

# VISION

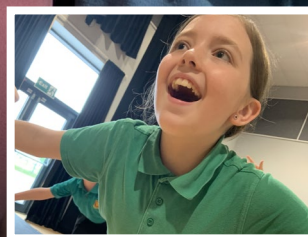
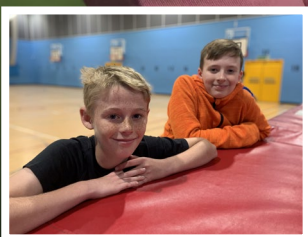
Issue 40: Autumn 2023



King James I Academy magazine

So many reasons to choose

*King James*



Inside: Exam Results, Transition Summer School, Year 5 Week, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Sports News, Auckland Project Partnership, Educational Visits, Sixth Form News and much more.





# Welcome

Welcome to the latest issue of Vision, our Academy magazine.

I must start by congratulating all of our A' Level and GCSE students on another set of fantastic results. I am delighted that so many Year 11's will continue into our Sixth Form this year, and that all Year 13 University applicants secured their first-choice places, including one student reading Medicine and another accepted to Oxford University. We are immensely proud of their achievements and wish them all well in the future.

We are very much 'Post Covid' now within school, with all activities returning to normal, and you will see in this issue of Vision that students have enjoyed a huge amount in the last year as they have made up for lost time. International visits are back on the agenda, alongside a huge range of local and national educational experiences, with many more planned in 2023/24. We aim to get as many students as possible involved in these visits as we look to broaden their horizons.

We have also incorporated a full Year 6 transition program this year, with primary pupils spending up to six days in King James prior to them starting in September. This transition program culminated in our Summer School and experience at Weardale Adventure Centre, where students could build on new and existing friendships. Year 5 pupils also visited the Academy during the summer term and we received excellent feedback from them. We look forward to seeing those students and parents at our Year 6 Open Evening on 27th September.

I'd also like to thank our parents and community for their ongoing support over the last academic year. We look forward to working with you again this year as we continue to build on our successes.

Best wishes,  
Simon Whitehead, Headteacher

# Working to create an easy Transition

At King James, we recognise the importance of beginning the transition from primary to secondary school early. We want our new starters to look forward to joining our school and to feel confident, so our programme begins with pre-school.

The transition process starts for us with the extensive Outreach Programme we offer to our local primary schools. Pupils from Years 1-5 are invited to attend King James to take part in Art, Music and Drama projects, all of which are designed to introduce young children to secondary school life and allay any fears from an early age. Children from Acklet Close Nursery also joined us in our Art Department to work on a creative mosaic project to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles.

In our annual Year 5 Curriculum Week 2023, pictured below, pupils from 14 local primary schools enjoyed a host of educational activities in all subjects from Maths, English, Science and History, to Languages, Geography, Food, Sport, Art, Drama, ICT and Music. These students are then invited to attend our vibrant annual Year 6 Open Event, which takes

place on September 27th this year. This is an excellent opportunity for families to join us in school to meet our staff and students and enjoy an evening of guided tours and subject-themed activities to help parents and guardians choose the best secondary school for their child.

For those students who are enrolled to start King James in September, the programme is extensive. It includes a number of welcome events where children and their parents can meet our Academy Leadership Team and Year 7 Form Tutors, and Year 6 Induction Days, which take place in school in July; these give pupils the chance to take part in timetabled lessons and join King James students for break and lunch in our Dining Hall. Finally, our hugely popular Summer School, detailed right, is designed to build confidence and independence, and to forge firm friendships.



Each year, our Transition Summer School gives Year 6 students who are entering King James in September, the opportunity to make new friends and build independence well ahead of the new academic year.

It's important to us that our new Year 7 students feel confident in their surroundings from day one and that they are excited to attend their lessons. All students meet their Tutor at our Year 6 welcome meeting in May, and then again in July when they attend Year 6 Curriculum Week. Here, students take part in guided tours of King James to ensure that they are familiar with all of our buildings, and they also enjoy a range of lessons in school so they know what to expect when September comes. By joining our existing students for break and lunch, they become comfortable with our mealtime system too. From experience, we know that all of these things make a huge difference to our new starters.

Our Summer School, which takes place during the first week of the holidays, is designed to

allow students to discover their potential, and develop resilience through team games and outdoor activities. This year, new starters spent two days in school taking part in activities including sport, cooking, drama, art, maths and even basic first aid, before attending Weardale Adventure Centre over a three day period where they enjoyed a range of outdoor activities from canoeing and high ropes to archery and rock climbing.

Although the vast majority of students had never tried any of these before, they faced the challenges with great enthusiasm and strength of character. Many expressed a sense of personal pride and achievement in completing the tasks set for them, and returned home with greater confidence and many new friends.

Our transition programme makes sure new starters feel confident in their new surroundings from day one.

Janet Stephenson, Transition Co-ordinator

## Year 6 Open Evening

Plans are well underway for our annual Year 6 Open Evening, which will take place from 6.00pm - 8.00pm on Wednesday 27th September.



The event, which is open to all local primary school pupils in Year 6 and their families, is designed to support parents and carers in making an informed decision about which secondary school will be best for their child. Throughout the evening, visitors will be able to meet and talk to our school leaders, teaching and support staff and our students. They will also be able to take a tour of our facilities and get involved in a wide variety of fun activities in all subjects. Student work will be on display throughout King James and you can find out about the many extra-curricular opportunities we offer to help young people develop outside of lessons.

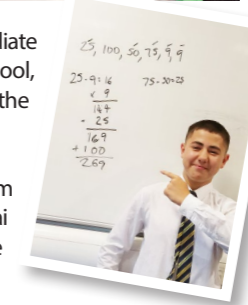




## Feasting on Maths

Students in our Maths Department regularly take part in competitions to support and reinforce their classroom learning.

Three Year 10 students recently competed in the annual Maths Feast at Teesside University, pictured right. This event brings together teams of students from secondary schools across the North East in a problem solving competition. Our team came 15th overall, despite having one less team member than every other team! Young mathematicians in Years 9, 10 and 11 have also taken part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge; TJ Glen in Year 11 achieved the best result in the school, whilst Jack Lewis earned the best score in Year 10 and Tai Harding earned the best in Year 9. Well done to everyone.



Year 9s in Mrs Brown's class enjoy taking part in the numbers round from Channel 4s Countdown as a starter activity in lessons and last term, Tai Harding, pictured right, succeeded in getting the exact answer when the two tv contestants did not. One of these was the eventual series champion!

## School Anthology on sale now!



Students in Miss Gowland's after-school Creative Writing group have produced a printed collection of short stories, poems and extracts.



The KJIA Anthology, pictured here, was officially launched in the summer term, with books priced at £8.99 each. Copies are available to purchase by emailing Miss Gowland at [s.gowland@kingjames1academy.com](mailto:s.gowland@kingjames1academy.com). The group is open to students in all year groups with an interest in writing and new members are always welcome.

## Year 7s perform Twelfth Night

As part of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Associate Schools Program, that is run across Durham and Tyne and Wear, Year 7 students have recently taken part in a contemporary performance of Twelfth Night.

Participants were able to enjoy the full process from auditioning for roles and taking part in rehearsals, to helping with costume, music and lighting decisions. The play was performed alongside 11 other schools from the area as part of a regional playmaking festival that aims to bring Shakespeare to life and encourage young people to have the confidence to read, understand and perform his plays. This year's festival also coincided with the 400-year anniversary of Shakespeare's first folio being published.

All of the students involved were fantastic, overcoming their nerves and performing brilliantly in front of an audience of 200 people.



## Saying farewell at the Prom

Our Year 11 Prom 2023 was a glittering affair, held at Redworth Hall Hotel and enjoyed by students and staff alike.

