

# VISION



King James I Academy magazine

Issue 39: Autumn 2022



Lots of reasons to choose  
**KING JAMES!**



Inside: Primary Liaison, Exam Results, Summer School, Sports Day, Football Partnership, Bishop Big Dig, Career Planning, Health & Wellbeing, Sixth Form News and much more.

# WELCOME from the Head



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

I'd like to start by congratulating all of our GCSE and A'Level students for their hard work and fantastic exam results this year. Having had their courses significantly disrupted by Covid over the past two years, they have worked exceptionally hard to achieve some of our strongest results ever across many subject areas. I'm delighted that so many of the GCSE students have decided to remain at King James for Sixth Form, and wish those leaving us the very best of luck in whatever they have chosen to do.

As you will see from this issue, we managed to make up for lost time during the summer term at King James; after restrictions were lifted we took every opportunity to get students involved in activities both in and out of school, something we intend to continue in the new academic year, with trips already planned to the Netherlands and various locations within the UK. We also hope to add more international opportunities and want to get as many students as possible involved in these educational experiences.

We were able to welcome both Year 5 and Year 6 students towards the end of the summer term, with our 'No Wasted Weeks' program, Transition Week and Summer School providing students with the chance to familiarise themselves with King James before joining us fully in September.

Finally, I would like to thank the parents and community for their ongoing support. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the future to secure the best possible outcomes for KJIA students.

Best wishes,  
Simon Whitehead, Headteacher

# Creating an easy TRANSITION

**A**t King James, we recognise the importance of beginning the transition from primary to secondary school early. We want our new starters to look forward to joining our school and to feel confident, so our programme begins with pre-school.

The transition process starts for us with the extensive Outreach Programme we offer to our local primary schools. Pupils from Years 1-5 are invited to attend King James to take part in Art, Music and Drama projects, all of which are designed to introduce young children to secondary school life and allay any fears from an early age. This year, we even welcomed children from Ackleton Close Nursery, who came to work on a creative Jubilee project with Mrs Mulryan, our Director of Learning for Art & Photography and Primary Liaison Co-ordinator.

In our annual Year 5 Curriculum Week 2022, pictured below, pupils from 14 local primary schools enjoyed a host of educational activities in all subjects from Maths, English, Science and History, to Languages, Geography, Food, Sport, Art, Drama, ICT and Music. These students are then invited to attend our vibrant

annual Year 6 Open Event, which takes place on September 26th this year. This is an excellent opportunity for families to join us in school to meet our staff and students and enjoy an evening of guided tours and subject-themed activities to help parents and guardians choose the best secondary school for their child.

For those students who are enrolled to start King James in September, the programme is extensive. It includes a number of welcome events where children and their parents can meet our Academy Leadership Team and Year 7 Form Tutors, and Year 6 Induction Days, which take place in school in July; these give pupils the chance to take part in timetabled lessons and join King James students for break and lunch in our Dining Hall. Our hugely popular Summer School, detailed right, is designed to build confidence and independence, and to forge firm friendships.



## Independence and friendship at SUMMER SCHOOL

**E**ach year, our Transition Summer School gives Year 6 students who are entering King James in September, the opportunity to make new friends and build independence well ahead of the new academic year.

It's important to us that our new Year 7 students feel confident in their surroundings from day one and that they are excited to attend their lessons. All students meet their Tutor at our Year 6 welcome meeting in May, and then again in July when they attend Year 6 Curriculum Week. Here, students take part in guided tours of King James to ensure that they are familiar with all of our buildings, and they also enjoy a range of lessons in school so they know what to expect when September comes. By joining our existing students for break and lunch, they become comfortable with our mealtime system. From experience, we know that all of these things make a huge difference to our new starters.

Our Summer School, which takes place during the first week of the holidays, is

designed in a way which challenges students to discover their potential, and develop resilience through team games and outdoor activities. This year, 90 of our new starters spent two days in school taking part in sports, art and subject-themed activities, before attending Weardale Adventure Centre over a three day period where they enjoyed a range of outdoor activities including canoeing, high ropes, archery and rock climbing.

Although the vast majority of students had never tried any of these before, they faced the challenges with great enthusiasm and strength of character. Many expressed a sense of personal pride and achievement in completing the tasks set for them, and returned home with greater confidence and many new friends.

*Our transition programme makes sure new starters feel confident in their new surroundings from day one.*

Janet Stephenson, Transition Co-ordinator

## Year 6 OPEN EVENING

**P**lans are well underway for our annual Year 6 Open Evening, which will take place from 6.00pm - 8.00pm on Monday 26th September.

The event, which is open to all local primary school pupils in Year 6 and their families, is designed to support parents and carers in making an informed decision about which secondary school will be best for their child.

Throughout the evening, visitors will be able to meet and talk to our school leaders, teaching and support staff and our students. They will also be able to take a tour of our facilities and get involved in a wide variety of fun activities in all subjects. Student work will be on display throughout King James and you can find out about the many extra-curricular opportunities we offer to help young people develop outside of lessons.





Sixth form students from left: Jack Warters, Freya Dhiman, Adam Hughes and Brooke Moore.

## Officially OFSTED GOOD

Earlier this year, we were visited by Ofsted for a two day inspection, which resulted in us retaining the rating as a 'Good provider'.



Inspectors identified a number of positives during the visit. They commented, 'Leaders have developed an ambitious and well-structured curriculum and pupils study a broad range of subjects, including those in Sixth Form'.

They were impressed by the support for pupils with special educational needs (SEND) and praised the high priority given to reading and the range of effective support on offer to build pupils' fluency and confidence in reading. They were also impressed by our Student Council and the calm and orderly atmosphere throughout King James, adding that pupils conduct themselves well in lessons and make visitors feel welcome. You can read the full report on our website at [www.kingjames1academy.com](http://www.kingjames1academy.com)

## Celebrating outstanding EXAM RESULTS!

Students at King James are celebrating another fantastic set of exam results across all academic and vocational qualifications with many pupils achieved A\*, A and B or equivalent grades.

Following excellent GCSE results, many of our students have now joined our Sixth Form to continue their studies at a higher level. We have also welcomed a number of external candidates from other secondary schools. We look forward to helping them all achieve their goals for the future over the next two years.

