

VISION

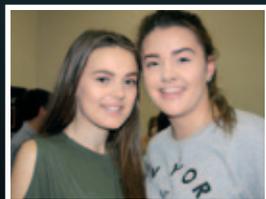
Issue 27: Autumn 2017



King James I Academy magazine



Looking forward to the New Academic Year



Inside: Exam Results, Transition Summer School, International School Award, Year 5 Curriculum Week, Stadium Sports Academy Launch, New Music Academy, Art Exhibition and much more.

Welcome from the Head



Welcome back to King James I Academy after, what I hope has been, a restful and enjoyable summer break.

During the summer we celebrated significant examination success at both GCSE and A' Level and wished well to students moving on to University, Colleges, Apprenticeships, training and employment. It is a difficult but rewarding time of the year for teachers and support staff, saying goodbye to so many fantastic young people, yet knowing that they are well educated and well prepared for the years ahead. Please keep in touch!

Of course many of our students don't want to leave. This year we will welcome back over 72% of our Year 11 students who have chosen to stay with us in our Sixth Form, joining an ever-increasing number of external applicants. We will also welcome 164 students to our new Year 7.

We look forward to a busy term ahead, and I am sure that we will not be disappointed. There will be lots more challenges and opportunities, and lots to celebrate in the editions of *Vision* we will produce this year.

Have a great year.

Best wishes.

Nick Grieveson, Headteacher

Transition made easy

Whether our young people are making the transition from Primary to Secondary School, or moving from Year 11 into Sixth Form, we make sure the transition is easy.

Many of our new starters will already have visited King James whilst in Years 5 and 6. Hundreds of primary pupils attend our annual Year 5 Curriculum Week event and we also provide a host of opportunities throughout the year for primary pupils to take part in taster sessions in an array of subjects. Other events, such as our *Primary Shakespeare Festival*, give us the opportunity to work with primary pupils on fantastic educational projects.

Students joining us in Year 7 benefit from a proven Transition Programme which ensures they are confident about attending King James from day one. The programme involves taster days in school in July to make sure they know what to expect from lessons and a fun Summer School during the holiday.

This year, in addition to this, pupils took part in a leading-edge PiXL transition programme. The 'No Wasted Weeks' programme, which supports transition from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3 in English and Mathematics, saw our new starters attend King James every Thursday, following their SATs, to take part in a variety of engaging academic and social learning activities. As a result of the programme's success, Mr Longstaff,

Assistant Headteacher has been asked to present an overview of our work at a national conference in London.

Each year, our Summer School provides two days of activities in school, followed by a free three-day adventure holiday to *Winmarleigh Hall* in Lancashire. This year, it began with a behind-the-scenes tour of *Kynren*, which gave students access to areas that are not available to the public. This was a real treat as children were able to see the complexities of the set, try on the costumes and meet some of the animals that are part of the show.

Back in school, students then took part in lots of fun activities themed around the 1980s; they discovered the music and fashion of the decade and played classic games such as *Connect 4*, *Buckaroo* and *Operation*. Other team building activities included a game of *It's A Knockout* and a creative session making Brazilian carnival floats and banners.

Finally, 70 students travelled to *Winmarleigh Hall* and together, they conquered a variety of outdoor challenges including *Zip Wire*, *Raft Building* and the *Climbing Wall*. This gave them all a network of new friends and confidence in their ability to succeed when faced with new challenges.

We are celebrating another year of superb exam results across all subjects thanks to the hard work and dedication of our students and staff.

This year, we have seen an increase in the proportion of Sixth Formers choosing academic A' Levels. Students have achieved an average B grade across a broad range of subjects from English Literature and Mathematics to Art and Business.

King James offers a tailored pathway to all of its students; one that will help them to secure a place at University, in training or in employment. Our latest graduates are about to take the next step on their career pathway, with the majority starting degree courses this month at Universities including Durham, Newcastle, York and Leeds, as well as others further afield. They will be studying a diverse range of subjects from academic degrees in Mathematics, Biopharmaceutical Science and History to specialist degrees in subjects such as Nursing, Sports Coaching and Events Management.

Notable successes this year included Beth Henderson, front left, who achieved an A* average across four A' Levels in English Literature, Art, Performing Arts and Drama. Beth, who will be attending *Durham University* in September, was also successful in securing funding via the prestigious *Robert Young Scholarship*.

Ryan Baker, pictured rear, will also be starting *Durham University* to study a Degree in Mathematics having gained excellent grades in Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics.

