

Friday 20th December 2024

# King James's School Newsletter

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## Message from the Headteacher

Seasons Greetings to all our families! I hope you have a lovely break, together with family and friends. Thank you for all your support over 2024 and we look forward to working with you in 2025!

Clare Martin  
Headteacher

## Merry Christmas from the KS3 Art Club



## Christmas Break Wellbeing Support

We are conscious that the Christmas break can be a difficult period for some families and young people. Therefore, we are even more mindful of support families may need over the break.

Please see our website for lots of useful sources of support and information if needed:

[Safeguarding and Wellbeing - King James's School](#)

In addition, [www.thegoto.org.uk](http://www.thegoto.org.uk) is a website developed by the NHS North Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group. It is a single point of information that promotes different mental health support services (like a signpost). The website is designed primarily for young people but there is information for parents and carers too.



## Safeguarding – Access to the School Site

We want to let all parents and carers know that from Monday 6th January we are opening our school site to students at 8:20 AM. This change will allow us to prioritise your child's safety and well-being. It also gives staff the opportunity to meet students on the gate, to welcome them back, offer support, and ensure a smooth transition into the school day. We believe this adjustment will create a more positive and secure learning environment for everyone.

In summary:

The school site will be closed to students until 8.20am. At 8.20am, staff will open gates and be there to meet and greet students, who may go to their Year Hubs or to the dining hall for breakfast. Gates are locked at 8.45am after which the only access is through reception; students will be recorded as late and have a lunchtime detention.

As a reminder, Year Hubs are:

- Y11 S1
- Y10 Dining hall
- Y9 Boys gym
- Y8 Girls gym
- Y7 Chaloner

Thank you for your understanding of these new arrangements.



## Expectations

On return to school in January, please remind students of our high expectations so that we get off to a great start to term. They should be 'Ready' for school:

**Attendance** – research shows that students who start the term with excellent attendance are more likely to maintain it. Please support us by re-introducing bedtime routines and helping students get organised so they can have a great start to the spring term.

**Punctuality** – school starts at 8.45am with form time, which is important to help set students up for the day. Please make sure that students arrive at school by 8.40am to ensure they are not late. Gates are locked at 8.45am, after which students will receive a late detention at lunchtime. Registers close at 9.15am after which students are recorded as absent.

**Uniform** – a reminder of the need for black, flat shoes (not trainers); and the need to remove any festive nails or eyelashes for school.

## “Twelve Days of a KJS Christmas”

This year, the staff have come together to create a special festive treat for our students: an adaptation of the classic “Twelve Days of Christmas,” reimagined to reflect life at King James’s.

The video, filled with fun, laughter, and plenty of Christmas spirit, has been shared with students during assemblies this week. A huge thank you to all the staff who took part and helped bring some festive joy to our school community.

For those who would like to enjoy it at home, you can watch the video here: [King James’s 12 Days of Christmas](#)



## The Week Ahead: 6th January 2025

Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	SPRING TERM BEGINS Y13 Mock Exams Week 1 Y11 Textiles Mock Exam Group 1 (Day 1)	13 11		
Tue	Y11 Textiles Mock Exam Group 1 (Day 2)			
Wed	Year 11 Parents’ Evening	11	4.30-7.30pm	Online
Thur	Y11 Textiles Mock Exam Group 2 (Day 1)	11		
Fri	Y11 Textiles Mock Exam Group 2 (Day 2)	11		

## Mobile phones

During the first week back in January we will be reminding our students about our expectations around the use of mobile phones and airpods, the reasons why we do not allow them to be used during the school day and the impact they have on their ability to be Ready, Respectful and Engaged.

Our reasons here at KJS as to WHY we believe their continued use during school time is not benefiting our students and in fact how it could be having a detrimental effect on their well-being and education, are:

- Negative impact on how we think. Due to the rapid, quick fire way phones provide us with information, our brains begin to not retain information as well. This is the exact thing we don’t want when we want them to learn in school.
- Negative impact on how we learn. Research has shown how regular mobile phone use can have a negative impact on our capacity to give a task our full attention. These are the exact skills our young people need during the school day and ultimately to pass exams.
- Negative impact on our social and emotional skills. The more time you spend looking at a screen, the less time you spend interacting in person with others. This makes it more difficult to establish interpersonal connections and strong relationships, which are important for mental well-being.

Our Expectations:

- Students are expected to switch off their phones and place them in their bags before they enter the school gates.
- Members of staff on the gates will be reminding students to do this as they arrive.
- They should remain out of sight until the bell at 3.15pm.
- If a student is seen with a phone they should expect to be asked to hand this into the member of staff.
- The student’s phone will then be retained for the rest of the day in a central safe place.
- The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day by their year team.
- This will be recorded on Bromcom so parents are aware that this has happened.
- Warnings will be given during the first week back and from Monday 13th January, any visible phones/airpods will be confiscated.

