

VISION

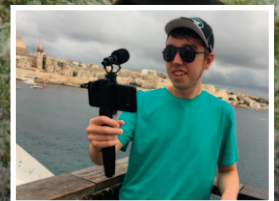
Issue 34: Spring Term 2020



King James I Academy magazine



Bringing History to Life



Inside: Young Americans Visit, £30K Music Grant, New Football Partnership, Christmas Activities, Film Making in Malta, Careers Fair, Author Visit, Innovative Religious Studies and much more.

WELCOME

from the Head



Hello readers and welcome to our first edition of *2020 Vision*; our Vision magazine for a new decade. I do hope that you have all had a peaceful Christmas and have started your New Year in style.

Once again, Vision provides an excellent opportunity for readers to look back on the many exciting and varied, educational and fun-filled activities that made 2019 a year to remember, and to look forward to the many opportunities available to our students in the new year.

This edition really captures the way in which our young people have embraced opportunities and have supported their communities. From their commitment to raise £10,000 to support local charities to their development of a new and highly successful catering business, from their support for Bishop Auckland Juniors FC to hosting a tea party for local residents, it is clear that our students are always willing to go the extra mile.

The arrival of the *Young Americans* will provide another fantastic opportunity for our students to excel, and all this after a stunning Christmas Show that, with its cast of almost a hundred young people, wowed audiences for many days at the end of the Autumn Term.

The Academy, as it should be, is really becoming the venue in which our young people can all find and develop their talents, using them to help to build a better future for their communities. I am, and you should be, proud of their many successes and take time to consider what a difference they will have made by the end of the decade.

Have a great term.

Nick Grieveson, Head Teacher

United by music, dance & PERFORMANCE

Four members of *The Young Americans Performing Arts Group* have recently travelled all the way from the USA to visit King James to meet the staff and students they will be working with in February.



The Young Americans organisation, which was founded by Milton C. Anderson in 1962, is dedicated to the promotion of understanding and goodwill among people throughout the world through music, dance, performance, academic education and cultural interaction among their audiences.

Members are accepted into the organisation based upon their talent and their interest in helping other students around the world to attain self-confidence, self-esteem and respect for others through music, dance and performance. They follow the philosophy that music brings people together for many purposes: teamwork, respect, accomplishment, caring, self discipline, a sense of self worth and much more, which are all taught in their workshops.

In February a group of 25 Young Americans will visit King James and spend three days in our school working with students in Years 7-9, Sixth Formers and members of *RTS Theatre Group* at King James. Students will be able to take part in a variety of workshops, and fast paced rehearsals, which will culminate in a spectacular show on the evening of February 4th.

The group promotes an encouraging environment for students to push past any insecurities so participants can expect to develop not only their skills in performance,

but also build confidence and self-esteem. There will also be a focus on supporting others and forging new friendships as many of the activities depend upon group collaboration.



During the initial visit last term, the four Young Americans, Dylan, Giorgi, Ryan and Marley, pictured above, worked with members of *RTS Theatre Group* to put on an inspiring performance in the Main Hall. Following this they invited our students to apply for the masterclasses next month and the response was overwhelming with over 200 students signing up. Those who have not yet secured a place need not worry however, as the Young Americans have agreed to work with all interested students. New applicants should see Miss Thwaites in the first instance.

We are pleased to be one of only four schools in England to have secured a visit from this group and hope that our students enjoy the experience. Tickets will be available soon for the Young Americans show; it is suitable for all ages and guaranteed to be an evening to remember. King James students will perform during the second half of the show.



FEB 4



Another triumphant CHRISTMAS SHOW

This year, our Christmas show, *'The Last Atten and the Curse of Papa Mentooi'* involved outstanding performances by 90 young people.

As is the custom of our *RTS Theatre Group* at King James, children from local primary schools were invited to enjoy the show for free over two days in our Main Hall. These matinee performances were attended by pupils from *Cockton Hill, Copeland Road, Crook, The Oaks and St Andrew's* primary schools alongside 190 of our own students.

The show told the story of legendary documentarian Attenboro as he made his way to the mystical land of Oodywatt in search of the Totem of Mentooi. Whilst battling against his arch rival, Bear Frills, Atten is cursed by the evil Papa Mentooi, but with the help of a group of cursed explorers, they battle against cults, crazies and evil creeps to escape the curse! Lacking any real sense, the show included dances choreographed by our students, as well as over-the-top mimes and unplanned and improvised action scenes.

In addition to the free matinees, three hugely successful evening performances were attended by over 700 members of our local community, who all left in high spirits thanks to the enthusiastic performances and infectious music.

Members of *RTS* will soon begin rehearsing for the upcoming *Festival of 3 Shows*, which will be performed by members of *Roots and Little Roots*, the younger cohort of the group. There will also be a Dance Show in the Summer.

In February, 45 members of the group will travel to the Lake District for a team building and learning experience where they will create new choreography and develop their performance techniques. There will also be a return trip to France at Easter to reward selected members who have excelled in performance and commitment.

