

# VISION

Issue 28: Winter/Spring 2018



King James I Academy magazine

## Looking forward to Academy Life in 2018!



Inside: Sixth Form Life, Christmas Show, Careers Fair, Automotive Studies, Sports Award Winners, STEM Activities, Fundraising Events, Living History, Revision Tips and much more.

# Welcome from the Head



**H**appy New Year and welcome back to King James I Academy. I am sure that 2018 will be another exciting and successful year for our brilliant and inspiring students.

2017 ended on a high, with students and staff managing to raise £2,018 for Demi-Leigh Proud and her family, to help them after recent tragic events.

In a world where young people are often criticised and where community cohesion is challenged, I was very proud to see how well our students and staff responded to a call for action. Christmas was epitomised by the caring and selfless actions of our school community, and by the support they showed for a variety of charities and for local residents.

In 2018, despite the many challenges that schools face, we will continue to have a positive outlook and to provide an excellent range of opportunities for our students to enjoy. As *Vision* once again highlights, positive thoughts and actions are significant and powerful motivators for our young people. I hope that you, like me, find that the many awe-inspiring events highlighted within *Vision* are, themselves, a power for good and an inspiration for the year ahead. In fact, nothing inspires me more than reading about, and being supported by, our talented students and staff.

Have a great year and thank you for all of your support.

Best wishes.

Nick Grieveson, Headteacher

# New Term, New Year!

**H**ere at King James we are embracing 2018 with great enthusiasm and celebrating the excellent reputation we have achieved for quality education from Year 7 right through to Sixth Form.

As a result of receiving more applications for places in Year 7 for September 2018, we have been asked to increase our admission number. This recognises the hard work of our dedicated teaching and support staff alongside our diverse curriculum, excellent facilities and consistently impressive results.

Year 11 students are already enrolling on one of the many courses in our Sixth Form Centre, which we believe offers a unique educational experience. Sixth Form students can choose from a wide range of vocational and academic courses and have their own leisure and study zones, however they also benefit from a dedicated team of staff who support them at every stage in their education, and a host of opportunities to

gain work and life experience, and also to travel. This ensures that our students leave us as confident and independent young adults.

Students completing Sixth Form courses in 2017 helped the Academy to achieve a value-added score for A' Level courses of +0.51. This means that students achieve, on average, over half a grade higher in every A' Level subject they study than was achieved by similar students nationally.



**“Getting involved creates a friendly environment and a sense of belonging”**

**“At King James Sixth Form, the students help to make the Academy a happy and friendly environment for all students to feel accepted. We can work with younger students, get involved with primary schools and partake in charity events to support our community; this creates a sense of pride and belonging.”**

“Many of us were involved in our annual Year 6 Open Evening, welcoming local families into our Academy, and in both the Year 5 and Year 6 Curriculum Weeks, setting an example to younger children who are ready to embark upon their journey through secondary school. Some Sixth Formers also volunteer in our local Primary Schools to help with various projects.”

“Specialist Sixth Form Mentors also support younger students in Academy departments such as Media, Maths, Food Technology, Dance and Drama, sharing their knowledge and experience of the subject; and in the English Department, mentors provide

targeted support to help younger year groups improve their literacy skills.”

“Last term we took part in *Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning* by holding an event in our Common Room and inviting everyone for a cup of tea with friends. We raised money for *Children in Need* through raffles and cake sales, organised a Christmas Message Wall to raise funds for local charities and took part in the *Rotary Club Shoe Box Appeal*. We also joined in a fundraising bag pack at ASDA for Year 7 student, Demi-Leigh Proud, whose family tragically lost their home to fire just before Christmas.”

Written by Year 13 student, Christian Rowley



Our Head of Sixth Form, Mr David Shearer, pictured here with A' Level Psychology students.

## King James Sixth Form ... a great place to study

**O**ur Sixth Form students are busy preparing for their future, working hard to complete coursework, revising for exams and preparing for interviews.