Students looked nothing less than spectacular in formal dress as they gathered in the gardens for photographs before being seated for dinner. The event gave us all the opportunity to celebrate achievement and to reminisce about students' time at King James. As is customary at our Prom events, we also enjoyed speeches and Prom Awards before students danced the night away. We wish our leavers the best of luck in whatever they choose to do next.



## Celebrating outstanding Exam Results!

Students at King James are celebrating another fantastic set of Exam results across all academic and vocational qualifications with many pupils achieving the highest grades.

Following excellent GCSE results, many of our students have now joined our Sixth Form to continue their studies at a higher level. We have also welcomed a number of external candidates from other secondary schools and look forward to helping them all achieve their goals for the future over the next two years.

Sixth Formers celebrated outstanding results in a wide range of both academic and vocational subjects, and 100% of those who applied, achieved a place to study at their first choice of University. Students are now beginning a wide variety of degree courses, or undertaking a range of higher college courses and industry apprenticeships. Results were positive in all academic subjects, but outcomes were particularly strong in Maths, Psychology and History. In creative and vocational courses, results were equally impressive, with all students in Media

Studies achieving the highest grade possible and all but one achieving the highest grade in Business. Results in Art also continued the tradition of excellent results in the subject.

Notable achievers include Hannah Stewart, who is soon to begin a Degree in Archaeology and Anthropology at University of Oxford thanks to outstanding grades in A' Level History, Sociology and English. Following top grades in Maths, Chemistry and Biology, Zoe Munro will be studying Medicine at York, and Chloe Wymer, who achieved a Triple Distinction\* in Sport now has the choice of studying a Degree programme at Durham University or following an apprenticeship programme with GSK. Luke Emmott celebrated a grade A in Criminology and Distinction\* grades in both Healthy & Social Care and Psychology, and Nicholas Hope will soon begin his Degree in Music at Newcastle. Congratulations to everyone.

## Students have PROUD Values

Last academic year, we launched our hugely successful PROUD initiative in school. The scheme rewards students for neat and creative exercise books in all subjects.

Students focus on neat handwriting and overall presentation in their books with an emphasis on using correct spelling, punctuation and grammar. Creativity is also recognised, with students given the freedom to add colour, sketches and diagrams to their work.

Teachers reward students with Class Charts points and bespoke PROUD pens, pencils and stickers for their hard work. Since introducing the initiative, we have seen a marked improvement in presentation across all year groups as students take great pride in the way they display their work.





# CREATIVITY

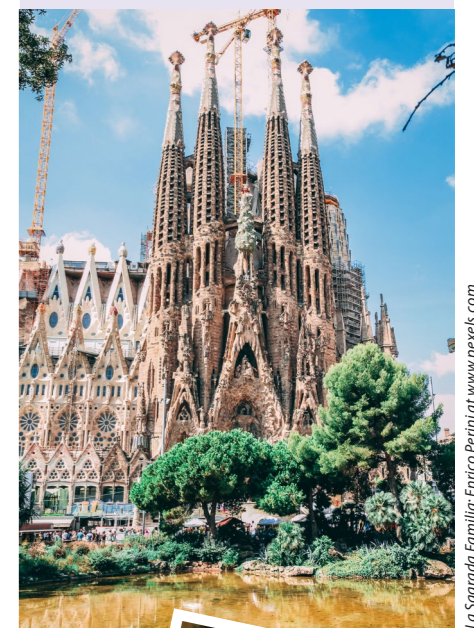
at its best!

## Photography & Media in Barcelona

This month, students from our Photography and Media Studies departments have visited the beautiful city of Barcelona to gather creative materials for their coursework portfolio.

Students in Years 12 and 13 spent five days exploring the city's architecture, art, culture and cuisine, with sightseeing opportunities including a visit to Gaudi's gothic *Sagrada Familia Cathedral*, the *Boqueria Food Market* and the *Arc de Triomf*. Media students gathered photographs and information for a lifestyle magazine, which they are currently producing in school, and photography students focused on architecture and local culture in their photography work.

Both departments offer the opportunity for students to take part in an international trip in September, with previous destinations including Malta, Madrid and Venice.



La Sagrada Familia: Enrico Perini at www.pexels.com

## Developing industry skills in Creative Media Production



The Media industry in the UK is booming and there are hundreds of career opportunities for talented creatives. Our media courses are designed to build specialist knowledge and a wide range of practical skills, and the department boasts 100% pass rate at both Level 2 and 3.



In Media, students get a broad overview of the media industry, whilst giving them the opportunity to build a range of specialist skills including script writing, film making, editing, photography, graphic design and journalism.

Year 10 students are currently investigating the techniques used by media producers to engage their audience, and are analysing a variety of products from computer games and social media platforms, to films, TV shows and magazines. As part of this, they are able to debate the differences between modern products and those from past decades.

In Year 11, students are developing practical skills in photography and photo manipulation, page layout, journalism and the use of specialist Adobe creative software

as they prepare to design a magazine for their exam component.

Year 13s produced fictional films and documentary programmes in their first year, including Ava Moffatt's investigative piece on the changing attitudes towards the LGBTQ+ community featuring interviews with TV celebrity, Scarlett Moffatt and local drag queen, Tess (pictured left). They are now working on a lifestyle magazine, with each student responsible for a double page spread on a topic of their choice.

Year 12s are beginning their learning journey by studying pre-production planning, looking at everything from market research, budgeting and risk assessments, to sourcing equipment, costume and props.



## Art & Photography

Our Art & Photography Department offers students a host of opportunities to develop their creativity and to build technical skills.

Last term, Key Stage 3 students took part in an Alice in Wonderland themed competition with the best entries put on public display at the *No42 Gallery* in Bishop Auckland Market Place. Students in all year groups enjoyed the many opportunities offered by our working partnership with *The Auckland Project*, visiting the *Mining Gallery* to take part in creative workshops in mixed media, and to *Auckland Castle* where they enjoyed lessons in glass painting.

Year 10 GCSE Photography students completed a walking tour of Newcastle city centre to photograph the diverse architecture and bridges; this trip also included a visit to *St James Park*. In a previous session, the group also photographed graffiti art in Bishop Auckland.

As part of our Outreach Programme, the department worked with youngsters from

*Acklett Close Nursery* on a creative project to celebrate the coronation of King Charles, where children worked together to create a mosaic of the royal crown. A number of creative workshops also took place in school with Year 4 pupils from local primary schools.

In Sixth Form, A' Level Art students were visited by a number of professional artists who shared their portfolio and discussed the techniques they use to achieve their personal style; they also talked about their career path into the industry. One of the visiting speakers was graffiti artist and graphic designer, *Gr a h a m Cleland*, who fascinated students with his impressive portfolio.



## Creative freedom to express yourself in Drama & Performing Arts

In our Drama and Performing Arts Department, our students combine art forms and showcase their skills in a variety of creative ways.

Recently, Sixth Form students worked together to create a haunting view of humanity in a performance entitled 'Run Program', based on the dystopian work of the tv presenter, writer and producer, Charlie Brooker. The cast pushed themselves to create a fascinating but pessimistic view of how society treats beauty and perfection; the piece also considered the devastating consequences of genetic manipulation. Our Performing Arts Department offers students complete creative freedom to explore a wide variety of genres and topics. As a result, it is well known for the unique performances that students deliver, and the exceptional grades they achieve at Key Stages 4 and 5.







## Visit from BBC Masterchef

Last term, Year 10 Food & Nutrition students were treated to a special visit from former *MasterChef* contestant, now successful private chef, Mike Bartley.