204 FIRST CHOICE applications!

Thanks to our high quality of teaching, diverse curriculum and excellent facilities, we have received 204 first choice applications for Year 7 entry in September.

We have now been over-subscribed for three years in a row; as a result of this we have increased our number of classrooms and employed additional teachers to accommodate more students. In September we will admit 161 new Year 7s; this means that we have received 27% more applications than our maximum capacity. Offers for places will be made on March 2nd.

PRIZE EVENING

Our annual Prize Evening will take place on Wednesday 12th February at 7.00pm.





Planning for the future at our CAREERS FAIR

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

The annual event helps students begin to think about what career they might like to pursue in the future and ensures that they have the right information to make appropriate subject choices that will enable them to reach their goal. It is often an inspiring experience too, and one that promotes focus and drive in our young people.

Students were able to speak to representatives from a diverse range of industries and benefit from practical advice from employers in terms of how to make themselves stand out from other applicants in an increasingly competitive job market. They learned about the value of embracing all opportunities to gain work experience or volunteering in the community. In support of this, the National Citizen Service was on hand to explain the exciting opportunities on offer to young people.

We would like to thank the following organisations for their support: Durham University, Pre Military College, National Citizen Service, Northern School of Art, PPG, GSK, Hydrum Engineering, Newcastle University, UTC, BL Hairdressing, BA College, Army, Darlington College, East Durham College, ITEC, Livin, Royal Navy, Northumbria University, Sunderland University, Jet 2 Holidays, New College Durham, Huddersfield University, Leeds Beckett University, ICAEW, Teesside University, Morrisons, National Careers Service, RAF, Ask Project, Baltic Training, NHS, SW Durham Training, PWC and Cummins Engines.

The Careers Fair is just a small part of our extensive Careers Advice programme. Mrs Goddard, our Careers Adviser is on hand throughout the year to offer practical advice to students in all year groups and assistance in creating a CV and developing interview skills. Students in Years 10 and 11 also benefit from one-to-one interviews to develop an individual career plan.

Student teachers are DYNAMIC DUO!



new

Two of our History teachers have been making quite an impression on students in Key Stage 3 with a range of exciting role-play lessons.

Students in Years 7-9 have been learning about Witchcraft, Witch Trials, Vikings and the Battle of Stamford Bridge with Mrs Paylor and Mr Ball, pictured above with Year 7 student, Isabel Richardson and Preston Bennett in Year 8.

Although these topics are all part of the History curriculum, the way that teachers choose to deliver them in the classroom is not specified, and our staff are always encouraged to be both creative and innovative.

With the help of hand made costumes and props to help set the scene, students were able to take part in a variety of learning experiences involving re-enactments of important events in history such as the Battle of Stamford Bridge in 1066. This battle saw the invading Norwegians defeated by an army led by King Harold Goodwinson, however he was then defeated by the Normans at the better-known Battle of Hastings just three weeks later.

Students also learned about the persecution and slaughter of thousands of people branded as witches in the seventeenth century. There were over 90,000 gruesome witch trials and 80% of the victims were women, who were considered to be the weaker sex and therefore more susceptible to what King James I described as 'demonic temptation'.

Primary Outreach event brings HISTORY TO LIFE

King James I Academy recently brought World War II history to life in an intergenerational event involving senior citizens from our local community, primary school pupils from Crook Primary and our students in Years 8-13.

The event was organised as part of the Academy's Outreach Programme. Over 50 primary school pupils visited the Academy to take part in a variety of themed activities throughout the morning. Students learned the Jitterbug, made VE Day bunting, baked biscuits according to an authentic wartime recipe and took part in an activity which put them in the position of an evacuee deciding which of their possessions they should pack for their trip.

In the afternoon, the Main Hall was prepared for a VE Day street party, complete with traditional afternoon tea, and students were joined by three local residents, Winifred Lydon, Ann Lee and Colleen Marley, who were escorted by their care workers, Elaine Gardner and Sandra Baynham. As guests of honour, the ladies were treated to a lively performance of the Jitterbug which primary pupils had learned earlier in the day.

Students also heard the fascinating story of 96 year old Mrs Lydon, below centre, who

was born in South Shields but moved to London during the war to join the RAF - at just 18 years old her job was to release barrage balloons. Primary pupils were keen to hear first hand what it was really like to live through such difficult times.

Director of Learning for History, Miss Whitaker said, "This event gave young people the opportunity to really appreciate the tragedies of war and the resilience of the people who lived through it. Winifred's story was truly inspiring and all pupils were engrossed in her honest account of life at that time. I am so grateful to the ladies for attending; they made the event very special and I am sure pupils will always remember it."

Towards the end of the day, GCSE students at King James were treated to a quiet interview session with Winifred and her friends. Year 10 History student, Iben Kirsopp said, "I felt privileged to be able to hear Mrs Lydon's amazing story. I was so impressed and inspired by her strength, courage and determination."



HISTORY REWARDS TRIP



30 students in Year 7, who were all chosen for their outstanding effort and behaviour in lessons, have recently enjoyed a History rewards trip to Auckland Castle.

