

VISION

Issue 30: Autumn 2018



King James I Academy magazine



**A very warm welcome
to one and all!**



Inside: Exam Results, Transition Summer School, New Nurture Centre, STEM Initiatives, Sports Day, Academy Election, Emmerdale Studio Tour, Dance Show, Sixth Form News and much more.

Welcome from the Head



Welcome back to King James I Academy after a long and very warm summer holiday. I hope all of our readers had a happy and healthy break and are now ready to face the new academic year feeling refreshed and reinvigorated.

In this edition of *Vision* you will be able to read about the many exciting opportunities offered to our students throughout their time at King James.

As you can see, we have worked hard to ensure that new students feel welcomed and supported after choosing to become a member of our school (this September we will welcome over 180 students in Year 7). *Vision* highlights the many ways in which we support transition into both Year 7 and into our Sixth Form. It is clear from our many successes that we have a formula that works and that we help students to enjoy their time at King James and to be prepared for a fulfilling and prosperous life.

We have had another successful year and I feel a huge sense of pride when I read about the fantastic things that our teachers and support staff do to ensure that our students enjoy an unforgettable educational experience. I feel an even greater sense of pride when I read about the way in which our students are using this experience to help them to change our world for the better.

As we look forward to another year filled with challenges and opportunities I am confident that King James delivers on its commitment to provide "learning to inspire" and that we will once again celebrate our many successes in 2018-19. Thank you for your continued support.

Nick Grieveson, Headteacher

Reasons to choose **KING JAMES**

There are many reasons to choose King James I Academy for your child's Secondary education - high quality teaching, excellent facilities, a diverse curriculum and a friendly environment are just a few of them. But if you need more proof, the families of 188 students who have joined us in Year 7 this this year can't be wrong.

In terms of official judgement, we were graded 'Good' across all five areas in our last Ofsted inspection, which took place in 2017. Judged under the new, more stringent rules, this is an excellent achievement.



We pride ourselves on the high quality of teaching in our Academy; teachers are creative in their approach to lessons to make sure that students remain engaged and challenged, and they help students to achieve excellent results year after year.

Our Academy boasts excellent facilities, including seven large Science laboratories, a detached Art Hub with exhibition space, a Dance Studio and Main Hall to accommodate Drama performances, and state-of-the-art Sports facilities including a multi-sports indoor gym and floodlit 4G pitch. We also have a well-equipped library and a specialist Learning Support Unit, and this year we will be opening a brand nurture centre called 'The Pavilion'.

We have an extensive team of support staff and mentors who make sure that students are supported both academically and emotionally throughout their school life. From targeted booster sessions to action plans to build confidence or self-esteem, our Support Team make sure that all students get the individual help that they need.

Our curriculum is diverse; we offer a wide variety of both academic and vocational subjects which ensures that all of our young people can discover their individual talents and plan for a successful future. When the time comes to choose their options in Year 9, students benefit from individual career guidance from our Careers Officer; this makes sure that they are studying the correct subjects to enable them to achieve their goals.

All departments offer exciting opportunities for learning outside of the classroom and for developing life skills. Students regularly visit museums, galleries and Universities to enhance their learning; they also attend field trips and take part in both local and national competitions as part of their studies. Talks from industry practitioners give pupils a different perspective and a realistic insight into many aspects of their learning, and there are many opportunities to work alongside respected organisations and local businesses. Students can also take part in the many UK and international residential trips.

When the time comes, we can also offer an excellent Sixth Form experience with a diverse choice of subjects and tailored support to make sure students achieve their full potential. This year, our Sixth Form was top of the league table in the North East for value added, with a score of 0.52!

Year 7 Chromebook Scheme

On Thursday 20th September, our new Year 7 students will be invited to attend a special event to collect their personal *Chromebook*.

Our Chromebook initiative was launched in 2016 with computers issued to every Year 7. We wanted to ensure that all of our students were able to access computer technology not only in lessons but also at home; this is particularly important in a world which relies so heavily on technology. Now in its third year, all students in Years 7-9 have their own laptop and we are confident that the result of this will be young people with exceptional computer skills who are fully equipped to succeed in a competitive job market.



Summer Adventures!



Over 70 of our new starters joined us at our Transition Summer School this year, spending two days in school before heading off for a free, three-day adventure holiday to *Weardale Adventure Centre* in Ireshopeburn.

Organised by our experienced Transition Team, days in school focused on fun, team building activities to help establish new friendships and promote independence. In teams, students learned how working together and supporting each other achieves the very best results; this is something that we encourage in all aspects of Academy life.

Following these two fun-packed days, students were more than ready to embrace the next transition opportunity at *Weardale Adventure Centre*. The centre offered the chance to try a range of outdoor activities including canoeing, climbing, high ropes and underground exploration in a safe, residential environment.

Activities were designed to both thrill and challenge our new starters, and it was excellent to see their level of confidence and self-esteem soar as they proved to themselves that they can achieve anything with a little courage and determination.

Year upon year, our Transition Programme has proved to be hugely successful. It begins with our *No Wasted Weeks* initiative, which sees new starters attend King James one day each week to experience lessons and accustom themselves to Academy routines. Next, three consecutive days in school allows students to meet their Tutor and Form Group; combined with our Summer School, this ensures that all new starters have plenty of friends and feel confident from day one.

