

# VISION

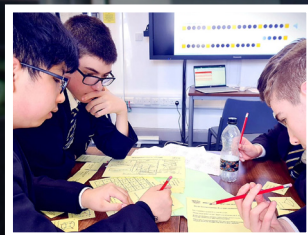


King James I Academy magazine

Issue 38: Summer 2022



## Officially good!



Inside: Ofsted Report Highlights, Bishop Big Dig, Prize Evening, Maths News, Competition Winner, Published Poets, Educational Visits Return and much more.



# WELCOME

from the Head



Welcome to the latest issue of *Vision*, our Academy magazine.

Since the removal of Covid restrictions, things have been rapidly returning to normal at King James. We have been able to take learning out of the classroom and students have enjoyed the opportunity to engage with visitors and take part in educational visits again. This is vital for students to have a full and enriching education, is a huge part of learning in the Academy and has been missed throughout the pandemic, and we are now planning for overseas visits again.

Our Ofsted visit in February really provided students with the chance to show off their Academy, and they did. As usual, they were a credit to you as parents, and it is heartening to see the pride they have in attending King James, and inspectors commented on this during their feedback to Governors. We were obviously delighted with the "Good" Ofsted judgement and their recognition of how hard the Academy works to secure the best outcomes for students.

I would like to finish by wishing all King James students who are taking external exams this summer the very best of luck. Despite the disruption of the last two years, I have been hugely impressed by their dedication and commitment, and I have no doubt that when the A' Level and GCSE results are released in August our students will be celebrating their fantastic achievements!

Best wishes,  
Simon Whitehead, Headteacher

# It's official... we're OFSTED GOOD!

In mid February Ofsted inspectors visited King James for a two-day inspection and we have now received the official report. We are happy to confirm that we have retained the Good status awarded to us in our previous inspection in 2017.

Inspectors identified a large number of positives during the visit. They were impressed by our Student Council and the regular meetings our leaders have with representatives to ensure students have the opportunity to share their views and give suggestions on how to improve Academy life. They also commended our high expectations of pupils which are set out in our '7 Standards'; these include values such as 'be prepared' and 'engage and succeed'.

It was noted that the atmosphere throughout King James is calm and orderly and that pupils conduct themselves well in lessons and make visitors feel welcome. Students told inspectors that they feel safe and value the help that they can get from our student support team. They also confirmed that when bullying occurs, it is handled well by staff. Inspectors spoke to our Safeguarding Team and praised their strong understanding of the local risks that pupils may face. Staff know what signs could indicate that a pupil might be at risk of harm and know how to raise a concern and organise help swiftly.

When commenting on what King James does well, inspectors reported that our leaders have developed an ambitious and well-structured curriculum and that pupils study a broad range of subjects, including those in Sixth Form who have a rich choice of both academic and vocational qualifications.

In relation to building knowledge, it was noted that teachers make effective choices in lessons to ensure that pupils learn and remember important information. They said that leaders and teachers are clear on what they want pupils to learn in each subject and this is regularly checked to help pupils build knowledge over time. To confirm this, they spoke about how in subjects such as English and history, pupils were able to talk confidently about their learning from previous years.

Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) get the right support. For example, in physical education, some pupils with SEND use adapted resources. They receive targeted support from teachers and this helps pupils to build their confidence in sports such as badminton and trampolining.



Inspectors were impressed by the improvement in modern foreign languages and the fact that next year, around a quarter of our Year 10 pupils will study GCSE French or Spanish. This means that more pupils will study the full range of qualifications that make up the English Baccalaureate in the future.

They praised the high priority given to reading at King James and the range of effective support on offer to build pupils' fluency and confidence in reading. This includes daily sessions for weaker readers and investments to strengthen the support for pupils so that they can catch up more quickly. It was also noted that leaders place high importance on pupils' personal development. Students talk confidently about aspects of PSHE. Inspectors spoke directly to Year 13 students who told them how careers education helps them to make the right decision when planning the next step when they leave school.

When Ofsted have judged a school to be good, they will then normally go into the school about once every four years to confirm that the school remains good. This is called a section 8 inspection of a good or outstanding school, because it is carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005. You can read the full Ofsted report via our website at [www.kingjames1academy.com/academylife/about/ofsted/](http://www.kingjames1academy.com/academylife/about/ofsted/)

Leaders have developed an ambitious and well-structured curriculum. High priority is given to reading and support for pupils so that they can catch up quickly.

Ofsted, 2022



## Getting involved in the BISHOP BIG DIG

A group of students in Year 8 have been taking part in *The Bishop Big Dig*, an exciting year-long project run by a team of archaeologists from *Durham University* and local volunteers from *The Auckland Project*.

