



John Mason School
OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | DETERMINATION

Friday 15th May 2026

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

It has been another busy and positive week at John Mason School.

We were delighted to host our inaugural Sports Awards Evening. It was a fantastic celebration of both individual excellence and teamwork. Success in sport reflects dedication, resilience and commitment, while teamwork highlights the importance of trust, shared responsibility and supporting one another to achieve a common goal.

Our Year 10 Bronze DofE students took part in a successful preparation day on Monday, building key skills in readiness for their expedition. This weekend, students will complete their expeditions across two groups and we wish them all the very best.

Staff spent last weekend at the Welsh Farm preparing for the upcoming Year 8 visits. At the same time, Year 8 students have been busy refining their recipes, ensuring they are well prepared for their residential experience.

Congratulations to Tom and Lilidh, who represented the school as part of the Abingdon Allies XI in their victory against Kensington and Chelsea. The event was a powerful example of partnership working and provided a valuable opportunity for students to come together as a wider community.

This week also saw a successful OX14 SupportEd event for Year 9, strengthening collaboration across our local schools and providing valuable support for students. We also were very pleased with the recent Autism Coffee Morning, which provided an important opportunity for families to connect and share experiences.

With only one more week before the Half Term break there is plenty more to pack into Term 5!

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

Best wishes,

Alastair West
Headteacher

Whole School News

Mental Health Awareness Week has been an important focus across the school this week, with students taking part in assemblies and activities designed to encourage open conversations around mental health and wellbeing.

Throughout the week, students have explored why it is so important to talk to someone when they may be struggling, and how sharing worries or concerns can help prevent feelings from becoming overwhelming. We continue to encourage all students to recognise that asking for help is a sign of strength and that support is always available both in school and beyond.



OX14 Support Ed

As part of the week, 18 Year 9 students attended the OX14 SupportEd programme, which focused on the NHS 5 Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give. The students explored practical strategies and wellbeing “toolboxes” that can support positive mental health in everyday life. They then returned to school to share these ideas with their tutor groups, helping their peers understand the different tools and coping strategies they can use to support their own wellbeing.

We were also very fortunate to welcome The Grief Preacher on Tuesday, who delivered an inspiring talk to all of Year 8 students. His message focused on resilience, overcoming challenges and understanding that adversity can help us grow stronger. Students were encouraged to see challenges not as barriers, but as opportunities for learning, development and personal growth.

Mental Health Awareness Week has provided a valuable opportunity for students to reflect on their wellbeing, support one another and continue building a school culture where talking openly about mental health is encouraged and valued.



Grief Preacher

Useful Support for Parents and Carers

We recognise that supporting a young person's mental health can sometimes feel challenging, and there are a number of organisations that offer advice, guidance and support for parents and carers.

- [YoungMinds Parents Helpline](#) – Practical advice and guidance for parents worried about a child or teenager's mental health.
- [NHS Every Mind Matters](#) – Information and tips on supporting wellbeing, managing stress and accessing further support.
- [Mind UK](#) – Resources for young people and families around mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- Anna Freud Centre – Support, advice and learning resources for parents and carers.
- [Childline](#) – A free and confidential service for young people who may need someone to talk to.

If you have concerns about your child's wellbeing, please do not hesitate to contact the school for support and guidance.

STEM Club

Last week, our STEM Club celebrated the 100th birthday of the legendary natural historian and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough in a truly hands-on way — by exploring the fascinating world of fossils and creating our very own fossil casts.



The session was making fossil casts using playdoh and plaster.

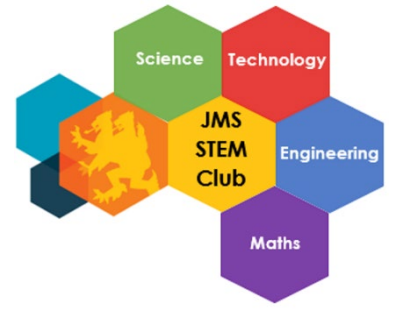
Pupils carefully pressed shells, leaves, and model fossils into playdoh to create detailed impressions before pouring plaster to make realistic casts. Everyone was excited to see their fossils come to life and comparing the different textures and patterns they had created.

