

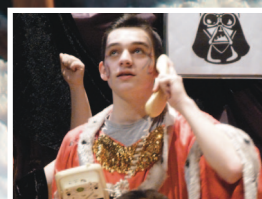
VISION

Issue 31: Winter/Spring 2019

 King James I Academy magazine

Nurture Provision

**PLANS TO DEVELOP
EVEN FURTHER!**



Inside: The Pavilion officially opens, Primary STEM project, Christmas Show, Trip to Auschwitz, Careers Fair, LA film producer visits, Festive activities plus much more.

Welcome from the Head



Happy New Year. I hope you all enjoyed a peaceful Christmas and a well-deserved break.

Welcome to the first edition of Vision for 2019. We are sure that this will be another exciting and memorable year for King James I Academy; its students and staff.

After a busy Autumn Term, we really enjoyed the *Roots* Christmas Show as a celebration of all our students and staff do so well together. As well as being another spectacular group performance it also highlighted individual excellence and showed the power of collaboration. Students of all ages supported one another and, with expert support, were able to captivate their audiences. Thank you to all who took part.

As we look forward to 2019, we have even more exciting and ambitious plans for the Academy. As well as developing a new Sixth Form Centre, we also hope to be able to develop our new Nurture Provision to support students through their transition years, from Primary School all the way to Year 9. We are also working with local partners to develop an innovative approach to collaboration in Years 10 and 11.

I hope, given the many challenges that our country faces, that a benefit of working through a period of such uncertainty will be the realisation that working together to make a difference is crucial for our future success.

I would like to wish all of our readers; their friends and families, best wishes for 2019. We will look forward to working with you throughout another prosperous and fun-filled year.

Best wishes,
Nick Grieveson, Headteacher

NEW YEAR... NEW DEVELOPMENTS

MAGIC BREAKFASTS FREE BREAKFAST FOR EVERYONE!

This month sees the launch of the *Magic Breakfast* scheme at King James. This means that every morning, each student in our school will be able to start the day with a free healthy breakfast.

A 'magic' breakfast is healthy and nutritious and designed to give our students all the protein, vitamins and minerals they need to boost their energy and fuel their learning.

Students can choose from *Quaker* porridge, a range of *Nestle* cereals, special recipe *Bagel Nash* bagels, which are vitamin D-enhanced and with no E numbers or artificial additives, and *Tropicana* fruit juice. All breakfast items are low in fat, salt and sugar so you can be sure that your child is getting the best start to their day.



IMPROVED SIXTH FORM FACILITIES

King James is developing a new Sixth Form Centre which is to be built during Summer 2019. It will provide our ever-increasing number of Sixth Form students with more dedicated space to support their academic and social pursuits.

The new contemporary accommodation, which will be located on land to the rear of the Rawe Building, will include purpose-built study and social areas, as well as a spacious classroom which will be dedicated to supporting Sixth Form lessons. There will also be office accommodation for our team of Sixth Form Mentors and Careers Advisors.

In addition to this, the former Sixth Form base will be transformed into bespoke teaching spaces for PE and Sports. As our Level 3 Sports courses become even more popular, this facility will allow us to provide an inspiring learning environment for those looking to enter the sports industry, as well as offering a community hub for *Bishop Juniors*.

LAUNCHING CLASS CHARTS... TO GET EVERYONE INVOLVED

Since September, our teachers have been trying out an exciting new system in school which will make monitoring achievement, rewards, homework, behaviour and attendance easy for teachers, students and their parents. The initiative, which is called 'Class Charts', has now gone live.

There are a number of benefits to Class Charts. Students can monitor their own progress and reward points, which helps to increase motivation, and they can also keep track of homework issued and hand-in dates.

By downloading the Class Charts app, this information is easily accessible to parents too, alongside behaviour points

with individual teacher comments, attendance records and lunch time and after school detentions or catch up sessions.

Since going live, parents have been accessing Class Charts on a regular basis and we have received very positive feedback, particularly from members of our Parents' Forum group.



Extending provision for Nurture Groups

Our Nurture Group initiative, launched three years ago, has proved to be extremely successful. Students make noticeable and sustained improvement in our small-group learning environments, so now we are extending our provision to include Year 9s.

Originally, the initiative was launched to offer small-group learning to new Year 7 students who needed additional support for academic or social reasons. The group work with one teacher who helps to ease the transition from primary to secondary school by teaching all subjects in one classroom and organising a range of activities to help build self-esteem, teamworking skills and confidence.

The first group made rapid progress across all subjects and, as a result, we decided to extend our provision into Year 8. Now, with the opening of our bespoke Nurture Center building, 'The Pavilion', we can continue to offer this fantastic level of tailored support into Year 9.