Following a busy first term, our Year 13 students have completed their University application forms and the majority are already celebrating offers for their first choice. Students have successfully gained places on degree courses studying Film Making, Media Studies, Speech and Language Therapy, Primary Education, Graphic Design, Photography and Sports Sciences to name but a few.

Others are in the process of building their employability and interview skills with the intention of applying for full time work or one of the much sought after Technical Apprenticeships that are available in our area. Through mock interview scenarios our Careers Officer will help to make sure our students are well practised and therefore have the best possible chance of success.

### Start planning your future now

**I**f you are in Year 11, it's a great time to make plans. You may know exactly what you want to do and want to reserve a place in our Sixth Form, or you may need a little help to identify your strengths.

Courses are available in English Language and Literature, Maths and Further Maths, Geography, History, Biology, Chemistry, Science, Animal Management, Art, Photography, Media, Drama, Performing Arts, Music, Business Studies, Computing, Health & Social Care, French, Spanish, Travel & Tourism, Religious Studies, Sociology, Psychology and Professional Sports Studies. You can view our full prospectus on our website at [www.kingjames1academy.com](http://www.kingjames1academy.com) or arrange a meeting to discuss your options by calling 01388 603388.

## NEW courses in September 2018!

**W**e offer a diverse range of traditional and vocational courses at King James however we hope to offer even more choice in the next academic year.

Last year, we introduced Animal Management as a new option for Sixth Form and launched an elite Sports Diploma in partnership with *Foundation of Light*; both have proved to be hugely successful and Year 11s are already enrolling as new students.

From September, Sixth Form students will be able to choose A' Level Business Studies as well as BTEC Business, and BTEC Law will be introduced by popular demand. We also hope to introduce a Level 3 qualification in Professional Cooking.

## 'Aim Higher' coming soon

**A**im Higher trips are organised by Mr Shearer to give students a taste of University life to help them plan their future.

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The next scheduled trip involves a two night stay in Edinburgh with a tour of the University campus and time to explore the city that could become home. The programme of residential visits also includes Leeds, Liverpool, York, Northumbria and Cumbria.



# A comic tale of Zombie Pirate Capers!

Once again our students have excelled in an outstanding Christmas show entitled *The Pirates of Hizzohey and the Search for Vannituba*. Here, Year 13 student, Megann Griffiths, pictured right, talks about the show.



"The show incorporated a number of fun choreographed songs and a humorous original script written by our Drama Teacher, Mr Murgatroyd, which was packed full of jokes for both young and old; this combination provided the perfect showcase for everybody's talents."

"The hilarious 'zombie pirates', who were on the search for their holy land, were particularly entertaining; the challenges they faced, and all of the friends they made along the way, presented not only a number of comical moments, but also a heart-warming reminder of how different groups of people are capable of working together."

"The show featured 119 cast members in total from Years 7 to 14, whose infectious

enthusiasm had the audience singing along and tapping their feet throughout. These performers were supported behind the scenes by a team of set and costume designers, hair and make-up artists, sound and lighting technicians and event assistants, who all helped to make the show a success."

"As part of King James' commitment to our local community, over 500 primary pupils from ten local schools were invited to our Academy to enjoy the show for free in two special matinee performances. These sneak previews were followed by three highly-acclaimed evening shows, which saw over 800 members of the public join in the fun and leave our school at the end of the evening full of Christmas spirit."

"Each year, the Christmas show provides an important fundraising opportunity for the Academy *Brazilliant* project, which unites our students with like-minded young people in some of the poorest communities in Brazil. Our students travel to the country to teach Drama and Dance to local school pupils and to work with youth groups on a variety of cultural projects."

"Ticket sales from this show, together with a number of Dance Shows which take place throughout the year, also helps to support exchange visits which bring small groups of young Brazilians to our Academy. This means that all of our students can meet young people from across the world and learn about Brazilian culture first hand."



## Recognising Respect

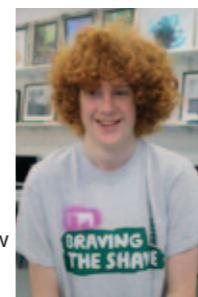
Last term we launched a new *L Awards* initiative to celebrate those students who show respect and kindness every day in their school life.