Sixth Formers celebrated outstanding results and 100% pass rate in a wide range of both academic and vocational subjects. They are now studying a host of university courses and undertaking a diverse range of industry apprenticeships. Top grades were achieved across the range of academic subjects, including Maths, English, Geography, History, the Sciences, Photography and Computer Science, where all pupils achieved 'A' grades. Students also achieved the highest possible grades in Psychology, Business Studies, Human Biology, Criminology, Media Production and Performing Arts.

Notable Sixth Form achievers include Aimee Benson, who achieved an 'A' grade in Criminology and a 'Distinction\*' in both Psychology and Health & Social Care. Aimee is now studying Philosophy at the *University of York*. Adam Hughes, who achieved an 'A' grade in Maths and History, a 'C' in English and a 'Distinction\*' in Music is studying Music at *Leeds Conservatoire*; whilst Lucas Stewart, who achieved an 'A\*' in Maths, an 'A' in Computer Science, and a 'B' in Chemistry and Further Maths, is studying Computer Science at *Northumbria University*.

Jack Warters achieved a triple 'Distinction\*' in Sport and is undertaking an apprenticeship in Sport in a local primary school; and Krisztina Szabo, who achieved a Distinction\* in Psychology and 'B' grades in Criminology and History, is studying Archaeology and Ancient History at the *University of Durham*. Well done to all of our young people!

## FOOTBALL Partnership

King James I Academy has renewed their partnership with *Shildon AFC* and *Bishop Juniors FC*, enabling the development of grassroots football in the Bishop Auckland area.

The agreement will see Shildon AFC First Team, who currently play in the Northern Premier League, undertake their training sessions at the Academy, whilst it is anticipated their Reserves will play their home matches in the Wearside League Division 1 at the Academy. The partnership also provides a progression route for elite footballers in the Academy Sixth Form, with the potential to represent Shildon in the future. A number of our Sixth Form students have previously gone on to sign contracts with 'The Railwaymen'.

Bishop Juniors continues to grow, developing more teams at different age groups. Using King James I Academy as their base enables them to utilise some of the best facilities in the area to develop the stars of the future and grow the game at a grassroots level.



From left: Darren Tait, Bishop Juniors FC, Simon Whitehead, and David Dent, Chairman of Shildon AFC

Simon Whitehead, Headteacher at King James said, "We are proud to continue our relationship with Shildon AFC and Bishop Juniors, and to enable even more young people to participate in our national sport. I am confident that all three members of the partnership will go from strength to strength in the coming years and we wish the very best of luck to the Shildon and Bishop Juniors teams for the coming season."

## So you want to be an AUTHOR?

If you have ever dreamed of seeing your work in print and would love to see your writing published and bound on a library shelf, now is your time!



This month, English Teacher, Miss Gowland, is running six, weekly after school sessions as part of the already established creative writing group. This group helps aspiring authors to develop their skills and work towards a potential future as a writer.

The new sessions will support participants in writing, editing, and publishing their stories in the first ever King James anthology alongside other talented writers from the Academy. Then, just like when J.K Rowling and Stephen King release a new book, we will hold a special launch night to celebrate the publication.

This project is not just for aspiring writers; it will bring together the work of Media and Art students to design the book cover, and Sixth Form English students to do the final edit of the book. All students involved in the production of the anthology will be credited in recognition for their efforts.

## Farewell to STUDENT TEACHERS

We would like to wish our fantastic student teachers the best of luck as they leave us to begin their teaching careers.

Working with their mentors in school, they have trained in Science, English, Maths, Art, History and MFL, and have provided creative and inspiring lessons for our students. All have now successfully completed their training and Miss Miller has now joined us as a teacher of Art.



## Pen pals and art in LANGUAGES

In our Modern Foreign Languages Department, Year 7 students have been working with Miss Grand on a pen pal project, which brings together students at King James and those in the same year group at a school in Gap in the Alps, South of France.

So far, students have exchanged letters three times, sharing details about their school and family life, hobbies and aspirations for the future in each other's language. This is an excellent way to embed their subject learning and develop their written communication skills, but it is also a great way to introduce young people to the wider world and inspire an interest in international culture and travel.

Last year, the pen pal project ran very successfully with a school in Mexico and it is hoped that this partnership can be established once more in 2023 as the project develops further to include King James students in both Years 7 and 8.

To enhance learning and give students the opportunity to expand their knowledge



Some of the pen pal group from left: Lacie-Mae, Emily and Kacie.



Alex with some of his MFL peers who visited the Spanish Gallery for free.

## Creative students go INTERNATIONAL

Our Media Studies and Photography departments have joined forces to organise an international trip for Sixth Form students, which will take place in September 2023.



Directors of Learning for the subjects, Miss Davies and Mrs Mulryan, are currently investigating potential destinations which will give students opportunities for sightseeing and exploring culture and cuisine, whilst expanding their coursework portfolio.

During the trip, Media students will gather footage which will be edited into a travel documentary on their return to school, and photography students will focus on architecture and local culture in their work. In previous years, both departments have arranged excellent international trips, with destinations including Malta, Venice and Barcelona, all of which have received positive feedback from participants.

## Innovation in DRAMATIC ARTS

Our Dramatic Arts Department pushes the boundaries of theatre and challenges students to succeed with flair.

Students have recently deconstructed mental health in *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* and explored the strange world of dreams and Tim Burton. There is no limit to imagination and all students produce innovative work in a highly creative way. The department also welcomes guest speakers, including Festival and Theatre Manager, Thomas Wales, who inspired students with his talk on the performing arts industry and the many career opportunities.



Pictured: Megan Thompson as The Mad Hatter



Students in Year 14 are currently working on fictional film production and although

they could choose to create a short film from any genre, they could not wait to try horror! Scarlett Kehoe has developed a concept based on the classic Alice in Wonderland tea party, featuring Alice, the Queen of Hearts, the White Rabbit and of course, the Mad Hatter, pictured here. All is not as expected however and the party takes a sinister turn when Alice shows a rather unpleasant side to her character! Brooke Hallewell's gripping psychological thriller tells the story of a young girl plagued by a terrifying stalker, however as she battles with her diagnosed mental health issues, she is unable to tell whether he is real or just in her imagination!

Students in Year 13 are currently studying the codes and conventions of magazine production and how producers appeal to specific target audiences. This will lead to practical production of their own class lifestyle magazine with each student responsible for the design of a double page spread on a topic of their choice. The finished product will also be commercially printed.

