

Friday 14th March 2025

King James's School Newsletter

Inside this issue:

- Year 11 & 13 Revision Support
- Comic Relief, Friday 21st March 2025
- House Drama
- Drama Council
- Thought for the Fortnight
- Year 11 Photography trip
- The Week Ahead
- Assemblies
- Full Booked!
- Welcome to our new Attendance Officer
- Careers Fair
- Musical Achievement

The Headteacher's Message

This week we have had a visit from our LA Advisor with a focus on inclusion, including provision for SEND and Pupil Premium students. He met with teaching staff and teaching assistants, members of the governing board who lead on SEND and PP, as well as students, who took part in two Pupil Voice panels.

He also visited some lessons, looked at books, and provided some extremely positive feedback on provision in these areas.

Thank you to Mrs Knight who led and coordinated the visit, as well as all those staff and students who were involved on the day.

Clare Martin
Headteacher

Year 11 & 13 Revision Support

Years 11 and 13 are busy revising for their GCSE and A Level exams this summer. The subject revision programmes and many other revision resources are on the school website. In addition to this there are many revision support sessions available for students to attend at lunch time and after school.

Please do encourage your child to attend and thank you for all your support in the next few months helping our students to prepare for their final exams. The attached flyers are also available on the school website.

Comic Relief - Friday 21st March 2025

Red Nose Day this year is a celebration of 40 years of fund raising for Comic Relief.

We are hopeful that we can pull together as a school community to support incredible projects which help children to be happier, families stronger, women safer, communities prouder, and millions of lives fairer. As a school, we are hoping to raise money and awareness of this important charity by having a non uniform day on Friday 21st March. In return for wearing casual clothes, we are asking for donations via Parentpay.

The following expectations will be delivered through tutors next week to ensure the day has a good balance of fundraising fun and students meeting our values and expectations:

- Non uniform days are a chance to express your personal style so pick clothes that represent you and make you feel good within the school's guidance.
- The schools guidance for non uniform days are - Comfortable clothing. No low cut tops, crop tops or very short shorts or skirts. Please avoid clothing that exposes too much skin. No clothing with inappropriate language, symbols or images.
- If you have PE on a non uniform day you must still bring your PE kit.
- Behaviour expectations in lesson and during unstructured times remain the same and students are expected to meet them.

We would be grateful if you could support us by ensuring your child meets these expectations in school on Friday.



House Drama

The preparation for the next big annual event of the Drama calendar will be starting next week. Any interested Sixth Formers hoping to direct this year need to attend a meeting at lunchtime on Thursday 20th March in the Drama Circle. Years 7-11 wanting to audition, look out for posters and more information.

Auditions will be after school on the 1st April and 3rd April but the Houses for each night are yet to be confirmed. Keep an eye out for posters and an eye on the KJS Drama Instagram for more information. We are all very excited!

Drama Council

Applications for joining our Drama Council have been extended to Friday 20th March. Thank you so much to those who have applied already. We have had some really passionate applications already and lots of you saying you'd like to get involved! More information below - good luck!



👋 Join Our New Drama Council! 👋

Are you passionate about drama and eager to make a difference in our department? We're launching a brand new Drama Council, and we want YOU to be part of it!

As a member of the Drama Council, you'll have the chance to:

- 🌟 Help manage our Drama Department Instagram 📱
- 🌟 Plan and organise fundraising events 💰
- 🌟 Have a say in trips, workshops, and events 🎭
- 🌟 Represent students and help shape the future of drama at our school!

If you're enthusiastic, creative, and full of ideas, we'd love to hear from you! To apply, simply send an email to Mrs Haughton with a few sentences explaining why you'd be a great addition to the Drama Council. ❤️

Thought for the Fortnight

The Thought for the Fortnight for the weeks beginning 17th and 24th March is "It's not our differences that divide us, it is our inability to recognise, accept and celebrate those differences".

It is linked to the assemblies which focus on protected characteristics that are being delivered to all students the week beginning 24th March.

The Key Takeaways are:

- There are 9 protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage & Civil Partnership, Pregnancy & Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex, Sexual Orientation.
- The law ensures fair treatment and equal opportunities for everyone.
- Everyone has differences, that is what makes society interesting. We want KJS to be an inclusive and respectful environment.
- Showing respect, kindness and empathy to everyone you come into contact with helps to ensure everyone feels safe and valued.

If you witness any discriminatory or intolerant behaviour, you must report it to a member of staff.

Year 11 Photography Trip

Year 11 Photography students went on a very successful trip to the Bradford Industrial Museum and The Royal Armouries in Leeds for their photography exam on the theme of Gathering. Students engaged creatively with the collections, recording images which they are currently editing in school. The staff had a great day out and enjoyed both the experience of recording images and looking as well as the positive relationships they had as our students behaved impeccably. Thank you to parents who also enabled this trip to go ahead.

