John Mason School
OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | DETERMINATION

Monday 19 October 2026

Re: Preparing for Term 2

Dear Families,

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first term of the 2026-27 academic year, I would like to thank you for your continued support and congratulate our students on an excellent start to the year.

At the beginning of September, we were clear that improving behaviour and attitudes would be a key priority. Good behaviour creates a calm, respectful and purposeful environment where every student can learn, feel safe and achieve their very best.

I am delighted by the positive start our students have made. Their maturity, determination and willingness to embrace our expectations have been reflected in a significant reduction in behaviour incidents. Compared to the same point last year, the number of lunchtime detentions has fallen by over one third when comparing with the same point in 2025. This improvement reflects the positive choices being made by students every day and has helped create a more focused learning environment across the school.

As we move into Term 2, we will continue to focus on the small habits that make a big difference. Consistency in these areas helps us maintain high standards and ensures that staff can focus on teaching and students can focus on learning.

Our first priority next term will be punctuality. Arriving on time is one of the simplest and most important habits students can develop. We have already begun issuing R2 warnings for students who arrive late to school and, where lateness is avoidable, we will begin using R3 detentions so that students are expected to make up lost learning time. Our aim is not punitive; rather, it is to reinforce the importance of punctuality and ensure that every minute of learning counts.

Of course, we recognise that lateness is not always within a student's control. We know that many families continue to experience difficulties with public transport, with some buses arriving late or being too full to accommodate all students. On these occasions, students are not issued with R2

warnings or R3 detentions. Thank you to everyone who has raised these concerns with Oxfordshire County Council. The school continues to do the same, and representatives from the County Council recently visited the school and witnessed these issues first-hand. We have been assured that the matter is being escalated and will keep families updated on any progress.

We will also continue to maintain high standards around uniform, equipment and readiness to learn. Students are expected to attend school each day wearing full uniform, including their tie and green school jumper, and to bring:

- A suitable school bag;
- A pencil case containing the equipment needed for learning;
- Their student planner;
- Any other resources required for the school day.

A full list of equipment needed for each day can be found here: Preparing for September Guide

Over recent weeks, staff have worked hard with students to address issues relating to jewellery and false nails. From November, where students repeatedly fail to follow our uniform expectations, non-compliant jewellery may be confiscated. These expectations are not new, but consistent standards help us create the calm and purposeful environment that all students deserve.

The full uniform policy can be found here: Uniform Policy

Thank you once again to our students, staff and families for the part you have played in such a positive first term. We are proud of the progress made so far and excited about what we can achieve together during the rest of the year.

As we approach the Half Term break, I wish you and your family a restful break and look forward to welcoming students back for Term 2 on Monday 2nd November.

Yours sincerely,

A West.

Alastair West
Headteacher
John Mason School