

VISION

Issue 32, Summer 2019



King James I Academy magazine

Learning at King James is a Great Adventure



Inside: Outward Bound, Mayor's Award, Safety Carousel Event, Geography Field Trip, RTS in Paris, Primary Outreach, Making Music Videos, Sixth Form News and much more.

Welcome from the Head



Welcome to our Summer Edition of *Vision*, which once again highlights the breadth of curriculum opportunities on offer to our students.

We pride ourselves on providing "learning to inspire" and this is once again evident in the variety of experiences that support learning across the Academy. From our established international work to our partnership work with local Primary Schools, from our links with the Royal Shakespeare Company to our many and varied field trips, our students learn all that life has to offer. Working at King James is exciting and engaging for students and staff alike.

As the term comes to an end, I would like to thank Dave Shearer for the years of support that he has provided to our Sixth Form students and to the Academy as a member of our Leadership Team. He has helped hundreds of students to find a place at a University of their choice and to gain employment in many exciting and varied professions. As well as leading an academically successful Sixth Form, he has also taught across a range of subject areas. I am pleased to report that Dave will continue to offer support as both an excellent teacher and as a driving force behind many applications for students hoping to take their next steps into Higher Education and the world of work. Good luck to Gail and Katie who will now support the next stage of Sixth Form development.

Have a safe and enjoyable Summer holiday, when the time comes, and we shall look forward to welcoming back our existing students and the 185 new students joining Year 7 in September.

Nick Grieveson, Head Teacher

MAYOR'S AWARDS FOR STUDENTS

Cllr Joy Allen, the Mayor of Bishop Auckland has visited King James I Academy to present three of its students with some very prestigious awards.

The presentation, which took place in our Sixth Form Common Room, was a special occasion for all involved as it was also the first official engagement as Mayor for Cllr Allen.

The *Bishop Auckland Town Council Youth Awards* recognises the achievements of young people in our local community. Awards are presented for a variety of reasons and we are delighted to share the success of our award winners.

Year 12 student, Abbi Stephenson, pictured right, was presented with the 'Academic Achievement Award' not only for excellence in her GCSE and A' Level studies but also for the success she has achieved as part of the *Social Mobility Programme 2020*. This national initiative recognises the potential of gifted and talented young people by giving them the opportunity to take part in high-level work placements.

Abbi, who is studying four A' Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Geography has been offered a work placement at the *Royal*

Victoria Infirmary (RVI) in Newcastle during the summer holidays. There she will shadow young doctors in order to gain an insight into medicine. This is a fantastic opportunity for Abbi who aspires to enter the medical profession herself.

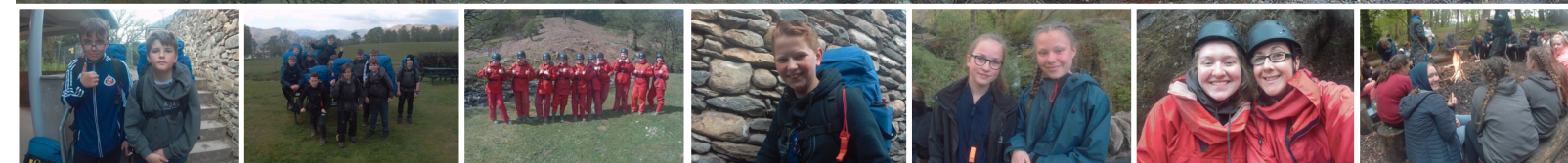


The Mayor also presented the 'Town Council Youth Award' to Year 7 students, Lilly Tinkler and Jay Mason for the excellent eco-work they do in school with Miss Stephenson, through energy conservation and recycling projects such as the 'Big Battery Hunt'.

The Mayor said, "Lilly and Jay are an inspiration to us all. They are really making a difference at King James and we need them to continue spreading the word in our local community."



OUTWARD BOUND There's an adventurer in everyone!



A group of 31 students in Years 7-12 have recently taken part in an exciting five day trip to *Ullswater Outward Bound Centre* in the Lake District.

This trip, which takes place every year in April, gives students the opportunity to take on a variety of outdoor challenges, which are all designed to build self-confidence, stamina and resilience. As this is the first time that many of the participants have stayed away from home, it is also an excellent opportunity to gain independence.

At the centre, students took part in team building activities to help them build mutual trust and to encourage them to work together throughout the trip in order to achieve the best outcome. They then took on the famous 'Jog and Dip' challenge, which involves a cross country run followed by an exhilarating jump into the freezing cold lake, an activity which certainly demands courage!

During the adventure, students also went Hill Walking and tried Gorge Walking and Cliff Diving. There was even an overnight camping expedition and, on the final evening, teams gathered around the camp fire for a fun quiz and the opportunity to share their favourite experiences from the trip overall.

The Outward Bound experience is a much-anticipated event in our Academy calendar and one which benefits all ages of students greatly in terms of building confidence. Each year participants speak with enormous pride about their personal achievements and many say that by completing the sometimes daunting physical challenges, they proved to themselves that they are capable of so much more than they ever realised.

Outward Bound is a really fantastic experience. It makes you feel more confident in everything you do.

Kyle Blood, Year 12

Celebrating NCS SILVER CHAMPION STATUS

The *National Citizen Service (NCS)* has awarded Silver Champion status to King James for our commitment to the NCS programme.