We are now working closely with a range of partners to extend the curriculum offer in Years 10 and 11. Exciting meetings have already taken place with a variety of partners, including leaders from the Local Authority and Bishop Auckland College, to present proposals and to gain support for the development of an Alternative Provision offer.

Current plans would have students attending King James for part of the week in order to complete their core subjects, and spending their other days pursuing a variety of practical vocational subjects with support from our local College. This would provide excellent support for students who are keen to pursue practical post-16

options and, for this reason, significant careers support would also be provided to ensure that their transition is as smooth as possible.

If this project is confirmed for September 2019, then we will also build an additional classroom as a base for students taking part in this programme. The site for this classroom would be adjacent to The Pavilion, and the scheme would build upon the good work we are doing to support vulnerable students in Key Stage 3.

ON THE COVER

As part of our Nurture Provision, Year 7 students are visited every Friday morning by Amber, the Hungarian Vizsla Therapy Dog, pictured on our front cover.

For many of the class Amber's visit is the highlight of the school week. Students take turns to read stories to her, which not only improves their literacy skills but also helps to build their confidence. We have already seen an improvement in reading levels, especially among those pupils who were previously reluctant to read.





Members of our Year 8 Nurture Group pictured here at the official opening.

Official opening of THE PAVILION

Our Chair of Governors, Mrs Elizabeth Varley, has officially opened our fantastic new Nurture Centre building, which we have named *The Pavilion*. Our Headteacher, Mr Grieveson, Academy Governors, and some of our Nurture Group students joined her at the opening ceremony.

The Nurture Group initiative was launched at King James three years ago and we have since celebrated the excellent progress of each group in all areas of school life, from improved ability in their subjects to confidence in participating in a range of social activities. As a result of this success, we received funding to develop our provision further, and our new contemporary building has been part-funded by Durham County Council and the DfE.

The Pavilion will provide a bespoke learning environment for Nurture Group students in Years 7 and 8. There will be a focus on small-group learning

and targeted booster sessions in core subjects to improve achievement, alongside a range of activities to help build team-working and self-confidence. The building houses three large classrooms with open views over our playing fields, self-contained bathroom and kitchen facilities and a spacious entrance room which doubles as a quiet reading area.

"King James is constantly developing new initiatives to improve standards and learning opportunities for young people in our area," said Mrs Varley. *"I am proud to be a Governor at such a forward thinking school, and one which focuses on ensuring*

every student achieves their full potential. The Pavilion is an outstanding facility and one which I am sure will inspire our children."

Mr Grieveson said, *"This 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."*

"Over the past three years, we have witnessed the difference our Nurture Programme can make to pupils; now, we will be able to develop our provision even further."



COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Students, Lawrence, Antonia and Samantha have all received one of our 'Community Champion' awards for their excellent contribution to our Year 6 Open Evening event in September. The three students were nominated by staff.

Over 750 visitors joined us this year to view our facilities and take part in a range of fun activities in all departments. Thankfully, an army of student volunteers were on hand throughout the evening to assist in classrooms, answer questions and to offer guided tours around the school.

Following the event, we received excellent feedback from both our staff and members of the public on the positive attitude shown by our young people on the night. Visitors commended students on their friendliness, manners and desire to help; and many feedback forms stated that students had been a credit to the Academy.

We were delighted to hear our students praised in this way and invited nominations for three awards from our staff. The winners were Year 7 student, Lawrence, who made quite an impression greeting visitors as they entered King James and taking families on guided tours; Year 11 student, Antonia, who worked tirelessly in the Music Department; and Sixth Former, Samantha, who helped to create and supervise the fascinating activities in Science.

We would like to congratulate our winners and offer our thanks to all of our volunteers who helped to make the event such a roaring success.

Helping students plan for a Successful Future

Students in all year groups have recently attended our annual Careers Fair, which was supported once again by a wide variety of local businesses, national organisations, colleges and universities.

The event was an excellent way to help students begin thinking about what career they might like to pursue and to ensure that they have the right information to make appropriate subject choices to be able to reach their goal.

Students were able to speak to representatives from a diverse selection of industries about job opportunities within the sector and entry requirements. They also benefitted from practical advice from employers in terms of how to make themselves stand out from other applicants in a competitive job market, such as embracing opportunities to gain work experience or volunteering in the community.

This year, more colleges and universities took part in the event than ever before and our students were surprised to learn about the wide variety of specialist courses on offer. Many said afterwards that it had helped to give them a sense of direction and to feel more motivated.

