

VISION

Issue 33: Autumn Term 2019



King James I Academy magazine



New year, new developments and New Starters



Inside: Transition Summer School, Exam Results, Body Positivity Assemblies, Sports Day, Challenge Espana Trip, Media Festival, Art at the Baltic, Sixth Form News and much more.

Welcome from the Head



Well done to our Year 11 and Sixth Form students for achieving such positive outcomes in the Summer and good luck to all of the new and existing students who will be joining us in September.

At a time of such national political uncertainty, it is great to be able to represent such a positive and outward-facing North-East school, one which stands as a beacon of hope epitomised by the positive outlook of its students and staff.

I recently had the privilege of working with a group of our students during the *Challenge España* expedition and was energised by their motivation, enthusiasm and intellect. Somehow we all managed to walk over 50 miles during the week! They inspired confidence and pride in equal measure and proved that the journey is certainly as important as the destination.

Once again Vision magazine highlights our many successes whilst also providing an insight into the opportunities that we feel help to shape our students' journeys.

As we begin another exciting year I look forward to experiencing and sharing the many facets of the learning journey at King James and to the opportunity to continue learning alongside our students and staff. Our many and varied experiences will help to support and to prepare us for certain success and we will continue to celebrate achievements throughout the year and within our next '2020 Vision' magazine.

Nick Grievson, Head Teacher

TRANSITION

We have a hugely successful Transition Programme here at King James and this ensures that the move from primary to secondary school is easy for our new starters.

The majority of new students will have already visited King James whilst in Years 5 and 6, but many will have also taken part in one of our many Primary Outreach activities in their earlier primary school years. Each year we work with the *Royal Shakespeare Company* to host the Primary Shakespeare Festival and throughout the year, primary pupils visit us to take part in a wide range of projects themed around Literacy, Enterprise, Art, Drama, Dance and Music. This year, our Outreach Programme will also feature exciting opportunities to learn about local history in partnership with *The Heritage Action Zone* and *The Daily Mile* sports challenge.

Students joining us in Year 7 benefit from a proven Transition Programme which ensures that they feel confident about attending King James from day one. They attend weekly taster days in school in June and July to make sure they know what to expect from lessons and are familiar with the layout of our buildings, followed by a fun Summer School during the holiday which helps to build confidence and independence.

YEAR 5 CURRICULUM WEEK

This year, around 500 primary school pupils from 15 different schools in our local area visited King James for Year 5 Curriculum Week.

Pupils took part in a wide range of exciting taster sessions including a Forensic Investigation activity in Science and the much-loved 'Freeze Frame' activity in Drama. They were able to order and sample French food from the menu in 'KJ Cafe Francais', learned to play guitar in Music, produced some fantastic work in

Art and designed their own dragon in our Library. Sports and team building games were on the menu in PE and 'Camp USA' and students also made healthy pizzas and fruit kebabs in Food Technology. They also enjoyed creative sessions in Geography, Maths, English, Computing and History! We hope they enjoyed their visit.



MADE EASY



SUMMER SCHOOL ADVENTURES

Forging friendships and building confidence

Over 80 of our new starters joined us at our Transition Summer School this year. Following two days in school, 61 students then enjoyed a free, three-day adventure holiday at *Winmarleigh Hall Adventure Centre* in Lancashire.

With a programme of fun activities and challenges designed and organised by our experienced Transition Team, days in school focused on team building to help establish new friendships and build self-confidence. By problem solving as a team and completing various challenges students learned that working together and supporting each other is the way to achieve 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 *Winmarleigh Hall Adventure Centre*. This residential centre offered the chance for students to experience a range of outdoor pursuits that they had never tried before in a safe environment designed for large groups of young people. Activities were chosen to both thrill and challenge our new starters; they were able to try Canoeing, Zip Wire, High Ropes and

Raft Building and it was inspiring to see their confidence grow as they proved to themselves that they can achieve anything with a little courage and determination.

For many, this was also the first time that they had stayed overnight without their parents and so they returned to King James feeling more independent and confident in their ability to cope with new challenges.

Our Transition Summer School is designed to promote independence and help students make plenty of friends. As a result they are well prepared for secondary school life.

Mr Raitt, Transition Summer School Co-ordinator

Coming soon...
**YEAR 6 OPEN
EVENING**

Join us from 6.00pm - 8.00pm on Wednesday 25th September 2019!

Take a tour of our Academy, join in a variety of taster sessions and meet our Senior Leadership Team, Teachers and students.

**SEPT
25**



Celebrating excellent EXAM RESULTS

Well done to our students for achieving another fantastic set of results in Summer 2019.

For Sixth Formers, the results have helped 100% of students who applied for places at a range of prestigious Universities, to move on to their University of choice. As well as congratulating students moving into Higher Education we would also like to pass on our good wishes to the many students who are continuing their studies with us or who are moving into the world of work, into employment and apprenticeships.

