



John Mason School
OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | DETERMINATION

Friday 13th March 2026

Parent Bulletin

I am writing at the end of another fantastic week, which truly culminated in an incredible school production. *Arabian Nights* was a resounding success, and it was a privilege to see such high-quality acting, puppetry and dance bring a rich range of stories together so beautifully. Our students did themselves, their families and their school proud, and the many hours of rehearsal proved well worth every minute. My sincere thanks go particularly to Mrs Finnie and the Performing Arts Department, as well as to families for their commitment to additional drop-offs and pick-ups in support of this production.

Not wanting to be outshone, I have also been told of a fantastic performance from the Year 10 band *Shirc*, who performed as part of the Rock Concert on Wednesday at Abingdon School. Well done to them on another polished performance and a growing fan base!

We have welcomed lots of visitors into school this week, with our new Year 6 students excited to have received their September places and keen to visit. We are also really looking forward to welcoming Year 7 families into school on Thursday for the first full Parents' Evening for this year group. Please don't miss this fantastic opportunity to meet teachers and talk about the wonderful work your child has been doing, both in lessons and beyond.

Performing Arts sits at the very heart of John Mason School, and this is one reason why the current JMA project is fundraising for new stage lighting. Thank you again to everyone who has volunteered to become an active member of the JMA. This incredible organisation provides vital support for many school projects that would not exist without it. If you are able to offer any support (no matter how small) please let us know by providing your details [here](#), and we will keep in touch. There is no obligation to commit, but having a pool of volunteers makes a significant difference to our ability to run fundraising events. If you would like to make a donation, please [click here](#).

Have a great weekend

Best wishes,

Alastair West
Headteacher

Curriculum News

School Production – Arabian Nights

Over the past two evenings, our students transported audiences into the magical, vibrant world of Arabian Nights. Wednesday's performance set an incredibly high standard, with students from Years 7–13 demonstrating exceptional focus, commitment, and professionalism. The result was a slick, engaging, and thoroughly enjoyable show.

On Thursday night, performing to a sold-out audience, the cast raised the bar even further. Their energy, teamwork, and storytelling created a truly phenomenal performance that captivated everyone watching.



As director, I could not be prouder of the hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm shown by every student involved. It is a privilege to work with such talented young people, from those stepping onto the John Mason stage for the first time to those who have been part of our productions for many years. The camaraderie, confidence, and friendships that grow through experiences like this are incredibly special, and it has been a joy to guide this ensemble through the process.

We are immensely proud of what they have achieved.

Mrs Finnie

Director of Performing Arts



A promotional poster for a fundraiser. The background is a stage with several spotlights shining down. In the center, there are three overlapping hexagons: a blue one, a dark blue one, and an orange one with a yellow lion rampant. The text 'Help JMA raise funds for new stage lighting!' is written in white on a dark blue background at the top. At the bottom left is a QR code. At the bottom right, the text 'Brighten our performances. Help us light the stage today! Visit our GoFundMe page.' is written in white.

Help JMA raise funds for new stage lighting!



Brighten our performances.
Help us light the stage today!
Visit our GoFundMe page.

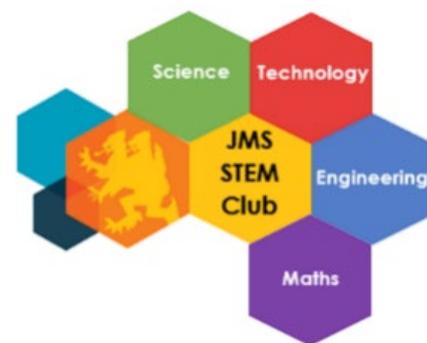
JMA New fundraiser

The John Mason Association in conjunction with the JMS Performing Arts Department are raising funds to upgrade the lighting system in the school hall. These lights will be used for a multitude of reasons such as Open Evenings, Concerts, Productions, Parent Information Evenings, Celebration Evenings, etc. The goal is to enhance performance quality, improve technical capabilities, and future-proof the lighting infrastructure through phased investment. The current lights in the hall are very old and condemned so cannot be used.

In total we are looking to raise £15,000. The plan is split into three phases, so each £5000 raised can contribute to usable upgrades to lights, infrastructure, and then control and more advanced effects. Donations through this portal allows us to collect Gift Aid if you are UK tax payer, so please tick the box and allow us to collect Gift Aid from your donation. Your donation is worth 25% more to us with Gift Aid. Any amount will be hugely appreciated. Thank you.

