

Friday 6th September 2024

King James's School Newsletter

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Message from the Headteacher

Welcome back!

I hope you had a fantastic summer break with families and friends. It has been lovely welcoming students back to school this week. They all look smart, happy to be back, and ready to learn – thank you!

*Clare Martin
Headteacher*

School Improvement

We are now into the second year of our two-year School Improvement Plan. Please see our website for the parent summary: [School Development Plan 2023-2025](#)

Our school motto is 'To Set no Limits on what we can achieve'. This year, we are having three key priorities: Positive Behaviour; Teaching & Learning; Continual Professional Development (CPD).

We see these three ingredients as key to continuing to raise achievement of our students.

Exam Success

This year brought another positive year in terms of our GCSE and A'Level results – a tribute to students' hard work, the dedication of their teachers, and the support from families. We were delighted that the proportion of students achieving grade 4 and above in both Maths and English increased by 10%, meaning that even more students had their choice of Post 16 choices.



At A'Level, 96% of students gained their first-choice course, with 83 students going off to university in the next couple of weeks; 33% of them to the top Russell Group universities. An impressive 15 students gained an average A'Level grade of an A in all three subjects – a fantastic achievement.

There are still places available in our Sixth Form, so please get in touch if you know anyone who would like to join us. It really is somewhere where students flourish, become well-rounded, intelligent and caring young adults, prepared for the world ahead.



School Production Auditions

Auditions for this year's school production of We Will Rock You will take place next week.

Tuesday 10th September - Years 7, 8 and 9 - prompt start at 3.15pm in S1

Thursday 12th September - Years 10,11,12 and 13 - prompt start at 3.15pm in S1

An audition pack can be viewed and downloaded from the school website using the following link: <https://www.king-james.co.uk/drama-2/>

'To set no limits on what we can achieve'



Uniform

Thank you for supporting school by sending students in correct uniform. They are looking very smart indeed.

We still have some students wearing noticeable and excessive false eyelashes. If this is the case, please could they be removed by Monday.

Positive Behaviour

Behaviour at King James's is good, but we know we can do more to support students better and to reduce low-level disruption. Some key actions we have already undertaken to continue to improve behaviour:

On Monday, all of our staff had training as Positive Regard Practitioners from the Wellspring Trust. This programme has been funded by North Yorkshire Local Authority to schools in the Harrogate area, to help us understand the needs of children and put in place the support they need. Some of the aims of the programme are below:



- Improve ALL our understanding of children's individual needs - put them at the heart of everything we do.
 - Build empathetic culture - so ALL staff understand the 'KJS way' and can support students and one another.
 - Improve our skills - help students regulate, de-escalate situations.
 - Improve consistency - and maintain high expectations in every lesson and around school.
 - Build and restore relationships
 - Reduce challenging behaviours and low-level disruption
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- Last term we had a re-structure, and we now have more pastoral staff to support students in each year group. We also have an Assistant Head (Mrs Holdsworth) for behaviour, and 4 Associate Assistant Heads for year groups (Mr King for Year 7; Mr Berry for Year 8 & 9; Mr Atkinson for Year 10 & 11; Mrs Watson for Sixth Form). To contact your child's year group please use this format Y7@king-james.co.uk but change the year. For example, Year 8 is Y8@king-james.co.uk.
 - Our school values are Ready Respectful and Engaged. We are making it clear to students what Respect looks like in different environments, such as in lessons, in assembly, in the dining hall, when walking around school etc.
 - We have re-established the one-way system in busy areas such as in Maths, English and Science, and the 'Keep Left' protocols everywhere else in school.
 - We are making learning behaviours explicit in lessons. Assemblies will be used to help students understand how they should behave in the different phases or activities in a lesson.

Teaching & Learning

Our Central Leadership Team have devised some Teaching and Learning Principles that will be adopted by all teachers in all lessons, so there is more consistency in the way we teach. These principles are based on a review of research to ensure that our teaching approaches are evidence-based.

