

Friday 25th October 2024

# King James's School Newsletter

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## Message from the Headteacher

Can you believe how the time has flown and we have already reached the end of our first half term! The start of the year is always particularly busy, with new cohorts joining us and lots of events to get to know our families. It has been fantastic to see how well Year 7 have embraced life at KJS, and how our exam cohorts have come back to school with renewed drive and focus.

I am sure everyone is looking forward to a relaxing break, so thank you for your support this half term and have a great holiday.

Clare Martin  
Headteacher

## Attendance

At the start of next half term, we will be sending attendance texts to all parents to highlight your child's attendance to date this academic year. Please keep a look out for this text and discuss it with your children to encourage attendance and punctuality. The link between attendance and achievement is without doubt, and we want to ensure our school community has every opportunity to succeed going forwards.

## Social Media/Mobile Phones

This half term has seen a rise in a number of issues related to the use of mobile phones and social media. As parents we have a duty of responsibility to ensure that we set appropriate parental controls that restrict the content available to your child, and that you frequently check your children's devices, which includes smart TVs and games consoles, as well as mobile phones and tablets, to ensure that you know who they are in contact with and what they are doing online.

We understand how difficult this can be, and if you need help and support in setting up parental controls, here is a link to step-by-step guide which walks you through the instructions for a range of different devices:

[Parental Controls on Smartphones & Other Devices - Internet Matters](#)

## Thought for the Fortnight

The Thought for the Fortnight for the weeks beginning 21st October & 4th November is "the only true way to fail is not to try"



The key takeaways are:

- Everyone fails at some point. Failure is normal.
- Don't be afraid of failure – it's how we learn so that next time, we can avoid making the same mistakes.
- Learning from failure requires courage
- Learning from failure requires practice, to appreciate the present moment.

## Assemblies

Mr Green from the History department will be delivering assemblies to all year groups after half term. The assembly is linked to our school value of RESPECT, raising awareness of the annual day of remembrance which honours and remembers the bravery, sacrifice, and dedication of those who have served and continue to serve our nation.



## Rewards



As a school we understand the importance of shaping positive behaviour, which comes from a balance of high expectations, well communicated boundaries and consequences, strong relationships and acknowledging those students who make those positive behaviour choices. We have listened to both parental and student feedback and therefore feel the need to recognise those students who consistently get it right day in, day out. We want our students to know that their contributions in making King James's a happy and safe place to learn are recognised and appreciated by us all.

Starting next Half Term, school will be automatically allocating a maximum of fifteen positive recognition points each week to our students who are consistently demonstrating our key values of READY, RESPECTFUL and ENGAGED. These points will be automatically generated, by our system, and you will be able to view these by logging into MCAS.

Attendance at school every day is a proven contributor to academic success and so, as we recognise how well our students are learning, we are awarding one recognition point each day they are in school and a maximum of five to those students who have 100% attendance in a week.

We encourage students to be punctual both to school and to all lessons, to reduce lost learning time and support every child in reaching their potential. We will therefore award students with one recognition point each day of the week if they are on time to school and all of their lessons.

To raise expectations further any students who do not receive any negative points, including for uniform, homework, and equipment, will be awarded with one recognition point each day of the week they receive no negative points.

We will take every opportunity to celebrate those students who are demonstrating the King James's values, and will continue to seek the views of our students through our student council meetings on how we will celebrate the accumulation of these points at the end of each Learning Cycle.

## Book Clubs

Reading is an essential skill, not just for school but for life. As a Reading School, it doesn't matter at King James's whether we are in the classroom or the lunch queue, we just love to chat about books! This year, there are book clubs for everyone - here are 5 reasons why you should come along and get involved:

### 1. Make new friends

Joining a book club is a great way to meet new people and I can guarantee it will be a lot of fun discussing and debating your favourite books.

### 2. You'll read more books

Our everyday lives can be very busy and finding time to sit down and lose yourself in a good book can sometimes be difficult. Having a deadline to finish reading a book is the best excuse to prioritise your reading.

### 3. Reading is good for your mental health and well-being

In a recent survey conducted by the National Literacy Trust (2023) students commented that reading helped them to relax, made them feel happy, more confident and helped them deal with problems.

### 4. Enhance your debating skills

Book clubs offer a safe space that can help you become more confident and comfortable in group discussions giving you new ideas and perspectives.

### 5. It's fun!

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, book clubs are a lot of fun. You'll meet students with similar interests and there might even be a school trip in 2025 to meet some of your favourite authors and mingle with like-minded students from across the region. To find out more, come along to one of the clubs below:

Mondays – Sixth Form Book Club

Tuesdays – Year 9 Book Club (Mrs Daly)

Wednesdays – Year 10/11 (Mrs Middleyard)

Thursdays – Year 8 Royal Readers (Miss Thompson)

Fridays – Year 7 Regal Readers (Mrs Bryden)

If you are interested in joining these clubs after Christmas, please see Mrs Bryden as soon as possible.

All the book clubs take place on the top floor of the library from 12:35 – 13:05. We can't wait to hear what you have been reading!

## Careers

We have an exciting Lloyds Banking opportunity to share with you this week.

