

# VISION

Issue 29, Summer 2018



King James I Academy magazine

## Best Performing State Sixth Form in the North East!



Inside: Sixth Form Life, New Nurture Centre, STEM Initiatives, Outward Bound, Year 6 Transition, Football Tour of Holland, Maths Department News, Aim Higher Trips plus much more.



# Welcome from the Head



Welcome to the Summer 2018 edition of *Vision* which highlights the range of exciting and inspirational learning opportunities available to our students.

In this edition we have, in the early articles, showcased our superb Sixth Form. As well as offering a vast and developing range of subjects, we also focus upon the personalised support which helps our students to achieve the best results in the region. Beyond the classroom, our Sixth Form students are able to demonstrate the skills and talents needed to help them to successfully move into Higher Education, training and employment and to live a fulfilling and happy life. They are an inspiration to our younger students!

We pride ourselves on our ability to successfully support all of our students, across all year groups, and to offer them an exciting and varied range of subjects and extra-curricular opportunities. In a recent Year 6 Parents' Evening I was delighted to hear from a number of parents that they had chosen King James' because they appreciated the variety we offer; this at a time when nationally, schools are being encouraged to promote less choice. We are single-minded in our pursuit of the best opportunities we can offer and we will continue to ensure that our students exemplify the King James difference.

I hope you enjoy reading about our students' many successes and I hope you have a fantastic Summer.

Best wishes.

Nick Grieveson, Headteacher

## Reasons to choose King James SIXTH FORM

There are many reasons to choose our Sixth Form, from the excellent exam results, huge range of subject choices and the creative approach to lessons, to the range of exciting opportunities to travel and the tailored support programme. But don't take our word for it - here's what Alastair McCall, Editor of the *Sunday Times Schools Guide*, *Parent Power* wrote about King James.

"King James is among the best performing schools in the new Government tables for school performance in the North East of England. Using the new government benchmark for pupil progress in the Sixth Form, the so-called 'Progress Measure', King James outperformed every other state school in the region, based on last summer's A' Level results. It scored 0.52 for progress, effectively meaning that Sixth Formers achieved A' Level results at least half a grade better on average than those who entered post-16 study with similar qualifications in other Sixth Forms nationally."

"The new analysis of the Government data looked at Sixth Form outcomes across 13 local authorities in the region - County Durham, Northumberland, North Yorkshire, Newcastle, Gateshead, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Sunderland, Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton and Redcar and Cleveland - spanning 227 state and independent school Sixth Forms. Only two schools in the 13 council areas achieved

better scores than King James and both of these were independent/private schools."

"The Head Teacher, Nick Grieveson is pleased to be able to celebrate students' success but points out that the numbers don't tell the whole story. The school prides itself on the support it provides every young person who attends and he is convinced that is what makes the difference. He says that the progress measures reflect students' hard work and that of the excellent teachers and support staff who are dedicated to helping students to achieve success."

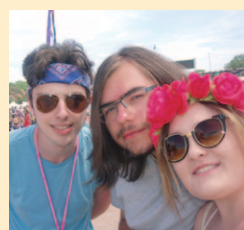
"The progress of students in the Sixth Form at King James is exceptional. The figures don't lie. No other state school from York to Berwick enhances its Sixth Formers' prospects more than King James. Taking account of their academic starting points at 16, to add the equivalent of half a grade on average to each pupil's results is a remarkable achievement of which the school should be justly proud."

## AMSTERDAM The next opportunity to travel

Our Sixth Form students have travelled to many different countries including Ghana, Brazil, Jamaica, USA, France, Spain, Italy and Ireland, but in October we are adding a new destination to our portfolio of international experiences and students will have the opportunity to visit Amsterdam.

The trip, which will take place from 16th-18th October, will provide a complete cultural experience for those taking part. Students will take part in a city walking tour and a canal tour, they will visit Ann Frank House and The Museum District, and of course they will be able to appreciate the stunning architecture of the city and sample traditional Dutch cuisine.

### Plus... Glastonbury returns in 2019!



Following a 'fallow year' in 2018, we are pleased to announce that June 2019 will see the return of our hugely popular *Glastonbury Festival* trip for Year 13s. The five-day trip involves students becoming part of the 35,000-strong crew of festival workers in exchange for their ticket. They work as a member of the Recycling Team from 6am-12noon each day and then have the rest of the time free to enjoy the acts. It's an amazing experience for Sixth Formers and one that rates highly in their memories of King James.



## Preparing you for a Great future

We appreciate that a bright future is not just about gaining good qualifications. It's also about building life skills and experience that will show potential Universities, colleges and employers that you are the right candidate. For this reason, our Sixth Form offers a multitude of opportunities to build an impressive CV.

Some of our courses arrange work placements to allow Sixth Form students to gain sector-specific experience such as Health & Social Care and Business Studies. We have students on regular placement in local Primary Schools too, in preparation for attending University to study as Teachers.

Sixth Formers regularly work with visiting primary school pupils on the host of outreach projects we offer throughout the year. They also work as guides, mentors, coaches and Teaching Assistants during Year 5 Curriculum Week, Year 6 Induction days and during Transition Summer School.

In departments such as Media, English and Music, Sixth Form students act as Subject Mentors to support younger year groups in improving their knowledge and skills. Students also organise and take part in a host of fundraising activities and community projects to show their empathy and commitment to worthy causes.

These things demonstrate drive, ambition and a desire for personal development, all of which are extremely positive attributes, particularly in such a competitive market. Study at King James and we'll help you to stand out from the crowd!

## Praise from RSC for Music students

Three of our Sixth Form Music students have received letters of praise from the prestigious *Royal Shakespeare Company* for their support in the recent *Primary Shakespeare Festival*.

