

Friday 23rd May 2025

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

We have reached the end of a very short term and this afternoon we have shared with all tutor groups our 'Big Reveal' The winner of our house competition for Term 5 is... I won't spoil the surprise. You can find out on Page 3!

I know that this time of year feels like it is non-stop for many of our families with busy weekends and evenings wrapping around school activities. On Monday students returned from a busy weekend, and it was great to hear about wins involving many JMS students in the Under 13 boys and the Under 16 girls football teams, representing their local cubs.

We also heard from the Year 10s and their staff who had taken part in the practice Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Students and staff were blessed with good weather and had a wonderful time exploring the Oxfordshire countryside and developing their map reading, teamwork and tent pitching skills. Half term will see Year 12 completing their practice expedition along the Thames.

During the week we've continued to see Year 9 taking part in the trips to Vertex laboratories, Year 8 preparing for their trips to the Welsh Farm and Year 11 and 13 continuing to revise, prepare and then sit their exams. I am sure everyone will be ready for a break over half term before we start it all again on Monday 2nd June.

Have a peaceful bank holiday weekend and an enjoyable half term.

Best wishes.



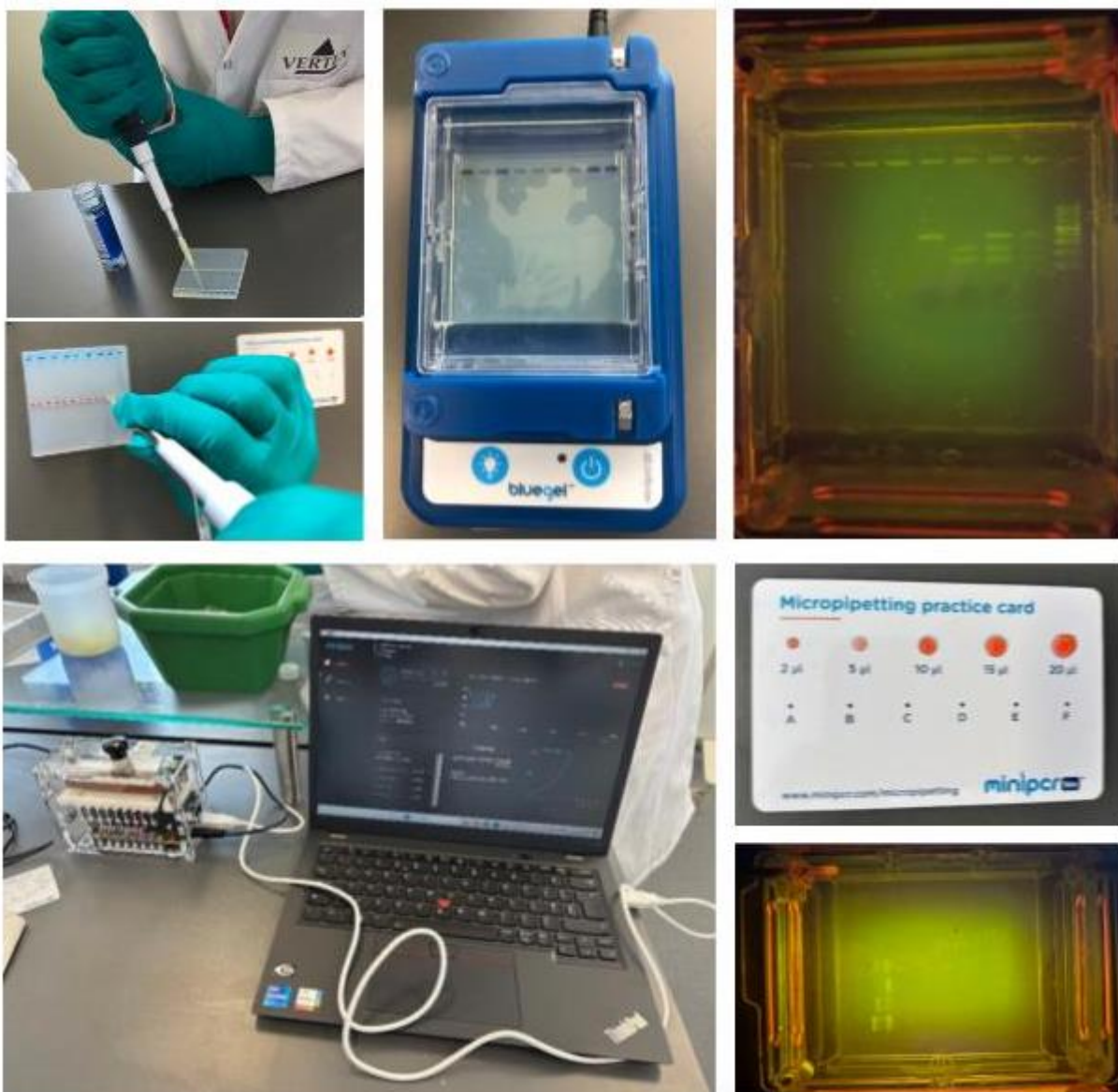
Alastair West
Headteacher

School News

Vertex Pharmaceuticals Year 9 trip.

Across May our year 9 students have been visiting Vertex Pharmaceuticals to investigate DNA for the purpose of crime investigations. Their day started with discussions around different diseases and how the genetic code for the disease can be used in identifying suspects linked to a crime. They then were invited into the laboratory to practice using professional laboratory equipment such as Micro Pipettes, by practicing using them on a guide. Once the students were confident in using the laboratory equipment, they learnt the stages involved in testing human DNA using PCR and gel electrophoresis. The students set up their own samples of DNA and multiplied the sample using PCR and then ran the sample through the gel electrophoresis. Their results were then used to identify suspects linked to the crime.