Continued Professional Development: Red Kite Alliance

We are delighted to have joined Red Kite Alliance - a partnership of Yorkshire schools, across all phases of education that have come together to share skills, experience, talent and capacity to help improve the learning and achievement of the young people in our communities. There are over 20 secondary schools in the Alliance; with four of them also being in the Red Kite Trust (which we are not joining). We are looking forward to working with all the schools in the Alliance to improve opportunities and outcomes for children. Further information about the Red Kite Alliance can be found here - [Red Kite Alliance](#)



Free school meals

The summer holidays are an expensive time for families and I am sure that many households are feeling the pinch as we return to school. Please check your eligibility for free school meals and ensure you claim if you can. Your child would be entitled to a free meal every day, and the school also gains extra funding to help support their education. It literally takes just a few minutes on the North Yorkshire website and, sadly, we know there are families who are eligible who have not applied. The money will be added automatically to your child's account, and they use their fingerprint to buy food like all other students, so nobody needs to know they are on free school meals.

[Free school meals | North Yorkshire Council](#)

National Schools Breakfast Week takes place from 9-13 September 2024.



Schools have been asked to raise awareness of the importance of healthy breakfasts for children and young people.

Studies show that healthy breakfasts can benefit children's health and learning, but many school-aged children skip breakfast. Missing out on a nutritious breakfast can make it harder for children and young people to get enough of the nutrients they need.

Attached is a useful leaflet giving guidance about what constitutes a healthy breakfast.

The Week Ahead: 9th September 2024

Theme: New Beginnings

Day	Session	Year	Time	Location
Mon				
Tue	Year 7 Expectation Evening School Production Auditions	Year 7 parents Years 7,8,9	6.00pm 3.15pm	Chaloner Hall S1
Wed	Year 8 Expectation Evening Year 9 Expectation Evening	Year 8 parents Year 9 parents	6.00pm 7.00pm	Chaloner Hall Chaloner Hall
Thur	Year 10 GCSE Parent Support Evening Year 11 GCSE Parent Support Evening School Production Auditions	Year 10 parents Year 11 parents Years 10,11,12,13	6.00pm 7.00pm 3.15pm	Chaloner Hall Chaloner Hall S1
Fri				

Importance of Attendance

I hope you received the letter sent by all Harrogate-area Headteachers, stressing the importance of attendance before the start of term.

This week, we have seen most children back in school raring to go from the first day back, but there may also be some who are struggling to return. Please contact school if you would like any more support.

This year, analysis of our GCSE results shows that students with at least 96% made the progress they should. Students whose attendance was below this figure under-achieved. As a home-school partnership we must work together to do everything possible to get students into school every day so they can learn and succeed.

Some useful resources to support parents of children struggling to attend school can be found below:

The Children's Commissioner has produced a useful resource pack for parents which can be found here: [Guide for Parents on School Attendance](#).

A useful guide for parents of children with autism which can be found here: [National Autistic Society - guide for parents on attendance](#).

A parent workbook to help support your child with school-based anxiety can be found here: [School Based Resilience Workbook](#)

Careers

Our careers advisor, Karen Morgan, will be continuing to support our current Year 11 students through careers guidance interviews this term. It is important that students have researched Post 16 options prior to their interview so that more personalised guidance can be offered. There is a wealth of information on the careers page of the school website which can be accessed by the following link: <https://www.king-james.co.uk/careers-home/>. We encourage all Year 11 students to gather information on possible Post 16 courses and providers prior to their interview.

Our fortnightly 'Career Pathway' sessions will start on Wednesday 11th September 12.45 - 1.10pm. These lunchtime sessions, led by Karen Morgan, are open to Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 and will provide students with information about a wide variety of careers pathways and the opportunity for Q&A.

The session will take place in the Sixth Form Centre. Please meet outside the Careers Office. Students are welcome to bring along their lunch and eat it during the session. The session on Wednesday 11th September will be on Careers in Finance.

Learning beyond the Classroom

We strive to provide students with various opportunities to learn beyond the classroom.

The new lunchtime and after school clubs schedule will be issued soon. We encourage students from all year groups to get involved.

Assemblies will be delivered to all year groups across the weeks beginning 16th / 23rd September outlining the other extracurricular, enrichment & leadership opportunities that are on offer this academic year.

Wellbeing

We are delighted to have appointed Mr Phillips as our Student Wellbeing Coordinator for this academic year.

Student wellbeing is a priority for us and Mr Phillips will be planning and delivering a wellbeing strategy that aims to support the wellbeing of students across all 3 Key Stages.

Assemblies - Week beginning 9th September

The assembly theme for all year groups next week is 'New Beginnings'.

These assemblies will be delivered by the year group Associate Assistant Headteacher. The focus will be on the vision, values and expectations for the new academic year.