The activity encouraged creativity, observation, and scientific thinking while also celebrating the incredible contribution Sir David Attenborough has made to inspiring generations to care for the natural world.





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>

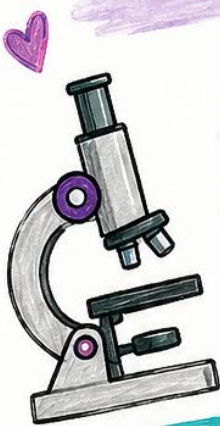
You can choose how you are going to design your stripes. This could be painting, embroidery, Lego, recycling, play-do, baking etc.

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 15th June 2025 3pm.

THANK YOU

CARD COMPETITION!



Let's say a big
THANK YOU
to Vertex Pharmaceuticals
for welcoming students
into their laboratories!



**DESIGN A THANK YOU CARD
TO SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION!**



ENTRIES TO BE
HANDED IN TO
MRS WILLIAMS
IN C15



BY **FRIDAY**
22nd MAY
3PM



ALL ENTRIES MUST
INCLUDE YOUR
FULL NAME
AND **FORM GROUP**



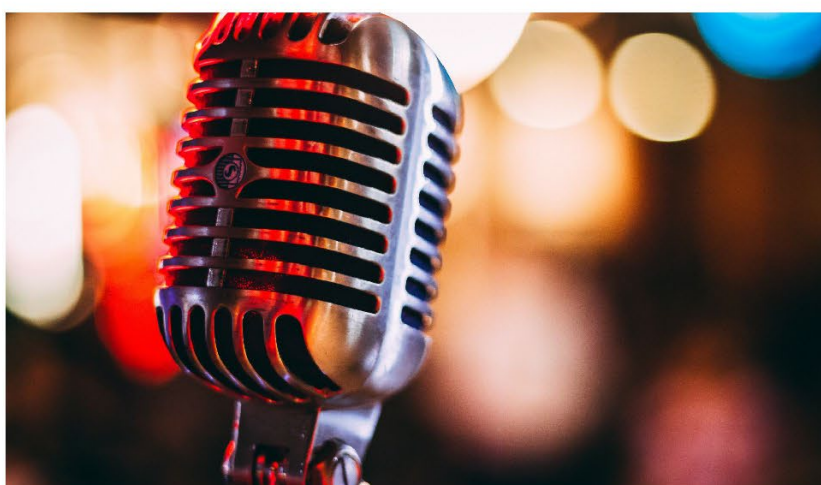
ALL ENTRIES WILL
RECEIVE HOUSE POINTS
TOWARD THE
HOUSE CUP!



THE WINNING DESIGN WILL BE SENT TO VERTEX
AND THE STUDENT WILL RECEIVE A **PRIZE!**



Get creative and show your thanks!



John Mason School Spring Concert



JMS Spring Concert
Main Hall
Wednesday 20 May 2026 6:00 -
8:00pm

If you would like to take part, please email Mr Spacksman to learn more about auditions. You can perform music, dance, act, tell jokes or show any other talent you have!

You must contact Mr Spacksman by **Friday 8th May**.

sspacksman@johnmason.school

OX14 Learning Partnership Weekly Update

Please find the weekly update for the OX14 LP update linked [here](#).

Website link with calendar is here: <https://www.ox14lp.org.uk/events/>

Upcoming Important Dates:	
Wednesday 20 th May	Spring Concert
Thursday 21 st May	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th May	Half Term
Thursday 16 th July	Summer Concert
Friday 17 th July	School closes at 1.10pm - End of Summer Term
Monday 20 th July – 31 st September	Summer Holidays
Tuesday 1 st -Wednesday 2 nd September	Inset Days – No students
Thursday 3 rd September	Start of term for Year's 7, 11 and 12
Friday 4 th 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](#)