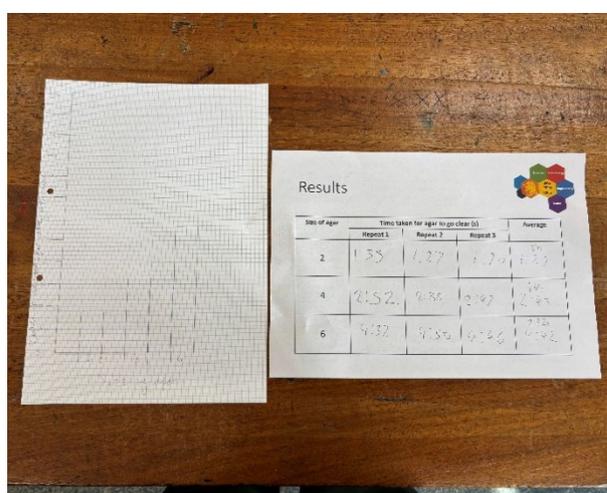
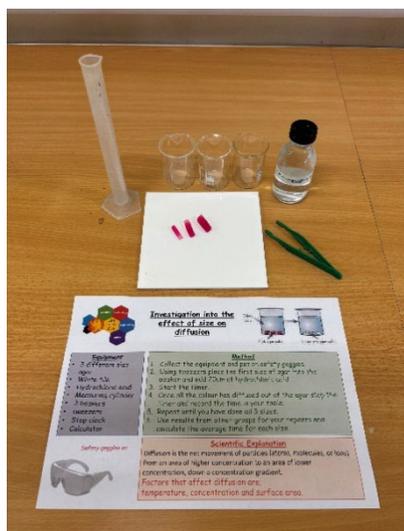
STEM Club

British Science Week this year is centred around the theme 'Curiosity', which perfectly reflects the spirit of our STEM Club. As part of the celebrations, students were set the challenge of investigating the effect of size on diffusion.



Working in groups, students were provided with three different sizes of dyed agar cubes to test. Each cube was placed into a beaker, and 20ml of hydrochloric acid was added. The students then measured the time taken for the dye within the agar to turn clear, indicating that diffusion had been completed.

Before conducting the experiment, each group made predictions about the outcome. Their results supported their hypotheses: the smaller the piece of agar, the faster the diffusion occurred.



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

Final reminder that we will be holding the pre-loved uniform sale on Tuesday 17th March 3:30-4:30pm please come to Reception.

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!

Community Drop-in Event

Stay Safe Online: Community Drop-In Event

Join us:

Friday 20th March

2:30–4:30pm

Christchurch, Northcourt Road, Abingdon

for a friendly drop-in information event for parents and carers

Pop in anytime to speak with local schools, mental health charities, Thames Valley Police and technology experts about:

- **Online harms and safety**
- **Understanding AI and the digital world**
- **Supporting your children online**
- **Where to find help and further support**

**Ask questions, get advice, and connect with your community.
Drop in anytime between 2:30–4:30pm.**



Abingdon School Rock Concert

On Wednesday Evening, 'Shirc' took to the stage at the Rock Concert held at Abingdon School on Wednesday 11th March. Representing our school with huge talent and confidence, the four performers, Harry (Lead Vocals and Guitar), Sam (Bass), Charlie (Guitar) and Robin (Drums) delivered an outstanding twosong set that impressed the audience.

They opened with an original song they wrote themselves titled *Shades of White*, showcasing not only their musical ability but also their creativity and songwriting skills. The band closed their set with an energetic and crowdpleasing performance of the Arctic Monkeys' hit *Mardy Bum*, rounding off their appearance with brilliant stage presence and enthusiasm.

It was a fantastic evening celebrating young musical talent, and our band did an incredible job representing the school. Well done to all four boys for their hard work and brilliant performance!



OX14 Learning Partnership Weekly Update

Please find the OX14 LP weekly update [linked here](#) and events calendar here: <https://www.ox14lp.org.uk/events/>

Upcoming Important Dates:	
Week 16 th – 20 th March	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Tuesday 17 th March	Preloved Uniform Sale 3.30-4.30pm
Thursday 19 th March	Year 7 parents Evening
Friday 27 th March	School closes at 1.05pm
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 13 th April	New Term - All Students Return to 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](#)