Students learned about the important role of the Prince Bishops of Durham and how Auckland Castle was one of their primary homes, where they came to hunt and entertain. Students were surprised to learn that the bishops had the power to raise an army, create their own laws, and even mint their own coins; they truly helped to shape the country we live in today.

Students were given a tour of the castle and studied historic plans to see how it has developed over time. Linked to their current learning about the Norman invasion, the group looked into the ways in which the castle was built for defence; they also toured the grounds to consider the location and how it successfully kept out the enemy. The group also learned about the history of St Peter's Chapel, which remains the private chapel of the Bishop of Durham and is regularly used for services, and took part in activities to estimate the age of the stained glass windows using their fingers.

As part of the tour, students heard about the gradual modernisation of the castle and chapel, including the most recent developments that have allowed the castle to be successfully opened to tourists and for use as a luxury events venue.

They visited the Grand Hall where they heard about the extravagant meals and dining parties that were held there. Students were fascinated to hear about the much-prized pineapple centrepieces, which were so rare that they were worth the equivalent of £5,000. They also learned how Bishop Auckland was the first place to try and grow their own pineapples!



MEDIA IN MALTA

Last term, Sixth Form Media Studies students travelled to Malta to gather footage for a series of travel documentaries as part of their coursework.

Students are completing a diverse range of coursework units, which have been specially selected to give them a broad overview of the media industry. They have already produced a professional magazine to develop skills in journalism and graphic design, and this most recent unit offered the opportunity to produce a factual film product and build skills in script writing, presenting, filming and editing.

Malta is an excellent international destination for media studies; it has a rich history of film making with a host of blockbuster movies filmed there including *Gladiator*, *Troy*, *World War Z*, *Captain Phillips* and the 1980 production of *Popeye* starring Robin Williams. Students visited the Popeye film set which remains on the island as a tourist attraction; there they were able to explore the buildings and study the original props which all form part of the quirky 'Sweet Haven Village'.

The group also visited the silent city of Mdina, which appears frequently in the hugely popular TV show *Game of Thrones*. This fortified city with its fantastic Baroque architecture and narrow winding streets was one of the most popular excursions. In the capital city of Valletta, students visited *Barrakka Gardens* and filmed the daily firing of the canons across the *Grand Harbour*; they also strolled around the atmospheric streets which are adorned with strings of lights at night.

Other activities included a cruise to Comino's Blue Lagoon, a visit to *Malta 5D* and *The Mdina Museum of Crime and Punishment*, an evening cruise around the three harbours and a trip to *Mediterraneo Marine Park*. The group also left a lasting memory of their trip by way of a padlock attached to the famous *Tigne Bridge* in Sliema; this bridge displays thousands of padlocks left by visitors to symbolise everlasting friendship. Students due to take part in the next trip in September 2020 will be sure to attach their own to carry on the tradition.

Wish you were here!

UNIVERSITY OFFERS

Flooding in for our Year 13s

28 of our students have applied to UCAS and 24 of these have already received multiple offers.

Offers came from a wide range of universities including *Leeds University* and *Leeds Beckett*, *Stirling*, *Hull*, *Newcastle*, *Durham*, *Northumbria*, *Huddersfield*, *Queen Margaret's* in *Edinburgh*, *Kent*, *Manchester*, *Nottingham Trent* and *York St John*. MJ Camba, Abbi Stephenson and Beth Robinson have all had contextual reduced offers from *Leeds*, *Newcastle* and *Durham* respectively. A number of others have received unconditional offers, including Molly Brannan, pictured above, who is looking forward to studying a Degree in Fashion Marketing at her first choice university, *Leeds Beckett*. Congratulations and good luck to them all.



AIM HIGHER IN YORK

A group of 25 Year 12 students have recently travelled to York where they visited *York St John's University* as part of our *Aim Higher* programme.

Students enjoyed a tour of the campus and a talk with the Recruitment Officer at the University who advised them about the wide range of subjects on offer and the options for accommodation should they choose to apply to study in York. The group also heard a little about student finance and what to expect as a resident of the UK's most historic cities.

Following the campus visit the group spent some time exploring the city which attracts thousands of visitors each year. All were impressed with the historic architecture and the many options for shopping and leisure that York has to offer. Travelling by train also allowed students to experience for themselves how quickly and easily York can be reached from Bishop Auckland; these things are all important when considering where to study.

Our Aim Higher programme really helps students to think about their future and to begin making plans about where they might like to study. Students can look forward to more Aim Higher visits this year, with trips to Northumbria and Leeds in the near future.

ARMY NURSING

Success for Caitlin

Year 13 student, Caitlin Stanley has been accepted onto the prestigious *Army Nursing Training Programme*.



Caitlin had to pass a series of rigorous fitness, dexterity, reactive, cognitive and academic tests, followed by team tasks and two intensive interviews with a board of Sergeant Nurses to gain a place on the programme. In September she will begin three months of basic training at Pirbright and will then study a Degree in Nursing at *Birmingham University* from January 2021; this is fully funded by the Army. We would like to congratulate Caitlin on her success and wish her the very best of luck in her career.