Mike, who is originally from Bishop Auckland, was a contestant on the 17th Series of *MasterChef*, which aired in 2021. He now operates as a private chef, running *Djam Kitchen*, which offers fine dining catering experiences in people's homes, thus far catering for parties of 4 - 150 people!

Chef Bartley worked with Year 10 students in three sessions, demonstrating dishes including steak and peppercorn sauce, BBQ Korean chicken and pork gyozas. He also answered questions about his passion for cooking, his time on *MasterChef*, the launch of *Djam Kitchen*, and one of his favourite pastimes, which is foraging for ingredients in the wild such as wild garlic and sea buckthorn. Mike uses wild garlic in his own recipes, including his cheese and wild garlic scones and wild garlic tagliatelle with wild garlic pesto; and he uses the berries of the coastal plant to make a sea buckthorn curd tart.



## Learning at the Yorkshire Show

Year 10 students in our Food & Nutrition Department have enjoyed a full-day educational visit to *The Great Yorkshire Show* in Harrogate. The focus of the trip was food provenance and sustainability.

The Great Yorkshire Show is the UK's biggest celebration of food and farming; it therefore provides the perfect opportunity for students to learn about the origins of food, such as where it has been grown and raised, and also how it is distributed and marketed. Visitors to the show can also enjoy sampling some of the very best British produce, from cheeses, jams and chutneys to artisan breads, pies and cakes.

In the Food Hall, students were able to speak to British farmers about the challenges they face as food providers, and also professional cheesemakers who were more than happy to discuss the cheesemaking process and provide samples. They also watched demonstrations by professional chefs who showed them how game can be incorporated into delicious dishes; students also considered why this ingredient is now rarely used in domestic environments. In the livestock section, students looked at the different breeds of cattle, sheep and pigs. They spoke to exhibitors to find out which breeds produce the best meat and dairy, and where the different cuts of meat come from on the animals; they also learned how animals are reared ready for the food chain. Overall, the trip was an enlightening experience for students who reported a much greater appreciation of food as a result.

## Cooking & Languages at *Gusto Lingo!*

Our weekly after school club, *Gusto Lingo*, allows students to build skills in international cooking and learn a language at the same time!

Participants get hands-on in the kitchen and learn how to prepare a range of traditional Spanish and French dishes such as Paella, Crepes, Croque Monsieur and Ratatouille, using specially designed recipe cards which are written in the relevant language. They also speak in the language throughout each cooking session and learn about the culture of the country to provide an all-round learning experience.



# Years 9s achieve the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Last term, 30 of our Year 9 students achieved the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award by logging hours volunteering, doing physical activities, developing a new skill and completing a two day expedition.



The Duke of Edinburgh Awards programme was launched as a pilot scheme in 1956 by HRH Prince Philip as a way for young people to explore new interests, acquire self-confidence and gain a sense of purpose that would support them into their future. Following the sad loss of Prince Philip in 2021, the Dukedom of Edinburgh was conferred upon Prince Edward who, as the new Duke, also took on the patronage held by his father.

To achieve the Bronze Award, participants had to complete a minimum of three months of work for the volunteering, physical and new skill elements, followed by a two day expedition, which involved an orienteering challenge with overnight camping. In preparation for this, students took part in an 8.5 mile practice walk and an intensive session to learn emergency first aid, which included CPR, pictured right.

Students completed a wide variety of volunteering projects, including gardening and painting in our on-site Forest School and sensory gardens. They also worked hard on school site maintenance, litter picking, and a range of animal and bird conservation projects. Some students incorporated their existing passion for football and reading by volunteering to help younger students as sports coaches and reading support mentors in our library, and there were a number of fundraising activities organised to benefit local charities.

For the physical element, some students opted to further develop an existing hobby, with hours logged taking part in football, martial arts, team sports, swimming and boxing, whilst others decided to try out a brand new physical activity including ice

skating and gym fitness. New skills included learning to cook, horticulture and garden construction projects, independently learning to speak Spanish and German with *Duo Lingo*, developing skills in creative arts, crafts and pottery, playing guitar and working on an allotment.

The DofE Awards programme has proved to be extremely popular, so this academic year, we will not only be offering the opportunity to a second group of Year 9 students, but we will also be working towards offering the Silver Award. This will give existing Bronze Award holders the chance to progress even further and gain an even more prestigious award.





## Kindle Winners!

Each term we run a competition which allows students to win an Amazon Kindle Fire through their reading lessons.

Students are awarded raffle tickets for completing a variety of reading and spelling challenges, and for unlocking the 'words of the week'. At the end of each term, students hand in their tickets for the much-anticipated prize draw; this means that the more tickets they have earned through their efforts, the greater their chance of winning the prize!

## Carnegie Book Club

As part of our Carnegie Book Club, students in Years 7-9 take part in a host of organised activities and special events in the library.

Students get involved in the *The Yoto Carnegies*, which are the UK's longest running book awards, recognising outstanding reading experiences created through writing and illustration in books for young people. As part of this, students in the shadowing group took part in eight livestreamed events with authors who were all shortlisted for the *Carnegie Medal*.

Students heard the authors discuss their books, writing techniques and inspirations, and they also had the chance to ask questions. Authors also set challenges for students including writing stories in a similar style to theirs and researching some of the topics covered in their novels. Authors included Ruta Sepetys, Patrice Lawrence and last year's winner Katya Balen.



Our library is not just a place for reading; it's also a hub for learning and socialising, with themed activities taking place throughout the year, both during and at the end of the school day.

Each year, *World Book Day* is a celebrated feature of our Library calendar. All students in Years 7-9 receive a free book from our Librarian and spend the day focusing on reading activities in all lessons. Students choose from a selection of books with genres from fantasy and drama to comedy. This promotes reading by making sure every young person can access a book regardless of their family circumstances or income. Pictured here with their books are Luca, Emma and Lennon.



All students in Key Stage 3 enjoy a timetabled lesson dedicated to reading. This encourages a love of reading for pleasure, whilst naturally building their vocabulary and literacy skills in punctuation and grammar, all of which leads to greater achievement in English. We have appointed five Pupil Librarians who have been trained in using computer software to catalogue, index and classify stock, alongside customer services and how to plan a host of special events throughout the year to appeal to readers in all year groups.

## Extra curricular activities

Each week, our Academy Librarian hosts an after-school Game Club for fans of *Warhammer*, *Pokemon*, *Magic the Gathering* and *Dungeons & Dragons*.

The club is open to students in all year groups from Years 7-13 who share a common interest in table top games, which means it is an excellent opportunity for socialising. Pictured here are the *Warhammer* group, Gabriel Rider, Logan Peters, James Cason, Charlie Thomas and Ben Tully, who spend time painting their own miniature models before using them as warriors in the fantasy-themed game. Students can also take part in our lunchtime Chess Club, which is known to raise IQ and build problem-solving skills as well as being lots of fun.



# Working in partnership with the Auckland Project

## A message from King Charles

Earlier in the year, we established a working partnership with *The Auckland Project*, which gives us access to many of the venues, attractions and parkland the project offers, and an opportunity to deliver exciting learning opportunities outside of the classroom.



To launch the partnership, all Year 7 students attended a full-day, carousel-style visit where they were able to tour a number of the attractions including *The Mining Gallery*, *Spanish Gallery*, *Auckland Castle* and *No 42 Gallery*. Those with a head for heights also had access to *Auckland Tower* and a birds eye view across the Market Place and town centre.

At each session, students read from the book, *The Light in Everything* by Katya Balen. This fantastic story, which is set on the coast, is about blended families and a timid young boy who uses the Japanese art of origami to cope with his anxiety. In the sessions, students wrote poetry about the sea on origami paper, and then tried origami for themselves by folding their poem into a flower design.