Our notable successes include Ailsa Gardner, who achieved A grades in Sociology and Art and a B grade in Geography; she will be

progressing to Leeds University to study a Degree in Fashion Marketing. Ashleigh Smith will also be moving to Leeds University to study Theology and Religious Studies and, following Brooke Connor's success, she will be moving to Durham to study Law.

Shelley Edwards, who achieved a Distinction Star in Performing Arts and an A grade in Photography will be moving to Edge Hill University to study Dance; and Adam Maybury, who achieved B grades in Psychology and Sociology as well as C grades in Chemistry and Biology, will be going to

Durham to pursue his interest in Psychology. Kennedy Aldsworth will be pursuing her passion at the University of Law in Leeds having achieved three B grades and one C grade across a range of subjects.

Bethany Lewis-Burrows is going to study Theatre and Events Management at the prestigious Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts following Distinction grades in Music and Media Studies. Ben Thompson will be pursuing his interest in Computing at Northumbria University having achieved success in Core Mathematics, Computing and Business.

James Wanless and Lewis Wright came to King James from a neighbouring school to complete their Sixth Form studies and have both gained excellent results in Core Mathematics, Media, Computing and History.

Three of our elite Football Academy members, Joshua Hay, Lewis Rigg and Louis Edmunds are moving to Leeds Beckett University to study Sports Coaching and Physiotherapy having gained Distinction grades on their Sports course; and Jack Wilson is going to study Aeronautical Engineering at Salford University.

Chloe Johnstone gained Distinction grades in Animal Management, Business Studies and Health & Social Care; she is now moving into an apprenticeship. Teegan Knighton also gained three Distinction grades in BTEC Business and Health & Social Care, and Distinction grades were also achieved by Bethany Brown in Performing Arts and Business studies. We wish them well in their new roles in employment.

We celebrated further success on GCSE Results Day and would like to congratulate our students for all of the hard work they invested in their studies. Yet again, students achieved a Grade 4 or higher (Grade C+) across a range of subjects.



Many students achieved a grade higher than their target across their chosen subjects; these include Rebecca Howarth, Mike Dodds, Jessica Baronowski, Antonia Cummings, Lia Banks, Neve Mills, Tegan Gwynn, Rebecca Collier, Sam Hobbs, Eleanor Ridley, Ruth Walton, Marshal Wood and Amy Keith.

We must also acknowledge the success of a particular group of students who all achieved an average Grade 7 (A grade) or higher across



JUNIOR ROCK SCHOOL

Year 7 students have been treated to a live music performance courtesy of our Junior Rock School members.

Following the success of the Rock and Pop Institute at King James, our Music Department decided to expand upon the idea with a club for younger musicians. The Junior Rock School, which takes place each Tuesday, is open to all Key Stage 3 pupils with an interest in playing music and performing with others.

The performance, in front of around 170 Year 7s, was a celebration of all that has been achieved throughout the year and the culmination of much rehearsal time. The audience enjoyed versions of 'Castle on the Hill' and 'Shotgun' from the five-piece rock band, The Elementals, and heard 'Faded' from our instrumental duo, Amelia and Abby.

We would like to congratulate our young musicians; not only did they demonstrate their musical talent but they also showed great courage in performing in front of such a large audience.

MRS GALAXY UK

Promoting positive body image

Last term we welcomed Kayleigh Atkinson, Mrs Galaxy UK 2019, to our Academy to deliver motivational assemblies on body positivity. In a world where young people are increasingly under pressure to look a certain way, her message was particularly powerful.

Kayleigh entered the UK Galaxy Pageant to show young people that they do not have to conform to media stereotypes to succeed; despite being considered a plus-size lady, she still claimed the Mrs Galaxy title.

As a fully qualified Paediatric Nurse and Mental Health Nurse, Kayleigh has seen first-hand the negative impact that attempting to conform to an unrealistic body image can have upon young people. She said, "The increasing pressure from social media and TV to be 'perfect' is affecting both the physical and mental health of our young people and we have got to stop it."

Students heard about Kayleigh's personal experience with her weight and the idea that being slim was the key to happiness; however, after dieting to lose over five stones she realised that this was not the case. "After my weight



loss I was surprised to find that I still wasn't truly happy," she said. "I realised then that I needed to look beyond my appearance and love myself for being a good person. Each Sunday, I deliver food to homeless people in Newcastle and I have recently travelled to Morocco to donate clothing and toiletries to orphans. Helping young people in my local area feel more positive about their body and recognise their value in the world regardless of how they look is also extremely rewarding."

"I want to show everyone that we are not defined by our outer shell but by the good things we do to help others and the part we play in creating a better society. If we can teach our young people to be kind to themselves and each other, and to seek fulfilment from positive acts, we will have a much happier and healthier generation for the future."

DIARY DATE...

Join us for our Year 11 Parents' Evening from 5.00pm-7.00pm on Thursday 7th November to discuss your child's progress.