Students in Years 10 and 11 are analysing a variety of media products from different sectors, from computer games and social media platforms to films, TV shows and magazines. By doing this, they build specialist knowledge and are able to debate the differences between modern products and those from past decades.

It is fascinating to study the way women, the LGBTQ community, those with a disability and ethnic minority groups are represented in media products from the 1970s, 80s and 90s compared to today.

Students in our Media Production department create a wide variety of professional products as part of their coursework, from documentaries, music videos and films, to magazines and posters.



All Media courses are designed to give students a broad overview of the media industry, whilst allowing them to build a full range of specialist skills including script writing, filming, editing, photography, graphic design, journalism and presenting.



## Outstanding creativity in ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

Each year, students on both GCSE and A' Level Art and Photography courses achieve outstanding results, and this year is no exception as both departments have celebrated 100% pass rate.

This year, for the first time in two years, GCSE and A' Level Art and Photography students were able to host an after-school exhibition and invite guests to view and admire their work.

In Art, students used a wide range of media to create some superb textile pieces, traditional paintings and drawings, examples of 3D work and digital artwork. In Photography, a diverse range of techniques were used to create examples from different genres, including light trails, 3D image transfer pieces, horror photography and surrealism. Parents and staff who visited the exhibition were extremely impressed with the unique creativity shown by our students at all levels.

This year, there was also some fantastic examples of landscape and nature photography on show, which students had

taken on educational visits to Auckland Castle and High Force. Mrs Mulryan, Associate Assistant Headteacher and Director of Learning for the department said, "It is great to be able to take students out of school again, now that the Department for Education has lifted restrictions on school trips. Students are always so inspired by a new environment, and they return to school with extremely high quality work for their portfolios."

Last term, as part of the Jubilee celebrations, nursery pupils from Acklet Close Nursery visited King James Art and Photography department to work with Mrs Mulryan, who is also Primary



Main picture: GCSE student, Destiny Gambrich with her final piece.

# SPORT & PE



## DANCE Champions

Year 8 student, Kate Moult has celebrated success in *Whitby Freestyle Dance Competition*, claiming first place in three categories.



### Inspired by the pros at WIMBLEDON

In July, a group of eight Year 10 girls were rewarded for their positive attitude and excellent behaviour in PE lessons, with an overnight trip to London to watch pro tennis players at *Wimbledon*.

Ruby Sheridan, Amelia Dickinson, Chloe Shoulder, Katherine Smith, Abby Richardson, Ella Robson, Lilly Tinkler and Michaela Fitzgerald were accompanied by Mrs O'Connor and Miss Short, Director and Assistant Director of Learning for PE. The group travelled to London by train and enjoyed sightseeing and shopping in the city, alongside the exciting doubles match on court one between Joe Salisbury and Rajeev Ram, and Matthew Ebdon and Max Purcell, which went to five sets before the Ebdon duo claimed victory.



### Return to AMSTERDAM

With international trips back on the agenda for UK schools, our PE department is offering football fans a themed trip to Amsterdam in 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 a range of 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.

With music from Mr Middleton's playlist and glorious sunshine, an excellent time was had by competitors and spectators alike at our Year Group Sports Day events this year.

Events took place over two days, with students taking part in field events including Shot Putt, Discus, Javelin, Standing Broad Jump and Standing Triple Jump; and track events including 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and 4 x 100m relay.

At the Year 7 event, Mr Blood's Form group claimed the first place trophy with 130 points, beating Mrs Cross and Miss Dixon's Form groups into second and third place.

In Year 8, the winning Form group was Mrs Kelly's, with an impressive 133 points overall, and Mrs Binns and Miss Wilkinson claimed second and third. Mr Riley's Form group took first place in the Year 9 competition with 126 points, just one point ahead of Miss Howard in second and Mr Saunders in third. Finally, Miss Whitaker's group were the winners at the Year 10 event, closely followed by Mrs Keeler and Mrs Dawson. Well done to everyone who took part!

### SOAK A TEACHER raises £175 for charity!

At the end of the summer term, students in all year groups enjoyed a fantastic 'Soak the Teacher' event to raise funds for the Year 7 charity, *The Cavernoma Society*.

Students lined up in their droves to pay 20p to throw a wet sponge at a teacher in the stocks, and £3.00 to pour a whole bucket of water over their head! Thanks to our brave and fun-loving teachers, pictured here, £175 was raised. You can see more photos and watch videos from the event on our Instagram page @kingjames1academy

### Success at SHILDON ATHLETICS

Throughout the academic year, our young athletes take part in local competitions with great success. In the recent inter-school Athletics Competition at *Shildon Athletics Track*, students in Years 9 and 10 not only won their events but they also beat their personal best.

In Year 10, Joji Basudra won the shot putt event with a school record, and Amelia Dickinson won both the high jump and 800m events with a personal best. Both are pictured right.

Dylan Baldam celebrated second places in discus and Dillon Alison came second in the 400m event. In Year 9, Lucas Heels won the 200m event and James Morland came second in the 300m.



### Kaci Showler

Former student, Kaci Showler has triumphed at the *Street House Dance Championships*, claiming first place in both the Over 17s Advanced Solo category and the Over 17 Advanced Pair.



Pictured here at the competition, Kaci had to dance through two rounds to reach the final which was knocked down to the top five dancers before each battled individually for first place. Whilst at King James I Sixth Form, Kaci studied the *Triple Cambridge Technical Award*, which is equivalent to three A' Levels, and she achieved an outstanding Triple Distinction Star grade overall.





## Sixth Formers learn the SCIENCE OF FOOD

As part of their coursework, Level 3 Food Science & Nutrition students have been carrying out experiments to investigate how different processes can change the properties of food.

In the experiment, students investigated the process of emulsification using jars containing vinegar and oil to which they added mustard, egg yolk, egg white, sugar, salt and pepper to test the reaction. The study demonstrated what happens when two unlike liquids are combined in a suspension to make things such as mayonnaise, hollandaise, ganache and vinaigrette. Ingredients in these products would not mix without the additional help of an emulsifier, and therefore understanding the scientific processes behind food preparation and cooking is crucial in enabling students to resolve issues such as sauces and batters separating.

## GUSTO LINGO!

Our weekly after school club, *Gusto Lingo*, allows students to build skills in international cooking and languages at the same time!