Bethany Lewis-Burrows, Adam Harle and Shelley Edwards, pictured here, demonstrated their stage management skills and supervised the sound and lighting for the event, which took place over two days. This was an excellent opportunity to gain hands-on experience with a respected organisation.



## Courses for September 2018

We offer a diverse range of traditional and vocational courses at King James and we are about to expand our choices even more in the next academic year.

From September, we will be introducing Criminology and Professional Cooking. You can view our full prospectus on our website at [www.kingjames1academy.com](http://www.kingjames1academy.com) or arrange a meeting to discuss your options by calling 01388 603 388.

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Further Maths
- Geography
- History
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Science
- Animal Management
- Art
- Photography
- Media Studies
- Drama
- Performing Arts
- Music
- Business Studies
- Computing
- Health & Social Care
- French
- Spanish
- Travel & Tourism
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Professional Sports Studies



Hollie-Ann Balcombe, Reegan Hodgson,  
Sophie Waugh and Katy Williams

# CHICAGO!

## (and all that jazz)

### Aim Higher trips to help choose a University

**M**r Shearer's *Aim Higher* programme helps Sixth Form students to begin planning their future beyond King James by taking them on residential trips to University cities across the UK.

Each trip includes a tour of the campus and halls, and informal workshops where students can talk to current degree students about University life and gather information on the variety of courses on offer, student finance and accommodation. The overnight stay is an important part of the trip as it allows students to spend some time exploring the city and experiencing the place that could become home for three years. It also gives our students a taste of independence and gets them excited at the thought of attending University.

The programme takes place throughout the academic year and trips include Edinburgh, Leeds, Manchester, York, Liverpool, London, Teesside, Durham, Cumbria and Northumbria.

The next *Aim Higher* trips are scheduled to take place in July to Leeds and Northumbria Universities. Students will visit Leeds, home to *Leeds University*, *Leeds Beckett* and *Leeds Trinity* from 2nd-3rd July; and the ever-popular *Northumbria University* from 12th-13th July. A number of former King James students are currently studying at these Universities following *Aim Higher* inspiration.



**Y**ear 13 Performing Arts students have finished their course with a bang! In a spectacular performance, they fused together acting with physical theatre to create a new interpretation of the musical *Chicago*.

They analysed the meaning of the lyrics to create a dark re-working of the West End musical, deconstructing the characters and portraying them through new interpretations.

This exciting style of theatre creates a strong sense of atmosphere, which really challenges the audience to think beyond the lip-gloss and glitter. As performers they challenged themselves too and created a wonderful exam piece full of surprise and attitude. It was a great way to end their Performing Arts studies at King James.

Year 13 A'Level Drama students used the themes from the classic novel and film, *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* for their exam piece. They explored the idea of gender power, and whilst remaining true to the nature and feel of the novel, they produced

a personalised adaptation of the bitter frustration that has been echoed throughout societies over many years. What is normal? Who has the power and control? It was a powerful arena for questions and self-reflection.

The dramatic performance explored how power is tragically abused within the mental health institution which is the setting for the piece, and how the nurses seem to be the manipulators. Patients are subjected to electroshock treatments which leave them docile and unable to think, and it is used as a punishment rather than reasoned treatment.

The cast did not want to simply re-create the original. They felt strongly about producing their own interpretation and the result left the audience considering the notion that mental illness can have an aspect of power.

## Year 13 Business students Get down to work

**T**hree of our BTEC Business students in Year 13 have recently completed a 40 hour work experience placement at *Arlington Automotive* in Newton Aycliffe.



The placement allowed them to complete one of their coursework units entitled 'Work Experience in Business', but students gained a great deal more in terms of personal growth. Abby Whitaker spent her time working in the Commercial Department whilst Declan McKenna worked in Engineering and Sonny Holmes worked in Finance.

Following the placement, students prepared a presentation which they delivered to representatives from the company, discussing what they had gained from the experience overall.

Abby said, "This has really helped me to clarify my career goals. When I first started at Arlington I didn't know which path I wanted to take in business but the placement has given me an insight into possible career opportunities"

"Thanks to Arlington I have learned my personal strengths in a working environment and I know this will help me at University as well as in a job. I now know that I have the ability to work independently as well as being able to build good relationships, and that an enthusiastic outlook on work is a real advantage."

## Elite Team are Cup Final Winners!

**I**t's been a great season for the King James Elite Football Academy Team who are now celebrating victory in the *North East Colleges Development League Cup Final*.

The Cup Final was a hard-fought match held at Gateshead International Arena but our Sixth Form team eventually beat the opposition, *Gateshead College*, 3-2 despite trailing 2-0 at half-time.

It was inspiring to see the team return to the pitch in the second half with renewed energy and determination.

They saw off the strong home team with three outstanding goals scored by Steven Dawson, Ryan Paterson and Jack Mortimer. King James supporters and those in the wider-world who could not attend the match were able to listen to live commentary via *BishopFM*. We would like to congratulate our team on their success.



Some of the Sixth Form Media Team including Ellie Jaye, front left.

## KEEPING IT REAL in Creative Media Studies

**M**edia students in Years 10-13 work on a variety of realistic assignments as part of their BTEC studies. Our courses are designed to give realistic industry experience to help inspire and prepare students for a successful career in the diverse Media sector. Here, Year 13 student, Ellie Jaye writes about the most recent projects.

Sixth Form Media students have produced and published a career-themed magazine called *Go Ahead* as part of their Level 3 course. The process gave them a realistic insight into a range of publishing sector specialisms such as Journalism, Editing, Photography and Graphic Design. Students learned about professional industry practice by planning and managing the entire project; the process involved consumer research, budgeting, photo-shoots, client interviews and graphic design, with each student taking responsibility for one spread which was combined with others to form a team product. Students had to source an interviewee and model for their page and thanks to the co-operation of a number of local businesses and external practitioners, the final magazine contained information about a variety of careers from Catering and Tattooing to Teaching, Hairdressing and the Police Force.