COMING SOON... CAREERS FAIR

We are looking forward to our annual Careers Fair which is set to take place on Thursday 17th October. Students in all year groups will be able to collect information and talk to representatives from a diverse range of local employers, national organisations and universities.



CELEBRATING IN STYLE at the Year 11 Prom

Last term, Year 11 students celebrated the end of exams at a glamorous Prom event, which was held at Wynyard Hall.

The event allowed both students and Academy staff the opportunity to share memories of their time at King James, whilst enjoying top quality food, live music followed by a disco, and the presentation of the much-anticipated Prom Awards. A photo-booth with a variety of fun props, run by Sixth Form students, was also organised to complement the official photographer who was on hand to capture more formal memories.

"I would like to congratulate all of our students on their excellent results. They have worked extremely hard and have been rewarded for their efforts."

Mr Grieveson, Head Teacher



Challenge España!

In the last week of term, twelve specially selected students in Years 10 and 11 enjoyed a unique trip to Spain, which allowed them to experience the spectacular sights, cuisine and culture of both Madrid and Barcelona.

The six-day 'Challenge Espana' experience was designed as a reward trip for twelve students who had demonstrated an excellent attitude to their studies and showed a high level of commitment to maintaining outstanding behaviour and attendance throughout the academic year.

Six Year 10 students and six Year 11s were selected to attend the exciting trip, which involved stays in two of the most beautiful cities in the world. The trip was unique in that students experienced the sights and culture of each city by completing a series of organised challenges issued to them each morning by our Headteacher, Mr Grieveson.

Prior to departure, the group was divided into four teams of three, and although each was accompanied by a member of staff, students took full control of solving clues and earning points for their team. This allowed them to build team working skills, self-confidence and independence. In addition to this, each team was given a budget of €100 per day for food and travel expenses; this offered an opportunity to develop skills in effective money management and mental maths.

Main image: Part of the group pictured here at the Palacio Real de Madrid.

The group first travelled to Liverpool for an overnight stay before their early morning flight. In Madrid, they travelled via the *Madrid Metro*, which was a challenging but valuable life experience in itself, and visited the *Plaza de Toros de Las Ventas* and the *Plaza Mayor*, the main public square which dates back to the 15th century. For one of the challenges, teams made their way to the *Palacio Real de Madrid*, the official residence of the Spanish Royal family and the *Bernabau Football Stadium*; they also enjoyed a Spanish picnic and fun boat race in the beautiful *Retiro Park*, which is home to the *Palacio de Cristal*. Students also enjoyed a meal at the *Hard Rock Café*.

After three days in Madrid, the group travelled to Barcelona on the *AVE* high-speed train, which travelled at 205mph and completed the 310-mile journey in just 2 hours 30 minutes! This was an excellent way to see the diverse Spanish landscape in air-conditioned comfort.

In Barcelona, students were able to spend time relaxing on the beach and visit some of the most famous sights including *La Sagrada Familia*, the *Arco de Triunfo*, the *Olympic Stadium* and the superb *Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya*. They also rode the *Teleférico de Barcelona* cable car, which offers spectacular views of the city.

Overall it was an amazing experience for all involved and one which will have a positive impact for other students as we begin the next academic year.

COMING SOON...

Those who participated in *Challenge Espana* will now share their experience by organising and leading a series of 'mini-challenge' events in our local area and further afield in the UK, for students in younger year groups.



BEST FINANCIAL PLAN AWARD for Year 8 Future Business Magnates Team

A team of seven Year 8 students have received an independent award for Best Financial Plan and claimed 4th place overall in *Business Durham's* long-standing *Future Business Magnates* competition 2019. The team competed against 17 other schools.



This year, the competition theme was 'Made in County Durham, Sold to the World', focusing on exporting. Led by Business Studies Teacher, Miss Thornton and partnered by *EBAC Limited*, the team developed an ingenious portable breastfeeding product called '*Mamma and Me... Comforting Arms*'. The students, Leah Binks, Erin Haley, Yoyo Chen, Amy Vickers, Lilly Robson, Phoebe Robson and Alex McTeamen, completed six challenges throughout the year and produced four detailed reports about the success of running a business. The girls thoroughly enjoyed celebrating in style at the glittering Awards dinner, which was held at Newton Aycliffe's *Xcel Centre*.

MEDICAL MAVERICKS



Around 80 Health & Social Care students in Years 9, 10 and 12 have recently taken part in an exciting taster session with the *Medical Mavericks*.

This mobile educational organization visits schools to deliver taster sessions that allow students to try out a variety of medical procedures such as checking reflexes and taking blood pressure. They also get the opportunity to take blood from the ingenious 'fake arm' equipment, pictured here, and try out keyhole surgery simulation.

Our students were fascinated by the procedures and by the presentation and Q&A session that followed on the variety of careers in the Health sector. Many of the students already had an interest in the profession and had opted into Health & Social Care as a result of this, however many commented afterwards that the session had reinforced their ambitions to enter the sector.