Participants learn how to prepare traditional Spanish and French dishes such as Paella, Crepes, Croque Monsieur and Ratatouille using specially designed recipe cards which are written in the relevant language. They also speak in the language throughout the sessions with the support of MFL Teacher, Miss Grand and learn a little about the culture of the country to provide an all-round learning experience.

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH Bronze Awards

This academic year, students in Key Stages 4 and 5 will be able to apply to take part in the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Awards (DofE) and work towards achieving Bronze.

The DofE award, which was launched by HRH Prince Philip in 1956, is well respected by universities and employers alike, so it is an excellent addition to any CV. The awards are designed to empower young people and support them as they learn new skills and build confidence and resilience. There are four sections to complete; Volunteering, Physical, Skills, and Expedition, which involves an overnight camping and orienteering trip.

## UKMT MATHS Challenges

In our Maths Department, students regularly take part in local and national competitions and events to give them the opportunity to develop and embed their skills.

Recently, four groups of students in Years 7 and 8, one of which is pictured below, took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge, resulting in ten bronze certificates, two silver certificates and one gold certificate. Not only did Tegan Kipling in Year 8 receive the gold certificate, but she was also selected to compete in the next round, which is the 'Junior Kangaroo' qualifier.



## YMSA Competition

A group of Key Stage 3 students have taken part in the annual *Young Mathematical Story Author (YMSA)* competition, which is designed to encourage young mathematicians to embed their learning by creating their own mathematical story books.

This competition, which was launched in 2019 and is organised by *MathsThroughStories.org*, attracts thousands of entries from schools across the world. It challenges young people to produce a creative story with a mathematical theme.



# The Bishop BIG DIG



Students taking part in the Bishop Big Dig have been working hard excavating a number of sites around Bishop Auckland to learn about archaeology and local history first hand.

Working with Mr Blackburn, one of our Learning Support Workers, a team of archaeologists from Durham University, and volunteers from the Auckland Project, the group of 12 students have so far excavated sites at the Bishop of Durham's private residence in Etherley Lane, a cottage at Newton Cap, a church and private home on Cockton Hill Road, pictured above, and Bishop Auckland Market Place.

As part of the year-long project, students who are all in Year 8, have been taking part in either a weekly excavation or an archaeology-themed learning activity such as cleaning and recording artefacts. The Bishop Big Dig will continue until December 2022.

Recently, students visited the Auckland Castle and Chapel, where they enjoyed a guided tour of the rooms which have all been faithfully restored in different time periods. They also visited the ongoing chapel dig to see the remains of the 14th century chapel that is currently being unearthed, and listened to a talk on the

importance of the find. Students were even allowed to view and handle the artefacts that have been discovered at the site.

Whilst at Auckland Castle, the group also took some time to explore the beautiful grounds and the Deer Park, where they had an excellent time using an app called *Actionbound* to follow clues leading to some of the historical features of the landscape. This app allows users to play digitally interactive scavenger hunts to lead them on a path of discovery using GPS coordinates.

In a special session with archaeology specialist, Dr Louisa Gidney, students learned how to date fragments of pottery and saw examples of pots dating back hundreds of years. Dr Gidney is an expert in animal bones and an all-round oracle on most things from the past.

In one of the most recent digs at the

## Free Magic BREAKFAST

Each 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 more productive, 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 means that pupils can enjoy cereal and/or toasted bagels for breakfast for free, and they are 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.



# LIBRARY NEWS

Our library is not just a place for reading, it's also a hub for learning and socialising, with themed activities taking place throughout the year, both during and at the end of the school day.

Every Wednesday, from 3.30pm - 4.30pm, Mr Wheatley, our Academy Librarian, and Mr Ross, one of our Cover Supervisors, run *Game Club*, which gives students in all year groups the opportunity to come together to enjoy a common interest. Games include *Pokemon*, *Yu-Gi-Oh* and the table top battle game *Warhammer*, pictured below, which puts players in command of armies of humans, elves, orcs and other fantasy creatures.



## CARNEGIE BOOK CLUB

Students in Years 7 and 8 who are members of our Carnegie Book Club meet every Wednesday to read the titles nominated for the Carnegie Medal.

In the last academic year, students read and reviewed all of the shortlist, contributing to the Carnegie website with their reviews. At the end of term the group gathered in the Library to watch a livestream of the awards ceremony with snacks and drinks to reward students for their contribution. The group allows students to explore a wide range of genres and writing styles, and join in guided discussions with Mr Wheatley about the books, leading to vibrant debates about the titles and their content. The wide range of content in the titles allows students to explore their own preferences and express their feelings for certain genres, whilst developing their literacy skills, vocabulary and their love of reading.



## Coming soon... ANNUAL CAREERS FAIR

Each year at King James, Mrs Goddard and Mrs Dent organise a Careers Fair with representatives from a host of local and national organisations, colleges and universities. This year, the event will be on November 4th.

Students in all year groups can browse the stalls at the fair, gather information and speak to representatives about entry requirements, progression routes and salary expectations. The event is always hugely successful, and the number of participating organisations increasing every year. Regular visitors include the Army, Navy, Air Force, Police and Fire Service, alongside NHS and a host of influential local employers.



## Opportunities to work in INTERNATIONAL TRADE

In a recent Q&A session, Barry I'Anson from the *Department for International Trade* talked to students about the many exciting opportunities for talented people to help advance the interests of the UK.

The pioneering cross-government hub in Darlington brings together people from key departments and public organisations which play an active role in the most important issues of the day. It is the Government's most significant presence outside London and, by 2030, it will be home to 22,000 Civil Service roles so there will be a host of opportunities for young graduates. The facility will be shared by teams from the Treasury, Departments for Business and Local Government, and the Office for National Statistics therefore making the most of valuable policy synergies. It is an excellent development for our region.

*Career planning starts early at King James. This helps students focus on their ambitions for the future and begin making plans.*

Ms Goddard, Careers Officer

## Q&A WITH ACCENTURE

Recently our students have taken part in a virtual Q&A session with Ketki Sawant from the global company, *Accenture*.

This company is a leading global professional services company, providing a range of services in strategy, consulting, digital, technology and operations. With employees across 120 countries, the company provides specialised skills across more than 40 industries. With a focus on IT, the session was delivered virtually to reflect the developments in communication over the past two years. Students also took part in a fun IT challenge using their Chromebooks.



