



Head's Up!

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your families all had a good half term break and managed to get some time away from screens.

I will write to you again soon in a separate correspondence with full details about our plans for wider opening for all students. Please remember that in the meantime the key message, and the safest option, is still to keep your child at home for remote learning.

Parent survey and student panels

Thank you to all who participated and gave us invaluable feedback. Our student panels were well attended and our student's views were well considered and honest. Overall, responses were very positive. We have reflected on these and used them with staff to improve our practice and remote learning further.

Parents' Evening

Year 13 and 12 are going ahead over the next two weeks.

Year 9 will continue to take place on Thursday 18th March from 1630 to 1900. This will be held remotely through SchoolCloud. We will be in touch nearer the time with registration details and instructions.

UCAS

We have had a record number of applicants to University this year with over 100 students applying. Offers are steadily coming in with a number from Oxbridge and Russell Group. We wish all our students good luck with this. We also thank the Sixth Form staff involved for all their hard work, time and support. This is a fantastic achievement.

Carnegie 2021

Carnegie Shadowing is one of the most exciting events that Year 7 students do at John Mason. Each year all the Abingdon schools combine to put on various activities based on our shared love for books and reading. This year is going to be different. We are still going to do all the activities but we are keeping them in-house here at JMS. So, we will have a Carnegie Tea in mid March when the shortlist is released, then a Carnegie Quiz based on the books in May and a special event in June to pick our Carnegie winner before the official announcement.

Intermediate Maths Challenge

Despite all the logistical differences with remote learning, the Intermediate Maths Challenge still went ahead this year with 56 students across Years 10 and 11 taking part. We are really pleased so many students took the opportunity to test their problem solving skills in a nationwide competition. We look forward to hearing the results from the UK Mathematics Trust in March.

What is happening in PE?

Coaches Corner

We are working with Radley College to allow students access to online question and answer sessions with world class performers, coaches and officials.

On Thursday 2nd February a number of students logged on to the first session, which involved Will Stuart, Tom West (England Six Nations squad) and Charlie Atkinson (England Shadow Squad) to hear the players answer questions

about how they worked their way up in rugby, what representing their country means to them and how COVID has affected the Six Nations training build up.

These events will take place every couple of weeks, with the next one being this week and will involve a rugby international referee. Please look out for more details on parentmail.

House Competition - Travel the UK

During the first week after half term the House Competition will be introduced to students, with the aim of going live on Monday 1st March.

We are looking to see which House can complete the 1,981 mile challenge first. A scenic route around the UK will be taken, with weekly up-dates on how far each House has travelled.

Pupils can walk or cycle and will be asked to record their weekly total.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Rees', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adrian Rees
Head of School
