



# HEADLINES

April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for all your support as we reach the finish line of another long and busy term. Below is a sample of what school life has been like since I last wrote.

## JMS Careers Work Expo

From 21-24 March, Year 10 took part in the JMS Careers Expo. This was in place of their usual work experience, which was suspended this year due to the uncertainties caused by the pandemic.

Over 40 different local employers from a wide range of sectors came into school and delivered talks, discussions and interactivities highlighting the careers on offer in their sector. Students were introduced to first-hand experiences of the world of work, and benefitted from seeing between 10 and 15 different careers over the course of the week. This is in contrast to the deeper, but narrower, nature of the experience they would get from only attending one work experience placement.

The sessions were interspersed with access to SpringPod's virtual work experience offering, and Terry Bianchini (from Adviza) delivered sector-specific Q&A sessions.

In spite of several last-minute changes and cancellations (usually Covid-related), the behaviour of students was excellent, and over 100 of them completed the feedback form afterwards. This revealed the most popular sessions, which will be useful when planning work experience next year, and also the career sectors which most students are interested in, which will be useful for planning our careers offering next year.

Mr White

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

After a long week of shows, our production of A Midsummer Night's Dream has drawn to a close. A large cast of students and staff took to the main stage after eight months of preparations and entertained audiences across three evenings and a primary school matinee.

Not only was the show a visual feast with incredible staging and costumes, but the performance was also jam-packed with hilarious jokes, beautifully uplifting choreography, and witty interactions with the audience.

Mr Harrison, the head of Drama said "The show was a real success and certainly demonstrated the creative directors' vision for the show, celebrating one of Shakespeare's most memorable and magical pieces of work. Comedy on stage is much more challenging than it looks, but with plenty of practice the cast mastered the art of comedic timing.

We always strive to make the production projects as inclusive as possible, creating lots of opportunities for students to get involved with either performance roles or backstage crews, as well as making some new friends and great memories along the way.

I also want to thank the amazing support of other faculties who were involved in the process. Their contributions really enhanced the stage environment and built the world of the play."

## Carnegie Tea

After two years of the Abingdon schools doing their Carnegie Shadowing events online, what a joy it was to be able to meet up this year for our Carnegie Tea at John Mason. With over 90 students from the six schools the room was soon filled with excited chatter as they completed the three Carnegie Tea activities.

It was also a great thrill to have Justin Sedgewick whose latest novel 'Tsunami Girl' is on the Carnegie shortlist this year. That's right, a real live author in the room! He threw himself into the activities and I know the students were really pleased to talk to him as he discussed the eight shortlisted books with them.

A terrific start to this year's Carnegie Shadowing. Roll on the quiz in May.

Mr Holme

## Ski Trip

Over the February Half Term break, 54 students along with 6 members of staff travelled to Piancavallo, Italy for a week of skiing.

The weather was glorious sunshine with perfect snow conditions. There were hardly any other skiers on the slopes which was ideal for our beginners as they did not have to worry about hitting anyone. All the skiers made great progress and were skiing on the higher parts of the mountain by the end of the week. Highlights of the week included: Night skiing with torches, Alpine coasting and the gigantic pizzas served at a local pizzeria.

Despite the exceptional long trip home, all students had a fantastic ski trip and many are looking forward to the next one in 2024.

Mrs Green

## Safeguarding

Last week tutors delivered an additional session around the theme of Online Safety. In particular we examined the idea of keeping yourself safe in terms of contact and conduct.

We have identified a number of students using websites such as Omegle. Two thirds of parents I spoke to were not aware of Omegle. This website allows you to 'Chat with random strangers online'. A number of students had seen unwanted and concerning material through this site.

At John Mason we are acutely aware of the ever changing nature of Online Safety and are currently building a new section of our website to offer continually updated materials to help parents and students navigate these risks.

Mrs Batcheldor

## Staffing

Finally, we have some staff changes for after the Easter holidays.

We say goodbye to Mr Davies and Mr Clark. Mr Davies is moving to a new school for a promotion to Deputy Head and Mr Clark is retiring after 11 years service with us. We wish them both the very best of luck for the future. Mr Wileman will start his new job with us as Assistant Head and takes over from Mr Davies. Joining us from Didcot Girls School is Mr Fulwell who will be our new Director of Key Stage 3.

We are also delighted to welcome Ms Andrew who has been appointed as SEN Manager. This is a new and exciting role at JMS to extend the leadership and capacity of our Inclusion team.

Have a wonderful Easter.



Adrian Rees  
Head of School

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