



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

31st August 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to another school year, we are looking forward to having the pupils back with us for what I am sure will be a rewarding term. I would like to draw your attention to the summer newsletter on our website (click [here](#)) which contains a lot of important information about the start of term, which can be found mainly on pages 4 and 5.

Return Dates:

- Year 7 & Year 12 - Tuesday 6th September
- All remaining year groups - Wednesday 7th September

Students must be on site by 8:40am and should enter the school site via their designated year group entrance:

- S1 Carpark - Year 7, Year 10, Year 11
- Cemetery Lane - Year 8, Year 9
- 6th Form Carpark - Year 12, Year 13.

Once on site, students must go to their year group hubs, which are:

- Year 7 - Chaloner Hall,
- Year 8 - Sports Hall
- Year 9 - Girl's Gym
- Year 10 - Dining Hall
- Year 11 – S1

Please avoid using the school car park and King James's Road for pick up and drop off, this creates additional congestion and can disrupt the safe loading and unloading of our buses. There is plenty of space for drop off at the car park at York Place.

Save the Date!

Our Parent Expectations/GCSE Support Evenings are taking place on the following evenings:

Years 7 & 8 - Tuesday 13th September

Years 9 & 10 - Wednesday 14th September

Year 11 - Tuesday 27th September

Year 12 - Thursday 29th September

Year 13 - Wednesday 21st September

We will send out a separate invitation next week, with specific timings for each year group.

A Level and GCSE results

After so much disruption to education in the past two years we delivered A Level and GCSE exam results to our students during August. These were the first public exams since 2019. There was a lot of media interest in the exams.

At A level the national picture was suggesting exam results would be somewhere between the outcomes in 2019 and the teacher assessed grades of 2021. In our case our A level students actually performed better than the national picture. Despite the warnings about a more challenging year for university entry, 82% of our pupils were able to progress to their first choice university course. The remaining students who wanted to progress to university either took their second choice or went through clearing.

We wish all of our A Level students every success as they move on to life beyond school.

At GCSE the students also had considerable success. The average progress for King James's students was a fifth of a grade higher, per subject, than the national data. Numbers returning into the sixth form are at an all-time high, and many other students are progressing to college courses and employment and training. We wish them every success in their next steps.

Extra Curricular Activities

Over the years we notice that there is a clear connection between involvement in extracurricular activities, positive wellbeing and good academic performance. The pupils who are the most involved in school life tend to be the happiest and perform well. In mid-September we will have our extracurricular clubs and leadership opportunities up and running, please do encourage involvement.

Ready, Respectful and Engaged

All our routines in school are driven by our theme of 'ready, respectful and engaged'. The graphic illustrates what we mean by this. For example, our expectation around being 'ready' is that students are physically ready (by wearing the correct KJS uniform with pride) and practically (by having the correct equipment and by being on time to learn by being punctual). The majority of our students consistently sustain high standards in line with our values, and we appreciate your ongoing support as we start a new academic year.

READY

- Be punctual
- Be properly equipped
- Wear uniform correctly
- Have a positive mindset
- Complete homework and missed learning

RESPECTFUL

- Be kind to all
- Use polite verbal and body language
- Respect the learning environment
- Ask and answer appropriate questions
- Interact with others with respect

ENGAGED

- Get involved
- Use all opportunities to learn
- Be self motivated and use initiative
- Learn from mistakes
- Listen to others

Cost of living and school meal costs

We understand the impact that the cost-of-living crisis is having in our community, but unfortunately, we will have to increase school meal prices this year. In the last six months, we have seen our food costs increased by over 25%. We also have gas up by 330% and electricity 115% higher. We have not received any additional funding for this, and we have absorbed these costs in the school budget. I would like to assure you that we will continue to offer a broad menu of both hot and cold meals, and indeed will extend our options this term.

We have added a slight increase of around 5p – 10p on most items. By sourcing a new supplier, we are able to keep our meal deal option. This will include a main item, hot/cold sandwich, rice pot or pasta option at the new price of £2.80 with a drink and dessert. Our traditional hot meal or salad will be £2.50. A drink or dessert can be added on for only 30p. Water fountains continue to be available around the school and we encourage students to take advantage, bringing a refillable bottle each day.

We have kept the default daily spending cap at £6.00 per day. If you wish to adjust your child's limit, please contact our Finance team on: finance@king-james.n-yorks.sch.uk and include your child's full name, tutor group and preferred amount. To add funds to your child's meal account, please continue to use [ParentPay](#). For your convenience, an automated email reminder will be received when your child's account balance reaches below £10.00. We no longer have the capacity to support overdrawn accounts past £3.00.

Should you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact your child's year group Pastoral Team.

Uniform

The vast majority of our students come to school very smartly dressed. Please find below some key reminders about our uniform:

Years 7 & 8

- Plain black trousers (black jeans, leggings or skinny fit trousers are not acceptable, belts should be plain black, no combat pockets)
- White shirt (tucked in, with top button fastened)
- Official bottle green blazer with school badge (not compulsory when summer uniform is permitted at the discretion of the Headteacher)
- Royal Stewart tartan tie
- Plain dark socks
- Plain black shoes*

or

- Royal Stewart tartan kilt (worn to a respectable length)
- Plain white blouse with collar
- Bottle green v-necked pullover with KJS logo (not compulsory when summer uniform is permitted at the discretion of the Headteacher)
- Bottle green tights
- Plain black shoes*

or

- Plain black trousers (black jeans, leggings or skinny fit trousers are not acceptable, belts should be plain black, no combat pockets)
- White shirt (tucked in, with top button fastened)

- Bottle green v-necked pullover with KJS logo (not compulsory when summer uniform is permitted at the discretion of the Headteacher)
- Royal Stewart tartan tie
- Plain dark socks
- Plain black shoes*

Years 9, 10 & 11

- Plain black trousers (black jeans are not acceptable, belts should be plain black, no combat pockets)
- White shirt (tucked in, with top button fastened)
- Official bottle green blazer with school badge (not compulsory when summer uniform is permitted at the discretion of the Headteacher)
- Hunting Stewart tartan tie
- Plain dark socks
- Plain black shoes*

or

- Hunting Stewart tartan kilt (worn to a respectable length)
- Plain white blouse with collar
- Bottle green v-necked pullover with KJS logo (not compulsory when summer uniform is permitted at the discretion of the Headteacher)
- Bottle green tights
- Plain black shoes*

or

- Plain black trousers (black jeans are not acceptable, belts should be plain black, no combat pockets)
- White shirt (tucked in, with top button fastened)
- Bottle green v-necked pullover with KJS logo (not compulsory when summer uniform is permitted at the discretion of the Headteacher)
- Hunting Stewart tartan tie
- Plain dark socks
- Plain black shoes*

**No boots, trainers, pumps or leisure shoes of any kind. Any heels should be low (no more than 3cm high). We do not allow boots, stiletto or kitten heels, backless or open-toed shoes, pumps or any styles we deem unsafe or unsuitable.*

Kind regards



Carl Sugden
Headteacher.