The project aims to discover the hidden history of Bishop Auckland by employing a traditional exploration method called test-pitting. This involves digging discreet 1 metre deep pits in various locations around the town, gradually removing layers of earth to reveal finds such as pottery, buttons, glass and coins; these are then analysed and dated.

Although a number of successful digs have already taken place at Binchester Roman Fort and Auckland Castle, very little is known about Bishop Auckland itself. By organising digs at a more diverse range of locations, archaeologists hope to piece together clues to discover the origins of our medieval town.

A team of 14 students will be involved in the Big Dig for the next year. All will be taking part in a full day of archaeology-related activities every week, and in the process, they will develop their knowledge of local history alongside a wide range

of specialist skills including research, excavation, soil testing, data analysis, record keeping and teamwork. Participants have been carefully selected to take part in the project as they are doing particularly well in all of their other subjects and have excellent attendance and an outstanding attitude to learning.

Two digs have already taken place at King James with test-pits dug on Academy land near the Rugby Club and also near the river. Despite the less than pleasant weather students really enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to excavating new locations in the future.

To ensure the success of the project, test-pits are needed in as many locations as possible including private gardens if local residents are keen to get on board. Pits are dug, excavated and refilled in one day with minimal disruption. Any interested residents can find out more at [www.thebishopbigdig.com](http://www.thebishopbigdig.com)

## Year 11 FAREWELL

As our Year 11s work hard on their final exams and the end of Key Stage 4, they can look forward to two celebrations, the End of Year Barbeque and of course, the Year 11 Prom.

The final day barbeque will take place in school on the afternoon of Thursday 23rd June following the final GCSE exam. The afternoon will also include the reveal of the Year 11 Leavers' video, which never fails to bring back memories, and students will be able to collect their pre-ordered leavers' hoodies.

We are all looking forward to the much-anticipated Year 11 Prom, which will take place at *Hall Garth Golf and Country Club* in Darlington on Friday 8th July. This year, the events have been organised by Head of Year 11, Mrs Patterson.





## Performing Arts students INSPIRED BY DREAMS

The cast of A' Level Performing Arts have completed their exam piece based on dreams and the inspirational work of American film director, producer and writer, Tim Burton.

Students in Years 12 and 13 created two highly successful, creative performances, enthralling their audiences with their interactive and improvised pieces. Miss Howard, Director of Learning for Performing Arts said, "Our students were superb and all demonstrated skills beyond their years. I am so proud of the way they worked together to develop ideas and supported each other throughout the process."



## Exploring CULTURE IN ART

Year 10 students in GCSE Art have been studying different cultures and producing artwork inspired by their learning.

Working with Art Teacher, Mr Collingwood, the group studied the colours, shapes and techniques of a variety of cultural styles and were encouraged to create their own creative piece influenced by the one that inspired them the most. Outstanding results were achieved based around traditional oriental and African themes, plus aboriginal and oriental fantasy art with a focus on Chinese dragons. Mr Collingwood said, "I am so impressed with the time and effort the boys have taken with their work. The quality is excellent and I am sure their hard work will show through in the finished results." Well done to Kiran Alom, Jason Chamberlain, Benjamin Cooper, Kian Crow and Jack Moore, all pictured here with their artwork so far.

## Festival of LANGAUGES

30 Year 9 students have taken part in an online event run by the British Council, Durham County Council as part of the North East Festival of Languages.



Students took part in a range of activities including listening to four speakers who talked about how learning and knowing different languages had helped them to progress in both their life and their career. Students also worked in groups to complete a fun themed work book.

## Drama responds to UKRAINE CONFLICT

In Drama, Year 8 students have been responding to the emotional impact that the conflict in Ukraine could have upon families.



We have all seen the distressing scenes on the news and heard the tragic stories of families fleeing their homes to escape conflict. Working with Miss Howard, students have been expressing their feelings on this through performances in class, using aspects of drama practitioner, Brecht to influence their work through symbolism and placards. Results were extremely moving and an excellent demonstration of how empathetic our students can be.

## Celebrating WORLD BOOK DAY

As is our annual tradition, we celebrated World Book Day at King James by giving out free books to all students in Key Stage 3, along with a £1.00 book token, to redeem for a second free book in selected stores. Tokens were also given to all students in Key Stage 4.

