

Friday 21st March 2025

# King James's School Newsletter

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## Walking Talking Mocks

On Monday and Tuesday this week, year 11 were off timetable in the morning to take part in a Walking Talking mock, led by Mrs Fletcher Markin, our experienced AQA examiner. The students were an absolute delight and so mature throughout. Excellent job, year 11!



## Comic Relief

The aim behind today's non-uniform day was to raise money for Comic Relief, an important charity that funds programmes to help people and communities overcome the many challenges that face, both here in the UK and across the globe.

They support organisations and movements that strive for fairness and equity.

As of this morning, we have raised £1,108.75, which is a fantastic amount. Thank you as always for your support in raising money for this worthwhile cause.



## Year 9 Ski Trip, Obertauern, Austria

On the last Friday of half term, 48 students and 5 staff departed KJS in the early hours. A direct flight to Vienna and a connecting coach found us safely in resort by Friday evening, welcomed by a dumping of fresh snow, which saw us having to put the snow chains on the coach to get up the steep driveway to the guesthouse.

We had mainly blue-sky days and the conditions were perfect, which saw every student progress at a variety of paces. Towards the end of the week, we got to ski back to the hotel as one big group which the staff and students absolutely loved! Evening entertainment included open-air night swimming, Karaoke and pizza night, a stargazing night walk through the woods and traditional Tyrolean folk dancing, which is always my favourite night of the week.



A huge thank you to Mr Keeble, Ms Watson, Mr Green and Mrs Bolger for supporting the trip as always.



## Year 11 Yearbook - Order now!

Don't miss the chance to purchase the Year 11 Yearbook—a special keepsake filled with memories, photos, and messages from your child's time at KJS.

- Order Deadline: 12 noon, Friday 4th April
- Price: £14.25 per copy
- Payment: Available via ParentPay from Monday 17th March ([www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com))

## Drama Council

Thank you for all your applications for the Drama Council. We had so many applications from all years, showing your dedication and passion for the subject.

Mrs Haughton and our Foundation Governor Ambassador Maia will announce who has been successful in the final week before Easter.

## 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 next week.

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.

## Assemblies

Assemblies next week are being delivered by Mr Gordon and focus on protected characteristics and the importance of promoting inclusion, respect and fairness in school and society. The assembly aims to inspire students to respect diversity, challenge prejudice and help create a welcoming environment for all.

## Safeguarding Presentations

On Friday 28th March, students from Year 8, 9 and 10 will be involved in a presentation focused on County Lines. The presentation highlights how young people are targeted, the dangers involved and the long-term consequences. A key part of the session will be a talk from someone who has previously been involved in County Lines and who will share real life experiences to give students a firsthand perspective on the harsh realities of County Lines, to discourage involvement.

## The Week Ahead: 24th March 2025

Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon				
Tue	Year 11 Pastoral Parents Evening	11	4.00-6.30pm	In school
Wed	Sixth Form Theatre trip	12/13	5.30-11.00pm	
Thur				
Fri	<b>Sixth Form Fundraiser Cake Sale</b>	12/13		Sixth Form Centre

## Absence due to illness

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools about health protection and managing specific infectious diseases. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. These can be found using the link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

## Safeguarding: Slang and Emoji Dictionary

We are aware there is a lot of information in the general media at the moment about the meaning of slang and emojis due to the Netflix drama Adolescence.

The link below helps parents decipher some of the more commonly used emojis and their 'meanings':

<https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/procedures-practice-guidance-and-one-minute-guides/slang-dictionary-and-emoji-dictionary/>

## Knarborough Bed Race 2025

The draw for the 2025 Knarborough Bed Race took place on Wednesday 12th March, and we are delighted to announce that we have secured places for three King James's teams!

- Staff team
- Sixth Form team
- Year 10 team

As a school, we look forward to being involved in the preparation and to supporting the teams on the race day itself.



## Careers



Event: Taster STEM Work Experience with Spectris PLC ,  
Wednesday 16th April from 9am - 3pm

Year 11,12 & 13

We are excited to announce that on Wednesday, 16th of April from 9am - 3pm, we will be hosting a virtual work experience day with Spectris, Malvern Panalytical, HBK and Servomex! Spectris are a FTSE company and own all the other science and engineering-based companies mentioned above. Collectively they operate in over 30 countries, employ over 7,500 people globally, and have generated a revenue of over a billion pounds as of 2024! Each of the companies Spectris owns specialises in a very specific areas of science and engineering and during this work experience day you will get the opportunity to take part in workshops and network with each of their companies.

Participating in an event such as this will not only allow you to learn more about industry, but it will also give you a unique opportunity to gain valuable experience that will be beneficial for adding value to your CV and LinkedIn profile. This will show employers (including Spectris) that you are proactive and looking to develop your skillset before entering the workplace, which can help you to be recognised as an ambitious and motivated individual as well as allowing you to stand out from other students.