Year 13 student, Ben Lineham had been considering a career in the forces for a while but was not entirely sure it was right for him until he attended the Careers Fair. *"I visited a number of stands at the event,"* he said, *"but once I had spoken to the representative from the Royal Navy, I knew that it was what I wanted to do. I went home that very night and applied online to become a Royal Navy Engineer; now I feel really focused."*

We would like to thank the following organisations for their support: The Army, UTC South Durham, Akzonobel, GSK, Darlington College, Ask Project, ICAEW, Sunderland University, Price Waterhouse Cooper, Leeds Beckett University, Durham University, Hydram Engineering, Northern School of Art, East Durham College, Huddersfield University, Northumbria University, Bishop Auckland College, Newcastle University, ITEC, Haden-Collier, National Citizen Service, BL Hairdressing, SW Durham Training, Teesside University, Civil Service, Cummins Engines, PPG Aerospace, New College Durham, Health Education England (NHS), Royal Navy/Royal Marines.



Photograph by Logan Ladd, Year 12



Photography at the event by Logan Ladd, Year 12



Rocket design with local primary pupils



Last term, we were joined in school by around 80 local primary school pupils in Years 5 and 6 for an exciting three-part STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) Challenge.

Five years ago, we made a commitment to driving forward STEM subjects, and since then we have organised a host of inspiring activities, special events and challenges for students in all year groups, and taken part in a number of competitions at both a regional and national level with great success.

We are delighted to announce that we have now received over £5,000 of funding through the *Engineering Education Grant Scheme (EEGS)*. This organisation provides support for UK based educational projects that increase engineering knowledge in young people. The funding will help to support some of the innovative ideas that

we have for STEM projects throughout this academic year, which will benefit not only King James students, but also primary pupils from schools in our local area, including the STEM Rocket Project.

This fun primary school project, which was designed and organised by our STEM Co-ordinators, Miss Ford and Miss Lennon, challenges pupils to develop their skills in engineering by designing and building a rocket that can travel to Mars.

The first part of the challenge saw visiting pupils working in groups to come up with ideas for an effective rocket. First they needed to work on a concept for how

they could protect it from the heat during the gruelling journey to Mars, then they considered the aerodynamics of the rocket before solving the problem of how they would survive on Mars once they actually arrived.

Students, assisted and guided by eight of our Sixth Form students, then designed their rocket using their findings and the results were launched to see which team had created the best one based on style, insulation and height.

Activities such as these are an excellent way for us to share our facilities, resources and the specialist knowledge of our Teachers with schools in our local community. It was clear that pupils had thoroughly enjoyed the event and had benefitted greatly from the experience overall. Two further follow-up events are scheduled for this month.

ROMEO AND JULIET COMING SOON TO KING JAMES



Each year at King James, we are proud to host the exciting Primary Shakespeare Festival event, which brings together pupils from various primary schools in one performance of a Shakespeare classic. This year, students will perform an interpretation of *Romeo and Juliet*.

The project introduces young people and members of our community to the fantastic works of Shakespeare. Eleven primary schools in total will join forces with Year 7 students at King James to perform in front of community audiences over two days, with audience numbers expected to reach around 300 people!

Each school will soon be allocated a scene from the play by Barbara Gentes, Shakespeare Consultant and Teacher; they will then be able to work with their teachers in school to cast each part, create props and costumes and rehearse for their part in the show on festival day. We look forward to seeing the performance in March.

Work experience at Hydram Engineering Ltd

Year 11 students, Amber Dent and Melissa Littlewood have recently enjoyed the day at *Hydram Engineering Ltd* in Ferryhill. 

The girls were able to get hands on with a laser cutting machine to make components for Hitachi, and a CNC punching machine to make parts for a bus. They also followed the processes of panel bending and folding, fabrication, painting and assembly.

MUSIC INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE AT GARAGE STUDIO FOR RPI MEMBERS

Last term, 16 members of our *Rock and Pop Institute (RPI)*, who are in Years 9-11, visited the *Garage Studio* in South Shields to experience recording and filming in a professional setting.

The group of aspiring musicians from *King James, Parkside, Bishop Barrington* and *Wolsingham* secondary schools, who all attend the weekly *Rock and Pop Institute* sessions at King James, were able to participate in a professional recording session using state-of-the-art recording equipment.

Students had already formed bands as part of their RPI sessions and rehearsed pieces prior to the visit; each band then recorded their track and also made a music video, which ensured that individuals gained a broad overview of the industry and were able to experience different aspects of performing.



100% ATTENDANCE

To begin 2019, we have been celebrating our students with a 100% attendance record.



