

# VISION

Issue 35: Autumn Term 2020



King James I Academy magazine



WE  
♥  
KJ



Inside: Safety as a Priority, Free Chromebooks for all Students, Exam Success, New T-Levels, Virtual Year 6 Open Evening, Caring about our Local Community and much more.



# WELCOME

from the Head



**W**elcome back to King James. I would like to start by saying well done to our students, parents and staff for continuing to support education throughout the period of lockdown. 110,855 pieces of work were set and completed during the period of lockdown - a huge achievement!

Our teachers and support staff have worked tirelessly to help our students and to keep in touch. Despite the many challenges we have all faced, the King James team has never been stronger. All members of our school have worked hard and have been there for each other.

As we look forward to a new academic year we have a solid foundation upon which to build. We have prepared our school and we are confident and ready for the further challenges we might face. The health and safety of our students and staff is our priority and we have put in place numerous measures to ensure that we can continue to deliver high quality learning in a safe environment.

Congratulations to our GCSE and Sixth Form students who, despite the frequent changes in national policy, managed to gain credit for all of their hard work over many years and had lots to celebrate on results days. The class of 2020 will forever be remembered for their resilience and determination and for their achievement against the odds. They now form part of the illustrious history of King James.

So, we have faced and defeated the challenges of 2019-20 and we are now refreshed and ready to face, I hope, a quieter year ahead. I would like to wish students, parents, staff and friends of King James a happy new (academic) year and I hope that you and your families enjoy good health, happiness and prosperity for the year ahead.

Best wishes, Nick Grieveson

# IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK!

**A**s the new academic year begins, we have established a new way of working which will ensure our children can feel confident and continue to learn and grow in a safe environment. We have put stringent measures in place to minimise physical contact and protect both staff and students.

The school site has been adapted to allow for a one-way system and signage is displayed throughout to remind everyone about preventative guidelines. Social distancing of at least 1 metre is also promoted in all areas including toilets and corridors and there is a real focus on good hand hygiene and the government message of 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'.

## BUBBLES and TIMETABLES

**W**e have created year group 'bubbles' to minimise potential risks. Each year group is divided further into two groups with each allocated an entrance/exit to the school grounds to reduce contact even further.

The new staggered timetable means that year groups enter and exit our Academy at different times of the school day, which prevents unnecessary overcrowding of communal areas. Meal times are also staggered to ensure that year group bubbles are kept separate and there is plenty of space for social distancing.

## CLASSROOMS

**S**tudents in Years 7-9 have all of their lessons in a single classroom to avoid unnecessary movement around the school site.

Subject teachers travel between classrooms to deliver timetabled lessons from a socially-distanced 'teacher zone' that is equipped with the technology and equipment they need to support students' learning.

Classrooms have been arranged in front-facing rows to minimise face-to-face risks. Each room has a seating plan, which means that students have a designated work area for the duration of the school day, and each classroom is equipped with subject book boxes to store books safely and hygienically.

There is some movement between rooms for students in Years 10-13 who need to access facilities for options subjects, however this is minimal and carefully monitored.

## FACE COVERINGS

**W**e are following the spirit of the 'WHO' guidance and expect all of our young people and staff to wear a face covering.

This means that students will all be wearing plain masks when travelling on school transport and moving around the school in order to preserve and protect year group 'bubbles'. They can also choose to wear a mask in the classroom at the discretion of students and parents, but it is not compulsory in these venues. Masks must be stored in a sealed plastic bag when not in use for hygiene purposes.

## PE KIT guidelines

**O**n days when students have PE they can attend school in their kit in order to avoid the need to change.

Students can wear a tracksuit over their sports kit, which can be removed for the PE lesson itself.

## TRAVEL to school

**W**e have encouraged our students to walk or cycle to school to promote good health and to minimise any potential risks, but have additional safety strategies in place for those who cannot.

Firstly, we have created a designated 'drop-off' zone within our car park for students who travel to school with parents by car. This helps us to operate more effective crowd control and social distancing at the beginning of the day.

Special arrangements have also been made to make sure our school transport is safe for everyone who needs it. We have expanded our fleet of minibuses to allow us to arrange transport by year group and adapted them for safety by installing screens.

Students travel to school within their year group bubbles and face coverings are also worn for additional protection. Students are encouraged to store these safely in plastic bags until they are needed again at the end of the day.

## Improved DINING FACILITIES

**O**ur staggered timetable allows us to manage social distancing effectively during breakfast, break and lunch time. We have also expanded our Dining area into the Main Hall to provide more spacious facilities.

Students eat in their year group bubbles to minimise contact and tables are set up in our Main Hall for students eating packed lunches from home or buying 'grab and go' items. The additional space ensures that social distancing can also be maintained between individual classes.

Our hugely successful 'Magic Breakfast' scheme continues this year and all of our students are encouraged to take full advantage of the free cereal, bagels and juice on offer at the start of the school day. We hope to extend the initiative this year to include 'Magic Teatime'; this will support students across our school who are attending catch-up sessions.



Photo by Lum3n from Pexels

## EMOTIONAL SUPPORT when it's needed

**W**e have a team of trained support staff on site who are available to help students with any issues relating to anxiety, especially during this vital first term whilst they regain their confidence.