The day was fascinating for both students and teachers. We really appreciate the time and resources Vertex has put into supporting the learning of our students. We look forward to taking other year groups next year.



The Big Reveal

We have added all house points awarded during Term 5, both in lessons, and house competitions. With the Rounders competitions from Years 7-9 only just completed it has been hard to predict a winner.

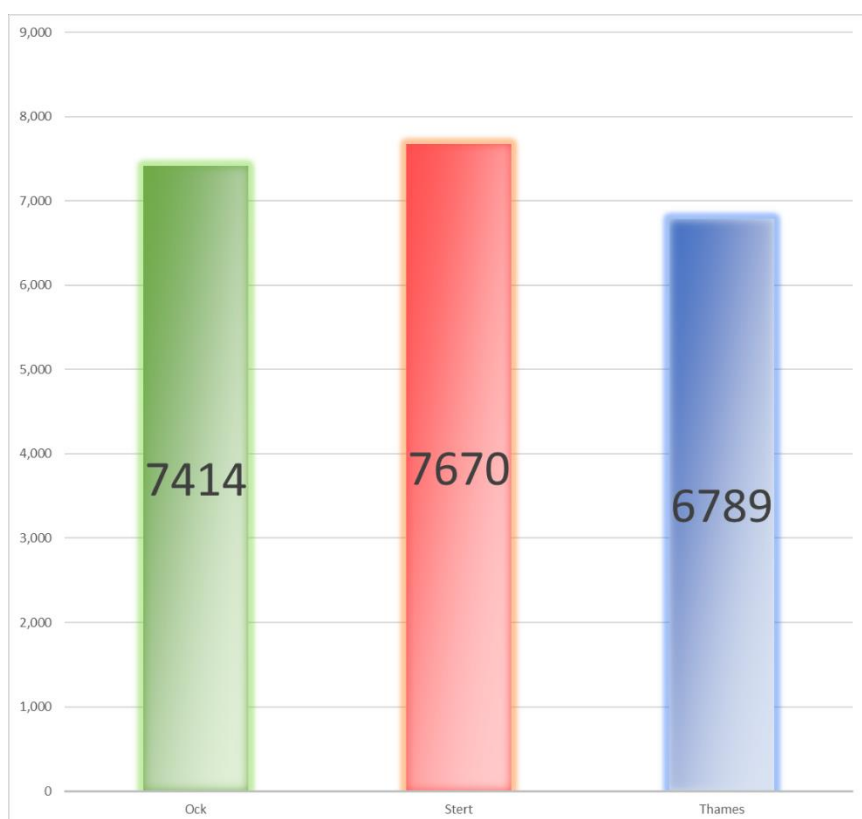
Looking back across the year, Ock won for both Term 1 and Term 2. Stert took a win for Term 3 and Ock reclaimed victory in Term 4. Would Term 5 be Thames's turn? Would Stert steal it again? Or would Ock prove dominant?

Term 5 has been a short term with only 23 school days and yet students have managed to accumulate a total of 21,873 House points. In the rounders competition Thames took the win in Year 7, Ock crept back with a win Year 8 and then Stert made it even closer with a win in Year 9. With all points now in, the overall winner for Term 5 is Stert House with 7,670 House Points in total.

Well done to every student involved. Every single student has contributed to their houses total, and it looks like a very close competition for Term 6 and the school year and with so many events available to compete in, Sports Day could make all the difference.

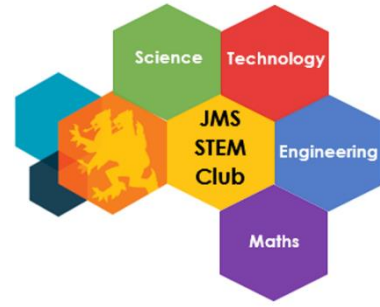


Term 5 winners!





STEM competition



Show your stripes!

What are the stripes?

- No words. No numbers. No graphs. Just a series of vertical-coloured bars, showing the progressive heating of our planet in a single, striking image.
- The climate stripes were created by Professor Ed Hawkins at the University of Reading in 2018.
- They show clearly and vividly how global average temperatures have risen over nearly two centuries.

How do they work?

- Each stripe represents the average temperature for a single year, relative to the average temperature over the period as a whole.
- Shades of blue indicate cooler-than-average years, while red shows years that were hotter than average.
- The stark band of deep red stripes on the right-hand side of the graphic show the rapid heating of our planet in recent decades.

Competition...

Design your own stripes for Oxford.

<https://showyourstripes.info/l/europe/unitedkingdom/oxford>

You can choose how you are going to design your stripes. This could be a painting, embroidery, Lego, recycling, play-do, baking etc.

You need to hand in your stripes either to Mrs Williams in C15 (make sure you have put your name and form on your work) or take a clear photo and upload onto the google classroom, you can find more information on google classroom.

Deadline for entry is Monday 16th June 2025 8am



Radley Tennis Camp

27th - 29th May

Age Groups:

- 10:00am - 12:30pm
Ages 8-12
- 13:00pm - 15:30pm
Ages 12-16.

Elevate your game with our expert
Tennis Lessons, lead by professional
Tennis Player Lucy Brown.



Radley College, OX14 2HR

Only £95 per child



Book Now!



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Important Dates:

Monday 2nd June – All students return from Half Term

Thursday 12th June – Year 12 Parents' Evening

Saturday 14th June – Art Exhibition

Thursday 26th June – Year 6 into Year 7 Transition Day

Friday 27th June – Year 11 Summer Ball

Other important dates can be found on our website calendar:

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

Term dates for the academic year are on our website:

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

Term dates for the next academic year are now on the website:

[Term Dates 2025-26](#)