WIN AT GALA THEATRE for King James Rock Band

In June, three bands from the *King James Rock and Pop Institute* performed at a sold-out music competition at the *Gala Theatre* in Durham.

The event was organised by the *Durham Music Service* and many acts from across the county were competing for the top prize, which was a chance to play at *The Sage Gateshead* music showcase in Hall One and a trip to a professional recording studio. After a great night full of excellent performances from all the bands that entered, the King James band '*Manifested Hope*' were crowned the winners on the night.

It seems fitting that when the Rock and Pop Institute launched two years ago, all the bands took a trip to *The Sage* to watch a classic rock show. Who would have thought that they would be performing on that very stage at the end of this great project! Well done to all the bands that took part.



DRAWING ON DREAMS

Working with The Auckland Project

Local artist Alison Curry, from *Dispel-Art* has visited King James to deliver a creative workshop entitled 'Drawing on Dreams' to our new Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

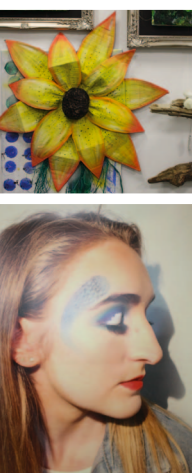
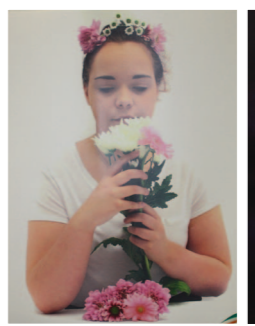
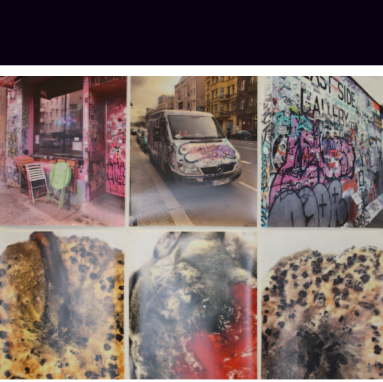
The scheme, which was delivered by *The Auckland Project* was designed to ask the people who live and work in Bishop Auckland how they would like to shape our town's next artistic commission for an artist to lead the Big Draw programme in October.

The group of students are all currently training as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and this will be ongoing throughout the year. This training is supported by The Diana Award, which is in turn supported by HRH the Duke of Cambridge.

During the session, participants created a 'dream jar' and took part in discussions of how art is part of everybody's lives. A dream jar is a simple glass jar decorated to reflect your personality and your ideas. Some students even placed significant

words and ideas, which emerged during the discussions, into their jar. At the final creative session, the decorated jars were illuminated and viewed in all their magical glory. All then formed part of a 'Dream Cave' exhibition within No.42 Market Place.

Alison said, "It was a great pleasure to deliver one of these sessions to students at King James. We discussed the possibility of creativity being a tool for helping them to spread their anti-bullying message and students immersed themselves in the task with great enthusiasm and energy. This is a testament to the skills of the staff, who led by example working alongside the students. Students were polite, kind and supportive of each other during the session so I'm sure they will all be excellent role models in their new roles as Anti-bullying Ambassadors."



Art & Photography

This year, our creative students have excelled themselves, producing an outstanding exhibition of artwork in both Art and Photography.

The King James Art Exhibition 2019 included work from our superb artists in Years 11 and 13 who presented GCSE and A' Level coursework and exam outcomes produced over the last two years of study. Students looked into themes such as culture, natural forms, identity, messages, the elements, textures and writing, with pieces embracing a host of media. The exhibition allowed fellow students and family to appreciate and be inspired by what our young people have achieved and the excellent grades they are now celebrating as a result of their hard work and creative talent.

ART DESIGN CREATIVITY

CREATIVE TEXTILES

at the BALTIC Contemporary Centre for Art

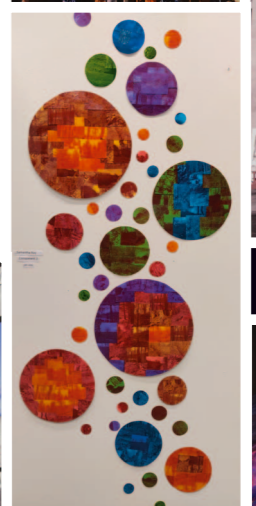
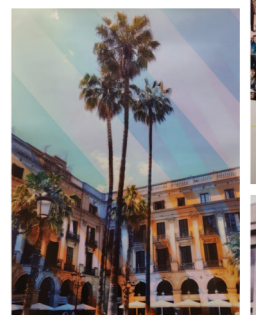
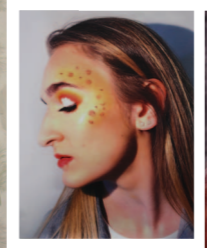
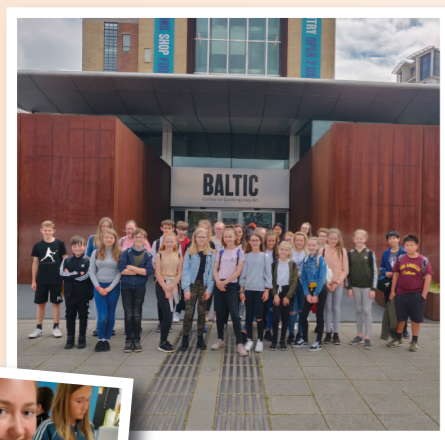
As a reward for their excellent attitude, behaviour and effort in Art lessons throughout the year, 28 students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have visited the *BALTIC Contemporary Centre for Art* to take part in a creative workshop.