GLASTONBURY CREW 2020

Look forward to an amazing experience

This year sees the return of our *Glastonbury Experience*, which gives Year 13 students the opportunity to become part of the 30,000-strong recycling crew at the iconic music festival. Considering that tickets sold out in under an hour in October 2019, these positions are highly prized.

JUNE 24

Thanks to the conduct of students in previous years, King James has an excellent reputation for hard work and reliability; this has allowed us to secure 14 places for *Glastonbury 2020*. Students will work for six hours each morning recycling waste from the spectator areas at the festival, and in exchange they will have access to all shows. This year, the festival is celebrating its 50th anniversary and the festivities are set to be extra special. Sir Paul McCartney and Diana Ross are both confirmed and there are strong rumours that Aerosmith, Taylor Swift, the Spice Girls, Green Day and Liam Gallagher will also join the line-up.

A large number of students applied for the places and it was extremely difficult for our Sixth Form Team to make the final decision, however places were allocated to those with excellent attendance, dedication to their studies and commitment to representing King James in a positive light. Congratulations to the 2020 crew.

TUESDAY ENRICHMENT

for Year 12s

This year we have launched a new Sixth Form Enrichment Programme for Year 12 students designed to help them boost subject knowledge or enhance their employability skills.

Each Tuesday afternoon, students take part in a variety of opportunities in school, from helping out as subject mentors in departments such as English and Sport, to developing new skills in Media, Music or Business. Students can also opt in to additional lessons in a variety of academic subjects including Maths and History to make sure they are able to reach their full potential as exams approach.



HELPING THE ANGEL TRUST

In December, a group of Sixth Form students volunteered to help the Angel Trust wrap Christmas presents which were donated to children in hospital and to homeless teenagers. Our students will be returning in the coming week to help with other Angel Trust projects.



NEW COMMON ROOM OPEN

Our brand new Sixth Form Common Room is officially open and the new facilities are proving to be hugely popular among our students.

The building houses a new classroom with amazing views over our fields, offices for the Sixth Form Team and a large and airy open plan social space with areas for both relaxation between lessons and independent study. There are also facilities for students to make hot drinks and snacks.

The original Common Room is now home to our PE Department, providing much-needed additional Sports Studies classrooms for our expanding courses.



THE KING'S FEAST

Officially open for business



Created as an alternative food outlet for both students and staff, *The King's Feast* is now officially open outside in our Quad.

The trendy new hub, which was designed and built to match our new detached cedar-clad buildings, serves tasty hot meat sandwiches at lunch time three days each week. The most popular offerings include sliced beef and barbeque pulled pork and sandwiches sell out fast every time the hub is open! The King's Feast is run by Food Science & Nutrition Teachers and their Sixth Form students, who benefit greatly from the opportunity to develop their practical skills in food hygiene, preparation and customer service in a real-life catering environment. Quality control and managing quantities to ensure costs are covered, are an important part of the learning process too.

The King's Feast has also recently opened to the public as part of our Community Centre provision, with hot food served on Wednesday and Thursday evenings and on Sundays. We hope to extend the provision as the year progresses and offer an extended menu as the weather improves and demand increases for al fresco dining.

CHROMEBOOK Competition Winner

Congratulations to Isla Defty, winner of our Open Evening Chromebook Competition. She is pictured here with her Dad and younger sister Alicia collecting her prize from Mr Grieveson.



Restaurant quality EXAM FOOD

Year 11 GCSE Catering students have excelled themselves in the practical element of their studies and produced some outstanding exam dishes.

Students designed their own menu and prepared a wide variety of dishes using only the finest ingredients. They presented a two-course meal with a focus on both taste and visual impact, such as this outstanding example from Annalise Sumpton. Well done everyone.



Annual Year 7 CHURCH VISITS

Last term, Year 7 students took part in our annual church visits experience to compare the diversity within the Christian faith.



Students visited three places of worship in Bishop Auckland. They heard from Pastor Masai at the *Wear Valley Christian Centre*, Reverend Matt at *St Anne's CofE Church* and Father Dennis Tindall at *St Wilfred's Catholic Church*. At each venue they learned about the history of the church and took part in a Q&A session with the leader; this allowed them to consider the importance and impact of faith in today's society and the message that the Church is attempting to communicate.

Learning about different faiths helps to promote understanding and harmony in our diverse society.

Investigating FOOD IN YORK

Last month, a group of Year 10 GCSE Hospitality & Catering students, pictured below, enjoyed a trip to York to research the variety of catering establishments in the city.

Students looked at everything from luxury Michelin star restaurants to budget street food outlets, and compared the customer facilities, prices and diversity of dishes on each menu. The trip gave students the opportunity to learn about what makes a food outlets successful such as location, reputation and effective advertising.



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Promotes Discovery & Debate



Getting hands-on with FORENSIC SCIENCE



Year 9 Religious Studies students have recently visited the *Centre for Life* in Newcastle to take part in an exciting Forensic Science workshop.

Our Religious Studies curriculum includes a wide variety of topics including a module on Crime and Punishment, and this workshop gave students the opportunity to learn about the processes and techniques involved in gathering evidence and identifying a murderer. As part of the scenario-based workshop students used the latest technology and techniques to analyse fingerprints, DNA, handwriting, clothing and hair fibres to determine a perpetrator.