Thomas McLean, front right, achieved an average A grade across A' Levels in Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Geography. He will be starting a Degree in Chemical Engineering at *Newcastle University*.

Holly Hare, front centre, achieved an average A grade across her four A' Levels in English Literature, Art, Performing Arts and Drama. She will be working at King James until January when she then departs for Brazil!

Callum Hodgson, who achieved an average A grade in Art, Photography and Applied Science will be pursuing Media at *Sunderland University*; and Abbey Chester, who excelled in Psychology, Sociology, Applied Science and Geography, will start a Degree in Forensic Science at *Northumbria University*.

We would like to thank our students and parents for their continued hard work and support, and wish our leavers every success.



Hard work returns superb Exam Results



Excellent GCSE Results

Our students are, once again, celebrating significant achievements following receipt of their GCSE results. 50% of our Year 11 students have achieved 8 or more A*-C grades, with students achieving over 140 A+ grades, or higher, across their chosen subjects.

It is worth noting that, in the following subjects, 100% of the students achieved an A* to C grade (or equivalent): Art, Photography, Religious Studies, Spanish, Business, Health & Social Care, Sport, Travel & Tourism, Food & Cookery and Creative Studies (Music). As well as this, we have seen major improvements in the percentage of students achieving good grades in History, Computing and Geography. Students in Science have also been recognised for their dedication with 95% in Biology and 90% in Physics achieving good grades.

Students in English and Mathematics have completed the new style GCSE and will be the first to receive the new 9 to 1 grades. Overall it has been a good year and a year in which we have celebrated significant gains across a diverse range of subjects.

Particularly impressive results were achieved this year by Kennedy Aldsworth, Euan Elliott and Shelley Edwards who all received top grades in both English and Mathematics.

International School Award recognises our commitment to

Global Education

King James I Academy has been awarded the *British Council's* prestigious *International School Award* in recognition of our work to bring the world into the classroom.



The 'International School Award' celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. It recognises the benefits of providing young people with opportunities to gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for living and working in today's global society. We do this in different ways, from organising trips to a variety of international destinations to welcoming international visitors into our school community. Past trips have included Jamaica, Ghana, Disneyland Paris, USA, Norway, Belgium and Barcelona but these are our most recent international initiatives which focus on learning outside of the classroom.

Photography in Venice



This month our Art and Photography students will be travelling to Venice for the department's annual international study trip. Last year, students visited Barcelona.



A-Level and GCSE students will be spending four days in the city sketching and photographing some of the 100 islands and the Renaissance and Gothic palaces of the Grand Canal thoroughfare. They will also be developing techniques in photographing architecture and visiting some of the many art galleries and the famous *Murano Glass Factory*. The trip will give our students the opportunity to expand upon their creative portfolio whilst experiencing Italian culture in one of the most beautiful and unique cities in the world.

We are Brazilliant!

This month we are looking forward to welcoming a group of young people from Brazil to King James as part of our *Brazilliant* Project. The group, who are all members of *BANHO*, *BATH's* partner group in Brazil, will join lessons, perform alongside our students, and share their wonderful culture with our community.



The *Brazilliant* project unites our students with children and young people in Brazil through the power of Drama and Dance. It builds cultural understanding and encourages global friendship through annual group trips, exchange visits and long-term individual work placements, alongside communication via social networking and video links.

As the project enters its third year, plans are already underway for the fourth life-changing visit to Brazil for students in Years 10-13. During the Easter holiday, the group will teach Drama and Dance to primary school children and perform alongside members of *BANHO* in various community venues. They will also experience the beauty of the country and the inspiring positivity that defines Brazilian culture.

For our students who are unable to travel abroad, our *BANHO* visitors and exchange students on work placement really help to bring Brazil to Bishop Auckland. They ensure that everyone is given the opportunity to learn about Brazilian culture first hand.

In January, thanks to the *Brazilliant* Project, two of our recently-graduated Sixth Form students will be travelling to Brazil to live and work. Niamh Elliott and Holly Hare will be spending six months with our *BANHO* friends working in local schools.



Studying Tourism in Madrid

In July, a group of Year 10 Travel and Tourism students travelled to Madrid for an exciting trip which focused upon the impact of tourism on the economy.