Students enjoyed a creative textile workshop with the acclaimed artist Helen Pailing, in which they learned a wide range of techniques to create artistic pieces with textures and shapes inspired by corals found under the sea. Helen, who is currently a PhD Researcher at the *National Glass Centre* and Project Director for *VARC* (Visual Arts in Rural Communities), has been a freelance artist at the *BALTIC* for almost five years.

The group used materials such as hessian, wool and pipe cleaners combined with more unusual items such as plastic straws and discarded camera film. By taking part in this workshop students were

able to experience the world of textiles in a new format and develop new creative skills that they can continue at home using readily-available household materials.

After the workshop students were able to explore the gallery and view the stunning artwork of Nigerian artist, Ifeoma U. Anyaeji, who makes distinctive sculptures and installations from discarded bottles and non-biodegradable plastic bags. Students were inspired by her use of non-conventional materials to create intricately woven structures using techniques of basketry and fabric weaving. The exhibition gave them lots of ideas for incorporating recycled waste products into their own creative work.





Sunderland University MEDIA FESTIVAL

Media students have recently attended the annual Media Festival at *Sunderland University*. The festival gives young people an insight into the various modules available as part of a Media-related degree course.

The day began with a thought-provoking lecture and debate on representation of heroes in the media with *Dr Who* and *James Bond* used as case studies. Students considered the use of stereotypes, how both productions have changed through the decades and if attitudes towards female characters as heroes have changed at all. This was followed by a Q&A session via *Skype* with a successful *Youtuber* who explained how she had entered the industry and how she makes content to engage her audience.

Next, students touched on the world of gaming in a session which combined a mini-lecture with the opportunity to experience Virtual Reality. They learned about the definition of "immersive" gaming before experiencing *Playstation VR* as a team attempting to defuse a bomb in under three minutes! Finally, students took part in a practical workshop at *Spark*, which has radio studios and a magazine newsroom located within the university. Students were given an introduction to radio production in terms of choosing music and operating studio equipment, and they were also able to try their hand at radio presenting between tracks.

New opportunities for MOBILE FILM MAKING

This year, in response to the growing popularity of vlogging, our Media Department has invested in pro-quality equipment which will allow students to utilise their mobile phone for film making. Year 13 students will be using this equipment to produce a travel vlog in Malta this month.



GIRLS ACTIVE IN WIMBLEDON

The 2019 'Girls Active' group, which consists of selected girls in Years 10 and 12 had an excellent time at Wimbledon this year.



The trip to Wimbledon is organised each year as a reward for identified students in Key Stage 4 and 5 who have made a significant contribution to promoting female participation in PE and Sport at King James; team members are selected each year by Mrs O' Connor and Miss Short.

The group travelled to the capital by train and were extremely fortunate in their ticket allocation at Wimbledon, as they were able to see the animated 5-set match between Kyrgios and Thompson on Court 1 followed by Federer vs Harris in a 4-set match on Centre Court. The girls also saw Serena Williams vs Gattton Monticone.

THE SWISS ROLL CHALLENGE!



Year 9 Food Technology students have been taking part in Mrs Lamb's 'Swiss Roll Challenge'. In this fun activity, they have just one hour to make and decorate a swiss roll without adult assistance.

Students work in pairs for the challenge, which helps to build excellent team working and problem solving skills. They are provided with a basic recipe and ingredients, but after that they must use their own initiative and cooking skills to create a successful end result with cakes judged on taste and presentation.

The session was great fun but it was also an opportunity to develop independence as teams had to find their own ways to overcome a number of issues, such as how to cool their cake quickly to allow chocolate to set within the time period, or prevent their cream topping from melting instantly!

A celebration of PE & SPORT

Our annual Academy Sports Day was an outstanding demonstration of determination and sportsmanship as young athletes in all year groups competed in a variety of track events from sprints to relays.

Following the field events, which had taken place the day before, only 13 points lay between first and second place in the competition for the House Trophy. As usual, these points were to be added to those awarded on Sports Day in the track events, which meant that the battle for victory was set to be fierce.