Whilst at the Centre for Life, the group also

visited the Planetarium, where thanks to its sophisticated digital technology, students were able to experience an immersive journey through space and the solar system. They were fascinated by the real-time *Live Skies* show, which allowed them to see what's happening in space right now.

In addition to this, students were able to enjoy the wide range of interactive exhibits and learning activities on offer, including using green screen technology to create their own weather report!

Lessons from AUSCHWITZ

Two Year 12 Religious Studies students, Amelia Coser and Rebecca Howarth, have travelled to Poland as part of the *Lessons from Auschwitz* project.



Students visited the town of Oswiecim, which was 70% Jewish inhabited before the Second World War. They then went on to *Auschwitz I Camp* where they saw hair, clothing, glasses, shoes and suitcases abandoned by the victims, and walked through one of the remaining gas chambers.

At the *Auschwitz-Birkenau Camp*, students saw the living conditions of the prisoners and held a candle lit ceremony with a Rabbi to remember all those that had lost their lives. It was heartbreaking to learn that if we had a minute silence for each person that lost their life, we would have to remain silent for two years.

Lessons to promote CRITICAL THINKING

Our Religious Studies curriculum is incredibly diverse and designed to allow students to develop their critical thinking skills and build confidence in debating a wide variety of topics.

Last term, Year 10 students took part in three thought-provoking sessions. The first was a debate regarding pro-life and pro-choice with visiting speaker, Eileen Brydon from the *Society of Protection of Unborn Children*. Students were asked to consider when life begins, what constitutes life and if and when abortion is acceptable.

As a follow-up to this, students also visited the *Centre for Life* to participate in a premature babies workshop, which further debated when life begins compared to different religious beliefs.

In another session on Animal Rights with John Ellis, students discussed the use of animals for food, transport, entertainment and animal testing. They also considered the products they use every day and were shocked to discover that some were still tested on animals. Many had enjoyed animal shows in the past and reconsidered their views on this as a result.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION in our Sixth Form Common Room

On our last day of school before the holiday, Sixth Form students, their Tutors, Teachers and the Sixth Form team celebrated the end of a hugely successful first term with a Christmas party in our new Common Room.



Students have worked extremely hard since September; Year 12s have made an excellent start on their chosen courses and many of our Year 13s have plenty to celebrate as offers flood in for University places across the UK.

The celebration included a fun quiz, organised and hosted by Mr Middleton, with questions designed to test general knowledge, and a buffet lunch provided by Mrs Dixon and Mrs Goddard. Students formed teams in a friendly competition against each other and the staff before exchanging gifts and heading off for a well deserved break. We hope they had a fantastic Christmas and are looking forward to a productive and successful new year.



A FESTIVE FEAST

It's no easy task to cook Christmas lunch for 300, but once again our fantastic Catering Team succeeded in presenting us with a fantastic festive feast.

Served by our dedicated cooks, who always get us in the Christmas spirit by dressing in festive outfits, students and staff were treated to a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Thank you so much ladies!

Festive



Over four hundred visitors joined us for our Festive Fair last term to take part in some fun activities and seek out a unique Christmas gift or two.

With over 40 craft and speciality goods stalls on offer, our local community had plenty to choose from. Alongside the ever-popular Tombola and Lucky Dip stalls, Christmas shoppers were able to buy hand made jewellery, soaps, floral displays, greeting cards, Christmas decorations and speciality cupcakes from some of our local businesses and entrepreneurs.

A number of departments at King James also took up the offer of a stall to sell products from paintings and bottle lights to toys and mini hampers. Money raised from these in-house initiatives help to support a variety of causes at King James including subsidised activities for students in low-income households.

The event was organised by Assistant Head Teacher, Mrs Aitkin as part of our

new fundraising initiative and Community Involvement programme. Firstly, the event marked the end of the month-long 1,000 Can Challenge, which saw students and staff join forces to collect 1,000 items of food to donate to our local food bank. We are please to announce that on the day, we had collected an amazing 1,048 items for Woodhouse Close Food Bank, which directly serves our local families. The donation was collected by Food Bank volunteer, Monica, pictured above.

As a result of the fair, we were also able to donate £100 to the Angel Trust, which provides financial support and services to local people in need. A further £450 will be used to launch our brand new Fundraising scheme; this aims to raise £10,000 for a variety of worthy causes in the next 12 months.



Fun!

Christmas at BEAMISH

Nurture Group students had a brilliant trip to Beamish Museum last term as a reward for their hard work since September.



Students went down the mine, had a lesson from the Headmaster in the school and went to the 'Frosty Fair' for ice skating and hot chocolate. They also enjoyed meeting the reindeers and walking the forest path to see the 'Elf Village'.

YEAR 8 CAROL SINGERS bring festive cheer to local care homes

Six of our Year 8 students have been spreading some Christmas cheer by singing carols to elderly residents in two of our local care homes and to local shoppers.



