

Friday 12th December 2025

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

We were delighted to celebrate the season with a wonderful Christmas lunch on Wednesday under the beautifully decorated tree, accompanied by festive music. It was heartwarming to see students from all year groups sitting together, sharing laughter and enjoying the occasion as a school community.

A huge thank you to our dedicated school staff and the fantastic catering team for making this event so special. Their hard work and attention to detail created a memorable experience for everyone.

Our Christmas Jumper Day was a fantastic celebration of festive spirit! It wasn't just jumpers on display – we saw an amazing variety of seasonal socks, ties, and hats adding extra cheer to the day. We are incredibly grateful for the generous donations made to Save the Children. Thanks to your support, we have collected £355 so far, making a real difference to this important cause. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Thank you to all families who joined us for the Year 9 Parents' Information Evening. This marks an important milestone as students begin the process of making their GCSE choices for September 2026. These decisions not only shape what they will study in Years 10 and 11 but also set the direction for Post-16 pathways, opening doors to university and future employment.

We are incredibly proud of our broad and balanced curriculum, offering a wide range of options to meet the needs and aspirations of every student. We understand that with so much choice, the process can feel overwhelming at times. Please be assured that we will continue to provide first-class advice and guidance throughout.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes.



Alastair West
Headteacher

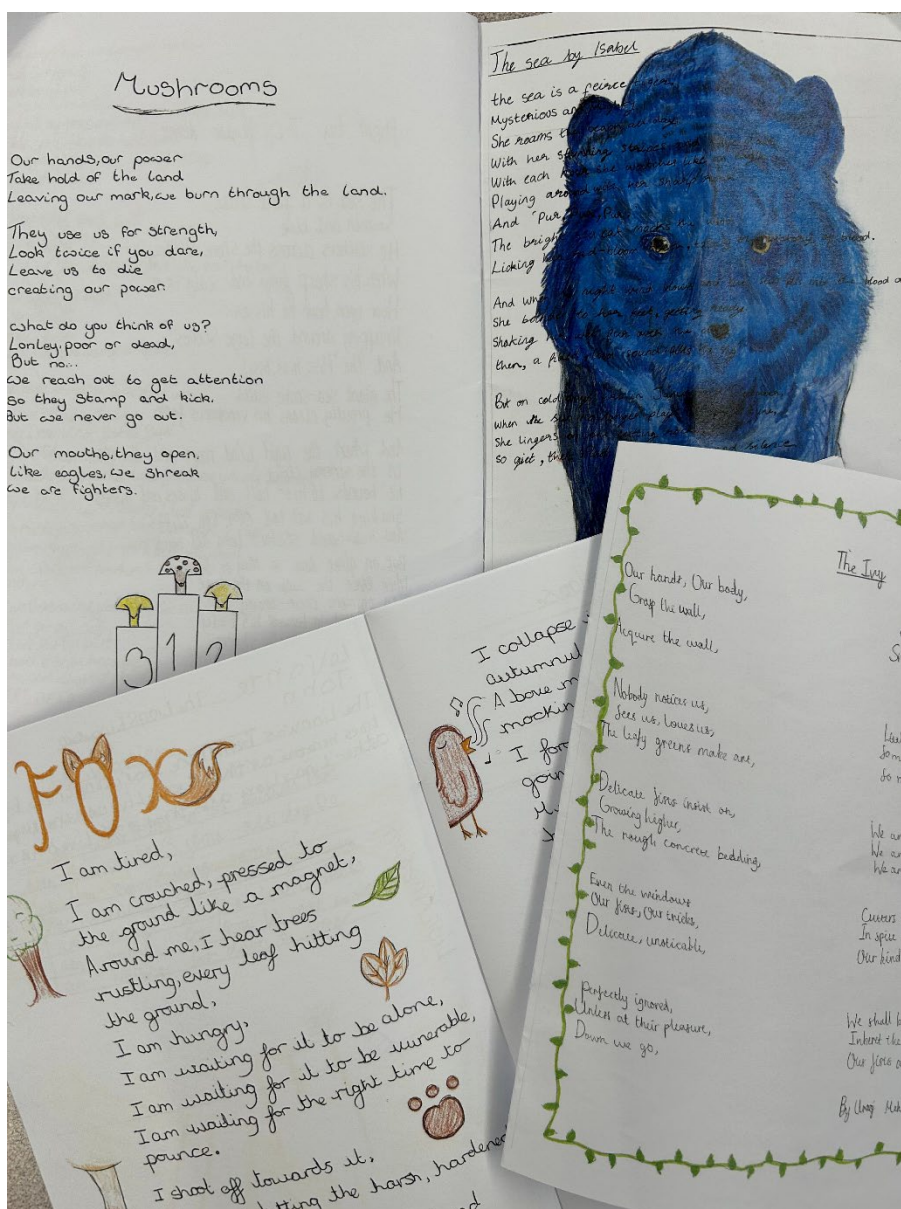
Curriculum News

Year 7 Poets

Last term in English, students in year 7 explored a variety of poems based on the theme of nature. We worked on developing skills of analysis through talk, both in pairs and whole class and were impressed by the students' ability to share perceptive and interesting responses.

As the culmination of this unit and inspired by what they studied, every student wrote their own poem about nature. The results are over a hundred creative, thoughtful, sometimes funny, sometimes powerful poems which are not only a celebration of nature but a celebration of this year groups' first term at John Mason. Each group has produced their own anthology to take home so if you haven't been lucky enough to have a read yet – do ask your child (or have a root through their rucksack?).

Each teacher has nominated a student who they feel deserves a special mention. Well done to the following: Eva, Freddie, Tom and Reuban.





Celebrating Student Achievement - The Visual Arts 'Student Showcase' 2025

Our annual 'Student Showcase' is in its 19th year!

This exhibition celebrates work from across all age groups and visual art disciplines from the past 12 months (2025) and is on display from January to Easter each year, ahead of the main GCSE and A level Summer show in June.

