

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

Year 11 and Year 13 are reaching the end of an incredibly busy summer term. I have been inspired by their determination and resilience throughout the examination period. As they approach the end of their time with us, it is a privilege to celebrate all they have achieved at JMS and JMF6 over the past five or seven years.

Whilst Year 13 held their leavers' assembly before half term, this week it was the turn of Year 11. On Monday, they enjoyed taking a well-earned break from revision to reflect on their journey over the past five years, the highs and the challenges, and to celebrate together with the traditional shirt signing.



As we begin to say farewell to some students, we are also delighted to welcome those just starting their journey with us. On Tuesday, we hosted our first group of Year 6 visitors, who spent time exploring the school and getting to know different areas. They were supported by our excellent Year 8 hosts. Our Sports Leaders have also been outstanding role models, leading Quad Kids athletics events for local primary schools. They ran Wednesday's event superbly, and we look forward to the rescheduled second event next week following the postponement due to weather.

The English department has also had a busy and enriching period. Year 7 and 8 book club members attended the Carnegie Book Awards Forum at St Helen and St Katharine, while Year 9 students were visited by children's author Lucas Maxwell, who spoke about his latest book and his journey as a writer.

Finally, a huge thank you to Charday, who represented JMS at the Abingdon Youth Summit last Friday, and to Thomas, who represented JMS and Year 7 at the Oxfordshire Vale Schoolboys football trials.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,



Alastair West  
Headteacher

**National competition, please nominate us.**



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SCAN ME

National Year of Reading 2026

The poster features a young girl and boy smiling, surrounded by colorful books and a QR code. The background is yellow with decorative stars and book icons.

The annual prize draw is back to give five schools across the UK and Ireland the chance to **win £1,000/€1,000 in National Book Tokens** and fill their shelves with new and inspiring books.

Nominate the school using the [form link](#), and if yours is one of the five winning entries, you'll also **win a £100/€120 National Book Token** to spend in your favourite bookshop.

## STEM Club



Last week STEM club celebrated Environment Day, by taking on the role of scientists to investigate which material was most effective at keeping water warm for the longest time.

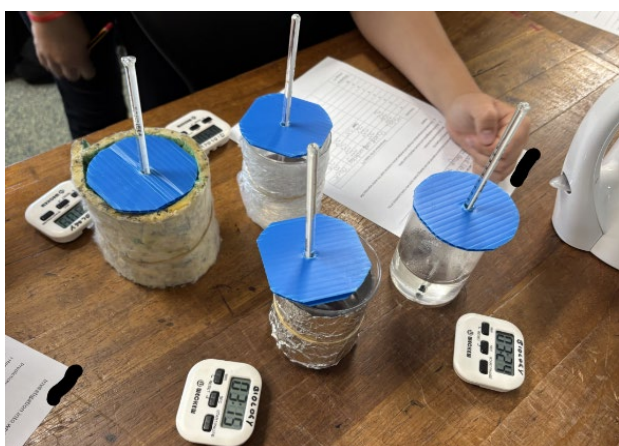
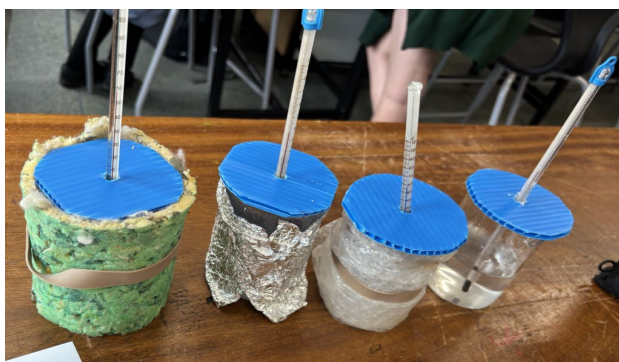
Working in teams, students selected three different insulating materials to wrap around a beaker containing boiling water.

They also included a control beaker with no insulation to provide a fair comparison. Over a ten minute period, students carefully measured and recorded the water temperature every minute before calculating the total temperature change for each material.

The investigation encouraged students to develop important scientific skills, including planning fair tests, collecting accurate data, presenting results, and drawing evidence-based conclusions.

After analysing their results, students found that carpet underlay was the most effective insulating material, showing the smallest drop in temperature over the ten minutes. This demonstrated how trapped air within certain materials can reduce heat transfer and help retain thermal energy.

The STEM Club members thoroughly enjoyed applying their scientific knowledge to a real-world problem and were impressed by how effective some everyday materials can be as insulators. Well done to all students for their excellent teamwork, careful measurements, and thoughtful analysis.



Investigation into which insulation material is best at keeping a beaker of water warm the longest.

Prediction:  
I think underlay will be the best insulating material at keeping the water the warmest for longer because it looks soft and thick.

Method:

1. Decide on which insulation material you are testing (make sure you have a control of no material to compare to).
2. Set up equipment as shown.
3. Run the investigation and record results in your table.
4. Calculate the temperature change and analyse which material kept the water warmest the longest.