Individual appointments can be made to speak to one of our support workers when required, so parents can feel reassured that all of our young people are well cared for throughout their day in school. We are determined to ensure our students feel safe and happy to be back in their learning environment. The team of support staff work hard to liaise with parents too.



## Use of personal CHROMEBOOKS

**A**s part of our Chromebook initiative, students in all year groups, including our new starters, have their own personal laptop, which are provided by us free of charge.

Chromebooks are used in all lessons for online research, interactive learning activities and digital document production. This, along with the use of personal stationery, means that students are not sharing resources. For this system to work, it is imperative that students and parents take responsibility for ensuring that Chromebooks are fully charged at the beginning of each school day.

## EQUIPMENT

**S**tudents must now bring their own equipment to school to minimise the sharing of resources.

All students must carry a pencil case containing a selection of pens and pencils, a pencil sharpener, rubber and ruler as an absolute minimum.

Photo by picjumbo.com from Pexels



# RE-ENGAGING

## RED activities

During the lockdown and throughout the Summer Holiday our Heads of Year were keen to support their Year Groups. They, together with Tutors, Drivers and a range of other staff, helped to design and deliver Re-Engagement Days.

The purpose of our Re-Engagement Days, as the name suggests, was to provide our students with a safe opportunity to return to King James before September.

Students were asked to attend the Academy and to take part in a range of team-building and problem-solving activities. It was hoped that students could understand what learning and socialising would be like during a period in which schools are introducing a range of precautions and protective measures.

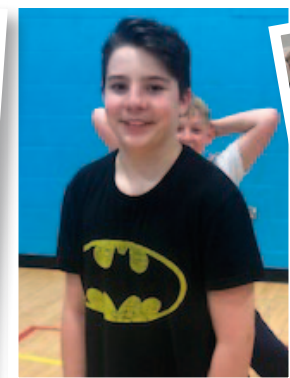
Students were initially apprehensive, but soon

adapted to the new ways of working. In no time at all, students were able to forget the months of isolation and uncertainty and their lives were transformed by laughter. One teacher commented, *"Students have been superb and are now ready and enthusiastic about their return to school in September."*

Mr Grieveson said, *"As well as students gaining a great deal from the events, it was clear that our fantastic, dedicated and caring staff also benefitted from the experience. Teachers have really missed supporting and educating our students and the positive relationships that*

*they enjoy with their students at King James were rekindled by the opportunities these days provided."*

It is clear that the days delivered all that we hoped for, and more, and that students more importantly than anything, had a great time. The success of the days was confirmed by the high level of attendance throughout the first week of term in September.



# SUPPORTING

We recognise that young people need to feel safe, secure and supported at school to reach their full potential and in the current climate this is even more important. Here at King James we have many ways to support our students.

## ACADEMY Council

Our Academy Council consists of students in all year groups, including Sixth Form, who have a desire to get involved in Academy activities and student welfare.

The Council meets regularly to generate ideas for fundraising, community activities and student wellbeing events, and they also attend training to help them in their role as ambassadors and Peer Mentors. In this valuable role, students extend offers of friendship and support to others who may be feeling anxious or lost, and direct any who need help to the right place.

## TUTORS and HEADS OF YEAR

Our Tutors and Heads of Year provide a vital service in our school as they form positive relationships with students when they join King James and stay with them as they progress through the year groups.

Staff get to know their students really well and can therefore identify and solve issues quickly. Students know that they can approach their Tutor at any time if they need help, and are reassured that they will be referred if needed to the right person.

Our Heads of Year work closely with Tutors and students to monitor progress and liaise with parents to ensure that all of our students are happy at school and reaching their full potential. Heads of Year take up their role with students in Year 7 and continue with the year group to Year 11 so relationships are extremely strong.

## CAREERS advice & guidance

Mrs Goddard, our Careers Adviser, offers practical advice to all of our students from Years 7 to 13.

From an early stage in their secondary school life our students are encouraged to think about their ambitions for the future. Each year, Mrs Goddard and Mrs Dent organise a fantastic Careers Fair in school to allow students to explore their options and make plans to enable them to achieve their goals.

As they progress through school, Mrs Goddard is available to advise on subject choices and assist with creating a CV and applying for higher education or employment. She even helps students develop their interview skills in mock scenarios.

## LEARNING SUPPORT

Our team of Learning Support workers provide one-to-one support in lessons for identified students with special educational needs. They help students organise their work, assist with literacy skills and work methodically through tasks at a pace to suit the individual pupil, revisiting topics as needed to ensure students are confident with the subject matter. They also support any students with a disability.



## SUPPORT WORKERS

Our Student Support Workers are available to help our young people with any pastoral issues they may have which affect their learning.

There are four dedicated support staff for students in Key Stage 3: Mrs Mawdsley and Mr Jinks are on hand to help students in Year 7, Mrs Bainbridge is responsible for Year 8s and Mr Powell is the Support Worker for students in Year 9.

For students in Years 10 and 11, Mrs Hutchfield is the point of call, and Sixth Form students are well supported by Mrs Dixon and Mr Middleton.

We also have a dedicated Attendance Officer in Mr Martin. His role involves supporting students who have issues with attending school for a variety of reasons from illness to family circumstances.

All of these staff are experienced and trained to offer support in a variety of situations.

Student welfare and personal development is important to us at King James and our young people are well cared for.

