

Friday 6th September 2024

Parent Bulletin

Dear Families,

Welcome back after a long summer break. Aside from a fantastic start to the year it has been great to students' sharing stories of the adventures they have enjoyed and some of the new skills they have learned. For our new Year 7 students September has been an even bigger change. Making new friends and meeting new teachers is always a big step and they should be very proud of how quickly they have settled in and found their way around the school. I would also like to thank all our students from Year 8 to Year 13 for making them feel so welcome and helping them to navigate their timetables.

If you are new to John Mason School, then it is a huge pleasure to welcome you into our community. I will use this weekly bulletin to share with you some of our highlights as well as upcoming events which we are looking forward to.

Launching our new School Values

We have started 2024-25 with a real sense of anticipation and to celebrate the new year we launched our new School Values this week. The Student Council have taken the lead in ensuring that we heard from thousands of you. Students, staff, parents, carers, grandparents, governors, and volunteers all contributed through votes, surveys, and meetings.

What Student Council have produced has given us clarity both about what we value about JMS now as well as a vision for how we can continue to build on the best of our school. Our shared values at John Mason School are Opportunity, Respect and Determination and we will be exploring these themes in everything we do.



Daily line up

We now start our morning and afternoon with a line up. Whilst we have an alternative plan for rainy days, making the most of one of the most important spaces in John Mason School has allowed us to come together as a community twice a day, ensure that everybody has what they need to be a success and share key notices. Every student has played their part in making this a calm and productive start to the school day and the impact on students' focus when they arrive in their lessons is having a long-lasting impact.



Uniform

School uniform at John Mason School has never looked better. The consistency with which students are abiding by expectations is fantastic and I would like to thank you as families for your work in preparing for the new term.

When students arrive at school without their full uniform we will loan them items and we'll continue to offer this support whenever we can. We will also make a phone call home to see if this helps. We will do everything we can to get the student back into the full uniform as quickly as possible so that they can return to lessons and focus on their learning. You can find the full school uniform policy [here](#).

Starts of lessons

While students have been focusing on the start of each morning and afternoon, teachers used their INSET day this week to focus on the starts of lessons. Every lesson at John Mason School starts with a DNA (Do Now Activity). Teachers have been using these DNAs to help students develop their long-term recall of key information for each subject and they are able to use student responses to adjust lesson plans and ensure they best meet the needs of every learner in the room.

Teachers are working collaboratively, visiting each other's lessons, and using meetings to share what works best. It's a great reminder that no matter what stage of life we are at, we all benefit from trying out new things and learning together.

Reporting Student Absences

It is important that we know if your child will not be in school. The best way to report your child absent due to sickness or to let us know they have an appointment and will need to leave school during the day is to email the absence email inbox: absence@johnmason.school.

Important Dates:

Thursday 26th September – Year 11 Parent Information Evening (PIE)

Thursday 3rd October – school closes at 1.10pm for Open Evening

Friday 4th October – INSET – school closed to students

Other important dates can be found on our website calendar:

<https://www.johnmason.oxon.sch.uk/events/calendar/>

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

<https://www.johnmason.oxon.sch.uk/events/term-dates/>

Thanks again for all your support at the start of this new school year. Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely



Alastair West
Headteacher
John Mason School