

Friday 4th October 2024

King James's School Newsletter

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Message from the Headteacher

Thank you to Year 7 parents who attended our Pastoral Parents' Evening on Wednesday; it was great to see so many of you and to hear about how happy your children are. Year 7 have certainly made a fantastic start at KJS, we are very proud of them all.

We are also looking forward to welcoming our prospective parents during Open Evening on Thursday.

Clare Martin
Headteacher

Black History Month

This month we kick off the celebrations of Black History Month with assemblies for all year groups on the theme "reclaiming narratives".

Students have had positive messages about hope in the face of hatred and intolerance and the importance of challenging the unacceptable and checking misinformation before resharing on social media. We have looked at the inspiring story of Haiti and their struggle for freedom against French colonial rule and why dangerous misinformed posts about immigrants on social media have led to threats and violence against innocent families and individuals. We also celebrate the majority of people in communities who came out this summer to support, clean up and rebuild and celebrate what is truly great about British values because our diversity is our strength.



Mental Health Awareness Day at King James

This week, all students have been participating in a survey sent out to their form groups, allowing us to hear their thoughts on the health and wellbeing services we offer. The feedback we receive will be instrumental in helping us implement meaningful changes, and we are grateful for their input.

In addition to the survey, we are excited to announce that the leadership opportunities within our Thrive programme have been released. We now have 'Thrive Reps' for Key Stage 3, 'Thrive Champions' for Key Stage 4, and 'Thrive Leaders' for our Sixth Form. We are looking forward to collaborating with students across all year groups to work on new initiatives and interventions based on the survey responses.

Looking ahead, Mental Health Awareness Day will be observed on Thursday, 10th October. To mark this important day, we have planned a tutor activity for all forms, designed to raise awareness of mental health. The focus will be on understanding that mental health challenges may not always be visible, encouraging students to be mindful of this and to support one another.

Next week, Mr Phillips, our Wellbeing Co-ordinator, will be speaking in assemblies about the importance of talking about mental health, reminding students that their feelings are always valid, and highlighting the extensive support available within the school. He has also created a special video featuring some of our students' favourite teachers sharing their own experiences with mental health and offering practical strategies. This video will be shown in assembly and aims to inspire students to speak openly about their emotions. We will make this video available for parents to view after it has been shared with students.

Thank you for your continued support. Let's work together to Be Well, Do Well, and Live Well.



Mr McDonagh
(Science department)
loved...

Does exactly what it says on the tin in Bryson's classic witty style. I have never been so interested in reading about moss as I was for the page or two that it is mentioned!

STAFF BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Equipment- READY for school

In line with our school values of **Ready Respectful and Engaged** we need ALL our students to attend school in the correct uniform and with the correct equipment. This includes a school bag to carry their planner and pencil case, along with any subject specific items such as their PE kit or DT apron. *Mobile phones are also expected to be switched off and out of sight, in school bags, during the school day for safeguarding, wellbeing and educational reasons.*

During the last two weeks we have been asking teachers to inform your child's year teams of any students who are currently not attending lessons with the correct basic equipment. Tutors have also been guiding their students about what they should bring into school each day. As parents and carers, we now need your support! Year teams will inform you if your child is still not bringing a bag and pencil case, so that this can be rectified quickly. We want ALL our students to understand and appreciate the importance of what they need to be **READY** for their day.

To support parents/carers with this, King James's school will offer families and students, who have not been able to rectify the situation, with the alternative of buying equipment through parent pay, at an approximate cost of £6 (see option right.) We will also provide this equipment to our families who require additional support.

Thank you in advance for your support.



Harvest Collection Supporting Gracious Street Community Church

King James's School has decided to do a collection for Gracious Street church again this year to help give back to our community. In gratitude for the harvest, we will collect food and household donations that will be shared between Harrogate Homeless and Resurrected Bites. Items which are currently needed include:

- Long-life milk
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Tinned fish
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned veg & fruit
- Tinned desserts
- Jams & spreads
- Rice/noodles
- Flour
- Biscuits
- Toilet roll
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Shaving foam/gel
- Shampoo
- Cleaning products e.g. washing up liquid, detergent, laundry detergent, bleach.

You are welcome to bring your donations to School and leave at reception. We will start collection from 7th October and will be running up to and including Friday 18th October 2024.

Many thanks for your support.

Career Pathway Session

Careers in Engineering - Tuesday 8th October 12.45 to 1.10 in SF4 (top floor of 6th form centre).

Our fortnightly 'Career Pathway' sessions continue - led by Karen Morgan our Careers Adviser. Students interested in this area will be provided with information about the different career pathways within the sector, and how to develop their ideas further - there will be the opportunity for Q&A. Interested students are welcome to attend - students can bring along their lunch and eat it during the session.

Careers Opportunities: Insight to Amazon STEM Student Careers Event

Young Professionals are running a virtual careers insight event opportunity specifically for female students in Years 11, 12 and 13 passionate about STEM subjects with a company you might just be familiar with—Amazon.

Amazon offer a range of outstanding apprenticeship opportunities from across the many areas of the organisation for students looking to kickstart their professional journey right after Year 13.

Event Details:

Date: Tuesday, 8th October

Time: 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Format: Virtual (Zoom)

During this Women in STEM webinar, students will hear about the many exciting career paths in digital, technology and engineering roles at Amazon. It's a fantastic chance to learn how you can grow with a company that operates at the forefront of multiple industries across the globe.

