

# THE KING JAMES I ACADEMY NEWS



A NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY YEAR 9 STUDENTS

## Contents

### SPORTS

Find out what sports we have happening at King James I Academy, including exciting lessons and fun after-school clubs.

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

A story covering some brilliant after school clubs that we have up and running in the academy for all students to enjoy.

### READ TO SUCCEED

Our fantastic new reading program & our creative writing club.

### EVENT DAYS

Our fantastic event brought to the Academy by 'Prison, Me, No Way!' who delivered a fantastic educational day.

### INTERVIEWS

A great interview with Mr Raitt, a PE member of staff, and a brilliant interview with Mrs Mawdsley, a member of the Student Support team.

### TOP CLASS CHART POINTS

Amelia K- 130  
James M- 122  
Amber R- 116

### 100 CLUB Attendance Winners

Ellie B  
Kyle S  
Marissa L



*Mackenzie, Hannah,  
Millie, Isabelle, Jack*

Hello Everyone! Welcome to the first issue of our new Year 9 Newsletter. We have had an exciting first half term and some of our great students have been involved in the Newsletter club, where they have researched, interviewed and become mini-journalists to create a wonderful newsletter bursting with stories and information straight from the Academy. We hope you enjoy!

# READING

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## CREATIVE WRITING

Amongst the many clubs at King James, the new creative writing club is for creative and academically interested students. Organised by Miss Russell and Mrs Gowland, the Creative Writing Club is a place where students can share their work for constructive criticism and compliments. The groups vision is dedicated to sharing writing, inspiring writing, and looking at how writing is created.

Each month will focus on a different style of writing such as novel writing, scriptwriting, songwriting and much more. Career timelines will be provided of different writers so you can see how they got to where they are, in case it is something students would like to pursue themselves one day. Links and examples of the different styles of writing and challenges will be provided to go along with them.

Optional writing prompts and challenges will be uploaded daily and the group gives students the opportunity to share their pieces of writing, learn new writing styles, and see where their writing could take them.

This club allows students to experiment with their writing styles and implement their out of the box ideas in their pieces of text.



## READ TO SUCCEED

Read to Succeed is a new reading initiative introduced into the Academy. We have Reading Lessons within our school timetable and these help us to realise our true potential for reading and also the power reading has. Reading helps us with spelling, grammar, punctuation and also our creative side. Reading has allowed our imaginations to grow, as we are able to create stories and visualise them too! Helping us to learn more about the world and be inspired to dream, think, lead and positively impact our actions in day to day life. We have been challenged to read a book/text of our own choice every day, this will help us to improve academically as well as benefit our mental well-being by reading for pleasure.

There are two parts to every Read to Succeed lesson, the actual reading portion and the word of the week; the word of the week is a word chosen to widen the vocabulary of the students and it has some tasks to go along with it. The tasks mainly involve becoming more confident using the new vocabulary and to be able to use it throughout the students' subjects. Overall it is a great way to have some calm time dedicated to reading in the midst of a busy week.

# SPORTS, FOOTBALL & A FANTASTIC INTERVIEW



## SPORTS AT KJ

At King James there are brilliant opportunities within sport to improve your sports skills and other life skills such as communication, teamwork and problem solving. The PE Department offer many amazing opportunities to get involved in a wide range of sports we do throughout the year during lessons and after school clubs. Sports that happen at King James include Trampolining, Athletics, Volleyball and many many more.

## FOOTBALL AT KJ

At the start of every school year there are football trials, this allows everyone to have the opportunity to join the football team. These are held on the 4G pitch where you have 1 hour to show the brilliant PE teachers Mr Raitt and Mr Bushby your skills. From this trial they will take into account how well everyone has played on that night and how well everyone has played in separate years for the football team. They will then pick a talented squad that will compete in tournaments with various other schools around County Durham.



