

Friday 19th July 2024

King James's School Newsletter

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Rhine/Moselle Trip

On the evening of Sunday 7th July, 44 Year 8 students and 5 members of staff set off for Germany. They travelled overnight via ferry and coach, arriving in Koln at lunchtime on Monday.



There was a full itinerary, including a visit to the Cathedral, free time shopping and a visit to the Lindt chocolate museum. The following day, students experienced a chair lift in the town of Boppard, went on a river cruise down the Rhine and ended the day with a game of bowling. The next day was spent at Phantasialand, a famous theme park.

The trip was a huge success and students thoroughly enjoyed the activities, experiencing German food and culture and getting to try out their German language skills.



Message from the Headteacher

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your fantastic support of the school over the past year. We look forward to working with you, and our new set of parents next year, to continue to provide opportunities for all children to succeed and flourish. In the meantime, we wish you all a very happy summer break.

Clare Martin
Headteacher

Start of autumn term arrangements

A reminder of arrangements for the start of term in September:

Monday 2nd September 2024:
School closed – staff training day.

Tuesday 3rd September: 2024
Year 7

Year 12 - Induction assembly followed by individual enrolment meetings with lessons starting on Friday 6 September. (Full details provided on 3rd September).

Wednesday 4th September:
school opens for ALL students at the normal time.

GCSE and A-Level Results

We look forward to our students receiving their results in August in recognition of all of their hard work at KJS. Students should collect results from the Sixth Form block between 9am – 11am.

A-Level Results – Thursday 15th August 2024.
GCSE Results – Thursday 22nd August 2024.

Ofqual have written to students who will receive their results on 15th August outlining important information about results this year. The letter can be found here: [Letter to students from Ofqual and UCAS - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)


We welcome all students to our sixth form from KJS and from other schools. Next year we are expecting more external students than ever, and we would be delighted to extend a welcome to anyone else who wishes to join us.

Further information can be found on our website: [Sixth Form - King James's School \(king-james.co.uk\)](#)



Pastoral Support

We are delighted to be able to confirm the pastoral teams for each year group. There is a change of structure next year and an Associate Assistant Headteacher will be responsible for two year groups, with the exception of Year 7 who will also manage transition from primary school. These Associate Assistant Headteachers will have oversight of each year's behaviour, attendance, and academic performance, and will lead their team of Year Managers to support children daily. Our aim is to double the number of Year Managers to two per year group, and there are still vacancies for this exciting role. Please continue to spread the word.

Year group	Name of Associate Assistant Headteacher		Year Managers
7	Tom King Y7@king-james.co.uk		Year 7: Lucy English
8 & 9	Dan Berry Y8@king-james.co.uk Y9@king-james.co.uk		Year 8: Ross Roberts Year 9: Michala Dennis & Gayle Flintoff
10 & 11	Ash Atkinson Y10@king-james.co.uk Y11@king-james.co.uk		Year 10: Charlie Phillips Year 11: Lindsay Bramham & Sarah White
12 & 13	Jo Watson sixthformpastoralofficer@king-james.co.uk		Years 12 & 13: Mandy Simmons

Responsibilities of the Leadership Team

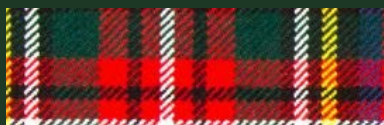
Name	Role	Responsibilities	Subject Link	Year Link
Clare Martin	Headteacher	Strategic planning, partnerships, governance, community	English, RS	
Paul McIntosh	Deputy Headteacher	Behaviour & attitudes, inclusion, student support, quality assurance	PE, Drama	9
Stuart Giles	Assistant Headteacher	Curriculum, exams, assessment, results	Maths, ICT, DT	8
Paula Eastaugh	Assistant Headteacher	Teaching & Learning, teacher professional development	Science, Music	11
Lisa Holdsworth	Assistant Headteacher Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Behaviour, Transition	Art	7
Laura Baker	Assistant Headteacher Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Personal Development, Careers	PSHE, Geography	10
John O'Hara	Assistant Headteacher Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Sixth Form & Federation	History, Social Sciences	12, 13
Alison Knight	Assistant Headteacher Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	SENCO, LAC. EAL	MFL	
Gill Kingston	Senior Leader Designated Safeguarding Lead	Safeguarding and Attendance		
Justin Waters	Director of Business Services	Premises, HR, site, catering, IT, finance		

The Week Ahead: 2nd September 2024

Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	STAFF TRAINING DAY School closed to students			
Tue	Autumn Term begins, Years 7 and 12 students only	7 & 12		
Wed	Autumn Term begins - all year groups	All year groups		
Thur				
Fri				

Uniform

Over the summer, parents may be buying new uniform. Please be aware of the following guidance to help aid decision-making.



