John Mason School
OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | DETERMINATION

Friday 13th November 2026

Parent Bulletin

Dear Families,

It has been another positive week at John Mason School, with plenty to celebrate. I continue to be impressed by the way our students are responding to our high expectations, showing maturity, resilience and a real commitment to making the most of their time in school.

On Wednesday, we came together for our Remembrance Service. I was incredibly proud of all our students and the respect, dignity and thoughtfulness they demonstrated throughout. It is important that our young people understand and recognise the sacrifices made by previous generations, often at great personal cost, so that we can enjoy the freedoms, opportunities and relative comfort that we have today.

Our Year 7 students were particularly fortunate to hear from Michael Barrett, a former John Mason School student and military veteran, who spoke about the importance and significance of remembrance. I hope this helped bring the meaning of the occasion to life for them and gave them a greater appreciation of why we continue to remember.

I want to congratulate Year 11, who have now completed the first stage of their Pre-Public Exams this week in the Sports Hall. These are important opportunities for students to demonstrate what they know, experience the demands of formal examinations and identify the areas they need to focus on as they prepare for their final exams.

We have been incredibly impressed by the attendance at our Year 11 Revision Breakfasts this week. This popular opportunity for students to work through key topics with their teachers before examinations has proved a huge success.

It is wonderful to see so many students taking advantage of these opportunities and showing such commitment to their learning. We look forward to running these sessions again ahead of future assessments and will also be listening to student suggestions about how we can best support them with their revision and preparation.

We did experience some heating issues at the beginning of the week, and I would like to thank our students for their patience and resilience while these were being addressed. Conditions improved throughout the week, with the temperature reaching a much more comfortable 21 degrees by Friday afternoon!

Year 11 certainly deserve a good rest over the weekend before returning to normal lessons next week. There are just a few remaining Pre-Public Exams to complete, including Visual Arts, Hospitality and Catering and Languages.

Thank you to all the staff who have given up their time to make Revision Breakfasts possible. As we approach the end of another busy week, I would like to thank our students for the positive attitudes they continue to demonstrate, both in and beyond the classroom. It is particularly

pleasing to see them showing such maturity, respect and determination across so many different aspects of school life.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best wishes



Alastair West
Headteacher

Upcoming Important Dates:	
Friday 18th December	School closes 1.05pm
Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January	Christmas Holidays
Monday 4th January	Inset day – No students
Tuesday 5th January	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

Facebook page link here: Facebook page

STEM Club

This week in STEM Club, students combined science and creativity to make their own poppies using chromatography!
Students explored the science behind chromatography, a technique used to separate mixtures and investigate the different pigments found in coloured substances. They used this technique to create colourful patterns, which were then transformed into beautiful poppies in respect for Remembrance Day.
It was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about the use of chromatography. The finished poppies looked wonderful, and students enjoyed combining their artistic skills with scientific investigation!














Abingdon
Chorale
Director: Tim Robson
A tender shoot
An informal Christmas concert for all ages in aid of The Abingdon Bridge
Hear and sing beautiful music then join us for festive refreshments
Sunday 29 November 2026, 2pm
St Michael and All Angels Church
Abingdon OX14 1DS
Tickets £10 (£2.50 under 16s) from
www.ticketsource.com/the-abingdon-bridge or the QR code

Do you want to improve your English?

International Welcome

is a FREE English class with refreshments,
a warm welcome and support for learners of all levels.



Refreshments and social time 1.00pm

English Class 1.30pm – 2.30pm

Location The Barn, Christ Church, Northcourt Road, Abingdon, OX14 1PL

Dates Fridays school term time only:

November 2026	6th, 13th, 20th, 27th	**March** 2027	5th, 12th, 19th
December 2026	4th, 11th	**April** 2027	16th, 23rd, 30th
Jan 2027	8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th	**May** 2027	7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
Feb 2027	5th, 12th, 26th	**June** 2027	11th, 18th, 25th
		July 2027	2nd, 9th, 16th

"International Welcome is a special place - a welcoming space to improve our English and connect with kind people from around the world"

iw@hostabingdon.org

Club opportunity

On behalf of **Abingdon Town Amateur Boxing Club** please find details regarding their free membership initiative, which will run from **January to March 2027**.
The scheme is open to young people aged **11 to 16 years**, and our session times are as follows:
Mondays and Thursdays

- **Junior Session (ages 11 to 15):** 6:15pm to 7:15pm
- **Senior Session (age 16):** 7:15pm to 8:15pm

Participants are welcome to attend either session or both sessions each week.
Following the Christmas break, the club will reopen on **4 January 2027**, and we are planning to begin promoting the initiative from **1 December 2026**.

OX14 LP

Please find the weekly update for the OX14 LP linked here for your information. The events page of the website is here: https://www.ox14lp.org.uk/events/

Please could we also draw your attention to the Atom Society Lecture series. These lectures are held locally and include talks from a range of Scientists and experts in their field. Membership is free for under 18s. We are also looking forward to the upcoming Atom festival with a series of interesting and enjoyable events. Find out more here