

Friday 13th February 2026

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

As we reach the end of a really positive term, today has been a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the fantastic achievements of students across all year groups. With more than 100 impressive nominations for the Visual Arts Student Showcase, our gallery is now full of colour, creativity and exceptional talent. Students will receive award certificates and gold badges for their work, and we look forward to announcing the winner's next term.

The return of the Race for Charity has also been an overwhelming success, with nearly £1,000 raised so far and sponsorship still coming in. Students completed the race across the last two weeks depending on their timetable, and the resilience they showed - pushing through mud, wind and rain has been inspiring. Thank you to everyone who took part and supported such an important event.

It has also been fantastic to see so many students representing the school in sport this term. Across a wide variety of fixtures, their commitment, teamwork and sportsmanship have been exceptional. Well, done to all who competed and thank you to the PE faculty for organising such a busy and successful programme.

A particular well done to Year 11, who have reached the end of their final set of pre-public exams. They, more than anyone, have earned a well-deserved rest over the next nine days.

We finished the term by celebrating Stert house taking a narrow lead in the house competition and so as we head into half term, I wish all our students, families and staff a peaceful and enjoyable break. I'm sure students in Oak and Thames houses will spend some time plotting how they might take the lead in term 4! We look forward to welcoming students back when our gates open at 8:10am on Monday 23rd February.

Best wishes,



Alastair West
Headteacher

Curriculum News

Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations – Thank You and Next Steps

Thank you for your support during the Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs). Students conducted themselves responsibly throughout the exam window, and we are proud of the mature approach they showed.



Over the coming weeks, teachers will be marking and reviewing the papers so that students receive clear feedback on their strengths and areas for development. This feedback will help guide their revision priorities in the lead-up to the summer examinations, as well as inform final tier of entry decisions where applicable.

Students will be supported through:

- Targeted classroom teaching and intervention work
- Personalised feedback and reflection activities
- Tutor guidance on planning revision effectively
- Continued access to the JMS Revision Website for subject-specific resources and strategies

We encourage families to talk with their child about how the exams went, what they are proud of, and what they would like to improve next. A positive, forward-looking approach is key as we enter the final phase of preparation for the summer exams.

If you have any questions regarding your child's progress or the next steps following the PPEs, please contact their tutor or Mr Gilkes, Progress Leader year 11.

Mr B Gilkes
Assistant Head Teacher



Pastoral News

Uniform

We have noticed number of students wearing hooped earrings, or multiple earrings or other piercings. Our [uniform policy](#) allows students to wear one simple metal; non-jewel plain stud may be in the ear lobe of each ear. Students have been spoken to individually and additional piercings have been removed. Please bear this in mind in the run up to term 4 and can ensure that students come back to school with a maximum of one stud in each ear to ensure they avoid any follow up from our pastoral teams and maintain a positive start to each school day.

Race for Charity



JMS 'Race for Charity'

Congratulations to all Students for taking part in the JMS Race for Charity. To conclude their fitness unit, Students aimed to run 5k or for 30 minutes in aid of their chosen charity. We have managed to raise just under £1000 to date.

Whilst completing, Students also earnt points for their House.

We were so impressed with the determination shown by students and thank you for your support.





John Mason School
OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | DETERMINATION

Race for Charity results:

Year 7: **Ock**
Year 8: **Stert**
Year 9: **Stert**
Year 10: **Thames**
Year 11: **Stert**

Overall:

3rd: **Thames** 1147 laps = 573,500m
2nd: **Ock** 1179 laps = 589,500m
1st **Stert** 1267 laps = 633,500m



John Mason School
OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | DETERMINATION

Race for Charity results:

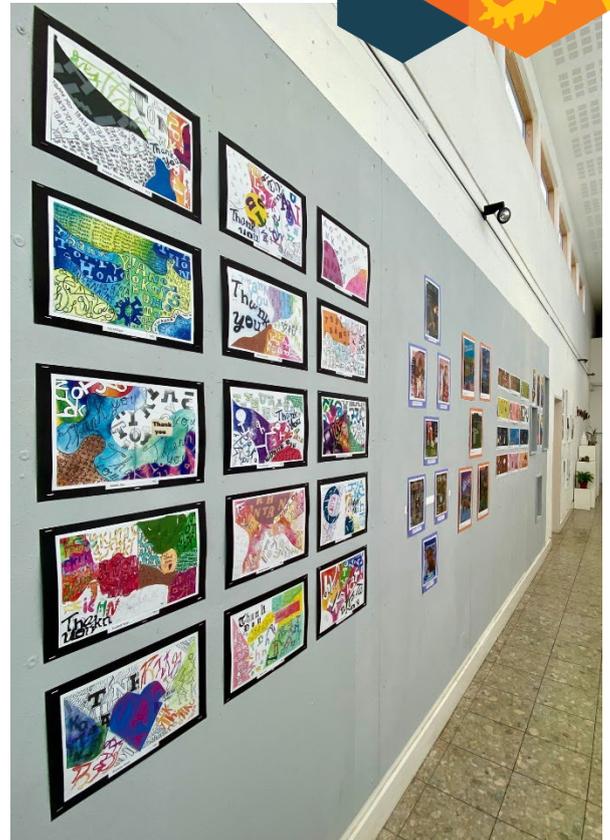
Most money raised: Cassie M Year 7, Ava T Year 7, Mason S Year 7

Quickest 5K ran: William S Year 8, Brish Year 11, Greg Year 11, Tim Year 7, Oscar Year 7, Will Year 8, Kieren Year 8, Oscar Year 8, Ethan Year 9.