Staff were keen to organise re-engagement days to help our students return to school with confidence.



# ADAPTING

## Year 6 Virtual EXPERIENCE

SEPT  
30

In the current climate, the safety of our students, staff and local residents is of the utmost importance and we have completed a comprehensive risk assessment to protect our school community. As a result, we have decided that our annual Year 6 Open Evening will not proceed in its usual format which attracts hundreds of visitors. Instead, this year it has been redesigned and will be presented as a complete virtual experience launching on Wednesday 30th September.

There are many reasons to choose King James I Academy. With an outstanding team of staff, excellent facilities, a wide range of subjects and a host of extra curricular opportunities, we are well equipped to ensure our young people reach their full potential. We believe in a broad education for our students, one which leads to well qualified, highly skilled, confident and resilient young adults who are equipped to succeed in an increasingly competitive world.

This year, parents and their children will be able to find out about life at King James in a variety of ways.

### Information Packs

Firstly, Year 6 pupils in the local area will receive an information pack direct to their primary school. This will contain our

Academy prospectus and lots of information about our curriculum, school transport, catering, student support and the many opportunities our students enjoy as part of their education.

### King James on Video

On 30th September, we will launch an exciting short film featuring the staff and students from the various subject departments within King James. This will be available to view via our website and it will offer an insight into each subject to help potential students get a feel for Academy life and decide if King James is right for them.

### It's Face Time!

Of course we appreciate that nothing can replace face-to-face contact and for this reason we will be hosting live video calling sessions every day throughout

the month of October. Parents will be able to book a convenient time slot and speak directly to a senior member of staff who will be happy to discuss our school and answer any questions they may have about studying at King James I Academy. Should parents or children have specific questions, these can be emailed in advance to ensure that our staff have the required information.

In a world where we all need to adapt to social distancing, we believe that this is an excellent alternative to our traditional Open Evening and hope that many of our local families will take the opportunity to speak to us in this way, however for those who consider a visit absolutely necessary, it will be possible to book an appointment. Please email [kingjames@kj1a.com](mailto:kingjames@kj1a.com) to arrange this.

## Take a VIRTUAL TOUR!

In preparation for the video launch we have also created a virtual video tour of our Academy to allow parents and children to visit King James from the comfort of their own home.

The tour, which is fully narrated, gives those considering applying for King James an insight into our facilities and buildings. Please visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4ZMXFBAYWw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4ZMXFBAYWw) to view the video. Although the tour cannot demonstrate the friendly and creative atmosphere for which we are well known without the inclusion of our staff and students, it is an excellent way to explore our learning and social spaces. To help you make an informed decision we would also encourage everyone to explore our Academy website at [www.kingjames1academy.com](http://www.kingjames1academy.com). Here you can read the latest news and access digital archive issues of Vision magazine to see the wide range of exciting learning activities we provide.

new

### FACILITIES

- Suite of eight Science laboratories
- Light and spacious classrooms for all subjects
- Detached building for Art and Design
- Contemporary spaces for Drama, Dance and Performing Arts
- Versatile Main Hall with bleacher seating, stage lighting and sound booth
- Modern dining spaces and varied menus
- Fully accessible for wheelchairs
- Detached Nurture Centre
- Student Support Centre
- Large Multi-sports Hall and sports studio
- Floodlit 4G pitch
- Dedicated Sports classrooms
- Student study zones
- Detached Sixth Form
- Common Room
- FREE Personal Chromebooks for all students
- Online learning technology

### SUBJECTS

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Further Maths
- Statistics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Fine Art
- Product Design
- Photography
- Drama
- Performing Arts
- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish
- Religious Studies
- Business Studies
- Enterprise
- Food Science and Nutrition
- Health and Social Care
- Creative Media Production
- Music
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Travel and Tourism
- PE and Sports Studies

## Magic MATHS

Teachers in our Maths Department are known for the creative and engaging ways they deliver mathematical concepts.

Last term, students learned about prime numbers, multiplication and subtraction in an impressive coin calculating activity in which they used a formula to calculate the sum of coins without seeing them! Students also took part in a fun picture-puzzle challenge and the *Young Mathematical Story Authors* competition. Our Coding Enrichment Groups learned how different Ciphers work, and encrypted and decrypted their own messages. In school, students regularly take part in the prestigious *UKMT* Maths challenges with great success, and complete engaging digital learning activities and homework on *MyMaths*.

## Exciting ENGLISH

Our English Department work hard to maintain the love our students' have for reading and creative writing.

During school closure, students were welcomed to the online 'Escape Pod' where they were able to read a digital book each term such as 'The Secret Garden' and complete activities and questions about it. They also wrote some outstanding lockdown poetry to help them express their feelings, and produced an impressive selection of short stories and alternative endings to some of the most popular fiction including Harry Potter. In online lessons, pupils studied Myths and Legends and analysed the myth of Pandora's box.

Our diverse curriculum gives students the opportunity to combine important core subjects with more specialist qualifications to suit their career ambitions.





# CELEBRATING

Celebrating success and rewarding attainment and effort is hugely important to us at King James I Academy. We celebrate achievement in a number of ways, from our annual Prize Evening to Department Awards for hard work and Year Group Awards for 100% attendance.