Shoes – in response to student and parent feedback, we now allow plain black, flat, leather-looking leisure shoes, in addition to more formal footwear. Trainers are not permitted.

Skirts – the uniform shop will be selling an alternative style of skirt as a response to feedback from students. Still in the same tartan colours, they will sell a straight pencil-skirt style skirt, which students say will be more comfortable.

We are still concerned about the number of students who roll their kilts to an extent that they are too short for a formal, school, environment.

We require all skirts to be at least mid-thigh in length and hope that the alternative style will end this culture. Please note that for students who continually roll skirts, we will require them



to wear the trouser option. Ultimately, if this practice continues, we may need to review the uniform and consider moving to trousers for all students. This would be a great shame as the tartan kilt is such an icon for the school's heritage.

Pre-loved uniform

We do have a stock of pre-loved uniform available free of charge, or for a small donation if you are able to, for families who would like it.

If you would like to make use of this uniform, then pop into school over the summer holidays – times below.

Monday 22 July 1pm-3pm
 Wednesday 31 July 10-12noon
 Wednesday 21 August 10-12noon
 Thursday 29th August 2pm-3pm

Similarly, if you have any donations of uniform that is of no further use to you, then please consider dropping it off at these times.

Sixth Form Student Leaders

In July, staff were asked for nominations for Sixth Form student leaders, students who they felt have the right skills, attitude and personality for the role. Responsibilities include addressing staff and parents and being the representatives for all Sixth Form students. Out of the 56 nominations, 10 students stood in the election. They produced a manifesto and delivered a 2 minute speech to their year group.

All the students were brilliant, but the winning students were:

2 x Senior Student Leaders: Tom Mitchell & Leon Perry-Masey
 2 x Deputy Student Leaders - Charles Villaweaver & Imogen Lowe

Respecting our Community



Please could parents remind students of the need to respect our community both when travelling to and from school and over the holidays. We have had some complaints about them using private property as cut-throughs, such as Windsor Lane, which has upset residents.

As you are aware, we work closely with Knaresborough police and town council. The police led assemblies earlier in the year about anti-social behaviour in the community. We are delighted to report that between June 2023 and January 2024 there has been a decrease of 23%. Please continue to keep reporting and feeding information to the police about problems, so that incidents can be dealt with in real time. Thank you.

GCSE PE Aspirations day - Leeds Beckett University

On Monday 15th July, the Year 10 GCSE PE pupils had the opportunity to visit Leeds Beckett University. The aim of the day was to provide the pupils with knowledge of careers in the sporting sector, possible university courses and be inspired by the amazing facilities at Leeds Beckett sports campus in Headingley.

The day was full of variety, starting with a lecture on sports courses at university and information about Leeds as a city. The pupils then experienced a tour of the facilities and some strength and conditioning activation work.

After lunch it was time for a lecture on the role of the Sports Psychologist and how they fit into the team framework. The practical elements to the afternoon included a VO2 max fitness test on the impressive indoor track and athletic sessions across the different disciplines.

It was an eye-opening day for the pupils which will hopefully provide the motivation for the upcoming exam season, but also light the fire to continue their journeys in the sporting sector. We as a school can't thank Leeds Beckett enough for their welcoming approach and giving up their time for such a day. Thanks to Jamie, Andi, Bailey, Abbie, Katie and all the facilities team for their inputs and making it a truly special day.



Student Catering news

We have had a lot of positive feedback about the quality and variety of food on offer at break and lunchtime this year and will be making further improvements next term.

We will continue to offer a variety of options, including hot main meals, rice, noodles, hot sandwiches, grab-and-go items, build-your-own sandwiches, and build-your-own salads. Our hot meal range will start from £2, and sandwiches from £1.60. We will upload our new 4-week menus and price list over the summer.

Our offer of a 'meal deal' is particularly popular, and from September we will continue to offer a hot meal and dessert for £2.80. However, this deal will no longer include a drink.

There are two reasons for making this change. Firstly, as a school, we want to take positive steps towards reducing the amount of single-use plastic we use for environmental reasons. We have already changed a lot of our packaging to include more biodegradable options earlier in the year to reduce plastic waste. Students will be able to fill up their water bottles at no charge all year round which we hope will result in less plastic waste. Please encourage your child to bring a reusable bottle to school to do so.