The programme takes place during the summer holidays and includes outdoor team building exercises, a university-style residential to help build life skills, the opportunity to create a community-based social action project and an end of programme celebration event.

We achieved the Silver award following our recruitment success during the 2017/18 academic year, which saw over 25% of our Year 11s sign up. Please visit our website news for the full story.



A week for RTS members IN PARIS



A group of students and leaders from our *RTS Theatre Group* have recently returned from a week-long trip to Paris. The students had been specially selected to attend the trip as a reward for their outstanding work and commitment to the group.

The group of 14 stayed in a beautiful house in Giremoutiers, which lies just outside of Paris. They spent the first day in the glorious Parisian sunshine playing a variety of team building games and choreographing some new dance routines, including one that Year 6 primary school students will be learning during the forthcoming *Believe & Achieve* visits and *Year 5 Curriculum Week*.

The following day the group visited *Disneyland Paris*, where they got to meet some of Disney's most popular characters, shop in Main Street and ride the amazing rollercoasters that Disneyland has to offer. They also explored the city centre and took advantage of a photo opportunity in front of the *Eiffel Tower* before trying some of the local delicacies, including snails, in a traditional Parisian restaurant, pictured above.

It was an incredible trip overall and one which we now hope to make an annual event. The aim for *RTS* as a group is to fundraise in order to make this trip possible for more students in 2020 and beyond. This will build upon the amazing ground work that this group have established.



DRAMATIC Arts

This year has seen an exciting display of creativity and determination by the Dramatic Arts Department. Students have produced dynamic and electrifying performances and have achieved both academically and personally.

In the first Year 12 Improvisation Performance, the intention was to have the audience decide and alter the narrative for the characters to perform. Control of what happens to the characters was completely in the hands of the audience. This was done via a dialogue within the performance, where the audience were given options to choose from, or use one of their own suggestions.

The cast prepared a montage of scenes with staging inspired by the work of the artist, Russ Mills. This colosseum-style layout provided atmosphere and context to the action.

The main intention for performance two was to educate the audience about how current social issues could escalate in the near future. The cast wanted the audience to think about their own lives and relate to issues such as power, secrets and social status. This was our chosen aim because it would encourage the audience members to realise negative aspects of their own lives and change them for the better.

The cast wanted to express a dystopian world to the audience to show what could happen in the future if society continues to act irresponsibly. Hierarchy was a recurring theme throughout the performance, due to the separation of factions and how society treats people. This was shown through communication between characters, as well as visually with the set. It was timeless but had futuristic elements, adding to the mystery.

The aim of the piece was that the audience would form their own private connections with the characters and subconsciously create their own ideals for the situation.

Year 13 Performing Arts students, Shelley Edwards, Beth Brown and Josie Potter experimented in deconstructing the theme and narrative of the musical *Ghost*. The



character of Molly was split into three roles and interpreted as the three female influences on Sam who has died; Mother, Wife and Sister. Songs were also re-worked to reveal dark undertones and themes of grief, loss and sorrow.

The performance was skillfully designed to give the audience a sense of the emotion rather than take them upon a chronological journey. The combination of acting and physical theatre allowed the cast to be creative in the interpretation, allowing dance to flow freely into creative body work, and the desired impact on the audience was one of thought and contemplation.

If the audience were already familiar with the musical, it may have contextualised some of the characters, however if they were new to the genre, it could be interpreted as a stand-alone piece with heartache, anguish and control at the centre of the performance.

Year 12 Drama students Molly Brannan, Callum Jones, Faye Hindmarch and Emma Hardy, pictured above, explored and performed *The History Boys* by Alan Bennett. They performed a creative piece which fused naturalistic theatre with the abstract nature of theatre practitioner, Boal. They were also put under immense personal pressure to perform a 2-3 minute monologue, which they completed with great flair.

This year saw some outstanding Year 11 performances from an extremely talented year group. Students were particularly dedicated and showed a real passion on stage. They were diligent and sensitive in their performances of John Godber's *Shakers*, *Bouncers* and *Teechers*, and this year we experimented with an innovative text called *Blackout* by Davey Anderson.

Students showed real grit and put in a lot of extra-curricular rehearsal, which should lead to some very high grades in August.

I am very proud of what our students have produced and hope they get the results they deserve in August.

Miss Howard, Director of Learning for Dramatic Arts

RTS FESTIVAL OF SHOWS

Our *RTS* group is in the process of developing a summer festival of shows. This will take place over a number of nights close to the summer holidays.

new

The festival will be made of a number of shows, some that are already published and some that are being written by our leadership team. The festival will focus upon the themes of growing up, moving house and teen pregnancy.

Rehearsals are already underway, giving our students the opportunity to try out new styles of theatre, as well as raise some money for the group.





SAFETY CAROUSEL

Educating young people to stay safe



Last term, over 180 of our Year 8 students took part in a special event with a focus on staying safe in a variety of life situations. Sessions were delivered by specialist organisations including the Police, Lifeline and the RNLI.

All workshops were designed to raise awareness of current issues from cyber safety and hate crime to relationships and drug awareness. It is a sad fact that with the growth in the use of technology, young people are becoming increasingly vulnerable to peer pressure and issues such as cyber-bullying and child grooming. However, events like these help to alert teenagers to the potential risks, give them the knowledge to avoid harm and empower them to take charge of their own safety.

As the summer approaches and young people are drawn to swimming in rivers and the sea, students learned about

water safety and the impact of Cold Water Shock.