Year 6 Open Evening

We would like to invite all of our local families to join us at our annual Year 6 Open Evening event later this month.

The event, which will take place from 6pm-8pm on Wednesday 26th September, is aimed primarily at pupils in Year 6. It offers a fantastic opportunity for both children and their parents to meet our staff and students, take a tour of our buildings, facilities and outdoor spaces, and to enjoy some exciting taster sessions in a range of subjects.

The experience is designed to help families make an informed decision before applying for a secondary school place. We look forward to seeing you there!

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TRANSITION

Begins in Year 1

We believe that successful transition to secondary school begins early in primary school. We organise a wide variety of Outreach events and activities for pupils in Years 1-5 so they can experience life at King James. Year 5 Curriculum Week is one of the most important events for our local youngsters, who will soon be making the move.

Around 600 pupils from 12 local primary schools joined us for Year 5 Curriculum Week this year. Students attended King James to enjoy a full range of taster sessions and learning experiences, which were pre-selected by their own Head Teacher.

Our visitors took part in a wide selection of lessons, all designed to give them a taste of secondary school life, King James style. We are proud of our innovative approach to lesson delivery across all departments, and Year 5s were able to experience this in familiar subjects such as Maths, English, Science, History, Geography and Art. They also had the opportunity to try some subjects that primary schools are often unable to deliver including Business, ICT, Photography, Performing Arts, Food Technology and Music.

In our Library, pupils combined creative writing with comic art to design and produce a page from a comic book; and in Performing Arts, they learned Brazilian-inspired dance routines, which they then performed as a

group in our Main Hall. There were many opportunities for hands-on learning; in Food Technology they prepared healthy snacks and in Photography they learned about composition and developed technical skills in the use of DSLR cameras. They also learned some basic guitar and keyboard in our Music Department, enjoyed a variety of practical experiments in our huge Science laboratories and took part in team games and sports on our 4G pitch. There was even an opportunity to develop team working skills in a tent-building session!

Year 5 Curriculum Week introduces primary pupils to the idea of secondary school and helps them to feel excited about the next stage in their education. The experience familiarises them with the many different subjects which are taught by different teachers, a much larger school building, and the idea of travelling to school by coach or mini-bus. We hope our visitors enjoyed themselves and look forward to meeting them again at our Open Evening event this month.



Drama Outreach in the Park



Last term, two of our Year 9 students, L joined former Sixth Formers to work on an exciting primary outreach project called 'Picnic in the Park' in partnership with the Auckland Project. The activity took place in the beautiful grounds of Auckland Castle.

Year 9 students, Dylan N and Imogen S were chosen to work alongside Niamh E and Holly H, who have both recently returned from a sixth-month work placement in Brazil. Together, the team delivered a programme of fun, 30-minute Drama workshops to over 250 primary school pupils in both nursery and Year 1, from a number of different primary schools in our local community.

Workshops were designed to build confidence from a young age through the power of personal expression and movement, and to show how drama can unite children and young people of all ages.



Celebrating success on Results Days

Thanks to the hard work of our students and staff, and the support of our families, it has been another fantastic year for King James and we are celebrating excellent results for Summer 2018.

Excellent A' Level results have helped 100% of Sixth Formers who applied for places at a range of Universities, to move on to their placement of choice. Notable successes include Shannon Garrett-Foster, who achieved two A and two B grades at A' Level and will be progressing to *Newcastle University* to study a combined Honours Degree in Japanese and History. Abigail Stephenson will also be moving to *Newcastle University* to study Bio-Chemistry and, following Sophie Stephenson's success, she will be moving to *Hull University* to begin a Degree in Chinese Studies.

Evie Wellstood, a creative and talented artist, achieved A* grades in both Art and Photography as well as a Distinction in Media Studies; she will be moving to *Leeds Arts University* to study Film Making. Matthew Tones, who achieved an A* in Photography and a double Distinction in his Sport course will be going to Leeds to pursue his interest in Sports Coaching; and Kieron Thomas will be studying nursing at Lincoln having achieved positive outcomes across a range of subjects.

A number of students will be attending *Sunderland University*; Tessa Hope, who is going to study History, achieved B grades in both A' Level English and History and a Distinction* in Media Studies; Ellie Jaye, who also achieved a Distinction* in Media

Studies is going to study Media, Culture and Communication; and Emily Boughey will be studying Digital Film Production.

Abby Whitaker, who has made a valued contribution to a range of Academy events, will be pursuing her interest in Business at *Leeds Beckett University* having achieved success across a range of subjects and Emily Hope is moving to *Northumbria University* to study Geography having achieved A*, Distinction* and C grades.

Having already achieved great success in 2017, Niamh Elliott is going to *Kingston University* to study Drama, and Holly Hare will be studying Fashion Design at *Manchester Metropolitan University*. Both enjoyed a gap year in which they worked as Learning Support Assistants for a term at King James and they then spent six months working in Brazil. We wish them well following their significant contribution to two communities.

As well as congratulating those moving into Higher Education we would also like to pass on our good wishes to those who are continuing their studies at college or who are moving into the world of work. We would also like to thank the many staff who have helped our students to achieve such success and the family members who have supported and encouraged them to excel.