Every day we see our students achieve brilliant things; our young people are great academics, entrepreneurs, athletes, artists, writers, musicians and performers. However, every day we also witness students demonstrating outstanding respect for others, impeccable manners, empathy, and a keen desire to help both their teachers and their peers. We felt that these students were in need of recognition.

Each teacher was asked to nominate a student for the *Respect Awards 2017* and awards were later delivered and presented to each recipient by a member of our Senior Leadership Team. Well done to all who received an award.

## Braving the Shave

Year 11 student, Logan Ladd, pictured here, has 'Braved the Shave' in aid of *Macmillan Cancer Support*.



Logan decided to grow his signature red hair as long as possible prior to the event for maximum impact. By gathering sponsorship in school and launching his own *Just Giving* page, Logan raised over £400 for Macmillan, his chosen charity.



Demi-Leigh (centre) pictured with Mrs Aitkin, Assistant Head Teacher, some of her closest friends, and the gifts collected by students and staff across the Academy.

## Students come together to show Acts of Kindness

Last term, our Academy was a hive of activities which focused on helping other people, from working together to support one of our own students, to collecting donations for shoe boxes destined for Europe.

In December, we were all saddened to hear about the house fire, caused by a faulty washing machine, which tragically destroyed the home of Year 7 student, Demi-Leigh Proud. Despite this dreadful experience, Demi-Leigh demonstrated great resilience by remaining in school and upbeat; she was and is, an inspiration to us all.

To show our support for the family, we set an Academy target of raising £500 before the Christmas break; this total was quickly achieved and exceeded, and we were also able to make a large donation of household items and Christmas gifts, which flooded in from students and staff alike. We hope Demi-Leigh and her family were able to enjoy the festive period and that they will have happiness and health in 2018.

Across the Academy, tutor groups also collected items for the *Rotary Club Shoe Box Appeal*, which are destined for those living in poverty across Eastern Europe. Year 11 students, Chloe Caygill and Marshall Gowland are pictured here next to our fundraising Christmas Message Wall with their shoebox contributions.



On the last day of term, a fun Christmas activity involved making Christmas tree decorations, which were then delivered to residents in our local care homes. We hope this simple gesture brought some pleasure to the older members of our community.

## A truly festive Christmas lunch!

Our annual Christmas lunch was made extra special this year thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of our fantastic catering team who dressed up for the occasion. Students enjoyed a traditional lunch with all the trimmings, served by the hard working team and Head Teacher, Mr Grieveson.



## Building on success with our new Nurture Group

Building on the success of last year's Year 7 Nurture Group, last term our new group of students focused on the book, *Billionaire Boy* by David Walliams.



The story of Joe Spud and his Billions touches on many themes and issues that young people may encounter when starting secondary school; friendship, relationships and the fear of being bullied. Students enjoyed the book so much that they decided to read *The Demon Dentist* as part of their reading enrichment programme. The group also took part in a Medieval Food Workshop at Durham Cathedral as part of their History curriculum and had an opportunity to visit Durham Christmas Market.

Our Nurture Group initiative, which was launched last year, has proven to be a great success; small groups of students stay with Miss Reynolds for English, Geography and History and this helps them to develop and embed essential literacy skills whilst also building confidence. Alongside Miss Reynolds, students are supported in lessons by Learning Support Assistant, Mr Blackburn, pictured above with the group.

Last year, students in the Nurture Group made excellent and rapid progress; the small group working environment proved to significantly help close the gaps some students may have on entering secondary school. Thanks to this, and the guidance of Mr Wheatley who plays a key role in supporting students in our Library, the group recorded an average improvement of 14 months with their reading age, which is an outstanding achievement.

Behaviour and attendance of students in the new group is also excellent due to close links with parents and tailored support for those who may have specific difficulties. Pastoral support has ensured that all students in the previous Nurture Group have made a successful transition into Year 8, and that all show continued good attendance and progress. The group achieved extremely well and so it is a hard act to follow for this year's Nurture Group, however given the amazing work they have done so far, we are sure they will achieve even greater success.

