

## Prospectus Information on King James School, Kirklees

King James's School is a mixed, comprehensive school, serving a suburban area and a scatter of villages to the east and south of Huddersfield. It is situated approximately 2 miles from the centre of Huddersfield in a semi-rural position overlooking the Farnley Valley. The School was designated a Specialist Science College in 2004 and became an Academy in 2012. King James's, whose origins go back to the thirteenth century, has occupied its present site since 1547.



In the last few years we have put a huge investment into ICT. All teaching rooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards.

King James's is a truly comprehensive School. The intake has a very broad socio-economic mix and we teach children of all abilities. We also have an ethnic mix which closely resembles that of the wider British society. The intake comes predominantly from the catchment area of Lepton, Kirkheaton and Grange Moor, but as we are a popular oversubscribed school we receive a significant number of youngsters from outside the area, particularly from Dalton and Almondbury.

We endeavour to provide a stimulating learning environment that encourages all of our students to achieve to the best of their ability. We have excellent facilities including extensive grounds, six computer suites, an Independent Learning Centre and specialist teaching rooms. The School provides a broad and balanced curriculum that allows all students to reach the highest standards of education.

The curriculum is organised through ten Curriculum Teams: English, Mathematics, Science, Design, Languages, Humanities, RE/PSHCE, ICT, Physical Education and Performing Arts. In Year 7, all classes are taught in mixed-ability groups except for English, Mathematics and Science. In Year 8, English, Mathematics, Science, Languages and Humanities are taught in sets. Students in top sets in Languages continue with French but also begin the study of Spanish.

At KS4 all students follow GCSE courses in English Language, Mathematics and Science (Double Award). The majority also study GCSE English Literature, GCSE Statistics and are entered for GCSE ICT. Able students in Science have the opportunity to do extra science, leading to qualifications in Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Students choose four further subjects from a range of GCSE and BTEC courses, currently as follows: History, Geography, Spanish, Latin, Classical Civilisation, Music, Drama, Art, Textiles, Food, Graphics, Resistant Materials, Physical Education, Sports Studies, ICT, Leisure & Tourism and extra Science. Vocational Courses are also available for a number of students to take at Kirklees College. Students will usually be entered for ten GCSEs. Students also have the opportunity to take a GCSE course in Religious Studies.

In recent years Teachers at King James's School have been involved in numerous research teaching projects with a wide variety of different organisations. All of these initiatives have led to the School being at the forefront of development in Teaching and Learning. These have included the National Centre for the excellence of teaching in Mathematics (NCETM), Astra-Zeneca Science Trust, David Jesson, National College of School Leadership (NCSL), STEM, WISE, Network of Excellence for the Teaching of Computer Science and our Local Authority.

Our last OfSTED inspection (September 2009) stated that "This is a good and improving school where students of all abilities and from all backgrounds are happy and achieve well".

A further OfSTED inspection on Economics and Business Education (March 2011) rated the School as outstanding and, as a consequence, we are featured on the OfSTED Best Practice website. This has led to representatives from numerous schools visiting King James's in order to improve their own practice.



Over the years, young people from King James's have gone out into the world well equipped to live successful lives. The vast majority of our students move on to one of the several excellent post 16 centres in the area to follow a wide range of advanced courses.

King James's is now entering an exciting phase in its development. The school has expanded its facilities and new courses have been introduced into the curriculum. Our results are rising fast. In 2012 we received an award for being in the top 10% of schools nationally for making 'outstanding continuous improvement in the percentage of students achieving 5+ A\*-C GCSEs including English and Mathematics'. In 2013 we received two further awards – one for being in the top 20% nationally for 'GCSE average point scores' and one for being in the top 20% nationally for 'Key Stage 4 Value Added scores'.

The 2013 GCSE results of 99% were the best in the history of the school. In addition, almost three-quarters of our students passed 5+ A\*-C (including English and Mathematics), another record for the School. For the last seven years we have comfortably beaten the Fischer Family Trust predictions. We confidently expect that future GCSE results will be around these levels.

### **School Vision**

A happy and successful learning environment for all

### **School Aims**

- To provide all students with the support required to further develop their abilities and ensure that they are well equipped to play a full and active role in society
- To ensure that the personal development and well-being of all our students and staff is promoted and safeguarded so that they enjoy learning and teaching, develop healthy lifestyles and make a positive contribution to the school and the wider community
- To work in partnership with parents and our community to enable all our students to maximise their potential
- To ensure everyone involved in learning and teaching is engaged in an enriched, diverse, relevant and challenging curriculum that will enable students to work beyond their expectations, both inside and outside the classroom
- To provide a safe, comfortable and stimulating environment where everyone's opinions, beliefs and contributions are included and valued and their well-being is promoted
- To provide effective leadership and consistent management and to reflect, improve and take on contributions from all in the community in order to lead the school in its drive towards EXCELLENCE