

Friday 22nd March 2024

King James's School Newsletter

Inside this issue:

- Berlin 2024
- Goodbye and Good luck
- Harrogate Festival
- The Week Ahead
- Drama News
- Fly Fishing
- World Book Week
- Duke of Edinburgh News
- Hello from Bebra!
- @kjswellbeing
- Student Absence

The Headteacher's Message

Greetings from Bebra! It has been a real privilege to take part in this historic 50th anniversary visit to our twin town. There has been an overwhelming sense of passion and commitment to this lasting partnership. As ever, our students have been a credit to us and we hope they will have made lifelong friends this week.

Please see this week's Stray Ferret for more about this celebration. [Knaresborough school celebrates 50 years of foreign exchange programme - The Stray Ferret](#)



Clare Martin
Headteacher

Goodbye and Good Luck!

Today we say goodbye to some colleagues who are moving on to pastures new. We would like to take this opportunity to wish them well and thank them for their time at King James's.



- Helen Handley, Assistant Head, Safeguarding
- Jane Bath, Attendance Officer
- Andrew Bailey, Science Teacher
- Caroline Hodson, Reprographics
- Georgina Bachelier, PE Technician



Berlin 2024

Despite the travelling hours, our 50 Year 11 students were excited to embark on a 3-day history residential tour of Berlin. Day 1 began with an exploration of the city landmarks including the Reichstag, Holocaust memorials to the Jews and Roma and Sinti peoples who were persecuted and murdered by the Nazi regime and the Soviet War Memorial and memorial to the persecuted LGBT community in Germany. After almost 48 hours without sleep, we ended the day with much needed all you can eat pizza at the Brandenburg Gate.



Day 2 was a more in depth look at the insidious nature of Nazi persecution of political opponents, Jews and other minorities as we visited Sachsenhausen concentration camp. This haunting place was home to thousands of outspoken, brave opponents of the Nazis during 1936-1939 as well as later British and Soviet prisoners of war, Jews, Jehovahs Witnesses and homosexuals all who suffered unspeakable horrors at the hands of the Nazis. We also visited the Olympic stadium, built for Hitler to showcase his so called "master race" which backfired when world class African-American athlete Jesse Owens won 4 Gold medals becoming the story of the games. The stadium, built in the style of the Roman colosseum, was testament to the power of propaganda in Nazi Germany. Our evening was complete with a visit to the dome at the top of the Reichstag, a wonderful opportunity to see the sunset over Berlin and climb the famous double helix created in the glass dome overlooking the Reichstag chamber.

On our final day, we focused more on the Cold War aspects of the course and visited iconic sites such as Check Point Charlie, the East Side Gallery section of the Berlin Wall memorial and the DDR museum as well as a look at the sinister Hohenschönhausen prison. This prison was used by the Stasi (East German secret police) during the Cold War to force confessions from those caught behind the iron curtain. Many were innocent, some guilty of nothing more than trying to escape to the West or listen to Western radio. All would confess under the brutal psychological torture and sleep deprivation of the Stasi interrogators.



Year 11 were fantastic for the entire trip and a real credit to the History department and KJS. Our guides said they were one of the best groups they had ever had. Well done Year 11, already planning our next trip!

Harrogate Festival of Music, Speech & Drama

Over the last three weekends, the Harrogate Competitive Festival of Music, Speech and Drama has been taking place and many King James's pupils have been involved. The festival has been running since 1936, and attracts entrants from all across the north of England and beyond, offering a chance for youngsters to perform in acting, singing, music and drama. Participants have the opportunity to perform to a live audience, to watch and listen to other entrants, and receive encouraging and supportive feedback on their performances from distinguished professional adjudicators. King James was wonderfully represented across all of the weekends this year.



In the final concert held on 17th March, which sees overall winners awarded the accolade of 'Young Musician of the Festival' and winner of the 'Speech and Drama Championship', 5 of the 13 qualifying category winners this year were King James students: Hannah D, Y12 'Piano Championship Winner', Ruby N, Y13, winner of both 'Sonnet' and 'Entertainment' classes, and Sebastian W, Y13, winner of 'Verse Speaking' and 'Prepared Reading' classes. All performed amazingly and confidently and were a joy and pleasure to watch. It was wonderful to see King James's School so well represented at this event, and being so supportive of one another. Well done to them all.