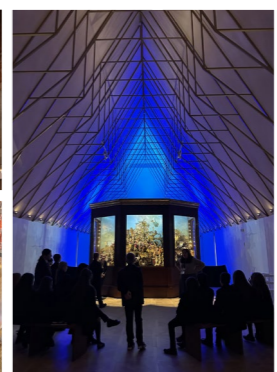
The Art and Photography Department has made excellent use of the partnership; Year 8 students visited the *Mining Gallery* to take part in creative workshops in mixed media, and to *Auckland Castle* where they enjoyed lessons in glass painting. Year 9s took part in an art workshop at the *Spanish Gallery* with work inspired by the stunning Salvador Dali exhibition which attracted thousands of visitors to the town.

Students in our Modern Foreign Languages Department enjoyed a tour of the *Spanish Art Gallery* followed by a meal at *El Castillo* tapas restaurant. This gave them the opportunity to learn about Spanish history through art, and absorb a little Spanish culture on our doorstep whilst practising their Spanish speaking skills.

Year 11 Photography students took some outstanding photographs for their coursework, with a focus on the dramatic architectural angles of *Auckland Tower*; and they also gathered some amazing aerial shots from the top. Key Stage 3 students also took part in an *Alice in Wonderland* themed competition with the best entries put on public display at the *No42 Gallery* in the Market Place.

Our Sixth Form students have also gained valuable work experience thanks to the partnership. Hannah Stewart explored her passion for art and history by working in *The Spanish Gallery* as a Visitor Guide, and Year 12 student, Kiera Watson also worked as a guide inside *Auckland Castle*, greeting tourists and answering their questions as they made their way from room to room.

The former Champagne Bar in the Market Place has been repurposed and renamed *Mrs M's Cafe*, and our teachers can now book the space for an afternoon to inspire learners by delivering a lesson in a completely new environment. Our Academy Librarian delivered three special sessions to 50 students in Key Stage 3, all of whom had been chosen by their reading teachers to receive a reward for hard work and progress.



Following the sad passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II, our students sent messages to King Charles, expressing our deepest sympathy. Last term, we were delighted to receive this wonderful card from The Palace in return.

The card features a beautiful hand coloured photograph of Queen Elizabeth and a very young Prince Charles. Inside it reads, 'It was so very kind of you to send me such a wonderfully generous message following the death of my beloved mother. Your most thoughtful words are enormously comforting, and I cannot tell you how deeply they are appreciated at this time of immense sorrow.' The card, and copies of our students' messages, are now framed and available for all to admire in our Main Reception.





# PE & Sport



Year 10 Form Tutors, Mr Saunders, Miss Howard and Mr Riley with some of the winning students.

## Year 10 League Cup Final Champions

Last term, our Year 10 football team won the League Cup Final following a hard-fought match against *Durham Johnston*.

At the final whistle, the score was a 3-3 draw, with two of the King James goals scored by Bradley Hughes and one by Ross Grant. This meant that the winning team was decided by a nail-biting penalty shoot-out, and that is where Jack Lewis earned his title as 'Man of the Match' when he saved a penalty to help King James claim the trophy.

At King James, each year group has their own football team to represent the school in various local leagues and tournaments, and our Sixth Form offers a specialist Level 3 course in Sport, which incorporates pro-football training and plenty of opportunities to compete. This course is worth 3 A' Levels and is an excellent qualification for students who aspire to a career in the sports sector. Where some secure apprenticeships in the field, others progress on to degree courses at University to study fitness, nutrition or physiotherapy.



## Sporting Champions

### Konniegrace Sowerby

Konniegrace began Muay Thai kickboxing at just 8 years old.

She has celebrated a number of victories in the ring, most recently the 'Under 16s English Bantamweight Championship' title, and aspires to share her love of the sport as a professional trainer.



### Tom Brown

Another Muay Thai star is Tom Brown, who recently retained his 'Best in UK' title and won the 'Under 16s Flyweight Championship' title.



Tom, who was inspired to take up the sport by family members at 8 years old, aspires to make a career from pro-competition fighting. This year, Tom also won an award at the *Bishop Town Council Youth Awards*.

## Athletics Victory for Year 9s

Last term, following an excellent competition season, our Year 9 Boys Athletics Team celebrated victory at the *South West Durham District Championships*.

Well done to Oliver Smith, Callum Sutton, Danny Rutherford, Cameron Nevison, Jackson Raitt, Elliott Metcalfe and Owen Hind, pictured below.



In glorious July sunshine, an excellent time was had by competitors and spectators alike at our Year Group Sports Day events.

Events took place over a number of days, with students taking part in male and female field events including Shot Putt, Discus, Javelin, Standing Broad Jump and Standing Triple Jump; and track events including 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and the 4 x 100m relay.

At the Year 7 event, Miss Graham's form group claimed the trophy with 127 points, beating Miss Thornton and Mrs Lamb's form groups into second and third place respectively. In Year 8, the winning form group was Miss

Houlahan's, with 118 points overall, and Miss Dixon and Mr Blood's form groups shared second place with 108 points each.

In the Year 9 competition, Miss Ford's group took first place with 130 points, followed by Miss Wilkinson and Mrs Binns' classes in second and third. Finally, the Year 10 title was shared by three form groups, who all ended the event with 84 points. This means that Miss Howard, Mr Saunders and Mr Riley will have to display the trophy in their form classroom for one term each during the next academic year!

## Football Champions

Four of our most talented young footballers have been chosen to represent *Bishop Auckland Schools FA Under 14s*.

Charlie Broom, Nevan Lamb, Leon Monaghan and Jackson Raitt have played matches across the North East in a number of League and Cup Competitions.



## International sport in Amsterdam

Last term, with international trips fully back on the agenda following the pandemic, our PE Department was able to reinstate its annual football-themed experience to Amsterdam.

A total of 45 students in Years 8 and 9 enjoyed three action-packed days in Amsterdam with football training sessions at the state-of-the-art *KNVB National Campus* and friendly fixtures with local teams. There was also a tour of *De Kulp Stadium* in Rotterdam and a fun visit to *Duinrell Theme Park and Water Park*, alongside time to explore the city and take part in a range of fun evening activities including ten pin bowling and a trip to the arcade.

Before the trip, participants completed a 9-mile sponsored walk from Durham to Bishop Auckland to raise funds to support planned activities in the city. This also helped students to build confidence, resilience and new friendships before the trip.



### Ruby Sheridan

Young equestrian, Ruby, who began riding when she was four years old, regularly takes part in local, regional and national equestrian competitions.



As well as her many accolades for show jumping, in 2022, Ruby also won *Durham County Council's Young Peoples' Award* for Outstanding Person, pictured here.

### Cameron Nevison

Year 9 student, Cameron has a particular talent on the rugby pitch which has earned him the position of winger for South Durham.



Once recruited, he quickly proved his worth and in his first seven games playing for the team he scored 15 tries!



## Reward trip to see *The Lion King*

A group of Year 8 students were recently treated to a reward trip to see *Disney's The Lion King* at *Sunderland Empire*.

Students were invited to apply for a place and successful applicants were chosen based on their attendance record and the number of positive *Class Charts* points they had earned for hard work, homework and behaviour in their lessons. The trip gave students the opportunity to see a West End performance, and for many this was their first visit to the theatre.