GCSE SUCCESS

Well done to our fantastic GCSE students who have achieved another excellent set of results this year.

As well as seeing further improvements in English and Mathematics outcomes, many of our subjects have seen 100% of students achieve a Grade 4 or higher (Grade C+); these include Biology, Chemistry, Fine Art, French, Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin), Photography, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Statistics, Business Studies, Health & Social Care, Music, Travel & Tourism and Food & Cookery.

The following elite group of students achieved at least five or more 7-9 / A and A* grades: Abbi Stevenson and Nicole Humphrey, who both achieved nine; and Olivia Baronowski, Kyle Blood, Leon Davies, Marshall Gowland, Callum Jones, Samantha Stevens and Lucy Trotter. A special tribute should also be paid to Aleena Shakir who achieved a higher value-added score than any other Year 11 student, highlighting her hard work and the significant progress that she has made at King James.





Lights, Cameras and MEDIA ACTION!



Talking about Midwifery

As part of our extensive Career Planning programme, we are visited throughout the year by industry practitioners from a diverse range of sectors. Speakers focus on delivering inspirational sessions to students in Years 9 and 10; this helps to broaden career ideas and raise aspirations.

Our most recent speaker was newly-qualified Midwife, Roz Middleton, pictured below, who talked about Midwifery in the NHS. The session attracted a large number of students who were all interested to hear about the qualifications needed to gain a place on a Midwifery course at University and what the training involved.

Mrs Middleton discussed the high entry requirements needed for Midwifery courses and explained why extensive medical knowledge is needed. Many think only of the obvious joy of midwifery as a profession but the reality of the job is that even in modern day childbirth, things don't always

go according to plan and often difficult medical decisions have to be made to save lives.

She also talked candidly about the many rewards and challenges of the job, and even found an innovative way to demonstrate contractions using balloons! Our eager students were able to ask questions at the end of the session and many left inspired to pursue a career in medicine.

So far this year, students have also attended informative sessions on careers within the *Royal Navy*; Optometry careers in a session delivered by *Specsavers*; and roles in Business with *Akzonobel*.



Year 10 students, Aaliyah Cullen, Emily Richards, Amelia Coser and Rebecca Howarth pictured here with visiting speaker, Roz Middleton.

Hands-on Geography

Over 40 GCSE Geography students have enjoyed a field trip to Keswick as part of their studies. The town, which was devastated by floods in both 2005 and 2009, now has a £6 million flood protection scheme, which makes it the perfect location to study flood defences.

Students were able to look closely at the defence strategies put in place by the *Environment Agency*, including flood walls, embankments and flood gates, which significantly reduce the risk of flooding from the River Greta.

The group also conducted studies into tourism and the

effect that this has upon the town in terms of traffic, footfall and generating income for local businesses, which target tourists who visit the Lake District all year round. It was clear that tourism is hugely beneficial to the local economy, but students also considered the potential negative impact for local residents.



Award winners, Amelia Philpott, Amelia Bowden, Pheobe Robson, Lily-Beth Howarth, Aimee Bemson, Maneet Somal and Lily Robson.

NINTH IN THE WORLD in Language Perfect 2018!

This year, 191 different schools from across the world took part in the 2018 *Language Perfect* global linguistic competition and we placed ninth overall!

Over 70 students from King James took part, logging in over a 10-day period as many times as they wished, both at school and independently at home. Their progress was tracked online as they learned new vocabulary and translated texts, enhancing their knowledge in both French and Spanish. Points were earned for completing each task, and at the end of the competition period these points were converted into certificates and awards.

35 students achieved certificates for their efforts and seven of those who took part obtained the prestigious Emerald Award, which places them in the top 1% of the 350,000 competitors that took part this year. This is a fantastic result and we are extremely proud of their achievement which placed King James ninth in the world overall!

Nurturing a love of SHAKESPEARE

Our Year 8 Nurture Group has been studying Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Shakespeare can be quite challenging but the group has been learning about the characters, themes and the historical context of the play through art, drama and music.



The group developed artwork on the characters Oberon, Titania and Bottom, pictured here; this allowed them to develop their creative skills alongside literacy and team working. Group projects such as this are an excellent way for students to build confidence and resilience, and this is particularly important for students in our Nurture Group.

The students have all said that the Shakespeare-themed activities have helped dramatically with their knowledge and their team working skills. Nicholas Watson, who is one of the group members said, "I have loved everything about the Shakespeare project and I know lots more about *A Midsummer Night's Dream* now. It will really help me in my English lessons."

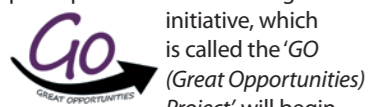
Above articles were written by Year 12 student, Callum Jones

Universal Orlando in 2020!

new

Our Media Department is currently planning a trip to Universal Orlando Resort in Florida.

The trip, which will take in the best movie-themed parks in the world, is being planned for Spring 2020. This will allow for a full year of fundraising activities to help subsidise the overall cost and therefore increase participation. The fundraising initiative, which is called the 'GO (Great Opportunities) Project', will begin with the launch of a new Sixth Form Tuck Shop this month. Look out for activities bearing the logo!