Furthest ran (over 5k each!): Sasha Year 8, Jack Year 9, Oliver Year 9, Lilyd Year 10, Jonty Year 7, Zavier Year 7

Special mentions: Yasmine Year 11, Iris Year 11, Ben Year 11, Seth Year 10, Emma Year 10, Gracie Year 10, Tommy Year 8, Gabriella Year 7, Josie Year 7, Alfie Year 11, Adrian Year 8, Noah Year 7, Evie Year 7, Isobel Year 7, Ollie Year 11, Justine Year 11, Sophie Year 11, Evie Year 10, Alvie Year 7, Violet Year 9, Jasmine Year 9

Whole School News



There are an unbelievable 105 nominations for the Visual Arts Student Showcase 2026, from across all Year groups 7-13, which is a record number! Therefore 105 pieces of Graphics, Textiles, 3D Design and Artwork are currently up on display in the gallery for students and staff to enjoy.

Students will be receiving award certificates at the start of next term and new this year, student sketchbooks will also display their award via a special gold badge!

Winners will be announced at the end of next term.

Congratulations to all students with work on display and thank you to Visual Arts staff for their hard work framing and installing the exhibition to share and celebrate students' achievement.

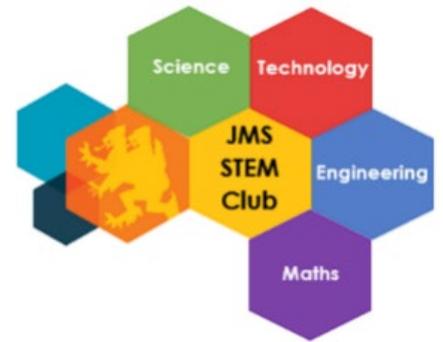
Ms C Pennington

STEM Club

To celebrate International Women's Day, STEM club have been finding out about different women in STEM.

They have learnt about; Marie Curie who lead the way in radioactivity, Jane Goodall considered to be the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees, Amelia Earhart who became the first woman to make a nonstop solo transatlantic flight, Sally Rider who was the first American woman in space, but also the youngest at 24, Janaki Ammal who created numerous hybrid plants allowing crops to be grown in areas where they previously couldn't, and Katherine Johnson a human calculator for NASA who worked on the Apollo 11 mission.

They had different activities to complete that were linked to each woman, from plant cloning to aeroplane designing and building.



Keeping Our Children Safe Online – Internet Safety Day Tuesday 10th February 2026



As part of our commitment to supporting the wellbeing of our students, we are recognizing Internet Safety Day this month. The digital world offers incredible learning opportunities, but it also comes with risks. This day is a reminder for all of us—parents, educators, and children—to focus on safe, responsible, and positive online behaviour.

Why Internet Safety Matters

Children and teenagers spend increasing amounts of time online, whether for learning, socializing, or entertainment. While the internet can be a wonderful resource, it can also expose young people to cyberbullying, inappropriate content, scams, and privacy risks. Teaching them how to navigate these challenges is essential.

Tips for Parents to Support Safe Internet Use:

1. **Open Conversations:** Encourage your child to talk about what they do online and any concerns they may encounter.
2. **Set Clear Boundaries:** Establish rules around screen time and appropriate online content.
3. **Privacy Protection:** Teach children not to share personal information, such as their address, school, or passwords.
4. **Understand Social Media:** Familiarize yourself with the platforms your child uses, and discuss the importance of respectful behaviour online.
5. **Encourage Critical Thinking:** Help children recognize misleading information, scams, and inappropriate content.

Together, we can help our children enjoy the benefits of the internet while protecting them from its risks. Let's work as a community to ensure that every child has a safe and positive online experience.



On Friday 6th February, Year 7 students had the pleasure of welcoming Lindsay Powell and Connor Byran from Tribela during their Personal Development lesson to explore the important topic of staying safe online.

During the session, students learned about what data is, why it is collected, and how to protect it—including the importance of sharing location information only with trusted contacts. Connor Byran, Tribela's lead engineer specializing in data science and cybersecurity, also explained key online concepts such as bots, AI, algorithms, fake accounts, and large language models (LLMs). He discussed how these technologies are used, why they matter, and practical tips for using them safely.

The session concluded with a lively Q&A, where students posed thought-provoking questions, demonstrating their curiosity and engagement with online safety.

Uniform Sale Tuesday 17th March 3:30-4:30pm

We will be holding the pre-loved uniform sale Tuesday 17th March 3:30-4:30pm. We still would like to receive more outgrown or unwanted items to help us for the 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!