Studies have shown that school attendance is directly linked to academic achievement, so to show our appreciation to our most resilient students, we have presented certificates to those in all year groups who have achieved 100% attendance since the beginning of the academic year in September.

This is just one of our new initiatives to reward good attendance. Well done and thank you to everyone.

BISHOP'S GOT TALENT!

As part of their BTEC Music coursework, Year 11 students have recently organised and hosted a *Bishop's Got Talent* event at King James.



Young musicians from four different schools took part in the competition, performing a wide range of music genres in front of a large audience and a panel of judges, which included Mr Grieseson, our Head Teacher.

Students Elliot Sugden and Antonia Cummings were excellent hosts on the night and the event was a huge success thanks to the efforts of the extensive team who worked hard behind the scenes to promote the event, set up the stage, sell tickets and organise sound and lighting.

The winner was Ryan Lofthouse from *Parkside School*, who stunned the crowd with his amazing vocal performance. Ryan is also a member of our *Rock and Pop Institute*.

Exploring the BEGINNING OF LIFE

A group of 31 GCSE Religious Studies students in Years 10 and 11 have visited the Centre for Life in Newcastle to take part in a thought-provoking workshop, which considered the point at which life truly begins.

The group first attended a premature babies workshop, where they explored their understanding of foetal development and the beginning of life. Students were asked to consider a number of questions including at which stage they determined life had truly begun; was it at conception, birth or quickening? When does the baby have the potential to become who it may be? How does our understanding of the primitive stages of human development affect how we treat the unborn?

Students then played the role of Hospital Ethicist, using their knowledge of the quality of life, and the value of life, to make complex decisions about patient care. Throughout the workshop, students were encouraged to debate their personal

opinions and consider how their new knowledge may have challenged their previous views. For many, the experience provided them with a whole new perspective on the value of life and a greater respect for preserving it.

The group also enjoyed the experience of the Planetarium to further their understanding of the development of the universe and when, how, who or what created it? Students considered the views of Science alongside religious belief in reaching their own conclusions.

It was a fantastic day of learning for our young people, finished off with a chance to demonstrate their ice skating skills to Christmas music on the rink outside.



Diversity within Faith

All of our Year 7 students have been visiting local churches to compare the diversity within faith traditions.

The experience has allowed our students to understand that 'faith' is not one-size-fits-all. We have had the opportunity to speak to an Evangelical Pastor, Church of England Reverend and members of both denominations to explore some of life's biggest questions.

Students considered, 'Who or what is God?'; 'How did the universe begin?'; 'If God is benevolent, then why is there so much suffering?'; 'Whose responsibility is it to make the world a better place?'; and 'How can a Christian believe in both the Bible and science?'

Holocaust Education Trust LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ



Accompanied by Mrs Cross, Director of Learning for Religious Studies, two of our A'Level students have recently flown to Poland to take part in a one-day visit to Berkenau and Auschwitz One camps to learn more about the Holocaust.

Year 13 students, Ashleigh Smith and Mathew Hope, who are both studying Religion, Philosophy & Ethics, took part in seminars before and after the event to look at ways that we can learn from history to ensure that events such as the Shoa will never happen again. The trip, which was organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust was designed to help young people learn more about the impact of the Holocaust and how it was ever able to happen in the first place.

Both camps offer an emotional insight into the suffering experienced by victims of the Holocaust and the experience gained by students inspired our "Next Steps Programme" where we supported Durham County Council with a contribution of Art, Dance performances and the Porrajmos display at Bishop Auckland Town Hall in a Free Holocaust Memorial Day Service.

This first-time service provided an opportunity for the local community to remember the Holocaust and hear a Holocaust Survivor talk about their personal experience.

COMING SOON!

As we look forward to the Spring and Summer months, we are also looking forward to an exciting new catering outlet which will soon be coming to King James thanks to funding from the National Lottery.



The project, which will offer an additional outlet for hot food at lunch time, will be brought to life in the form of a stylish wooden cabin, similar in design to our brand new Pavilion building. The menu is set to be an exciting blend of both traditional british favourites such as hot beef and pulled pork sandwiches and a selection of european-inspired wraps, pasta dishes and salads.

Led by Director of Learning for Food Technology, Mrs Lamb, the project will mainly be run by a team of Sixth Form students who are all studying a Level 3 Professional Cookery course at King James. Not only will it give students the chance to develop practical catering and serving skills, but it will also allow them to understand the business side of running a catering establishment in terms of hygiene, food storage, stock taking, profit margins and supply and demand.

Emily, one of the catering students who will be directly involved in the project said, "It will be exciting to be able to apply the skills I have developed in my cooking lessons to a real-life situation. Preparing and serving large quantities of food will be a challenge, but it will be rewarding if students enjoy the meals we prepare."