## Young writers meet Professional Author

A group of our students have recently enjoyed a talk and book signing at Waterstones with American author, Joe Hill.



The author, who is the son of Stephen King, has followed in his father's footsteps to write gripping horror stories, including his latest book entitled *Strange Weather*. In the book store, students were encouraged to explore by genre and search for different types of books to broaden their interests before selecting some new books for our Academy Library. It was a big responsibility for the group as they were making decisions to benefit the whole school, however they returned with an exciting collection from a diverse range of genres.

# Learning to promote STEM excellence



At the beginning of the academic year, our STEM Co-ordinators planned a comprehensive range of exciting activities and learning experiences to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

The first of the scheduled events involved students in Year 7 taking part in a fun workshop in partnership with the Sea Cadets. The workshop, which focused on buoyancy, offered a fun and innovative way to learn and develop skills through a range of practical hands on activities and challenges.

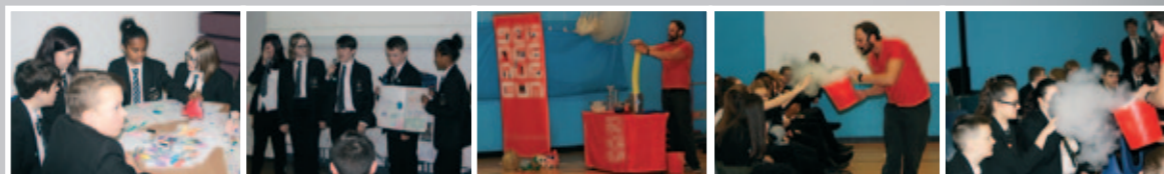
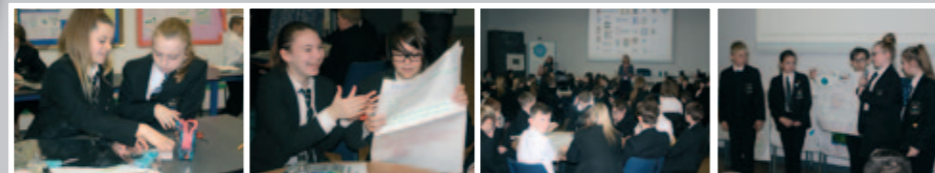
Students initially learned about the theory of buoyancy and considered how it is used by Engineers in many situations. They also moved on to relate their knowledge to unknown situations.

For the STEM Challenge, students became Engineers for the day and were tasked with finding a solution to a given scenario. With a selection of materials to choose from, they worked together in pairs to design and construct a prototype boat that could be

used to carry aid to a stricken region. The session culminated in an activity where teams tested how successful their boat would be in completing its mission!

A second event saw 130 Key Stage 3 students take part in a session led by *Solutions for the Planet*, an organisation which delivers sessions that focus on sustainability issues.

Students learned about the effects of global warming and the potential damage to our planet should preventative steps not be taken. They then worked in teams to develop and present their ideas for solutions that would help to protect our environment in the future. They presented some outstanding ideas including suggestions for the development and use of renewable energy sources.



## Car Building Challenge

As part of our STEM programme, students in all year groups are able to take part in a themed competition each term. In the first competition students were invited to design and build a model car that was capable of movement.

Students could take part in the challenge as an individual, join forces with friends to form a team or even enter as a whole tutor group. Students had three weeks to develop their ideas, build the car and submit their entry to Science Teacher, Miss Ford, who organised the competition as House Manager for Wolsey.

Year 9 student, Cameron Hollings, pictured here, who entered the competition as an individual, was declared the Key Stage 3 winner with his excellent remote-control car. Cameron used his knowledge of electronics to create his car using lego pieces and recycled parts.

## Tim Peake's spacecraft

Last term, students were treated to an exciting trip to see the spacecraft which transported Tim Peake, the UK's first European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut, to and from the International Space Station.