In another project, Emily Boughey has utilised her Media skills to produce the *Year 11 Leavers Book 2018*. The complex project involved gathering over 100 photographs and text from tutors, and producing a finished design for commercial print production within a strict budget. In a second project, she was commissioned by her Teacher, Miss Davies to produce a bespoke Sixth Form Media Graduation Book, which celebrates the personal achievement of students.



Thanks to a new working relationship with *Weardale Gazette*, a number of students have been able to demonstrate their journalism skills by having articles published. This new link offers an exciting opportunity for students to develop skills in research, photography and journalistic writing, whilst building an impressive portfolio of work. Many students have also taken photographs and written articles which have been published in *Vision* magazine, on our website and in *The Town Crier* and *Bishop Press* newspapers.



# LATEST NEWS...

## New Nurture Centre on the way



Three years ago we launched our 'Nurture Programme' to provide targeted, small-group learning for students who needed to boost their achievement and confidence levels.

The programme initially focused on Year 7 students and we celebrated the excellent progress made by the group in all areas of school life, from improved ability in all subjects to confidence in participating in a range of social activities. As a result of this success, and due to the increased numbers of young people joining King James in September, we have decided to expand our Nurture Group and have submitted plans for a new building to house a bespoke Nurture Centre.

Planning permission has been sought to erect a contemporary detached building with three classrooms and independent facilities. We are hopeful that the building will be part funded by *Durham County Council* and the *DfE*, and that it will be fully operational in time for the beginning of the new academic year in September 2018.

## Nurture Group Garden Project

Members of our Year 7 Nurture Group have been working on a garden project to create a peaceful outdoor environment where students will be able to socialise in small groups, read or eat lunch.



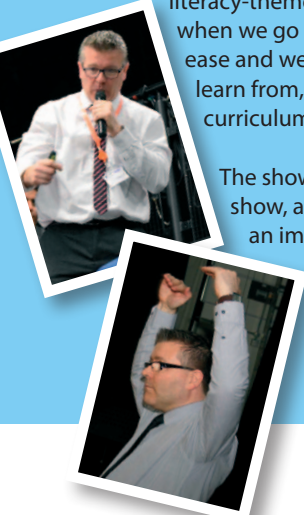
Working with Miss Reynolds and Mr Blackburn, the group worked hard to prepare the plot, which is located at the side of our Art Centre; this quiet, fenced-off area is the perfect spot for sun-loving flowers and plants. Students removed an area of turf and dug over the soil to prepare the ground for planting, which will begin very soon. Year 7 students, Callum Brown and Daniel Jones, and Year 10 student, Nicky Beaston showed particular enthusiasm for the garden, even staying back after school to help out.

## PUNCTUATION ROADSHOW!

Last term, students in Key Stage 3 were treated to a fun learning experience when the *Punctuation Show* visited King James. The roadshow is designed to improve overall English skills and confidence in the use of correct punctuation and grammar.

The interactive show uses music, dance and comedy to engage students in a range of literacy-themed activities. The success of the show is attributed to the fact that when we go to the theatre, or to a concert, we remember what we've seen with ease and we talk about it afterwards with our friends. It's an experience that we learn from, and the concept of The Punctuation Show adapts this to the school curriculum.

The show in our Main Hall for around 350 students combined a comedy show, a rock concert and an all-singing, all-dancing literacy lesson to create an impact that students will never forget. It was an excellent refresher for our younger students, who left the morning session with a much better understanding of when and where to use full stops, question marks, brackets, ellipses, speech marks, apostrophes, commas, paragraphs, colons and semi-colons.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR TOMORROW'S ENGINEERS

Here at King James, we work hard to strengthen our contacts with local engineering companies to help promote interest in engineering as a career and to increase opportunities for our students.

As part of our strategy, we have established strong links with *NELEP* (North East Local Enterprise Partnership), which was established by the government to plan medium term economic objectives for the North East and identify interventions and investments to support economic growth, improve productivity and to increase the number of those employed, particularly in higher quality jobs.

*NELEP* helps to establish links between schools and local businesses and our *NELEP* Enterprise Coordinator, Lindsey Joy linked us with engineering ambassadors *Arlington Automotive*, which is based in Newton Aycliffe. *Arlington* makes parts for the car industry and has strong links with *Nissan*.

With the help of Steve Dale, General Manager of *Arlington Automotive* we established a project called 'Follow the Metal', which saw a group of King James students who are interested in engineering, visit the *Arlington* factory to see the development of car components for *Nissan* being manufactured. Steve then arranged for our students to tour the *Nissan* factory where they could see *Arlington's* components being incorporated into cars.

This project caused great interest in school and highlighted the opportunities in engineering both locally and nationally. As part of our summer 'Careers Clinics' a group of apprentices from *Arlington* are coming into school to talk to students about their own apprenticeship pathways and the opportunities which are available to young people.

*Arlington* has also helped several Sixth Form students complete their courses by giving them the opportunity to have work experience with the company.



# STEM Initiatives

## Driving forward Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

It has been a busy year for our STEM Co-ordinators, and thanks to their efforts, our students have benefitted from a wide variety of learning activities, special events and experiences, all designed to inspire a passion for careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.



Students in Year 7 have been designing and building a motor-powered car for the 'Race to the Line' challenge, which saw them race their creations in a special event hosted by representatives from *RAF Leeming Bar*. The design team of the fastest car, who are all pictured above, later enjoyed a visit to the *RAF* base where they developed their prototype further.

