

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although it has only been a few weeks since our return to school after Easter, I wanted to write to say what a fantastic and busy term we have had so far. More Duke of Edinburgh practice expeditions have taken place, students' work has been presented in external art exhibitions and the boys' football team put in a superb performance to win the County Cup. We have hosted a tennis tournament and a chess tournament, and our Eco Club are currently competing in a sunflower growing competition within the trust (which we of course plan to win!). The list of activities goes on, with even more events still to come in what is always an exciting term at JMS. I have to admit to being particularly excited to read the essays from the 5 finalists in the persuasive writing competition within the lower year groups. Please look out for our newsletter at the end of term which will share even more of the fantastic events currently happening across the school.

This term we have also kick started the examination season with art examinations, drama performances and language speaking examinations. Today marks the official start of the rest of the external examination season and we wish all our students the best of luck for the next few weeks and remind them that we will be here every step of the way. For the younger years we would like to reiterate the importance of being respectful around the exam rooms. As you can imagine it can be a very stressful time for students and we want to make the environment as quiet as possible for them, to enable them to focus.

As we approach the warmer months, I would like to reiterate our school policy regarding the use of water pistols and other similar items. At our school, we do not permit such items to be brought onto school grounds or used during school hours. We understand that children may enjoy playing with water pistols, but we must consider the negative impacts that their use could have on our students' safety and well-being. Water pistols and similar objects can easily be used in a way that is hurtful or aggressive, either intentionally or by accident. We ask that you support our school's policy and refrain from allowing your child to bring water pistols or similar items onto school premises. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and respectful learning environment for all our students.

Finally, I would also like to mention the importance of punctuality. In order to get lessons started at the beginning of the day please could you reiterate at home the importance of the students arriving in plenty of time so that their tutor time can begin promptly at 08:30. When the students start to become relaxed about not being at school on time it delays the start of learning and inevitably means negative interactions with teaching staff before their day has properly started. This promptness also needs to continue through every lesson in the day, and again we are grateful for any support you can give by discussing the importance of punctuality with your young person at home.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Kirsty Rogers
Headteacher