On the day, as per King James' tradition, our staff and students turned out in force with colour-coded face paint, flags and banners to support both their House and their peers. We saw excellent performances from our young athletes but at the end of a wonderful event, the mighty Hatfield managed to clinch the title ahead of Skirlaw by just one point.

Of course the day would not have been complete without the much-anticipated staff races; staff took part with enthusiasm in a sprint relay and a hilarious egg and spoon relay race, which involved a considerable amount of cheating! Students were both surprised and impressed at the sporting ability and competitive spirit of their Teachers.

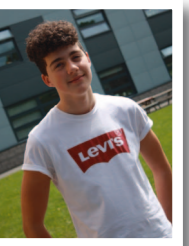
The winner of the Key Stage 3 Interhouse competition was also determined on Sports Day. Throughout the year, students take part in competitive basketball, football and netball tournaments for their house, and points from these are added to those achieved on Sports Day. The winning house for 2019 was Skirlaw.



Photographs by Logan Ladd, Year 13.

TRAMPOLINE CHAMPION

Year 13 student, Leon Davies, will soon be competing in a major Trampoline Championship following success in the recent qualifier.



With an outstanding performance in the Over 17s Mens' category, Leon claimed first place in the English Qualifiers, which was held in Telford in May. The win was all the more impressive as he competed against athletes with many more years experience to secure the top position. Leon will now compete in the English Championships final in Sheffield this month. We wish him the very best of luck.

Coming soon... AMSTERDAM!

In May, 41 students in Years 7 and 8 will travel to Amsterdam for a six-day Football themed trip with our PE Department. This hugely popular annual trip includes opportunities to train with *Ajax Academy* coaches and play with Dutch youngsters, alongside chances to explore the sights and experience local cuisine and culture.



MUAY THAI BOXING

Year 8 student, Tom Brown has had a fantastic Thai Boxing season in 2019 and looks set for further success as he moves up to a higher level.



Tom recently took part in his first International event in Cyprus and returned victorious. He also won the *K1 Kickboxing WTKA UK Open Championship* in Barnsley, a British Title belt in Manchester, retained the *Birmingham British Open Championship* belt and has been ranked no.3 by the *British Kick Boxing Council* for his weight category.



LOCAL BUSINESSES supporting our students

Our Business Studies Department works hard to make sure that students have the very best learning experience; this means enlisting the help of local businesses.

We are extremely grateful to those organisations who have already supported us by completing questionnaires or visiting us as practitioners for Q&A sessions. In the past year, students have worked with the Barber Bar, pictured above, which recently opened its second shop on South Church Road, Honey Bee, Cre8ive Graphics and Venture Properties. Sixth Form students have also enjoyed work experience in a wide range of roles with Arlington Automotive, Certax Accounting and Hunters Estate Agency.

We are now looking to increase our database of businesses and freelancers that would be willing to help us shape the future of our young people. As part of the BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise, students in Years 10 and 11 benefit from investigating real businesses and conducting interviews

either in person or via email if this is more convenient for the owner or their representative.

Sixth Formers must undertake 40 hours of unpaid work experience to complete their Level 3 qualification and we are always on the look out for new placements. These hours can be completely flexible to suit the employer; students can attend for a full week or on a weekly basis if this is more convenient. Whatever your business, and whatever the level of support you can offer, we would be delighted to hear from you. You could be involved in person, by post, email or even via occasional or one-off video link, and you can be assured that our students are always fully supervised. If you would like to help please email k.lobb@kj1a.com or k.thornton@kj1a.com.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES at Durham Cathedral



Students in RE have enjoyed a tour of the glorious Cathedral looking at the history of the church sociologically, politically and historically.



The group then had a Q&A session with Canon Hampel of Durham Cathedral who fascinated them on the problem of evil, the death penalty, abortion, heaven and hell, and legitimacy of biblical scripture. Finally, students who wanted to were able to observe and partake in the Eucharist service that commemorates the last supper and the significance of the sacrifice of Jesus within the Christian faith. This is the theological foundations that students need to be successful in exams.

It was a fantastic opportunity for students to appreciate the personification of religious concepts that they have studied, whilst immersing themselves in the rich culture and history of the building itself.



NEW STUDENT LEADERS

As the new year begins we would like to introduce you to our newly-appointed student leaders.

Our Year 11 Head Boy and Head Girl for the next academic year will be Adam Hughes and Freya Dhima, centre. They will be supported in their duties by their appointed deputies, Shaun Catchpole and Kiera Wise.

MATHS COMPETITION SUCCESS for King James Mathematicians

Throughout the year our young mathematicians compete on an individual and team basis in a number of Maths competitions and challenges with great success. This gives them the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and passion for the subject.

In the prestigious UKMT Junior Maths Challenge competition 2019, pupils in Years 7 and 8 at King James, pictured right, achieved one Gold, three Silver, and five Bronze awards. Over 270,000 pupils from across the UK sat the Junior Maths Challenge with roughly the top 6% receiving a Gold certificate, the next 13% Silver and the next 21% Bronze.

