

VISION

Issue 36: Spring Term 2021



King James I Academy magazine

Shaping the future of education with Chromebooks



Inside: 100% Chromebooks, Show Stopping Food, Young Film Makers, Languages News, KJ1 Bookworms, UKMT Maths Challenge Success, Christmas Memories and much more.

WELCOME from the Head



Welcome to the latest issue of *Vision* magazine. Let's hope that despite beginning the year in lockdown, we can return to some normality as we move through 2021 and put 2020 firmly behind us!

Determination, adaptability and resilience are the words that come to mind when I think about our students and how they approached the autumn term. Against a backdrop of staggered start and finish times, one-way systems, class and year group bubbles, split lunches and online learning, students found a way to thrive in a completely different school environment.

Year 7s settled into secondary school life brilliantly, whilst students in other year groups worked hard to catch up on any missed learning from the first lockdown. Now, I am confident that our students will demonstrate the same high levels of resilience throughout the current lockdown and the challenges it brings.

Last term, our commitment to embracing technology enabled us to host very successful virtual openings for Year 6 and Sixth Form. February will see another online event for the Year 9 Options Evening and more information will be available nearer the time.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank my predecessor, Mr Grieveson for all his hard work as Headteacher at King James. He has been instrumental in driving the school forward since he arrived at King James in 2002. I know that students and staff will miss him and join with me in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

Best wishes,

Simon Whitehead

Chromebook access at 100%!

As a result of the pandemic, thousands of young people across the UK have experienced various levels of disruption to their learning, but at King James this has been kept to a minimum thanks to our Chromebook scheme.

Thankfully, we have made it our priority to make sure that all of our students have access to the technology they need to succeed in their learning whatever the future holds; this means that despite the current national lockdown, our children will not be disadvantaged. We are proud to confirm that 100% of our students in Years 7-11 now have access to a Chromebook. Sixth Form students can also purchase a Chromebook at a subsidised price or loan one from the Common Room.

Many subjects now use Chromebooks as standard; teachers deliver lessons in classrooms and from home, and students are able to complete and submit assignments online and receive feedback from their teachers digitally. Students can also email their teachers direct and access a host of resources to help with home study including pre-recorded presentations. This is particularly important for absentees.

Access to digital technology has many advantages; it has opened the door to many new opportunities for learning and our teachers have taken part in a host of after school training sessions to develop their own skills and explore those which would be most beneficial for their subject.

Teachers now incorporate interactive learning tools such as *Quizlet* and *Kahoot*, and use *Google Classroom* to set assignments and share resources. *Class Charts* allows teachers to award points for good work and behaviour, and both students and parents can access this independently to check progress and read comments. *Google Meet* is also used extensively for video lessons. Students have also been registered for free access to *GCSEPod*, an exciting new online resource for learning with a proven track record for improving achievement by one grade for regular users.

Introducing our new ASSISTANT HEAD TEACHERS

To help us deliver the best education for our young people, and to support Mr Whitehead's vision for the future of King James, we have promoted three existing members of staff to the Senior Leadership Team, each with a specific responsibility.

Mrs Nicholson

Director of Learning for Health and Social Care, Head of Sixth Form and Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for development of Sixth Form provision.

Mrs Glen

Director of Learning for Mathematics and Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for curriculum planning and development.

Mrs Collinson

Director of Learning for Science and Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for improving attainment and exam success.



Learning with GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Google Classroom is a web service for schools which allows us to create and grade assignments for your child remotely.



Teachers and students can share files quickly and easily so it is therefore the perfect tool to support our new way of learning. We have been using Google Classroom with great success throughout the last term and students are enjoying the benefits it offers.

A whole new way to STUDY & REVISE



All Year 11 students now have free access to the online resource, *GCSEPod*, which allows them to study topics for all subjects in short, high impact bursts of content called 'Pods'.