Students were able to view the amazing Soyuz TMA-19M capsule, complete with equipped interior, re-entry char marks on its outer body, and its 25m diameter parachute, at a special exhibition which was held at *Locomotion Railway Museum* in Shildon.

The display of the iconic craft was accompanied by an inspiring range of activities. These included an opportunity to try on a space suit and also to enjoy the Space Descent virtual reality experience, which was narrated by Tim Peake himself. This allows visitors to witness the 250 mile journey back to earth from the International Space Station first hand by placing them inside the Soyuz TMA-19M using VR technology.

The capsule represents one of history's most incredible technological feats so this was a unique and unmissable opportunity for our students. We hope it has inspired our next generation of Scientists and Engineers.



# Crime & punishment brought to life

Year 10 History students have recently visited The Workhouse, Courthouse and Prison Museum in Ripon as part of their GCSE studies into 18th and 19th century Crime and Punishment conditions.

At the museum, students were able to gain an insight into what poverty meant and how harsh life was for the poor who were struggling to survive. It was a tragic fact that those who entered the workhouses in the 18th century soon realised that they would only ever be leaving in a coffin;

this is a poignant thought that haunts the rooms of the museum and its visitors.

Students also observed the Georgian Courthouse and quickly became engrossed in a role-play court case scenario in the Court Room, which helped them to further

understand the brutality of sentencing during this time. As an extension of this, a look around the prison enhanced the experience even further; students were able to sit in one of the bleak prison cells, complete with hard wooden bed and slops bucket, and imagine the terror of being strapped into a restraint chair as an inmate or hung in chains! In the Police Museum, students were able to try on police uniforms and learn about the history of policing and how policies and procedures have changed over the years.

The trip was hugely beneficial for our Year 10s who all agreed that being able to learn about the past through experience was a very effective way of learning to compare the past and the present.

## Coming soon...

In March, GCSE History students in Years 9-11 will be travelling to London to visit *The London Dungeon* and to take part in the *Jack the Ripper Walking Tour*.

These attractions offer a complete interactive experience with live shows and tours to help students learn about historic figures and events such as Sweeney Todd, Guy Fawkes, The Ripper, the Plague and the Great Fire of London.



## Music in London

Following their winning entry in the *My Money Week* competition, which is run by *Young Enterprise* our young musicians have travelled to London to receive their award.

Accompanied by their families, the group attended the prestigious Competition Winners Event at the House of Commons. There they received their prize of £500 for King James and a £50 personal voucher. Congratulations to everyone.

## Industry Learning

Last term, professional Sound Engineer, John Lumsdon visited our Music Department to share his industry experiences.

John, who has worked with many big acts including Bryan Adams, Simply Red, Joe Bonamassa, Olly Murs and Little Mix, came in to answer questions from the students on what life is like on tour, the routines and schedules, and life spent on a tour bus.

He explained how he meets the needs of each act he works with and the importance of being familiar with all styles of music so that you are able to appreciate the musical ability of all musicians. Our Sixth Form students are currently studying live sound engineering as part of their Level 3 qualification.

## Latest news from Religious Studies

Last term, to improve literacy skills in Key Stage 3 lessons, Director of Learning for RS, Mrs Cross launched a new initiative which promotes learning through a friendly boys v girls competition.



In every lesson students take part in a challenge to make words from nine random letters which are displayed on the board; the first team to create 15 words claims the points! These points are tallied according to gender and the group with the most points at the end of the term gets to choose a reward.

Last term, Year 7 winners chose a movie afternoon, Year 8s enjoyed afternoon cake, Year 9C played a football tournament and 9T attended an after-school baking session. Winners have also enjoyed a tea party, pictured above, and a Fifa tournament.

This month, Year 9 students will be taking part in an event at Durham Cathedral as part of *Holocaust Memorial Day*. The event will include morning

workshops exploring the historical and contemporary relevance of the Holocaust, alongside a memorial service for all of the victims. There will also be an opportunity to hear from guest speaker, Ruth Barnett, who was born Ruth Michaelis in Germany. In 1939, aged four, Ruth arrived in Britain on the *Kindertransport*, the rescue effort which brought thousands of Jewish refugees to Britain.