Article written by Year 12 student, Kyle Blood

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



In memory of those killed and wounded in conflict, and along with millions of people across the world, we held a special Remembrance Service to mark 100 years since Armistice Day.

As is customary at King James, the service was held on Friday 9th November to allow all of our students to take part. Special guests, staff and student representatives gathered around our own War Memorial for a poignant service in which the sound of the last post echoed around the Academy grounds, and the entire school joined in a two-minute silence at 11.00am to mark the end of World War I on November 11th 1918.

Wreaths and poppies were laid by special guests including our Chair of Governors, Mrs Elizabeth Varley, Vice Chair, Mr George Campbell and Warrant Officer, John Bolam, who joined us from 8 Rifles Bishop Auckland alongside a number of student representatives.

This year, three of our students in Years 9 and 10, who are all members of the 2505 Bishop Auckland Air Cadets and The Rifles, stood proudly in uniform to pay their respects to the men and women who have inspired them, and to represent the next generation of military personnel who will serve their country.

Coming soon...



Plans are well underway for our annual Prize Evening, which celebrates the talent and achievement of our students across all year groups.

This year, the event will be held on Wednesday 13th February from 6pm - 8pm. Alongside the presentations of certificates and trophies, guests can look forward to live entertainment from our Music Department.



Aim Higher in LIVERPOOL

Last term, 12 of our Year 11 students attended a residential visit to Liverpool as part of our *Aim Higher* programme.

The programme sees groups of students travel to a variety of UK cities to visit Universities and experience student life at a much higher level. This taste of independence and the opportunity to find out about the degree courses on offer is extremely inspiring for our students.

On this particular trip, the group visited the *Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA)* which is famous for the quality of its higher education in Drama and Performing Arts. Students enjoyed a tour of the campus to view the University facilities, and also took part in an applied theatre workshop, pictured here.

The group also visited the *Liverpool Museum* and had the opportunity to explore a little of the bustling city centre, which may become home should they choose to study there.



A COMEDY OF ERRORS!

A group of 10 students in Year 7 have recently taken to the stage in a special performance of Shakespeare's play, 'A Comedy of Errors'. The annual event, which is organised by our English Department in partnership with the *Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC)*, is designed to promote a love for English Literature and to bring the work of Britain's most famous playwright to life.



Prior to the main performance, students worked with their Teacher, Miss Owens, and representatives from the RSC, in workshops to help them interpret the text and prepare a scene for two performances in school. Over 300 primary school pupils from our local area enjoyed the first matinee performance, and in the evening our Academy was open to members of the public and the families of those who took part. Our students were outstanding and thanks to the event, Shakespeare reached over 450 people that might otherwise not get to see such performances.

The RSC are currently touring around the UK working with several schools on this project and we were very lucky to be able to host them at King James. To show our appreciation and demonstrate the skills of our students in all areas, two of our Sixth Form Professional Cookery students prepared an excellent pre-performance meal for both our RSC visitors and all of the participants. With the help of Mrs Lamb, Year 12 students Kyle and Jamie designed an impressive menu, which catered successfully for a number of special dietary requirements and allergies.

STUDYING THE HISTORY OF CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Year 10 History students have visited the Police, Prison and Workhouse Museums in Ripon as part of the Crime and Punishment element of their GCSE course.

Students are learning about law and order through the ages and the trip to the museums allowed them to study 18th and 19th century topics in particular. As part of the visit, the group of 52 students took part in 'real-life' historical trial scenarios, experienced some of the punishment methods which have been used throughout the ages, and discovered what life was like for the poorest of people in society who were forced into the workhouses.

This form of learning through experience is highly effective as it really brings the subject to life for our young people and makes them more interested. This, in turn leads to a deeper understanding of topics and more sophisticated answers in the final exam.

PROFESSIONAL COOKERY

Our Level 3 Professional Cookery course is going from strength to strength since its launch in September.

Most recently, students have been developing their knowledge and skills in the art of Patisserie, producing a variety of designer sweet treats including profiteroles. Those pictured left, which combine chocolate and coconut, were prepared and photographed by Year 12 student, Kyle Blood who intends to study a Degree in Food Science following his time at King James Sixth Form.

As well as developing practical skills in cooking and presentation, students develop skills in all aspects of the catering industry as part of the course. Units of study cover nutrition for health, allergies and dietary requirements, menu design, food hygiene, kitchen management and even budgeting to ensure profit.



Art and Photography in Barcelona



Last term, Year 11- 13 Art and Photography students enjoyed a five day cultural visit to Barcelona where they were in awe of the beautiful architecture, vibrant culture and the many sightseeing opportunities.