Media Studies students in Years 10 and 12 have enjoyed a two-day trip to Leeds, which combined activities designed to increase their understanding of the media industry with various opportunities to simply try something new.

The trip began with a visit to *Emmerdale Studios* and a 90-minute tour where the group discovered behind-the-scenes secrets and saw first-hand how teams of professionals turn scripts into a finished episode using sets, props and special effects. They learned the whole process of creating an episode of the soap, including how the cast and crew capture the spectacular stunts you see on your screens.

The tour included interactive experiences throughout; students tried their hand at lighting and editing and viewed authentic costumes and exact set reconstructions of 'The Woolpack' and 'Beauty & Bernice'. They even had their photo taken on the most iconic sofa in the world of

soaps on the replica 'Dingles' set. In addition to the tour, a special educational workshop deconstructed a scene from the show and focussed on the narrative elements of the production process and key characteristics of a storyline.

In the evening, the group visited *The Great Escape Game*, which was enormous fun. Teams enter a sealed room, filled with puzzles which must be solved within an hour to unlock the door. Students competed in two teams in identical submarine-themed rooms. Not only was this an excellent team building exercise, but it was also a perfect demonstration of how sound, lighting and props are used to create a theme and mood; this is something that TV and movie producers must

consider in every production. The venue provided a full evening of entertainment for the group as they also ate pizza and played a variety of retro board and computer games.

On day two, students were able to explore the vibrant city centre. Some headed for fashion or music shops, whilst others visited the *Kitty Café* to enjoy tea surrounded by friendly felines. The group then visited the *Red Hot World Buffet* restaurant together, to sample a range of dishes from across the globe. The trip ended with a tour of the *University of Leeds* campus, including the stunning *Brotherton Library*, which houses over 200,000 rare books; and there was even a surprise drop-in at *The Dogs' Trust* on the way home!

For many, this trip was their first time away from home and students enjoyed the chance to be independent. In response to student requests, Mrs Davies, Director of Learning for Media, is now planning a three-day trip, which would allow time to visit some of the museums in Leeds and *The National Media Museum* in Bradford.

BEST USE OF TECHNOLOGY



Our Year 8 *Future Business Magnates (FBM)* Team have won the award for 'Most Effective Use of Technology' in this year's entrepreneurial competition for schools, which is run by *Business Durham*.

Partnered with Shildon-based engineering company, the *Bignall Group*, our team came up with an innovative car park space detector to claim the award at the prestigious Awards dinner; this was held at Newton Aycliffe's *Xcel Centre* and hosted by Charlie Charlton, a TV presenter and journalist with the *BBC*.

We would like to congratulate our FBM team, pictured right: Charli Elliott, Frances Andelin, Zoe Munro, Cameron Barker-Smith, Lucas McDougal, Aaron Ross, Jake Dobinson. As a team they won a trophy for King James and each received a certificate and shopping voucher.

Novo Começa!

Over 300 people from our local community came to King James to see our latest Dance Show, entitled *Novo Começa*, which is Portuguese for 'New Beginnings'.

The one-night-only, sell-out show, which had a cast of 80 students in Years 7-13, contained a number of pieces inspired by evolving Jamaican dance and recent work with our friends in Brazil. All were choreographed by our dedicated students who work together each morning, lunch time and after school.

The audience was thrilled by the celebration of creativity and unity, presented in a diverse range of dances from uplifting large group performances to moving emotional dance pieces.



Photography by Year 12 student, Callum Jones.

THE PAVILION



Our *Nurture Groups* will soon be enjoying lessons in a dedicated, custom-built building called *The Pavilion*.

The Nurture Programme, which was launched in 2016, provides small-group support for new Year 7 students who need to build upon their academic skills, confidence and social skills before fully integrating into secondary school life. The initiative has been so successful that we have decided to expand both our facilities and provision to allow students to continue with this level of support in Year 8 if it is needed.

We have secured funding from *Durham County Council* to allow us to erect a contemporary detached building with three classrooms and independent facilities. Mr Grieveson said, "The new hub means that our young people will benefit from having a consistent base and a family-type nurturing environment which will help them make the best start to their secondary education."

WORKING TOWARDS ARTSMARK



We are proud of the extensive opportunities we offer which bring learning to life through arts and culture, and have currently submitted an application for *Artsmark* recognition to the *Arts Council England*.

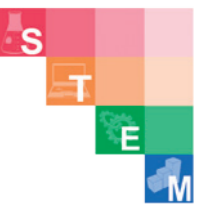
Our excellent provision in Drama, Expressive Arts, Music, Media Studies, Fine Art, Photography and Graphics will help us to achieve our goal of achieving Gold accreditation. Our application is also supported by the opportunities provided by our *Rock & Pop Institute* and *RTS*, our drama and dance group.

We work regularly with the *Royal Shakespeare Company* and local professional artists, and offer many cultural opportunities through workshops, visits to galleries, theatres and restaurants, and trips to a host of international destinations including Venice, Barcelona, Brazil, Holland, USA and Jamaica. We will update you on our progress.



STEM Competititon Victory

Driving forward Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths



Thanks to the efforts of our *STEM Co-ordinators*, our students benefit from a wide variety of learning activities, special events and experiences, all designed to inspire a passion for careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

In July, we celebrated victory in the *EDT (Engineering Development Trust) 'My Healthy School'* competition, which was held at *Teesside University*.

