

Friday 18th October 2024

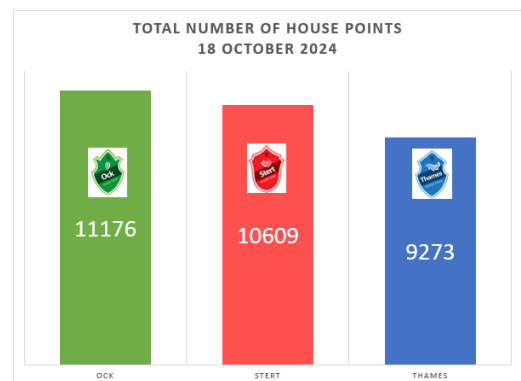
Parent Bulletin

Dear Families,

This week started with the last of our Open Mornings. Again, the comments we received from visitors about the focus and determination they saw our students demonstrating in lessons is something all our students should be proud of. As we get closer to the end of term, I know that all students are getting tired and yet they are continuing to put in high levels of effort every day.

At the beginning of the term, we introduced a line up before morning and afternoon registration. This is a great opportunity to bring the whole school together twice every day. We can share important messages and ensure fairness by making sure we apply our uniform and behaviour expectations consistently across every tutor group and therefore every student. We have shared clear standards with all students and let them know that if they continue to meet those standards, they will be rewarded with a non-uniform day on Friday 25th October. Our students have been incredible at regularly surpassing our expectations. We have given them a score out of 10 twice a day since September and I hope that I will be able to confirm that they have reached their target early next week.

Our morning and afternoon routines are just a hint at how we are changing our culture at John Mason School. We are enjoying far more opportunities to enjoy success both as individuals and in groups. The house-points competition has been incredibly close at times. This week Ock House have taken a lead, but we are looking forward to our 'Big Reveal' when we will announce the winning house for the term. It is all still to play for with both Stert House and Thames House ready to sneak in with a big push in the final week.



Finally, I want to share the work being done by our anti-bullying ambassadors. This group of students are driving change at JMS themselves and are launching their own competition ahead of anti-bullying week (11th - 15th November). Please find more details on page 4.

Have a great weekend.



Alastair West
Headteacher

School News



Year 7 Inter Form Quiz Night

Friday, 8th November, 6:30pm for a 7pm start - 9:30pm, School Hall

Entrance Fee: £1 per person (free to children younger than secondary age)

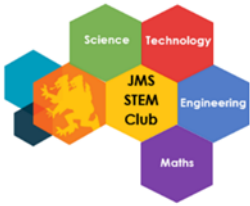
Licensed bar, tuck shop and baskets of chips available to buy on the night.

Pupils, parents, families, and staff are all welcome to join in the fun. Bring your enthusiasm and team spirit for an evening filled with challenging questions, laughter, and camaraderie.

All funds raised will go towards the Welsh Farm Bore Hole appeal.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!





STEM club

STEM Club welcomed Lauren from Oxford Botanical Gardens this week to learn about types of seed dispersal. She brought in a variety of seeds for the club to see and hold. She brought a mixture of native and non-native seeds for us to compare. We were amazed at the different types of seed dispersal, such as water dispersal like coconuts and even fire dispersal like Banksia seeds. We look forward to inviting Lauren back soon.



STEM club were celebrating space week. The session started off with a bang, with them carrying out Alka-Seltzer rockets, and yes one member nearly hit the ceiling. Then they had the rest of the session to build their own rockets using recycling. I was so impressed by the different designs that the students came up with.



Next week we invite one of our Maths interns in to do a special Halloween session. If your child is interested in joining STEM club on a Wednesday 3:10-4:10pm in S5 then please sign them up through Bromcom.

Anti-Bullying Competition - Design an Anti-Bullying Poster

The John Mason School Anti-Bullying Ambassadors are excited to announce a House Competition to design a powerful and creative Anti-Bullying Poster.



This is your chance to raise awareness and make a difference by helping us promote a positive and safe school environment. We want YOU to showcase your artistic talent, creativity, and commitment to standing up against bullying.

Competition Details:

- **Theme:** Anti-Bullying
- **Guidelines:** Your poster could include:
 - Our school's definition of bullying: "Behaviour that hurts someone."
 - The 'Report It!' button to remind students how to report bullying incidents.
- **Design ideas:** Be creative! Use drawings, graphics, colours, or words to make your message stand out.
- **Deadline:** Monday 4th November 2024
- **Submission:** Submit your poster design to Ms Batchelor via email or your form tutor with your name and house.
- **Prizes:** House points for all participants. The winning design will be displayed around the school and featured on the school website.
- **Why it Matters:** By participating, you help spread the message that bullying has no place in our school. Let's stand together to create a positive, respectful, and supportive environment for everyone.

For more information, please contact Ms Batchelor. Good luck, and let's show the power of kindness.

Science Competition

Abingdon School has a new student magazine called Fusion. It is a physics and astronomy magazine, written by and for pupils from the local science partnership of schools.

To celebrate the new magazine, they are hosting a competition to design its logo. The competition is open to pupils in year 10 and above, from all the partner schools. The winner will receive a £20 Amazon voucher, and their logo will be used on the front cover of the new magazine.

Requirements:

The magazine name **Fusion** must be clearly visible.

The design must be physics/astronomy themed.

If your child is interested in entering this competition, they need to send their design to Mrs Williams (kwilliams@johnmason.school) as a digital file (e.g. jpg, png) by Monday 9th December.

Parent Voice

Thank you to everyone who has already completed the Parent Voice Survey. There is still time to have your say:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf2zvpWahaLGFXpwsBx_IjYREXluupwEqzVCYrzCQt9TmF2tA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Important Dates:

Thursday 24th October – New Tutors' Evening and Year 7 Parent Information Evening

Friday 25th October at 3.10pm – School breaks for half term

Monday 4th November – School starts after half term break

Thursday 7th November – Year 10 Parent Information Evening

Friday 8th November – Year 7 Inter house quiz

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/>