Year 8 students have been taking part in the 'Solutions for the Planet' competition, which focuses on developing sustainable ideas to help save the planet. In school, teams of students worked with representatives from *The Mears Group* and *Tarmac* on a variety of innovative sustainability ideas and eight teams were entered into the regional final of the competition; as a result of their excellent concept for a Biomass battery powered by algae, one of our teams earned a place in the national final. Our team of five boys will now join regional winners from schools across the UK on July 11th at Westminster Palace in London. We wish them the best of luck.

In Year 9, a team of 12 students have been working with *Glaxo* on a healthy eating and lifestyle project. The project involves developing ideas and strategies which could improve the general health of young people, and looking at ways to implement them in school. So far, the group have explored the feasibility of a permanent salad bar in our Dinner Hall and this idea has received a very positive response from all year groups. They have also suggested the launch of an initiative to promote cycling as an effective way to stay fit and active, and are investigating the practicalities of adding cycling to our PE lessons.

A group of 35 students in Years 9 and 10 have visited the annual 'Durham Science Fair', which is held at *Durham University* and hosted by specialist University STEM Ambassadors. Our students were able to take part in a range of exciting activities, such as the physics-based 'Science of Sound', where they investigated sound waves and how we hear and translate frequencies. In this

department they also studied the theory of Quarks and Dark Matter. With Biology Ambassadors, students looked at plant reproduction, learned about how plants pollinate and considered the importance of the process and the impact of plant pollination on the earth.

Around 150 students across all year groups were able to learn about Tim Peake's return to Earth in the Soyuz TMA-19M descent module after six months on board the International Space Station. Thanks to a visit from the converted double-decker touring bus, students learned how to programme a space shuttle using iPad technology and experienced the 400km descent back to Earth in a fantastic virtual reality experience which was narrated by the astronaut himself. Many of the students had already visited the Tim Peake exhibition at Locomotion in Shildon as part of our STEM programme.





# MATHS NEWS...

## Senior Maths Challenge Success

**A**' Level students at King James achieved four Bronze Awards in this year's *UKMT Senior Maths Challenge*.

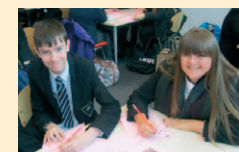
Over 82,000 pupils from across the UK returned scripts for the Senior Maths Challenge with the top 10% receiving a Gold certificate, the next 20% Silver, and the next 30% Bronze. Year 13 student, Abbie Stephenson achieved a Bronze award and Best in Year; Brent Errington and Tyler Wills in Year 12 also achieved a Bronze award and joint Best in Year; and Euan Elliott, also in Year 12, achieved a Bronze Award. Abbie, Brent and Tyler all achieved identical scores causing a three-way tie for Best in School.



## Intermediate Achievement

**O**ver 250,000 students from more than 3,000 schools and colleges across the UK took part in the *Intermediate Mathematical Challenge* in 2018.

Students had 60 minutes to answer 25 varied multiple-choice mathematical problems. High scorers were awarded certificates to recognise their success in mathematics and top scorers were invited to participate in follow-on competitions and mentoring schemes. Year 11 student, Marshall Gowland won Best in Year and a Bronze Award; and Year 10 student, Courtney Smith won Best in Year and a Silver Award. Year 9 student, Adam Hughes won a Silver Award whilst Oliver O'Keefe and Thomas Simpson, also in Year 9, won Bronze Awards. However, the two most impressive performances came from Year 9s, Blake Sample and Lucas Stewart; Blake won Best in School, Best in Year 9 and a Gold Award, whilst Lucas won a Silver Award. Both Blake and Lucas qualified for the follow-on round and were awarded certificates of qualification for their participation.



## Year 10 FMSP Maths Feast

**T**wo teams of Year 10 students have recently participated in the *Further Maths Support Programme's* annual Maths Feast.

Our teams had a mid-table finish, but they had an excellent day out working on complex, non-routine problems. The students involved were Riley Johnson, Megan Healey (both pictured left), Chloe Illingworth, Emily Richards, Courtney Smith, Oliver Dunn, Antonia Cummings and Rebecca Howarth.



## Senior Team Challenge

**S**ixth Form students, Abbie Stephenson and Euan Elliott, and Year 11s, Marshall Gowland and Abbi Stephenson competed as a team in the Senior Team Challenge.

This challenge is known for its high level of difficulty but our team did extremely well, achieving a near perfect score on the Cross Number round.

## UKMT Team Challenge

**F**our of finest young mathematicians have competed in the *United Kingdom Mathematical Trust's* team challenge which was held at *Durham Johnston*.

Our team, which consisted of two Year 8 students, Zoe Munro and Jake Dobinson, and two Year 9 students, Adam Hughes and Lucas Stewart, finished in an impressive 4th place overall out of 32 participating teams; this is our best finish ever! Students particularly enjoyed the fast-paced nature of the relay round and found the entire competition really fun.

# Year 6 Transition... working hard to make it easy

**I**n September, over 180 new Year 7s will join us at King James. To make sure they settle in quickly, our Transition Programme starts early, with a wide variety of events that began for many whilst they were in Year 5.

We have an extensive Primary Outreach programme and pupils from a number of local primary schools join us regularly to take part in a variety of workshops and activities themed around Art & Photography, Music, Dance, Enterprise and Literature.

Each year we provide taster sessions for around 600 primary pupils during *Year 5 Curriculum Week*. This introduces students to secondary school life and gives them a taste of subjects that they might not necessarily have experienced before such as Photography, Media, Business and Enterprise, Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Performing Arts. Primary Head Teachers select the sessions that they feel would most benefit their students. This year, Curriculum Week takes place from 25th - 29th June.