The event will help students with their current and future studies on war, prejudice and social injustice, crime and punishment, and the problem of evil.



## Coming soon... Library Events

Throughout the year, our Academy Library organises a host of special themed events, competitions and trips to promote reading and improve literacy skills.

This month, students will be taking part in the BBC School Report which will help them to develop skills in journalism for both newspaper and TV production. Students will be writing articles about local news that means something to them.

In February, students in Years 7 and 8 will be developing their knowledge of Gothic literature in a visit to the renowned Gothic coastal town of Whitby. They will enjoy a guided tour of the town with a local historian who will tell them all about the history of the buildings and the link to Bram Stoker and Dracula.



## Animal Management students Visit the RSPCA

As part of their Level 3 qualification in Animal Management, our Sixth Form students have recently visited the RSPCA at Felledge Animal Centre in Chester-le-Street.



The day began with a presentation and demonstration which highlighted the crucial work that the RSPCA do on a daily basis to protect unwanted and mistreated animals in the UK. Then came a tour of the cattery and kennels to visit some of the animals that were being cared for and an opportunity to witness the procedures that take place in practical animal husbandry in a work place.

Some of our animal-loving students found it difficult to hear about the conditions that the animals had been subjected to before they were rescued, however the experience has reinforced their passion for working with animals. As a result of the trip, a number of students have expressed an interest in working with the RSPCA, or one of the many other animal charities in the UK, as they are determined to make a difference.

So far, the course, which was launched in September is proving to be hugely popular with our students; it offers an excellent pathway to careers in the animal welfare sector.

## NEW opportunities for those who Love Cooking

Students in Years 10 and 11 have been given an exciting opportunity to gain an additional qualification this year as part of a new initiative to promote good health through knowledge of nutrition and cooking.



Students are currently studying the NCFE Certificate in Food and Cookery, which not only develops practical skills and knowledge for a healthy lifestyle, but it is also equivalent to one GCSE. The course involves three practical units and one written exam unit. As part of the course, students learn about hygiene and safety, nutritional balance, menu planning, time management and budgeting, whilst developing practical skills in food preparation.

In light of the growing opportunities for catering apprenticeships and jobs in our local area, we are currently exploring ideas to extend our Sixth Form provision by offering a Level 3 qualification in Professional Cookery in September 2018.

We already offer a comprehensive range of vocational courses at Key Stage 5; these are all well established and we celebrate excellent results each year, however this would make an excellent addition to our Sixth Form prospectus.





Our PE Team from left: Miss Humble, Mr Bishop, Mrs O'Connor, Mr Bushby and Miss Short.

## We are Active Durham Award Winners

King James has recently won an award in the ongoing *Active Durham* competition. The Academy was declared local winner in the Secondary School category for outstanding contribution to Sport, Physical Activity and Physical Education.

The competition, which is run by *County Durham Sport*, recognises the contribution made by organisations, clubs and individuals in delivering opportunities for people to take part in sport and physical activity in their community. Each year, organisers receive hundreds of nominations for the various categories; award winners are first selected from each local area and these are then invited to attend the County Awards which will take place at the *Gala Theatre* this month.

King James was recognised not only for the high quality and diverse PE curriculum which it delivers to students, but also for the wide variety of opportunities and excellent facilities which are extended to the local community out of school hours. Staff from our PE Department were delighted to receive the award on behalf of the Academy and the many clubs and individuals who help to make King James such an outstanding sports facility for residents of Bishop Auckland and the surrounding area.

## Sports facilities getting even better!

Following a recent visit to *Stockton Town FC's* facilities, Darren Tait from *Bishop Auckland Juniors* and leaders from King James are currently completing a joint development plan to further enhance our own excellent facilities.