During the three-day trip, the group experienced sightseeing on the *Teleferico*, narrated cable cars which travel above the city transporting millions of tourists each year. They also enjoyed the thrill of the roller coasters at the *Warner Bros Theme Park*, visited the *Bernabeu Stadium*, the home of *Real Madrid* and experienced the vibrant Spanish culture and cuisine.

Coming up ...

Volunteering in Thailand

In July 2018, a team of Year 13 students and staff will be taking part in our first trip to Thailand as part of the *International Volunteers Programme*.



The three-week long trip will involve working with local schools in Phuket alongside opportunities to spend free time exploring the beautiful island and experiencing Thai culture. Volunteering trips such as these offer an excellent opportunity to build personal resilience, independence and a variety of life skills, but they are also a valuable asset to any CV, respected by both Universities and employers alike. The trip has attracted a large number of applicants and staff are currently in the process of allocating places based on student attendance, attitude and dedication to studies.

Football Tour of Holland

This academic year, sports fans will be able to attend a football-themed trip to Holland.



Planned for May 2018, the trip will involve an opportunity to take part in two football training sessions and a guided tour of the famous *Ajax Stadium*, pictured here. Students will also watch both Dutch and Amsterdam teams play friendly fixtures, providing an amazing experience overall.

Across the Sea to Ireland

During the February Half-Term holiday, around 60 students in Years 7-13 will travel to Ireland as part of their broader educational experience.



The week-long trip focuses on building confidence, independence, social skills and team working skills through a variety of organised activities and cultural experiences. Students will work with each other to take on team challenges and to develop their drama skills. The trip will include visits to local tourist attractions and to the beach and will provide the opportunity to enjoy the stunning landscapes of Ireland, alongside days out to local towns and villages to sample the very best in traditional Irish music and cuisine.

New York, New York!

We are currently in the process of organising a cross-curricular trip to New York for both GCSE and A-level students.



The diversity of New York as a city provides outstanding opportunities for learning in a variety of subjects from Business, Travel & Tourism, Geography and Religion to creative subjects such as Media, Art, Photography, Music, Drama and Performing Arts.

Adam claims a Gold Award!



Year 9 student, Adam Hughes has achieved a Gold Award in the world languages competition, *Language Perfect*.

Language Perfect is a global online competition which allows young people to log in and earn points over a 10-day period by translating vocabulary from a selection of different languages into English.

A number of students in Years 7-9 took part in the competition with excellent results, however Adam's enthusiasm for learning spanned lunch time at school and his free time at home. This level of dedication helped him to achieve the huge score needed to achieve Gold.

Adam said, "This competition has really helped to improve my French and Spanish and I feel proud to have achieved the Gold Award. I feel much more confident in my lessons now."

Fundraising for Macmillan

Once again, we will be supporting the *Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning* event, which takes place this year on Friday 29th September.



A selection of cakes will be available for students to buy during break and lunchtime in the Dining Hall and also in the Sixth Form Common Room.

Creative Media Students raise £541 for *If U Care, Share*

Media students in Years 10-13 have recently donated £541.47 to the *If U Care Share Foundation* following a department fundraising initiative.

Students wanted to do something together to support a local charity and set themselves a goal of raising £500 by July 2017. They considered various organisations before voting to support the *If U Care, Share Foundation*, which works with young people and families that have been affected by suicide.

Money was raised via a number of methods including a Christmas Message Wall, Chocolate Bouquet raffle, Coin Collection and a day-long Sponsored Silence. The recent Year 11 Leavers' Book and Leavers' DVD also helped to raise money for the

project. Designed and created by Sixth Form Media students, both products made a small profit which was added to the running total.

As well as raising money, the Team launched a whole-school Foodbank Appeal which saw 22 boxes of groceries delivered to *Woodhouse Close Foodbank*; this facility directly benefits families in our local community.



Dedicated English Teacher spends free time Teaching in Morocco



For a number of years, dedicated English Teacher, Mrs Read, pictured left, has chosen to spend part of her Summer holiday working with children in some of the poorest communities in the world. In August, accompanied by her husband Chris, she travelled to Marrakech to teach children and young people from 3-16 years of age.

For Mrs Read and her husband, who founded the UK charity *asmileforachild.org*, volunteer work abroad in the summer is very much a personal passion.

Conditions are often difficult, as the villages that they choose to visit are extremely remote and are without electricity or running water. This would be enough to deter many, however Mrs Read insists that the reward is much greater than any discomfort on their part.