They also heard about the risks associated with alcohol and drug use, and were able to experience the effects of alcohol in the 'Beer Goggles' demonstration. Wearing the special glasses, which simulate the effect of being under the influence, volunteers were asked to perform a set of simple challenges such as throwing a ball and walking in a straight line; as expected, participants did not perform well!

Following this, students considered whether it would be safe to get into a car with someone who had been

drinking or taking drugs, or indeed whether it would be safe to walk home alone in this vulnerable condition.

In a seminar on relationships, students debated what constitutes abuse and learned how to identify the signs of emotional and mental abuse. Through clips of relevant storylines in TV shows such as *Hollyoaks*, our speaker was able to initiate a debate on inappropriate levels of control and bullying in all kinds of relationships. Afterwards, students said that the session had made them think more about the relationships that surround them and feel more confident to seek help should they ever find themselves in a difficult position.

“Our students now know how to avoid harm and feel empowered to take charge of their own safety.”

Kirsty Mawdsley, Student Support Officer

Looking forward to the YOUNG AMERICANS SPRING TOUR!

We are delighted to be able to tell you that we have been successful in securing a visit from the talented *Young Americans* as part of their Spring Tour. The group will appear here at King James I Academy from the 3rd-5th February 2020.

The *Young Americans* are a group of 25 American students aged between 18-22 years old who are studying Performing Arts at specialist colleges across America. They use dance and music as a way to break down gender stereotypes within the arts and create harmonious ethnic diversity in communities. Their workshops also focus on building self-confidence in young people.

The group will be coming into King James to lead specialist workshops in Dance, Drama and Music. These will culminate in a fantastic performance on the final evening involving the *Young Americans* and pupils from Years 7 and 8 and our Drama club. Absolutely no experience or specialist



new

skill is necessary for the workshops or the performance.

Programmes like *Glee*, *X Factor* and *The Voice* have dominated our television screens in the UK for the past 10 years and we feel that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our children to be part of an event of this nature. As well as preparing students for a final performance, the *Young Americans* will successfully teach us all the importance of Creative and Performing Arts within our community as well as helping our pupils to grow in confidence.

Friday Night SIGN LANGUAGE

Last term Miss Mafham offered our students the opportunity to learn sign language after school each Friday and they are loving it.

new

Students have been learning *British Sign Language (BSL)*, which is a visual means of communicating using gestures, facial expression, and body language. It has its own grammatical structure and syntax and is the preferred sign language within the UK.

There are an estimated 9 million hearing impaired people in the UK and even the best lip-readers can catch less than half of the words said to them, so the ability to communicate using sign language is an excellent skill to develop.

Interest in the sessions is growing with new students choosing to join the group every week. Many of our teachers have also expressed an interest in taking part from September.



Visiting Beamish to study the INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

This term, 60 of our History students in Years 7 and 8 will be visiting *Beamish Museum* to study the Industrial Revolution.

new

Students will learn that when the Industrial Revolution was something new and wonderful in Manchester and unknown in the United States, it had been underway for a century in the Newcastle area. By 1725 our region was already dotted with large mines drained by steam engines and connected by railroads.

Local schools join us for KING JAMES MATHS CHALLENGE

Last term we hosted an interschool Maths competition for Year 10 students. The competition featured a host of fun maths questions designed to improve problem solving skills and promote a love for the subject.

The event was led by Mrs Glen, our Director of Learning for Maths, who was keen to show the diversity of the subject and promote uptake at A' Level. Six teams from King James, St John's and Ferryhill Schools competed in the competition with King James finishing in second place to St. John's in an incredibly tight race, which came down to one question in the final round.

In addition to this, and as a testament to the quality of our A' Level Maths provision, Sixth Form students have once again competed in the *UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge* with great success. Euan Elliott won Best in Year for Year 13, and Alex Philpott swept the rest of the categories winning a Bronze certificate, Best in Year for Year 12, and Best in School.



MUSIC VIDEO PRODUCTION

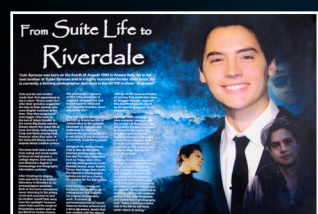
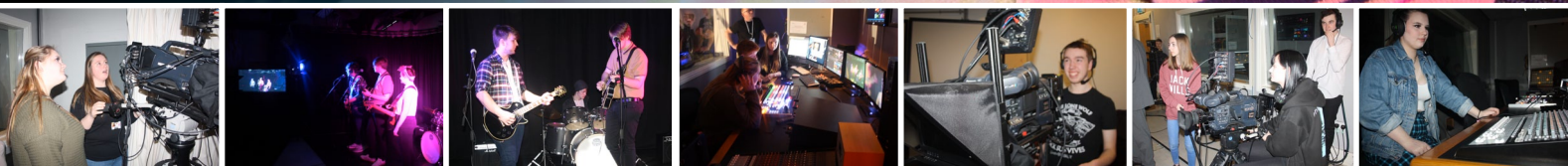
at Teesside University

A group of 20 Media students in Years 11 and 12 have attended a film-making workshop at Teesside University where they were able to use state-of-the-art equipment to film a professional music video for their coursework.