As parents, if you need to get a message to your children during the school day this can be done through calling main Reception or alternatively emailing their child’s year team. We would appreciate families speaking to their children about this over the holidays.

## Senior Prize Giving

On Wednesday evening we celebrated with the YR13 Class of 2024 at the Sixth Form Senior Prize Giving. It was fantastic to welcome back many of last years YR13 students and their parents to honour their successes, award special prizes and hand out their well-deserved certificates.

The informal gathering was the opportunity for many students to catch up with friends for the first time since they left school in July. Many have gone on to study at university, start full-time employment or travel and volunteer. It was great to hear what they have been doing since leaving school and reflect on their time in the Sixth Form.

We look forward to starting the recruitment process for new Sixth Form students at the Sixth Form Open Evening after the Christmas break, on Thursday 16th January 2025.



## Year 7 Christmas Activities

Tuesday was both a busy and festive day for our Year 7 pupils!

In the morning, Year 7 journeyed down to St John's Church to take part in the annual Christingle service. We arrived to a warm welcome from Rev. Gary and a beautifully decorated Church featuring dozens of Christmas trees sponsored/ decorated by local businesses, groups, and charities. The service included confident readings by some of our Year 7 pupils, a staff / student singalong, and a human Christingle (to Mr King's surprise)! A special thanks to our RS department for organising a fantastic morning out, as well as Mrs. Waddington and those students involved in the Brass Band who accompanied our carols as well as playing us in and out of the church.



Tuesday evening saw a shift in theme with our Year 7 Christmas Disco. Arriving via red carpet, it was clear to see our Year 7 pupils had dressed to impress in all manner of festive outfits! After a quick pit stop at the photo booth, the evening got into full swing with Christmas music, dancing, and a bite to eat. The evening was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the end of a successful first term settling into life at KJS. Thank you to our catering team for providing hundreds of milkshakes and hotdogs as well as those staff members who supported (and even threw some shapes) during the evening.

## Christmas shopping fun for Year 10

The Year 10 team, along with 80 year 10 students, ventured out on a festive shopping trip to Meadowhall ahead of the Christmas holidays. Despite the hustle and bustle of the busy Christmas shopping season, the students embraced the challenge and enjoyed browsing the wide range of stores and sitting down to some fast food! It was a wonderful opportunity for them to pick up last-minute gifts! The trip was a great success, with everyone returning in high spirits and making lasting memories. A big thank you to the Year 10 team for making it such an enjoyable and festive trip!



## Festive Reading

As we look forward to the festive period, the library has put together a collection of recommended books for reading over the holidays. The full list can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Students, parents/carers, staff and governors, please also be reminded that the library is still running the Creative Writing Competition, and you have until the 31st December 2024 to write and submit your entry. There are some amazing prizes on offer. For further details, please see the attached poster at the end of the newsletter.

More news from the library can be found on page 5.





# KING JAMES'S SIXTH FORM

Your future in safe hands

## OPEN EVENING 2025

Thursday 16th January  
6:30pm - 8:00pm



### Assemblies

The focus of the assemblies the first week back after Christmas is the importance of respect, delivered by Mrs Holdsworth and Mr McIntosh.

As part of their careers programme, Year 9 will be having an additional assembly from a guest speaker from Harrogate College.

### Careers

Next term, Year 9 will be choosing which GCSE option subject they want to study as they move into Key Stage 4. There will be lots of support and guidance for them in school through tutor time and assemblies and we also have the Year 9 options evening taking place for students and parents on Wednesday 5th February.



Year 11 students will be making decisions about their Post 16 pathway. There will be lots of support and guidance for them in school through tutor time and assemblies and there are several events taking place to help students make an informed decision. This includes the York College Taster Day on 14th and 16th January, KJS Post 16 options evening on 16th January and the Sixth Form Taster Day on 6th February.

We are encouraging and supporting all students to have completed their Post 16 applications by Friday 14th February.

If you haven't visited the Careers page on the school website yet, we encourage you to take a look as there is lots of information that parents can access to help support their child through the options process. A link to the Careers page is [HERE](#)

### Thought for the Fort-night

Thought for the Fortnight for the weeks beginning 6th and 13th January is linked to the Importance of Respect assemblies.



“People will forget what you have said, people will forget what you did but people will never forget how you made them feel”

The Key takeaways are:

- Treat others as you want to be treated yourself
- In lessons: show support and understanding when others speak, communicate in a positive way.
- Around school: show patience and good manners, behave safely and communicate politely.