These audio-visual Pods are specially designed for mobile phones but they can also be watched on a tablet or computer. They can even be downloaded so that they can be watched off line if a student does not have internet access at home. Each Pod, lasting just three to five minutes, uses audio explanations supported by simple visuals to reinforce key concepts. Your child has already been registered for *GCSEPod* and has activated their account at school; this means that they will be able to build their own 'playlist' and access all services. For more information, please visit www.gcsepod.com or watch the video guide for parents at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fc9wPYInCgU>



Year 7 student, Olivia Wilson enjoys using here Chromebook in lessons.



Sophie Knight-Renshaw made fresh pasta for her main course.

Students in Year 11 have produced an array of quality dishes for the practical element of their Level 2 Hospitality and Catering exam this term.

Provided with an exam brief, students were required to plan and prepare a two-course meal; although the main course was mandatory, students could choose to present either a starter or dessert alongside it.

Dishes included traditional favourites such as dumplings, burgers, chicken and salmon; Italian classics such as ravioli, seafood linguini, spaghetti with meatballs and gnocchi; and an array of delicious curries. Desserts were equally mouth watering with everything from cheesecake and chocolate brownie to meringue, trifle and Italian panna cotta on the menu.

Our young chefs had to think carefully about presentation too as this was also part of the grading criteria and as a result, dishes were displayed in a variety of creative ways befitting of a professional restaurant. Students had clearly considered colour, plate layout and garnishes for maximum appeal. Of course, time management was also part of the challenge as students had to work within strict time constraints, however all succeeded in presenting their dishes on time.

Students excelled in the practical aspect of their exam and produced a host of dishes befitting of a professional restaurant.

Mrs Lamb, Director of Learning for Food Science & Nutrition

Students put their best 'food' forward!



Abi designs the winning FLAG FOR ANARCTICA

As part of Year 7's Geography unit on Antarctica, students have been designing flags for the UK Polar Network Antarctica Day Flag Project 2020.

Over 150 schools from eight different countries took part in this project, with the winning flags from each school being sent to the researchers and scientists in Antarctica. The winning flag from King James was designed by Abi Robson. Her flag, shown here, was photographed at Hope Point, which is near the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) King Edward Point Research Station. King Edward Point is a marine and fisheries research station owned by the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and operated by British Antarctic Survey. This facility provides critical research to support the management of the marine protected area and the sustainable fisheries in this important location in the Southern Ocean.



NURTURE GROUP NEWS

The Nurture Group have been focusing on developing knowledge creatively through memorable learning experiences.

Year 7s have had a marvellous first term at King James, going on nature walks around the school grounds to inspire creative writing, making penguins for the Geography Antarctica project and enjoying Miss Reynolds acting out the Battle of Hastings in History lessons! Year 8s have been reading champions, using *Reading Planet* to develop their reading skills, and Year 9s have excelled in using new technologies to support their learning, including voice recordings to aide their writing. Our Nurture Teachers won't let a global pandemic get in the way of learning, fun and progress!

Mr Murgatroyd's 24 hour marathon raises £1,400 FOR RTS THEATRE

Last term, Mr Murgatroyd raised an amazing £1,400 for the RTS Theatre by successfully completing a 24 hour gaming marathon.

After a full day at work (and a two hour nap!) he set up his Playstation and played through 10 different games over 24 hours in the unique fundraising event, which was streamed live to Twitch for the world to see. The original fundraising target was £250 but at the end of the exhausting marathon, thanks to the generosity of a large number of people, RTS now has £1,400 to invest in future productions. Without the funds raised by the annual Christmas Show, which could not go ahead this year, this money will be essential in making sure the return to RTS Theatre an amazing one.

We hope that by the end of 2021 (COVID depending), every single member of RTS

theatre will be able to go on a trip or take part in an experience outside of the school setting. We also have big plans for shows and experiences for the public once the world returns to normal.

To make up for lost time our first project will be *"The Haunting of Middle School Hall"*, which will be developed and written digitally, and performed as soon as it is safe for the group to reform. RTS Christmas shows are called that because although they are never about Christmas, they happen around Christmas time, so in keeping with this tradition we will be bringing our most Christmassy themed Christmas show somewhere around Easter!