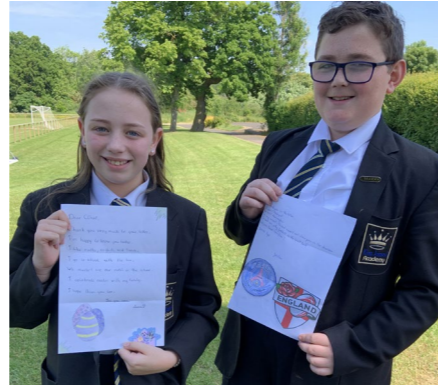


## MFL learning with *Pen Pals*

Key stage 3 students in our Modern Foreign Languages Department (MFL) enjoy a variety of learning experiences which help them develop skills in speaking, reading and writing both French and Spanish.

One of the most popular methods of learning is our Year 7 and 8 pen pal programme, which links students at King James with those of the same age in the town of Gap, which is situated in the Alps in the South of France.

Students send letters to each other throughout the academic year, written in the language of their pen pal; this enables rapid development in their ability to communicate effectively in another language. Our students write about their lives at school and home, alongside their hobbies and life in the UK, and are excited to receive similar news from their French friends. Pictured here with their letters are Chloe Howe and Cody Stokoe.



## Plans for *Pen Pal* visit!



In 2024, our MFL Department hopes to develop our penpal programme even further by organising an opportunity for French students and their teachers to visit King James and tour the North East.

Our teachers, Miss Stephenson and Miss Grand, are working with staff in Gap to investigate group accommodation near Bishop Auckland, plus options for travel and a variety of learning and sightseeing activities. The North East of England offers a host of museums, galleries, coastal areas and places of historic interest, alongside a plethora of opportunities for shopping and leisure; we look forward to sharing it all with our European friends.

## Raising awareness of *Online safety*

In a world full of technology, online safety is more important than ever. We want to ensure our young people and their families are aware of the dangers and know how to protect themselves.

Students in all year groups learn about online safety as part of the core curriculum in Computer Science & IT, and the department also shares the most up-to-date information with parents and carers via direct messaging, our Academy website and social media.

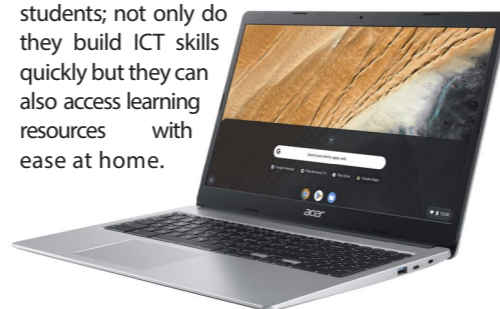
All students at King James are issued with a personal *Chromebook* when they enter Year 7; they use these instead of desktop computers in the majority of lessons throughout their time with us. Not only does this mean that every student has full access to technology at school and at home to help with their learning, but *Chromebooks* also offer excellent protection as any potentially harmful websites are blocked. Regular themed assemblies also ensure that students are kept up to date with topics such as fake news, catfishing, online grooming and cyberbullying.



## Personal student *Chromebooks*

Thanks to our successful *Chromebook* Scheme, all young people receive a personal laptop when they enter Year 7. This ensures that every student has access to technology both at school and at home as they progress through their school life.

We launched the *Chromebook* initiative six years ago; this means that students in every year group now have a laptop. We utilise the learning opportunities on offer in *Google Classroom* and *Class Charts*, alongside educational packages including *MyMaths*, *Tassomai*, *Teaching Gadget*, *GCSE Pod* and many more. There are a number of advantages for students; not only do they build ICT skills quickly but they can also access learning resources with ease at home.



Each year, during the final week of term at King James, we host *Activity Day*, where Heads of Year organise a variety of fun activities for students in their year group.

Year 7s spent their day at *Auckland Castle* where form groups competed against each other in a range of challenges. They began with an introduction to the *Deer Park* followed by a some fun races and freeze frame games. Next, groups were given paper and tape and challenged to design and build a structurally strong castle, then after lunch, each form group created a timeline with their Tutor to reflect their Year 7 experiences at King James.

Year 8 students travelled to *Lightwater Valley Adventure Park* in Yorkshire, where they enjoyed an action-packed day of rides, from the more sedate *Carousel* and *Express Train* to the terrifying *Eagle's Claw* and *Dragon Drop*! They also played mini golf, took on the *Treetop Trail* and explored the *Interactive Arcade*, *Hall of Mirrors* and *Discovery Woods*.

Students in Year 9 enjoyed a themed event in school, which involved a variety of inflatable activities including a bungee run, obstacle course, sumo suits, bouncy castle and the super-difficult *Total Wipeout* challenge. Not only were the activities hilarious for both participants and spectators alike, but they were also a great form of exercise!

Finally, Year 10s took part in a carousel of activities, which included the hilarious *Lip Sync Challenge*, complete with wacky costumes and props. Students chose an outfit and song for their performance and these were all filmed and played to the year group at the end of the day. They also ran the gauntlet in an outdoor water challenge, took part in an *Escape Room* game and a forensic science activity, and were even treated to ice cream sundaes.

Our students have worked incredibly hard throughout the academic year; *Activity Day* gives us the opportunity to reward them for their efforts and to end the year on a real high.

Simon Whitehead, Headteacher



## The *Science Newsroom*

Our *Science Newsroom* is a learning resource that students access through *Google Classroom*. It is updated every month with the latest news and developments from the world of Science.

Students are encouraged to visit the newsroom to read articles which are all selected to promote enthusiasm for the subject. They also take part in a competition to write a scientific news report, with prizes awarded for the best entries, and work displayed in our *Science Department*. Summer term winners were Hollie Luntley, Sophie Mae Ward, Sienna Todd, Jessica Dawson, Bridie Richardson and Lilly Gordon.





# Health & Wellbeing

## Student Support

Each year group has a dedicated and experienced Support Worker on hand to help with any issues our young people have at school and at home that affects their ability to learn.

Staff are trained to offer emotional and practical support, and to liaise with families and outside organisations as needed. They work hard to build a relationship with students and get to know them well so that they know they can trust them should they need to ask for help.

Support Workers are fully trained in safeguarding and adept at resolving friendship issues; they are also highly knowledgeable about mental health and wellbeing and work hard to raise awareness and promote tips for personal wellbeing.

At King James, we recognise the importance of positive health and wellbeing and for that reason, our students take part in a programme of awareness events.

Recently, a group of students in Years 7-10 took part in a project called 'Rabbits in Headlights', with *Changing Relations*. This organisation works with young people to develop creative resources around difficult, and often taboo, themes such as neglect, divorce and domestic abuse. Students explored the issue of domestic violence in four separate sessions at *No42 Gallery* in Bishop Auckland. In creative workshops, they produced resources and art work, and wrote stories on the topic, which will be used by *Changing Relations* in their new community resources. You can find out more at [www.changingrelations.co.uk](http://www.changingrelations.co.uk)

## Lads and the MAG

Year 12 students have participated in a workshop at the *Mining Art Gallery (MAG)* called 'Lads and the MAG'.

This event focused on gender perception. Students viewed and discussed the artistic representations of colliery communities and miners on display in the gallery before debating what it means to be a man in today's society. This involved comparing the 'norms' of masculinity past and present, and considering whether expectations have changed at all.



Main image: Year 11 students at Seaham studying coastal vulnerability using quadrats.

## KJ on ice!

Students in Years 9 and 10 have been attending Ice Skating lessons at *Billingham Forum* as an after-school activity.

new

Around 15 students each week attended skating sessions with Director of Learning for RE, Mrs Cross, who is a keen ice skater herself. Whilst most students signed up for the activity for fun, two Year 9s chose to learn to skate to fulfil the 'new skill' element of their bid to achieve the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Students were involved in the *Learn to Skate* programme, which is based on the British Ice Skating Awards. Although students had never tried skating before, they quickly learned how to skate forwards, backwards and how to perform moves known as lemons!