## Sixth Form RESULTS!

Following a difficult period of uncertainty for our Year 13 students, we are delighted to be able to celebrate a fantastic set of results with them.

We are incredibly proud of our students for their achievements during this challenging year. Although qualifications have been awarded in an unprecedented way, results were very positive for our students and 100% of our Year 13s who applied for university have secured a place with many others securing apprenticeship placements or employment.

With a Distinction\*, Distinction, A and B grades, Tiegian Canavan is now studying a Degree in Accounting at Northumbria University; and Kenny Shevels, who celebrated a Triple Distinction\* in Sports Studies, is also at Northumbria studying a Degree in Sports Coaching. They are joined by Demi Leigh McKimm, who achieved a Triple Distinction grade in Health and Social Care and who is studying a Degree in Nursing. Abbi Stephenson, who achieved an A\* in Biology, a grade A in both Chemistry and Maths and a grade B in Geography is now continuing her education at Newcastle University where she is studying a Degree in Biomedical Sciences.

Due to the pandemic, some of our students have chosen to defer their university place until next year, when they will hopefully be able to enjoy greater freedom. Chloe Caygill, who achieved a Triple Distinction\* in Sports Studies and a grade B in Biology, will begin her Degree in Sports Physiotherapy in 2021, as will Leon Davies, who will be attending Manchester University to study Business and Economics.

A number of students are now seeking employment such as Rhiannon Cleasby, who achieved a Double Distinction in Health & Social Care, a Distinction\* in Travel & Tourism and a grade B in Photography; and Megan Linsley who celebrated a Double Distinction\* in Business Studies and a Distinction\* in Travel & Tourism.

Sadly, due to the restrictions, we have been unable to enjoy our usual Year 13 Leavers' Event, but we wish them all the very best of success in their future.



Rhiannon



Abbi



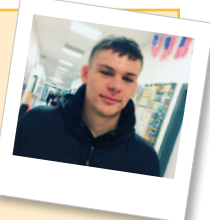
Megan



Chloe

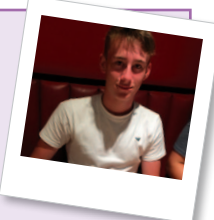
### Josh Spencer

"This year has been a challenge but I am really pleased with my results. I achieved a Triple Distinction\* in Sports Studies and am now studying a Degree in Sports Coaching at Leeds Beckett University. This will help me to make a career from my lifelong passion for sport and fitness."



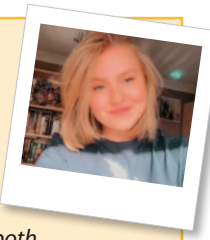
### Callum Jones

"I achieved an A\* grade in Drama, a grade A in Core Maths and a Distinction\* grade in Media Studies. I have decided to take a gap year before continuing with my education and have secured a full time job until then to allow me to gain work experience."



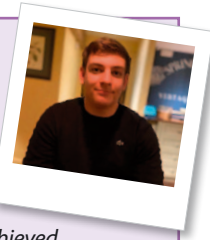
### Sam Stevens

"I am proud to have achieved A grades in both Criminology and Art, and a Distinction\* in Applied Science. I was offered a place at my first choice university and am now continuing my education at Newcastle where I am studying a Degree in Biomedical Science."



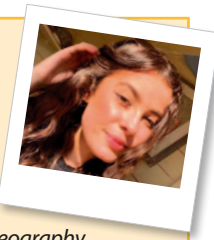
### Kyle Blood

"I studied four subjects and have achieved Distinction\* grades in Food Science & Nutrition, Music, Media Studies and Human Biology. I am now working as a Technician at King James and studying a Degree in Health Sciences part time with the Open University."



### Molly Brannan

"I achieved a grade A in Drama, a grade B in Geography and a Distinction\* in Media Studies. I have accepted a place at Leeds Beckett University to study a Degree in Fashion Marketing but have decided to defer until 2021. I have a full time job until then which will help build my CV."



## Success for GCSE & VOCATIONAL

Following an extended wait, we are delighted for our Year 11 students who are now celebrating an excellent set of results; results that reflect their hard work and determination.



As in previous years, departments continued their outstanding performances. GCSE Fine Art, Photography, Drama and PE all achieved 100% Level 4 passes or above, with a staggering 60% achieving the top grades in GCSE Photography.

Core subjects have seen a steady and significant improvement with 77% of students achieving at least Level 4 in Maths and 75% achieving a Level 4 or above in English Language. This success will ensure our students can move onto their desired careers and Sixth Form courses with confidence.

There are some notable individual successes: Ryan Bell, Aimee Benson, Sophie Denham, Freya Dhiman, Laura Dobson, Antonia Graham, Daniel Hardy, Adam Hughes and Aimee Hunter all achieved at least five GCSEs with grades of Level 7-9. In particular, Antonia Graham, Daniel Hardy and Adam Hughes all achieved 100% Level 7-9 in all of their GCSEs: a phenomenal result!

Following a further delay in the release of BTEC and vocational results, we celebrated exceptional and consistent performances in all of our departments. Health and Social Care, Creative Media, Music, Sports Studies and ICT achieved 100% Level 2 pass rate and above. In Business Enterprise 63% of students achieved the highest grade of Distinction\*! In such an unprecedented year, we are delighted that our students have been justly rewarded for their efforts and hard work.