JUNE 25

For those who have gained a place to start King James in September 2018, the transition process has begun in earnest. Students and their families joined us last term for Year 6 Parents' Evening (main picture) where families were introduced to our Head Teacher, Senior Leadership Team, our Head of Year 7, and our

Tutor Team. They also found out about uniform, school transport, extra-curricular activities and *Chromebooks*, and registered their interest in attending Summer School.

In June, all new starters visit us for one day each week for our *No Wasted Weeks* initiative. This gradually introduces them to lessons with a particular focus on Literacy and Numeracy, and allows us to assess their needs well before September arrives.

In July, they will join us for three consecutive *Induction Days*, which will ensure that they are completely familiar with the Academy buildings, outdoor leisure areas and the daily schedule from Breakfast Club to registration, morning break and lunchtime. They will meet their Tutor and take part in a variety of lessons so they know what to expect and understand our Academy policies. Induction Days take place from 11th-13th July.

In our *Transition Summer School*, all students can attend two days of fun activities in school, which are specifically designed to forge friendships and to promote confidence. They can then apply to attend a free three-day adventure holiday to *Winmarleigh Hall* in Lancashire, where they will experience Raft Building, Zip Wire, the Giant Swing, Den Building and a variety of other outdoor activities. Places are limited to 70 due to funding, but those who attend Winmarleigh benefit enormously in terms of proving to themselves that they can achieve anything.

JULY 11

## Rock & Pop Institute visits The Sage

**M**embers of the *Rock & Pop Institute* at King James have recently enjoyed an evening of live music at the fabulous Sage in Gateshead.

The Rock and Pop Institute was officially launched at King James in September 2017 with a grant of £28,000 from the Arts Council. The grant initially allowed the Academy to purchase brand new instruments and equipment, but it will also allow the Institute to operate as a free facility for at least two years.

The Institute, which is the first of its kind in the County Durham area, provides an opportunity for young people with an interest in the music industry, to get together and develop skills in performance,

composing and technical production through a variety of practical recording projects. Run by qualified teachers, who are all talented musicians themselves, the 28 members benefit from a broad range of knowledge and experience.

Current members, who attend different secondary schools in the area including *Whitworth Park, Bishop Barrington, Parkside, Wolsingham* and *King James* have recently enjoyed a trip to see 'The Rock Show' at *The Sage* in Gateshead. The show was carefully chosen by Mr Smith, our Director



of Learning for Music, due the diversity of the set presented by the touring 'super group', made up of professional musicians from both the USA and UK. The evening was a huge success, with Institute members both impressed and inspired by the quality of the music, the sound and stage lighting and of course by the stunning venue.





# OUTWARD BOUND

experience in Cumbria

A total of 33 students in Years 7-10 have just returned from an exhilarating five-day Outward Bound experience to Cumbria. This year, due to the popularity of the annual trip and the increased demand for places, we took more students than ever.

The annual trip offers our students an opportunity to build confidence, independence and team working skills, but perhaps the most valuable part of the experience is that it also gives them the opportunity to prove to themselves that they can overcome any challenge, however difficult, with a positive attitude and a little determination.

Students took part in a range of exhilarating and challenging activities such as Gorge Walking, Cliff Diving, Canoeing and the infamous 'Jog and Dip', which involves an invigorating run followed by a fully-clothed leap into the lake; this is a real shock to the system! They also enjoyed an overnight orienteering expedition, where they climbed mountains, erected tents and cooked their own food.

On the final night, groups gathered together to talk about how the course could be implemented into their daily lives at both home and school. Many spoke about how they had surprised themselves with the level of personal resilience they had discovered, and said that they would feel much more confident in trying something new and in their ability to succeed - we could not have wished for a better response.

The centre was so impressed by the positive attitude of our students that a number were offered scholarships to attend residential experiences in the summer holidays. Antonia Cummings, Mathew Stevens and Abbie Spencer will all take part in the fantastic three-week *Skills for Life* programme, whilst Charlotte Robinson, Jake Dobinson, Rhys Spencer, Luke

Graham, Jack Anderson and Will Wiseman will visit for a week-long summer adventure.

This year, we were joined on the trip by Sam Forth, pictured centre, representative from Akzonobel, the global paint and specialist chemicals company which has sponsored our Outward Bound experience for the last three years. Once again, thanks to their financial support, we were able to subsidise the cost of the trip and therefore make it more affordable for our students. Sam proved to be an excellent mentor on the trip and he has agreed to support our young people even further by joining us in school to assist with a variety of careers and business events. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Sam and to Akzonobel for their continued support.

## Language Perfect

Students at King James have once again been competing against the rest of the world in the *Language Perfect World Championships*.

The competition involves students logging in online and answering questions in either French or Spanish over a ten-day period to earn points for themselves as an individual competitor, and for the Academy in the school category.

Our students achieved two Gold, three Silver and eleven Bronze Awards, and King James was placed 5th overall in England from 48 participating schools. We also achieved an impressive 7th place in the world for our category of school. Further details and photographs will be available in the next issue of *Vision*.

## YEAR 11 PROM

Don't forget our annual Year 11 Prom on Thursday 5th July at Redworth Hall Hotel.



## A Taste for Religious Studies

As part of their Religious Studies course, students in Year 8 have been learning about how religion can influence people's identities.



They have looked at how food is of huge importance in the Jewish faith, as well as studying the significance of Baptism for Christians and modest dressing for the Muslim community. Learning about diverse religions allows our students to appreciate many different identities and values.

After studying various aspects of the Jewish faith, students focused on the significance of Kosher food, which has been a hallmark of Jewish identity for thousands of years. Students looked at the ingredients of Kosher products including chocolate, matzo crackers, grape juice, macaroons and cakes, before enjoying a tasting experience. This hands-on approach to learning really engages our students.