The £750,000 studio facilities at Teesside gave students the opportunity to experience film-making as a production team in an industry-style setting. Individuals took on a variety of roles in the studio, from Camera and Lighting Operators to Directors, Studio Managers and performers with outstanding results. Under the guidance of Mark Handscombe, Senior Lecturer at Teesside, students worked together to produce a performance video for 'I Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor' by Arctic Monkeys.

With strict time restrictions to consider, the experience was the ultimate lesson in working as a production team as effective communication was essential in order to achieve the end result on time. The music video completed the production work for their BTEC course in Creative Media Production.

Year 12 student, Logan Ladd took on the role of Director in the studio. He said, "The Director's job is to take control and instruct the whole team so I was nervous at first, however I soon felt more confident and really enjoyed it. I now plan to study at Teesside University."



BTEC Media students create MOVIES, MAGAZINES & MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

It's been a busy term for Media students at both Level 2 and Level 3. Students have worked hard to create a variety of professional quality products for realistic client briefs; these are written by the tutor and designed to provide plenty of scope for creative freedom.

Students in Years 11 and 12 have created spreads for a youth lifestyle magazine and in the process, they have developed skills in journalism, photography and graphic design. Magazine topics show the diversity of our students' interests with final spreads including articles on movies, sport, cooking, music, fashion and biographical pieces. Some students have also been successful in writing news articles which have been published on our website and in the local press. Year 13 students also took delivery of their commercially-printed career magazine entitled 'Choices'.

Year 13s have also completed their film production unit with genres including psychological thriller and supernatural; and most recently, they have worked together on a cross-media campaign to raise the profile of our Sixth Form. This campaign involved the creation of a promotional video, which is now on our website and social media platforms, a Sixth Form magazine, and a student-led Sixth Form Instagram page @kj1life. Students have also created a bespoke Media Department page @kj1media to showcase student work, trips and events.

Geography field trip to ALNWICK GARDENS AND CASTLE

Geography students take part in a variety of learning activities outside of the classroom as part of their studies. Regular field trips to investigate topics such as population, tourism, impact of adverse weather and flood defences help students to put their classroom learning into perspective.

Most recently, Sixth Formers visited Alnwick Gardens, Alnwick Castle and the town centre, to study tourism and compare the local shops and facilities with those at Bishop Auckland. This trip formed part of their coursework for a unit of study called 'Changing Places'.

Students visited the stunning landscaped gardens, which surround the castle and are a highly successful tourist attraction. They also marvelled at the enormous and beautifully crafted 'Treehouse Restaurant', pictured here, which is built from sustainably-sourced Canadian Cedar, Scandinavian Redwood and English and Scots Pine. The structure has rope bridges, walkways in the sky and one of the most unique restaurants to be found anywhere in the world with trees growing through the floor and handcrafted furniture.

Students also visited 'Kynren' to consider the impact, both negative and positive, that this attraction has had upon our local area since it opened in 2016. They looked at the positive impact upon employment



and local businesses and considered some of the negative aspects such as the implications for local residents in terms of parking difficulties.

Other popular field trips include visits to various towns and villages in the Lake District to study areas that have been severely affected by flooding in the past decade and look at the flood defences which have allowed them to recover and rebuild.

Girls Active group ON THE WAY TO WIMBLEDON

The 2019 Girls Active Group are eagerly anticipating their forthcoming trip to London where they will be able to join the crowds of tennis fans and experience the excitement of Wimbledon.



Each year, a small group of girls are selected by members of our PE Department to attend the trip as a reward for their positive contribution in PE lessons and for encouraging girls to take part in sport and physical activity. This year's group includes Year 10 students, pictured right, Ebony House, Tia Cooke, Imogen Dunn, Emillie Johnson, Morgan Sanderson and Isabel Harvey, plus Year 12 students Caitlin Stanley and Chloe Caygill.

Accompanied by Mrs Stansmore-O'Connor and Miss Short, Director and Assistant Director for Learning respectively, the group will travel by train to London on July 2nd to join the Wimbledon fans watching matches on both Court 3 and Centre Court. The overnight stay in London will also



include a visit to Madame Tussauds where the group will be able to come face to face with stars of sport, music, TV and film.

Prior to the trip, the group will be fundraising to support their travel and accommodation costs; they will soon be hosting a Cake Bake event and raffle.

Primary School ENTERPRISE

Well done to all of the local Primary schools that have taken part in our Mini Enterprise Project this year. The project, which began in October, was designed to introduce primary pupils to the exciting world of business and encourage entrepreneurial skills.

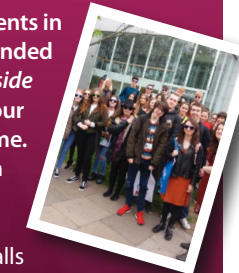
Teams from local schools, Victoria Lane, Etherley Lane, St Helens, Timothy Hackworth and St Anne's all successfully set up a mini enterprise to run in their school. Then on a number of visits to King James, the schools completed a variety of themed challenges in order to gain points.

First, they were set the challenging task of setting up a successful business with a £10.00 starting budget from King James. They then needed to create a range of suitable products to sell both in and around their school. Ideas included seasonal best sellers such as bookmarks, Mother's Day flowers, cakes, Christmas decorations and Valentine's Day love notes.

Following the final challenge, Victoria Lane Primary's 'VLA Biz Kids' claimed the Enterprise Champions title. The school prepared a detailed business plan and designed an engaging logo, as well as making an amazing £415 for their school! Pupils are going to use the money to buy new books and floor cushions for their library. What's more, they intend to keep trading and already have ideas for Father's Day and selling ice creams.