This year, the couple visited orphanages and disadvantaged communities on the outskirts of Marrakech to teach basic English and French; they also distributed gifts of clothing and learning supplies such as pens and paper, which are luxury items to the children. One child who made a lasting impact on Mrs Read was seven year old Hiba, pictured right. To her great delight she was given a gift pack of new underwear; this simple treasure was the first brand new item she had ever received in her life!

The couple are now determined to return next summer to help the people in Hiba's village set up a school. First, they need to raise the much needed funds to buy learning supplies and equipment as the village has no means of financing the project independently.

Mrs Read would like to thank members of *BATH* for items donated through their Clothing Collection; items were much appreciated.



A taste of Academy life at Year 5 Curriculum Week

Around 600 local Primary school pupils joined us this year for Curriculum Week to experience taster sessions in subjects that are often only available at secondary school.

In Music, students amazed themselves by learning to play basic guitar chords in just one session, and in our Science Department, students enjoyed a variety of challenges including rocket-making in Chemistry and the hugely popular *Crime Scene Investigation*, which offered an exciting insight into the world of Forensics. In teams, pupils gathered evidence from the crime scene 'police style' and worked together to conclude what had happened.

In Drama, pupils joined one of our famous Dance classes to learn a choreographed dance routine with a Brazilian theme inspired by our exchange project; and

in Food Technology, they learned about the impact of good nutrition on health and prepared their own healthy snack pots. Pupils also got active in a variety of sports sessions including Football skills, Trampolining and Kick Boxing Training, which was great fun!

Taster sessions were also delivered in English, Maths, Creative Media, French, Business Studies, Geography, History, ICT, Photography and Art. Visitors to our Art Department created hundreds of individually designed and beautifully painted 3D flowers which will soon form a unique collaborative sculpture.

Year 6 Open Evening

Join us on Wednesday 27th September from 6.00pm - 8.00pm for our annual Open Evening.



At the event you can:

- Take a tour of our school
- Talk to staff and students
- Discover our varied curriculum
- Enjoy subject taster sessions
- Sample our lunch menu
- Learn about school transport and extra-curricular opportunities
- Meet our Student Support Team

Launch of our Stadium Sports Academy

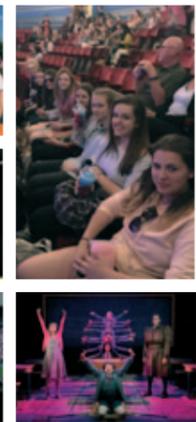
new

This month, in an exciting new partnership with *SAFC Foundation of Light* and *Bishop Juniors FC*, we are launching our brand new *Stadium Sports Academy* for Sixth Form students.

The Sports Academy offers those with a passion for sport the opportunity to gain the qualifications and experience needed for a successful career in the Sports and Leisure Industries. Not only is the course designed for students who aspire to become professional athletes, coaches, referees or teachers, but it also offers relevant qualifications and the opportunity to build specialist knowledge for those interested in Sports Psychology or Physiotherapy, and careers in Nutrition, Sports Promotion and Sports Management.

The programme combines the practical development of personal playing skills, academic study and work experience in an Extended Diploma qualification, which is equivalent to three A' Levels. This is delivered in morning classroom sessions and daily practical training in one of three routes, which will be undertaken in afternoon sessions. Students can choose to specialise in Football, Fitness or Sports Coaching and all will benefit from high quality teaching from a team who have both a passion for sport themselves and diverse experience, including a team of UEFA B qualified football coaches.

Students will also have the chance to achieve valuable additional qualifications such as Sports Coaching badges and certificates in Level 2 Gym Instruction, Exercise to Music and Circuit Training, alongside plenty of opportunities to gain working experience with local primary schools and commercial gyms.



Girls Active in Wimbledon

At the end of last term our *Girls Active* group travelled to London to experience the thrill of Court 1 at Wimbledon. The trip was organised as a reward for their positive attitude and contribution to PE lessons.

Accompanied by Director and Assistant Director of Learning for PE, Miss O'Connor and Miss Short, the group of eight students in Year 9, watched an exciting four-set match between Kei Nishikori and Serhiy Stakhovskiy. In blistering 34 degree heat Nishikori took three hours to claim victory, so not only

was it a fantastic example of professional tennis, but it was also an inspirational lesson in stamina and determination.

The trip included opportunities for sight seeing and shopping in our capital city, alongside a visit to *The Cambridge Theatre* to see the musical stage show of *Matilda*.