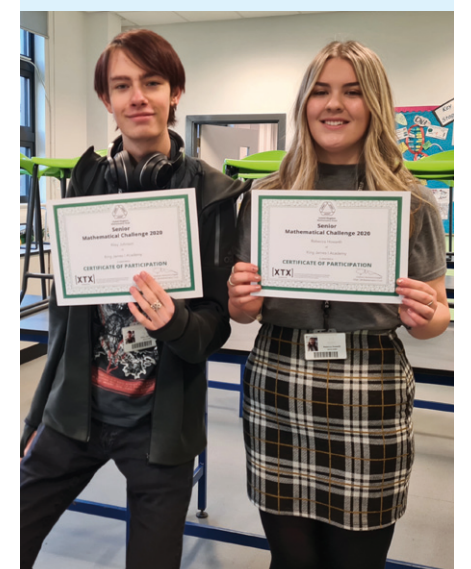
UKMT Senior Maths challenge success!

Pupils at King James I Academy have achieved one silver, two bronze, and four participation awards in this year's UKMT Senior Maths Challenge.

Tens of thousands of 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 12 student, Lucas Stewart achieved a silver award and Best in School, and Courtney Smith in Year 13, and Adam Hughes in Year 12 both achieved a bronze award.

Riley Johnson and Rebecca Howarth, both in Year 13, and Year 12s, Daniel Hardy and Mikey Taylor all received certificates of participation for their efforts. Well done to all of our A-Level Maths students who took part in this year's competition.



VIRTUAL CROSS COUNTRY

All students in Years 7 and 8 have recently taken part in a virtual Cross Country event as part of the School Sports Partnership virtual competitions.

Students had to run 100m in a PE lesson and be timed and the top six results for each year group will be inputted as part of the competition against other local schools. This will be one of many virtual sports competitions taking place this year. The results and times were as follows:

Year 7 boys

1st	Charlie Cranston	4.33
2nd	Charlie Broom	4.49
3rd	Joshua Jardine	4.52
4th	Daniel Lormer	5.02
5th	Jack Trowles	5.15
6th	Joe Caygill	5.17

Year 7 girls

1st	Ashleigh Beadle	5.26
2nd	Katie Moulton	5.31
3rd	Leah Proud	6.01
4th	Shannon Calvert	6.07
5th	Daisy Gordon	6.08
6th	Tilly Chester	6.10

Year 8 Boys

1st	Brooklyn Lamb	4.15
2nd	Bradley Hughes	4.21
3rd	Mason-Jay Wright	4.22
4th	Fahryn Brown	4.35
5th	Jaydeb Bowes	4.37
6th	Blake Wainwright	4.50

Year 8 Girls

1st	Scarlett Young	5.28
2nd	Mia Johnson	5.43
3rd	Amelia Nixon	5.51
4th	Maddison Cooke	5.55
5th	Ruby Teasdale	6.10
6th	Summer Bell	6.20

Virtual meetings for KJ1 BOOKWORMS

new



Last term, English Teacher, Mrs Kelly launched a virtual book club called KJ1 Bookworms aimed at students in Key Stages 3 and 4. The club gives students the opportunity explore their passion for literature by reading and discussing a variety of popular books.

The group, which has 17 members, meets via Google Meet every Wednesday at 5pm with the aim of reading a different book each half term. They began with Harry Potter, setting reading targets for the following week, so that all had read the same chapters. Students read three or four chapters a week and discussed how the plot was unfolding and what they liked and disliked. Pupils also took ownership of different chapters to lead the discussion. The group are currently voting on which book they should read this half term as they are unsure whether they should follow the Harry Potter saga or try something new.

Mrs Kelly set up the club for two reasons; not only does it improve achievement in all subjects but it is also beneficial for our mental health. Life is stressful for everyone at the moment and we all need enjoyment; reading gives us time to escape reality and go to our

'happy place'. Once our social distancing and covid restrictions are lifted, Mrs Kelly hopes to continue the club in school so members can meet in person for biscuits and a chat!

Year 8 student, Kendon Burey said, "I enjoy the book club because you get to meet new people and have discussions about the book. You learn a lot by discussing your ideas with others and they say what they think, which then builds your learning and understanding of the book."