The group enjoyed visits to a range of Barcelona's most famous tourist attractions including Gaudi's stunning *Sagrada Familia* and *Parc Guell*, both of which offered unrivalled opportunities to experiment with architectural photography. They also gathered some wonderful photographs for their portfolio and sampled some of the local cuisine at *La Boqueria* food market and *Las Ramblas*.

No visit to Barcelona would be complete without a trip to Barcelona Cathedral and the Gothic Quarter, and of course some leisure time at the beach. Many members of the group were quick to cite one of their highlights as being the visit to *Bunker*

Guinardo, pictured above, where they were able to capture some amazing panoramic views of the whole city.

Each evening, the group ate out at a variety of local restaurants to allow them to taste authentic tapas and other traditional Spanish dishes. They all embraced the experience and many even managed to develop their foreign language skills with the help of our Spanish specialist, Mr Grey.

In addition to this, three students attended the Champions League football match between Barcelona and PSV Eindhoven at *Camp Nou*. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to watch a game at Barcelona's

home stadium, which is the third biggest football stadium in the world.

The match got off to a great start as Messi scored the first goal in the thirty first minute, and after half time, Dembele scored Barcelona's second goal in the seventy fourth minute. Messi then went on to score two more goals, taking Barcelona to a 4-0 victory and earning himself a hat trick. For two of the students this was their first time attending a football match and the opportunity to do this in such a world famous stadium made it extra special. After the game had finished the students were able to look around the stadium and were amazed by the immense size.

Our staff are currently researching options for a trip in September and students are excited to discover where this will be. Details will be revealed as soon as possible.

Written by Year 12 student, Eve Wilson

MOST WANTED



Coming soon... new

Next month, A' Level and GCSE Photography students will be developing techniques in landscape photography on an educational trip to the Durham Dales.

The group will visit a number of locations during the day, including the dramatic waterfall, High Force in Forest-in-Teesdale, which is one of the area's most famous beauty spots.

The trip will give students the opportunity to gather a wide range of creative material for their coursework portfolio. Once back at King James, they will also be able to edit their photographs using some of the photo manipulation techniques that they have been studying as part of their course.

This is just one of the many educational trips which are organised by the department to give students the chance to explore all genres of photography, from still life and portraiture to fine art and documentary.

Sixth Form Photography & Media get Spooky in York

Sixth Form students have recently enjoyed a trip to the historic city of York as part of their A' Level Photography and Media courses.

The group travelled by train to York, and on arrival they completed a fun 'selfie' photography challenge, which involved navigating the city to take photographs at a number of the city's most famous landmarks. This was a great way to explore the city walls, cobbled streets and well-preserved architecture, and in the process, Photography students were able to gather valuable material for their creative portfolio.

After lunch, the group visited the York Dungeon for a scary but fun experience where they learned about the gory life of the Torturer, the Plague Doctor and the Executioner. They also heard about the Gunpowder Plot and even experienced the dock in the Courtroom setting where a number of our students were found guilty of offences from disobeying instructions to talking too much! It was a whirlwind trip to this beautiful city, but it certainly made an impression on a number of participants who now hope to study at one of York's Universities.

Destination Malta for Media and Photography

This year, in September, Sixth Form students in Media Studies and Photography will be travelling to Malta for a unique cultural experience.

In previous years, students have enjoyed unforgettable experiences to both Barcelona and Venice, but Malta is a new destination which offers a host of opportunities to experience a different culture. Students can look forward to superb architecture and natural landscapes, and a host of historic sites and Maltese traditions.



Media students get tips from LA Film Producer

Jamie Margolin, a freelance film producer and cinematographer from Los Angeles has recently visited King James. He participated in a Q&A session with Sixth Form Media students as part of their Level 3 BTEC Creative Media course.

All of the students were intrigued by Jamie's personal journey into the competitive film industry; with a passion for film he started as an intern and worked hard to develop and improve his skills, and learn from others along the way. Now he is an established producer. Jamie has worked on a selection of TV series and movies, including a documentary series called 'After the Raves', which is currently available on Netflix.

Jamie agreed to visit the Academy following a recent film shoot on the Isle of Eigg, which is a remote island off the west coast of Scotland. He was working there filming for an American TV show called 'Islands Without Cars'.

During the session Jamie described both the advantages and disadvantages of working in the film industry, whilst also

giving the students insightful tips on how to work around a budget, the importance of lighting and camera work, how to use props and costumes to their advantage and much more. Year 13 students are currently working on a fictional film unit as part of their course so Jamie's advice will certainly help to make sure their productions reach their maximum potential.

