

Friday 15th March 2024

King James's School Newsletter

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The Headteacher's Message

Next week marks the 50th anniversary of our twinning with Bebra and students are looking forward to departing on Sunday. To have maintained such a strong international relationship for so many years, overcoming barriers such as the pandemic to keep it going, is an amazing achievement. I look forward to joining staff and students from both schools on Thursday to celebrate this lasting partnership.



Clare Martin
Headteacher

Lego Robotics Competition

First Lego League is a global science and technology challenge for teams of students, to encourage an interest in real world issues and develop key skills that are crucial for their future careers. The students work together to explore a given topic and to design, build and programme a LEGO robot to solve a series of missions. A group of KJS students recently took part; they had a great day and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Paris trip

A group of 44 Year 9 GCSE and Year 13 students recently enjoyed a trip to the beautiful city of Paris. As well as improving their French language skills with a French language class and a fantastic evening at the theatre to see 'The Lion King' in French, they were able to see the many famous sites of Paris. Students visited the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre where they saw the Mona Lisa and they went on a 'Bateau Mouche' down the river Seine. They enjoyed visiting the Montmartre area and the Champs Élysées for a true French shopping experience. This was a culturally enriching trip, which really enabled students to develop their linguistic skills and was thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and students.



Police Assemblies

On Tuesday, every year group in school had a 10-minute assembly delivered by Holly Nicholls, Harrogate Outer Neighbourhood Inspector. Inspector Nicholls gave students an understanding of her background and vision. She is a very experienced police officer who grew up in the Knaresborough area and is delighted to have returned to the town to take on this role, following a long period of time working in the Met. She lives locally and has children herself and is very committed to the town and to ensuring it remains a wonderful place to live and grow up. As a school, we work very closely with the police, the Town Council and other community organisations to have a joined-up approach to supporting this aim.



Inspector Nicholls explained that this brief assembly was following some incidents of anti-social behaviour in the town and that the aim was to explain how the police work with the whole community to keep everyone safe; what young people can do and what they can't; and what the police powers are if there is anti-social behaviour taking place.

It was made clear that we understand most of our students would not dream of behaving in a way that could be deemed to be anti-social and that they are always responsible and respectful. However, the messages are useful for all young people and that there may be times when they can support their peers by helping them make positive choices.

Inspector Nicholls stressed that if students are socialising without causing any anti-social behaviour they have every right to do so. She suggested that they choose an area away from housing such as Horeshoe Field and that periodic police will patrol to help check they are safe.

Further points she made clear are that;

- Legally, young people cannot drink alcohol until the age of 18 unless over 16 and with an adult in a hospitality venue, or at home with parental permission. They should expect alcohol to be confiscated from them and for them to be taken home to make sure they are safe, if they are found drinking alcohol or under the influence of alcohol in the town.
- Legally, if a PCSO or a Police Officer asks a young person to give their name and address they must do so. They may be detained until they do so, but this is not what the police want to do. On most occasions, if they give their name and address they will be able to go home and that will be the end of it.
- That if there is anti-social behaviour and young people are not responding, Inspector Nicholls has the power to put in place a dispersal order to prevent people from accessing an area for a period of time. This is not something she would want to do.

Inspector Nicholls stressed that if police are present and giving young people instructions, they need to listen and respond. The aim is always to de-escalate a situation and to keep everyone safe. We reinforced our school value of Respect – both within school and in the community and this is how we all want to work together.

The Week Ahead: 18th March 2024

Personal Development Focus: Ready - Determination				
<i>"Being the best learner I can be by sticking with things that are challenging".</i>				
Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	DofE First Aid Bronze Year 9	9		
Tue	Can-Sat 23-24 Regional Launch	12	12.30-5.30pm	
Wed	DofE First Aid Bronze Year 9	9		
Thur	London Drama Residential departs	Yrs10-13	6am departure	London
Fri	Year 10 Ski trip departs Year 12 Ski trip departs Year 9 ski trip departs END OF SPRING TERM	10 12 9		Morzine, France Morzine, France Obertauern, Austria

Training Day

On Thursday, staff from King James's and Boroughbridge High School joined together for our federation training day. This included the launch of the Federation Vision and Values, agreed by Governors in January 24, and gave opportunity from both schools to work collaboratively to share best practice around engaging learning. It was a hugely inspiring day, underpinned by a tangible commitment to working together for the benefit of all young people within our community. Many thanks to Sophie Cunningham for leading the session.



FEDERATION VISION

A **federation** of schools **united** and **strengthened** by a shared commitment to working **collaboratively**, to **limitless aspirations for every student**, and to unlocking the potential in our community.

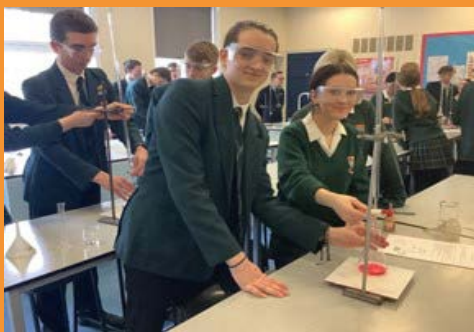
PE News

The PE Department were very grateful to receive a generous donation from local firm HMCA recently. This has been put to good use with the purchase of a dedicated girl's football kit and polo shirts and hoodies for the staff. Wearing their tops this Wednesday the U14s Girls Team won the Harrogate and Craven Tournament which was hosted here at King James.



Inaugural House Science Olympiad

This week we celebrated British Science Week by holding the first KJS House Science Olympiad. 8 Teams from each house battled it out against one another in a variety of difficult scientific challenges. Y11s completed a difficult Titration; Y10 completed a CSI style investigation testing different samples of urine to catch an attempted murder; Y9 had their practical skills tested with a Bake-Off Technical Challenge style activity with almost no instructions, Y8 designed cars to survive crashes and be as aerodynamic as possible; and Y7 build bridges from spaghetti and scrap paper. The results are shown opposite.



The Science Department would like to thank all of the pupils for their excellent performances and behaviour during the events. And pass on a special thanks to the Science Technicians for all of the hard work that they put into preparing the experiments and to Mr McDonagh for organising the event. We hope that this can become a staple of the King James's House Competition!

House Science Results

The results were as follows:
1st - Swaledale
2nd - Airedale
3rd - Nidderdale

Library Competitions

Design a National Book Token competition

<https://www.worldbookday.com/competition/design-a-nbt/>

This year's theme is 'Read Your Way'. Every reader is different, and there's no right or wrong way to enjoy reading.

The template is available to collect from the library.

The winning entrants will receive HUNDREDS of pounds worth of National Book Tokens for their schools and themselves. PLUS the overall winner will get a £10/€12 National Book Token in their winning design for every student in their class.

All entries should be returned to the library by Thursday 21st March 2024.





Supporting your child with exam stress

A parent and carer information webinar around supporting your child in managing their stress around exams. We will be covering unhelpful thinking styles, stress-relieving strategies, tips to create a healthy study-life balance and signposting.

Date

Thursday 11th April 2024: 6-7pm

Location

Online

Further information

Please email tewv.wellbeinginmind@nhs.net to register your interest and to receive your session link.

Wellbeing in Mind Team – We are a team of NHS staff working with school staff providing advice, support and training on wellbeing issues as well as forming a link between the school and other services supporting young people. This work includes direct support for young people experiencing mild to moderate mental health such as anxiety and low mood. Support to utilise online resources and develop skills as well as classroom-based educational sessions in conjunction with the school's pastoral team to improve knowledge and understanding about wellbeing.