We begin the new academic year with a positive attitude and a great deal to celebrate. We will continue throughout the year to acknowledge the hard work and achievements of our students and our staff; this is an important aspect of Academy life.

## STAR Students!

Well done to all our lockdown star students who worked consistently hard at home to complete work set by their teachers.

Students were chosen to receive a certificate by their Heads of Year to recognise their efforts and achievements.



## A personal letter of thanks from MR GRIEVESON

Seventy three students across all year groups have received a personal letter from our Head Teacher, Mr Grieveson, to thank them for their resilience and excellent attitude towards working from home.

Teachers and Heads of Year were asked to nominate students who had demonstrated the highest standards in relation to the completion of online learning. Mr Grieveson was then pleased to be able to write to those students to recognise their efforts and say thank you and well done for their hard work.

This group of students are clearly a credit to King James I Academy and to their family and, in recognition of their commitment and determination, all received a £5 voucher. Rewards ceremonies will continue throughout this term to thank students further.

## ARTSMARK PLATINUM AWARD for King James!

We have recently been informed that we have been awarded the prestigious Artsmark Platinum award from the Arts Council England for our commitment to arts and cultural education; this is the highest level that any school can achieve.



Artsmark Platinum Award  
Awarded by Arts Council England

When judging our application, we were commended for the high quality arts activities we provide which stimulate positive attitudes to learning, and for the way that creativity is embedded across the curriculum.

Our work with fine artists, the Royal Shakespeare Company, and projects focusing on heritage, such as the WWI photography project was

also praised along with our collaboration with external partners.

The Council was impressed by our commitment to Primary Outreach and the many arts opportunities we offer younger pupils in our local community. In relation to primary schools, we were commended for actively providing resources, CPD and inspiration around the potential of arts-rich approaches.

Our evidence demonstrated the impact of our innovation and hard work upon our student attainment; the Arts Council acknowledged that many students at King James are operating at levels higher than the national average.

Student voice is a key part of this, giving learners a sense of control over their learning, and providing them with a fuller sense of what is possible in terms of creative careers.

Our Arts Curriculum Group has become a valued forum for teachers to build confidence, skills and vision to take their own teaching into new domains. We have plans to expand this forum further to include other art form specialisms as we continue our role as leaders and champions of arts education.

These are indeed exciting times for King James.

Students at King James are recognised for achievement, effort and good behaviour.



# INTERACTING

Maintaining good communication is of utmost importance to us and we have developed lots of ways to stay connected. From the weekly issues of KJ Linked to the use of direct emailing, Class Charts, Google Classroom and Google Meet sessions, we work hard to stay in touch.

## Students love GOOGLE MEET LESSONS

During lockdown we launched a timetable of live lessons using *Google Meet*. All were extremely well received by our students at home; students loved being able to ask their teacher questions, receive immediate feedback and enjoy some live contact with their peers.

Students in MFL took part in French speaking and listening followed by *Quizlet Live* in teams. Student Amelia said, "The lesson went really well and I would like to do it again." Year 9s also took part in a creative Spanish lesson.

In Geography, 44 students were pleased to be able to see the faces of their peers again. One of the participants, Hollie, said she had a much better understanding of what to do because her teacher was able to go through each task and have a discussion about what the answers could be.

Students in Drama clearly enjoyed the learning and games played in their virtual lessons, and in Maths, they all commented that they wish interactive sessions had happened earlier. In Food and Nutrition, Year 9s were introduced to a nutrition program that they will be using this year. Students produced their own food labels and discussed the issues around making them.

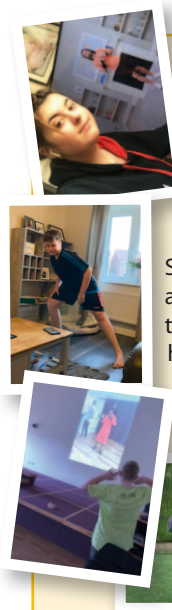
Students also enjoyed live lessons in English, Religious Studies, Music, Media, PE, History, Science and Art. Interactive learning has been so successful that we intend to continue the provision into the next academic year.



## Youtube PE & SPORT

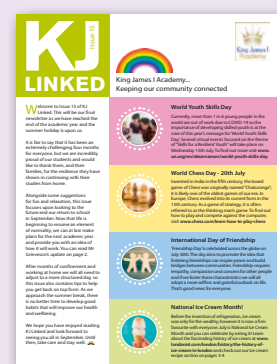
Our PE Department has embraced Youtube in past months as a way of demonstrating exercises and fitness challenges.

Students watched a variety of teacher-led videos as part of a 'Virtual Sports Day' event and then tried the challenges themselves to earn points for their house, submitting video evidence to their teacher. As most mobile phones have a video facility we are now looking at ways to develop this idea.



## Tracking PROGRESS

Our Class Charts system allows students and parents to monitor homework and attendance, track behaviour points and see teacher feedback from school or home. This year we will also be uploading lesson resources to ensure all students have quick access to digital information.



## Staying CONNECTED

Throughout lockdown, we stayed in contact with our students, their families and our staff with a weekly newsletter called *KJ Linked*.

In each issue we celebrated the achievements and resilience of our young people and supported them with ideas to stay motivated, active and occupied whilst at home.