### Funding for Policing and Fire Rescue in North Yorkshire

David Skaith, the Mayor for York and North Yorkshire, is asking for the public's views before he sets the amount that goes to North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service from York and North Yorkshire's council tax bill.

We want to ensure all voices are heard and everyone who lives, works, or travels to York & North Yorkshire is represented and has a chance to voice their opinions. You can do this by completing the survey using the link below

[www.YourPoliceAndFire.com](http://www.YourPoliceAndFire.com)

The survey should take you no more than 10 minutes to complete .

### Christmas at the Kingfisher Kiosk

Want to escape the chaos of Christmas and just relax? Why not join us at The Kiosk at Conyngham on Friday 20th December. Featuring pop classics, Christmas hits, and Christmas Number Ones, there's music for everyone!

The Kiosk will be open serving festive food and drink, including mulled wine and Baileys hot chocolate!

Make sure you've prebooked your tickets to guarantee your headphones - <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/yorkshire-create/t-rpoqyzd>





## Celebration of Achievements in Reading

In an action-packed assembly led by Mrs Fletcher-Markin, our year 7 students celebrated the great strides they have made in their reading journey. They were asked to think about the biggest challenge they have ever completed and were tasked with a couple of activities to complete in unison. Imagine a hall full of 270 students rising to their feet to do the following:

1. Hold both hands out. On your left hand, stick out your thumb, and on your right hand, stick out your pinky. Alternate back and forth as quickly as possible.
2. Alphabet + Counting Swap e.g. A,1, B, 2, C, 3, D, 4...

So many of our Y7 students have put a huge amount of effort into their reading this term and the following students were awarded trophies and prizes

Word Millionaire: Hazel B has read 1,064,071 words!

STAR readers for effort and progress in reading:  
Caitlin A, Georgie B, Hannah B, Ella C, Emily G, Poppy G, Cecile G, Eden J, Issy P and Owen S.

Commitment to Reading: Jake C has read 20 books Martha G has read 603,834 words Jessica P has read 545,907 words

Resilience in Reading: Luca C Niamh R

100% reading practise prize draw:

- Elliot B
- Cecile G
- Jemima L

100% Vocabulary practise prize draw:

- Lucy G
- Jessica P
- Charlie S

Best Class Team Effort:

7A1

## The Library over the Festive Period

Our fantastic team of student ambassadors have been very busy preparing the library in the build up to Christmas. Keri G (Y9) and Alex F (Y11) have built a book-themed Christmas tree and the whole team have been helping Mr McCabe to put together a beautiful winter-themed window for the season. Using their paper crafting skills, our ambassadors have turned damaged old books destined for the bin into snowflakes and Christmas trees.



In the final week of term, we also hosted a wonderful cosy "reading by the fire" event during lunch break. As this event was so successful and enjoyed by our students, we will be continuing silent reading sessions on a Wednesday lunchtime after the holidays. Students in all year groups are welcome to join us.

We would like to say a very big thank you to all of our seventeen student ambassadors – we really couldn't run the library without you!

Kari S (12A1), Eloise S (12A2), Caitlin B (12S1), Alex F(11N2), Alex W (10N1), Riley T (10S2), Louie C (10N1), Dan H (9N3), Lucie N (9S2), Isabel T (9W2), Emily M-W (8N1), Louie R (8W1), Alex S (8S1), Bobby M (8A1), Hazel B (7S3), Phoebe F (7S2), Niamh Ritchings (7W3).

## What's on in the Library next term?

### Battle of the Books Literature Competition

As winners of last year's competition, we will be hosting this event for students in Y9 and Y10 on Tuesday 25th February 2025. The team selection will take place in early January.

### Book Week

The whole school will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 6th March 2025 with a week dedicated to books and reading. Activities will include a tense and mysterious short story being read to all students chapter by chapter throughout the school day. There will also be workshops on creating comics and graphic novels, a Heartstopper appreciation event and competitions galore!

The National Reading Champions Quiz regional heats for students in Y7 and Y8 will take place during March, and we are delighted to be taking part again. We will be putting together a team of four students with a mixture of interests and knowledge on books and reading to represent King James's.

### Interested In Joining A Reading Group?

The book clubs take place on the top floor of the library:

- Mondays - Sixth Form, led by Mr Ratcliffe
- Wednesdays - Y10/11, led by Mrs Middleyard
- Thursdays - Y8 Royal Readers, led by Miss Thompson
- Fridays - Y7 Regal Readers, led by Mrs Bryden

We are very much looking forward to shadowing the Leeds Book Awards in January.