Year 8 student Anthony won Best in School and Best in Year as well as the Gold certificate. His younger brother, Isaac won a Silver as well as Best in Year for Year 7. Other winners included Nathan and Amy with Silver certificates and Katie, Freddie, Kieran, Lachlann and Christian with Bronze.

In the Durham Secondary Maths Challenge 2019, which was held at Wellfield School,



our team of Key Stage 4 Mathematicians also performed well. The team, consisting of Year 11 students, Adam Hughes and Lucas Stewart, and Nathan Dunn and Charli Elliott from Year 10 completed a variety of challenges including a poster competition, entitled 'Maths and Art', a Speed Contest, Group Round, a Maths games challenge, known as the 'Swiss Contest', and a Relay.

Sixteen teams from across County Durham entered the competition with King James I Academy gaining second place in the Speed Contest, and coming third overall.



Our way of saying THANK YOU

Our school is full of students who give 100% every day and we believe in acknowledging this.

At the end of the academic year, we held reward events in our library for students in Years 7-9 who had achieved the highest number of points in Class Charts. These students work hard in lessons, have excellent attendance, get involved in events with enthusiasm, are respectful to everyone and have a positive attitude at all times. They are an inspiration to staff and students alike, and we believe in recognising the contribution they make to King James. Students received certificates and enjoyed luxury hot chocolate and cookies. Our Year 8 Award winners are pictured above with Mr Grieveson and Mrs Aitkin.

NURTURE GROUP Summer Garden Party

Nurture Group students and their families have recently enjoyed a garden party complete with afternoon tea, traditional games and an Awards Ceremony.

Awards were presented for achievement, effort and progress in academic subjects throughout the year, alongside those for reaching personal goals. There were even some humorous awards to reflect the fun times experienced by the Nurture Group and their Teachers. Students took part in a range of creative activities and fun games such as Hula Hoops, Higher or Lower, Hook a Duck and Loop the Bottle.



K ALUMNI

Meet our former students

BETH DIXON

Beth left King James I Academy Sixth Form in 2011, and after living and working in both the USA and Australia, she has returned to her hometown and her old school as a member of staff. Here she talks about her experiences as a student and global traveller.



"When I completed my A-Levels at King James I decided that I wanted to gain some experience in a working environment before going to University. I was fortunate enough to earn a placement in the Drama and Performing Arts Department at King James; this allowed me to build confidence in my ability as a leader and fully develop my communication and team working skills."

"I then attended the University of Sunderland and graduated in 2015 with a BA First Class Hons in Dance before spending an exciting six months in 2016 living and working in Vermont, USA. I was employed as a Childrens' Counsellor at the 'Tyler Place Family Resort', leading children from 2-16 years old in a wide range of activities such as Tubing, Climbing, Water Sports, Mountain Biking, Swimming and Creative Crafts."

"I returned home for a short period of time, however in 2017 I was asked to return to Vermont with a promotion to Childrens' Programme Director. In this role I managed a team of over 40 counsellors and oversaw the planning and implementation of the activity schedule; I also worked directly with families to integrate children with special educational needs. My time working in the Drama Department at King James really prepared me for this role as it gave me the confidence to develop engaging activities and to motivate large groups."

"My desire to see the world didn't stop in the USA however; I spent 2018 working in Brisbane, Australia as an Executive Assistant for 'Aurizon', Australia's largest rail freight company. I also spent some time travelling the Great Ocean Road from Adelaide to Melbourne, stopping along the way to see the 'Twelve Apostles' and 'Grampians National Park', followed by a road trip from Brisbane to Cairns."

"I really enjoyed my time abroad but it's great to be back in the UK and especially back in my hometown. Travelling gives you a different perspective on life and the confidence to embrace every opportunity that presents itself, but it also allows you to reflect and appreciate the opportunities you have had and the people who have helped you long the way."

"In terms of the future, I am now looking to begin teacher training with a view to teaching Drama, Performing Arts or PE at secondary level. This will give me the opportunity to inspire young people in the the way that the teachers at King James inspired me."



AIM HIGHER in York and Leeds

A group of 12 Sixth Form students have recently visited York St John's and Leeds Beckett Universities as part of our 'Aim Higher' programme.

At both universities students heard from a Student Ambassador who talked openly about university life, student finance and the UCAS application process; they also took a tour of each campus and spent a little time exploring the city. The group spent the day in York but stayed overnight in Kirkstall Brewery Halls of Residence to experience the accommodation. In the evening, students had dinner at Nando's then went to the Hollywood Bowl before visiting Leeds Beckett the following day.

Year 12 Sports students also visited Leeds Beckett earlier in the month as part of our Aim Higher programme to investigate the range of sport-related degree courses on offer.



Aim Higher is designed to help students make decisions about degree courses well before the time to apply presents itself in Year 13. Our Sixth Form Team organises a calendar of visits throughout the year to a wide variety of universities across the UK including Liverpool, Manchester, Northumbria, Cumbria, Teesside and Edinburgh.