Register here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/STEM-Amazon>

Assemblies – week beginning 7th October

All Year Groups – Minds Matter delivered by Mr Gordon (Head of PSHCEE) and Mr Phillips (Student Health and Wellbeing Coordinator). This assembly will raise the profile of World Mental Health Day and focuses on common mental health issues, identification and strategies to help and the promotion of support networks in and out of school.

Year 12 & Year 13 have a double assembly week and will also have Building a more inclusive society delivered by Miss Moss (Head of History). This assembly will raise the profile of Black History Month and focus on understanding diversity, recognising contributions, promoting empathy & understanding and challenging stereotypes and role models.

Year 11 mock revision

Year 11 mock exams start on Monday 18th November so there are just over six weeks for students to prepare for their exams. The Year 11 students have had an assembly about how to revise and their Form Tutors and subject teachers are explaining how and what to revise in their lessons. All subjects have drawn up revision programmes for students to use to help them to plan their revision. The subject revision programmes and revision support available can be accessed on the school website using the link below. Thank you in advance for your support with revision for the exams.

<https://www.king-james.co.uk/year-11-revision/>

Catch up

It was great to see so many parents attend the parent support evenings in September when we explained the importance of good attendance and catching up with work if students are absent. On each department page on the website, you will find these documents which have been shared with students so that they can catch up missed work to close their knowledge gaps.

KS3 homework

Students at Key stage 3 complete bronze (15 minutes), silver (30 minutes) and gold (1 hour) homework tasks. Each department sets different amounts of homework because not all subjects require the same amount of independent learning to take place at home. Our homework policy and Key Stage 3 homework tasks are all on the website. Reading is vital for students to engage and succeed in their learning. We are doing many things in school to promote reading in lessons and at home. One of the ways we would like our KS3 students to improve their reading is by completing subject specific reading homework. These can be accessed on the website on the homework page.

<https://www.king-james.co.uk/homework/>

Thought for the Fortnight

The Thought for the Fortnight for weeks beginning 7th and 14th October is linked to the work we are doing that is focused on mental health awareness.



“You don’t have to control your thoughts. You just have to stop letting them control you” (anon)

Key takeaways are:

- It’s human to have thoughts. It means you have a healthy and functioning brain
- It’s impossible to completely silence your mind, but it is possible to be less controlled by your thoughts & far more present & peaceful.
- To help with focusing more on the present, try a grounding technique such as: Take a moment to pause and name: 5 things you can see around you, 4 things you can touch or feel, 3 distinct sounds you can hear, 2 things you can smell, 1 thing you can taste. This exercise anchors you in your surroundings, helping you to appreciate the present moment.

Halloween Family Open Day at Allerton Waste Recovery Park - 30th October

Looking for something fun to do this October half term?

Allerton Waste Recovery Park is hosting a FREE Halloween Family Open Day on Wednesday 30 October 2024.

There will be upcycling activities, hands-on composting demos with the North Yorkshire Rotters, and loads of tips on how we can all reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Tours of the waste site (for ages 7+) will run at 11am, 1pm, and 3pm. Come along and discover what really happens to our rubbish in North Yorkshire.

Book your free spot here: [Eventbrite](#) or email thaliacomms@thalia.co.uk. For more information visit Thalia.co.uk. Contact email: thaliacomms@thalia.co.uk

Leadership Opportunities:

The deadline for applications for Student Leadership opportunities is Monday 7th October. Details of all Student Leadership opportunities are outlined in the letter sent home to parents on Friday 27th September.

The Week Ahead: 7th October 2024

Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon	NEA1 exam			
Tue	NEA1 exam			
Wed	Founders Day celebration	Years 7 and 12	Morning	
Thur	Take10 to Read School closes to students 12.30 OPEN EVENING		5.30-8.30pm	
Fri	STAFF TRAINING DAY - school closed to students			

SPORTING SUCCESSES

Year 10 Boys Progress in the National Cup with a Dramatic Comeback!

In a thrilling showdown against Unity College from Burnley, the Year 10 boys' football team displayed remarkable resilience to secure their place in the next round of the national cup. Facing a 1-0 deficit with only minutes remaining on the clock, the boys rallied together to equalise, sending the match into extra time.

The equalising goal, scored in the dying moments of the game, ignited a surge of momentum for the team. With renewed energy, they dominated extra time ultimately finishing the game with a convincing 3-1 victory.

The draw for the next round is set for this Saturday, and the boys are eagerly anticipating the possibility of another away day fixture, hoping to build on their recent success. Their determination and teamwork have made this cup run a memorable journey so far.



Years 7 and 8 Girls Football

Last Tuesday the Year 7 & 8 girls football teams took part in a Year 8 tournament run by Harrogate Town.

Both teams entered played incredibly well in wet, cold conditions. The Year 8 girls won the tournament winning 5 and drawing 2 of their games (one draw was against our Year 7 team). They will represent the Area at the next stage later in the year.

The Year 7 Girls won 2, lost 2 and drew 3 of their games which was an amazing effort playing against girls a year older.

Huge congratulations to all the girls.

Diving Success

Jack Ward - Year 10
Won Bronze in the Shipley Novice Diving Competition



Cross Country

The first house event of the year took place at King James's School last week. The year 7-10's participated in house cross country throughout the week. The PE department were extremely impressed with the attitudes of the students towards the house event.

Attached below are the overall results for events:

1. Wharfedale
2. Swaledale
3. Nidderdale
4. Airedale

Well done to Wharfedale for winning the first house event of the year!

