



16 July 2026

Re: Preparing for September

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family enjoy a relaxing and well-deserved summer break.

The holidays are a time to rest, recharge and make lasting memories and I hope that you manage to have the best summer holidays that you can, whatever your circumstances.

As we reach the end of the school term, we wanted to give you the information you need for September so that you can keep it on file, and know you have it information for whenever you choose or need to use it. A successful start to the new academic year begins with being fully prepared from day one and I hope this guidance.

Please could you log in to My Child At School (MCAS) account and navigate to Parental Consent. Select the consent options for the Home School Agreement and Photography/video consent. The [Home School Agreement](#) can be found on our website.

Equipment

It is essential that all students arrive at school each day with the equipment they need for learning. In September, all students will be issued with a school planner, which they should bring to school every day alongside the following equipment:

- **Strong school bag large enough to carry an A4 folder**
- **Pens** – a good supply of blue, black and green pens
- **HB and 2B pencils**
- **Pencil sharpener**
- **30cm ruler**
- **Soft eraser** (correction fluid is not allowed)
- **Coloured pencils** (no marker pens)
- **Mathematics set** – including a protractor and compass
- **Scientific calculator** (recommended model: Casio FX-83GTCW)
- **A reading book of their choice** (to be brought to school every day)

Uniform

Please take some time over the summer to review our Uniform Policy, which can be found here: [John Mason School Uniform Policy](#)

Every year we encounter a small number of avoidable issues in September. We would like to highlight these now so that families can make informed decisions during the summer.

Earrings and Piercings

If your child is considering having their ears pierced during the holidays, please remember that our policy allows:

- **One simple, plain metal stud in each ear lobe**
- No jewel-encrusted earrings
- No additional ear piercings
- No other body piercings

Any further jewellery or plastic retainers **must be removed during the school day**.

Hair Styles/Colour and Nails

Some students may choose to colour their hair during the summer holidays. In September it will need to be within the **natural range of hair colours**. Extreme hairstyles, including shaved patterns and excessively shaved styles, are not permitted. Please consider this when making hair choices which are hard to reverse quickly, particularly as we approach the end of August.

Similarly, in September nails will need to be natural in appearance and at a practical length for school. Acrylic nails, gel extensions, false nails, and any other nail enhancements are not permitted.

Footwear

When purchasing new footwear, please ensure it complies with our uniform policy. Students should wear:

- Plain black, low-heeled shoes, **or**
- Plain black trainers with black laces
- Socks should be plain black. White, coloured or patterned socks are not permitted.

When buying new school shoes please check carefully for coloured logos, coloured soles, coloured stitching or coloured laces. Each year some families find that expensive new shoes do not meet our expectations and need to be replaced.

Mobile Phones, Headphones and Smart Watches

A reminder that from September **mobile phones, headphones and smart watches are not permitted in school.**

Where it is not possible for students to avoid bringing these items because of their journey to and from school, they will need to be **handed in at the start of the day and collected at the end of the day.** Further information about these arrangements will be shared in September can be found in our letter to parents: [Mobile Phone Guidance](#)

Start of Term

We look forward to welcoming students back to school on the following dates:

- **Year 7, Year 11 and Year 12:** Thursday 3 September
- **Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 13:** Friday 4 September

Gates will open at 8:10am and students should be on site by 8:30am ready for an 8:35am start every day.

Full term dates for the academic year can be found here: [2026–27 Term Dates](#)

Thank you for your support this term, and in advance, for helping your child/children to make a positive start to the next academic year. Have a wonderful summer.

Yours sincerely,

Kath Byrom

Assistant Headteacher - Connectedness

John Mason School