The choir members rehearsed each lunch time with Music Teacher, Mr Heddle, to perfect a selection of traditional hymns and popular festive tunes, which they performed to residents at Eden House and Sandringham care homes. The group performed hymns including 'We Three Kings', 'Silent Night' and 'O Come All Ye faithful', and pop songs such as Mariah Carey's 'All I want for Christmas is you'; this made sure that there was something for everyone to enjoy. Residents enjoyed singing along with our students and even requested an encore!

The choir also performed for Christmas shoppers at Asda and Morrisons, where staff and customers joined in with their cheerful voices. It was a great experience for our students; not only did they have real audiences to perform to, but they also enjoyed being able to give something back to the community.

Season's Greetings from SANTA PAWS!

On the last day of term, Arthur the Cockapoo came to deliver sweet treats to Media students as a reward for all their hard work. He loved all the fuss and cuddles from our animal-loving students and staff.



DRESSING FESTIVE

On the last day of term our students and staff wore their best festive outfits.

Everyone donated £1.00 to leave their uniform at home, with all money raised going towards our new £10,000 Charity Challenge.



MATHEMATICS

Department News

MAGIC AT DURHAM UNI

A group of students in Years 8 and 9 have recently visited the School of Education at the University of Durham to take part in a Mathematical Magic Event along with students from a number of other schools in County Durham.



Students were shown a number of magic tricks, including card tricks and 'mind reading' tricks, and were then encouraged to use their mathematical and problem solving skills to work out the secrets of each one. Use of the Binary number system, cubed numbers and sequences were all involved, and showed our students that maths can also be used in fun ways. Since returning to school, students involved have impressed their peers with their magic skills and have shared the 'maths is fun' message.

TEESSIDE MATHS LECTURE

Last term, a group of Year 10 students attended the annual Christmas Maths lecture at Teesside University.



This year's speakers included Colin Wright, who showed students how to link juggling to complex mathematics, and Rob Eastaway, who discussed the importance of intelligent approximations. Students made predictions from patterns and were able to complete some complex mathematical calculations using 'back of the envelope' thinking strategies. They enjoyed the lectures tremendously and many of the participants are now strongly considering continuing with Maths at A' Level.

SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

A team of four of our A' Level Maths students, have recently competed in the regional finals of the Senior Maths Team Challenge in Durham.



Rebecca Howarth and Riley Johnson in Year 12, and Year 13 students, Euan Elliott and Leon Davies, all pictured right, managed a top ten finish with the team particularly enjoying the cross-number round.

Also last term, students in Years 12 and 13 competed in the UKMT Senior Challenge. Year 13s, Abbi Stephenson and Alex Philpott both received Best in Year, Best in School, and Bronze certificates, and Year 12 student, Courtney Smith also received Best in Year and a Bronze certificate. Finally, Euan Elliott and Rebecca Howarth received Bronze certificates. Well done to everyone.

PE BULLETIN

CLIMBING

A group of GCSE PE students have attended Rof 59 in Newton Aycliffe to complete part of their practical assessment in Rock Climbing.

Students worked exceptionally well to participate in a range of activities including belaying, traversing and bouldering; some even succeeded in completing the extremely challenging overhang, which ensured top practical grades. Notable students were Dylan Nicholson and Bentley Lewis who both performed really well to complete several extremely difficult climbs.

NETBALL

The Netball season is now well underway and King James has made a good start with our Year 9 team celebrating wins against Staindrop Academy and Wolsingham School.

Year 7s are currently attending training and all are improving in both skills and tactics ready for their matches this month. We are always on the look out for new members so if you are interested in joining the Netball team, just turn up for one of our practise sessions, which are held each Tuesday after school.

RUNNING

Last term, our athletes participated in the South West Durham Cross Country Championships.

King James entered both Junior and Intermediate teams for the event and results were good, but there were some fantastic individual results from Brooks Sowerby, Jake Dobinson, Kian Dixon, Jack Spencer and Tilly Robinson, who all qualified for the District Cross Country Championship. Well done to them all.

New Football Academy Partnership!

This academic year sees the launch of an exciting new partnership between King James I Academy and Shildon AFC. The partnership will allow footballers of all standards to progress their skills whilst studying an academic qualification.



As a member of the Football Academy, students can choose to study a Cambridge Technical in Sport, or A' Level and BTEC courses in a variety of other subjects. Football Academy members will participate in three training sessions each week and take part in one competitive match. Talented players will also have the opportunity to train and play for Shildon AFC First and Reserve Teams.

King James has already developed a close working partnership with Shildon AFC as students have trained on their pitch and been able to attend home fixtures, however they are keen to develop the relationship further and provide more opportunities for talented young footballers.

Last term, we held our first Open Evening at Shildon AFC and those interested in joining the Football Academy had the opportunity to attend a presentation, take a tour around the ground and changing facilities, and take part in a sample training session on the pitch. It was a very successful evening and

one which we hope to repeat to provide more opportunities for students to enrol.