Drama News

There are lots of exciting things happening in the Drama department over the coming weeks. The London Drama residential leaves on Thursday 21st March for 4 days in London, during which students will experience West End performances, a West End workshop and Masterclass, a backstage tour of the National Theatre as well as museum visits.



House Drama Directors have met and will be advertising their auditions in the first week back. Please look out for notices and posters advertising the performance and audition dates. Drama teachers will update students on their return to school after Easter.

Finally, Year 7 drama club have produced lots of improvisations and entertaining scenes throughout the term. Thank you and congratulations to all of you for your commitment to Drama.

Fly Fishing

Two of our Student Support Group enjoyed a fantastic day Fly Fishing at Kilnsey Trout Farm near Kettlewell last week, accompanied by Mrs Keogh and Dr Child. They were instructed how to handle a fly rod and line and mastered the difficult technique of casting. They managed to land a trout which they then took home and had for tea! The fishing instructor sent the Headteacher a lovely letter praising the boys' excellent attitude, behaviour and engagement on the day.



The Week Ahead: 8th April 2024

Personal Development Focus: Respectful - Resilience

"Creating and understanding good learning habits by listening and responding to feedback and advice".

Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Year Council Meeting Week KS3 House Week 3 Walking Talking English Mock 2	11		
Tue				
Wed	Year 10 Exams start	10		
Thur	Textiles Mock Exam	12		
Fri	Textiles Mock Exam	12		

World Book Week

Hopefully the Easter holidays will give us all time to enjoy some reading. To inspire you to pick up a book, we wanted to share this amazing photograph created by one of our sixth formers, Jess Beaumont, of her form for the Extreme Reading competition during book week.



Duke of Edinburgh News

This week, 54 students successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh First Aid Training. These were predominately Year 9s with a couple of Year 11s as well.

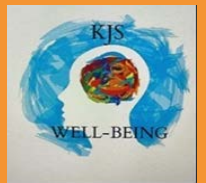
The students enjoyed putting into practice what they had learnt during the morning sessions, by role play scenarios during the afternoon, despite the wet and muddy field.

Thank you to Chis, our first aid trainer, and Tammy who supported the groups during the CPR training.



KJS Wellbeing Instagram Account

Please take some time to check out the student run KJS Wellbeing Instagram account - @kjswellbeing.



It is run by the Year 12 Wellbeing Leaders and anyone can follow for lots of tips and advice to support wellbeing.

Reminder regarding student absence

In preparation for the summer term, a brief reminder about the procedure for reporting a students' absence from school. Please use the online form on the website, which can be found using the link below or via the QR code shown.

<https://forms.office.com/e/V33eE88Xj2>

Report Student Absence



Hello from Bebra!

Tired but happy after having arrived in Bebra on Monday morning following a 20 hour coach and ferry journey, the 19 German exchange students eagerly await meeting their partners. We are all looking forward to our week in Germany celebrating the 50th anniversary of the school exchange between KJS and Brüder Grimm Gesamtschule.



Wishing all of our families a very Happy Easter break and we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 8th April 2024.





National
Autistic
Society
Supporter

Harrogate
and District
Branch



Autism and Neurodiversity Acceptance & Café

- Information on what we do; Girls Group, Youth Group, newly started Ladies Group
- Discuss Pathways, Support, Individual concerns, North Yorkshire Autism Strategy
- Cakes and drinks (cash only)
- Book stall (donations welcome)
- Art work



Easter Saturday 30th March 2024

10.00 am – 3.00 pm

The Wesley Methodist Chapel, Oxford St, Harrogate, HG1 1PP

Thank you

**for helping to create a society
that works for autistic people**



www.autism.org.uk





29th April 7-8pm

Come and join us online, we're talking about

Helping kids back into school



FREE

Book online facefamilyadvice.co.uk
go to the PARENT page

Creative Writing Workshop

Join us for a creative writing workshop with a twist! Explore a range of ideas and techniques, make new friends and have fun thinking creatively! Sweet treats are provided!

Saturday 3rd February,

Saturday 10th February

6:00-8:00pm

Chain Lane Community Hub

Age 11-16

£10

rowena.teach@gmail.com