## Learning outside of the classroom in Geography

As part of their Geography lessons, students take part in a variety of practical field trips to study topics directly relating to their classroom learning. This boosts their understanding by giving real life context to their learning.

Last term, Year 11 students took part in two field trips with the first taking students to Seaham to study coastal vulnerability and change. There they collected data on how the size of stones changes dramatically from the base of the cliff to the waters edge. They worked in teams and placed a 'quadrat' every 3m on the beach, then from each quadrat they selected 10 stones at random and recorded the size; students found that as they got closer to the water, the stones got smaller.

Students also visited *Tindale Retail Park* and Bishop Auckland town centre to complete a land use survey and a pedestrian and traffic count. The purpose of the visit was to gather evidence to support a hypothesis, "Has the development at Tindale Retail Park caused Bishop Auckland town centre to decline?"

Year 8 students also enjoyed outdoor learning with land studies conducted at Auckland Park and also within our school site to assess how sustainable it is.

## Flag for Antarctica

Year 7 Geographers recently entered a competition to design a flag for Antarctica. The winning flag was designed by Nathan Harris and sent to Natalia, Sustainability Manager at the *Rothera Research Station*, pictured here.



## Seeing spots!

To support *Mental Health Awareness Week*, our Year 9 Mental Health Focus Group organised a lunchtime event with lots of useful information to raise awareness and a range of activities.

The event was inspired by Japanese Artist, Yayoi Kusama, who is also known as the 'princess of polka dots'. The artist has suffered with her own mental health issues for many years, and focusing on artwork with colourful dots offers her an effective coping mechanism. One of Kusama's most important pieces is a completely white installation called the 'Obliteration Room', which was displayed at the *Tate Modern Gallery* in London. The piece invited participants to contribute towards the work by adding coloured dots, and we did the same at our event, with students adding dots to a white table and chair! Other activities included a ping-pong cup challenge and a message wall.

The event was attended by Sophie Fenner, who works for the *Stamp it Out Partnership*, an organisation that is working hard to raise mental health awareness among young people. This is just one of the many themed events, activities and talks we organise throughout the year.





## Trophies galore!

Talented footballer, Finley Horner, brought home a plethora of trophies last season.



Not only has Finley impressed teachers playing for King James, but he is also a superb defender for Belmont United Under 12s and Durham FC. In the recent Belmont Presentation Evening, Finley won the 'The Players' Player of the Season' trophy, 'The Parents' Player of the Season' trophy and 'The Most Man of the Match Awards' trophy, alongside a League Winners team medal and Coronation Cup medal.

Finley played 32 matches across the season and was declared 'Man of the Match' 15 times, which is an incredible achievement. He has a packed schedule, which sees him train and play over six days every week with only Friday to rest; this shows just how dedicated he is to the sport. We look forward to seeing what the new season will bring!

## Future Business Magnates

A team of Year 8 students has received the award for 'Best Business Plan' in the Future Business Magnates Competition 2023 at a ceremony at Beamish Hall Hotel.



The team, competed against 17 other schools in the annual competition, completing six challenges across the year, all linked to key areas of business. These included market research at Beamish Museum and 'I'm an Entrepreneur, Get me out of here' at Durham Cricket Ground.

The team worked to a brief to create a product that would solve today's problems using tomorrow's technology. They developed 'Super Sleep', a state of the art pillow pad that contains microfibres used by NASA that adapt and respond to changes in natural body temperature. They came up with the idea based on feedback from market research from King James pupils and staff on sleep quality. Congratulations to Tamzin Iley, Kenzie Watson, Evan Hymas, Tina Wilson, Sophie Lloyd, Emma Hawman, Luca Tomlinson and Alfie Jones.

## Road safety awareness with Benny & Jet

Students in Years 7-9 have taken part in a Road Safety event with PCSOs from Durham Constabulary and sniffer dogs, Benny and Jet, pictured here.



There were two sessions: the first involved a road safety talk and Q&A session followed by a fun quiz. Students also learned about the work of Benny and Jet, who both stole their hearts. The second session involved a walk around Bishop Auckland to put everything into practice.

Ruby Price and Ruby Jefferson signed the authentic incident book at the 1950s Police Station.



## End of year Barbeque for Year 11s



To celebrate the end of exams for our Year 11s, and to commemorate their secondary school years at King James, we organised an end of year barbecue.

Students collected their Leavers' hoodies before enjoying the traditional shirt-signing ritual and speeches from their Heads of Year, Miss Short and Miss Humble. They then settled down to watch the Leavers' 2023 video on the big screen; this is created each year to let students reflect on their time at King James from Years 7-11. As usual it was met with lots of laughter and some unexpected tears from both students and staff. The grill was manned by students in our Food & Nutrition Department, who rose to the challenge of providing lunch for over 120 hungry students and staff.

We are delighted to say that many graduates have chosen to join us in Sixth Form, studying a variety of A' Level and Level 3 vocational courses.

## Studying mise-en-scene at Beamish Museum

Year 10 Media students recently visited Beamish Museum to study how sets, props, costume, hair and make-up are used to communicate a specific time period; in the media industry this is called mise-en-scene.

Producers regularly use mise-en-scene techniques in film making, and Beamish offers an excellent opportunity to see how sets are created for period dramas. Popular tv productions such as *Downton Abbey*, *Dark Angel* and the many televised *Catherine Cookson* dramas have all used Beamish Museum as a film location in the past.

As students made their way around the various sections of the museum, they were able to fully appreciate the work that goes into ensuring that each external and internal 'set' provides an authentic representation of the era through appropriate architecture, landscaping, vehicles, furniture and small props. Museum staff also wear authentic costumes and sport appropriate hair styles.

The group visited the 1820s Pockerley Old Hall, the 1900s pit village, colliery, drift mine and town, the 1940s farm and Land Girls' cottage, and the 1950s town. They also discussed some of their favourite tv shows and movies that they had seen which rely on effective mise-en-scene to reflect a particular period in time such as *Bridgerton* (1813), *War Horse* (1912), *Dunkirk* (1940) *Elvis* (1950s), *Grease* (1959), *Dirty Dancing* (1963) *Bohemian Rhapsody* (1970-80s) and *Rocket Man* (1950s-80s).

Students realised that mise-en-scene does not just apply to period pieces; they also considered the importance of sets, make-up, costume and props in all movie genres such as sci-fi or horror. This will help them in their current coursework unit.

## Geography goes to London

Year 10 Geography students have enjoyed an action-packed educational trip to London to visit the Olympic Park and West End.

On day one, the group explored the city before heading to the Apollo Victoria Theatre for a spectacular performance of 'Wicked'. On day two, they visited the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to study the impact of regeneration on the area. Purpose-built for the 2012 Olympics, the area now offers housing, parkland, sports, arts and dining facilities, schools, medical centres and even a huge shopping centre!





Some of the Youth Award winners. From left: YoYo Chen, Alex Henderson, Alix Mikolauskas and Danny Rutherford.



## Bishop Auckland Town Council

# Youth Award winners

Bishop Auckland Town Council's Youth Awards is designed to give recognition to outstanding young people in Bishop Auckland. This year, we are proud to announce that our students won four awards!



Award winners and their families were invited to attend a red-carpet event at Bishop Auckland Town Hall, with over 100 dignitaries and guests in attendance on the evening. They were greeted by Mayor Sam Zair.

YoYo Chen in Year 12, who was nominated by her Drama Teacher, Miss Howard, won the *Young Achiever Award*, which recognises an individual who inspires others with their positive attitude and determination in overcoming social barriers in life. In her nomination, Miss Howard spoke of the compassion and enthusiasm which makes YoYo an outstanding role model for younger students and an exceptional ambassador for the community. YoYo is bilingual, and as her parents do not speak English, she takes a key role in managing the family household and business, and still achieves highly in her studies.