The project saw teams of students working alongside local businesses to develop a new initiative which would promote good health in their school. Working in partnership with *Glaxo Smith Kline*, and with our *STEM Co-ordinator*, Miss Ford, who organised the activity, the girls identified diet as a priority for improving the overall health of young people. In response to this they came up with the idea of installing a self-serve salad bar in our Dinner Hall; this would not only give students an additional healthy option for lunch each day, but it would also help towards the recommended daily intake of fruit and vegetables.

As part of the project they conducted primary research to show that the concept would be both well received by their target audience and that it would also be financially viable. They talked to students across all year groups and the majority confirmed that the ability to choose the items they like, and therefore create their own personal salad, was very appealing.

In preparation for the competition final, the team designed a visual display to demonstrate their concept; they then presented their ideas to a panel of esteemed judges at the competition final to claim the trophy for King James. Each member of the team was also presented with the Bronze Industrial Cadet Award, which is the Science equivalent of the *DofE Awards*.

Congratulations to Jermina Mangena, Chloe Down, Maneet Somal, Amelia Philpott, Sophie Denham and Lily-Beth Howarth, pictured above with their winning display and trophy.

Coming up this year... new

- Year 7 Rocket Car Competition
- Year 8 Navigate to the Line Competition - 'Orienteer a Hot Air Balloon'
- Robotics Club
- Work with STEM Ambassadors from Durham University
- Industrial Cadet placements

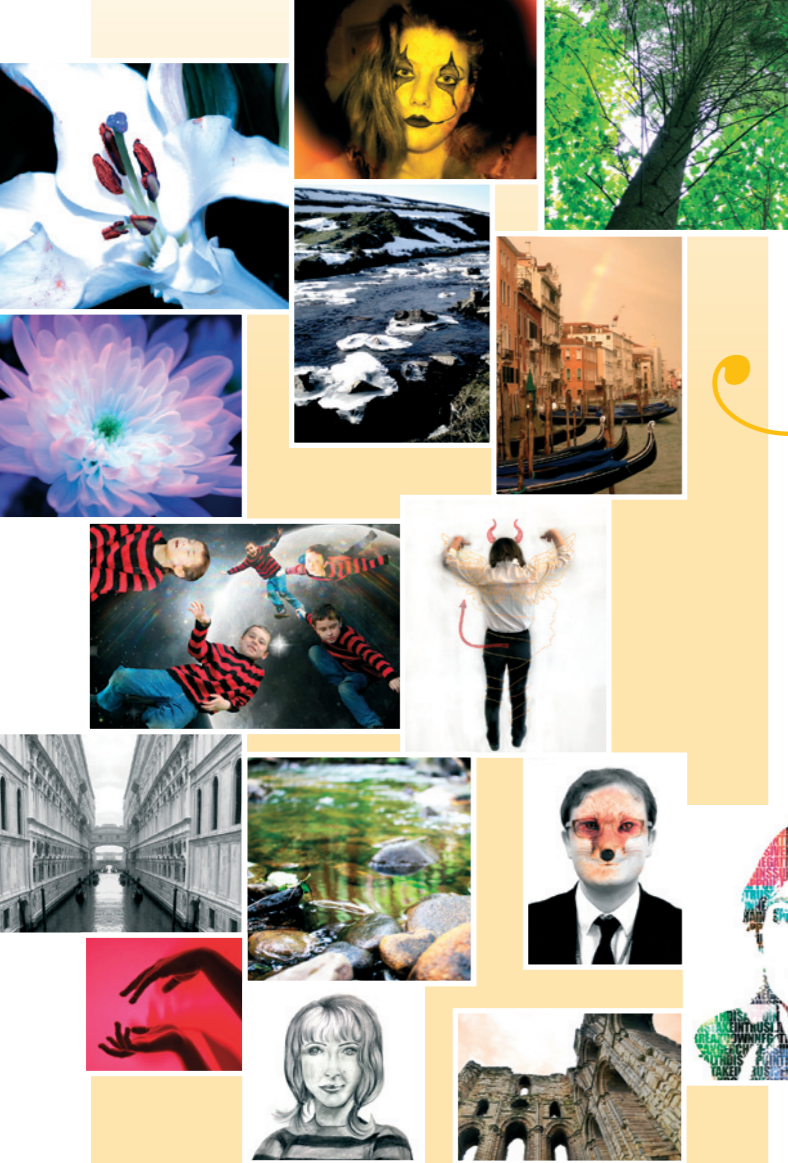
Year 8s in National Final

Five of our Year 8 boys, pictured right, were invited to London to take part in the National Final of the *Solutions for the Planet Competition*, one of our many organised STEM activities.



The group travelled by train and spent two days in the capital city, where they enjoyed a tour of *Westminster Palace* and met local MP, Helen Goodman before presenting their idea for a Biomass battery powered by algae. Although they did not win the competition, the boys enjoyed the experience immensely and returned feeling proud of their achievement in reaching the final.

For all of the boys, this trip was the first time they had stayed away from home, so the experience of being in a hotel overnight was an excellent way to build confidence and independence. They were also able to spend some time in *Hyde Park*, travel on the *London Underground* and visit an Italian restaurant, all of which offered a new life experience.



