

Friday 12th January 2024

King James's School Newsletter

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The Headteacher's Message

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a relaxing break. It has been lovely to welcome students back to school for the spring term of 2024!

This term we welcome two new members of staff to our team. Alison Knight has joined us as Assistant Head, SENCO and Karly Wallace as Head of Science. Both new colleagues are bringing significant experience and expertise to our team, and we are delighted to welcome them to King James's. We also have two colleagues covering maternities: Noreen Sloan, in Art, and Peter Ho in Science.

Clare Martin
Headteacher

Return to the Forbidden Planet - Tickets on sale!

Don't forget to look out for tickets on sale for the forthcoming school production of Return to the Forbidden Planet. Tickets will be on sale during January at lunchtimes outside the library! £7.50 concessions and £9.50 for adults!

Reporting Student Absences and Appointments

There have been some changes made to the absence/appointment reporting form over the Christmas break, so if you are needing to let school know that your child will be absent from school, please access the form from the school website, rather than any saved links you may have created.

Help Shape the Future of Knaresborough!

Please complete this [SURVEY](#) to share your views about Knaresborough and help influence its future. The survey is part of the Shared Prosperity Fund work across the town and will help provide the evidence for future investment. Knaresborough Voice wants to achieve the highest possible response rate – so please spread the word and don't forget to fill it in yourself!



Year 11 revision support

Many thanks for your support this week by attending the Year 11 parents evening. Our students will be given support from their teachers in lessons with revision for their summer exams. We have put together a programme of revision sessions that we encourage all students to attend. Please click on the link to the website to access this ([Year 11 revision sessions](#)) and this has also been sent out by email. There will also be a revision support evening on Monday 19th February at 6pm for parents of Year 10 and 11 students. This will provide information on the best ways to revise, exam preparation and issues such as wellbeing. Further details to follow

Duke of Edinburgh congratulations!

We would like to pass on our congratulations to Abs C in Year 13, who received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh certificate on Friday from HRH Prince Edward.

This is a fantastic achievement and we are all very proud of Abs for completing the challenge. Well done!



King James's Sixth Form

You might be asking the question why choose King James's Sixth Form? In my view there are multiple reasons why King James's Sixth Form is an excellent choice, too many to list here - plus, I'm biased. So, what do other people think?

Here's what a current YR12 student said, 'I chose King James's Sixth Form due to the close relationship I had with my teachers, the resources, and the wide variety of courses available.'

Our Senior Student Leaders said, 'We've found King James Sixth Form to be incredibly helpful in preparing students for whatever lie ahead of them Post 18. The pastoral and academic support ensures students feel encouraged and empowered to achieve their goals.'

"Students in the sixth form are well supported by a strong pastoral team. Personal, social and health education lessons continue in the sixth form. Students learn about healthy relationships and staying safe. They are prepared well for adulthood. Staff work with students to explore potential future careers and, according to students' interests, apply for university courses or jobs".

Students and parents will get the opportunity to find out more about the Sixth Form at our Sixth Form Open Evening between 6:30pm and 8pm on Thursday 18 January. Our Sixth Form prospectus for 2024/5 is available via our website. You can access it here <https://king-james.co/6thFormProspectus2425/> or by using the QR code.

When OFSTED visited the school last year they said, 'Students in the sixth form flourish. There is a broad range of subjects available. Pastoral support for sixth-form students is highly effective'.

The Sixth Form application form is accessed via the Sixth Form website <https://www.king-james.co.uk/joining-our-sixth-form/>

We are very proud of our Sixth Form at King James's. If you are interested in finding out more about joining the Sixth Form, come along next Thursday. We look forward to meeting you!

If you have any questions about joining the Sixth Form, please email sixthform@king-james.co.uk



The Week Ahead: 15th January 2024

Personal Development Focus: Ready - Integrity

"being able to implement positive change"

| Day | Session | Year | Time | Location |
|------|---|------|-------------|------------------------|
| Mon | Y13 Mock exams (week 2) Paris Trip Parents Meeting | | 6.00pm | |
| Tue | Digital Photography Mock Exam Research Day 1 | 11 | | |
| Wed | | | | |
| Thur | Sixth Form/Post-16 Open Evening | | 6.30-8.00pm | Whole school |
| Fri | Breakfast visit to Sixth Form | 11 | 8.45-9.10am | Sixth Form Common Room |

Moments Matter...Attendance Counts!

Did you know...? The link between attendance and attainment is clear. Nationally, 36% of children with Persistent Absence (attendance less than 90%) in Key Stage 4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs compared with 84% of regular attenders. It's never too late to benefit from good attendance. More than half (54%) of pupils who were PA in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, passed at least 5 GCSEs, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years.

Attendance is important for more than just attainment. Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.

This week we will be texting parents so that you know what your child's attendance is and how many days they have missed from school. In form time, all students have recorded their attendance in their planners and tutors will continue to monitor attendance throughout the academic year. Please help support your child to have good attendance as every moment really does count. After a period of absence, tutors will have a re-entry catch up to welcome students back and provide any additional support they may need. A leaflet to help support parents with attendance will be available on the school website from Monday. In addition, this useful website from the NHS gives advice about whether students should attend school if they are unwell:

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)



Uniform

The vast majority of our students arrived back after the Christmas break wearing our uniform with pride and we thank you for your support with this. As you will be aware, the school uniform immediately identifies our students as part of our KJS community and all students are expected to consistently wear the full and correct uniform whilst on the school site, which so many of them proudly do. We are aware that there is always a large range of opinions when it comes to uniforms within the school and with such a large community, it is not always possible that everyone will agree. However, we are proud that our school has such incredibly high expectations which has translated into excellent student outcomes and a friendly and purposeful environment.

In our drive to raise and maintain these high standards our staff will be working with certain students and families over this next half term to support them to consistently meet our expectations. After half term any student who arrives on site not meeting these expectations will be provided with an alternative loaned item, or, will be taken out of circulation each day until the expectation is met. For clarity our expectations around uniform are illustrated opposite.



Please note that in addition to allowing black tights this academic year, we have now made reasonable adjustments following recent student, parent and staff voice and will accommodate those students who may need to wear a plain black, flat-soled leather style 'trainers shoe' (see images). Whilst it is preferable that students wear the formal style of footwear as per our policy, this is to take into account societal changes including the marketing from high street retailers, the cost of living, unethical fast fashion that can encourage a disposable society and students break and lunch activities.

Finally, the school will seek particular support from parents in ensuring that the length of kilts is appropriate for a school setting, which is below mid-thigh. Students do have the option to wear trousers and will be asked to do so if the kilt is unreasonably modified in anyway that results in it being an inappropriate length. All students are expected to maintain



smart, conventional and business-like standards in ALL aspects of their appearance, and the Governors and staff at KJS expect that, in choosing KJS, parents will accept and support this dress code for their children.