## GSK VISITORS

Representatives from *Glaxo Smith Kline*, Livia Kippax and Francesca Hume, visited King James to talk to Year 10 students about the many opportunities for Degree Apprenticeships within the company.

Livia, who is undertaking a Degree Apprenticeship in Micro Biology, and Francesca, whose discipline is Packaging & Technology both spoke with great enthusiasm about the benefits of high level apprenticeships, such as avoiding student debt, gaining valuable work experience and of course, receiving a wage while you learn.

Students were interested to hear about the different opportunities at *Glaxo Smith Kline*, with many saying that the session had made them think positively about Degree Apprenticeships as an alternative to university.



## Guiding students with CAREER PLANNING

Students in all year groups at King James benefit from an extensive programme of special events and opportunities to help them make plans for a successful future in the career of their choice.

Year 10 students recently enjoyed a series of talks with visiting speakers from various industry sectors including the Police. PCSOs Bethany Mason and Tom Lowther spoke to students about the many different civilian roles within the Police, including those behind the scenes such as call handlers and CCTV officers. They also discussed the options open to aspiring officers such as Degree Apprenticeship schemes, University Degrees and working your way up within the force. Students were keen to hear about their own experiences as PCSOs and the cases they have been called to, from shoplifting, anti-social behaviour and neighbour disputes to an unusual case with Alpacas! They were full of questions for our visitors and were obviously inspired by the session.

Captain TP Moody AFNI, from the Merchant Navy, visited King James to talk to students about the career opportunities available to them within this respected institution. Students learned about the entry requirements for the initial one year Level 2 Pre-cadetship at *South Shields Marine School*, which offers direct entry on completion to the one year full time Level 3 Pre-cadetship course. The Merchant Navy has clear progression routes through its ranks with both onshore and offshore positions and roles including logistics,

engineering, fleet coordination and general management.

In another session, we were visited by former student, Richard Nicholson, pictured here, who attended King James from 1999-2006 and who is now a Paramedic and Senior Lecturer.



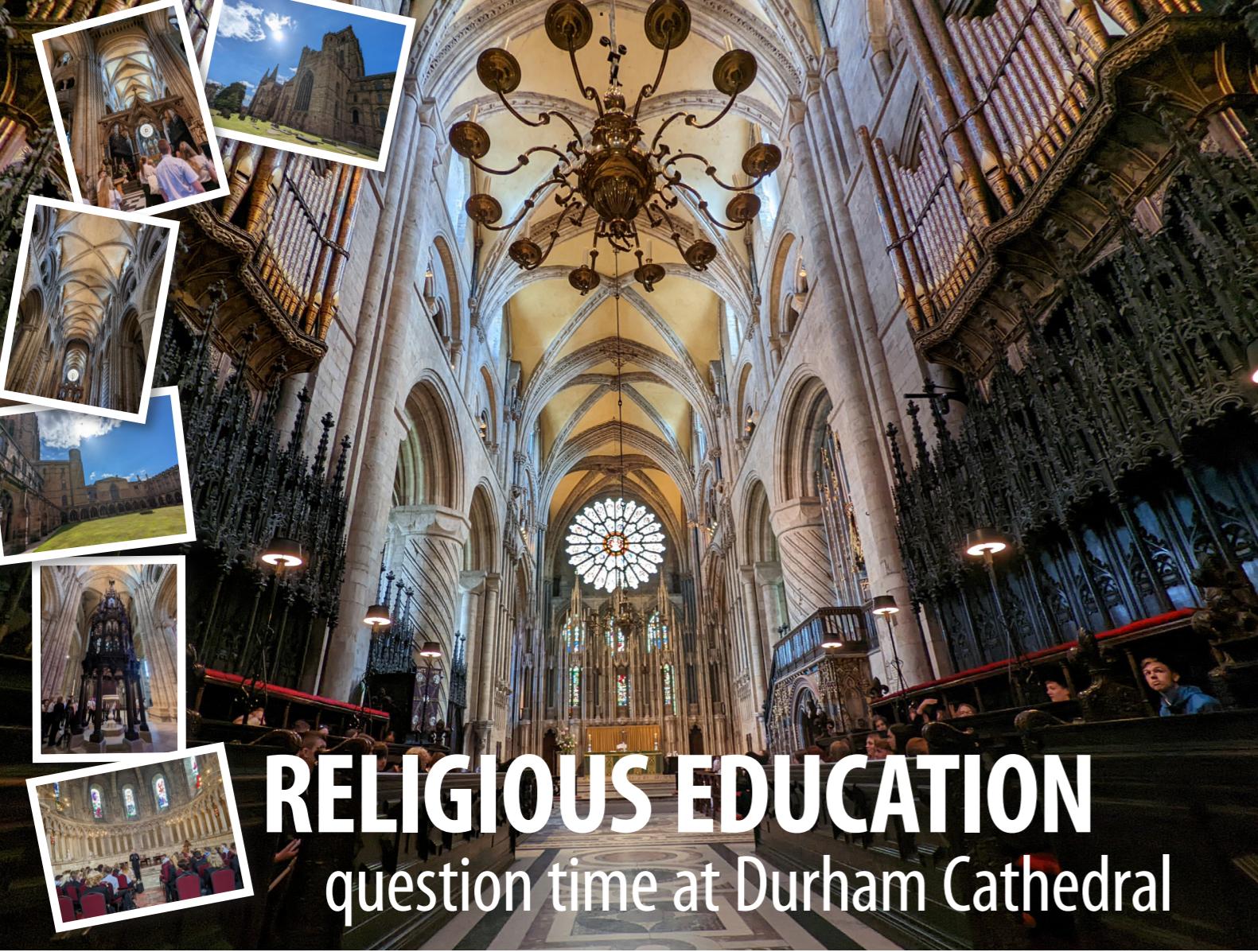
After completing his studies at King James, Richard studied a Degree in Politics at *Hull University* and on completion, worked on a voluntary basis with *St John's Ambulance Service*, which inspired him to apply for a position with *East Anglia Ambulance Service*. Through further training and hard work he became a paramedic, eventually specialising with the HART team (Hazardous Area Response Team), a specialist area which provides life saving medical care in complex and challenging environments such as industrial accidents and natural disasters. Richard gave a great insight into the work of a paramedic and students did not hold back in asking questions about driving the ambulance, delivering a baby and the most gruesome situations.