The printmakers at the Industrial Museum kindly created the personalised hand typographic print shown here of our day on their own press and demonstrated how it was made!



The Week Ahead: 17th March 2025

Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon				
Tue	Rotary Technology Tournament			
Wed	Year 8 Parents Evening	8	4.30-7.30pm	Online
Thur	DofE First Aid Course	Dof E students		
Fri	Comic Relief non uniform day			

Assemblies

Assemblies next week are being delivered by Mr Phillips (Student Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator) and students will have the opportunity to watch Teachers Talk Part 2.

Teachers Talk Part 2 is a continuation of our wellbeing video series that was well received by students. The first part focused on staff openly discussing mental health, which had a fantastic impact on students, helping them see that everyone faces challenges and that it's okay to talk about wellbeing.

For Part 2, we are focusing on small, everyday actions that can improve mental health. This video will feature staff sharing activities they do outside of work that support their wellbeing—whether it's going for a walk, spending time with pets, reading, or simply catching up with friends. By showcasing this, we hope to inspire students to reflect on their own routines and find simple ways to boost their mental health.

We believe that seeing their teachers prioritising wellbeing will reinforce the importance of self-care and encourage positive habits. The video will be shared with students in school, and we encourage you to have conversations at home about the themes explored.

Thank you for your continued support in promoting mental health awareness

Fully Booked!

As a reading school, we strive to inspire our students to keep reading for pleasure and have the confidence to embrace new opportunities. Our annual literary festival 'Fully Booked! A Celebration of Reading' involves the whole school in sharing stories, celebrating authors, illustrators, creative writing and most importantly having fun.

This year, we were delighted to welcome Regie Rigby, a literacy consultant and owner of Destination Venus, a comic store in Harrogate. Regie combines his experience as a teacher with his love and interest for comics to lead creative workshops in which students are introduced to comic creation. Our students learned about some of the history of comic books, the challenges and successes of published authors, and what it is that makes drawings become a comic. Students were tasked with creating their very own comics, and we were treated to some incredible artistic talent, fantastic storytelling, and brilliant comedy.

It was also a pleasure to welcome back a former KJS student, Rowena Lloyd, to run a series of workshops exploring the Knaresborough Castle Riot. Rowena is the Director of Yorkshire CREATE which offers opportunities for people of all ages and skill levels to explore and develop their creative talents. Students were introduced to the history of the riot through what little facts and documents exist, as well as personal writings of some of those involved. They then used these facts to craft their own creative writing pieces from the perspective of someone at that time. There were some wonderful ideas explored by the students, and they did an amazing job of considering the feelings and motivations of the people involved.

Rowena will use the work and ideas presented by our students to contribute to a performance happening at Knaresborough Castle entitled "The Knaresborough Eleven" on Saturday 10th August.

There was also a wide range of engaging departmental activities throughout the week. For example, the maths department read aloud excerpts from Rob Eastaway's 'How to Take A Penalty' introducing our students to the hidden mathematics of sport. In drama, listening to an extract from 'Sweeney Todd' provided our KS3 students with the perfect introduction into their new topic of Victorian Theatre.

Many of our students have taken part in the multiple competitions on offer. The entries to the 'Dress Your Potato' competition have ranged from individual characters to entire scenes and the creativity and craftsmanship on display is inspiring. For the 'Graphic Novel Bookmark' competition we have seen a mixture of genres in the 4-panel comic template and some of the most vibrant and spectacular colouring ever!

Our lunchtime extracurricular events were led by students, and it was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they were planning and leading the sessions. Overall, it was such an exciting week which sparked some great discussions and got our students talking more about reading. See the next page for more photographs.



Welcome to our new Attendance Officer

We would like to welcome Mrs Sutherland to the Pastoral Team as our Attendance Champion. Mrs Sutherland will be working with teachers, students and parents with any issues relating to attendance, this includes celebrating those who maintain their attendance levels, those who are showing improvement and understanding why some students may not be achieving expected levels. The role of Attendance Champion appealed to Mrs Sutherland because of her curiosity of why people behave in certain ways. To quote Ted Lasso "Be curious not judgmental". The answers are very rarely simple and joining a pastoral team who are dedicated in identifying the whys and finding solutions which will have both short term and long-term benefits, made applying for the position hard to resist. Over the next few months, she is looking forward to getting to know the students and creating more incentives which reward those who are improving. Undoubtedly, there will be a few difficult conversations ahead, but they will always be done with the goal of obtaining an outcome in everyone's best interest.



At King James's our attendance expectation is 96% and while we appreciate there may be genuine reasons why your child might not be in school, for some there can be other factors, such as concern over academic progress, friendship groups and mental health issues, to name a few. If your child is struggling with attendance, please feel free to contact Mrs Sutherland or anyone in the Pastoral team to discuss further.