Written by Year 13 student, Emily Hope.



Some of the guide team. Year 9 students from left: Shannon McKerry, Melissa Smith and Adam Hughes.

## PORRAJMOS:

### Through the eyes of children

Last month we hosted the Porrajmos (Por-ry-mus) Exhibition, which looks at the Holocaust from the perspective of children. The exhibition is designed to raise awareness about the issues of prejudice towards Gypsies and Travellers, a minority group often not considered when studying the Holocaust.

The exhibition demonstrated historical racial hatred through powerful images and facts, telling the story of the Romany victims of Nazi persecution. Visitors learned about the origins of the Gypsy community, their customs and beliefs, and life before 1933, followed by the impact of Nazism on Romany Gypsies. They also learned about deportation and what life was like for Gypsies in the UK in the 1940s.

Under Adolf Hitler, in 1935, Gypsies were classified as 'enemies of the state', thereby placing them in the same category as the Jews. Historians estimate that between 220,000

and 500,000 Romany people were subsequently killed by the Nazis and their collaborators in Europe, however there are some who believe the death toll could be as high as 1.5 million.

During the week-long exhibition, which was on loan from *Durham County Council*, groups of students from across all year groups visited the exhibition. They were encouraged to reflect upon the impact of unchecked discrimination and consider how it affects modern society; this helps to promote community cohesion. We were also able to share the exhibition with some of our local primary school pupils.

## Panathlon success at Freeman's Quay

Each year, over 800 school children across the country take part in the Panathlon 'mini Paralympic' multi-sport challenge. Here at King James we are always keen to take part.

The County Durham Panathlon was recently held at *Freeman's Quay Leisure Centre* and we entered two teams in the event. At the close of play we celebrated great success with our teams finishing in 2nd and 5th place overall. Well done!





# BRILLIANTLY GRUESOME HISTORY!



Last term, 34 History students in Years 9-11 attended a crime and punishment themed trip to London as part of their GCSE studies.

During the two-day visit, pupils visited the *London Dungeons* and *Madame Tussauds*, as well as taking part in an evening *Jack the Ripper Tour*. As part of the tour they were able to see each of the sites where Jack the Ripper committed his gruesome canonical murders; they also heard clues as to who Jack the Ripper might have been and considered theories about why he was never officially identified.

Students travelled to London by train and made their way around the capital using the Underground network, which was a great experience in itself. As an added bonus, they were also able to squeeze in a couple of hours shopping in Oxford Street. Overall, it was a brilliantly gruesome visit!

## UNIFORM RECYCLING

As the academic year draws to a close we would like to ask our parents and carers to support our Uniform Recycling Scheme.

If you are thinking about buying new uniform for your child, please help us to support our less fortunate families by sending any unwanted items to us. Our Student Support Office can recycle blazers, ties, shirts, trousers, skirts, jumpers, PE kit and school shoes. Parents who would like to access the service for their child can contact Mrs Bainbridge in confidence.



## Meet our Primary School Business Champions

At the beginning of the academic year, our Business Studies Department launched an exciting project which allowed primary school children to learn about building a successful business through a range of creative challenges. We can now announce the winners.

A number of local schools accepted our invitation to take part, including *Oakely Cross*, *St Andrews*, *Victoria Lane*, *St Annes* and *Prince Bishops*. At the launch event, young entrepreneurs working in teams of six, formed mini companies and developed a business idea which they could run in their own school over a period of five months.

This first session included a number of team building activities and educational tasks designed to help build

skills in various aspects of business such as budgeting, presentation, management and marketing. At a second session, teams presented a business plan and designed a logo and a variety of promotional items to help launch their company. They were then given £10 from King James to use as an initial investment before returning to their schools to launch and run their enterprise.

Last term, all of the teams returned for the final

challenge. Each one delivered a presentation on the skills they had learned, the success of their business and the profit they had made.

The winning team were *The Crafty Crew* from *St Anne's*, pictured here, who had produced and sold hand-made gifts for Valentines Day, Mothers Day and Easter, making an impressive £222.22 profit. They will spend this on developing a new school reading area and they have also adopted an elephant.



## Rock Climbing for GCSE PE

A group of eight Year 11 students have visited *Durham Climbing Centre* this month as part of their GCSE PE qualification.



Students attended the centre for two consecutive days to develop skills in climbing, belaying, smearing, traversing and pinching. They also learned how to tie figure 8 knots and how to tie onto harnesses before being assessed on all of their new skills against the AQA GCSE criteria. This assessment is worth 10% of their final GCSE grade. Opportunities such as this bring diversity to our PE provision and give students the chance to try sports which are not available in our immediate vicinity. Climbing is a real test of strength and flexibility but it is also a strategic sport which requires problem solving and effective teamwork.

## Introducing Warhammer!

This term we have launched an exciting new extra-curricular gaming club for Year 8 students. The global classic, *Warhammer* is a tabletop strategy game which has fascinated devoted fans of all ages for over 30 years.

*Warhammer* is a game of fantasy battles where players are in command of armies of valiant humans and elves, or a variety of monstrous creatures, which they have built and painted themselves. This means that characters are completely personalised.

The game sees players collect forces of miniature plastic models, all with different

statistics and abilities, and use them to play out clashes on a sci-fi or fantasy themed tabletop battlefield. They also write creative stories based on their characters and battle scenarios, which provides a fully customised experience with multiple possibilities. These stories are published in the club newsletter, which is produced by current members, pictured above right.

*Warhammer* Club sessions are held every Monday after school from 3.30pm-4.30pm in our Library and also during lunch time.

