

Friday 15th November 2024

# King James's School Newsletter

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## Message from the Headteacher

It was lovely to celebrate with our 2024 GCSE cohort at their prizegiving on Wednesday. As well as receiving their certificates, we also heard an inspiring speech from a local resident, Greg Stewart. Greg worked at director level for a large national charity in the voluntary youth sector and was also a Director at the Engineering Development Trust. He recently moved to Knaresborough from the Southeast, where he had been working at Angela Ruskin University in Cambridge. We are very grateful that Greg joined us to share his interesting career journey with students.

Please see below for some photographs from the evening.

Clare Martin  
Headteacher

## Attendance and Punctuality

Please see attached [letter](#) regarding the importance of punctuality to school. DfE guidance, Working Together to Improve School Attendance, specifies that schools must close registers within 30 minutes of the session. At King James's, students should be in school by 8.45am and so registers close at 9.15am. Any student arriving after 9.15am will therefore be recorded as absent. We will continue to work closely with families to provide support to promote good attendance so that, together, we can help them reach their full potential.

## Anti-bullying Week: 11-15 November

It's Anti-Bullying Week and this year's theme is Choose Respect. Mrs Knight and the Wellbeing in Mind Team have been delivering assemblies this week to all year groups.

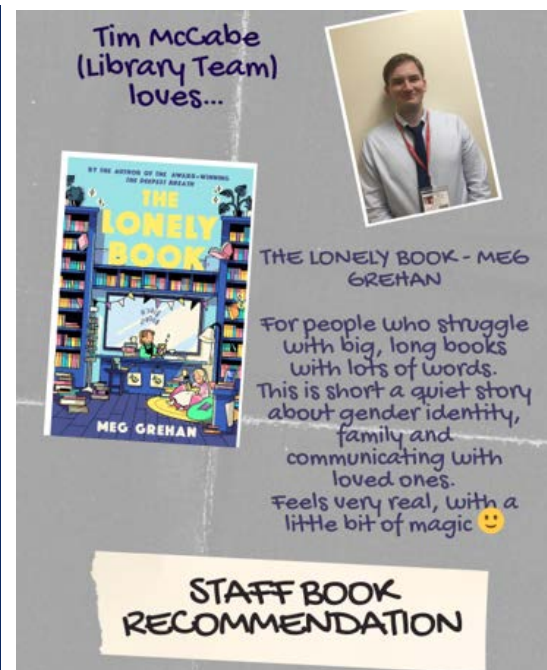
[BBC Bitesize](#) and [BBC Teach](#) can help you discuss the issues around bullying with your child.

The [Study Support](#) section on BBC Bitesize offers tips and advice that can help students including [this guide on how to cope with bullying](#). Additionally, [this article](#) can help students recognise when their words or actions may be causing harm – which could make a useful discussion, while [this informative article](#) about cyber bullying is full of practical steps that your child can take.


## Uniform Expectations

With the lead up to Christmas starting over the next few weeks, we would like to remind students that “no false nails or false lashes can be worn for school.” All our students will be reminded of this next week by their year teams. We would welcome your support with this matter, so we can avoid any challenging conversations and focus on supporting and educating our students.

Any students not investing in our school values will be supported in making better choices through our consequence system and you will be made aware of this by a member of your child's Pastoral year team.



Tim McCabe (Library Team) loves...



THE LONELY BOOK - MEG GREHAN

For people who struggle with big, long books with lots of words. This is short a quiet story about gender identity, family and communicating with loved ones. Feels very real, with a little bit of magic 😊

**STAFF BOOK RECOMMENDATION**



## Thought for the Fortnight



Thought for the Fortnight for the weeks beginning 11th and 18th November is:

“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.” — Oscar Wilde

Key take aways are:

- Kindness requires you to put others needs before your own.
- Treat others as you would like to be treated.
- Being kind to someone else can have a positive impact on our own wellbeing.
- It's important to be kind to yourself.

## Netball Success

Congratulations to the Year 7 Netball team who played their first ever match against St Aidan's on Wednesday night. They won 11-7, a phenomenal result and so well deserved.

St Aidan's were a really strong team, but the KJS girls worked so hard, showing fantastic determination and sportsmanship. We are very proud of them.

A big thank you to Miss Burn and Mrs Lawrence, who have coached the girls, as well as our 2 sports leaders, Georgia in year 11 and Eva in year 10, who supported the girls on the night.

There have been between 30-40 students at every practice which has been superb. There are more matches coming up and we look forward to seeing the team grow in confidence.



## School Production Rehearsals

On Sunday 10th November, the cast, band, and crew of the upcoming 2025 School Production began rehearsals together in preparation for one of the most exciting events on the school calendar.

They take to the stage, the hit musical 'We Will Rock You' - an epic blend of sci-fi and classic rock culture, as two tear-away rebels fight against a ruthless system for life, for love, and for rock 'n' roll, underscored by the legendary 'Queen'.

The school's most talented and eager actors, singers, dancers, and musicians have begun to bring the show to life with their relentless dedication and enthusiasm, to the resounding appraisal of peers and staff alike. The Sunday rehearsal saw these groups working with each other, as the first signs of another exhilarating School Production began to show.