Emily McKenna in Year 7 said, "I like the book club because we can all get together as a group and have a bit of a laugh as we talk."

Year 7 student, Ruby Ramsey said, "I enjoy book club because it helps you learn new words and so helps you get smarter. I have really enjoyed reading Harry Potter and it's also amazing to be able to see people after school."

We all need enjoyment and reading gives us time to escape from reality and go to our 'happy place'.

Mrs Kelly, English Department

£100 RAISED for Young Minds

Students and staff at King James I Academy have raised £100 for the UK's Young Minds charity, which focuses on raising awareness about young people's mental health.

The Academy took part in the charity's 'Hello Yellow' campaign, which was designed to coincide with World Mental Health Day. Head Boy and Head Girl, Adam Hughes and Freya Dhiman, pictured right, led the campaign and together they sold yellow badges to students and staff across the school, and supporters wore them with pride. Each year, King James has an extensive calendar of fundraising events, and despite the restrictions the pandemic has placed upon education, we continue to find safe ways to support worthy causes.



Meet our FBM TEAM

We would like to recognise the creativity and initiative of our FBM team, pictured here, who managed to complete three challenges in the competition before lockdown last March.

The team worked together on an excellent concept for a Vegan cookbook to encourage young people and schools to be more aware about what they are eating and the damage it can have on the environment. This fitted perfectly with the 2020 competition theme, 'Build a Business to Protect the Planet'. The students carried out market research and came up with the name, 'Natural Nibbles' for the cook book; they were in the process of carrying out prototype recipes and sourcing recycled materials to produce it before the FBM competition was sadly halted.

This years team, who were partnered with local business, Hydrum consisted of Hayden Dent, Jamie Hunt, Alex Pattinson, Kieran Cleminson, Lucas Hawkins, Molly Todd, Lucy Allan and Isaac Chiang.



Year 14 student, Logan Ladd films a segment for his TV news programme with Tiegan Genner and Michael Ladd.



Creating future FILM MAKERS

As part of their coursework Sixth Form Media Production students have been creating a series of news programmes and short documentary films on a variety of topics to appeal to young people.

The client brief for the factual production unit offered a great deal of creative freedom in that students were allowed to research and propose a unique topic for their documentary. This open brief resulted in a wide range of fascinating productions from 'This is M.E', an intimate documentary about this debilitating medical condition and the difficulties faced by those who live with it on a daily basis, to 'The Ugly Truth about Social Media', which examines the negative effects of social media upon self-esteem. Other topics included the impact of gaming upon young people, fitness addiction and the music industry crisis as a result of lockdown.

The unit has given students the opportunity to build a host of transferable skills; not only have they successfully planned and managed the whole production but they have also written the script, conducted interviews, presented on camera and filmed all of their own footage before editing into a finished product.

COMING SOON in Media...

In 2021, the Media Department aspires to launch it's very own video-on-demand service called 'KJ:TV'.

Similar to BBC iPlayer, KJ:TV will give the community access to a wide range of programmes and videos in categories, all produced by media students at the Academy. The news programmes and documentaries will be the first to help populate the site however, the intention is to collaborate with other departments to produce videos for other categories such as a cooking programme from Food Science & Nutrition, performance videos from the Music Department, a book review show with English, and fitness videos with Sport & PE.

new





European Day of Languages COMPETITION WINNERS

Last term, our students took part in the nationwide competition to celebrate the European Day of Languages and four of our young linguists won a prize!

Pupils were tasked with describing a city anywhere in the world in the target language and our students did this with flair. Winners, Ashleigh Beadle and Patience Reed in Year 7, who are pictured above, and Hannah McConkey and Luke Kelly in Years 8 and 9 respectively were all highly commended for their entries and received a certificate and a prize for their efforts. We are looking forward to taking part again next year.



Competition helps build SPANISH SPEAKING SKILLS

In December, ten students in Year 9 took part in a county-wide Spanish speaking competition. The aim of the project was to put together a presentation to attract Spanish tourists to Bishop Auckland.