# CREATING

King James I Academy has a reputation for creative excellence. From Art, Photography and Product Design to Drama, Performing Arts, Media Studies and Music, our creative departments celebrate outstanding results year after year.

## Photographing NATURAL BEAUTY

Year 10 Photography student, Joseph has been studying the natural beauty around us with this outstanding collection of photographs.

All of the images, which were taken in his garden and on his daily walk, were taken on his iPhone, which proves that spectacular results can be achieved without a professional DSLR camera; all you need is an eye for composition.



King James I Academy has built a reputation for creative excellence. Our wide range of creative subjects gives students the freedom they need to excel.

## Time Capsule POETRY

English students in Key Stage 3 were set the task of capturing their lockdown experiences and expressing their feelings through poetry as part of a competition.

Students first took part in a virtual lesson in which they chose items that they would place in a time capsule. Students then built their poems around these ideas, adding in interesting vocabulary choices and poetic techniques. All students received a prize on return to school.

By Harry

Yes there is fear.  
Yes there is isolation.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
Yes there is sickness.  
Yes there is even death.  
But,  
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
You can hear the birds again.

Hayleigh Jade

Lockdown is not just the perfectly presented food  
Nor is it the increasing screen time on my phone  
It's the face of appreciating family  
It's the support of the NHS  
It's the lifting of kindness all around.

## A celebration of ART

Last term, our Art students produced an array of fantastic artwork using a wide variety of materials.

Teachers in the Art Department set a range of creative challenges and students responded with great enthusiasm. Some took part in a Lego challenge, and Year 8s joined a live lesson on Wandjina Spirits, the rain spirits from Australian Aboriginal mythology, before creating their own artwork. Now back at school, our talented students are working on a wide variety of creative projects.



## Documentary FILM MAKING

For their current unit of study into factual film production, Year 13 Creative Media students are generating ideas for a series of short documentary films.

The brief gives students the opportunity to explore their individual interests and express their views through the use of film footage and music, both created and sourced, effective scriptwriting and interviews.

So far, students have developed a diverse range of concepts as a focus for their film, from the impact of Covid-19 upon education and the entertainment industry to mental health awareness, tips for professional photography, the impact of fashion on the economy and cultural diversity.





# CARING

“Our students always impress us with their ability to show empathy and understanding for those experiencing difficulties, both in their local community and in the wider world.”

## SCRUBS BAGS for care environments

Throughout the lockdown, our key worker students worked hard to show their appreciation for NHS staff and community carers by making scrubs bags.

Over 400 scrubs bags were sent to local Care Homes and hospitals including *James Cook Hospital* and *South Shields Hospital*. Lucy Smyth from the Therapeutic Care Team at James Cooke sent our students a message. She said, “Thank you very much for your kind donation of scrub bags, we truly appreciate it. The staff are overwhelmed by the support we are receiving so we thank you once again.”

Staff at South Shields Hospital also sent their thanks and a photograph of their staff with their personalised scrubs bags.



## BLACK LIVES MATTER to our young people



Our students were keen to discuss, research and learn more about the Black Lives Matter Campaign and made posters based upon their research to support the campaign for equality.

Students wanted to do this on their own initiative. Year 7 student, Summer, wanted to make a poster to stop racial discrimination, and Isabel, who is pictured here, researched many different victims of racial injustice and painstakingly wrote all of their names on her poster. She said, “I wanted to make this poster because I want people to be aware and actually make changes. It’s not right that black people don’t have the freedom they deserve. We are all the same; the only difference is our skin colour and I don’t see why people are treated differently.”

Students working from home also emailed some excellent responses to this topic.

## Joining the ‘KEEPIE UP CHALLENGE’

During lockdown, our staff and students joined the £7.1 million ‘Keepie Up Challenge’ to raise awareness and show support for the 7.1 million key workers who helped to keep the UK going in lockdown.

This challenge recognised the work of the NHS, but also the many care workers, train, bus and delivery drivers, police, fire brigade, armed forces, teachers, supermarket workers, post men and women, refuse workers, and all the other keyworkers trying to keep us safe, whilst risking their lives and helping us to stay at home.

Our participants recorded their efforts and posted videos on Facebook and Instagram. They also donated to the charity, which raised money for a number of worthy causes including NHS Charities, The Careworker Charity, SSAFA Armed Forces Charity, ED Support UK, Police Care UK, The Fire Fighters Charity, ACT Charity, East Anglian Air Ambulance and Mind.



## RAINBOW to show we care

Our key worker students wanted to show support for NHS workers with this giant rainbow displayed outside King James.

# UNITING

## Supporting our LOCAL CARE HOMES

Last year our History Department formed strong links with some of our local care homes and we hosted a hugely successful intergenerational WWII event in school.

Not only did the event bring together care home residents, King James students and pupils from local primary schools, but it also provided our History students with an invaluable opportunity to speak to some of our senior local residents and hear about their experiences during wartime.

To maintain these relationships, we wanted to do something for our local care homes to cheer up residents who were unable to have visitors, so our students began painting rainbows and creating bunting using positive photos of events and memories from the past 75 years.

Students also wrote letters to Devonshire House Care Home in West Auckland, telling residents about their family life and their hobbies and asking residents a little about themselves.