Last month, Dylan Howe and Daniel Mistrzak, pictured below, attended the Shildon AFC match against North Shields as special guests, and following this they signed a contract for the King James Football Academy for the next academic year; Daniel Moore, the Shildon player and manager was present to witness the signing. Dylan has already attended two training sessions.



Dylan and Daniel with Shildon AFC Manager, Daniel Moore



FOOTBALL

The football season has got off to a great start and matches have taken place across all year groups.

Year 7s have celebrated two wins against Ferryhill and Teesdale and other year groups have put in some good performances. A special mention goes to Romario Fraser who has been selected for the Bishop Auckland District Team. King James training takes place each Monday night after school from 3.30pm - 4.30pm and all are welcome.

Coming soon... AMSTERDAM!

In May, 41 students in Years 7 and 8 will travel to Amsterdam for a six-day Football themed trip.

This hugely popular annual trip includes opportunities to train with Ajax Academy coaches and play with Dutch youngsters, alongside chances to explore the sights and experience local cuisine and culture.



K SPORTING HEROES

COMPETING AT 82mph!

Year 8 student, Justin Beward has been driving since he was just six years old.



Justin, who holds an MSA Competition Licence, amassed a host of trophies from his many podium finishes at an early age and finished second in the Northern Kart Federation. He then went on to race in Super One British Championships where again, he celebrated a number of podium places.

Justin has now moved on to racing a DRS 100 which can hit a top speed of 82mph and is racing in the 12-16 year old category. His new kart presented him with a challenging learning curve but Justin's skills have improved in every race and in his last race of the summer he finished fourth out of 32 drivers. In 2020, Justin is set to compete in all rounds over a period of eight months and aims to finish in the top ten in the country. Each race is live on YouTube. We wish he the best of luck.

ELITE THAI BOXING FAMILY

Siblings Sonny, Brooks and Konniegrace Sowerby have been sparring together and training with pads and bags since they were as young as two years old with their Dad.



At ages five, six and seven, the trio joined the local gym in Bishop Auckland where they learned different techniques, how to spar with other children and how to have respect for one another and those they fight. They had their first competition fight when the youngest of the siblings, Konniegrace was just 7 years old, and all became European Champions, winning in Thaiboxing and K1, and collecting three gold medals each and three title belts.

Since then, they have moved on to other gyms and learned the art of Thaiboxing and K1 from different coaches, all with different techniques and styles of fighting; these varied skills have made them into the elite fighters they are today. The family has travelled across the country to take part in competitions, sometimes fighting four times in one day, and they have now amassed over 100 fights between them since starting their fighting career. In one year alone, the trio claimed 25 titles and the number one spot in the UK.

Now fighting out of Yodphet Muay Thai Gym with their Thai Coach who has fought over 300 fights himself, these young champions have fought and won an incredible 9 Open World Championships, 20 British Championships, 8 European Championships and 4 Scottish Championships including WKA British and European, WKU British and World, WKO British and World, WTKA British, European and World, Sandee British and European, Supershow British, European and World, Scottish Anglo, UKMF and TANKO. We wish them all the best of luck for 2020 and look forward to tracking their success throughout the year.

MACMILLAN FUNDRAISERS



Students and staff at King James have raised £324.13 for Macmillan Cancer Support at the annual World's Biggest Coffee Morning event.

Cakes and biscuits were baked and faked by many enthusiastic contributors at the school and sold both in the Main Dining Hall for students in Years 7-11, and in the Common Room for Sixth Form students who also included savoury goods to boost donations.

Student Support Workers who organised the event said, "Sadly, cancer has affected many of our families at King James so Macmillan is a charity that is close to our hearts. Many of us know first hand that Macmillan provides an invaluable service to families in tragic times so we are always pleased to show our support."

The Academy organises this event each year as part of an extensive fundraising calendar. Some fundraising efforts help charitable organisations in the Bishop Auckland area, whilst others such as this support worthy national causes. Planning is already underway for a full programme of fundraising activities which will take place throughout 2020.

Book Drive collects 580 NEW BOOKS

Last term we held a Book Drive to increase the stock in our Library and this resulted in 580 new books for our young readers.

We received books from staff and students as part of the initiative, which encouraged everyone to donate their pre-loved reading material for the benefit of others. Our Library is now extremely well stocked with a variety of genres to suit all tastes and ages but further donations are always welcome. Please send any books to Daniel Wheatley in our Library. This initiative supports our commitment towards recycling.



LOVING LITERACY with pro-author Chris Priestley



Childrens' author, Chris Priestley has recently visited King James to work with students in Years 7 and 8, as well as pupils from Victoria Lane and St Andrews Primary Schools.

Chris, who is best known for the spooky series of children's stories, *Tales of Terror*, spoke about his life and how he found inspiration for his work from everyday things and the places that he grew up. Chris is also an illustrator so he talked about the impact of illustrations in books and how they can really engage the reader and enhance a story.

Students heard excerpts from his latest book, *Curse of the Werewolf Boy*, and had the chance to ask him questions about his writing and

his career. Student Librarians also enjoyed a more intimate Q&A session at lunch time. Finally, Chris delivered a workshop with a mix of 20 students, where he helped them to develop their own ideas and create a Christmas story around the horror genre.