Students were put into two teams and were given the opportunity to work with a Durham University student to help them put together their presentation. The competition was held online with the groups speaking in Spanish to a panel of judges from the Auckland Project, Durham University and the International Office at Durham County Council.

Although the groups did not win, they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and felt that they had gained confidence in speaking Spanish to an audience.



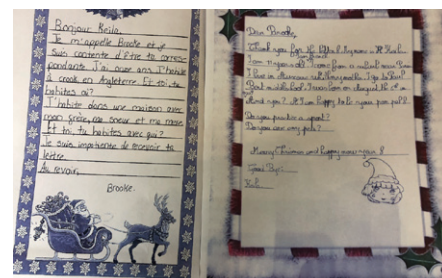
Sending letters to France for new PENPAL SCHEME

Our Languages department has recently launched a Penpal Scheme for all students in Year 7.



Every student has been offered the opportunity to write to a Year 7 student in France and as a result we have established a working partnership with teachers and pupils in Collège François Rabelais in Nérès-les-Bains, which is in the centre of France, and Paul Bert in Auxerre.

Students have worked hard in lessons to put together their introductory letter which was sent to Collège François Rabelais in time for Christmas. They are all now looking forward to receiving their first letter in return. However, some have already received replies from Paul Bert as we are corresponding by email.



Coming soon... ARTS AMBASSADORS

This term, our Art & Photography Department will launch the King James Art Ambassadors, a team of students with representatives from all key stages.



The group, who have been specially selected for their dedication and passion for the arts will be led by Sixth Form representatives and students will meet regularly to help shape the type of lessons and art projects that will be delivered throughout the school.

They will also take on a variety of responsibilities including organising and judging whole school arts competitions, planning arts events like 'The Big Draw', organising the end of year rewards trip and helping to select our 'Artists of the Half Term'.

Dynamic performances in DRAMA & PERFORMING ARTS

Students have been working hard on exam pieces in our Drama & Performing Arts Department throughout the last term.

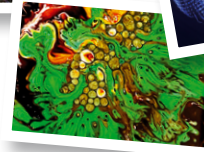
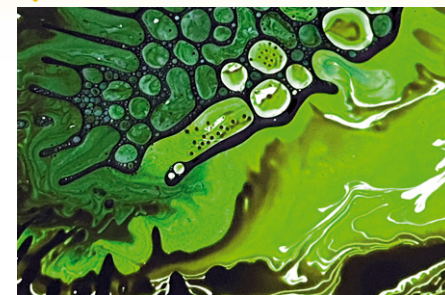
In A' Level Drama and Theatre, Chloe Box and Georgia Andrews spectacularly deconstructed Ken Kasey's novel 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest' in what was one of the most powerful pieces the department has ever produced. They were challenged with creating a performance that lasted only six minutes, but in that time they managed to question sanity, gender stereotypes, crime and punishment and look at how reality can be manipulated through words. Miss Howard, Director of Learning for the department said, "This

successful performance was grade A in standard and the work ethic of the group was second to none. It has been an honour to work with such amazing, dedicated students."

In Performing Arts the class have been putting together a dynamic performance based on the film, 'Labyrinth', and have used physical theatre in combination with Drama to create contemporary, dynamic performance pieces. The ideas in the class are outstanding and we are excited to see what the final result will be.



Art and Photography



It's been a busy term for Art and Photography students in all year groups with coursework and exam preparation well underway for both GCSE and A'Level.

Year 10s have been working on two projects, one being a horror project and the other looking at stop motion photography. Students took advantage of the historic look of our old school building to take some horror-themed images and used masks and carved pumpkins with smoke bombs to get some really interesting effects. They also had the opportunity to try levitation photography, shown left, which allowed them to develop their skills in photo-manipulation.

For the stop motions, students had great fun creating Pac-Man from playdough, snakes from Skittles, and a huge real-life Tetris game from Starburst sweets!

Students have also been developing their creative photography skills by experimenting with the shutter speed on their DSLR cameras to create some interesting light trails and light paintings.

They also experimented with inks in water, and photographed it to look like fire.