## ALTERNATIVE STUDY

Helen Innes from the *Department of Education* visited King James to talk to Year 10s about apprenticeship schemes as an alternative to college and university study.

Helen explained how apprenticeships work, alongside the benefits of choosing this route into the world of work, especially the opportunity to build skills and gain experience on the job. Many sectors now offer apprenticeship schemes and students are more enthusiastic than ever to consider these as an option when the time comes.





## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION question time at Durham Cathedral

### MUSIC recording at The Hub

A group of Year 9 Music students have visited *The Hub* in Barnard Castle to experience what it's like to record in a professional studio.

Students were hugely impressed by the state of the art technology used in recording, and how sound engineers work to lay down and mix tracks. They were also able to build practical teamworking and performing skills by recording tracks that they had rehearsed in school before the trip.



In July, Year 10 GCSE Religious Education students, visited Durham Cathedral for a Q&A session with Canon Hampel to support their studies.

Accompanied by Director of Learning for RE, Mrs Cross, and Teacher, Miss Wilkinson, the group of 60 students took a tour of the Cathedral to admire the magnificent architecture, and focus on the historic and religious significance of Durham Cathedral as a place of worship.

They learned about the observance of the Eucharist (Communion) Service to support their GCSE exams and took part in a candid Q&A session with Canon Hampel where they grilled him on the complexities of Christian faith. Students asked his opinion on the problem of evil, what is God like, how do we know God exists and Is hell real? It was an

honest, intelligent and respectful discussion, and students were impeccable and a real credit to their families and to the Academy. After the debate, the group paused for cake and personal reflection before travelling back to Bishop Auckland with spontaneous karaoke on the bus journey home; this was definitely a highlight!

This academic year, the department is hoping to give students the opportunity to take part in an educational trip to Krakow in Poland, with an excursion to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum, and tours of the Jewish Quarter, Podgórze District and Old Town.



### LEG WAXING for a good cause!

Mr Wheatley, our Academy Librarian and one of our Year 10 Tutors, has bravely faced the pain of a leg wax for charity.

With Miss Humble on the wax strips, Mr Wheatley gritted his teeth until one leg was completely smooth, raising over £150 for the Year 10 group charity, *The Animal Trust*. You can see the video on Instagram @kingjames1academy



## YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK to reward students in Art

30 Art students in Key Stage 3 have been rewarded for their effort in the subject with an end of year trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park in Wakefield.

Students were chosen to attend the trip for working above and beyond in lessons and demonstrating a passion for Art.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park is an open air museum featuring over 100 world-class sculptures and installations set in the 500-acre, 18th-century *Bretton Hall* estate. The collection comprises of long and short term loans, including four major Damien Hirst sculptures, gifts from artists and individuals, and site-specific commissions. Students were also able to enjoy a wide variety of artwork at the gallery exhibitions, a picnic lunch and a fun challenge to find specific sculptures around the park.



### SPONSORED WALK for The Animal Trust



Year 10 students have taken part in a sponsored walk to raise funds for their year group charity.

The group of students and staff, pictured here, walked 4.5 miles in a circular route from the Academy. The money raised, which was added to that of all other Year 10 initiatives, was donated to *The Animal Trust*.

## ICE CREAM rewards

During the last week of term, Mrs Aitkin, our Deputy Headteacher, hosted the final Half Term Rewards event.



In previous sessions, students enjoyed luxury hot chocolate and cookies, however this time, students were treated to a free ice cream from *Wonderful Whippy*. The ice cream van was parked in our netball court and around 80 students from Years 7-10 received an ice cream as a reward for their hard work, effort, excellent attitude and good behaviour, all of which had earned them positive points on *Class Charts*.



## STEM prize winners



Six Year 9 Science students, working with their Teacher, Miss Ford, have won a prize in the *Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) Industrial Cadet Competition*.

The group worked with *Glaxo Smith Kline* as mentors on a project designed to improve the sustainability of our school by reducing plastic waste. The group's proposal involved repurposing the money saved on the printing of school planners now that they manage their homework and workload on *Google Classroom*.

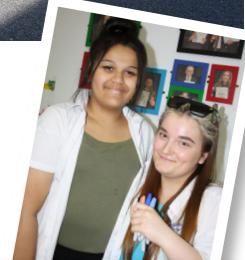
## END OF AN ERA for Year 11 leavers

In July, we said farewell to students in Year 11 as they embarked upon the next stage in their lives, whether that be Sixth Form at King James, an apprenticeship programme, a full time job or college.

Following their final GCSE exam in June, Year 11s enjoyed the traditional speeches, shirt signing, leavers' video and End of Year Barbeque in school, which was cooked and served by Mrs Lamb and her Sixth Form catering students.

This was followed by the Year 11 Prom in July, which was a glittering affair at *Hall Garth Golf and Country Club* in Darlington. Students looked amazing in their formal wear and it was great to see both students and staff enjoying the event together, and the dance floor packed until the very end of the evening. Pictured right at the event are best friends, Alexi Lyons, Ava Moffatt and Neve Waites.

You can view more Year 11 leavers photos at our website gallery at [www.kingjames1academy.com](http://www.kingjames1academy.com).





## Studying eco-systems in GEOGRAPHY



Year 7 students have been learning about eco-systems in Geography and building tropical rainforests in creative lessons as part of their studies.



Rainforests are Earth's oldest living eco-systems and home to more than half of the world's plant and animal species, even though they cover just 6% of the Earth's surface. Students learned how a relatively small patch of rainforest can contain as many as 1,500 different plants, 750 species of trees, 400 species of birds and 150 species of butterflies. Most are structured in four layers: emergent, canopy, understory, and forest floor, and each layer has unique characteristics based on differing levels of water, sunlight and air circulation. Students used their knowledge of this when creating their own small scale model of a rainforest.



## Outdoor learning at FOREST SCHOOL

Our Forest School area within King James Academy has grown and developed over the last year into a place where students can express themselves outside of the classroom environment.



