

Friday 3rd May 2024

Parent Bulletin

Dear Families,

Welsh Farm Borehole Appeal

After a fantastic turn out last Friday, we managed to raise £1,400 towards our borehole appeal, a massive thanks to all of you who supported us, either by turning up to the event or buying horses in advance or making donations. Please keep an eye on future newsletters for news of upcoming events.

We are also now launching our Go Fund Me page and are hoping that this reaches as many past pupils in the John Mason Community as possible so we can continue to offer our outward bound experience for all of our John Mason pupils to generations for come.

Due to climate change and changes in the surrounding area of the farm, our natural water source is drying up and it has become necessary to install a borehole to ensure a water supply to the farm. We have an ambitious target of £15,000 to raise so that we can proceed with this work which will mean we can offer trips to future generations of students. You can donate to the fundraiser by scanning the QR code on the poster or by going to: [JMA Welsh Farm Go Fund Me Page](#)



The poster features a map background with a photograph of a white two-story farmhouse. At the top right is the JMA logo (John Mason Association). The main text reads 'WELSH FARM' in large white letters, with 'Whole School FUNDRAISER' in orange and white below it. A handwritten-style text says 'to raise £15,000 for the WELSH FARM BOREHOLE'. Below this is a QR code and the text 'SCAN ME to donate'. A small text box explains the need for the borehole and the school's fundraising goal.

Some of you may also not be aware that you can book to stay at the farm if you are a friend of John Mason School. If you are interested in hiring the farm privately, do get in touch via events@johnmason.school.

For anybody unfamiliar with the farm, this is the story of how it came about:

The Welsh Farm was purchased in 1969 for £1500. The school had been interested in purchasing an outdoor centre for some time when Mr Ray Bowles, the then woodwork teacher and keen ornithologist, came across a derelict farmhouse and outbuilding whilst in the Llandovery area looking for the Red Kite. He made inquiries

and found that the farm was owned by the Forestry Commission, who were keen to sell. Derrick Hurd, as headteacher, travelled with Mr Bowles to Llanwrda the following weekend and put in an offer.

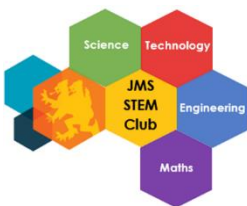
The school was informed of this, and a sponsored walk was organised along the course of the old Berkshire and Wiltshire canal. The £1500 was raised by the 400 students of the day. The John Mason Association then took on the legal aspects of ownership of the property.

Mr Bowles remained the main force in developing Troedrhwi. He built bunk beds, tables and benches at school (still in use today) and took fifth year students to the farm on construction weekends. Staff trips became an integral part of the development of the farm: laying floors, rewiring the kitchen, painting walls and exploring the area.

The first recognisable social trip was taken by Mrs Baffrey and Nibs Webber in 1971. In the years since then, thousands of students have enjoyed the unique experiences the farm has to offer. When ex-students meet, frequently their first greeting is "Do you remember going to the Welsh Farm?" – smiles spread over their faces – happy memories - long may it remain so.

Over the past 55 years the school has developed and maintained excellent relationships with our neighbours. It is essential we continue to respect the local environment, the local population, and above all the privilege of owning and visiting the farm.

Written by Nibs Webber May 2007 and adapted by E Mannion

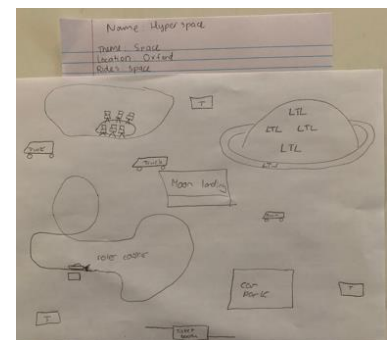


STEM club

STEM Club welcomed Matt and David from AECOM this week to learn about the infrastructure consulting firm. The students learnt about some of the projects they have worked on across the world and right next door at Harwell Campus. They learnt about the different jobs involved in infrastructure consulting

and challenges they have come across. The students found it fascinating and asked so many questions. Matt and David also set the club a challenge of designing a Theme Park where they had to choose a theme, location, facilities, and materials. The club were so engaged in this activity we lost track of time and ran over slightly, sorry!

We are looking forward to next week where we are celebrating David Attenborough's birthday! We are still looking for new members for the club so come along Wednesday after school in S5.



Year 7 Football County Cup Final

Year 7 played North Oxford Academy in the County Cup Final on Thursday 2nd May. This game was played at Oxford City's Football ground, which made the event an even more special occasion. The boys played well at the start of the game and scored their first goal to make the score 1-0. The goal was scored by Jonas from a corner. Unfortunately, this lead was short lived as the opposition scored from a corner themselves. Then the boys dug deep and started to really pressure the opposition, and this allowed Archie to score making the score 2-1. Jonas then had a really good break and had a one-on-one chance with the goalkeeper but unfortunately missed. The opposition then came back to level the score at 2-2. Once again, the John Mason boys pushed hard and once again Jonas drove forward and scored a great goal making the score 3-2. The opposition then started to really push hard for an equaliser with 7 minutes to go, and Sebastian pulled off a few great saves. When the final whistle went the score was 3-2, making the John Mason boys County Champions for the first time in at least 20 years. Man of the Match was Samuel.



Well done boys. Mr Dhiman

Important Dates

6th May School closed for Bank Holiday
9th May Year 8 Parents' Evening
16th May Year 10 Parents' Evening
24th May Term ends at 3.10pm
27th-31st May Spring Half Term

Term Dates for the academic year 2024-2025 have now been published on our website
<https://www.johnmason.oxon.sch.uk/events/term-dates/>

Yours sincerely

Alastair West
Headteacher
John Mason School