

Friday 26th January 2024

King James's School Newsletter

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The Headteacher's Message

Following last week's Sixth Form Open evening, our Year 11 students have been breakfasting in our fantastic sixth form centre, giving them an opportunity to ask any questions and get a sense of what it feels like to be a KJS sixth former. We really are incredibly fortunate in having such great facilities where students can be supported in their learning and enjoy social times with their peers. These visits will continue over the coming weeks for all KJS Year 11 students.

Clare Martin
Headteacher



GCSE Geography Revision

This week's revision session for Year 11 is on Wednesday 31st January and the subject being covered is Urban Issues and Challenges - the case studies are Rio and Bristol.

Remember - on ItsLearning there are the PowerPoints that take you through each of the modules that we cover over the two years.

STEM Careers Talk

This Thursday, year 9 were treated to a special guest speaker. Mr Utkarsh Singh, 28, Director of Environment and Sustainability at Alstom (a railway company) gave a presentation about careers in Science and how the skills he uses on a day-to-day basis stem from those he learnt in school science lessons. From identifying and solving problems to looking at data, and communication to research, these useful skills have been essential for him in all aspects of his job.



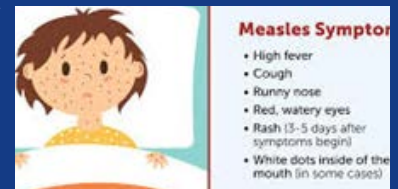
He then talked about how his career in science has opened many doors, including a personal invitation from the President of Senegal to a Formula-E race and an invitation to LA to accept an international Green Apple award for environmental work.

Mr Singh's fascinating and lucrative work was well received by an impeccably behaved year 9 group. The Science department would like to thank both Mr Singh and the whole year 9 for making Thursday's talks such a success!

Measles

You may have heard in the news that cases of measles are rising across England, including among children. It's an infection that spreads very easily and for some people can cause serious problems. There's no specific medical treatment for measles, so it's important to get vaccinated as it's the best protection against becoming seriously unwell.

The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is one of the routine childhood vaccinations, so most children are already vaccinated against measles. If your child has received both doses of the vaccine, they are unlikely to have the virus. However, measles spreads very easily among those who are unvaccinated, especially in schools. The best protection against measles for children and adults is to get both doses of the MMR vaccine. It is never too late to have these vaccinations.



Measles Symptoms

- High fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- Rash (3-5 days after symptoms begin)
- White dots inside of the mouth (in some cases)

The NHS also has the following advice for parents on measles:
[Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

The DfE has also produced advice for parents, including when to keep their children off school:

[What to do if you think your child has measles](#)

Uniform

Please support us with our uniform push after February half term by preparing your children now. We need to be united in our expectation of high standards – that students wear our KJS uniform as intended and with the pride it deserves and for a formal work environment. Key messages to reinforce please:

Formal black shoes are preferred, but students may wear plain black leather-looking, flat, smooth-soled trainers.

Kilts should not be modified and should be a reasonable length. When sold they are either 18” or 20” long and so they should be at least mid-thigh. Students will be asked to unroll kilts. We will contact parents if kilts are unreasonable in length and ask that it is corrected or that they wear trousers.

For health and safety reasons, students may not wear acrylic nails or hooped earrings.

Students should attend school wearing the full uniform each day which includes the bottle green blazer or jumper with the school crest.

The aim of us giving parents and students half a term’s notice is to avoid the need to speak to students about their uniform, so we can all focus on learning. However, having made our expectations clear, after half term we will follow behaviour processes for students who do not comply.

Oddballs

We were fortunate to have Harvey, an ambassador from The Oddballs Foundation, deliver assemblies to all students in years 10, 11, 12, and 13 this week. Oddballs raises awareness for testicular cancer and students were given information about signs and symptoms as well as the proper way to perform self checks. The charity works to de-stigmatise discussions of testicular cancer and health in general and to encourage people to seek support.



These assemblies were well received by our students who were a credit to our school with the maturity they showed towards this potentially challenging and uncomfortable topic. We’re grateful to Harvey for delivering this important message to our students as part of our health curriculum. As a university student volunteering his time, he was an excellent ambassador both for the charity and for being engaged in charitable work.

