

Friday 5th September 2025

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

Welcome to the new academic year, 2025–26.

It has been wonderful to see our buildings gradually come to life this week, staff returned on Monday, followed by Years 7, 11 and 13 on Wednesday, and finally the full school community on Thursday. The energy and excitement have been palpable.

Last term, we conducted several surveys with students, staff and parents to explore what makes John Mason School special. While responses varied, one theme stood out clearly: it's the people. Over the past six weeks, our brilliant site team has worked tirelessly to prepare the school for the new year. Teachers have also been popping in to plan and prepare for their new classes. Yet, despite these efforts, the school felt quiet, until this week. Now, JMS feels alive again: refreshed, energised, and ready for a fantastic year ahead. There's a real sense of anticipation about what we will achieve together, building on our previous best.

The buzz returned twice over the summer holidays when Year 13 and Year 11 students came in to collect their A-Level and GCSE results. We were thrilled by their achievements, nearly 9 out of 10 Year 13 students secured their first-choice university places, and our Year 11s achieved some truly outstanding GCSE results. You can read more in our [Year 13 Press Release here](#), and [Year 11 Press Release here](#).

In this bulletin, you'll also find updates on our fantastic Year 7s, who officially joined John Mason School on Wednesday. We were privileged to welcome them and look forward to supporting them on their journey. You'll also read about our new school planners. With students leading such busy lives, we recognise the importance of organisation, and the planner is a vital tool. Please take a moment over the weekend to look through your child's planner, it's a great way to stay informed about homework and to support communication between home and school.

We know that the return to school brings big changes to home routines, and we expect many of our students will be feeling tired by this afternoon. We hope you all enjoy a restful weekend, and we look forward to doing it all again on Monday!

Best wishes.



Alastair West
Headteacher



Pastoral News

Year 7 have had a fantastic start here at JMS. They have spent a great deal of time getting to know their tutors and the other members of their tutor group. They have also had the opportunity to experience moving between classrooms for their different subjects.

To support students who may find it challenging to make new friends, we are introducing a "Buddy Bench." This bench will be located outside F08, near the learning support area. Students are welcome to use the bench, and there will always be someone available to talk with them.

Here are a few words of how they have found their first few days

From 7XT

Amazing

A wake-up call

Fun

Exciting getting to know the school grounds

Wonderful

Fantastic

Just settled in

Familiar (due to older sibling)

Excited to discover new things

Different

From 7YS

Our first day was amazing- the teachers were magnificent and were shining like diamonds amongst the rainy outside.

We found getting around school challenging, but the teachers helped us find our way.

We are looking forward to more lessons today- especially drama and can't wait for our first PE lesson.

We are keen to get involved in the clubs and Arabian Nights performance- you can expect big things from 7YS.



It has been a pleasure to work with them over the last few days and I and everyone here at JMS looks forward to seeing them grow and thrive throughout the academic year.

Hazel Carvel
Progress Leader Year 7

Whole School News

This year we welcome back the Student Planner.

These will form an integral communication tool between home / school. They are a reference point for all to know the key information, such as: timetables, achievements, British Values, Uniform policy etc.



The Student Planner supports the School Values of Opportunity, Respect, Determination.

It allows the students the opportunity to take control of their organisation, ensuring that they know where they are meant to be and when. Students are able to record extra-curricular activities they have attended as well as any House Competitions they have participated in.

Students will be able to show respect in the use of the planners to ensure they are using them correctly, being on time to lessons, using the planner as a home / school communication tool.

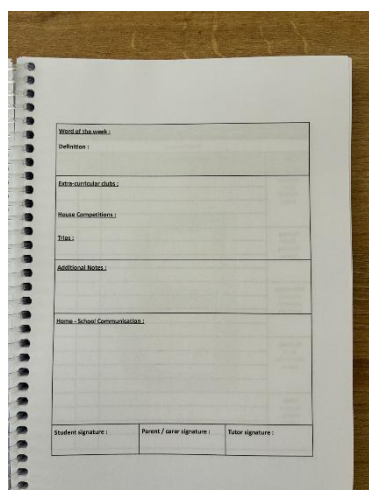
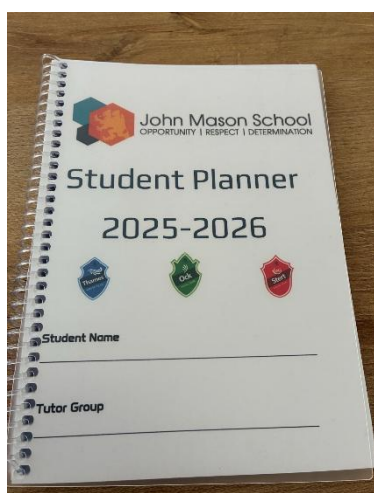
The planner allows the students to ensure that homework is recorded and completed on time. Students will record their attendance as well as targets for the following term, ensuring they are focused on being the best they can be every day.

We ask that Parents / Carers check the planner weekly and sign to acknowledge this.

Home-School Communication is there for both staff to acknowledge students work or behaviour, as well as for home to ask questions or to notify the school / teachers of anything.

PE notes for non-participation in lessons has a separate page at the back of the planner. All PE notes need to be written here. It also shows if students have not had the correct kit for their lessons, we ask that you check this whilst signing the planner.

Thank you for your support.



Parents and carers who wish to use transport provided by the local authority should refer to the Oxfordshire County Council guidance available at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schools/travelling-school>

Please note that **free transport is only offered to the nearest suitable school**, which may not necessarily be the school you have applied for. This is a crucial point to consider when planning your child's journey to school.

If you have any questions or need further advice, you can contact the School Admissions Advice Team directly via:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/contactus/contact-school-admissions-advice-team>

Upcoming Important Dates:

Monday 9 th September	Cologne PIE
Monday 13 th September –	Gold DofE Assessed Expeditions
Thursday 18 th September	
Monday 26 th September	School Photographs: years 7, 9, 11
Saturday 27 th September	Koln Trip (Year 8)
Wednesday 1 st October	Year 11 PIE
Tuesday 7 th October	Berlin PIE
Wednesday 8 th October	Year 8 PIE & Welsh Farm
Thursday 9 th October	Open Evening
Friday 10 th October	Inset Day

For a complete list of upcoming events please view the school calendar on our website here:

[Calendar - John Mason School](#)

Term dates for the academic year are on our website here:

[Term Dates - John Mason School](#)