Year 11 Art students have worked really hard during their Art mock exam and have produced some high-quality work within the challenging time frame. Students experimented with a variety of media and techniques such as painting, drawing, textiles, 3D Sculptures and epoxy resin art. Photography students in Year 11 have produced creative results using ferrofluid with magnets (magnetic liquid) and made some unique and beautiful patterns such as the one pictured top left.

Our A'Level Photography students are busy developing their skills in studio-style photo shoots by experimenting with backdrops, artificial lighting and specialist equipment to create specific effects. They have also built upon their industry skills by using Photoshop to perfect their images.



FEEDING FAMILIES at Christmas

As part of our annual Christmas fundraising programme, students and staff at King James collected food donations to support the North East based charity, *Feeding Families*. The charity provides food hampers to families in need across the region.

Launched in Christmas 2016, the aim of Feeding Families is to support those who are struggling to make ends meet. Sadly, due to the pandemic, more families than ever are faced difficult times this year, including many in and around Bishop Auckland, and the gift of a festive hamper helped to make a real difference.

Students at King James are encouraged to propose and organise fundraising activities and events throughout the academic year, and they also free to suggest which charity should benefit from their efforts. The fundraising initiative for Feeding Families was organised by Year 13 student, Jess Baronowski, pictured above with charity representative, Tony Byrne, who came to collect the donation.

Jess contacted the organisation to request donation boxes and followed up with an Academy-wide promotion of the scheme. To boost donations, Jess also raised an additional £51 thanks to a 'Name the Bear' competition, with all funds raised used to buy festive treats such as mince pies, biscuits, sweets and chocolates. The giant bear was won by Sam Hobbs in Year 13.



Christmas Memories

WE CARE and WE SHARE

Students and staff at King James I Academy raised £70 for the North East charity, 'If U Care Share', which offers a full range of services to help prevent suicide and support families who have been affected by suicide.



The charity was set up by the family of 19 year old Daniel O'Hare, who tragically took his own life without warning in 2005; If U Care Share was launched in his memory and now the charity provides an extensive range of support and educational services to individuals, families and schools.

Funds were raised by Sixth Formers in the Media Department who created a Christmas message wall with personalised computer-generated festive messages, printed to order and displayed in the corridors at the school for all to read. This is an annual fundraising activity for the department and each year all proceeds go to a charity chosen by Media students; this year, they felt that the helpline and other support services provided by If U Care, Share were particularly important. Pictured here with the donation cheque are Year 13 students, Tiegan Genner and Brooke Moore.

Keeping students WINTER WARM

In December, Miss Thwaites, one of our Nurture Group teachers, organised a particularly important charitable initiative to support children and families in our Academy.

The 'Winter Warm' scheme was created to ensure that all students at King James have a warm coat and clothing to see them through the winter months. Miss Thwaites launched the donation scheme in school and on Facebook, with requests for winter coats and clothes to help families who are struggling to make ends meet, many as a result of the pandemic.

The result of the plea was the donation of over 40 coats in all sizes and a huge supply of clothes, shoes and toys, which were all packed into individual gift boxes and wrapped with help from Nurture Group students in Year 9, two of whom are pictured here. The gift boxes were hand delivered by Miss Thwaites during the last week of term and gratefully received.



THANK YOU

Thank you to our amazing Catering Team, who provided our students and staff with yet another wonderful turkey dinner with all the trimmings, followed by Christmas pudding!



Remembering JOHN JAMES

This year, our students wanted to remember their lost friend, John James by planting a Memory Tree.

They selected a spruce tree which will eventually be planted out in our central quad once it outgrows its planter, which was specially made by our Caretaker, Mr Page. Students and staff decorated the tree with stars bearing personal messages of remembrance and John James' family visited King James to read them.



CHRISTMAS WINDOWS

As part of our Christmas celebrations, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in a Christmas window decorating competition.

The idea was developed by Freya Dhiman, our Head Girl, pictured here, who launched the competition through a recorded assembly. Form classes were given materials to get creative and each had one hour to work as a team to design and complete a themed banner for classroom windows. Banners were then displayed in windows around the Academy.