All Year 8 students are welcome to join; anyone interested in becoming involved should visit our Library to speak to Mr Wheatley.



new

## Sports fans on football tour of HOLLAND

A group of 32 students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have recently returned from a football-themed trip to Holland. Organised by our PE Department, the trip was designed to inspire a passion for sport, health and fitness, whilst giving students the opportunity to experience Dutch culture.

The group travelled by overnight ferry to Amsterdam, which was a first-time experience for many of our students, and the action-packed schedule of activities began immediately with a tour of the ultra-modern *Ajax Arena*, home to the *Amsterdamsche Football Club Ajax*. This amazing stadium, which was constructed over a two-year period, is reported to have cost around €140 million due to its famous retractable roof.

Suitably inspired by this spectacular arena, the group then travelled to the *Sportpark Duinwetering* where they enjoyed the first of two football training sessions on Dutch ground. On days three and four they were given the opportunity to try out their newly-perfected skills on the pitch in a number of age-rated fixtures against local youth teams *VV Katwijk*

and *Hazerswoudse Boys*. All matches were an excellent display of skill, teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Although the overall theme of the trip was football, the planned itinerary also included opportunities to compete at *Ten Pin Bowling* and to take a trip to the *Duinrell Theme Park* to enjoy the variety of rides and roller coasters there.

To give students the opportunity to experience a little Dutch culture, there was also time for sightseeing in Amsterdam; students could sample the local cuisine, learn a little Dutch and take plenty of photos of the stunning architecture. Overall, the trip provided a complete cultural experience which was much enjoyed by everyone. Participants have already requested that a repeat visit be organised in 2019.

## ANGRY BIRDS EGG CUP on Goodison Park Turf

A 10-man King James Year 7 and 8 squad have taken part in the first ever *Angry Birds Egg Cup Football Tournament* at Goodison Park, the home of *Everton FC*.

More than 160 students from 16 schools battled it out to be crowned the first *Angry Birds Egg Cup* Champions and our team finished in runner-up position when, despite having gone seven games undefeated, they sadly lost the 8th and final game 1-0. The team was a real credit to the Academy, conceding only two goals in the entire eight games, and Jake Dobinson shone for King James, scoring three goals and setting up a number for others.

As well as having the opportunity to play at a Premier League ground, all pupils received a 2018/19 *Everton* shirt and a range of *Angry Birds* goodies, all completely free of charge. The team received their runners-up medals from former *Everton* and *England* and *South Africa* internationals, *Leon Osman* and *Steven Pienaar*.

## COUNTY AWARD FOR SPORT!

King James has won the award for *Secondary School Contribution to Sport in the Active Durham Sports Awards*.

This award recognises the state-of-the-art facilities and high quality sports provision that we provide for our students and our local community.





# YEAR 11s HEADING STATESIDE!



Successful applicants, pictured here with Mr Brown and Miss Newton who will be accompanying them on the USA trip.

In July, a group of Year 11 students will be celebrating the end of their exams, and marking the beginning of their Sixth Form studies with a three-week-long trip to America. This is the 8th USA experience to take students to Iowa and Chicago.

The trip is organised by Mr Brown and each year demand is great, which means students have to apply by finding a creative way to express why they should be selected. This year the standard was excellent and applications included a story board, video clip, banners and models.

One of the successful applicants, Caitlin Stanley said, "The application and interview process was difficult but it was well worth the effort. This is a trip of a lifetime and I can't wait to go. I have never been on a plane before so it will be a great experience for me."

The trip will start at a summer camp in Iowa where students will take part in activities such as climbing, canoeing, camp crafts and water sports. They will stay in log cabins with American teenagers of the same age and take a canoe trip down the Wapsie River before cooking outdoors and sleeping under the stars.

After a week at camp they will enjoy a day at a water park before taking the drive to Chicago where they will visit the key sites including Millennium Park, The Ledge glass walkway on Willis Tower and Navy Pier.

## GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

Last term, GCSE Geography students took a trip to Seaham coast to carry out data collection to fulfill the applied fieldwork enquiry aspect of their course.

The group studied coastal landforms and processes and discussed the formation of coastal features and how they have evolved. They also constructed a beach profile and gathered primary data for analysis back in school. For a human geography study the group completed a tourism investigation and considered the factors involved in Seaham's development as a resort, such as the effects of recreational pressure on local employment, conflicting land use, the physical environment and traffic congestion.



## Respect for the Environment

Our Year 7s are currently focussing on the environment in their Citizenship lessons but one class has decided to get active.



Class 7JRE discussed the negative impact of litter on the planet and on our local environment, and discussed the importance of us all taking responsibility for the area in which we live. To prove their commitment, they organised a litter picking session in our school grounds. Students did an excellent job under the close supervision of canine litter picker, Amber, who belongs to Miss Thwaites!

## Students create new Literacy Garden



Some of the gardening team: Year 9 students, Daveylee Dixon, Leo Hill and Liam Moore.

A group of Year 9 students have been working hard with English Teacher, Mrs Read to create a literacy-themed garden area at the rear of our school to celebrate our favourite books and to inspire reading for pleasure.

Mrs Read enlisted the support of an enthusiastic group of students who helped to come up with a creative design for the plot. It incorporates a seating area and a variety of plants, which will all have laminated quotes from favourite books attached to them. Students will also be decorating terracotta pots with quotes and planting these up too for some extra colour.

On the last day of term, Mrs Read took the group to Homebase Garden Centre to choose and buy plants for the project. Students then did an excellent job of placing them in their new home.

## Moving forward with Social media & technology

We are constantly looking at ways to improve communication with our students, parents and our community. Technology allows us to keep moving forward by developing new methods, such as our newly-launched Art and Photography Instagram, and our brand new 'Parent App', which is coming in September.