As well as forming a stronger partnership between our Academy and Bishop Auckland Juniors, we will also be presenting proposals for the development of a community hub to support football and a range of other sports, as part of a five year plan for site development. This is an exciting opportunity for our area.

## Leon claims trampoline Competition Win

Representing King James I Academy, young athlete, Leon Davies has recently celebrated winning the *BSGA Regional Schools Trampolining Competition*.

Not only did Leon claim first position in the competition, but he also won by three clear points, which is a significant margin. Leon has worked extremely hard to perfect his technique and this is reflected in the result. We would like to congratulate him on his achievement.



## Football in Holland

In May, students will be travelling to Holland for an exciting opportunity to take part in a football themed trip.



The trip will include a guided tour of the famous Ajax Stadium, the chance to see local Dutch and Amsterdam teams play friendly fixtures and the opportunity to take part in two football training sessions. There will also be plenty of time to explore and experience the culture of Holland. Students will be fundraising to support the trip and have already begun by taking part in a fancy dress fun run!

## Sixth Form Footballers remain Undefeated!

In Sixth Form, our Stadium of Light team, who are all enrolled at our *Stadium Sports Academy*, have celebrated an undefeated term with some excellent scores.



Between October and December, the team remained undefeated in matches against *Darlington QE, Darlington College, East Durham College, Stockton Riverside College* and *Gateshead College*, with the majority of matches ending in high scoring wins by our players.

Our top scorers are as follows: Jack Mortimer, 15, Dean-Ross Tinkler, 7, Louis Edmunds, 6, Mitchell Simons, 5, Ryan Paterson, 4, Connor Jardine, 3, Will Dunn, 2 and Kai Watson, 1. We would like to congratulate our team on a fantastic start to the season.



FOUNDATION OF LIGHT  
THE WORLD AT YOUR FEET



# Automotive Studies at Bishop Auckland College

A group of our Year 11 students are achieving great success on a Level 1 Award in Automotive Studies at Bishop Auckland College. This is equivalent to one GCSE qualification.

The group of seven boys were chosen to take part in this exciting new educational initiative, which involves part-time study at Bishop Auckland College, due to their particular interest in pursuing vehicle maintenance as a profession. The opportunity not only gives our students a head start should they choose to enrol on a Level 2 course at the end of Year 11, but it also gives them an advantage over other applicants should they wish to apply for an apprenticeship position.

As part of the Automotive course, students are attending a Motor Vehicle workshop each Tuesday, where they are learning the skills and gaining the knowledge required to work in a commercial garage environment. They have been working on units such as House Keeping in a Garage, Health and Safety, the Components and Devices of a Car, the Structure of an Engine, and Automotive Employment, whilst learning how to assemble and disassemble a car.

To offer an additional learning opportunity and increase their options, the group are also studying a Pearson BTEC in Construction. The group attend weekly afternoon workshops where they are currently working on designing and constructing a wooden stool. Students have been taught how to correctly use various tools and equipment to help them understand and develop skills in the basics of Carpentry.

All students are enjoying the opportunity and college tutors report that they are all showing great potential and excelling in both courses. The group are keen to continue their learning at Level 2 and look set to achieve a promising future.

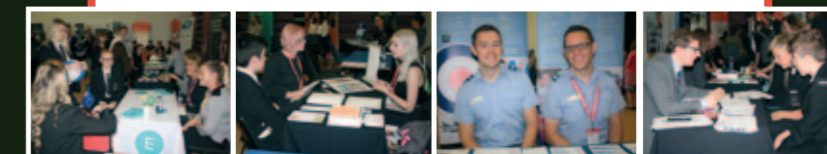
## Planning the future at our Careers Fair

With visitors from a wide range of national and local businesses and organisations, our annual Careers Fair at King James was a huge success.

The event gave students the opportunity to meet representatives from a diverse selection of industries, from Engineering and Law to Healthcare, Communications and the Forces. This was an excellent way to help students begin thinking about what industry they might like to enter as a career, and to focus on the qualifications they will need to achieve their goal.

Students were keen to discover more about the increasing number of Apprenticeship opportunities that are offered by local employers and many received excellent advice on how to make their application stand out from the crowd.