World Book Day was created by UNESCO in 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading and it is marked in over 100 countries around the globe. Research has shown that reading for pleasure is the biggest indicator of a child's future success, more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income. Spending just 10 minutes a day reading can make a crucial difference to achievement so World Book Day wants to see more children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, develop a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings. To support this, we have a number of initiatives to help promote and improve reading at King James including opportunities for reading in all lessons, library sessions and supported reading for those who require one-to-one help to catch up.



## Learning about crime & punishment at SHREWSBURY PRISON

As part of GCSE RE, 50 students in Years 10 and 11 have visited Shrewsbury Prison in Shropshire to experience life as an inmate.

The activity was organised by Miss Wilkinson to coincide with a unit of study on Crime & Punishment. On arrival, students were checked in as inmates and given orange jumpsuits to wear over their clothes. They had a tour of the prison, looking at how the prison had changed over the years and were told stories about previous incidents that had happened when it was a working prison. The students were then split into groups and locked in a cell where they had to complete an escape room challenge. This was lots of fun but it also gave the students the opportunity to experience what it is like to be locked in a cell and not be allowed your freedom.

The topic was further debated back in the classroom with students discussing the living conditions and whether they were appropriate for those found guilty of an offence.



## Prison? Me? NO WAY!

Year 9 students at King James I Academy have taken part in a Crime and Safety Awareness Day delivered by the charity, 'Prison, Me, No Way!'

The charity works with millions of young people in secondary schools across the UK to raise awareness about the causes, consequences and impact of crime.

The event was organised by Mrs Cross, Director of Learning for RE, to give students the opportunity to learn about issues that are particularly pertinent in their lives today. Students took part in a selection of interesting themed workshops throughout the day including 'One Punch', which raised awareness of the devastation that a single punch can cause and the impact on victims, families and perpetrators; 'County Lines', which educates young people to recognise when they may be being taken advantage of and to understand how it may lead them down a destructive path; and 'Prison Life', which gave students a taste of life in a prison cell using a state-of-the-art mobile replica cell for two inmates.

Students also heard the testimony of a female ex-prisoner who shared her story as a victim of domestic violence and her reaction which changed her life forever; and learned about the laws and responsibilities relating to social media and how to stay safe and protect themselves online. Knife crime was also a particularly important topic in light of the increasing number of incidents affecting young people in our country.

Mrs Cross said, "We organise a comprehensive programme of events throughout the year which focus on developing students' personal and social awareness. Of course, King James values academic achievement highly, but we also see it as our duty to ensure that our young people are equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to make good life choices and become confident and valuable members of society. It's a sad fact that children and young people are faced with many dangers and temptations, but projects such as this make a real difference. Our students really appreciated the whole opportunity."



# A Durham University **MATHS FEAST**



Four of our Year 10 students have taken part in the *Advanced Maths Support Programme's Annual Math Feast at Durham University.*

The national Maths Feast initiative is a fun educational challenge for Year 10 students which tests problem-solving and teamworking skills.

The Advanced Mathematics Support Programme provides support for teachers and students in schools across the UK. To take part in the challenge, teams of four students must test their maths skills with an 'all-you-can-eat' feast of problems, and there are several rounds, each requiring different skills and strategies for success.

At the event at Durham University our student team, TJ, Alex, Rufus, and Isaac, pictured here, worked extremely well together throughout the competition and represented the school well by displaying excellent teamwork and problem solving skills in all challenges.

This is just one of the many opportunities for learning outside of the classroom that our Maths department organises to enrich the student experience at King James. Students in Key Stages 4 and 5 regularly take part with great success in the prestigious *UKMT Maths Challenges* and local activities at other secondary schools. They also attend local university lectures and special events where possible to encourage talented students to consider studying a Degree in Mathematics in the future and pursuing one of the many maths-related careers available.



*We give our talented mathematicians every opportunity to develop their skills and are pleased to see an increasing number choosing to study Maths at university.*

## Competing to **RECITE PI**

To Celebrate *Pi Day 2022*, Year 11 students took part in a competition at King James to remember and recite as many digits of Pi as possible.

Top achiever was Charlotte Robinson, who broke her own school record to recite an astounding 226 digits of pi correctly - what a memory! Ruby Elcock placed 2nd with 34 digits recalled, and Holly Lowis placed 3rd with 29 digits recalled. Well done to all those who participated.

## University **MATHS LECTURES**

A group of students from 10B1 and 10B2 Maths have recently visited Durham University for a series of Maths lectures with Teacher, Miss Curtis.

Students had a great day hearing about the opportunities to study Maths after GCSE and about the various different careers that involve Maths. They also attended a fascinating lecture where they heard from the winner of a *Women in Innovation Award* who used her love of Maths and Science to set up her own business.