Performing Arts



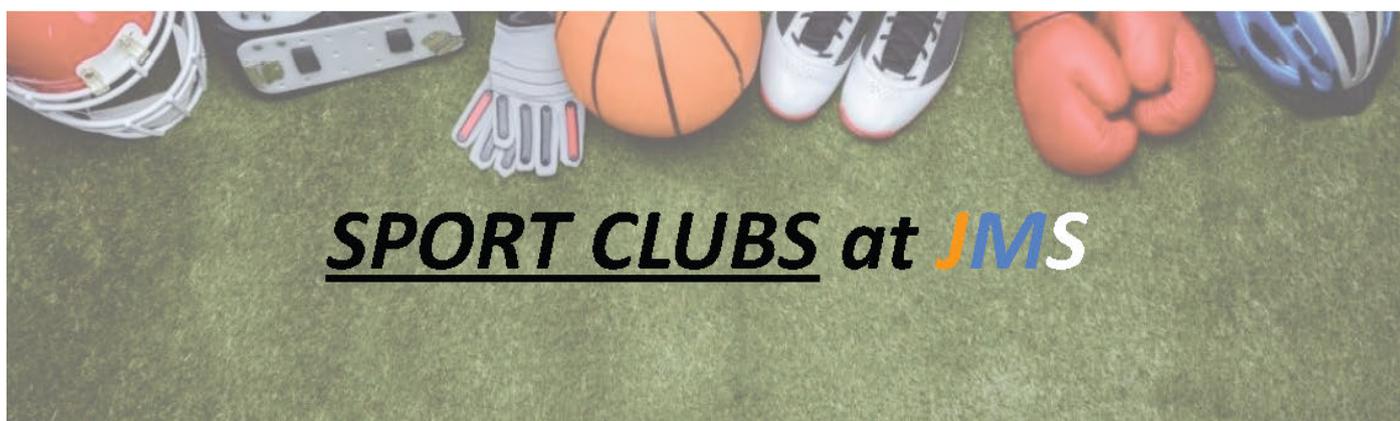
With just under a month to go until we open the doors for this year's school production, Arabian Nights, our cast, crew and staff are working with real energy and focus to bring this vibrant show to life. The production weaves together a series of imaginative, intertwining stories told by our heroine, each presented through a different performance style. It promises to be a colourful, creative and captivating evening of theatre.

Performance nights will take place on Wednesday 11 March and Thursday 12 March, from 7pm to 9pm.

The ticket link will go live after the February half term.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/johnmasonschooll/index.cfm>

Sports clubs from 2nd March



Clubs to start **Monday 2nd March**

Please ask your parent/carer to enrol you to the after school club you wish to attend via MCAS. Bring your PE kit if participating after school. Any questions please ask the member of staff leading that club.

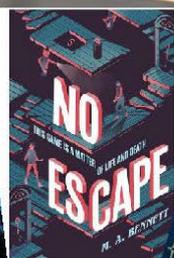
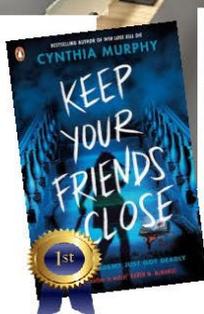
Day	Lunchtime (In the Gym)	Afterschool
Monday	<i>Girls Active with Miss Uzzell and Mrs Marriott</i>	
Tuesday	<i>KS3 (Year 7, 8 & 9) Badminton with Mr Borja</i>	<i>Netball with Miss Uzzell</i>
Wednesday		<i>GCSE PE P6 with Miss Uzzell (F01)</i> <i>Football (Year 7 & 8) with Mr Davies</i> <i>Basketball (Year 7 & 8) with Mr Borja</i>
Thursday	<i>KS4 (Year 10 & 11) Badminton with Mr Davies</i>	<i>Basketball (Year 9 & 10) with Mr Borja</i>
Friday	<i>JMF6 Sport with Mrs Marriott</i>	

Abingdon Schools Young Adult Book Awards

Twelve JMS students joined peers from Radley College, Larkmead, Fitzharrys, Europa and SHSK on Tuesday afternoon for the Abingdon Schools Young Adult Book Awards. They took part in the quizzes based on six YA novels and voted for the Abingdon YA Book of the year. Although we didn't win the trophy, our year 9s and 10s gave it a good shot and they were awarded with a delicious chocolate brownie and the pride of having taken part.

The six shortlisted books are available in the LRC including the winner, the Abingdon YA book of the year: 'Keep Your Friends Close' by Cynthia Murphy - a murder mystery with a teenage twist.

ABINGDON SCHOOLS and mostlyBOOKS YOUNG ADULT BOOK AWARDS



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/>

Upcoming Important Dates:	
Week 16 th – 20 th February	Half Term
Wednesday 4 th March	Year 10 Art Pre-public Exam
Thursday 5 th March	Year 10 3D Pre-public Exam
Thursday 5 th March	JMA AGM in the Library from 6pm
Friday 6 th March	Year 10 Textiles Pre-public Exam
Week 16 th – 20 th March	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Tuesday 17 th March	Preloved Uniform sale
Thursday 19 th March	Year 7 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](#)