Located on our school site, Forest School is a place for individuals to develop and grow in confidence and build social skills. It is also an area where alternative learning and everyday life skills can be experienced through a variety of activities. From a small piece of wasteland, students have transformed the space into a garden allotment area using a backdrop of woodlands to give a natural outdoor experience. The area helps to reduce anxiety and improve wellbeing by creating a sense of calm away from the classroom-based curriculum. Forest School is timetabled as part of our curriculum offer, giving students an enjoyable learning experience with activities from fire lighting, cooking on an open flame, tool use and construction, to social games which support a positive mind-set.

### LEARNING outside of the classroom

Learning outside of the classroom is about raising achievement through a powerful approach to learning in which direct experience is of prime importance.



Students at King James have the opportunity to partake in a variety of educational visits that supplement their learning inside the classroom, like this one to the River Gaunless with Geography. This provides meaningful learning and acquiring of skills through real life hands-on activities.

# HEALTH & WELLBEING

Mental health and wellbeing is key to a healthy Academy. It is important to us at King James that we understand what mental health and wellbeing is, and we support our staff, students and community to look after their mental health.

Mental health describes your mental state, how you are feeling and how well you can cope with day-to-day life. Our mental wellbeing is dynamic, as it can change from moment to moment, day to day, month to month or year to year. We all have times when we have low mental wellbeing, where we feel stressed, upset or find it difficult to cope and there are some common life events that may affect it such as loss or bereavement, loneliness, relationship problems, issues at school or worries about money.

Everyone deserves to feel good and there are steps you can take to maintain and improve your mental wellbeing. It's

important to build positive relationships, take time for yourself, and look after both your mental and physical health.

In school, there are lots of things you can do to gain good mental wellbeing, but probably the most important thing to do is be open and talk about your feelings with your friends, your Form Tutor or your Student Support Worker. If you find this difficult you can send an email or post a note in the red box in school. Make sure you associate yourself with positive people and think about joining an enrichment club at lunchtime or after school. Getting physically active will really boost your mood as a healthy body and mind are closely linked.



### Personal WELLBEING

Year 7 students have been learning about some of the positive strategies they can do to support their mental health and wellbeing.

In class, students discussed the importance of good mental health, and learned how to identify the symptoms of stress and anxiety. They also learned what they can do to help themselves and where they can access help. As a team they tried mindful colouring, which made an excellent display for their classroom.

### A variety of WELLBEING ZONES

At King James Academy there are designated 'Wellbeing Zones', which comprises our Nurture provision, Library and Reading Room, pictured right. Our Personal Development Centre is staffed by our Learning Support Assistants and we are also designing a sensory garden.



There are times where individual students may be struggling to deal with their feelings and need support in regulating their emotions. During these times, students may access the Wellbeing Zones and staff work with the children to reset their emotions and behaviours, and successfully re-engage them in learning.

### Development CENTRE

In our new Personal Development Centre, students work in small groups with Mrs Bainbridge to build self-esteem, resilience and communication skills.



Many of the students who are referred struggle with confidence and expressing their emotions, but activities in the centre are specially designed to help students change this.

### MINDFULNESS sessions in Tutor time



We recognise that some of our students have issues that they find hard to deal with, so each student will take part in mindfulness workshops in our period six sessions.



This year, students will deliver assemblies to each other on mental health and wellbeing and Tutors will use a mindful calendar in Tutor time to prepare students for the start of the day. Mindful colouring, shown here, is one of the activities that will be used to help reduce anxiety and focus the mind as students are fully engaged on something productive. The activity is effective for all ages.



## Dr Laura Sams

"As a student at King James, I always had a passion for the Sciences, particularly Human Biology. As a result, my dream was to study Biomedical Sciences at Newcastle University after Sixth Form, in the hope of becoming a research scientist. When I finished my A Levels in Geography, Maths, Chemistry and Biology in 2012, I attained a place at Newcastle University on the course I wanted. I spent the next three years studying a range of subjects such as Genetics, Virology, Cellular Biology, Human Physiology and Immunology, and spent a lot of time in the laboratory learning a range of techniques. I also undertook a three-month research project at the Northern Institute for Cancer Research."



"It was at this point I knew my future belonged in the world of immunology, the study and research into the human immune system and its role in health and disease. I graduated and obtained a first class BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Sciences in 2015, and subsequently decided to further my studies by undertaking a Masters by Research (MRes) in Immunobiology. During this time, I also studied Transplantation Sciences and Cancer Biology, and undertook a six month research project at the Institute of Cellular Medicine at Newcastle University."

"I was almost at the end of my MRes when I realised something was missing. It wasn't enough for me to be able to contribute and further research in immunology – I wanted to help people with these diseases and be able to treat them. To do this however, it would mean going to medical school and training to become a doctor which meant another five years at university, at which point, I had already done four! As this was a big undertaking, and the fact that by this point in the year I had already missed the deadline for applying to medical school, I decided to take a break for a year and got a job as a Learning Support Assistant in the Maths Department at King James. It felt so good to be back. So much had changed yet so much still felt the same. During this year, I was also preparing my application to medical school, and preparing for the interview and my entry exam, the UKCAT."

"To my absolute delight, I attained a place at Newcastle University Medical School in 2017. It felt like going back home and my dream of becoming a clinical academic (a doctor who also partakes in research) was starting to form. The next five years passed in a blur, and each year passed exponentially faster than the last. Medical school is a gruelling, challenging, yet exceptionally rewarding and satisfying process. I spent two years studying the human body and disease processes, followed by two years learning on the job at Darlington Memorial Hospital and a year at North Tees Hospital where I worked in nearly every department. During this time, I developed a passion for paediatrics, and decided I would like to be a paediatric immunologist."

"In my fifth year, I decided to apply for the Specialised Foundation Programme and I was ecstatic when I heard that I had got the place as there are only ever around 21 places a year and around 250 applicants. My future as a clinical academic was now reality and my dream was coming true. I organised to conduct my research at the Royal Victoria Infirmary (RVI) in paediatric immunology, my area of interest."

"I graduated from Newcastle University Medical School on 20th July 2022 and started my new life and career as Dr Sams. If there is one message I hope this story conveys to current students of King James, it is this: chase your dreams. Dreams don't just happen, you make them happen, and with hard work and perseverance, they will come true, no matter how long it takes."

Diary date..  
**SIXTH FORM  
OPEN EVENING**



# SIXTH FORM NEWS

## JACK ABBOTT

After studying Business Studies, Creative Media Production and ICT, Jack has



now been accepted to study a Business Apprenticeship programme with the *Learning Curve Group*. Jack said, "Although I haven't ruled out university for the future, I didn't feel it was right for me at this stage in my life so I'm delighted to have gained this opportunity."