TEESSIDE UCAS EXHIBITION

A group of 40 students in Year 12 have attended a UCAS event at Teesside University as part of our Aim Higher programme. The event focused on career planning.



The event featured stalls with representatives from a number of Universities, Apprenticeship Schemes, Armed Forces and many other providers, all offering advice and guidance on planning for a successful future.

Year 12 student Niamh said, "It was really useful to talk to people who were already at University, especially those who are doing the course I am considering."

EDUCATION CHALLENGE ZONE

YEAR 5 PRIMARY OUTREACH

We organise an exciting and extensive Primary Outreach programme to engage pupils in our local primary schools. Challenges give youngsters the opportunity to experience secondary-style learning and facilities.

ART: DRAWN TO LIFE

The theme for this arts-based challenge ties in with *The Big Draw* event. Students will attend an introduction to the event where they will learn new creative skills and techniques. Children will return to school with the tools they need to work on their creative outcomes, then attend a final event which will involve students exhibiting their work and taking part in a large-scale collaborative piece of art work.



HISTORY: THROUGH THE AGES

This challenge will be in partnership with *The Heritage Action Zone* and the festivals they have organised to celebrate various aspects of Bishop Auckland through the ages. The project will focus on local history; students will research a particular aspect, such as school life during WWII. The final event will involve all schools working together to share everything they have learned in a final celebration.

LITERACY: KJ BOOK AWARDS

Students will each receive a book to read and will compete in a series of tasks back at school in preparation for the final challenge day. This will involve lots of activities and competitions such as quizzes, acting out scenes and a spelling tournament focused around the five books that children have read. Schools will be provided with two copies of each book to keep and use in a book swap with other schools.

STEM: BALLOON CAR CHALLENGE

In this fun challenge students produce their own balloon car. In preparation, they will undergo engineering training where they will spend time developing research, creating a portfolio and presenting their work. Students will also practice building a balloon car and carry out activities to help them in their journey towards car design. In the final event, points will be awarded for the distance that their car travels on the day, alongside the quality of their branding, design, portfolio and presentation.

ENTERPRISE: KING JAMES BUSINESS MAGNATES

This challenge gives students the opportunity to develop their own business idea. It begins with students forming a company that costs no more than £10 to start up. They will then develop a business plan and launch their company. After six weeks trading in their own school, students will return to King James to submit their final profit figures, pay back their original investment and find out who has made the most profit!

SPORT: THE DAILY MILE

At the launch event at King James, students from a number of primary schools will participate in *The Daily Mile* challenge and complete their first timed mile. The scheme gets children out of the classroom for 15 minutes each day to run or jog, at their own pace, with their classmates. This will make them fitter, healthier and more able to concentrate in lessons. Pupils will then return to their own school and complete daily mile challenges before returning to King James for the final challenge day.

Hosting the annual festival of PRIMARY SHAKESPEARE



Last term, King James hosted the annual two-day Primary Shakespeare Festival as part of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Associate Schools Project. Here, Year 12 student Kyle Blood, pictured left, reports on the event.

Each year a cluster of primary schools from the local area come together at King James to perform one of Shakespeare's famous plays. This year's play was one of the greatest romantic tragedies of all time, *Romeo and Juliet*.

Over two days in our Main Hall, eleven schools, including King James, performed a given scene from the tragic tale for an appreciative audience of parents, members of the *Royal Shakespeare Company* and a representative from the *Theatre Royale* in Newcastle.

The show also introduced parents to the 'Shakespeare Ambassadors' from several schools; these are children who have

expressed a passion for Shakespeare and his work and put themselves forward to represent their schools in Shakespeare-related activities such as this annual festival. They also work hard to promote learning about Shakespeare within their schools.

Georgia White, a member of the RSC who works closely with the Shakespeare Ambassadors, said, "All youngsters will study a Shakespeare text at school at some point, so it is important that they are fully engaged and able to access his work in an enjoyable way. Students realise that they can relate to the characters and themes of Shakespeare's work and this gives them a much greater understanding."

Fiona Clayton, the Programme Developer for the Associate Schools Project, attended on behalf of the RSC. She said, "We have learned a lot from working with schools and developed new ways to bring Shakespeare to life for the next generation. The project helps children get more involved with the RSC, especially those who may want to pursue a career in acting or backstage work, as each year we invite selected students to work with us in Stratford-upon-Avon. This helps with youth talent development."

The project has had fantastic feedback from both children and parents. Not only does it show young people that Shakespeare is worthy of their appreciation, but it also brings his work to the community.

Latest news from

Sixth Form

As Mr Shearer steps down as Head of Sixth Form, he will be passing the baton to Mrs Nicholson, one of his former students. She will be supported by Mrs Lobb as Assistant Head of Sixth Form.

Gail Nicholson, pictured below left, left King James for *Teesside University* where she studied a BSc in Criminology. Following graduation she enjoyed a long and successful career in the NHS and social care before training as a teacher.

Gail completed her teacher training at King James in the Health and Social Care Department and went on to work in a SEN school until February 2016 when a position became available at our Academy. At this point she joined us full time as a Teacher of Health and later, as Director of Learning for the department.