Art & photography



Each year, students on our Art and Photography courses produce a diverse range of innovative pieces which demonstrate exceptional imagination and skill. This year was no exception.

GCSE and A' Level students produced an array of creative pieces from traditional paintings, photographs and sculptures to expressive costume, digital manipulations and 3D installations. The strength of the department is easy to see in the quality of the work produced. Students are encouraged to think outside of the box at all times and to look for the beauty which surrounds us every day. Their ideas often challenge people's perceptions of life and their environment, and it is this which continues to impress examiners and reward students with consistently high grades.

In July, the department held its annual Art Exhibition to showcase the work of both GCSE and A' Level students. The event also displayed the work of local Primary school pupils who had taken part in our outreach activities.



FOOD TECHNOLOGY gets a revamp



In light of the growing opportunities available in the catering industry in our area, we have made some improvements to our Food Technology provision.

Last year we introduced the NCFE Certificate in Food and Cookery as an additional qualification; students developed practical cooking skills and learned about hygiene and safety, nutritional balance, menu planning, time management and budgeting. The course was hugely successful and as a result, this year we are extending our Sixth Form provision by offering a Level 3 qualification in Professional Cookery. This will ensure that our older students are qualified to take up one of the many professional apprenticeships in the industry.

Academy Reward Days

Our students work hard throughout the year and achieve great things through dedication and effort. Our Reward Day recognises students with an excellent attitude to their studies and homework, alongside a good attendance and behaviour record.

An Art Department reward trip saw 54 students in Years 7-9 selected to attend a visit to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park near Wakefield, pictured below. There they were able to explore the park and document the wide variety of both indoor and outdoor sculptures and artwork by completing written tasks, making sketches and taking photographs of the many exhibits.

A veritable army of 120 Year 7 students visited Fountains Abbey near Ripon. The Abbey is one of the largest and best preserved ruined Cistercian monasteries in England.



100 students in Year 8 had a fantastic time at Rof 59 in Newton Aycliffe when they enjoyed Trampolining, Rock Climbing and Laser Quest.



A total of 75 students in Year 9 were treated to a thrill-seeking trip to Lightwater Valley where they braved a variety of white-knuckle rides including The Ultimate!



Around 70 Year 10 students enjoyed a day at the beach at South Shields. They spent time in Marine Park and on the rides at Ocean Beach Pleasure Park.



Photography goes to BARCELONA

Photography students will soon be departing on their annual international experience. This year they will be visiting Barcelona.



The group will spend five days in the city which boasts some of the most spectacular architecture and vibrant culture in the world. They will visit Gaudi's Sagrada Familia, the vast RC church which is famous for its intricate beauty despite remaining unfinished; and spend time in the landscaped gardens of Park Güell, again designed and built by Gaudi, before sightseeing in Las Ramblas and the Gothic Quarter.

The trip will also feature trips to two of the city markets, alongside Barcelona Cathedral and Barcelona Zoo in the Parc de la Ciutadella; there will also be time to relax at the beach. They will of course be taking photographs throughout the trip to enhance their coursework portfolio.

Working with the Royal Shakespeare Company

Two of our Year 7 students have recently taken part in the Royal Shakespeare Company school's performance.



Bliss Dunn and Carla Briddick joined students from a number of other schools in the Crook cluster partnership to rehearse scenes from Shakespeare's play, 'Macbeth'. The culmination of the project was a two-day trip to Stratford-Upon-Avon where students visited the birth place of William Shakespeare and performed their scene in the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

The Bard Comes to Bishop!



We are looking forward to a very special event, which will take place in November.

The RSC will perform 'A Comedy of Errors' live at King James I Academy. It will be a professional production, but edited down to 90 minutes and some of our students will be participating in it alongside the RSC actors. There will be two performances on the day; local Primary schools will be invited to a matinee performance, and there will be an evening production for our students and members of our community.



A love for PE & SPORT

Our annual Academy Sports Day took place on the last day of term and our young athletes competed with great determination and sportsmanship in a number of track events from 100m sprints to relay races.

Following the field events and 1500m races, which had taken place two days before, only 12 points lay between first and second place; these points were added to those awarded on Sports Day which meant that competition for the Sports Day House Trophy was particularly fierce.

On the day, we saw excellent performances across all year groups and this led to the final points being closer than ever. However, at the end of a wonderful day, victory lay with Hatfield.

Whilst the final scores were being verified, students watched the customary Teacher's Race, a 200m relay, which really brought out the competitive spirit of our staff!

Overall, an excellent day was had by all, including the many spectators who turned out in force to support our athletes with the colour-coded face paint, house banners and flags that have become a King James tradition. We were particularly proud to see students demonstrate such a high level of support and enthusiasm for their peers; this is something that we encourage in all aspects of Academy life.

This year, the event was extra special as it marked the long-awaited completion of our new playing fields. This improves our sports facilities even further, and it will allow us to add variety to our PE provision by including athletics and field events throughout the academic year.



'Girls Active' in WIMBLEDON

In July, eight of our Year 10 girls travelled to London to take part in our annual Girls Active trip.