Careers Fair - Wednesday 23rd April - Save the Date!

We will be welcoming employers, trainers, colleges and universities into school to meet with our students and parents on Wednesday 23rd April 2025.

Day session, students only (10am-3pm): During the day, students will spend time interacting with our visitors, asking questions and researching the choices open to them after school.

The event will help students understand their Post 16-18 choices and to think about their next steps.

Early Evening, parents and students (4pm-6.30pm): the event will be open for parents and students, and our Year 11 and Year 13 students are welcome to attend this session.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Musical Achievement

One of our Year 9 students, Euan A, performed in Harrogate Festival on piano last weekend and achieved really highly in his class.

Well done Euan on this fantastic achievement.



Year 13 Revision Support Sessions 2024-25

Subject	Type of revision	Date	Who is involved	Day & time	Location	Other information
English Literature	Alternate drop in clinic/ themed revision lesson	Week A Thursday (drop in) Week B Wednesday (themed)	Mr Gordon and special guests	Wednesday 3:20 – 4:20	M60	Sign up with Mr Gordon
English Language	Drop in clinic	Week A Thursday	Miss Quinn	After school 3:20-4:20	M53	Bring a question or a topic of conversation to revisit or work on
Media Studies	Revision as requested by students	Thursdays starting after half term.	Mrs Middleyard	After school 3:15-4	M61	Please sign up for sessions with Mrs Middleyard
Maths	Past paper society	Tuesdays	Maths department	Tuesdays 3.15-4.15	L52	Bring a past paper to be working on, staff available to support
Maths	Topic specific revision sessions	Weds B Period 3 Thurs B Period 3	Mrs Coldrick	Weds B Period 3 Thurs B Period 3	L60	Please refer to the schedule from Mrs Coldrick
German	Revision as requested by students	Ongoing	Mrs Copperthwaite and Miss Banks	Drop in sessions. Open door policy	M16/M8	
Computer Science	Revision and coursework catch up	Tuesdays	Miss Allgar	After school 3:15-4:30	L2	
History	Resources on itsLearning Drop in clinic	Wed lunch Week A	Miss Moss	12.30		

Year 11 Revision Support Sessions 2024-25

Subject	Type of revision	Date	Who is involved	Day & time	Location	Other information
History	Lunchtime support	Every Weds lunch	Miss Moss	Weds 12:30-1:05	L8	
History	Its Learning/ at home	NA	Hist Dept	NA	ITs Learning	We have revision videos on Its Learning on technique and content
Languages	Open door policy	Anytime, Revision sessions Monday afterschool	Mrs Copperthwaite and Miss Banks	Anytime	M16/M17	Revision material on ItsLearning. Revision sheet provided
Computer Science	'One byte at a time' hub for coding and revision.	Every weds lunchtime and Monday afterschool	Miss Allgar	Weds 12:30-1:05 Monday 3:15-4:15	L2	Weekly revision materials on Showbie
Creative iMedia	Online 'Know it all ninja' resource/ lunchtime coursework catch up	Thursday lunchtime	Mr Dumont	12:30-1:05	S15	Weekly revision materials on Showbie
Business Studies	Teacher led revision for mock exams	Wednesday afterschool	Mr Foley and Business Teachers	3.15pm-4pm	SF2	Start from 16th October
Music	Teacher lead revision	Thursday lunchtime	Mrs Woodfine	Thursdays 12.45 - 1.15	Q6	Start from 17h Oct
English	Afterschool sessions (Literature focus) Tutor-time intervention (invite only) - Mon + Thurs	Starts 5th Feb.	All GCSE teachers	Wednesdays 3.25-4.25	English dept. (see the signs)	Informal drop ins (organise with your teacher)
RS	Teacher – led revision	Every Monday lunchtime	Miss Stickland and Mrs Dunstan	12:40-1:10	RS	
Mathematics	Past paper support	Tuesday after school	Maths department	Tuesdays 3.15-4.15	L52	Bring past papers and revision guides. These can be your homework papers or any Edexcel/ OCR GCSE paper.
Geography	ItsLearning/Home Study/ Open door policy at lunch. Teacher led revision	Any lunchtime TBC by individual class teacher	Mr Keeble	Any lunchtime from 12.30-12.55pm	D11	Yellow revision sheet has been handed to students. ItsLearning will have guided "talking Heads" PowerPoints. Revision guides and white work booklets bought in Year 10.
DT	Lunch and after school drop in.	Thursday after school, access to IT rooms every lunchtime	DT department	3.15 - 4.30	D2	
Science	Required practicals (theory recall and application to exam qs)	Monday afterschool	Science department	3:20-4:20	Science (SCO directs to correct lab)	Weekly schedule on science lab doors
Biology	Paper 1 content (theory recall and application to exam qs)	Friday afterschool	Mrs Conning	3:20-4:20	S60	Weekly schedule on S60 door