

Friday 12th January 2024

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

It feels very late to be wishing you a Happy New Year so welcome to Term 3. We have enjoyed welcoming students back into school and whilst spring is still a long way off there is a feeling of renewal, growth and change.

We started our morning celebration assemblies this week with Year 9, Year 8 and Year 7. Making these assemblies weekly instead of termly seems very appropriate given the vast number of achievements our students are managing between them every week. As well as collecting positive behaviour points students have been given reward slips and over 250 have been handed in to student services so far and go into our prize draw next week.

We have gone one step further in ensuring that our school is a mobile phone free zone. Students are being asked to make sure their phones are switched off as they arrive at school and this is resulting in fewer distractions and fewer examples of negative behaviour linked to phones. In time I know that as we reduce the use of these devices across the school it will have a positive impact on the community.

The atmosphere in the canteen at breaks and lunchtimes has also improved with a safer queuing system in place and far more students sitting and eating together. Across the site we are continuing to look at ways to improve students' experiences at social times and will continue to use their feedback to make more positive changes.

As well as change, this week has seen plenty more of our traditional JMS activities. Have a great weekend and here are some of the other things students have been up to in and out of lessons.

Cross Country

Term 3 is Cross Country season in PE. Students are encouraged to make sure they bring the warmest version of their PE kit during the current cold spell. The policy for PE kit can be found [here](#).

Stem Club

STEM club welcomed James from Stantec in to learn about Civil Engineering. James then set them a challenge to build a tower out of paper that was at least 50cm tall. Each group only had 10 pieces of A4 paper and Sellotape to build their tower in 20 minutes. They all had different designs and fantastic ideas. They all did an amazing job but there can only be one winner! Well done to Lewis, Jake and Martin for winning the challenge with a very impressive tower reaching a dizzy height of 143cm. I was very pleased to see that they shared their prize sweets with the whole club, displaying one of the school values of respect.

We also celebrated our year 7 students who had attended at least 7 sessions with awarding STEM club badges.

We had a great time and looking forward to some Chemistry next week.



Lunchtime **FREE** Taster Drinks

The Diner - Wednesday 7th Feb



Come and try!

Should we serve these drinks in the future?
This will **cut out** all the plastic bottle drinks/can/cartons.
Drinks served into **reusable bottles**.

- ✓ Less Cost
- ✓ Juices and Flavoured Water
- ✓ Great Flavours
- ✓ Always Chilled
- ✓ Planet Responsible



Important Dates

1 st February	year 9 Parents' Evening
9 th February	school finishes at 3.10pm
12-16 th February	Half Term

Yours sincerely

Alastair West
Headteacher
John Mason School