The two-day trip is organised each year by Mrs Stansmore-O'Connor and Miss Short, Director and Assistant Director of Learning for PE respectively, to promote female participation in sport and to reward those who show dedication in lessons. This year's selected students were Amelia Coser, Kaci Showler, Ruth Walton, Rebecca Howarth, Elle Hodgson, Lauren Burney, Jasmine Walton and Beth Hannar.

At Wimbledon, the group enjoyed excellent seats in Court 1 where they were able to watch three matches and marvel at the strength and stamina of professional tennis players who continued to play despite soaring temperatures.

Each year the trip also includes a much-anticipated visit to a West End theatre; for many this is their first experience of the world-class entertainment that London has to offer. This year the group were treated to a performance of the acclaimed Broadway musical, *Dream Girls* at the *Savoy Theatre*, which stars Amber Riley.

Planned return to HOLLAND

Following a hugely successful Football-themed trip to Holland earlier in 2018, our PE Department is currently planning a return visit.

Around 30 students in Years 7-9 will have the opportunity to spend four days in Holland taking part in football training sessions and tournaments, sightseeing in Amsterdam and experiencing Dutch culture.

Live music from our Student Bands

Music students in Years 10 and 11, pictured below, provided live music as part of the Academy Election.



Students, who are all studying BTEC Music Performance, formed three bands to play a selection of music from different genres; artists included Oasis, Fleetwood Mac, Bruno Mars and Vance Joy.

Students are also members of the *Rock and Pop Institute*, which runs every Monday night at King James for young people from around the Bishop Auckland area. The Institute brings young musicians together from different schools, to develop skills in performance; alongside King James, current members are students at *Bishop Barrington, Parkside* and *Wolsingham* schools.

This month, the Rock and Pop Institute will be working on a new recording project. This will give members an opportunity to record a cover version of a favourite track, or an original piece, in a professional recording studio, and develop technical skills in mixing sound and adding effects. Anyone who is interested in joining the Institute should email King James for further details.

Durham Book Festival Book Swap

In October, we will be celebrating *Durham Book Festival* with an evening 'Book Swap' event where students and their parents will be able to trade books in our Library.

This will be a great opportunity for new Year 7 parents to get involved in their child's reading, and to get students talking about books with their friends. Book donations for the swap would be most welcome.



Academy election decides HEAD BOY AND GIRL

Our annual Academy Election event allows our students to select their own Year 11 Head Boy and Girl; student leaders for 2018-19 have now been appointed.

In preparation for the election, potential candidates, pictured above, prepared a manifesto and organised their own promotional campaign to rally support before speaking to their peers in our Main Hall. Speeches were also streamed live to classrooms to ensure that every year group could take part and make an informed decision before casting their vote.

Speakers were particularly impressive this year; their ideas for new initiatives which would improve student life were well thought out and presented with confidence and conviction. Around 700 votes were cast and the winning candidates who will take up their positions as Head Boy and Head Girl for 2018-19 are Marshall Wood and Kaci Showler. Those appointed as Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl were Samuel Hobbs and Caitlin Roffe. They will be supported by a team of Prefects in the coming year.



BACK FROM USA

Year 11s have returned from a three-week trip of a lifetime to America.

The group attended a week-long summer camp in Iowa where they took part in many outdoor activities from canoeing to camping and slept in log cabins with eight American young people. Caitlin Stanley said, "The camp was amazing. I tried lots of new things but my favourite activity was Archery."

After the camp the group headed to a water park before taking in the culture of Chicago where they visited *Millennium Park, Wrigley Field* and all the other major sites.

YOUTH AWARDS SUCCESS

We celebrated a grand total of seven nominations at the Bishop Auckland Town Team Youth Awards 2018, which recognises the achievements of young people in our area.

Judges selected four outstanding individuals and one team, who all received special awards from our Mayor, Councillor David Fleming at the presentation evening; this was held at Bishop Auckland Town Hall. King James student, Franco Bourne, pictured above, was chosen to receive the overall Sporting Achievement Award for his many successes in the world of motorbike racing. Franco, who has been riding motorbikes since he was just six years old, was presented with the 'Mayor's Medal'.

Other nominees from King James, who all received a certificate in recognition of their achievements, included Academy teams, My Money Week, NECOP, RTS and Fundraising for Demi-Leigh; and individual students, Kennedy Aldsworth and Leon Davies, who is building a name for himself in competitive Trampolineing. Congratulations to everyone.



KJ SIXTH FORM news

SAYING FAREWELL



Some of our leavers with Sixth Form Mentors, John Middleton and Linda Dixon.

To mark the end of their time at King James, and the beginning of the next chapter in their lives, Year 13 students, teachers and support staff gathered together for a farewell barbecue.

The event offered great food, music, student awards and the opportunity for everyone to share memories and to reminisce about their experiences at King James, especially the staff who have watched our young people develop from shy Year 7s into confident young adults with amazing futures ahead of them.

Many of our leavers will be starting University courses this month. They have been accepted onto a diverse selection of courses including Geography, History, Media Production, Primary Education, Business Studies, Performing Arts and Computing. Others will be starting college courses or taking up apprenticeships and jobs in our local area.

'AIM HIGHER' IN LEEDS

As part of Mr Shearer's Aim Higher programme, a group of our Year 12 students have enjoyed a two-day residential trip to Leeds Beckett University.