## BROOKE MOORE

Brooke studied English Literature and Language, Extended Project and Creative Media Production at King James and with these qualifications under her belt, she is well prepared for the next stage in her education at *York St John University*. Brooke will be studying a Degree in Creative Writing, which will help her to fulfil her ambition of becoming an author and Primary Teacher.



## ADAM HUGHES

After studying Maths, English, History and Music in Sixth Form, and teaching guitar to Key Stage 3 pupils after school, Adam will be developing his passion by studying a Degree in Music at the prestigious *Leeds Conservatoire*, which is a specialist university for music. Adam aspires to combine his passion for music and teaching young people by becoming a Teacher of Music.



Here at King James I Academy Sixth Form we offer a wide range of both vocational and academic subjects to ensure that our students have the very best chance of success.

Whatever your aspirations, from university to employment or apprenticeships, we will help you to achieve your goal. We even offer the option of a third year in Sixth Form for those who wish to boost UCAS points or study an additional subject. Students can choose from the following subjects:

- Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Core Maths
- Criminology
- Drama & Theatre
- English Language
- Extended Project
- Geography
- History
- Maths
- Further Maths
- Photography
- Physics
- Sociology
- Business Studies
- Creative Media
- Food Science & Nutrition
- Health & Social Care
- Human Biology
- IT
- Law
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Psychology
- Sport & Physical Education

## A week of WORK EXPERIENCE

To ensure our Sixth Formers have the best chance of success when applying for university, apprenticeships or a job, we arrange a work experience week for Year 12s to help them learn new skills and add to their CV.

This year, students were placed in a wide variety of local businesses and organisations from different industry sectors. Students worked at the *Gala Theatre*, *Bishop Auckland Town Hall*, *Woodhouse Leisure Centre*, *North East Outdoor Pursuit Centre*, *Gabrielle's Italian*, *Wilson Vets*, *Pretty Paws*, *Auckland Project*, *North Park*, *Timothy Hackworth* and *Evergreen Primary Schools* and *Marwood Equestrian Centre* to name but a few. A number of students also spent the week working at King James, helping out at Year 6 Induction Day and in various departments. Pictured here are James Grafton and Nicholas Hope, who both got hands on with our Academy Site Team, developing a range of skills including using power tools for the first time!



## FAREWELL DINNER for Year 13s

Each year, as our Year 13s leave us for pastures new, we celebrate their achievements and take the opportunity to reminisce at an event and venue chosen by students themselves.

This year, students chose to celebrate with an evening meal at the Chinese buffet restaurant, *Inshanghai* in Durham. Sixth Form teachers and tutors attended the meal with students alongside members of our dedicated Sixth Form Team. This year, there were many success stories to celebrate, with students gaining places on a huge variety of degree courses from History, Politics, Photography and Film Studies to Computer Forensics, Music, Creative Writing and Festivals Management. Others are about to embark on a range of apprenticeship programmes or further study at local colleges. We wish them all the very best of luck as they begin the next chapter in their lives.

# 100% PASS RATE IN 2022!



## WELLBEING for Life

Sixth Form students have been visited by representatives of the County Durham Wellbeing for Life initiative, which offers free advice and emotional support to over 16s.



The scheme helps people improve both their mental and physical health, and advisers can offer support with healthy eating, mental wellbeing and resilience, improving physical activity and accessing appropriate support. They have already worked successfully with 35,000 people across the district.

Lockdown affected people in different ways with many suffering from loss of confidence, sleep and anxiety disorders and reduced physical health as a result. The Wellbeing for Life scheme is designed to help people overcome these issues and get back on track. Students were given some brilliant advice during the talk to inspire them to make positive life changes including these personal pledge cards.

I pledge...  
To establish a better sleep pattern.

time to change



## Diary dates

26 Sept	Year 6 Open Evening 6.00pm - 8.00pm
17-19 Oct	PROUD Hot Chocolate Rewards events
21 Oct	INSET Day - Academy closed to students
21-28 Oct	Autumn Half Term holiday Academy closed for 1 week School reopens 31 October
2 Nov	Year 9 Crime & Safety Awareness Day
4 Nov	Careers Fair
10 Nov	Year 11 Parents' Evening and Sixth Form Open Evening 6.00pm - 8.00pm

### DIARY DATE...

Our Festive Fair on December 3rd is a great opportunity for crafters to reach the community and for shoppers to pick up some unique gifts. If you would like to book a stall please email [j.aitkin@kingjames1academy.com](mailto:j.aitkin@kingjames1academy.com)



## PARENTS HELP US SHAPE THE FUTURE

Does 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 which meets to discuss ideas to improve the learning experience we offer, and raise the profile of King James in our community. To register your interest and find out more please call Main Reception on 01388 603388.

# Join us at YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING



Our Year 6 Open Evening, which takes place from 6.00pm - 8.00pm on Monday 26th September, is designed to support Year 6 pupils and their families in making an informed decision about which secondary school will be best for them in September 2023.

#### At the event you can:

- Meet school leaders, teaching and support staff
- Hear about our curriculum
- Talk to students
- Take a tour of our facilities
- Get involved in a variety of activities in all subjects
- View student work
- Find out about extra-curricular opportunities
- Sample our Academy menu
- Find out about school transport
- Enter our exciting Open Evening competition!



## SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING



If you are in Year 11, our Sixth Form Open Evening will help you begin to make plans for your future. Join us from 6.00pm-8.00pm to:

- Meet our dedicated Sixth Form Team
- Find out about subject options
- Talk to subject teachers and students
- Take a tour of Academy facilities
- View our Common Room and Study Zone
- Find out about extra-curricular opportunities

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA...

@kj1sixth	@kj1life	@kj1media	@kj1a_geography
@kj1_food	@kj1mfl	@kj1a_artphotodepartment	
@KJIAcademy	@SixthFormKJI		
@KingJamesIAcademy	@KJ1A6thForm	@kingjames1community	



[www.kingjames1academy.com](http://www.kingjames1academy.com)



This magazine is available in large print on request.

Vision is written, designed and produced by King James I Academy, South Church Road, Bishop Auckland, County Durham DL14 7JZ.