featuring well known hits such as ‘Wipe-Out’, ‘Great Balls of Fire’ and ‘Born To Be Wild’! Get ready to be out of your chairs and dancing along to this Olivier Award winning hit musical!”*

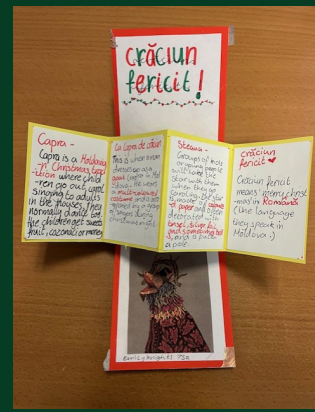


## Languages Christmas Card Competition

Thank you to those Year 7 and 8 students who entered the Languages Christmas card competition. Students researched a non English-speaking country and designed cards showing the traditions there.

The joint winners were Emily K and Grace B - their wonderfully creative designs are shown here. Congratulations also to the runners up:

Natalie M, Mazie D, Mya P, Jamie C, Lucy L, Lily W and Isabelle B



## The Week Ahead: 8th January 2024

| Personal Development Focus: Respectful - Honesty                  |  |          |      |          |
|---|--|----------|------|----------|
| “staying true to my values - actions can speak louder than words” |  |          |      |          |
| Day   | Session  | Year     | Time | Location |
| Mon   | SPRING TERM STARTS<br>Y13 Mock exams (all week)<br>Year Council Meeting Week<br>Year 11 Textiles Mock Exam | 13<br>11 |      |          |
| Tue   | Year 11 Textiles Mock Exam   | 11       |      |          |
| Wed   |  |          |      |          |
| Thur  | Year 11 Textiles Mock Exam<br>Year 11 Parents’ Evening   | 11<br>11 |      |          |
| Fri   |  |          |      |          |

## Uniform



When we return to school after Christmas we want to focus on re-instilling the high standards we all expect. Please could we ask parents to support this by making sure your child is properly equipped for the start of term. In particular, they should be wearing black shoes and not trainers, and if they choose to wear trousers they must not be leggings / jeggings.

Along with our Student Council, we have been working with our uniform suppliers to introduce an alternative style of skirt that is currently in production. The skirt is still tartan but offers a different shape that some students may prefer. We hope that students will appreciate this option and will respond by wearing whichever style they choose in the correct manner – without modifying it by rolling it or altering its length. Many schools have chosen not to continue the skirt-length challenge by moving to a trouser-only option. At King James's, we feel the tartan skirt is a key part of our heritage and we very much hope to be able to retain it. Please could you support us on this by reinforcing our values at home – we want students to wear our uniform correctly and with pride.



## Christmas Disco fun

The Year 8's have had a fantastic term and have engaged in all aspects of school life brilliantly. After the massive success of the Bowling trip in November, 120 students came to the Christmas disco on Tuesday evening. From the moment they arrived, the dance floor was full and only emptied briefly when the hot dogs and chocolate milkshakes were served. Everyone had a fantastic time dancing the YMCA, conga and the 'cha cha slide'. After 2 hours, numerous Christmas songs and copious amounts of sweets the phones were out to Oasis's 'Don't look back in Anger' and everyone departed thoroughly exhausted. It was a fantastic evening with big thanks to the staff for supporting the event and to the students for their exemplary conduct and amazing moves on the dance floor.

Thursday was Year 7's turn! The dance floor was filled with students showing off some fantastic dance moves, and they enjoyed creating some wonderful photo memories with their friends in the specially designed photo booth!



## Accelerated Reading Celebrations

Trophies, books and vouchers have been presented to Year 7 students for their fantastic effort, progress and achievements in reading. The 'Star Reader' trophy was awarded to the following students: Harry D, Ellie M, Willow M, Alice C, Lily W, Amelia N, Hollie F, Toby W, Theo O, Johan D,

The following students read over half a million words in Learning Cycle 1: Toby W (684,072), Orla B (859,195), Jess G (571,235).

Congratulations also to Sera S, who was recognised for "Resilience in Reading", and Arthur K, who was recognised for "Commitment to Reading".

The best Class Team effort was awarded to 7C4 and the House Trophy went to Swaledale.



## News from the PE Department

It has been a very busy term in the PE department, and it has been great to see so many sports leaders supporting the department, from year 12s taking a lead in lessons, to students in year 9 & 10 helping at clubs. Our Year 13s continue to lead by example in their coaching roles with the Key Stage 3 football teams.

The students have been an asset to the school and extra-curricular at KJS continues to thrive, with clubs running every night. There has been over 65 fixtures across a range of sports since September with students in year 7 to year 13 representing the school.

The most recent successes to celebrate start with Football. The year 9 boys team have had a great first half of the season and are through to the quarter finals in both the County and Area Cup. The year 10 boys team had a fantastic 4-1 win over St Aidans in the 5th round of the National cup. They go on to play Ilkley Grammar in round 6. Girls football will be stepping up after Christmas with tournaments and matches in the next round of their competitions.

In Netball, the girls continue to make excellent progress with the year 10s winning against St John Fishers, and the Year 9's had an incredibly close game against Harrogate Ladies College. Finally, Miss Andrew finished the year off with a wonderful gymnastics routine performed by students in year 7 & 8 to their parents.

Alongside all of the above, a particular mention to Mr Hall, who organised the Area Schools Cross Country Competition earlier in December. This involved over 10 schools and 400 runners competing in muddy conditions around a challenging course. KJS students Issy L and George C were outstanding in their races, and have both been selected for the Area team.

Congratulations to all students who have been involved in extra-curricular sport at KJS this year! See you in 2024!



Miss Ramplin, our very own Christmas star, along with all the staff at King James's School, would like to wish all our families

*A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*