Secondly, as parents will no doubt be aware, there have been significant increases in the cost of ingredients and energy costs in the last 2 years. We have worked closely with suppliers to manage the impact of this. We will continue to subsidise free school meals to the value of £2.80, which is more than we receive in funding.

Thank you for all your custom this year.

Staff training day

On Monday 2nd September, all our staff will be taking part in Positive Regard Practitioner training. This is part of our strategy to supporting a consistent, and relational, approach to managing behaviour, and to helping students learn to manage their emotions in everyday situations.

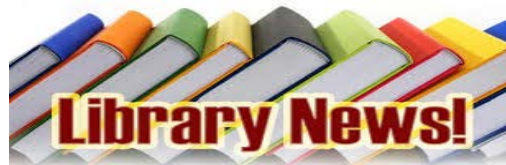
We will be revisiting this training throughout the year as we embed consistent approaches to behaviour management.

Knaresborough Youth Council

This week students heard about an exciting new opportunity from Chloe Thwaites (Youth Voice and Creative Engagement Office, NYCC). A new Youth Council is being set up in Knaresborough to allow young people from Year 6 to 13 to raise and discuss issues that are affecting them or the community with the aim to give young people a voice.

There are opportunities for two people per year group to be elected as Youth Councillor and Deputy Youth Councillor. If your child would like to nominate themselves then they need to submit 150 words on their personal strengths and the two big issues they feel young people are facing that they would like to work on.

For further information, see the flyer at the end of the newsletter.



Year 7 Accelerated Reading Awards

Many congratulations to all of our Y7 students who have improved not only their reading skills but also their independent learning skills through a variety of cross-curricular projects. We finished the year with students presenting their findings on the research question 'Why did the Titanic sink with such huge loss of life?' We ended the year with a huge celebration of achievements in reading and Mrs Martin was delighted to present the following students with their certificates and awards:

Star Readers		Reading Millionaires	Words Read
Emily K	Finlay R	Orla B	1,913,373
Rory G	Ollie W	Theo O	1,907,291
Evie L	Mazie D	Toby W	1,818,966
Emma P	Eva M-A	Huw B	1,292,923
George K	Grace W	Resilience in Reading	Commitment to Reading
Huw B	Andrew M	Tommy C	Grace W
Mia S	Will	Onai R	Emily M
Grace A	Milena H	House Trophy	Words Read
Simona A	Abi B	1st Wharfedale	12,627,688
Jessica G	Barnie D	2nd Swaledale	8,255,762
		3rd Airedale	9,864,701
		4th Nidderdale	6,205,712



Competition winners

All students and staff were invited to take part in our annual 'Skrentny' creative writing competition by writing a story of up to 1,000 words entitled 'The Window.' The competition was judged for a second year by Claire Margerison, Commissioning Editor at Routledge.

Thank you to everyone who entered the competition and many congratulations to Mia, Taylor, Faith and Mrs Parry.

KS3 winner (Mia M) "Beautiful depictions of nature and the passage of time with a lovely message."

KS4 winner (Taylor D) "The communication through music is very beautiful and it's intriguing as to why the characters never meet."

KS5 winner (Faith H) "The scene is really set by the haunting but fleeting images through the windows, and you really get a sense of eeriness. It's intriguing as you don't know what their job is and their fixation on the window is really strong. Short sentences evoke the sense and growing feeling of desperation."

Staff winner (Mrs Parry) "A lovely message of hope and really nice to read!"



Reading groups

Our three reading groups in Years 7-9 led by Mrs Bryden, Miss Thompson and Mrs Clitheroe have met once a week to discuss their favourite reads, review and rate books on award shortlists. This year, our Y7 students were selected to attend the national Children's Book Award ceremony in Birmingham. They all had an amazing time meeting authors and like-minded students from across the country.

We thought you might like to read Huw's review:

"The trip to Birmingham was incredible! Meeting the authors of all the wonderful shortlisted books was great, and being lucky enough to sit on a table with Liz Kessler was an honour. For me, the best part was when Liz was reading her portfolio and she read aloud the letter that I had written. It was great to see her reaction, and just great to be sat with her full stop really!"