Year 12 student, Logan said: *"The interview has helped me to gain a much better understanding of the film industry. Jamie was really honest about the benefits of working in the sector, as well as the struggles you're likely to face as you try to get established. I learned some great tips about camera work and lighting techniques which I'll definitely use. It was very inspiring."*

Article written by Kyle Blood, Year 12

Movie makers of the future...

Year 13 Media students have been making movies as part of their current unit of study, entitled Fictional Film Production, which gives students the opportunity to develop skills in all aspects of film-making.

As you would expect, they undertake all of the more obvious tasks such as developing a plot, writing a script, casting actors, sourcing costumes and locations, creating props and shooting footage. However, students must also work through the crucial planning process and submit risk assessments, budget sheets, consent forms and booking forms, whilst ensuring that they comply with any regulations. This

helps to ensure that the production runs smoothly and gives them a realistic insight into the complex but exciting film-making industry.

The group have developed some highly creative concepts, although it is interesting that horror and psychological thriller have turned out to be the genres of choice. Plots range from the chilling story of a modern-

MEDIA 'GO!' new

This term, Year 12 Media students have launched a Tuck Shop in our Sixth Form Common Room as part of their new Media GO! enterprise project.

The project gives students the opportunity to build up funds which will subsidise an international Media trip in early 2020. This will make sure that the trip is affordable and therefore open to everyone, regardless of their household income.

By working and sharing in the profits of the Tuck Shop each day, students can see their personal savings account grow whilst developing valuable skills in mental maths, handling cash, stocktaking and balancing expenditure and income. We would like to thank the Rotary Club of Bishop Auckland, whose donation of £50 allowed the group to buy the initial stock to launch the shop.

BBC Academy Workshop

Sixth Formers have recently taken part in the BBC Academy's Digital Cities event, which was held at Teesside University.

Students in Years 12 and 13 were able to explore the University campus and discuss higher education options with staff and students before enjoying a seminar and practical workshop in creating special effects for film. This was particularly relevant to those who are considering studying a Media related degree course as they were able to see and experience some of the facilities that they would be able to access should they choose to apply to Teesside.



day serial killer who uses social networking and online dating sites to lure his victims to their untimely death, to the ghostly tale of the school caretaker who continues to walk the halls of Middle school, just like he did in 1860!

Memories of Christmas



'RTS' CHRISTMAS SHOW a resounding success!

Each year, hundreds of local primary school pupils and members of our local community look forward to the RTS Christmas Show at King James. They anticipate a show full of humour, music and dance, and the production this year did not disappoint.

This year's show featured around 200 young performances who are all members of the RTS youth theatre group at King James. The original script, *'The Fall of Huwayne DeHardio and the PickSix Five'* was written by our Drama Teacher, Mr Murgatroyd.

Around 600 primary pupils from schools in our local area were the first to enjoy the show for free in two matinee performances in our Main Hall. A further 600 members of our local community then visited the Academy for one of the three evening performances; funds gained from ticket sales will support future RTS activities.

THINKING OF OTHERS

Fundraising is an important part of Academy life at King James and activities take place throughout the year to support a wide variety of both national and local charities. Since September, we have raised £631.34 for Macmillan Cancer Support, Children in Need and the West Auckland Food Bank.



DRESSING FESTIVE!

To raise funds for West Auckland Food Bank at Christmas, our students and staff made a donation to add a festive item to their uniform for the day.

Across the Academy, we saw an array of Christmas jumpers, t-shirts, scarfs, ties, hats, waistcoats and earrings, but there were also some more unusual items including light-up festive headbands and Year 9 student, Adam Hughes in a Santa-patterned two-piece suit and matching tie! (Pictured bottom right.)



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Once again, our fantastic catering staff, pictured here, have excelled themselves by preparing Christmas lunch for hundreds of our students and staff.

With all the trimmings and a choice of two puddings, we all sat down to a wonderful Christmas feast served by the kitchen team in an array of festive outfits. Each year, our school looks forward to this special day as for many, it symbolises the beginning of the festive season.

REWARD TRIP FOR THE HOLIDAY

On the last full day of school, students were able to enjoy a variety of activities.

Around 500 students chose to take part in a trip to the Metro Centre where some enjoyed a day of shopping and others opted for a visit to the cinema. Those who stayed behind were able to watch a variety of Christmas movies in classrooms throughout the school, and in the Sixth Form Common Room, students enjoyed a buffet and Christmas quiz with the Sixth Form Team.

REWARD TRIP TO SEE SLEEPING BEAUTY



A group of 15 students in Years 7-10 have been rewarded for their positive attitude and hard work with a trip to Bishop Auckland Town Hall to see *Sleeping Beauty*.