## Visit to **GRASSHOLME OBSERVATORY**

Our Year 11 Triple Science class has recently visited *Grassholme Observatory* in Teesdale with Physics Teacher, Mr Riley to look at the night sky through an array of telescopes.

The trip was organised to enhance the Physics course as students prepare for their summer exams, and to offer an alternative to classroom learning, which students greatly appreciated. Participants really enjoyed the opportunity to use high tech instruments and computers to view and learn about planets, stars galaxies and beyond. Afterwards they said that the visit had given them a much better understanding of astronomy.

## A lesson in **STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING**

Year 9 Geography students have been taking part in a fun activity in teams to design and build a structure that would survive an earthquake!

Pupils have been studying the causes of earthquakes in lessons and looking at case studies from across the world. As part of this they have also learned about the latest developments in architectural design that many countries have adopted to prevent collapse and subsequent catastrophe should an earthquake occur in future.

The activity challenged students to use both engineering and mathematical skills to develop and build a sturdy structure that may not survive an actual earthquake, but would at least survive a shaky table! Students worked extremely well in teams to communicate their ideas, which is yet another valuable skill.

This is just one example of the many ways our team of Geography teachers present curriculum topics in creative ways to engage students in all year groups.

## Bringing joy to local **CARE HOMES**

We wanted to bring a little joy to elderly residents in our local area, so we delivered 50 handmade Easter cards to two of our local care homes, *Church View Care Centre* and *Eden House*.

The initiative began in our Media Studies department when Year 9 students worked with Mrs Davies-Burton to create cards as part of our carousel programme; this gives students the opportunity to take part in six-week taster sessions in subjects such as Media which are not available until Key Stage 4. Cards were also produced by Sixth Form Media students and Art students in all year groups.

Each card was hand coloured and embellished to make them completely unique, and what's more, they contained a short pen pal style letter from students to tell the recipient a little about their favourite subjects, their hobbies and their hopes for the future. Cards were received by Tracey McKerr, Wellbeing Coordinator at Eden House, and Jenifer Parkinson, Manager at Church View.





# Latest news from MEDIA STUDIES

It's been a busy term in Media with students in Year 11, 13 and 14 nearing completion of their courses and those in Years 10 and 12 preparing for exams and working on coursework units.

Sixth Formers in Years 12 and 13 have been producing documentary products on a fascinating variety of topics including the vaping trend, covid conspiracy theories, the impact of family upbringing on young people and the history of King James, plus many more. The unit involves scriptwriting, casting, filming and editing so students take on many roles and develop varied skills in the filmmaking process.

Year 13s are now studying media campaigns in readiness for creating their own in the coming weeks, whilst Year 12s are studying a wide variety of media products to prepare for their exam on representation in the media.

Year 14 students, who are completing the Extended Diploma course, have created multiple products including news programmes, music videos and short

fictional films, and they are now completing their final unit on digital photography with a focus on local architecture.

Year 11s are studying audience appeal, character theory, stereotyping and narrative structure to complete their coursework. To help with this, Miss Davies took all Year 11s to the cinema to watch and analyse the James Bond movie, *No Time to Die*, as it provides excellent examples of a stereotypical hero and villain, along with strong female representations. The trip was also a reward for the outstanding effort these students have made in catching up on lost teaching time due to covid.

It's been a busy term for Year 10s too; pupils are currently working on their three-part exam component, which involves producing a publishing product in response to a brief.



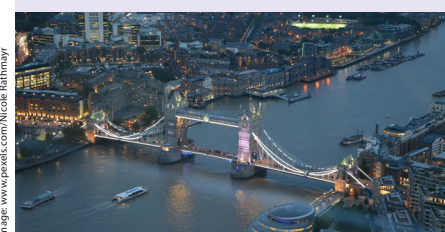
Although Media Studies is not delivered in Key Stage 3, students in Year 9 have the opportunity to try subjects such as Media in our Year 9 Carousel programme, which offers six-week taster sessions on rotation. In Media, students wrote articles which were compiled into this excellent newsletter.



## PE return to WIMBLEDON

After two years of restrictions our PE department are delighted to be able to reintroduce overnight educational visits to the annual calendar.

Eight girls in Year 10 will be travelling by train to London with Mrs O'Connor and Miss Short on 8th July to watch competition tennis at Wimbledon before visiting the famous M & M store and staying overnight. The trip will also include a trip to the zoo or theatre and time for sightseeing before returning home on Friday - it will be two action packed days! The girls, who are all studying GCSE or BTEC Sport have been chosen for their excellent work and attitude.