Be sure to look out for further notices, for a show you definitely won't forget.

## Computer Science News

All Year 7 students have taken part in the International 2024 Bebras Computational Thinking competition over the last week, in their computer science lessons. This Challenge introduces computational thinking to students worldwide. Students have 45 minutes to tackle a series of interactive tasks, designed to encourage logical thinking and problem-solving appropriate for their age group.

Congratulations to Humphrey F in Year 10, who has got through to the final for "Cyber Switch" held at Sheffield Hallam University. This is a competition aimed at students aged 11-18 years, comprising of a series of hands-on fun and challenging exercises/puzzles in a 'gaming arena' format based on digital and cyber themes.

## Rewards- weekly recognition points on MCAS

Last week we started to issue students with automatic recognition points for meeting the schools expectations for attendance, punctuality and making good behavioural choices. These points are added to their points total you can see on MCAS each week.

Students are awarded points for:

- Each day they are in school (max 5 points a week)
- Each day they have no lates to lessons ( max 5 points per week)
- Each day they have no behaviour comments (max 5 points per week)

Last week the number of students achieving maximum points was:

- Yr 7 69%
- Y8 844%
- Y9 41%
- Y10 44%
- Y11 40%

We know if our students are in school, on time to lessons and making positive behaviour choices for themselves they will have strong foundations to succeed in both school and in life. The aim of awarding these points is to help raise the importance of these aspects of school life and to encourage them to be consistent in applying them, so these positive behaviour choices become a habit.

We would appreciate your support with this by monitoring your MCAS account and having conversations about this at home.



## School Council

Our Senior Student Leaders and Key Stage Student Leaders have been working hard over the last 2 weeks meeting with SLT, our Associate Assistant Headteachers and School Council Tutor Group reps to plan and organise the first Student Voice Cycle of the new school year. The Student Voice Cycle is a process we use to ensure that students' ideas, opinions and feedback are effectively gathered, addressed and acted upon. This cycle is a way for the Student Council to engage with the student body, represent their interests, and bring about positive change.

During one of the tutor time sessions next week, each of the Tutor Group Reps will lead a discussion with their tutor group where students will be able to give their views on both whole school and year group specific priorities. This information is recorded and analysed by the Senior Student Leaders and Key Stage Leaders and delivered to the Headteacher and other members of the Senior Leadership Team in a full School Council Meeting at the start of December.

## Maths Week England

This week KJS pupils have been embracing the joy of Mathematics as part of this national event with activities from teacher treasure hunts to form group escape room challenges to daily video puzzles set by some of the country's most recognisable Mathematicians on our Instagram account (@KJSMaths) the whole school has been swept by number fever!



## Year 7 Girls Football Success

The Year 7 girls football team won the Area 7 a side tournament last night. They were magnificent in everything they did, winning 6 and drawing 1 of their games, including wins against strong opposition from St. Aidans, St. John Fisher and Rossett. We only conceded 2 goals in the entire tournament and scored 16!

It was a true team performance with goals from lots of players and great saves from Amelia H. They sang the whole way home!



## The Week Ahead: 18th November 2024

Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Year 11 Mock Exams begin Theatre Trip to Leeds Grand	11 Various	Various 7.30-10pm	Leeds
Tue				
Wed	Y13 Geography Fieldtrip SSG Harrogate Cinema Trip	13 SSG students	9am-5.30pm 9.00am	Saltaire Harrogate
Thur				
Fri	<b>Harrogate Knitting &amp; Stitching Show</b>	12	8.45am - 3pm	Harrogate

## Children in Need

Today we invited students and staff to come to school in casual clothes in exchange for a donation to Children in Need.

The theme for Children in Need this year is 'making life lighter for children'. At the moment, Children in Need are only able to help 1 in 8 organisations who ask them for money, therefore anything that can be done to successfully fund raise for Children in Need is very much appreciated.

- £5 pays for a food parcel for a child affected by poverty and mental health issues, ensuring access to healthy food to improve physical and emotional wellbeing.
- £15 pays for a 1:1 support session for a child affected by domestic abuse, helping them talk through their feelings and build resilience.
- £40 pays for a youth club session for 24 children affected by poverty, supporting them to have fun, make friends and learn new skills.

Thank you for your donations.



## GCSE Prize Giving

Photographs celebrating the achievements of our 2024 GCSE cohort at their prize giving ceremony on Wednesday night. Many congratulations to you all.







# Warhammer Club is Returning!

Starting on Monday 18th November, Warhammer club will be run by Mr McCabe in the library every Monday after school 3:20 - 4:30pm.

Everyone is invited, no matter if you are a total beginner in the hobby or a seasoned veteran.

The club will cover all aspects of the hobby and even provide everything you need to organise and play a mixture of games including Warhammer 40k, Age of Sigmar, and Kill Team.

Ask Mr McCabe for more information.



We have support from the Warhammer Alliance programme, as well as our local store in Harrogate. This means that we are able to provide extra resources and activities for club members.

Battle Honours lets club members work towards completing activities and being rewarded with useful items for hobbying.

The local Warhammer store in Harrogate hosts events and competitions which we look forward to taking part in. The first of which is happening on Saturday 21st December and we are very excited to create and submit our entries!