Devonshire House replied saying, “Thank you so much for the amazing bunting that you made us; we love it and you really cheered us all up! We’ve put it up in our window for everyone to see and added your rainbows to



ours so with your help, we hope we’re cheering people outside up too! We also asked all of our residents your questions and here are their replies:

Tom (80 years old) “I remember doing English and History at school and I’m not sure on my favourite colour because I’m colour blind!”

June (77 years old) “I remember doing English and Maths and my favourite was English. I like the colour blue.”

Jane (99 years old) “My major subjects at school were Food, Maths and English but my

absolute favourite was PE. My favourite colour is navy blue. I’m sorry I can’t remember what I learned in History!”

Thelma (86 years old) “I can’t remember much about school, but my favourite subject was Art and I like the colour red.”

Brian (88 years old) “I remember English and Maths being my main subjects and I really liked Geography. I remember learning about the Romans and Vikings in History.”

Lily (69 years old) “I remember doing Maths at school and my favourite colour is blue.”

## FUNDRAISING begins again

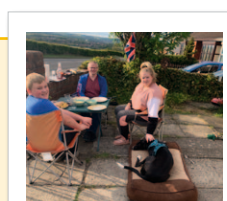
Raising money for worthy causes is a huge part of Academy life at King James.

The pandemic prevented us from reaching our goals during school closure, but we are back and ready to get to work starting with our annual Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support this month!

## Students celebrating VE DAY

For History homework, and to mark VE Day, students were tasked with organising their own family celebration, baking sweet treats and making homemade lemonade based on World War II recipes.

The task helped students to better understand the restrictions of rationing and to appreciate how resilient and resourceful people had to be during wartime. Students were particularly enthusiastic about the task and the response was brilliant as you can see from these photographs. Students make rock buns and cup cakes and some even got creative with colours to reflect the British spirit!



Charlotte



Poppy



Holly



Lily Rose

“Young people have so much to learn from our senior residents. Listening to their life experiences gives them a much deeper understanding of history.”



## T-LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS for Sixth Form students

new

Following a recent application, we are pleased to announce that King James I Academy has been approved to deliver the all new T Level qualifications for learners aged 16-18 years old.

Only eighty-eight new providers in the UK have been selected to deliver T Levels. Those providers will teach new subjects such as Legal, Finance and Accounting, Engineering and Manufacturing.

T Levels will play a vital role in making sure young people gain the skills and experience they need to progress and help build our economy. This will be especially important following the coronavirus.

The qualifications are high quality technical alternatives to A' Levels, combining classroom theory, practical learning and a work placement to make sure that students are well prepared for further study or entering the workforce. Our young people will really benefit from these new qualifications.

The first three T Levels for Digital, Education and Construction will be available from September and a further seven will be introduced in 2021, including three in Health and Science.

### T-LEVELS THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

These new qualifications have been designed with industry experts to make sure students have the skills they need to thrive in the workplace and give businesses the workforce they need to succeed.

T Levels have also been backed by an additional half a billion pounds of investment every year whilst programmes are fully rolled out, alongside £133 million to ensure students have access to industry standard equipment and high-quality facilities.

T Levels represent the biggest shake up to technical education in a generation. They will provide young people with the chance to get a great job, pursue further study or complete a high-quality apprenticeship.

These new qualifications offer an excellent opportunity for students who prefer a more industry-based form of study; they will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.

## NINE PUPPIES for Amber!

We are delighted to announce that Amber, our CANINE Nurture Group Assistant, who belongs to Miss Thwaites, is now proud mum to nine puppies!

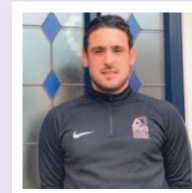
Amber and her Hungarian Vizsla partner, Rocco, welcomed the new arrivals on 21st July and all had homes waiting for them before they were even born!

Amber is a much-loved member of our school community and in particular, students in our Nurture Centre who look forward to her weekly visits. In class, they read to Amber and enjoy the calming influence she brings to lessons. Students also look forward to exercising with her in our school field.

Amber will be on maternity leave this term but will return to her 'duties' soon.



## LOCKDOWN LEGEND... becomes soccer star!



Whilst learning moved online in lockdown for most students, others continued to attend King James on a daily basis.

These students started their days with Joe Wicks and then had access to computers to help them to complete their online lessons. Afternoons were spent pursuing creative projects and sporting interests. Activities were supported by the talented and caring Andrew Jinks, our very own Joe Wicks. Andrew's unique skills helped him to gain many friends amongst both the students and the teaching staff who supported him.

We are now pleased to confirm that Andrew's twin interests are being pursued in a new role at King James as Student Support Worker for half of the week and Sports Coordinator for the rest. In addition to the demands of these roles, he will also continue to be a coach for Bishop Juniors FC. As well as supporting those with an early interest in football, and other sports, he will guide their professional careers throughout their time at King James, helping them to join our elite sports programmes in the Sixth Form. Andrew enjoys excellent relationships with local professional football clubs and uses these to provide talented students with the opportunities to impress on a regional stage. We have been lucky to employ someone with such an array of skills and interests.

## Existing Teachers take on NEW ROLES

As well as appointing new staff at King James, we also made some changes to our existing staffing structure during lockdown.