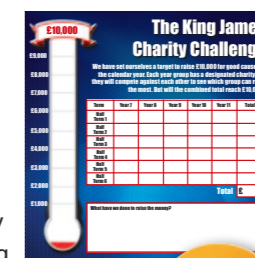
Students were chosen to take part in the session as a reward for their progress in English as well as their good behaviour in all lessons. This is just one of the ways we recognise achievement at King James.

Launching our new £10,000 CHARITY CHALLENGE!

Fundraising for worthy causes is an important part of life at King James and we organise a host of events and activities throughout the year. This month, we are launching our most ambitious project yet - *The £10,000 Challenge!*

Our aim is to raise a total of £10,000 for a variety of charities, both local and national, between January 2020 and January 2021. Each half term, year groups from 7-11 will be allocated a different charity and their fundraising efforts will be donated at the end of the time period. Our new totaliser board will keep track of their year group efforts and their contribution towards

fulfilling our overall Academy goal. Fundraising is an excellent way to promote a sense of achievement in our young people and show them that by working together, they can make a real difference in our community and the wider world.



new

Fundraising shows our young people that they can make a real difference in our community and the wider world.

KING JAMES BOOK AWARDS

Year 5 pupils from Crook Primary have been taking part in the King James Book Awards, which is part of our Primary School Education Challenge Zone.



Ten pupils joined us for the session in our Library where they began by reading from a selection of five books. They then wrote reviews about their favourite and competed in a fun quiz and spelling bee based on the book they had read. In a final activity they completed a piece of drama based on a scene taken from one of the books. All students worked extremely hard throughout the challenge and proved to be enthusiastic and talented readers. For their efforts, each student received a prize of a book bag and badges with our 'I Love Reading' logo.

YEAR 10 SAFETY CAROUSEL

Year 10 students have recently taken part in our annual Safety Carousel event, which was attended by representatives from Durham County Council and the Police Force.

Throughout the day-long event, which is organised by our Student Support Team, students attended various sessions focusing on topics such as online security, cyber-bullying, negative relationships, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol abuse, and community cohesion and diversity.

The event is designed to raise awareness about many of the issues which affect young people in today's society, and arm them with the knowledge they need to protect themselves in potentially hazardous situations. They also find out how to access the many support services that are available should they need help.

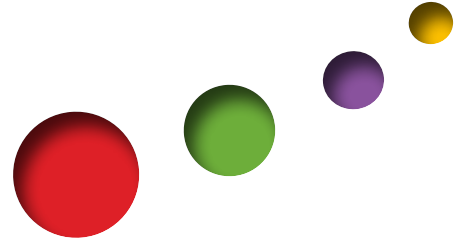




Diary Dates

Jan 16	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Jan 30	Sixth Form Meet & Greet for external applicants
Feb 3-4	Young Americans visit
Feb 12	Prize Evening 7.00pm
Feb 14	INSET Day (Academy closed for staff training)
Feb 14	Half Term holiday (1 week)
Feb 24	Academy re-opens
Feb 27	Year 9 Parents' + Options Evening
March 4	Year 8 Parents' Evening
March 26	Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening
April 3	Academy closes for Easter holiday (2 weeks)
April 20	Academy re-opens

LATEST NEWS



BISHOP JUNIORS FC now at King James



Bishop Juniors FC has now taken up residence at King James in one of our detached buildings near our 4G pitch.

The club has created 'The Hub' as a club house for evening and weekend sessions but the facilities are still used by our PE Department as a classroom during the day. The new layout provides an excellent space for meetings and match events. We wish Bishop Juniors the best of luck in their new home.

NEW BUILDING for Year 10 Nurture

This year, we extended our Nurture provision to include Year 10 students in a brand new detached building.

The new light and airy classroom is located next to our existing *Nurture Centre* at the rear of the *Rawe Building*. With its own computer facilities and peaceful, uninterrupted views over our playing fields, it is the perfect environment for the small-group learning offered by our Nurture initiative.

Nurture students benefit from a more tailored learning programme to help them identify strengths which they can build upon for their future. Small group learning also helps to ensure they are more able to reach their full potential in exams.

HOLIDAY REVISION

We will be offering an extensive programme of exam revision and coursework sessions during our February Half Term and Easter holidays. Sessions will be posted on our website and students will receive a personal timetable closer to the time.

HELP US SHAPE THE FUTURE

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

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



We also have an active Parents' Forum group that meets each term to discuss ideas to improve the learning experience we offer and raise the profile of King James in our community. If you would like to join this group, please contact Main Reception to find out the date of the next meeting.

£30,000 more funding for ROCK & POP INSTITUTE

King James has been granted a further £30,000 in funding from the Arts Council to enable our Music Department to continue delivering our hugely successful *Rock & Pop Institute*.

Now in its third year, the facility provides an opportunity for young musicians from King James and the surrounding schools to get together on a weekly basis to write and perform music. Members also record at professional studios, create music videos and have the chance to visit and perform at large venues such as The Sage in Gateshead. The funding will be used for staffing costs and to buy new equipment and instruments.



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