Students' work is presented in the professional setting of the 06 Gallery and aims to represent a journey of skillsets and experiences from year 7 to 13. Work is selected for the exhibition based on effort and personal achievement and put forward by their art and design teachers.

Work is framed or professionally mounted to show it at its best and titled to express the focus or concept of the piece, teaching viewers to consider and appreciate the purpose, brief and /or 'voice' of the piece as well as the technical skill involved in making it.

Artwork is currently being selected by faculty staff and framed ready to be installed in the gallery in the New Year.

Students who have work selected for the showcase receive a commendation certificate and house points; plus a 'winner' and 'runner up' is voted each year to be enrolled in the 'hall of fame' of Student Showcase winners and receive an Art materials prize to encourage future creations.

Exhibition 'visits' are sometimes used as part of KS3 & 4 lessons as teaching, aspiration and inspiration platforms. Students can also view the exhibition at breaktimes with permission from their teacher.

As a 'sneak peek', below are a few pieces that have already been selected to star in this year's exhibition. Congratulations in advance to those students whose work will feature in the showcase. We hope through exhibitions such as this, the creativity of our young artists and designers will be recognised and celebrated across the school and wider community.

Claire Pennington
Director of Visual Arts



Anielly



Whole School News

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our pre-loved uniform sale last week.

We are delighted to share that we raised an incredible £193, which will go towards our JMA fundraising campaign in support of our school community.



We will be holding another pre-loved uniform sale after the February half-term. If you have any unwanted branded items, please do send them in to help us prepare for the next event.

We currently have plenty of shirts and trousers but would greatly appreciate donations of JMS white polo shirts, House PE shirts, and jumpers.

Thank you for your continued support!

Student Voice Survey

Thank you to everyone who filled in the Parent Voice Survey. Mr West will feedback on findings and outcomes in the new year.

Meanwhile as part of our aim to understand the views of our community our annual Student Voice Survey is live and can be found [here](#), students will have to be logged into their school accounts to complete.

Do please encourage your child to complete the survey so that we can understand the experiences of our students in school and celebrate those things that are going well for them and, of course, prioritise improvements to make their school experience even better.

Thank you for encouraging them to complete this.

Robin Conway
Deputy Headteacher

WINTER 2025 OX14 LP NEWS



The OX14 LP is a group of six state and independent schools working in partnership to raise educational aspirations across OX14 by providing opportunities for students and staff to be challenged, inspired and learn from and support each other.

A summary of partnership activity for schools in the OX14 learning partnership.