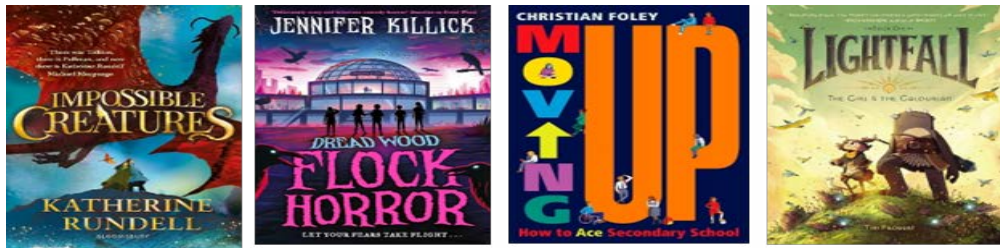
Summer READING

Parents/Carers

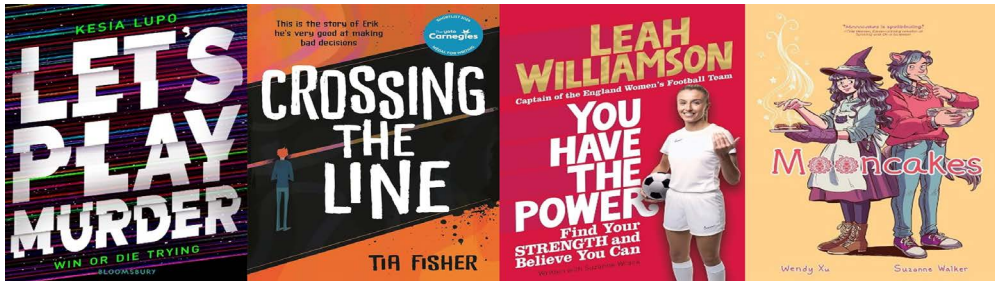
Looking for some summer reads to dive into over the break? Look no further, here are a range of genres:



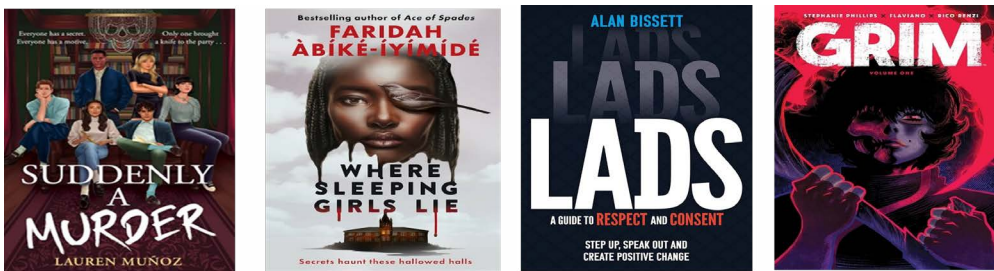
Year 7 Recommended Reads



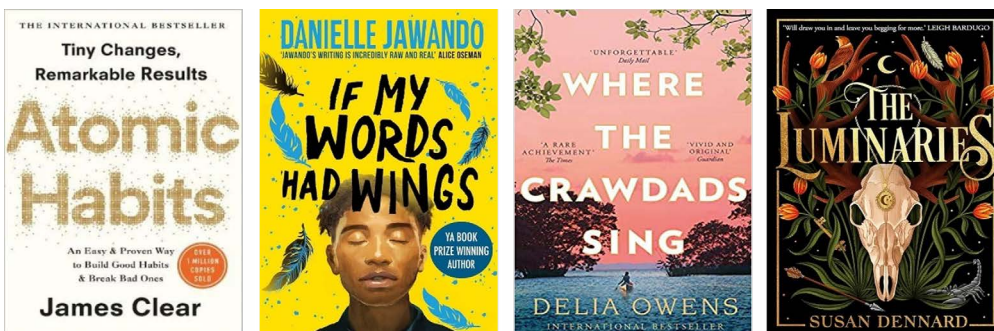
Year 8 & 9 Recommended Reads



Year 10 & 11 Recommended Reads



Sixth Form Recommended Reads



SUMMER FUN FAMILY CRAFT SESSIONS

Scarborough, Whitby - Monday, 29 July
 Pickering - Tuesday, 6 August
 Filey, Thirsk - Thursday, 8 August
 Northallerton - Friday, 9 August
 Malton, Ripon, Catterick - Monday, 12 August
 Norton - Tuesday, 13 August
 Skipton - Wednesday, 14 August
 Selby - Thursday, 15 August
 Knaresborough - Wednesday, 21 August
 Harrogate - Thursday, 22 August

FREE

Enjoy fun learning activities with your children - Any age children are welcome with parents, carers and grandparents. Come and have some FUN!



www.northyorks.gov.uk/adultlearning
 Tel: 01609 536 066
 Email: AdultLearningService@northyorks.gov.uk



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SUMMER HOLIDAY COMPETITION
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