

Friday 1st March 2024

King James's School Newsletter

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The Headteacher's Message

This week we have seen a few glimpses of sunshine and the promise of spring emerging. As World Book Week is on the horizon, I would like to share the joy of a spring poem.

Daffodowdilly, AA Milne

She wore her yellow sun-bonnet,
She wore her greenest gown;
She turned to the south wind
And curtsied up and down.
She turned to the sunlight
And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbour:
'Winter is dead.'



Clare Martin
Headteacher

Wellbeing Ambassadors

Our Wellbeing Ambassadors were fortunate to receive training from the NHS Wellbeing In Mind Team - to understand what role they can play in supporting the health and wellbeing of all students at KJS. Our ambassadors covering years 7 - 11 were engaged and enthusiastic about how they can help us on our wellbeing journey. They will meet in the near future with our brilliant 6th form ambassadors to start running some whole school projects.

Uniform

Thank you for your support in upholding our uniform standards - we are delighted with the response and appreciate the effort from parents. By working together, we now have ALL students wearing correct uniform. We are continuing to work with parents of a handful of students in each year who are still not wearing the uniform as intended, but the vast majority of students look extremely smart.

Please note that all schools have similar uniform standards - it is not just KJS! The Department for Education has an expectation that schools have a uniform as they see it is critical for creating a positive ethos - please see below:

"We strongly encourage schools to have a uniform as it can play a key role in:

- promoting the ethos of a school
- providing a sense of belonging and identity
- setting an appropriate tone for education

Ofsted evaluates how consistently policies, like uniform, are adhered to by all students as this is a clear indicator of school standards. The DfE states that "Teachers can discipline pupils for breaching the school's rules on appearance or uniform." Our approach is to work with students and families to avoid the use of sanctions wherever possible by:

- listening to students' views and amending our policy so that it is more practical and cost-effective - such as by including black leisure shoes, black tights, and designing a new skirt option;
- providing half a term lead-in time and supporting families to resolve any potential issues;
- loaning pre-loved uniform if needed.
- providing coat hooks in cloakroom areas for students to use if they wish to do so.
- supporting families with financial difficulties

Anti-Social Behaviour

We are aware of some unfortunate anti-social behaviour in the town last weekend which involved some of our students as well as young people from other schools. This type of behaviour goes against our school values and gives a poor impression of young people - most of whom are absolutely delightful and are perfect ambassadors for our school and our families. To help reinforce our expectations and provide reassurance to students, the police will be leading a series of assemblies on 12th March about their role in the community and the way they work to build relationships and keep everyone safe.

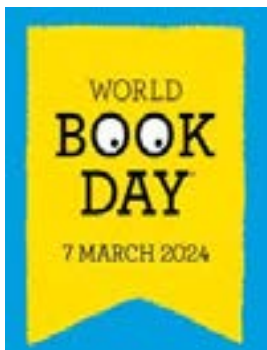


Training Day 14th March 2024



A reminder that school is closed for all students on 14th March. We will be involved in a Federation training day with colleagues from Boroughbridge High School – sharing best practice around engaging learning activities.

World Book Day



World Book Day is on 7th March and there will be lots of exciting activities happening all week. The teachers are dressing up as book characters or book themes on the big day and teachers have recorded themselves sharing their favourite novels. Students will be involved in fun reading activities in their lessons and their teachers will be reading *The Landlady* by Roald Dahl to the whole school over the course of the day. We also are very lucky to have some visiting authors in school running creative writing workshops on dystopian fiction and an epic comic and graphic novel workshop for our Key Stage 3 students. Reading improves our memory, our understanding of the world and reduces our stress levels so please do encourage your child to pick up a book and read this week. The recommended reads can be found [here](#). Happy World Book Day and happy reading!!

Battle of the Books

Harrogate & District School Librarians' Support Group were delighted to hold their annual literary quiz, Battle of the Books, at Queen Mary's School on Wednesday, 28 February. The quiz was inspired by the success of the Internationally renowned Kids' Lit Quiz for students aged ten to thirteen. Battle of the Books continues this encouragement of reading for pleasure by bringing together pupils in Years 9 and 10.

Queen Mary's, Topcliffe, the 2023 winners, hosted teams of four from across the local area battling to win the coveted Michael Rosen Cup. Contestants answered questions over 6 rounds to prove their knowledge of literature.

After a hard-fought and very close contest, King James's School Team B team took the title by just half a point with St Aidan's in 2nd place and King James's School Team A in 3rd place.



Our congratulations go to them, and we look forward to the 2025 competition at King James's School, Knaresborough.

School Development Plan

Please be assured that, alongside upholding our basic expectations, we are also forging ahead with our school improvement activities. Please see [here](#) for a reminder of what they are. Next week, we have a visit from our LA Advisor to review our work around Reading, with a particular focus on vocabulary instruction. We look forward to sharing individual subject action plans with him, and to him joining us in quality assurance activities that will include joint lesson visits and work scrutiny.

England Rugby Training

On Friday, students from the year 9 and 10 rugby team got the opportunity to watch the England Rugby Union team train at the LNER Community stadium in York. The lads observed the players showcasing their abilities whilst learning new skills to implement into their own game!



The Week Ahead: 4th March 2024

Personal Development Focus: Engaged - Initiative "Make room for reading and use the written word to improve knowledge and understanding".				
Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Food & Nutrition Practical Exam Berlin trip Parents Information evening	11 GCSE History students	Periods 1-4 6.00pm	In school S1
Tue	CERN Trip departs World Book Week Event Food & Nutrition Practical Exam	12 & 13 Physics students Various 11	All day Periods 1-4	CERN, Geneva In school In school
Wed				
Thur	CERN trip returns Paris trip departs Food & Nutrition Practical Exam York Theatre trip	GCSE French students 11 10 & 12	Periods 1-4 6.00pm	Paris In school York Theatre Royal
Fri	Lego League Competition National Reading Champions Quiz	Various 7 & 8	All day Morning	York In school

Understanding Anger: Yours & Theirs!



UNDERSTANDING ANGER

11th March 7-9pm £24

Jane Keyworth, Lead Facilitator at FACE giving a two hour talk to parents (and teachers), explaining what anger is, why we have it and how to manage it.

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Parent / carer support session on ADHD

Topics covered: Common characteristics of ADHD; What can parents do? ADHD & sleep; ADHD & girls; Accessing assessment and diagnosis; What support is available locally.

Date

12th March 2024: 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Location

Online via MS Teams

Further information

Please email tewv.wimthamandrich@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.