"I feel very privileged to work at King James," Gail said. "This school is full of fond memories for me. The teachers had such a positive impact upon me as a young person and now I have the opportunity to do the same. Mr Shearer taught me for A' Level Business Studies and he was a

well-respected and inspirational teacher. He has continued to provide me with guidance and support as a colleague since I returned to King James and it is an honour to step into his role as Head of Sixth Form. I hope to continue to lead the Sixth Form as successfully as he has done."

Katie Lobb takes up the position of Assistant Head of Sixth Form alongside Mrs Nicholson and we are confident that together they will make a dynamic team. Katie joined us six years ago as Teacher of Business Studies before stepping up as Director of Learning for the department.

She said, "I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with Gail. This is an exciting challenge and there are lots of things to look forward to, such as the arrival of our new Sixth Form building in September, which will increase the social and study spaces that we already provide."

Thank you MR SHEARER

After 18 years as Head of Sixth Form, Mr Shearer is stepping down as Head in favour of reduced teaching hours.



Mr Shearer will continue to be a crucial part of our Sixth Form Team. As he will still assume responsibility for UCAS advice and applications, students can feel confident that they will get all the help they need when the time comes to apply for University. He will also continue to teach A' Level Criminology and Sociology.

Mr Shearer is fondly remembered by thousands of former students, many of whom shared messages of thanks via a *Facebook* page. We would like to thank Mr Shearer for his many years of dedicated service to King James and to our Sixth Form, and hope that he enjoys his reduced hours.

MEET THE TEAM

Sixth Formers benefit from a dedicated team of tutors, mentors and advisers who are all here to ensure students reach their full potential.



Each morning, students connect with their tutor to discuss their progress and get advice on managing workload. Tutors also provide a point of contact for parents and carers who wish to discuss issues relating to their child.

Mr Middleton, our Sixth Form Mentor, is located in the Common Room along with Linda Dixon, and together they provide an environment where students can relax and receive pastoral support.

Mrs Goddard, our Careers Adviser helps students to find suitable Universities and courses, alongside local apprenticeships and jobs; and of course, Mr Shearer is on hand to give UCAS advice and write personal statements for University applications.



TIME TO GRAB YOUR PASSPORT!

At King James we believe in providing a variety of opportunities to build independence, develop life skills and learn about other cultures. International travel is an exciting prospect for young people so we strive to organise as many overseas trips as possible. These are our current options.



'Challenge España' ... MADRID & BARCELONA

In July, students in Years 10 and 11 will be taking part in an exciting challenge inspired by the popular TV show, *Race Across the World*.



Twelve students have been selected for the trip based on their exceptional achievement, behaviour, positive attitude to learning and the large number of achievement points they have earned in lessons. Prior to the trip, students will divide into four teams, each led by a member of staff, and teams will compete against each other to complete a series of challenges in the beautiful Spanish cities of Madrid and Barcelona. Although the group will travel to Spain together, once in the city the race will be on to solve a series of cryptic clues, which will be provided by Mr Grieveson. Teams will gather photo evidence to prove they have solved the clue! The group will spend three days in Madrid and a further three days in Barcelona, with plenty of opportunities for experiencing Spanish cuisine and culture built into the itinerary.

This is an exciting opportunity; the trip is designed to develop leadership skills and offers a way for us to reward those students who give 100% to their studies on a daily basis. Participants will also get to lead their own team of students in an exciting 'Challenge Durham' experience, which will take place in the next academic year.

MALTA & GOZO

In September, Year 12 Media students will travel to Malta for a week of culture, sightseeing and documentary film making.



Students will visit some of the most historic sites on the island including the *Grand Harbour* in Valetta and Mdina, the Silent City, alongside tourist attractions such as *Popeye Village*, the film set used in the 1981 movie starring Robin Williams. The itinerary also includes a variety of excursions and activities including a Blue Lagoon Island Tour to Comino, a Segway tour on the nearby island of Gozo and a trip to Malta Zoo, alongside visits to some of the many museums and churches on the island. Throughout the trip, students will write scripts and gather film footage, which will be edited into a travel documentary about the island on their return to King James. This moving image project forms part of their coursework for their Level 3 BTEC in Creative Media Production.

AMSTERDAM

Amsterdam has so much to offer in terms of culture and opportunities for learning. There are two trips to look forward to in the next academic year.

In October, Sixth Form students will have the opportunity to visit Amsterdam for a cultural experience involving a range of sightseeing and learning activities. Walking tours around the city will allow students to take in the elaborate architecture, and the itinerary will include a visit to the *Museum District*, the *Jewish Quarter* and a visit to the *Anne Frank Museum*. Students will learn about Amsterdam during the Nazi occupation and visit the *Auschwitz Monument*.



In May 2020, a group of 40 students in Years 7 and 8, accompanied by staff in our PE Department, will travel to Amsterdam for a football-themed experience. During the six-day trip, students will be coached by *Ajax Academy* staff and play friendly matches with some of the local youth teams; this really is a football fan's dream. There will also be plenty of time to experience Dutch culture and for city sightseeing.



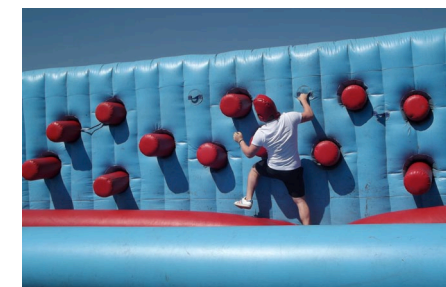
END OF YEAR ACTIVITY DAYS



At the end of each academic year we organise an Activity Day to reward our students for their hard work and give them the opportunity to celebrate another successful year with their friends. Activities and trips are organised by our Heads of Year.