COMING SOON...

In November, Sixth Formers will be able to take part in our Aim Higher trip to Liverpool, which is home to LIPA (Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts). Places are limited so students should register their interest with a member of the Sixth Form Team.



EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

Sixth Form opportunities

There are a number of ways you can earn money as a Sixth Former at King James. Some, such as becoming a bus or coach escort, offer a wage throughout the academic year, whilst other opportunities offer employment for a specific period.

Sixth Formers are paid by the hour as mentors and guides at primary events such as Curriculum Week. Primary pupils take part in learning activities around the school in all departments to experience secondary school life and we employ a team of enthusiastic Sixth Form Guides to greet pupils when they arrive, escort groups between classrooms and make sure that their allocated school has an amazing time. This year's team did a fantastic job of making visiting children feel at home and showcasing the vibrant and friendly atmosphere that makes King James so special.

Students can also apply to become Mentors for Year 6 pupils at Induction Day events which take place during the last weeks of the Summer term, and during Summer School sessions for our new starters. We also employ Sixth Formers as bus and coach escorts on our various school transport routes to ensure that our students ride safely. Community Centre vacancies are often filled by Sixth Formers who run the Reception area and Sports facilities after 4.30pm. All Sixth Form jobs are in high demand so students must apply for these positions formally and attend an interview.



"I intend to enter the primary teaching profession so assisting at Curriculum Week was a great experience."

Kyle Blood, Year 13

INTERNATIONAL LEARNING

This month, Year 13 Media students will depart for a week-long trip to the island of Malta where they will follow in the footsteps of many professional movie producers.

Students will gather footage at some of the locations used in Game of Thrones, Gladiator, Troy, World War Z and the 1981 movie, Popeye, to name but a few. Students will script and film footage for a travel documentary, which will be edited on their return to King James as part of their BTEC Media Production course. The trip also includes many opportunities to learn about the island's history, religion and architecture, and experience Maltese cuisine and culture.

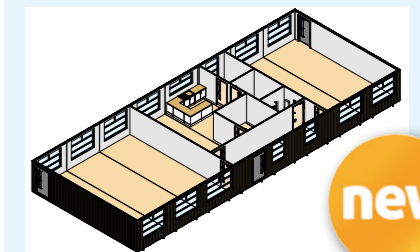
SIXTH FORM NEWS

YEAR 13 PARENTS' EVENING



Join us on Thursday 14th November for our Year 13 Parents' Evening.

From 5.00pm-7.00pm, subject Teachers will be available to discuss individual progress and offer advice on how to improve coursework, manage workload and prepare for exams.



EXPANDING OUR SIXTH FORM ZONE

Our Sixth Formers will soon benefit from a new and improved Sixth Form Common Room with areas for both studying and socialising.

The new detached building will be located adjacent to our existing Common Room, which will eventually become a bespoke centre for Sports study and home to our Sixth Form Level 3 Pro-Sport courses.

The new building, which is similar in design to our Nurture Centre Pavilion, will boast light and spacious rooms, offices for the Sixth Form Team, kitchen and toilet facilities, and excellent views over our playing fields.





Diary Dates

Sept 4	Academy re-opens
Sept 7	Media trip to Malta (1 week)
Sept 19	Chrome Book launch
Sept 25	Year 6 Open Evening
Sept 27	Macmillan Cancer Fundraiser
Oct 9	Year 8 Safety Carousel
Oct 17	Careers Fair
Oct 25	INSET Day & Half term (1 week) Academy closed to students
Nov 4	Academy re-opens
Nov 7	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Nov 14	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Nov 27	Year 10 Safety Carousel
Nov 29	<i>Aim Higher</i> trip to Liverpool
Nov 30	Festive Fair

YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 25th September 6pm-8pm



Can't make our Open Evening?

Call 01388 603388 to arrange a meeting and Academy tour.

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



HELP US SHAPE THE FUTURE

Are you interested in becoming a Parent Governor at King James?

We are always looking for enthusiastic and committed parents to join our team of Governors and help us to shape the future of King James. If you are interested, please pick up a leaflet and application form at our Main Reception or call 01388 603388 for a copy by post.



We also have an active Parents' Forum group that meets each term to discuss ideas to improve the learning experience we offer and raise the profile of King James in our community. If you would be interested in joining this group, please contact Main Reception to find out the date of the next meeting. We are particularly interested in recruiting parents and carers of our new starters.

YEAR 7 CHROMEBOOK LAUNCH

Our new Year 7s will each receive their personal Chromebook at the launch event on Thursday 19th September. This now means that all of our students in Years 7-10 will have access to computer technology at home.



We launched our Chromebook scheme for new starters in 2016 in response to the growing demand by employers across all sectors for advanced computer skills. Since the launch, all parents and carers of new starters at King James have been given the option to sign up to the scheme and gain access to a personal laptop for their child.



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