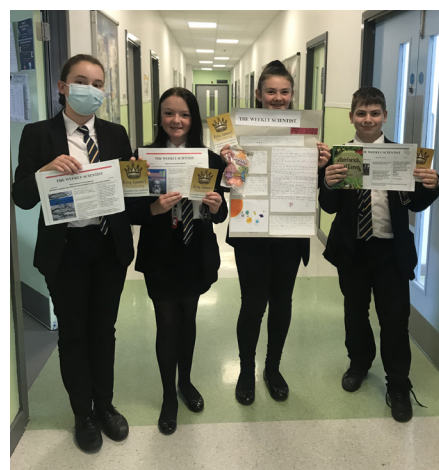


## Hot off the press at the SCIENCE NEWS ROOM

NEW!

Science Teacher, Mrs Lumley-Imerson has launched a Virtual Science News Room in Google Classroom for students to develop their knowledge and skills by keeping up with all the latest industry news.

Students can read up to date science news articles and pupils in Key Stage 3 can take part in a termly news reporter competition to write a scientific article with the potential to win a prize. Winners also receive a gold rewards card and get their names displayed on the physical news board in the science corridor which is called *The Weekly Scientist*. Autumn and Spring Term winners, pictured right, are Eve Heseltine, Alice Bainbridge, Kai Siddle and Alisha Garrett.



## Coming soon... YEAR 5 CURRICULUM WEEK

Each year in June we welcome hundreds of local primary school children into King James to take part in a host of taster sessions.

Year 5 Curriculum Week begins the process of transition early by introducing the concept of secondary school to youngsters and getting them excited about attending in Year 7. This year we will be hosting 200 pupils every day from 13 local primary schools!



## FUNDRAISING champions

Fundraising and making a difference in our local community is an important part of school life at King James. Although school closure impacted upon our goals in 2020 and 2021, this academic year we have resumed our efforts with gusto.

Despite school closures, we have raised an incredible £6,965 for both local and national charities over the past 24 months. Some of our events, such as *Children in Need*, *Comic Relief* and the *Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning* are part of our annual calendar, however many other activities take place throughout the year to raise funds for charities chosen by our students and staff. Each year group organises activities from bake sales and raffles to 'name the bear' and charity car washes, all of which raise funds for a charity chosen by students in that year. Form groups are supported by their tutors, and they even enjoy a little healthy competition to see which year group can raise the most!

It's not just about cash donations however. At the end of 2021 we organised a whole school activity to collect food and toiletry items for two local organisations, *West Auckland Food Bank* and *Feeding Families*. We collected over 2,500 items which

were shared equally between these two very worthy causes. We also donated over 80 toys to *The Angel Trust* for their annual Christmas Toy Appeal and hope they brought pleasure to local families.

Sometimes our staff and students find ways to show they care for others in our community in small ways. As the conflict in Ukraine unfolded, our staff donated coats, warm clothing and essential items to convoy deliveries from Bishop Auckland. These activities all help our students feel involved in their local community and prove that not only do they have the ability to make a real difference, but helping others also feels great!



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## Art for the JUBILEE

Inspired by an assembly on British Values, Year 9 students in Mrs Coy's Form Group have been learning all about our Queen's role in shaping our country over the past 70 years, and why we are all celebrating the Platinum Jubilee.

The group wanted to celebrate the Jubilee by sending something to Buckingham Palace, so they worked together to produce this wonderful collage. Created from individual pieces, all of which have a classic British theme from London landmarks to tea and cake, each student carefully coloured a section and Mrs Coy then joined them together to send to London.



## DIARY DATES

SIXTH FORM

There are some important dates to add to your diary for existing Sixth Form students and for current Year 11s who will be entering Sixth Form in September.

### Work Experience Week

From Monday 4th - Friday 8th July, Year 12s will take part in Work Experience Week. With assistance from their Form Tutor, we hope that all students will be able to find a suitable placement. This will help them to gain valuable experience in a working environment whilst enhancing their CV, both of which will benefit them when they are looking for work or applying for university next year.

### Sixth Form Induction Day

This is scheduled to take place on Monday 4th July for current Year 11 students. During the day, students will be able to visit each department to find out more about the variety of courses on offer, and discuss their options for study in September.

### Enrolment Day

Enrolment Day for Year 11s entering Sixth Form is scheduled to coincide with GCSE results day on Thursday 25th August. Students can collect their exam results and enrol at the same time. There is also a second enrolment day on Friday 26th August.