### 1. Lloyds Banking Group Technology & Data Event - Tuesday 5th November, 5pm – 6pm

Lloyds Banking Group is at the forefront of the financial industry's digital transformation, leveraging cutting-edge data and technology to shape the future of banking. This Careers Live session is your chance to:

- **Discover Career Pathways:** Explore diverse roles in Data Science and Analytics, Cybersecurity, Software Development, and more within one of the UK's largest financial institutions.
- **Hear from Experts:** Gain insights from professionals who work at the intersection of finance and technology, and get an insider's view of what it takes to succeed in these fast-growing fields.
- **Learn How to Stand Out:** Get top tips on the skills and qualifications you need to build a career in data and technology, and how to make your application stand out.
- **Ask Your Questions:** This live event includes a Q&A session, so come prepared with any questions you have about starting a career at Lloyd's Banking Group or in the FinTech industry!

This event is perfect for anyone interested in how technology is transforming finance and how you can be a part of it. Whether you're curious about data analytics, software development, or cybersecurity, this is your opportunity to learn from the experts and explore the exciting opportunities ahead.

Register here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LBGCarLive>



### 2. Insight Fragomen - The World's Biggest Immigration Law Firm

2-day Work Experience Opportunity open to Year 10,11,12 &13.  
Wednesday 6th November & Wednesday 13th November, 6pm - 8pm

Fragomen, the world's largest corporate immigration law firm, invites you to join their exclusive 2 day law school, which will take place over two evenings in November. This immersive experience has been a great success over the last four years, offering valuable content, senior speakers from the legal industry, and fantastic networking opportunities.

This event is open to all school and university students with an interest in law, particularly immigration law. The Fragomen Immigration Law School will provide you with insights on pursuing a legal career, navigating applications, and preparing for interviews.

You'll hear first-hand from leading legal professionals, global clients, and charities, giving you an inside look at the workings of a major global law firm.

What to Expect:

- Expert Speakers from the legal industry
- Networking Opportunities with professionals and peers
- Insights into Law Careers and immigration law
- Advice on Job Applications and how to stand out in the legal field

Once registered, you'll receive the schedule and login details to join online.

Register here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Fragomen-Immigration-Law-School>

## Green Careers Week

Green Careers Week is an exciting event that raises aspiration, supports diversity, challenges stereotypes, and promotes real opportunities for young people to have a career that will genuinely make a difference.



A green career can be any job, role or occupation that contributes to preserving or restoring the environment and our planet. It can be any industry, not just those seen as 'green.'

We are raising the profile of Green Careers Week through tutor time. We are using video content from a host of global companies who want to showcase their careers and work that helps in sustainability and eco-development.

## Careers in Law

Our Career Pathway Sessions continue. The next session will be on Thursday 7th November, 12.45 pm to 1.10pm in the Sixth form Centre (SF4 - 1st floor). The session is led by our Careers Advisor Karen Morgan, and will cover the main careers in the legal field. The session will also provide information on taking a degree in law, and also apprenticeship opportunities in this area. There will be the opportunity for Q & A. The session is open to Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students. Students are welcome to bring along their lunch and eat it during the session.





## Maths Olympiad for Girls

A massive well done to the four girls who took on the challenge of the UK Maths Trust's Girls Olympiad. All the girls did exceptionally well and we are really proud of them. Abi and Sophia in Y12 both gained merit awards and Georgia in Y13 gained the "best in school" accolade alongside a distinction award.



## Vaping

You may have seen in the news that disposable vapes will be banned from June to prevent environmental damage and protect children's health. As a school we take a very firm stance on vaping, in line with all Harrogate-area schools, as we appreciate the risks they pose to young people's health and want to prevent a culture of normality or acceptance.

For any parents or students needing support for vaping, please see some useful websites below:

Young people and vaping - Better Health - NHS  
<https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/vapes>

## Safety in the Community

As we approach both Halloween and Bonfire Night, we would like to remind students to enjoy the festivities but also be safe in the community including when around fireworks and when interacting with members of the public.



## The Week Ahead: 4th November 2024

Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	Second Half Autumn Term starts			
Tue				
Wed				
Thur				
Fri				

## Half Term Activities

This half-term, Adult Learning North Yorkshire is offering free Halloween-themed family activities. The Family Fun with Crafts sessions are designed for parents, carers, and their children to come together and create eco-friendly Halloween decorations using basic, sustainable materials.

### Session highlights:

- Craft spooktacular Halloween decorations: Using basic, sustainable materials, participants will create unique Halloween crafts.
- Inclusive for all skill levels: Everyone is welcome to join in the fun, whether a beginner or an experienced crafter.
- Family bonding: Spend quality time together while making eco-friendly decorations.
- Guidance provided: All materials will be supplied, and the friendly teachers will be on hand to assist throughout the session.

### Local Locations and dates:

- Knaresborough Library & Information Centre: Tuesday, 29th October, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
- Harrogate Library & Information Centre: Friday, 1st November, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

To enrol, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/FamilyFunCraftsHalfTerm10>

Contact Email: [adultlearningservice@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:adultlearningservice@northyorks.gov.uk)





House



Year 7 Year 8

**Halloween**

**Costume Competition**

Are you a Magnificent Mummy? Perhaps you're a Zany Zombie, or maybe a Wacky Witch! Then this is the competition for you!

Take a picture of your most Horrific Halloween costume and email it to us at [Halloween@king-james.co.uk](mailto:Halloween@king-james.co.uk) the first week back (4th—8th November).

**The Spookiest-** speaks for itself, how scary can you be?

**The Most Creative-** you will need to include proof that at least 50% of your costume has been made by you.



Good luck!