Our Art and Photography Department has created its very own Instagram account to showcase the amazing artwork of our creative students, some of which is pictured right. The social network means that teachers can instantly post photos and videos and these can be viewed by anyone with an Instagram or Facebook account; viewers can also follow the page and comment on what they see. With an estimated 800 million users, this is an excellent way to show how proud we are of our students and how talented they are.

The Instagram app can be downloaded onto any mobile device for free and like Facebook, you follow people in order to see their photographs in your feed; in this case

you will follow [kj1a\\_artphotodepartment](#) rather than an individual person. You'll need to sign up to begin, or log in with Facebook.

Our brand new 'Parent App', which will be officially launched in September, will allow all of our parents and carers to be more involved in their child's education than ever before. Through the app they will be able to view timetables, attendance records, reward points earned, homework set in each subject, submission deadlines and comments from subject teachers and tutors. They will also be able to make sure that contact details are kept up-to-date and make any necessary changes with ease. We will provide further details in our next issue of Vision.

## A world food experience at Za Za Bazaar

Students in Years 10 and 11 have visited the world banquet, Za Za Bazaar in Newcastle, as part of their NCFE Certificate in Food and Cookery, which was introduced as an additional qualification at King James this year.

The trip gave students the opportunity to try a full range of dishes from countries across the globe to increase their understanding of authentic flavours, but it also allowed them to watch professional chefs at work and see how the restaurant addresses the many hygiene, health and safety considerations associated with a large scale catering environment.

## An interactive lesson in Crime & Punishment

Last month, as part of their GCSE Religious Studies course, 15 Year 10 students enjoyed a visit to Teesside Crown Court to learn about the British judicial system.

As part of the course, students look at Crime & Punishment in-depth. They discuss the reasons why people commit crimes in the first place, learn about the different categories of crimes and consider the purpose of the law. Students go on to learn about the purpose of punishment and the ways that we punish people for committing crimes, including incarceration and the various methods for prisoner reform. They also look at the history and current status of capital punishment.



At Teesside Crown Court, students were given a behind-the-scenes tour and took part in a fascinating Q&A session with a judge. They also saw how modern trials can be conducted via video link and learned about the benefits of this new technology for both witnesses and victims.

Students sat in the jury box to experience the weight of responsibility felt by ordinary people called to serve. In a surprise activity they then heard evidence against their Teacher, Mrs Cross, and were tasked with deciding on the sentence she should receive for her crime! This was an excellent way to inspire respect for the system.



Of course, we also communicate our latest news through Facebook (@KingJamesAcademy and @KJ1A6thForm) and Twitter (@KJIAcademy and @SixthFormKJI)







## Diary Dates

June 25-29	Year 5 Curriculum Week (5 days)
July 2-3	'Aim Higher' trip to Leeds
July 2-4	PE trip to Wimbledon
July 5	Year 11 Prom
July 9	Sixth Form Induction Day
July 9-13	Year 11 Work Experience
July 11-13	Year 6 Induction Days for new starters in September 2018
July 12	Year 6 Open Night - 6.00pm
July 12-13	'Aim Higher' trip to Northumbria University
July 17	Year group Activity Day
July 19	Sports Day
July 19	Academy closes 1.30pm for Summer (6 weeks)
Aug 16	A' Level Results Day
Aug 23	GCSE Results Day
Sep 3	Academy re-opens to students

Coming up...  
Sixth Form Induction Day  
Monday 9th July

## Sixth Form recruiting now for September 2018!

Applications are now welcomed from students who are interested in joining us in September 2018. Contact our Sixth Form Mentor, John Middleton on 01388 603 388 or email [j.middleton100@durhamlearning.net](mailto:j.middleton100@durhamlearning.net) to discuss your options or arrange a visit.



# BUSY TIMES AHEAD

Exams may be over and students in Years 11 and 13 have left us for the next stage in their education, but July and August are still busy months at King James and there are some notable changes and diary dates.

We are currently in the process of establishing a new two-week timetable, which gives us much greater flexibility in the way we can deliver our courses, and gives students more variety in their lessons. We have liaised with a number of other schools who operate the system successfully and considered the initiative carefully before making the decision to proceed. To make sure that it is running smoothly for the beginning of the academic year, we have launched the two-week timetable now.

This year, following the departure of our Year 11 and Year 13 students, we have decided to begin our core GCSE and options courses early for students currently in Year 9. This introduction will give them a head start when they begin the crucial study years as Year 10s in September.

On July 17th, each year group will enjoy a fun activity day, organised by their Head of Year, to celebrate their achievements and reward them for their hard work throughout the year. Activities take place both in and out of school.

We are all looking forward to our annual Sports Day, which will take place on the morning of Thursday 19th July. Each year, this is an opportunity for our students and staff to come together to support our young athletes who compete in a variety of field and track events. Before the event begins, tutor groups will create banners and flags, and as per tradition, students will proudly display face paint, hats and costumes to declare their loyalty to their allocated House. We look forward to seeing which House will lift the House Cup this year! The Academy will close to students for the Summer Holiday immediately after the event closes at 1.30pm and school transport will take students home as normal.

On Thursday 16th August, Sixth Form students will be able to collect their exam results from 8.00am. Mr Shearer and the Sixth Form Team will be on hand to help with UCAS applications, accepting University places and finding accommodation; and Miss Goddard will be able to help those who wish to enrol on college courses or apply for apprenticeships.

GCSE Results Day is Thursday 23rd August. Once again, our Sixth Form Team will be available to offer advice and discuss subject choices for Sixth Form, and students can official enrol to attend King James in September. Students from other secondary schools are also very welcome to enrol for our Sixth Form on this day.





## King James Sixth Form

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THE WORLD AT YOUR FEET



**This magazine is available in large print on request.**

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