



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL
KNARESBOROUGH

Candidate Information



Note from the Headteacher

Thank you for interest in working at King James's School.

I would say at the outset that this is a very rewarding school in which to work.

Many job adverts specify what they demand from the candidate. We have plenty of skills and qualities that we are looking for but we also have a lot to offer to prospective candidates. First and foremost the students here are tremendous. It is a comprehensive school and our students reflect the full range that you would find in any area, but by and large the classes are filled with well-motivated students willing to learn and to contribute to their school community. The local community is phenomenally supportive of the school, the catchment area is well defined and we have excellent relationships with the local parents who choose to send their children here. We are heavily over-subscribed each year with pressure for places from beyond our catchment area. Knaresborough and North Yorkshire isn't just a great place to teach, it's a great place to live.

The extra-curricular life of the school is rich, most staff who work here make the most of it; there really is a vibrancy here that is difficult to match. We have a committed staff (teaching and non-teaching) who go the extra mile. Almost without exception, teachers go above and beyond the core delivery of lessons to enhance the enrichment opportunities for the students.

The ethos here is one of the strengths. Even though we have a charter going back to 1616 we are a very modern school with an open and friendly ethos. The students are not restricted by an oppressive regime but there is good order and discipline. We are highly inclusive and we have a strong reputation for delivering outstanding care and outcomes for students with SEND alongside an enviable output to top university courses from our high-performing A level students. Our A level results place us in the top 10% of providers nationally consistently, year on year.

We are demanding of our staff, teaching and associate staff. We believe that our community deserves an outstanding school and we strive to be outward facing, never resting on our laurels and always seeking further improvement. With the support of Professor Barry Hymer our development of a culture of 'growth mindsets' in school began over six years ago and has been taken up by many schools since. We expect students and staff to embrace challenge and to see resilience and hard work as the route to success. At the same time we have a very strong commitment to the development and training of all staff, teaching and non-teaching. This is a school in which the opportunities for your personal development are rich.

We remain a Local Authority Maintained School rather than an academy but the governing body keeps the options for the school under review and we carefully consider our status and wider relationships within the schools system. We are proud of the relationships that we have fostered, including within Teaching School Alliances and taking the lead role within the White Rose Alliance for School Direct. Our closest professional development partners include Tadcaster Grammar School, Thirsk School and Sherburn High School. Our White Rose Alliance partners include the Grammar School at Leeds, Leeds University, Stokesley School, Allerton Grange School and Thirsk School. We do not believe that there is a single successful model of school partnership working and we believe that independence and

interdependence provides the most powerful partnership and collaboration between schools which retain their own character and identity.

Thank you for considering King James's School.

Carl Sugden
Headteacher