## INTERVIEW WITH MR. RAITT

Mr Raitt first became a PE teacher as he wanted to give back the opportunities he had in the past to the children he is currently teaching now. He said that he loves the after school clubs that the school provide and he enjoys seeing the different sports teams play and work together as a team always. He finds his job challenging at times however, he still enjoys every aspect of it. Mr Raitt mentioned how working with the younger generation often helps him to learn, such as new terminologies, the latest games and whats happening in the world, he also has an interest in what they like to do not only in sport but in life in general.



# ECO CLUB & STUDENT SUPPORT

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Today, we talked to Mrs Mawdsley about her job as a Student Support Worker. We asked her a few questions about her job including, 'What inspires you the most to do your job?' She informed us that her degree is in youth work, and she trained as a Youth Worker so she enjoys working with and helping young people, and she has a passion to support them. We followed this by asking Mrs Mawdsley what the most interesting part about her job is, she responded with how she learns to understand how everyone is different and everyone deals with everything in more ways than one, with talking to different students on a daily basis, she enjoys learning about how different people cope with different situations." Mrs Mawdsley told us how people are often coming in and out of Student Support and they are a very used resource in the school.

## E-SAFETY

In the Academy, E-safety is something that is incredibly important. There are many lessons and assemblies focused on E-Safety, to teach students what is and isn't safe. The Academy also has many measures in place to prevent as much internet abuse as possible. For example, there are firewalls on Chromebook's and phones are not allowed to be used on school grounds.

Similar to the protections in the Academy, the Academy deals with E-safety outside of school- primarily cyberbullying involving students in the Academy. Cyberbullying is dealt with in exactly the same way as any other type of bullying. It is known to be just as severe and just as damaging, hence why members of staff (particularly the Senior Leadership Team and Student Support) treat it as such and try to prevent it on and off site to the best of their ability.

Online safety is taken extremely seriously and as students we are taught which websites are safe, how to surf the web and how to know if something is safe online.

[PRESS HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BEING SAFE ONLINE](#)

## ECO FRIENDLY CLUB

This year, Miss Stephenson has opened an eco-friendly club where the group is currently taking part in a range of different activities to try and challenge environmental issues. Miss Burton and Mrs Bainbridge are also supporting this group. The club is available for all different year groups to join. This year they have won a silver award for 'Keep Britain Tidy'. At the moment Miss Stephenson is organising the collection of drink cans, tin's, batteries, crisp packets & stamps to recycle them for charity. The charity's involved are Children's Cancer Research & The Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Doing our Academy's bit!



## PRISON, ME, NO WAY!

On Wednesday 6th October we welcomed 'Prison, Me?, No Way!' to the Academy. As a company, they delivered a range of workshops to the Year 9 pupils. The aim of the Crime and Safety week was to educate our pupils on the impact and consequences of their actions. The charity works with millions of young people around schools across the country to spread awareness of the causes, consequences, penalties and the impact on crime.

The workshops delivered across the day were:

- One Punch- raising awareness of the danger that one punch can cause, the impact on the victims family and the perpetrators of the crime
- Causes and consequences- our students will here the testimony from a female ex-prisoner who will share her story as a victim of domestic violence, and how her reaction changed her life forever
- Social Media- the laws and responsibilities surrounding social media and how to stay safe online.
- County Lines- educating our students to recognise when they may be taking advantage of and how it can lead to being involved with gangs and drugs.
- Knife crime- the danger of using knives, the law and knife crimes and how our students can protect themselves from the dangers of knife crime.
- Prison life- students were given an insight into life in a prison cell using a state-of-the-art mobile cell

It is important that students are taught about how their actions have consequences and how it will help them in their future self. It shows that no matter who you are, whether you're a good person or bad, that we can all commit a crime and how it can have a bad outcome. Hearing true stories and seeing the small cell for example, helps you to focus as a student and as a young person, on what's right and what's wrong. Some issues discussed were close to home, for example social media is a part of everyday life for the average teenager and learning the dangers and how to act safely whilst on these platforms was great to learn. The day was educational, informative and very interesting.