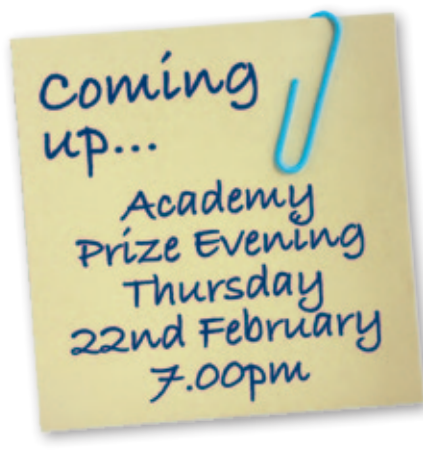
We would like to thank the following organisations for their support: The Army, The Royal Navy, New College Durham, Bishop Auckland College, South West Durham Training, Darlington College, East Durham College, GSK, Livin, Itec, EE, Teesside University, Sunderland University, Northumbria University, Newcastle University, Gestamp Tallent, Hydram Engineering, Cleveland College of Art and Design, Ethicare, C&A Roofing, Civil Service, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Job Centre Plus, National Citizen Service, Bond Dickinson, The RAF, Hathaway Roofing, Ulster University and Durham University.





## Diary Dates

Jan 25	'Aim Higher' trip to Edinburgh
Jan 25	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Feb 8	Sixth Form Parents' Evening
Feb 9	Academy closes for Half-term (1 week)
Feb 19	Academy re-opens to students
Feb 21	Business Studies trip to London
Feb 22	Academy Prize Evening
March 1	Year 9 Parents' Evening & Options event
Mar 29	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Mar 30	Academy closes for Easter (2 weeks)
April 16	Academy re-opens to students
April 23	Outward Bound trip departs (5 days)
May 20	Football trip to Holland departs
May 22	Year 6 Parents' Evening



# Making sure students are Exam ready

Exam time is upon us and staff and students are working hard to ensure they achieve the best possible grades. By working together, we can make sure our students achieve their full potential.

Many of our BTEC students at both Levels 2 and 3 have already sat examined units this month and are currently preparing for others which will take place in May and June.

Year 11 students have recently experienced a series of mock exams to help identify strengths and areas for improvement, and a number of departments are using 'Walking, Talking Mocks' as a strategy to help students manage their time effectively in an exam situation and ensure they answer all questions.

Our comprehensive revision programme for Year 11 students will begin in earnest this term; students have already received their resource pack containing equipment and materials to help with effective revision including a sectioned project book, post-it notes, highlighters, flash cards and a time planner.

All form tutors will be working with students to make sure they understand the importance of regular sleep patterns, healthy eating, hydration with water and relaxation, and the impact of these things upon concentration and achievement. Parents can help greatly by providing healthy snacks at home and encouraging a structured time plan which incorporates quiet time for work alongside time to relax and socialise.

All students will benefit from subject intervention sessions according to their needs as exams approach, and they will be also able to attend optional after-school revision and booster sessions in all of their subjects. Additional exam revision sessions will be provided during the Easter holiday and we would encourage all students to attend as past years have

shown that those who take part achieve higher grades than those who do not.

Revision notes, resources and practice papers will also be available for students and parents to access online via our DLG or Doodle facility.

Sixth Form students will also be invited to attend specific holiday revision sessions and many departments already provide opportunities for one-to-one assistance as requested.

## Top tips for revision

- Make a revision timetable
- Find a quiet space to revise away from the TV
- Use colourful notes and drawings
- Do lots of past papers
- Make summary notes
- Get people to test you
- Take a 5-10 minute break every hour
- Take a short walk and get some fresh air
- Eat healthy foods and snacks
- Make sure you get 8 hours sleep every night
- Drink lots of water to stay hydrated

## On exam day...

- Eat a healthy breakfast
- Drink water
- Arrive early
- Think positive thoughts!

## Sixth Form recruiting now for September 2018!

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



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



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