Nominated by Deputy Headteacher, Mr Longstaff, Year 9 student, Danny Rutherford was presented with the *Young Person Act of Bravery Award*, which recognises someone who has shown great strength and bravery in dealing with a challenging situation. Danny found himself in an incredibly difficult situation when he discovered a distressed local resident who wanted to end their life, but thanks to his quick thinking and empathy he was able to talk to them until help arrived, therefore preventing a terrible tragedy.

The King James Big Dig Team, nominated by Headteacher, Mr Whitehead, received the *Team of the Year Award* for their participation in the *Bishop Big Dig*, an archaeology project in partnership with *Durham University* and the *Auckland Project*. This saw students conduct a number of

archaeological digs at various sites around Bishop Auckland to discover more about our local history; this project also featured on the BBC's TV show, 'Digging for Britain'.

Finally, Year 11 student, Thomas Brown, was presented with the *Nic Cooper Award*, created in 2019 in memory of a former award winner who sadly passed away. Thomas, who was nominated by Assistant Headteacher, Miss Short, who also teaches PE, was commended for the skill and determination that has earned him the title of UK Muay Thai Boxing Champion.

All guests enjoyed afternoon tea before the ceremony began and winners received a personalised trophy, certificate and gift voucher, presented on stage by the award sponsor. Overall it was a fantastic evening enjoyed by students and family members alike.

## Focus on Career Planning

At King James, Miss Goddard, our dedicated Careers Adviser, not only provides one-to-one advice to students in all year groups, but she also organises a wide range of events and practitioner talks.

Last term, a series of speakers from a variety of organisations visited us to talk to Year 10 students. Representatives came from *GlaxoSmithKline*, the *Royal Air Force*, *Ford Aerospace* and *Hathaway Roofing*, alongside practitioners from the fields of architecture, podiatry, hair and beauty and engineering. Students were able to select and sign up to attend sessions of personal interest to help them begin considering their career options for the future. Following an informative talk, they had plenty of time to ask questions.

Top right: *GSK Degree Apprentices, Francesca Hume and Livia Kippax*, and bottom right, *Royal Air Force Sgt, Gemma Kimble*.



## Coming up... Careers Fair



In November, we will be hosting our annual Careers Fair for students in all year groups and their parents and carers.

As usual, we will be welcoming representatives from local and national businesses, alongside the NHS, the forces, and colleges and universities. Students will be able to ask questions and collect information to help them establish their goals and plan their future.

## Year 8s debate life at

# New Philosophy Club



A group of 15 Year 8 students have been taking part in a new club, led by Miss Houlahan, as part of our Key Stage 3 enrichment programme.

Each week, throughout the summer term, the group were visited by the Reverend David Spokes and Lay Preacher, Stephen, from *St Stephen's C of E Church* in Willington, and together they discussed matters of philosophy.

All topics were carefully selected to promote mindful, meaningful and thought-provoking debate, and therefore they included forgiveness, the holocaust, problems of evil and suffering, coping with grief, matters of national security, Greek and Hebrew, and even space exploration and life on other planets! They also spent a fascinating session discussing whether it is ever acceptable to tell lies, and the potential consequences of lying, such as loss of trust and respect.

Sessions have been extremely popular and as a result, Miss Houlahan will be offering an increased number of places this year and inviting guests from different faiths to take part. The club gives students the opportunity to consider different opinions and to develop confidence in expressing themselves in a group.



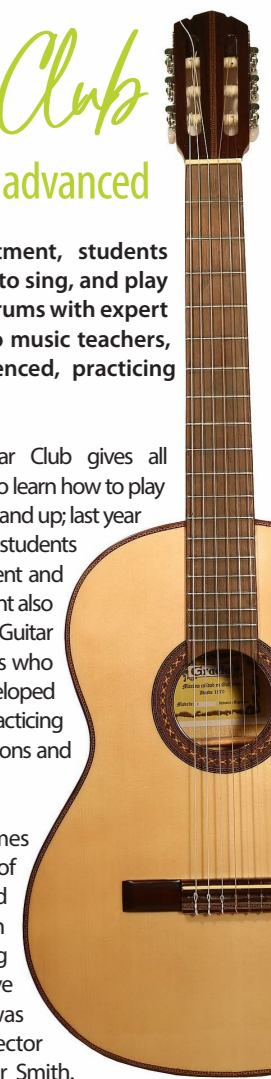
## Guitar Club

for beginners & advanced

In our Music Department, students are able to learn how to sing, and play guitar, keyboard and drums with expert guidance from our two music teachers, who are both experienced, practicing musicians themselves.

The extra-curricular Guitar Club gives all students the opportunity to learn how to play acoustic guitar from Year 7 and up; last year however, with so many students showing extraordinary talent and enthusiasm, the department also launched the Advanced Guitar Club. Many of the students who attend this club have developed high level skills by practicing during morning tutor sessions and at lunch time.

Students at King James benefit from a range of innovative teaching and learning strategies in music including Teaching Gadget, an interactive resource which was developed by our Director of Learning for Music, Mr Smith. Students learn through games, songs, quizzes and activities, all specially designed to engage and inspire young people.



## Sixth Form ICT visit

# Nissan

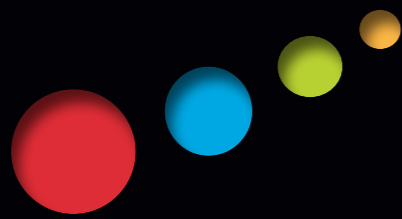
Year 12 students in Level 3 ICT and Computing have recently visited *Nissan Motor Manufacturing Ltd* in Sunderland to study how robotics are used in industry.

The group enjoyed a tour of the vast plant to see how humans and robots work in perfect harmony to turn raw materials into sale-ready cars driven off the production line. Thanks to industrial robotics, Nissan recently celebrated building their 11 millionth vehicle since production started in 1986. This means that, on average, a new car has rolled off the line every two minutes, every hour of every day, for 37 years!

Students were also able to see the plant's own solar and wind farms, vehicle test track and workforce sports and social facilities.







# ALUMNI

## Nathan Pilkington

"I joined King James in 2012 during Year 9. By 15 years old, I knew I wanted to be an architect, and thanks to an inspiring period of work experience in Year 11 where I was able to work in the field of archaeology, I realised that my passion lay with architectural preservation and restoration projects. Moving into Sixth Form at King James was a natural progression for me, and I studied A' Level History, Art and Applied Science from 2015-17, before moving on to study a three-year Degree in Architecture at the *University of Liverpool*, which was a fantastic experience."



"During the summer of my undergraduate programme, between years 2 and 3, I spent six weeks in Shanghai on an internship with *The Anken Group*. I organised this independently because I wanted to travel and gain experience with a company that focuses on renovation of buildings rather than replacement, which is completely in line with my own ethos. I learned so much about professional practice in China during this visit, but I also gained confidence in my own ability to adapt to any situation alone. It was an amazing experience and something I would recommend to anyone studying at university."

"When I graduated from university, I enjoyed a three-month long *ERASMUS+* placement in Crete, working with the company, *Peppas Nikolaos Architects*. As part of this, I was able to contribute to the tourism industry through the renovation of historic Greek buildings, which allowed me to expand my knowledge further by studying different building techniques and materials. Again, this was a brilliant experience, and one which gave me a host of design ideas for future projects and helped to build my confidence and resilience; I even learned to speak a little Greek!"