# Food & Languages join forces for GUSTO LINGO!

Last term, Mrs Elizabeth Varley, our Chair of Governors and her husband attended one of our *Gusto Lingo* sessions to see how the after school activity works, and to help out with the cooking!

As a former Teacher of Food & Nutrition at King James, Mrs Varley was well placed to offer her advice to participants. *Gusto Lingo* is a collaboration between our Food & Nutrition and Modern Foreign Languages departments. Operating every Monday after school, the club gives students the opportunity to develop their cooking and linguistic skills by preparing traditional French and Spanish meals from recipe cards written in the associated language. They also communicate in French or Spanish throughout the session with Languages Teacher, Miss Grand, who runs the club with Food Technician, Mr Blood. At the session, Mrs Varley worked alongside students as they prepared the traditional hot French sandwich, Croque Monsieur, which has featured on menus in Paris cafes and bistros since 1910.



## Authentic INDIAN COOKING

Our teachers have many talents outside of their subject specialism and Maths Teacher, Mrs Rajesh is a very talented cook.

Last term, Mrs Rajesh delivered a practical Food lesson with our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students where she demonstrated how to make an authentic Indian potato and pea curry. As the dish was vegetarian, it gave students an insight into how to cook for special diets and they also learned about the health benefits of a range of spices which are traditionally used in Indian cooking.



## AIM HIGHER at Durham Uni

As part of our *Aim Higher* programme, Mrs Lobb, Director of Learning for Business Studies and Assistant Head of Sixth Form, took a group of Year 9 students to Durham University for a taster day in Archaeology.

The trip involved a campus tour and hands on sessions in archaeology handling, skeleton science, fantastic light and cool materials. They even got to make their own glow sticks as part of the fantastic light session in the university's science labs. This is just one of the many Aim Higher trips we organise to raise aspirations in our students.



## UNIVERSITY applications

We are pleased to announce that 100% of our Sixth Form students who applied to university have now received offers. It has been another year of diverse choices with students set to study Politics, History, Primary Education, Crime Scene Sciences, Media, Business and Photography.

## Collecting cans for KIDSCAN

A group of Year 8 students, pictured below with Miss Stephenson, have been collecting aluminium drink cans as part of an environmental project and to support the children's cancer research charity, *Kidscan*.



Kidscan is a Salford-based charity that funds and manages research into new and improved treatments for children with cancer. Cancer is the leading cause of death in children in the UK and it's a sad fact that many of the children who survive it suffer life-long side effects caused by the treatments used to cure them. The charity receives no statutory funding, but with the contributions from the public, volunteers and businesses they fund research to develop new treatments that not only cure children with cancer but also prevent the side effects of current treatments.

Drink cans are collected from King James by Mrs Varley, our Chair of Governors and delivered to Mr Geoff Swinton, pictured above, who then cashes in the aluminium with scrap metal dealer, John Denham and donates the money to Kidscan. What an excellent way to use waste products!



## Young Writers PUBLISHED POETS

Two of our students, Tamzin Iley in Year 7, and Cody Mather in Year 9 have been selected from over 5,000 entrants to have their poems published as part of the *Young Writers Competition*.

Students entered the competition in their extra-curricular Creative Writing group, which is run by Miss Gowland. This after school activity offers a place where students can develop their creative writing skills, share their work with other aspiring writers and take part in national competitions for under 16s. One of these, The Young Writers competition for poetry under the theme of empowerment is a nationally recognised competition for 11 to 18 year olds. Tamzin and Cody will both have their poems published and their work will be included in the competition shortlist. Read Tamzin's beautiful poem, 'You are Human' on the right.

*I am really proud of these students; they are amazing writers and I am so happy that they have been recognised for their talent.*

Miss Gowland, English Teacher



## YOU ARE HUMAN By Tamzin Iley

Dear soul,  
I see you walking, walking a path.  
This path has many turns and bends, all  
leading to a different destination.  
So far you have no destination.  
You look around frustrated and tired,  
trying to find an answer, a goal.  
Although instead, without knowing it,  
you are in a constant cycle.  
In which you'll be until you find a goal.  
You eat, you sleep, you work, and cry.  
It's ok, you are fine.  
Everyone has a destination, it may just  
take a while for you to find yours.  
You can get frustrated and get stressed,  
Some see it as you being weak,  
You're not.  
You're simply a human being.  
You are allowed to quit when things  
get hard.  
You can run if you are afraid.  
You can rest if you are tired.  
You can complain if something is hard.  
But never let someone make you feel  
insignificant.  
Remember these words...  
You are Human.