As part of this department initiative, which sees a new group nominated each year, the girls organised a number of fundraising activities to help support the trip. Well done to Chloe Illingworth, Chloe Box, Molly Blench, Amelia Coser, Victoria Mouatt, Lia Banks, Jasmine Walton and Emily Asbery.

Outward Bound Scholarship

Three of our students have recently returned from a 19-day *Outward Bound* experience as a result of a scholarship awarded on a recent Academy trip.

Each Spring our students have the opportunity to attend an Outward Bound residential trip to Howtown. The experience gives our young people the opportunity to build team working skills and test their own resilience by trying a variety of challenging outdoor pursuits.

Kyle Blood, Samantha Stevens and Aleena Shakir impressed Outward Bound staff so much with their positive attitude and determination that they were each awarded one of the prestigious scholarships to attend the summer holiday programme with other teenagers from across the UK. Well done to them all.

Smiling through the rain on Sports Day!

Thanks to the unpredictable English weather, our Sports Day event on the last day of term offered an additional challenge for our young athletes as they battled against the rain!

Sadly, despite valiant efforts and some excellent performances in a number of early races, we were forced to cancel the event as conditions worsened and the rain became torrential.

Points from the races which did take place were added to those gained in field and track events from the day before and the winning house this year was *Hatfield*.

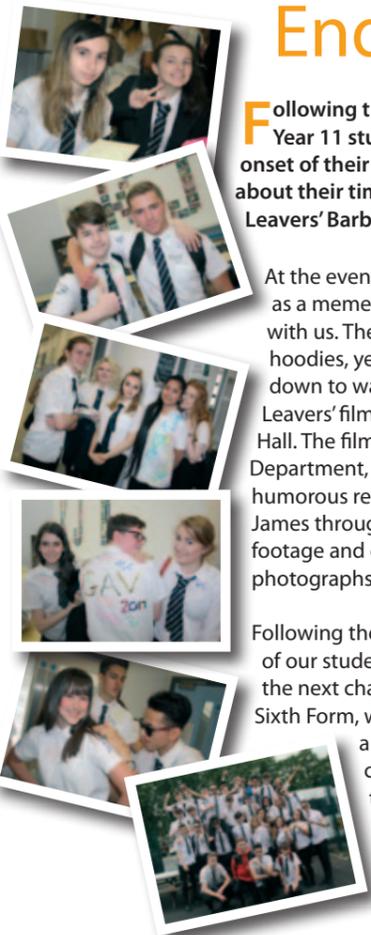
Well done to all of our athletes, student supporters and staff, all of whom continued to smile despite receiving a thorough drenching!

Looking back...

Last year our students watched professional football at Wembley and Manchester, trained at St George's Park, tried Skiing, Canoeing, Gorge Walking, Raft Building, Orienteering and Hiking, and celebrated success in a number of sports competitions including Athletics, Basketball, Table Tennis, Cross Country, Badminton and Cricket!



Leavers' Barbeque marks the End of Year 11



Following their final GCSE exam in June, our Year 11 students were able to celebrate the onset of their Summer holiday and reminisce about their time at King James at our Annual Leavers' Barbeque.

At the event, students and staff signed shirts as a memento of their uniformed years with us. They also collected their Leavers' hoodies, yearbooks and DVDs before settling down to watch the first screening of the Leavers' film on the big screen in our Main Hall. The film, which was created by the Media Department, offered both an emotional and humorous reminder of the years spent at King James through a combination of 2017 film footage and comparison of the dreaded school photographs taken in both Years 7 and 11!

Following their excellent exam results, many of our students are now embarking upon the next chapter of their education in our Sixth Form, whilst some are beginning apprenticeships or specialist college courses. We would like to thank them for all their hard work and wish them the best of luck in whatever they choose to do.

Career planning and advice at KJ Careers Fair



This month we are looking forward to our annual Careers Fair, which takes place on Thursday 28th September for students in Years 8-13.

The event will be attended by a large number of local businesses, many of whom offer excellent apprenticeship schemes, alongside representatives from both local and national organisations. Always popular with our students are the information stands for the Police, Fire Service, NHS, Royal Navy, Army and the Royal Air Force.

The Careers Fair gives students the opportunity to consider a range of careers and pathways, alongside the chance to seek advice direct from industry professionals on the skills and personal qualities needed to succeed. This can be extremely beneficial in helping our young people to define their goals and focus on achieving them.