"When I returned to the UK, I worked for four months with local company, *DWJ Building and Groundworks* in Crook so that I could see how construction works first hand. It was fascinating to be able to see how projects are realised from plan, and the importance of effective project management. Following this, I then spent nine months on placement with *Crescent Architects*, a small practice in North Yorkshire, where I was able to work on a number of independent projects. This was immediately followed by a seven-month placement with the *DB3 Group* in Aberystwith, Wales. This large, award-winning company is well known for projects in sport, leisure, retail and residential sectors throughout the UK and Internationally, so I was able to gain experience working on conservation designs with budgets from £5-15 million."

"Currently, I am living in Belfast and studying a two-year Master of Architecture at *Queen's University of Belfast*; I have already completed year one. I just love learning and developing my knowledge and skills wherever I can, so this was a natural next step for me. During the summer, I was given a bursary to attend the *SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) Conference* in Kent which was fantastic. It was great to be surrounded by like minded people with the same love for architectural conservation as me."

"In the future, I aspire to build a reputation as an architect for historic buildings and their renovation and preservation. I love travelling, so I would ideally like to be in the position where I could combine this with work. Australia has an array of fantastic Colonial architecture, constructed during the period of European settlement from 1788 to 1840, so I intend to plan a working visit to study it in person. I would also like to visit the New England areas of America. If I was to offer advice to others, it would be to embrace every opportunity that arises to gain experience in the field you hope to enter, and to learn as much as possible from industry professionals. Take control of your own future and never be afraid to seek your own internships, both in the UK and abroad; you will not regret it and will benefit immensely."

Diary date..  
**SIXTH FORM  
OPEN EVENING**



# Sixth Form



## Hannah Stewart



At King James, Hannah developed a passion for History and knew at an early stage that she wanted a career in the field, either in historic research or museum curation. In Sixth Form, she volunteered at *The Auckland Project*, which reinforced her aspirations, and following outstanding A' Level results, she is now studying a Degree in Archaeology and Anthropology at the *University of Oxford*.

## Jake Dobinson



After studying A' Level Maths, Biology and Btec Sport at King James, Jake was accepted on a Degree Apprenticeship programme with *Hathaway Roofing Ltd* as a Trainee Quantity Surveyor. He is working with an experienced team of Surveyors, learning about pricing, sub contracts, site visits and valuations, and attending *Northumbria University* one day per week to study a BSc (Hons) in Quantity Surveying.

## Megan Thompson



Following a successful application process, Megan secured a 17-month NHS Apprenticeship and is now working at *Bishop Auckland Hospital* as a Healthcare Assistant. As part of the programme, Megan will gain experience and knowledge working on different wards starting with physical rehabilitation, and she will also undertake one day of formal study each week at *New College Durham*.

Here at King James I Academy Sixth Form we offer a wide range of both vocational and academic subjects to ensure that our students have the very best chance of success.

Whatever your aspirations, from university to employment or apprenticeships, we will help you to achieve your goal. We even offer the option of a third year in Sixth Form for those who wish to boost UCAS points or study an additional subject. Students can choose from the following subjects:

- Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Core Maths
- Criminology
- Drama & Theatre
- English Language
- Extended Project
- Geography
- History
- Maths
- Further Maths
- Photography
- Sociology
- Business Studies
- Creative Media
- Food Science & Nutrition
- Health & Social Care
- Human Biology
- IT
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Psychology
- Sport & Physical Education



## Work Experience

Each year, our Year 12 students take part in Work Experience Week, with placements in a wide variety of sectors.

In 2023, students enjoyed placements at *Eden House* and *Park House Care Homes*, *The Indigo Hotel*, *Heron's Food*, *Northern Unicorn Productions*, *Scott Fyfe Properties* and *Prince Bishops*, *St Helens* and *St Johns Primary Schools*. They also worked at *The Angel Trust* and *Salvation Army* charity organisations, and *Kelz Hair Salon*, alongside a number of departments within King James including Music, Science, ICT, Media and Forest School. Kiera Watson, pictured above, completed her work experience at *Auckland Castle* where she greeted and guided tourists.

## Building life skills and qualifications with First Aid Training



Our personal development programme helps Sixth Formers gain the experience and skills they need to stand out from the crowd. As part of this, some of our Year 12s recently achieved a respected first aid qualification.

The fully certificated course, called Emergency First Aid in the Workplace, is approved by the FAA and delivered by Jonathan Page, our on-site First Aid Trainer Assessor. Sessions include a combination of classroom learning and hands-on treatment scenarios to give a broad overview of emergency first aid. Students learned CPR techniques, including how to do primary and secondary surveys and put patients into the recovery position, how to use an AED defibrillator and how to deal with seizures. They also practiced treatment of minor injuries such as cuts, bruises, scrapes and burns.

One student, who found themselves in a situation just one day after the course when a family member suffered a seizure said, "I am so glad I signed up. Thanks to the course I knew what to do and was able to remain calm and use the recovery position until help arrived." At the request of participants we are now looking at delivering a more advanced course.



## University visits

Our students attend lots of Open Day events at universities across the UK; we can even help with travel expenses.

They also take part in a variety of University residential; this year Klara Hawthorn attended *York St John's* with a view to studying a Degree in Nursing, whilst Anthony Chaing, Katie Rutherford, Sianne McGregor and Amy Vickers took part in a three day visit to *Oxford University* to tour the campus and find out about the admissions process. Amy also attended a residential at *Queen's University Belfast*.





## Diary dates

10 Sept	Barcelona trip departs
12 Sept	Sixth Form Parents' Evening
27 Sept	Year 6 Open Evening
3 Oct	Year 7 Settling In Evening
5 Oct	Crime & Safety Awareness Day
27 Oct	INSET Day - Academy closed to students + Half term holiday begins (Academy reopens 6 Nov)
9 Nov	Sixth Form Open Evening
15 Nov	Careers Fair
24 Nov	Student flu vaccination day
19 Dec	Academy closes for Christmas

## Join us at Year 6

# Open Evening



Our Year 6 Open Evening, will take place from 6.00pm - 8.00pm on Wednesday 27th September. The event is designed to support Year 6 pupils and their families in making an informed decision about which secondary school will be best for them in September 2024.

### At the event you can:

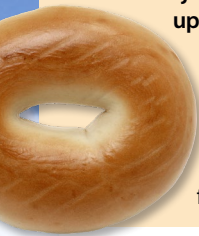
- Meet school leaders, teaching and support staff
- Hear about our curriculum
- Talk to students
- Take a tour of our facilities
- Get involved in a variety of activities in all subjects
- View student work
- Find out about extra-curricular opportunities
- Sample our Academy menu
- Find out about school transport
- Enter our exciting Open Evening competition!



## Free Breakfast!

Every morning, from 8.00am-8.30am in our Dining Hall, King James students can enjoy a free breakfast to set them up for the day ahead.

Students can enjoy a delicious toasted bagel or choose from a selection of Kellogs cereals for free; we can even cater for food allergies on request.



## PARENTS HELP US SHAPE THE FUTURE

Does your child attend King James? Would you like to get involved in shaping the future of our Academy?

We are always looking for enthusiastic parents to join our Parents' Forum group, which meets to discuss ideas to improve the learning experience we offer, and raise the profile of King James in our community. To register your interest and find out more, please call Main Reception on 01388 603388.

## Sixth Form Open Evening



If you are in Year 11, our Sixth Form Open Evening will help you begin to make plans for your future. Join us from 6.00pm-8.00pm to:

- Meet our dedicated Sixth Form Team
- Find out about subject options
- Talk to subject teachers and students
- Take a tour of Academy facilities
- View our Common Room and Study Zone
- Find out about extra-curricular opportunities

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA...

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 @kj1\_food      @kj1mfl      @kj1a\_artphotodepartment  
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[www.kingjames1academy.com](http://www.kingjames1academy.com)



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