## Alex wins competition to name EL CASTILLO

Year 7 student, Alex Andelin has won a competition to name the town's new tapas restaurant located in the *Spanish Art Gallery*. The restaurant will be called *El Castillo*.

The competition was organised by *The Auckland Project* and thanks to Alex's winning entry, a group of his peers will now be visiting the art gallery to take part in a workshop as part of the grand prize. In addition to this, Alex's family will receive a weekend pass for the Auckland Project attractions and a family meal at *El Castillo* restaurant which is in the Market Place.

Competition judges said, "As we have our own castle here in Bishop Auckland, *Un Castillo de Comida* (shortened to *El Castillo*) is a fantastic way of reminding us of one of our greatest treasures, whilst also giving it a Spanish twist! Plus, as Alex reminded us in his entry, "in a castle you would have great food", which is definitely something we intend to serve in our restaurant. Well done Alex!"







## Celebrating students at PRIZE EVENING

**T**his term we celebrated the achievements and effort of students in all year groups at our annual Prize Evening event. After two years of virtual celebrations due to covid restrictions, it was excellent to be able to welcome families into our Academy in person once again.

Over 300 visitors attended the event to see our award winners receive their certificates and trophies. As per our tradition, we began the evening with an address from our Chair of Governors, Mrs Elizabeth Varley, before moving on to acknowledge our Year 7 Rising Stars, who were all nominated by their form tutors for excellent attitude and effort since joining King James in September 2021. Awards were given to two students from each tutor group as the evening progressed and special awards were announced throughout the evening to our elite athletes and to Sixth Formers who have excelled in specific subjects. The prestigious specialist awards and trophies brought the evening to a close.

Live entertainment was provided by talented students from our music department who had all worked hard with Director of Learning for Music, Mr Smith to prepare and rehearse for the event. Our Year 8 and 9 band performed an outstanding rendition of *Sweet Child of Mine* by Guns n' Roses. The band featured vocalist, Ruby Price, Elliot Ames and Cody Matther on guitar, Tai Harding on lead guitar, Abigail Woff on bass, Naila Wright on keyboard and Jaeden Waites on drums. The Year 11 band performed *Easy on Me* by Adele with Maddie Balwin on vocals, Charlotte Robinson on keyboard, Logan Roe on bass and Oscar Proud on guitar.

Sixth Form Music students also played an important part in the evening as sound and lighting engineers; not only did they set up and sound check the equipment but they also supervised the music and lighting throughout the evening as part of their practical coursework.

## Focus on CAREERS

**T**his month, Sixth Form students in Years 12 and 13 attended a career talk given by Helen Inness from the ASK Project.

The ASK (Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge) Project works with the Department for Education to raise awareness about apprenticeships and promote opportunities in our region. This is especially useful for young people who may be looking for an alternative to university education once they leave Sixth Form.

Helen informed students of the different levels of apprenticeships from entry level schemes to Degree Apprenticeships, which provide an alternative route to gaining a specialist degree without attending university on a full time basis. By choosing this option, students can earn a wage, gain valuable work experience and achieve a recognised degree qualification without accruing debt from student loans.

Mrs Goddard, our Careers Adviser organises a wide range of events throughout the academic year to inform students in all year groups about their career options. Events run in addition to one-to-one meetings which help students identify their strengths and goals, and plan a way forward to ensure they are able to achieve them.

In June, students will be able to enjoy presentations and Q&A sessions with practitioners from a number of industry sectors. The aim is to introduce students to some of the careers available and the routes of entry within different occupational areas. This will help them to fully understand what they need to do to get into their career of choice. So far, speakers will include representatives from the world of Sport, Health Care, the Merchant Navy, Science & Engineering, the Police, Digital Technology and Business. Students will be able to opt in to the sessions which interest them the most.

*It's so important for our students to have up-to-date career advice so that they can make an informed decision about their future when the time comes.*

## Football fans return to AMSTERDAM WITH PE

**W**ith international trips back on the agenda for UK schools, our PE department is pleased to announce that they are busy planning a return visit to Amsterdam for 2023.

This trip has been hugely popular with students in previous years. It includes three action-packed days in Amsterdam with football training sessions at the state-of-the-art *KNVB National Campus* and friendly fixtures with local teams. There will also be an excursion to the famous *Ajax Stadium* and *Duinrell Theme Park*, alongside time to explore the city and take part in fun evening activities including ten pin bowling.

The trip, which will take place in May 2023 is for students who are currently in Years 7 and 8. Students should initially register their interest with PE Teacher, Mr Bushy.