YEAR 7

Our Year 7 students will be able to enjoy a variety of activities in school including the *Total Wipeout Inflatable Company* course which will be out on the main field. This will be followed by a Tutor Group Tournament involving both indoor and outdoor games.



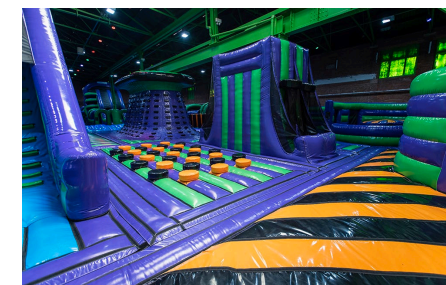
YEAR 8

Year 8s will spend an action-packed day riding the rollercoasters at *Lightwater Valley* in Ripon. Those who opt out of the trip can still enjoy a fun day with a variety of planned recreational activities on offer in school and determined by their Form Tutor.



YEAR 9

Our Year 9s will be spending the day at *InflateSpace* in Newcastle, the huge indoor inflatable play zone and obstacle course. The centre houses a host of activities from Zip Line to Climbing Walls.



KJ ALUMNI

Meet our former students



PROFESSOR PHILIP HODGSON

Former King James student, Prof. Philip Hodgson, currently leads the School of Law, Criminology and Social Sciences at the University of Derby. Here he explains his progression from student to Professor.

"I lived in Watling Road, Bishop Auckland and attended King James between 1976 and 1983. On completing my A' Levels I went to Newcastle Polytechnic to take a Business Studies course but in my second year I was offered a job as a police officer with the City of London Police, and rather than complete my studies decided to take the job. Unfortunately, due to health issues I left the Police five years later but decided to go back to University. I enjoyed working with offenders so thought I would train to be a probation officer and at the end of my degree course (during which I spent a semester in Florida), I was offered funding to study at the University of Cambridge and read for a MPhil in Criminology."

"Throughout my studies I worked in probation hostels and childrens' remand homes so as well as academic experience I was also gaining practical experience, which allowed me to relate theory to practice and get the most from both my studies and work. On completing my MPhil, I was lucky enough to get a fully funded PhD studentship and when I finally finished my studies I then got a job as a Researcher with NACRO, where I worked on a number of projects looking at drugs, young people and crime."

"After four years with NACRO I went to work as the Strategic Crime Lead for Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership. This was an exciting and challenging role, not least because Nottingham had a huge crime and drugs problem. We were however very successful and made massive reductions in both crime and drug use. I was also lucky enough to get funding from my employer to undertake a MBA. During this time I also began to do guest slots at Nottingham Trent University as a Lecturer and in 2006 decided to apply to NTU for a full time position. I spent six years there before moving to the University of Derby where I am now Head of School for Law and Social Sciences and also Assistant Dean of the Centre of Policing Excellence."

"In December 2018, I was conferred as a Professor of Criminology; it really is a fantastic job and I am privileged to lead an amazing team of around 60 academics. My advice is to always strive to better yourself and you will achieve your goals."

Success at ATHLETICS EVENT

Last month, eight of our GCSE PE students attended the *District Athletics Competition at Monkseaton Stadium* where they competed in a variety of events.

In the discus competition, Louis Tones claimed first place as did Dylan Howe in the shot put category. Dylan Nicholson won the javelin event and also came third in the 200m final. These three winners have qualified for the county competition which takes place this month. Blake Sample also achieved well with third place in the 100m final.

Results from this competition will count towards their GCSE practical assessment and form part of their final overall grade for PE.

Performing songs of WAR & PEACE



Sixth Form Music students have produced their own 15-minute set for a festival setting with a theme of 'Tales of Conflict'.

Students selected and rehearsed four songs, created mash-ups, composed their own song and developed lighting and set design for their performance, as well as developing their skills for live sound and PA systems.

The performance was met with great reviews and became the talked-about topic across the school. The students invested a great deal of time and effort into the production including developing ideas regarding lighting and costume. The songs consisted of regular hits including 'Somewhere Only We Know' alongside a mash-up of Jessie J's 'Price Tag' and Black Eyed Peas, 'Where Is The Love'. Their own original song was also performed live as a debut for the band.

As part of the course, students visit recording studios across the region to record and edit their own performances. They also enjoy visits from professional musicians and benefit from working with teachers who are practitioners themselves.

A brand new SIXTH FORM ZONE



In September, our Sixth Formers will be able to enjoy brand new facilities in a bespoke detached building including a new Common Room and Study Zone.

During the summer holidays, we will be constructing a brand new timber-clad detached unit on land adjacent to the existing Common Room. The spacious building, which will be similar in design to our Nurture Centre, pictured above, will provide modern social and learning spaces for Sixth Form use.

The new building will enjoy views over our playing fields and there will also be an outdoor recreation area for good weather. In addition to this, the existing Sixth Form unit will become a dedicated Sports Studies Zone with facilities for both learning and socialising. This will allow us to improve our provision for Sixth Form sport and football courses. This new development is just part of our Sixth Form development plan.