The event also attracts representatives from a number of local and national Colleges and Universities. Students can learn about specialist college courses that are available in our area such as Beauty Therapy, Construction and Horticulture, and the wide variety of degree courses on offer at different Universities, many of which offer financial incentives to applicants from low-participation areas such as Bishop Auckland.

This event is just one of the many services offered by our dedicated Careers Department, which also offers personalised advice to all students throughout their school years.

Ellie and Alex ready to steer our new Student Leadership Party

Following a number of hard-fought election campaigns, Year 11 students Ellie Danby and Alex Philpott, pictured right, have now taken up their new roles as Head Boy and Head Girl at the helm of our Student Leadership Party.

This time, to closer represent our UK Parliamentary system, candidates for student leadership roles, who were in Year 10 at the time, were challenged to form a Party, develop a manifesto and organise an effective week-long campaign to inspire voters across all year groups.

Party speeches were then streamed live into classrooms to give candidates the opportunity to present their ideas for improving student life. Candidates put forward some excellent suggestions including opening a stationery shop, creating a variety of outdoor eating hubs and proposals for a summer uniform, all of which are currently being explored.

Ellie and Alex, who gained the majority vote, will now lead the newly-formed coalition Party for the next academic year. Assisted by members of the Leadership Party, their role will involve representing the Academy at public events throughout the year and acting as positive role models to all year groups.

Perhaps what is most important is that they will also be the first point of contact for students with special requests, concerns or new suggestions.

The team will meet regularly to discuss issues and ideas and attend monthly meetings with Mr Grieveson to communicate student views and to help drive forward new initiatives.



KING JAMES' GOT TALENT

In July, as one of our special end-of-term events, singers and musicians in all year groups entertained us by taking part in the 2017 King James Talent Show.

Organised by our Student Support staff and Music Department, the competition was open to all students and a number of acts signed up to demonstrate their talent 'X-Factor style'. Acts ranged from solo singers, keyboard players and guitarists to full bands performing a diverse selection of music from different genres.

In our Main Hall, each act performed in front of a 300-strong audience and three esteemed judges, Mr Grieveson, Mrs Dent and Mr Longstaff. All offered their personal opinion and words of encouragement before convening to discuss the merits of each and agree upon the winning act.

At the end of the show the winners were Year 7 rock band, *One Girl Too Many*, pictured here, who had the audience on their feet with their brilliant version of *Green Day's 'Boulevard of Broken Dreams'*.

Our Music Department makes sure that students have regular opportunities to organise events and perform together throughout the year. Performing live at our many Parents Evenings and student events helps them to build confidence and improve their stage presence, alongside developing technical skills such as sound engineering, effects lighting and stage management. Music students will be performing at our Year 6 Open Evening in September.

NEW Rock School!

This term, with funding from *Youth Music*, we will be launching an exciting new music school for young people in the local area.



The *Rock and Pop Institute* will provide opportunities for young people aged between 11 and 18 years old to learn to play an instrument, develop technical knowledge and improve their skills in composition, whilst performing alongside other young musicians. The Music School, which has secure funding for two years, will be able to accommodate up to 25 young musicians and it will be completely free to attend. The facility will provide an outlet for aspiring vocalists and those interested in playing acoustic and electric guitar, bass, keyboard, drums, percussion and various brass and woodwind instruments as requested.

Initially, taster sessions will be held in local secondary schools to attract potential candidates and weekly sessions will then commence at King James. The school will be run by experienced teachers who are all talented musicians themselves; many also have the added benefit of industry experience both on and off stage.



Aim Higher at Northumbria University



A group of Year 10 students have recently returned from a residential trip to Northumbria University as part of our Aim Higher initiative.

The 'Aim Higher' programme, which involves residential visits to a wide range of Universities across the UK, raises aspirations by giving our students a taste of University life through guided campus tours, course taster sessions and workshops, and overnight stays in student accommodation.

The annual trip to Northumbria University was as popular as ever; students were inspired by the range of degree courses on offer and impressed by the extensive campus facilities and the quality of student accommodation. They also commented on the vibrant atmosphere of the city which could become home for three years should they choose to study there.

As usual, Mr Shearer, Head of Sixth Form who organises the trips, made sure to incorporate some free time. This helps students to feel more independent and therefore more confident about moving away from home long before the time comes. The group also enjoyed a meal together at *Pizza Hut* and a trip to the beach, pictured above.

Aim Higher visits take place throughout the year for students in Years 9-13. Destinations include Edinburgh, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, York, Cumbria, Durham, Teesside and London.