We have now officially appointed Mrs Paylor and Mr Ball as Teachers of History following their hugely successful NQT year. Both were a big hit with our students for their creative approach to teaching the subject and we look forward to seeing their ideas for the year ahead.

Mrs Nicholson, our Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Collinson, Director of Learning for Science, and Mrs Glen, Director of Learning for Maths have now joined our Senior Leadership Team as Associate Assistant Headteachers with specific responsibilities relating to curriculum development, teaching and learning.

Mrs Patterson, who is also Head of Year 10, has stepped into the role of Director of Learning for Geography, and Mr Hetherington will take up his new role as Lead Practitioner for Geography.

“Our staff are selected for their strengths, not only as teachers but as role models and mentors too.”

## FUTURE LEARNING NOW!

The Academy decided five years ago to introduce Chromebook computers for students in Year 7 and provided all new entrants to the school with a free laptop computer to support their studies. With every new cohort of Year 7 students we have increased the proportion of the school population with access to their own computer. In 2020 we are committed to ensuring that all students across the Academy have access to, and use, their own dedicated device to aid learning.

2020 has presented many challenges, but this scheme has meant that pupils from King James were able to continue to learn during the period of 'lockdown'. As one parent commented in an email to Mr Grievson, “On a personal level, I'd like to pass on my thanks to the teachers, the support from them during this period has been fantastic for my two children. They've both been very engaged with their Chromebooks and the feedback on the work has been almost instant in many cases.” This was excellent feedback and reflected the skill and flexibility of our teachers and their rapid response to the pandemic.

We now want to take our use of Chromebooks to the next level and we are defining what all students and teachers must be able to do with the technology to support the delivery of education. They are now an essential tool to support learning and a key

part of the school's strategy to support students in whatever circumstances we might face.

Live-streamed lessons, online work setting and marking, the use of Google Classrooms, the creation of demonstration YouTube videos and virtual meetings have all become a regular part of our school day. We have also subscribed to GCSEPod to support our students across a range of subjects and continue to make use of a range of other programmes to support learning and communication.

Students can access information and resources like never before and technological developments will challenge the distinction between virtual and real worlds and experiences. The technology

helps to provide students with a window into new worlds and new opportunities and, as we have seen, many professions can continue to prosper in a virtual world. The skills our students are learning, whilst

expanding their knowledge, are helping them to be better prepared for a future in which computer technology will continue to change what we do and how we do it, forever.



Pictured here: Siblings Ava and Ben Jones.

## NATIONAL TUTORING PROGRAMME to provide small group academic support

new

The National Tutoring Programme (NTP) allows schools to access subsidised high-quality tutoring from an approved list of tuition partners. These tutors are designed to increase teaching staff numbers for the forthcoming academic year and focus on helping those students whose education has been most affected by school closure and who are preparing for exams in 2021.

Through NTP, we have applied for funding to employ two trained University graduates to act as Academic Mentors/Tutors. Although they will not all be qualified teachers, they will be high achievers with subject-specific knowledge and experience of working in education or with students. Their role will be to provide intensive one-to-one and small group catch-up support to identified students; this will allow our teachers to focus on their classrooms.

Research suggests that this method of tuition can boost progress by up to 5+ months, which will help us to address the unprecedented challenges we face in ensuring our Key Stage 4 and 5 students are well equipped to succeed in their exams next year. We hope to welcome our Academic Mentors this term and begin intensive sessions immediately.

“We are constantly developing the way we deliver learning at King James to ensure we can offer the best education for our students.”





## Diary Dates

**T**he school photographer will be visiting King James I Academy on Wednesday 21st October.

**OCT 21**

In school from 7.30am until 3.00pm, the photographer will take school portraits of students in all year groups. The photoshoot will of course be conducted safely; students will remain in their class bubbles and will be fully escorted by their teacher.

# Virtual YEAR 6 OPEN EVENT!

- Video featuring staff and students launches 30th September
- 'Face Time' live video sessions every day throughout October
- After school visits by appointment
- Virtual site tour

**SEPT 30**

## CATCH UP SESSIONS

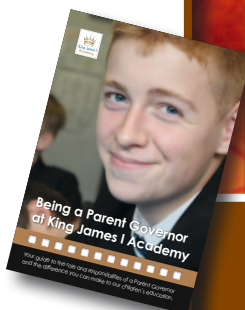
**W**e will be offering an extensive programme of catch up sessions throughout this academic year with a major focus on students in Key Stages 4 and 5 who are working towards examinations in 2021. This will ensure our students have every chance of success.

## HELP US SHAPE THE FUTURE

**A**re you interested in becoming a Parent Governor at King James or joining our Parents' Forum?

We are always looking for enthusiastic and committed parents to join our team of Governors and help us to shape the future of King James. If you are interested, please pick up a leaflet and application form at our Main Reception or call 01388 603388 for a copy by post.

We also have an active Parents' Forum group that meets each term to discuss ideas to improve the learning experience we offer and raise the profile of King James in our community. If you would like to join this group, please contact Main Reception to find out the date of the next meeting.



Please note: This photograph was taken before lockdown and social distancing.

## MAKING AN APPLICATION

**Y**ou can submit an application form for a secondary school place to Durham County Council now. The final date for applications is Saturday 31st October and offers will be made on 1st March 2021.

**OCT 31**

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA...



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