Students were specially selected by their teachers to attend the production for a variety of reasons; some had demonstrated excellent resilience in overcoming obstacles and some had made outstanding progress in their school work, but all were commended and thanked for the effort which they put into their lessons every day.

The show, which was presented by Talegate Theatre Company, saw the traditional story of *Sleeping Beauty* brought to life on stage with Prince Valentine defeating the evil fairy, Malevola to wake *Sleeping Beauty* with a kiss.

The fun-filled show was packed with songs, slapstick humour and opportunities for audience participation, alongside the fairytale atmosphere you would expect from a Christmas pantomime. Students enjoyed the afternoon enormously and they even had the opportunity to meet the cast afterwards.

PARENTS JOIN STUDENTS FOR CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

In our Nurture Centre, students enjoyed a special event where they were joined by their families for a morning of Christmas art and crafts.

With festive music, mince pies and hot chocolate, the atmosphere was truly festive and families played a variety of festive games and worked together on a number of creative projects including making personalised Christmas cards and tree decorations.

The session also gave students the opportunity to give their parents a guided tour of their new learning environment, *The Pavilion*, and to show them the excellent work that they had been doing in lessons throughout the Autumn term.

This was not the first time that our parents have joined us in school. Miss Reynolds, our Nurture Group Co-ordinator, organises regular opportunities for parents to get involved in their child's education, and we have found that students thrive on the chance to play host.

In addition to this session, the Nurture Group also sold cakes and biscuits at break and lunch time, and organised a Christmas hamper which was raffled to raise funds for charity.





Diary Dates

Feb 7	Harry Potter Book Night
Feb 13	Academy Prize Evening
Feb 15	Academy closes for Half Term 1 week
Feb 28	Year 9 Options Evening
March 7	Year 8 Parents' Evening
March 8	World Book Day
March 13	Author visit - Sophie Anderson
March 21	World Poetry Day
March 21 & 22	Primary Shakespeare Festival 2 days
Mar 28	Years 12 & 13 Parents' Evening
April 8	Academy closes for Easter 2 weeks
April 25	Year 12 trip to Teesside Uni
April 29	Outward Bound trip departs
May 6	Academy closed - Bank Holiday
May 9	Year 10 Parents' Evening



Events coming up in THE LIBRARY

Harry Potter Book Night

A group of 20 students will be celebrating the popular series of Harry Potter books with a special event organised by some of our Year 10 students. Participants will share opinions on their favourite scenes and characters and the Year 10 organisers have arranged food, games and quizzes for everyone's enjoyment. This event has taken place every year at King James but we are sure it is destined to be even more magical as students take ownership of the event planning.



World Book Day

Next month, we will be celebrating *World Book Day* with themed assemblies and events taking place across the whole school. Students will also be given £1.00 book tokens to redeem on a variety of books available on the day. Our theme this year will be around Sophie Anderson's book, *The House with Chicken Legs*.



Visit from Author, Sophie Anderson

Author, Sophie Anderson will be visiting us to work with students in Years 7 and 8. Firstly, she will be delivering a presentation in the Main Hall where she will discuss her book and techniques for successful writing, then selected students will be able to take part in a workshop to help develop their own creative writing skills. Personally signed copies of Sophie's book will also be available to purchase for £5.00.



World Poetry Day

In March, we will take part in *World Poetry Day* by celebrating our favourite poems and poets with assemblies for each year group with a focus on performance poetry and how poems are read with expression. We will also be using famous poems around school to inspire our students.



Helping students to succeed with HALF TERM REVISION

We offer a host of opportunities at King James for students in Years 11 and 13 to access additional support as GCSE and A' Level exams approach.

This February half term, a number of departments are offering revision sessions and opportunities to perfect coursework. Students are encouraged to attend wherever possible to ensure that they have the best possible chance to excel at this crucial stage in their education.

In addition to this, many departments offer lunch time sessions for Year 11s where students can access small-group or one-to-one support. This works alongside our flexible intervention sessions, which are tailored to the needs of individual students, and our weekly Night School which runs from 2.45pm until 4.30pm every Friday.

We will also be organising a comprehensive revision programme for the Easter holidays. Students will be provided with a timetable for both in plenty of time, as will parents and carers.

Sixth Formers also benefit from intervention sessions twice weekly, plus tutorials with subject teachers during free periods and after school.

Sixth Form recruiting now for September 2019

Applications are now welcomed from students who are interested in joining us in September 2019. Contact our Sixth Form Mentor, John Middleton on 01388 603 388 or email j.middleton@kj1a.com to discuss your options or arrange a visit.



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.