Coming up...

University of Liverpool
Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd
November 2017
Year 11 students



Art and Photography students have excelled this year at both GCSE and A' Level. They have produced an array of creative pieces from traditional paintings to expressive costume, photographs to digital manipulations, and sculptures to large-scale 3D installations.

The strength of our Art and Photography Department is easy to see in the quality and diversity of the creative work produced year upon year. Students are encouraged to think outside of the box at all times and to look for the beauty which surrounds us every day. Their ideas often challenge people's perceptions of life and their environment, and it is this which continues to impress examiners and reward students with consistently high grades.

At the end of June, the Department held its annual Art Exhibition to showcase the work of both GCSE and A' Level students. This year, the event also displayed the work of local Primary school pupils in Years 1-6 who had all taken part in our *King James Art Challenge*. This project was organised by the department as part of our *Outreach Programme* to give children the chance to try new techniques and unusual materials.

Groups of children from ten schools in the area attended the workshops to work with our specialist staff. Working within the theme of *'The Secret Garden'*, they produced an array of artwork, which was exhibited around the Academy and in our new Art Sculpture Garden. Pieces included large canvas displays to sculptures, produced using a range of different materials including clay, wax, fabric, paint and mixed-media.

The exhibition itself was well attended and visitors showed great interest in both the finished pieces and the thought processes behind the work. Our students were able to gain valuable experience in personal presentation and improve their communication skills by talking to guests about their work; many were also successful in negotiating the sale of their artwork to investors with a keen eye for potential.

Director of Learning for the Department, Mrs Mulryan said, "The annual exhibition is an important event as it gives us the chance to show our local community how talented our students are. The positive feedback from visitors is always rewarding for our students, especially at the end of many months of hard work. We would like to thank everyone who attended for their support."

Art and Photography students on both GCSE and A' Level courses are now looking forward to their forthcoming study trip to Venice, which departs on September 29th for four days. The trip will allow them to gather useful material for their portfolio with a particular focus on architecture, landscaping and local culture. Visits to some of the many art galleries will also provide an excellent source of inspiration for their own work when they return.

SIXTH FORM LIFE

We are extremely proud of our Sixth Form provision at King James and not just because we celebrate some of the best results in the County with very positive value-added across both academic and vocational subjects.

- We have small class sizes geared to provide excellent teaching and personalised support
- Students choose from a broad range of both academic and vocational subjects
- We offer exceptional levels of support, provided by a dedicated team of pastoral staff
- 100% of Sixth Form students progressed to their University course of choice in 2017
- Our students are successfully supported in accessing HE scholarships (£10,000 for one student in 2017)
- Students receive preferential offers for University places through Partners/partnership arrangements
- We provide financial advice and individual UCAS support
- Our A' Level students achieve an average B grade
- Our students following Applied General and Technical Level qualifications achieve an average Distinction grade
- 48% of academic entries are graded A* to B

A Study of County Durham Public Health Intelligence

Our Sixth Form Health & Social Care students were recently visited by Katie Dunston-Smith of the County Durham Public Health Intelligence Team for a session on community health provision.

Students learned about how health data is used to decide which health services are required in County Durham and where they should be placed to be accessible to those who need it most.

Katie provided current data on provision relating to smoking, breast feeding and obesity; she also showed the class a really interesting visual 'bus route' of the county which displayed how the health of our local population varies from area to area.



This was extremely useful for their current coursework and students found it particularly interesting to consider why the 'healthy life expectancy' in Middleton-in-Teesdale should be so much greater than some areas around Bishop Auckland. We would like to thank Katie for her time.

A-Level Sociology students visited by the Cybercrime Police

Sixth Form Sociology students have recently enjoyed a lecture on Cybercrime with Dave Sampson from the Digital Investigations & Intelligence Team.

The topic of Cybercrime, which features in their unit of study on Crime & Deviance, is a subject for much debate and a problem which is fast growing across the world. Dave first explained the definition of Cybercrime and informed the group about how it is tracked and policed. He then went on to discuss the difficulties faced by the Intelligence Team in dealing with this relatively new type of crime. The session was highly useful for staff and students alike, creating understanding about why restriction of internet sites is needed and why people may commit cyber-attacks such as that recently experienced by the NHS.

PARTNERS Programme Success

This year, three of our Year 13 students were successful in receiving lower offers for their degree course via Newcastle University's PARTNERS Programme.