On the trip, students visited both the City and Headingley campuses. They participated in workshops which discussed topics relating to the application process, general University life and student finance. They were also accompanied by two current University students who discussed student life further and gave the group a tour of the facilities including the cafeteria, library and recording studios.

Students stayed in shared student accommodation to give them a feel for University life and the chance to build confidence in their ability to live away from home. They were also given free time to explore the city of Leeds, which gave them an even greater sense of independence. Aim Higher trips are extremely beneficial for our students as they help to raise aspirations and prepare students for their future, whether they choose to pursue a degree or continue higher education in another way. Trips take place throughout the year to Universities across the UK including Edinburgh, York, Liverpool, Manchester, Cumbria, Teesside and Northumbria.

Written by Year 12 student, James Wanless, pictured above.

Open Day Magic!

Many potential Year 12 students came to our Sixth Form Induction Day event to experience half hour taster sessions in a range of subjects, and to look into Sixth Form life.

The event was an excellent opportunity for potential students to ask teachers and current Sixth Formers about courses and social life at King James. Students from outside of the Academy were also able to take a tour of the facilities in departments such as Art, Media, Music and Sport, and experience the friendly and informal atmosphere that our students say is so appealing.

The Sixth Form Common Room became the social hub for the day with career advice, complimentary lunch and even entertainment on offer, courtesy of the renowned magician, Paul Lytton,

pictured right. Paul is known for performing for celebrities such as Michael Buble, Ashley Roberts and Paloma Faith; he has even performed for Princes William and Harry!

Callum Jones, who was at the event said, "The magician shocked everyone in the room with his tricks and created a great atmosphere that everyone was talking about."

Other services from outside the school were also there to offer advice, including FutureMe, a collaborative outreach programme which provides information about further education, and the NCS



(National Citizenship Service), which has benefitted many of our former students in terms of life experience.

Mr Shearer, our Head of Sixth Form said, "I am delighted that so many young people came to our Open Day and have since enrolled at King James. I am sure Year 12s will be an excellent year group and I look forward to working with them."

Written by Year 14 student, Bethany Lewis-Burrows

GOING DUTCH!

Next month, a group of Sixth Formers will be travelling to Amsterdam for a complete cultural experience.

Sixth Form students have travelled to many different countries including Ghana, Brazil, Jamaica, USA, France, Spain, Italy and Ireland, but the Netherlands is a new destination which will be added to our portfolio of international experiences. All offer an amazing opportunity to build life skills and independence.

During the trip, which will take place from 16th-18th October, students will take part in a city walking tour and a canal tour; they will also visit Ann Frank House and The Museum District. This will ensure that they are able to fully appreciate both the history of the city and the beauty of its stunning architecture and landscaping.



YEAR 11 PROM

In July, our Year 11 students turned out in style for a glittering Prom at Redworth Hall Hotel.

It was an opportunity for students to celebrate the end of exams and share their best memories of their time at King James with their friends, teachers and support staff. A number of Prom Awards were presented but the coveted titles of Prom King and Queen went to Alex Philpott and Molly Brannan. We would like to wish them all the best of luck in the next stage of their education.



Regional Beauty

Sixth Form Photography students have been developing their creative portfolio on a multi-location trip around the North East.

Students travelled around Tyne and Wear, Northumberland and Newcastle to capture the beauty of our diverse regional landscape and the many examples of both modern and historic architecture. They were also able to practice creative urban photography through a study of graffiti and derelict and abandoned buildings.

Each student returned to King James with a selection of photographs from Newcastle city centre, Newcastle Quayside, Blyth beach front and Tynemouth Priory, all of which will make excellent material for photo-manipulation. This trip, like the many field trips which take place throughout the year, was important for the group as it allowed them to fully explore different themes and settings.





Diary Dates

Sept 16	Photography trip to Barcelona (5 days)
Sept 18	Biomedical Science Workshop 1
Sept 20	Biomedical Science Workshop 2
Sept 20	Chromebook Launch 6.00pm
Sept 26	Year 6 open Evening 6pm-8pm
Oct 16	Sixth Form trip to Amsterdam (5 days)
Oct 19	INSET Day - Academy closed to students
Oct 19	Academy closes for Half-Term (1 week)
Nov 8	'Aim Higher' Trip to Liverpool (2 days)
Nov 8	Sixth Form Open Evening 6pm
Nov 8	Sixth Form Parents' Evening 6pm
Nov 15	Royal Shakespeare Company Performance - 'Comedy of Errors'
Nov 22	Careers Fair
Dec 21	Academy closes at 1.30pm for Christmas holiday (2 weeks)
Jan 7	Academy re-opens



YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 26th September 6pm-8pm

- Meet our teachers, support staff and students
- Take a tour of our facilities
- Experience a range of fun activities and taster sessions
- Hear about our curriculum
- Sample our lunch menu
- Find out about school transport options
- Discover our range of extra-curricular opportunities

Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 8th
November 6.00pm

Come and find out about the courses we offer and talk to teachers, students and our dedicated Sixth Form Team.

We'll help
you plan your
future!

Can't make our Open Evening?

Call 01388 603388 to
arrange a meeting and
Academy tour.



www.kingjames1academy.com



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