For more information about Oddballs and their work, please visit their website: <https://theoddballsfoundation.com>



The Week Ahead: 29th January 2024

Personal Development Focus: Ready - Integrity

“being able to implement positive change”

| Day | Session | Year | Time | Location |
|------|---|----------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mon | House Rugby/Girls Football week Year 9 vaccinations | 9 | All day | S1 |
| Tue | Theatre company in school | 11 | Morning | Chaloner |
| Wed | Year 9 Options Evening Intermediate Maths Challenge | 9 | 6.30-8.30pm | Various |
| Thur | Year 11 Pastoral Parents Evening Y11 breakfast visit to Sixth Form | 11 11 | 4.00pm-6.30pm 8.45 - 9.10am | In school Sixth Form Centre |
| Fri | Thackery Museum trip | 10 | All day | Leeds |

German Exchange 2024

2024 marks a true milestone as this year, King James's School is proudly celebrating 50 years of the annual school exchange with its partner school, Brüder Grimm Gesamtschule in Knaresborough's twin town of Bebra. In the summer of 1974, the first party of German pupils came to visit, but as former languages teacher and UK founder of our school links, Alan Hemsworth remembers, the exchange was very nearly still-born. "We had serious difficulties in finding accommodation for all the pupils and only a last-minute appeal in the local paper saved the day." In the end two pupils stayed with the local milkman, two with the proprietor of a local coach company and two in a caravan at the bottom of a garden.



A large majority of host families, both in Knaresborough and Bebra are past participants themselves and feel that reciprocating host duties is important for the longevity of our partnership. The Bürgermeister in Bebra who was the driving force of town twinning, supported the school exchange visit, played his host family role as indeed his son and later his grandson took part in the exchange. Every year, I come across students participating in the exchange whose parents have fond memories themselves of spending time with their German friends. The school's original aims in promoting the exchange were simple but important, and still hold good today: to promote tolerance, understanding and friendship, and a desire for pupils of all ages to learn a foreign language. In an era when taking a foreign language to GCSE level is no longer compulsory, the exchange is still seen by KJS as a key opportunity for students to widen their experience, and the Bebra programme is believed to be one of the longest running in English schools.

There have been some adventures down the years and some lifelong friendships have been forged, between both pupils and staff. Much has changed in 50 years! Where exchange students used to rely on pen and paper to stay in touch they now keep up friendships via What's App, Snapchat and email. Indeed, our exchange students often 'meet' their new friends virtually before they meet face to face.



This year, we are looking forward to our special visit to Bebra in March. Twenty students between the ages of 13 and 16 are leaving KJS by coach and ferry, along with three staff, to embark upon a visit of a lifetime, donning our commemorative hoodies with funding received from Knaresborough Town Council. Our visit coincides with an '50th anniversary event' to be held in the Lokschuppen, an event centre in Bebra. I even have had a celebratory logo designed by our very own web designer, Miss Sandground. Mrs

Martin, as well as various town dignitaries will also be in attendance at this momentous occasion on 21st March. There will be opportunity to catch up with old friends, to look back over 50 years of exchange, celebrate this significant school and community event and to look forward to many more years of friendship with our German friends. Here's to the next 50 years!

Return to the Forbidden Planet - Tickets on sale!

Don't forget to look out for tickets on sale for the forthcoming school production of Return to the Forbidden Planet. Tickets will be on sale during January at lunchtimes outside the library! £7.50 concessions and £9.50 for adults!

Everyone's working so hard now - it's been a couple of weeks of set painting and building, microphone testing, light rigging, the band has now joined us - here's a few pictures of everything underway!

The production takes place on 6th, 7th and 8th February so not long now!



Attendance

School attendance continues to be very topical due to the huge impact good school attendance has on students mental wellbeing, social development and academic progress.

As a school we will continue use a number of strategies to raise awareness & provide support so we maintain our excellent school attendance and our students continue to flourish. This week our KS3 students had assemblies to raise their awareness of their current attendance, the impact good attendance can have and support they can access if they are struggling to attend school. This power point can be accessed ([here](#)) on the attendance page of the school website alongside other useful resources.