Time (min)	Temperature of the water (°C)			
	No material	Underlay	Bubble wrap	Foil
0	55°C	55°C	55°C	55°C
1	55°C	55°C	55°C	55°C
2	54°C	54°C	54°C	54°C
3	53°C	53°C	53°C	53°C
4	52°C	52°C	52°C	52°C
5	51°C	52°C	51°C	52°C
6	51°C	51°C	51°C	51°C
7	50°C	51°C	51°C	51°C
8	50°C	51°C	50°C	51°C
9	50°C	51°C	50°C	51°C
10	49°C	50°C	49°C 50°C	49°C 50°C
Temperature change (°C)	-6°C	-5°C	-6°C	-6°C

## Whole School News



### **Sports Leaders opportunity:**

Following the successful sports leaders programme that we have ran this year at JMS, we have teamed up with Oxfordshire Cricket for their 'Future Leaders Academy'.

This opportunity is run outside of school and requires Students who are interested to express their interest and register using the details below.

If your Child is interested in taking the sports leadership to the next level, please see the information below:

Mat Davies

Director of Physical Education

### **Future Leaders Academy with Oxfordshire Cricket**

Oxfordshire Cricket is offering a fantastic free leadership programme for students aged 13–18 (Years 8–13), designed to develop skills in volunteering within sport and the wider community. The programme includes a range of certificated workshops such as coaching, first aid, safeguarding, and more, alongside opportunities to gain valuable experience and contribute to local cricket clubs.

Workshops will take place across the academic year, with recognition and awards available for students who complete volunteering hours.

Further information will be shared in a follow-up letter, including details on how to register interest.

Sign Ups Open May 2026, Sign Ups Close: End of July 2026

You can sign up or express your interest by [CLICKING HERE](#)

### **Outgrown Uniform Collection**

Please bring in any outgrown good quality uniform that we can offer to the next Year 7's due to start this September.

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 it will help families just starting with JMS.



**John Mason School**  
OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | DETERMINATION

# GCSE & A' LEVEL

Art, Graphics, 3D Design & Textiles



# ART BEAT 2026

EXHIBITION

## Open Viewings

Thursday 18th June 3.30pm-7pm  
Saturday 20th June 9.30am-12.30pm

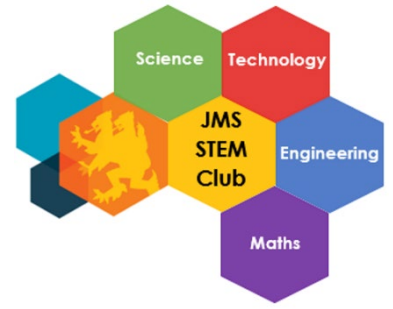
**06 Gallery & Visual Arts Faculty**



*Be inspired by the creativity of young minds*



# STEM competition



## Show your stripes!

### What are the stripes?

- No words. No numbers. No graphs. Just a series of vertical-coloured bars, showing the progressive heating of our planet in a single, striking image.
- The climate stripes were created by Professor Ed Hawkins at the University of Reading in 2018.
- They show clearly and vividly how global average temperatures have risen over nearly two centuries.

### How do they work?

- Each stripe represents the average temperature for a single year, relative to the average temperature over the period as a whole.
- Shades of blue indicate cooler-than-average years, while red shows years that were hotter than average.
- The stark band of deep red stripes on the right-hand side of the graphic show the rapid heating of our planet in recent decades.

### Competition...

Design your own stripes for Oxford.

<https://showyourstripes.info/l/europe/unitedkingdom/oxford>

You can choose how you are going to design your stripes. This could be painting, embroidery, Lego, recycling, play-do, baking etc.

You need to hand in your stripes to Mrs Williams in C15 (make sure you have put your name and form on your work). The winning design will receive a prize and all entries receive house points towards the house cup.

The deadline for entry is **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025 3pm.**

Please join us for our summer concert.

# Young Musician of the Year 2026

## Prizes for:

- Best KS3 Musician
- Best KS4 Musician
- Best KS5 Musician
- Young Musician of the Year

## Concert:

Thursday 16 July 2026  
6:00-8:00pm  
Main Hall  
£3 (on MCAS)

## Auditions:

Wednesday 10th &  
Thursday 11th June  
After school in the Music  
block.

If you are interested in  
auditioning, please email Mr  
Spacksman

Prizes include house points,  
certificates and trophies!  
House points rewarded to  
students

Soloists only

For more details: check  
Daily News slides or contact  
Mr Spacksman

Email Mr Spacksman at:  
[sspacksman@johnmason.school](mailto:sspacksman@johnmason.school)



## OX14 Learning Partnership Weekly Update

Please find the [OX14 Lp Weekly update linked here](#) and the website link here: <https://www.ox14lp.org.uk/events/>.

<b>Upcoming Important Dates:</b>	
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 3.30-7pm & Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> June 9.30-12.30pm	Art Beat Open Viewings
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Concert
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	School closes at 1.05pm - End of Summer Term
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Inset Day – Staff Training
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July – 31 <sup>st</sup> August	Summer Holidays
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> -Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Inset Days – No students
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Start of term for Year's 7, 11 and 12
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	All Students back in school

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](#)

Facebook page link here: [Facebook page](#)