## Star the day with a MAGIC BREAKFAST

**E**very morning in our Dining Hall students in all year groups can enjoy a free breakfast before they begin the school day.

Studies show that children who eat breakfast are able to work faster, make fewer mistakes in maths problems, and perform better on vocabulary tests. They also show improved concentration, alertness, comprehension and memory in lessons, so there are lots of reasons to make sure our young people eat breakfast. The *Magic Breakfast* scheme allows all school pupils to enjoy cereal and/or toasted bagels for breakfast for free, and it is available to all students regardless of their household income. There are other benefits to the scheme too; the atmosphere in our Dining Hall at breakfast time is calm and social with students eating together and preparing for the day ahead in the best possible way.



## Drop down days to develop REVISION TECHNIQUES

**I**t has been proven that using a variety of techniques for study and revision is best for retention of key information. For this reason, we have worked hard to develop a host of retention strategies, and organised specific drop-down days which allow students to try them.

Our most recent drop-down day focused on the use of flash cards as a tool for recording information. Students in all year groups learned how this technique could benefit them in all subjects by producing a set of flash cards for each timetabled lesson they attended. This demonstrated how the skill is transferrable across different disciplines. Flash cards were used successfully in science, history, geography, languages, religious studies and food and nutrition.

Further drop-down days are scheduled to take place in the coming weeks and students will get the opportunity to explore the use of spider diagrams, storyboarding, note taking, subject quizzes, videos and online resources.



## Talented Tai is 1 IN 10,000!

**Y**ear 8 Music student, Tai Harding has an extraordinary talent that only 1 in 10,000 people possess - synaesthesia. In simple terms, synaesthesia is a fascinating phenomenon where there is a blending of the senses.

For Tai, this means he has perfect pitch because he can not only hear musical sounds but he can also identify them visually in his brain and know them instantly. In a practical application, it enables Tai to be able to learn to play an instrument and new music very quickly. In fact, despite only playing guitar for around five months, Tai's talent is nothing less than exceptional.

Director of Learning for Music, Mr Smith spotted Tai's special ability in lessons when he noticed certain behaviours that are common amongst people with synaesthesia. He said, "I noticed that if I played any musical note, Tai was able to correctly identify it almost instantly, but that he also appeared to be visibly searching for it inside his brain. His ability to learn so quickly was also a major clue. The phenomenon is quite difficult to explain but Tai is in good company, as Jimi Hendrix, Mozart and Beethoven were also synaesthetes."

Tai, pictured below with Mr Smith, joined King James half way through Year 7 when he moved to the area from London, and he has become a valued member of our after-school guitar club and school band. He enjoys weekly guitar lessons with our visiting music teacher, Mr Waite.







## Diary dates

16 June	Year 7 Parents' Evening
4 July	Sixth Form Induction Day
13-16 July	Year 6 Induction Days
14 July	Year 6 Welcome Evening
19 July	School closes 1.30pm for Summer holiday
18 Aug	A Level Results Day
25 Aug	GCSE Results Day
5 Sept	INSET Day
6 Sept	School re-opens to students

## A Level Results

Further details and collection times will be posted on our website in August. Visit [www.kingjames1academy.com](http://www.kingjames1academy.com)



## GCSE Results



## PARENTS HELP US SHAPE THE FUTURE

**D**oes your child attend King James? Would you like to get involved in shaping the future of our Academy?

We are always looking for enthusiastic parents to join our Parents' Forum group that meets to discuss ideas to improve the learning experience we offer and raise the profile of King James in our community. You can also register your interest in becoming a Parent Governor when the next vacancy arises. Please call Main Reception on 01388 603388 to find out more.



# Creative learning opportunities in GEOGRAPHY

**O**ur innovative Geography teachers work hard to find new ways to deliver GCSE curriculum content to students in all year groups and last term two activities really stood out.


Simone Saville, a representative from the Tyne River Trust visited King James with an excellent working drainage basin model to help students understand flooding and the long profile of a river. Sessions were attended throughout the day by Year 7 students who had been studying rivers, so seeing the working model was an excellent way to revise the topic before their assessment. Year 11s also benefitted from the demonstrations as they prepared for their GCSE exam.



Year 10s have been studying favelas in Brazil and communities in extreme poverty who have no choice but to build houses from whatever materials they can find. A favela is a slum area which is located on the outskirts of large cities, and they develop when squatters take over vacant land and construct shanties style buildings. There are many favelas in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. To understand the challenges locals face, students were challenged to build settlements from scrap materials like cardboard, plastic and string. This topic is part of the GCSE curriculum to study urban issues and challenges around the world.



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