

Friday 15th December 2023

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

Welcome to the last bulletin of 2023. There have been a lot of changes at JMS in 2023 and for many students and families it has been a turbulent year. It is a great privilege to be working with the many dedicated professionals who have helped me to rapidly understand the strengths and the areas our school needs to develop. I am also very grateful for everything you have told me. Whether it be by email, on the phone or in person. Everything you tell me has helped me and the Senior Leadership Team plan for 2024. John Mason has many great features and 2024 is going to be an important year and I look forward to working with students and staff and with you to make positive changes so that we can improve the life chances of all the learners we serve.

Whilst technological development has made society better in many ways. I am aware of the damage that mobile phones do to our community. I ask that you continue to monitor your child's use of mobile phones when out of school to ensure that they are using them appropriately.

In school we expect every student to have their phone switched off and in their bag. If a mobile phone is either seen or heard, then students should expect it to be confiscated. In the first instance phones can be collected at the end of the day but if this happens on a second occasion, we will ask you to collect it.

We only have a few days left of this term but still have the Christmas Concert to look forward to next week (details below). The Winter Ball and Christmas lunch were both very successful and Year 9 joined us with their families on Thursday night to start their GCSE Option process. We look forward to a short, but busy, final week and wish you all a good rest over the holidays.

STEM Christmas Bauble Competition

A big well done to all the students who entered this year's STEM Christmas Bauble Competition, we received over 50 making choosing the winners very difficult. We received DNA to full skeletons, planets to satellites and light up stars to remote controlled Lego baubles. I was blown away by the creativity, imagination and effort that went into these baubles and have enjoyed them decorating my Christmas tree in my lab. The winner from year 8 is Lewis and runner up Holly. The winner from year 7 is Rufus and runner up Sophie. I look forward to the next STEM competition.



Year 7 German Christmas Biscuit Baking Competition

Year 7 students and families are invited to take part in this competition. There will also be a Spelling Bee competition and a German Christmas quiz. The MFL team look forward to seeing year 7 there!

YEAR 7
Weihnachts
PLÄTZCHEN
BACKWETTBEWERB

German Christmas Biscuit Baking
COMPETITION

To enter
bring your bakes to the main hall on
Monday 18th December, 6pm
Entry: Students/siblings Free - Parents £2

Also take part in the
Spelling Bee
German Christmas Quiz
Achievement points and prizes to be won

SHARE PHOTOS OF YOUR BAKING SKILLS WITH US
ON TWITTER & TIKTOK @JMSGERMAN

Christmas Concert



John Mason School

CHRISTMAS *Concert*

featuring JMS students & staff

Tuesday 19th December
7.00pm - 9.00pm
School Hall

Refreshments served by the JMA

Tickets: £1 per person
Available on MCAS

All proceeds will go to support the music faculty for equipment

Tickets are still available via your MCAS account for the Christmas Concert.

Cake Sale by JMF6



The JMF6 students will be selling cakes on Monday. All cakes will be 50p/£1 and proceeds will be going to Sobell House Hospice. Please send your child in with some change if they would like to support this cause by buying some cake. All ingredients will be listed, and they will be nut free bakes.

Christmas Decoration Competition Winners Announced

Mrs Pritchard and I have been very impressed with the quality of entries submitted for this year's competition and judging them has been tough. However, we have chosen three winners whose designs are to be laser cut and displayed in the school reception and in D1. All winners will also receive a prize.

Congratulations go to: Overall winner: **Hadia**, Joint runners up: **Cerys** and **Lilly**



Ellis Stacey
Visual Arts Technician

Lost Property

We have a huge amount of lost property (most of it not labelled) that we would like to return to students before the Christmas break. Students are welcome to come to reception during break or lunch or after school to check for items they have lost. We will have lost property out in the main reception area for parents and carers to come and check between 3.10pm and 4pm on Monday and Tuesday next week. At the end of this term, any lost property that hasn't been claimed and isn't named, will be recycled.

John Mason Year 7 Boys Football

The team played in the 5th round of the English Schools Football cup. They were drawn away to a School in Surrey. The boys played very well throughout the match and had a number of chances on goal requiring their goalkeeper to make 4 great saves. The other team had about 3 chances in the game, and one required a really good save from Sebastian. The game was on a knife edge with the last 10 minutes of the game. The boys managed to score with 3 minutes remaining and held out for a well-deserved win. They now progress through to the 6th round of the cup and have a home fixture against a Team from Southampton or Weymouth in January.

The whole team played really well and a few players stood out, but the Player of the Match went to Jamie whose defensive ability was faultless.

Year 9 Options

Thank you to everyone who came to the Year 9 Options evening yesterday. It was lovely to see all our year 9 students talking to subject leaders about their GCSE choices. An MCAS message will be sent home to year 9 parents and carers on Monday giving details of how students can complete their initial preference forms.

Trust Vacancy

A Payroll Administrator role has become available within the Trust, you can view the role here: <https://www.abingdonlearningtrust.org/about-us/work-for-us/current-vacancies/>

Important Dates

19th December – Christmas Concert

20th December – school finishes at 1.10pm

Yours sincerely



Alastair West
Headteacher
John Mason School