Christian Butters, Iwan McGowan and Thomas McLean all attended a Summer School where they were introduced to both academic and practical sessions relating to their planned degree course. Their ability to succeed on the course was assessed and all three impressed lecturers; as a result they received reduced offers to attend Newcastle University, which is one of the top Russell Group Universities in the UK.

Christian is now beginning his Degree in Mathematics, Iwan is studying Sociology and Thomas is studying Chemical Engineering.

NEW! Animal Management Course

This year we have launched a new BTEC qualification in Animal Management for Sixth Form students who aspire to a career working with animals.

At an organised taster session, pictured below, students were fascinated to learn about snakes first hand thanks to a visit from Ruby the Corn Snake, who belongs to subject Teacher, Mrs Wilson.



Sixth Form students taking the NEXT STEP

Each year our Sixth Formers achieve places at top Universities across the UK and 2017 has been no exception. This month, our most recent graduates are beginning a variety of degree courses in Universities as far afield as Brighton and Cumbria.

Northumbria University
Abbey Chester:
Forensic Science
Sol Plews:
Business & Tourism Management
Carl Robinson:
Sports Coaching
Leah Snowdon:
Nursing Studies

University of Cumbria
Caitlin Watson:
Nursing Studies

Cleveland College of Art & Design
Jade Patterson:
Photography

Leeds Beckett University
Lydia Hymas:
Criminology
Chloe Powell and Emily Wright:
Events Management

Liverpool University
Nathan Pilkington:
Architecture

York St John University
Sophe Bland:
Early Childhood Studies
Emma Box:
Primary Education
Charlotte Brown:
Education Studies
Robyn Edwards:
Education Studies & Sociology
Lucy Longstaff:
Education Studies
Harriet Mason, John Michael Park and Chloe Stamp:
History

University of Nottingham
Emelia Elliott:
International Media and Communications Studies

University of Worcester
Natasha Beason:
Biomedical Sciences

Newcastle University
Iwan McGowan:
Sociology
Christian Butters:
Mathematics
Thomas McLean:
Chemical Engineering
Amber Durrant:
Education Studies

University of Sunderland
Jessica Graves:
Illustration & Design
Callum Hodgson:
Photography, Video & Digital Imaging
Isla Patton:
Childhood Studies

Durham University
Ryan Baker:
Mathematics
Bethany Henderson:
English Literature

Teesside University
Sarah Brabban, Lauren Carrick and Rebecca Coleman:
Early Childhood Studies
Brydey Furness:
Policing
James Million:
Broadcast Media Production
Mary Ann Torr:
Adult Nursing
Alex Wooley:
Diagnostic Radiography

University of Kent
Poppy Lyndsell:
Graphic Design

University of Essex
Leon Metcalfe:
Drama

University of Brighton
Caitlin Wood:
Geology



Diary Dates

Sept 21	Year 7 Settling In Evening
Sept 27	Year 6 Open Evening
Sept 28	Careers Fair
Sept 29	Trip to Venice departs
Oct 10	Wise Drive event
Oct 20	INSET Day (Academy closed to students)
Oct 20	Academy closes for Half term (1 week)
Oct 30	Academy re-opens
Nov 2	<i>Aim Higher</i> in Liverpool
Nov 16	Sixth Form Open Evening
Dec 6	BATH Christmas Show begins
Dec 22	Academy closes for Christmas (2 weeks)
Jan 8	Academy re-opens

Year 6 Open Evening



6.00pm-8.00pm

Wednesday 27th September 2017

At our Open Evening events you can:

- Talk to teachers, students and support staff
- Discuss subjects, options and progression routes
- Take a tour of our buildings and sports facilities
- Find out about enrichment activities and opportunities
- Experience Academy life and take part in fun activities

Can't make it?
Contact us on 01388 603 388 to make an appointment.

Field of Dreams!

Our newly installed turfed pitches are now available for school and community use.

It has taken many years of negotiation, on our part, to finally secure the best possible playing surfaces for our students and many other users.

Many of you might wonder why the newly installed seeded pitches were torn back up. We were unhappy with the quality of the playing surface and now have fully drained, turfed playing surfaces ready for our new academic year. As well as being used for football, these pitches will also be used for a variety of other team sports and athletics.

We all look forward to making use of our excellent new facilities and to enjoying an even more significant 'home advantage'.



Sixth Form

6.00pm-8.00pm

Thursday 16th November 2017

www.kingjames1academy.com



This magazine is available in large print on request.

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