Please sign up for this opportunity, by using the registration link below. After the event you will receive a certificate that you can use on your CV's and any job applications that you make.

Registration Link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Spectris-Easter>



Event: PwC Parent Information Session

Date: Wednesday, 26th March

Time: 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Location: Virtual

PwC is one of the world's leading professional services firms, offering exceptional career pathways for students through Flying Start Degree Programmes, Apprenticeships, Work Experience, and Graduate opportunities. This session is designed to provide parents with valuable insights into:

- The range of career opportunities available at PwC
- How students can stand out in the application process
- The skills and attributes PwC looks for in future talent
- How PwC supports young professionals in their career development

This event is perfect for parents who want to understand the opportunities available for students at PwC and how to support them in making informed career decisions.

Secure your place today to gain expert insights into PwC's career pathways and recruitment process.

Register Here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PwC-Parent-Teacher>

## Harrogate Competitive Festival for Music, Speech & Drama

Last Saturday, it was lovely to see several King James's students participating with the Knaresborough Silver Band (Training Band) in the Harrogate Competitive Festival for Music, Speech and Drama, held at Harrogate High School. The band managed to win their class, performing popular pieces: Soul Bossa Nova (Austin Powers theme tune), Londonderry Air (featuring Y8 KJS student Daniel H on cornet) and The Final Countdown. Renowned local cornet player and adjudicator Alan Morrison remarked how much the players enjoyed their performance and congratulated musicians young and old on the valuable teaching and learning of brass instruments being encouraged within the Knaresborough community. Well done to all KJS students involved!



Anyone interested in learning a brass instrument is welcome to come and speak with Miss Meadows for further information.

## Design & Technology Rotary Competition

The annual Rotary competition was upon us and we entered 3 teams:

- Year 10: Aidan L, Matthew Mc, Will A and Henry M.
- Year 11: Will D, Keira B, Alex S and Tobyn N-M
- Year 12: Sam O-H, Zach P, Freddie N and Leon B

All the local area schools were involved with over thirty teams competing on the day. The task was to design an electric vehicle which would then need to carry out a series of tasks, depending on the level. The teams had the full day to design, build and test their vehicles and all had to work completely independently and find a successful solution to the problem within the set time.

Our year 10 team competed really well and our Year 12s were placed 3rd overall. But it was our year 11 team that absolutely smashed it on the day, winning best design, best portfolio and best construction (their vehicle completed all tasks in an impressive 12 seconds).



## UK Maths Trust's Intermediate Maths Challenge

On Thursday three King James's pupils took part in the follow-on rounds from the UK Maths Trust's Intermediate Maths Challenge. Well done to Angus L in Year 11 and Humphrey F in Year 10 who sat the Pink Kangaroo round and special credit to James L from Year 11 who qualified for one of the highest follow-on rounds,



## Gymnastics Achievement

One of our Year 8 students, Lacey W, competed in three events in gymnastics in Halifax last Sunday, and gained the following:

- Vault - 1st place
- Floor - 1st place
- Beam - 2nd place
- Overall for all three events - 1st place.

Lacey did not start gymnastics until she was almost 10 years old, but with her determination and commitment, she has excelled.

Well done Lacey, a fantastic achievement!



FACE delivers online support via zoom for parents across the UK  
Talks are 90 minutes long, £24 each - Book Online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)



Schools can now buy a  
**FACE School Annual Membership**  
which means **ALL parents** and **ALL staff**  
get unlimited **FREE access** to **ALL** 16 parent talks

Thursday  
24th April  
19:00 - 20:00

**FREE**



## Responding to Angry Behaviour

What can we do in the moment?

Tuesday  
18th March

10:00 - 11:30

£24



## Anxiety Explained

Anxiety, especially in our young is rising.  
This session explains what it is, why it happens and how you can help.

Thursday  
3rd April

10:00 - 11:30

£24



## Supporting a Child with ADHD

Challenging the stereotypes and giving practical interventions. Clear explanation of the condition in all its forms and extremely useful advice.

Tuesday  
3rd April

19:00 - 20:30

£24



## Improving Family Communication

How to reduce the shouting and arguing and start the talking.

# Spring Timetable

all sessions delivered live online via zoom £24 each 90 minutes long  
book online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

Anxiety Explained	18 MAR 7pm
What is ACT?	20 Mar 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	24 MAR 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	24 MAR 7pm
Decreasing Depression	25 MAR 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	25 MAR 7pm
AUTISM: Improving Communication	2 APR 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	3 APR 10am
Improving Family Communication	3 APR 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	7 APR 10am
Facing Defiance	7 APR 7pm
Anxiety-Based School Avoidance	8 APR 10AM
Understanding Anger	8 APR 7pm
Anxiety Explained	14 APR 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	14 APR 7pm



# Prom Night Celebrations

THURSDAY

JUNE | 26TH | 2025

ARRIVALS 6:30PM - 7:00PM  
HELD AT KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE ON PARENT PAY