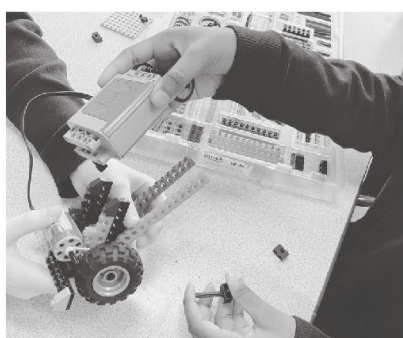
Business Language Challenge Event

STEM Challenge Event Success

Over 100 Year 8 students from across schools recently participated in **ChallengED**, a highly engaging, hands-on STEM Challenge Morning hosted by Larkmead School. Students worked in mixed-school teams on activities delivered by external groups; Space Store and House of Fun. Challenges focussed on developing essential skills in problem-solving, communication, and teamwork. This event provided a valuable opportunity for students to engage creatively with STEM concepts outside of the classroom, with 97% of attendees saying they would recommend the day to a friend. Students particularly enjoyed meeting new people and successfully challenging themselves throughout the morning.



ChallengED STEM Event



Over 75 students took part in the **Business Language Challenge**. Students worked in mixed-school teams to transform the room into an international marketplace, using a foreign language to develop sales pitches, create adverts, and sell products. This challenging day pushed participants to master teamwork and presentation skills. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 93% of attendees feeling appropriately challenged and praising the opportunity to collaborate and meet new people. Congratulations to all students for their impressive language skills and excellent teamwork!

OX14LP NEWS



PSL Training

Sixth form **Peer Support Leads (PSLs)** across our schools have continued their work as mentors this term, providing invaluable support through one-on-one guidance, leading school talks in assemblies, and creating presentations on topics like Anti-Bullying. This term they have attended joint training sessions, where they gained practical strategies for supporting those with anxiety and a deeper understanding of The Teenage Brain. The PSLs meet regularly to refine their skills, ensuring they continue to make a significant and positive impact across our school communities.

Students spent a productive day at the Oxford Town Hall taking part in **OXCOP**. 11 students from across 4 of our schools took part and worked together to represent their countries. One student wrote:

‘Today, at OxCOP, simulating COP30, we gave opening speeches on China and Chile’s environmental progress. We then separated into various committees for unmoderated caucus on our country’s stance on topics such as oceans, energy, development, and ecosystems. Together, we wrote up resolutions which were then formally debated between all students. The day ended with a fascinating speech from Henry Mance, a Chief Features Writer for the Financial Times.’ Another said ‘I found the OXCOP experience to be highly beneficial and extremely enjoyable. I got the opportunity to collaborate with peers from all across the OX14 learning partnership, developing my leadership skills greatly....Overall, I made good friendships and had great fun immersing myself in the life of a COP ambassador.’

Student Voice Group

The newly formed OX14 Learning Partnership **Student Voice Group** held its first meeting this term, uniting Sixth Form students from all our schools. These students are acting as Student Ambassadors to provide vital feedback on the partnership and support its future development. During their initial collaborative session, they suggested key improvements, including the need for increased event awareness and the organisation of even more joint activities between the schools. This group provides a crucial platform for our students to directly shape the partnership's ongoing success.



The **OX14 LP Pride group** met again at the start of the year for a fun games night. We hope to plan more opportunities for the group to meet throughout the year.

Coming up:

- Cross School Academic Coaching between trained Y12 students and younger students
- InspirED - A morning of inspirational guest speakers and workshops for Y10 students
- Oxbridge Club
- Medic Day
- Careers Convention
- Shakespeare Shorts Competition



Check out the website to find out more...

We would like to thank all students and staff who have participated in or helped organise a partnership event so far this year. Bringing our schools together for collaboration and shared learning is fundamental to the OX14 Learning Partnership. We are excited about another year of engaging activities and events ahead. For more details, please read our weekly updates or visit the OX14 Learning Partnership website.

Find out more:  ox14lp@abingdon.org.uk  www.ox14lp.org.uk

Upcoming Important Dates:	
Monday 15 th December	Year 7 Rewards Evening
Wednesday 17 th December	Winter Concert at Trinity Church
Thursday 18 th December	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Friday 19 th December	School closes at 1.10pm
Monday 22 nd December – Monday 5 th January	Christmas Holidays
Monday 5 th January	Inset day, school closed for students
Tuesday 6 th January	Start of term, all students return to school
Thursday 8 th – Wednesday 14 th January	Year 13 Pre-Public Exams
Thursday 15 th January	Year 8 Parents Evening

For a complete list of upcoming events please view the school calendar on our website here:
[Calendar - John Mason School](#)

Term dates for the academic year are on our website here:
[Term Dates - John Mason School](#)