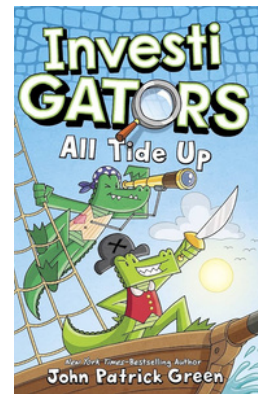


# FESTIVE READS

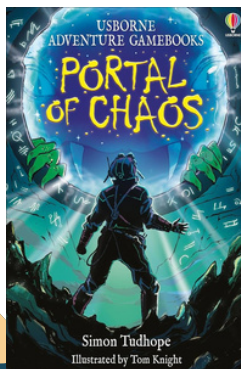
## 2024

Hello and welcome to your 2024 festive reads!  
Included in here are a selection of books that are perfect to curl up with during the festive season. Enjoy!

### Year 7

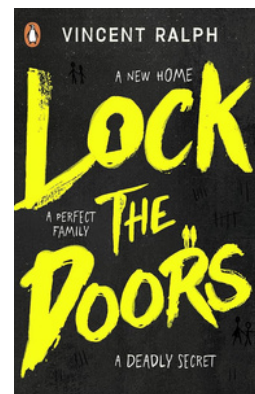
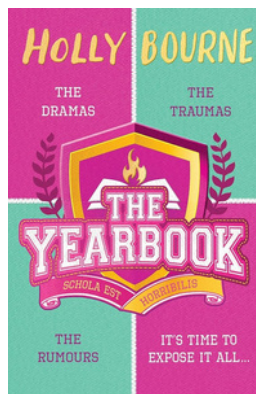


### Year 8

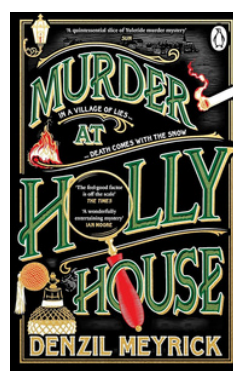


# FESTIVE READS 2024

Years 9, 10 and 11



Sixth Form



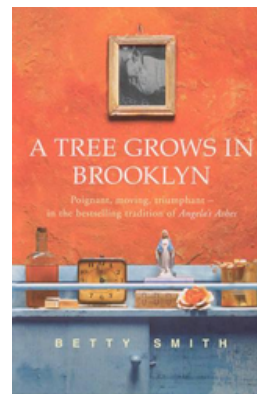
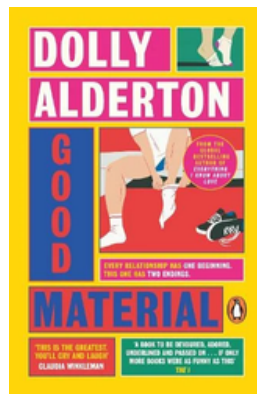
# FESTIVE READS

## 2024

A great selection of book recommendations for King James's School staff, parents, carers, governors and the wider school community.

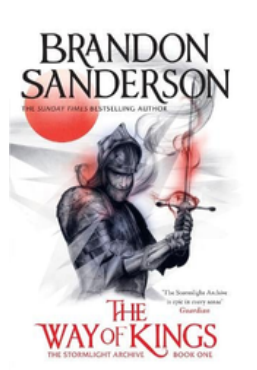
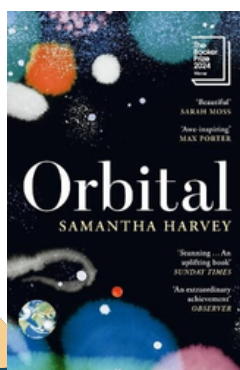
### Contemporary Fiction

Set in the 20th and 21st Centuries, these novels look at the intricacies of relationships, friendships, life, and love.



### Speculative Fiction

Dive into another world in these fantasy and science fiction novels, ranging from 144 pages to a mammoth 1,168 pages. Explore new worlds and new perspectives of our own.









# DEAR DIARY...

## Skrentny Creative Writing Competition

Do you aspire to be the next voice of your generation? If so, this competition will be perfect to get you started on your creative writing journey. Your challenge is to write no more than 1,000 words based on the title 'Dear Diary ...'

You might decide to write a short story, a poem, a graphic novel, song lyrics, a diary or perhaps a diary entry of your favourite fictional or historical figure. It's entirely up to you!

Complete your entry in Microsoft Word and email it to us at [Library@king-james.co.uk](mailto:Library@king-james.co.uk) with the subject Dear Diary...

You must include your name and for student entries also add your Tutor group.

Please submit your entry by 12<sup>PM</sup> on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

We can't wait to read your stories!