Students and their Tutors had a fantastic time and our decorated quad area lifted the spirits of everyone in our last week of term. Outcomes were judged by Freya, Head Boy, Adam Hughes and Art specialists, Mrs Aitkin and Mrs Mulryan. The winning forms were 7SBI, 8RCO and 9KTA.



Baking reward COOKIES



Four of our Year 7 students were selected for a special baking session with Mrs Lamb as a reward for their hard work, positive attitude and

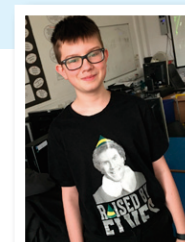
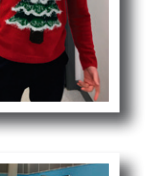
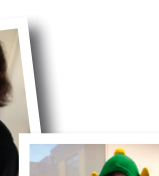
outstanding behaviour last term.

Students learned how to make their own festive cookies from scratch and had great fun decorating them for the season.

Everyone loves a CHRISTMAS JUMPER!

Christmas outfits at the end of term have become a tradition at King James and this year was no exception.

As usual, our Academy Catering Team led the way with festive jumpers and hats throughout the final week; this made Christmas lunch for students extra special as they ate traditional fayre to the sounds of Christmas songs piped into our dining halls. On the last day of term, staff and students also turned out in force in an array of colourful festive outfits and enjoyed Christmas activities in Tutor groups.





MORE SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

This academic year, to provide additional support to our parents and students, we have employed two Parent Liaison Officers.

new

Manuela Sewell and Kelley-Anne Aldsworth are available to support you where your child has been asked to self-isolate and can ensure that your child is able to continue to access their education remotely using their Chromebook computer.

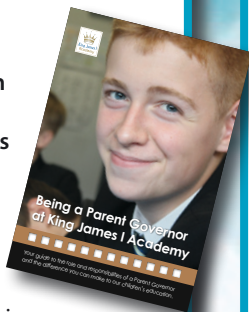
Should the need arise, they will make early contact with you to introduce themselves and they will be available to answer any of your questions or queries. They will also liaise with your child's teachers to provide resources.

HELP US SHAPE THE FUTURE

Are 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.



What a Term!



Despite the challenges of social distancing and the need to maintain year group bubbles in school, we have still found ways to continue our most important annual events.

VIRTUAL OPEN DAYS & TOURS

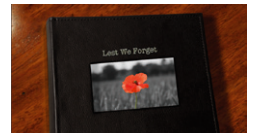
Unable to carry out our usual open evenings, in September and November, we hosted two hugely successful virtual events with live Zoom Q&A sessions for potential students and their parents.

With pre-recorded guided video tours of our buildings and facilities, a film highlighting some of the things that make King James so special, and the opportunity for parents to speak direct to Senior Leaders and specialist staff, we were able to offer applicants an excellent virtual experience from the comfort of their own home. We are delighted to announce that as a result of our Year 6 event we are now fully subscribed for admission in September 2021 with 175 first choice applicants!

REMEMBRANCE DAY VIDEO TRIBUTE

Our annual Remembrance Service is an important part of the Academy calendar but this year, due to Covid restrictions we had to take a different approach to marking the day.

Instead of the usual gathering around our memorial, we created a video tribute which was played in each and every classroom around the school. The video included archive photographs, music and a voiceover reading of the poignant poem, 'For the Fallen' by Robert Laurence Binyon, alongside footage of our Vice Chair of the Governing Body, Mr George Campbell, who is also a decorated former serviceman, laying the poppy wreath. The sound of The Last Post echoing around our school buildings was palpable, and many of our students and teachers commented that the video made them feel more involved in the Remembrance Service.



LOCKDOWN LEGENDS

Last term, a specially recorded awards ceremony aptly named 'Lockdown Legends' recognised the efforts of students who had excelled in their school work during the national lockdown.

25 students in all year groups were nominated by their teachers to receive a certificate and prize to acknowledge their resilience and the dedication they had shown to continuing their education in such difficult times. The unsuspecting winners were announced in the video ceremony which was played in classrooms around King James.

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