RESULTS DAYS

Add to your calendar

GCSE and A-Level results days are fast approaching so add these important dates to your calendar.

A-Level results will be available from 8.00am on Thursday 17th August and our graduating students will be able to confirm their places at University or college, and contact potential employers to arrange starting dates. Mr Shearer and our dedicated Sixth Form Team will also be on hand to offer advice as necessary.

GCSE results will be available to collect from 10.00am on Thursday 24th August. Again, our staff will be on hand to offer careers advice and assist with Sixth Form enrolment.

LEAVERS MEAL

For Year 13s

On July 4th, our annual Year 13 Leavers Event will take place at ASK Italian restaurant in Durham City.



Each year this event gives us the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our Sixth Form students and wish them luck as they leave us to begin the next chapter in their lives.

This is an exciting time for our graduates as they take their first steps towards independence. All those who applied to attend University have received excellent offers and will be heading off to Universities across the UK in September to study a variety of degree courses. Others are set to begin apprenticeships or begin full-time work.

AIM HIGHER

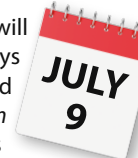
Takes in two cities



Throughout the academic year, students in Years 10-13 are given the opportunity to take part in our *Aim Higher* visits. This programme schedules residential trips to various Universities across the UK.

Year 12 Sport students have recently returned from a visit to *Leeds Beckett University* where they were able to view the outstanding facilities on campus and get advice on the range of degree courses on offer, student accommodation and student finance.

On July 9th, students will be spending two days visiting both York and Leeds for the final *Aim Higher* date of this academic year. Many King James students are currently studying at *York St. John University*, pictured above, and enjoying living in the beautiful historic city. Students will take a tour of the campus and explore the city itself before travelling to Leeds to visit *Leeds Beckett*.



Notice Board

Important information for parents, carers and students

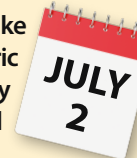
YEAR 11 PROM

Coming soon!



Our Year 11 Prom will take place at the historic *Wynyard Hall* on Thursday 2nd July from 6.30pm until 11.00pm.

The event, will give students and staff the opportunity to celebrate five years of memories and success. Students will enjoy top quality food followed by the traditional Prom Awards, and there will also be an opportunity to purchase professional studio photographs.



KING'S FEAST

New al fresco dining

To give our students greater choice at meal times, we are opening a quick-serve cabin in our central quad area called *The King's Feast*.

The cabin will provide an additional serving outlet for nutritious light meals which can be eaten outside. It will also provide an opportunity for Sixth Form Food Science students to gain experience in catering for large numbers and kitchen management as they will be running the facility, with supervision, two days each week.

Construction of the wooden-clad building itself is almost complete and we are now sourcing fixtures, fittings and equipment. Please visit our website for progress updates.





Diary Dates

June 20	Year 7 Parents' Evening
June 24-28	Year 5 Curriculum Week
July 2	Year 11 Prom
July 2-3	Girls Active trip to Wimbledon
July 4	Year 13 Leavers Event
July 8	Sixth Form Induction Day
July 9-10	Aim Higher trip to York & Leeds
July 10-12	Year 6 Induction Days
July 11	Year 6 Welcome Evening 6pm
July 14	Challenge España trip departs
July 16	Activity Day
July 18	Sports Day - Academy closes 1.30pm for Summer
Aug 15	A' Level Results Day
Aug 22	GCSE Results Day
Sept 3	Academy re-opens
Sept 7	Malta trip departs

Sixth Form recruiting now for September 2019!

Applications are now open to students who are interested in joining us in September 2019. Contact 01388 603 388 to discuss your options or arrange a visit.

Sixth Form Induction Day Monday 8th July 2019



BE A PARENT GOVERNOR AT KING JAMES

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.



King James I Academy COMMUNITY FACILITIES

JOIN US FOR WALKING NETBALL

Our Walking Netball group launched at King James in October 2018. We currently have 21 active members between the ages of 30 and 60+ but there is always room for more!



Walking Netball is the perfect sport for all ages, abilities and fitness levels as it allows members to exercise at their own pace. Rules are the same as traditional netball but don't worry if you are not familiar with them, we will be happy to show you the ropes when you arrive.

The group meet every Thursday from 6.30pm-7.30pm and everyone is welcome. We can guarantee a great social atmosphere and that you'll have lots of fun and feel energised after the session.

MONDAY

Bishop Auckland Netball Club (Juniors)	4.30pm – 7.00pm
Team Bishop Netball (Adults)	7.00pm – 8.30pm
Yoga	6.30pm – 8.30pm

TUESDAY

RTS Drama (ages 14-19)	4.00pm – 6.00pm
Ladies Games (Badminton and Short Tennis)	7.00pm – 8.00pm
Taekwondo	5.00pm – 6.00pm

WEDNESDAY

Trampolining (Hourly weekly classes)	5.00pm – 8.00pm
RTS Drama (ages 11-14)	4.00pm – 6.00pm
Getalong Club (Adult Disability Activity Club)	6.30pm – 8.30pm
Yoga	6.30pm – 8.00pm

THURSDAY

Let's Get Cooking (ages 5-19)	6.30pm – 8.30pm
RTS Drama (ages 6-11)	5.00pm – 6.00pm

SATURDAY

Trampolining (Hourly weekly classes)	9.30am – 1.00pm
Judo (45 minute classes for ages 6+)	9.30am – 1.30pm

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