

Friday 6th October 2023

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

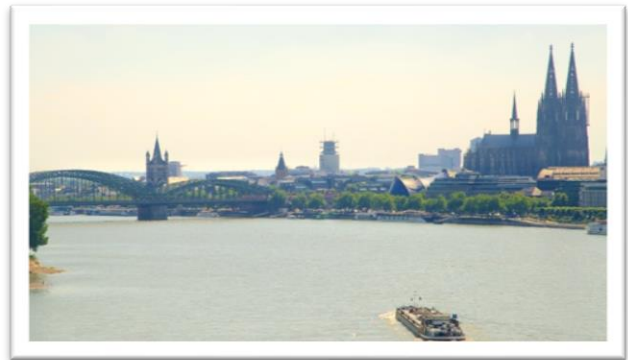
It is lovely to write to you after a week packed full of excitement and success. So many students have been shining ambassadors to the school and have given us reason to be very proud, not just in Abingdon but across Europe!

After a rigorous process with a large field of strong candidates, we are excited to announce the appointment of Mr Robin Conway as Deputy Headteacher.

Please remember that next Wednesday is our INSET day and the school will be closed to students.

Cologne 2023

After a 13-hour coach and ferry trip 70 of our year 8 pupils arrived in Cologne, Germany. They explored the city of Cologne, visiting the zoo, taking a cable car over the river Rhine, exploring the cathedral, taking a boat cruise and finally stopping for dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe. The pupils were impressed by the views of the cathedral and indeed the cathedral itself which is so imposing. On day two students visited Phantasialand and spent a day on roller coasters, log flumes and trying out lots of different German foods. We are looking forward to doing this all over again in July with the current year 7.



Open Mornings

Families have been touring our school on our Open Mornings on Thursday and Friday this week. We are extremely proud to be told how helpful and informative our year 8 and 9 student tour guides were by so many visitors. Tours will continue on 16th, 17th and 18th October. If you know of any

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Hendred Way, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2AW

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prospective families who would like to come and see John Mason in action, then please let them know. More details can be found [here](#).

Year 11 Revision

We are planning a Revision Day for Year 11 students on 19th October. Ahead of mock exams, this is an opportunity for all Year 11 students to increase their range of revision skills. We aim to ensure that every student has an extensive toolkit which they can rely on when they sit their GCSE exams in the summer.

STEM Enrichment Day at Williams F1

A group of 30 year 9 students attended a STEM enrichment day at Williams F1 in Grove. The students experienced activities linking the national curriculum to real world engineering; a guided tour of the heritage museum, linking the history of Williams F1 cars to forces and other topics in the classroom; and an amazing session on their esports simulators. The students gained skills stickers throughout the day which were collected on their certificates. One of the best activities was a team activity where the students designed their own car, with the winning team receiving Williams F1 team caps and students also were given a goodie bag to home with.



Betty's Wednesday Musicals Club

Betty, the JMS Therapy Dog, loves a musical and has started a lunchtime club in her home of A6 on Wednesdays, where fellow musical travellers from all year groups have been invited to watch some of the best film musicals. Amongst the favourites that she has lined up for the year are Mama Mia 2, Hairspray, Hamilton, Grease, Les Misérables and Six. The club started last week in front of an audience of around 50, with The Greatest Showman.

Year 12 Teambuilding Day

As the newest members of JMF6 our Year 12 students had a day of teambuilding which included a huge range of tasks, from Taskmaster to Origami, Escape Rooms and even a session run by the Army our Year 12 groups were put through their paces. They worked hard developing their communication and collaboration skills which we know they are going to have plenty of chances to put into practice over the next two years.

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Extra-Curricular Clubs

Our range of extra-curricular clubs is growing and growing. These are great opportunities for students to develop a skill and a passion for things they may only get a taste of in their normal lessons. Please have a look at the full list [here](#).

Everything Parents Should Know About the Teenage Brain

Next week the OX14 Learning Partnership will be hosting a webinar for year 7 parents & families about how the teenage brain affects behaviour, emotions, and wellbeing. Please find details and sign up [here](#).

Delayed Gratification

In this week's assemblies we shared videos of children taking part in the marshmallow test. This psychological test measures whether children can resist temptation and how those can go on to become successful, healthy and have positive relationships. I hope your children will be able to tell you more and how Betty is getting on with her impulse control.

Football News

Football season is upon us, and we have had several teams competing over the last week.

Year 11 Boys ESFA Arnold Clarke Tournament

A great opening match for John Mason as they start their ESFA campaign with a 5-1 win over King Alfred's Academy. The next round is to be played at Northampton School for boys.

Year 7 Boys ESFA Cup

This was the Year 7 boys first school football game at John Mason. They were playing Gosford School at home in the first round of the cup and after the first half the score was 4-0. The final score ended up being 9-1 to John Mason and they progress to the next round.

Year 7 Girls ESFA Cup

After a musical bus journey, the girls warmed up under the guidance of our Coach Academy Year 10 Students Isla and Chloe. The match started well on a difficult pitch. Kennet took an early lead, before John Mason equalised through Lois. The match remained quite even with end-to-end play. Kennet took the win 3-1, but we are very excited for the future of this squad who had never played together before this match.

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Indoor Football Tournament

11 players attended an indoor tournament at St Helen's & St Katherine's school. We beat Larkmead 2-1 in the first match with goals from Tilly & Tallulah. We played SHSK in our second match and they were a lot more physical and SHSK came out on top.

Important Dates

11th October – INSET day

12th October – OX14 Webinar: Everything Parents Should Know About the Teenage Brain

19th October – Year 11 Revision Day

19th October 4.30-7pm – New Tutors' Evening for any students with a new tutor (details to follow).

20th – 23rd October – Berlin Trip

23rd – 27th October – Half Term

2nd November – Year 9 Parents' Information Evening

September has been very busy and now we can really say the academic year is fully underway. I wish you and your families a relaxing weekend and we look forward to seeing students back in school on Monday.

Yours sincerely



Alastair West
Headteacher
John Mason School

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