

March 2023 Newsletter



JAMES update

Some changes are happening at JAMES that we need to make parents/carers aware of. I, Mandy Lakes, will be leaving JAMES at Easter and the role of Principal will be picked up by Kevin Metcalfe. As I'm sure you are aware JAMES is currently an Independent School registered with the Department for Education but we are looking to de-register at the end of this academic year. This will have no impact on most of our students and for those staying with us next year they can continue to do so with no change to their curriculum. We have consulted with parents/guardians who this does impact and this is solely those who come directly to us from SEN and are not on roll at a school. If you have any questions or queries about this, please do give us a call on 01274 483075. We are making these changes due to rising costs and the pressures that this is having on us as a charity and a school.

ATTENDANCE – Students must be attending every day and we expect all pupils' attendance to be above 95%.

Poor attendance can result in places being closed and young people not being able to pass their accreditation. Please ring the office before 9.15am on 01274-483075 if your child is sick.

The register has to be closed at 9.45am so any student arriving after this time is marked as absent – this is impacting on the attendance for some of our students. We ask that students are in by 9am ready to start at 9.15.

Please help us to make this school year a positive one for our young people. We also have a new attendance strategy in place – this is available on our website with our other policies. <http://www.jamesuk.org>

Please note the council are making changes regarding fines - from 1st April 2023, they will consider legal action through the magistrates court as opposed to penalty notices in the following situations:

- 1) A continuous period of unauthorised leave of 20 school days (40 sessions) or more
- 2) Two or more periods of unauthorised leave totalling 10 school days (20 sessions) or more within a 12 month period.

NB – A period of leave which spans across two half terms will be treated as one period of leave.

Parent survey – please help.

We have created a short 2-minute survey that would really help us to understand how you feel as a parent with your child accessing JAMES school. We would be incredibly grateful if you can spare 2 minutes to complete the survey – it is confidential. Alternatively, we are happy to discuss any areas with you that support you and your child.

Please type the link below into your browser and it will take you straight to the survey – you can do this from your phone:)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/79Q3JJQ>

THANK YOU

Reading – This is a plea from JAMES to all parents to support their children to READ. This can be books, magazines, cooking instructions – absolutely anything. There is lots of research that reading supports children's education and development at all levels and is very important that children and young people read at every opportunity. We have books at JAMES that our students can take home.

Most families are feeling the pinch of rising bills – if you are struggling this may help -

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/benefits/applying-for-benefits/household-costs/#whatsupport> We also have some booklets available on support with bills/rising costs.

If you or your family need other support and services we are happy to help with this. Some examples: we can refer to Early Help, we can hold team around the family meetings, we run a child to parent violence course, we can refer to counselling, etc.

Facebook - Please like and follow our facebook page; **JAMES Project**. We will post any school closures on there. Our website also has further info – www.jamesuk.org - To find out more about our programmes please contact 01274-483075 or email enquiries@jamesuk.org