

Friday 17th July 2026

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

We have truly finished the year on a high. With summer trips mostly back home and the temperature finally dropping, school has been full again for our final week of the academic year.

Sports Day, both in school and at Tilsley Park, was once again a phenomenal event. Our PE department, supported by staff from across the school, delivered two incredible days that ran like clockwork and provided the perfect stage for students to produce some truly inspirational performances. Whether competing in events or supporting their teams from the sidelines, our students were outstanding. The team spirit on display could have been bottled and sold. Among the sporting highlights was a new school record in the 1500m set by Jasmine.

On Thursday evening, it was the turn of our musicians to shine at the annual Young Musician of the Year competition. The standard was exceptionally high, and competitors were ably supported by orchestras, choirs and bands that would put some summer festival line-ups to shame. Congratulations to Edward, our Young Musician of the Year, and to every student who performed, entertained and inspired the audience throughout the evening.

Whilst younger year groups remained in lessons, our Year 12 Gold Duke of Edinburgh students spent three days on the River Thames completing their practice expedition. They demonstrated remarkable resilience, spending almost every moment paddling into a persistent headwind. Their determination and perseverance will place them in an excellent position for their assessed expedition in September. Well done to all of them for returning to Abingdon with smiles on their faces and the satisfaction of a job well done.

Today, we rounded off the week with our end-of-year celebration assemblies, recognising achievement through both pastoral and subject awards. We also finished the year with the announcement that Stert House are the winners of the House Trophy for 2025–26. Congratulations to all Stert students for the contribution they have made towards this success.

As we close another successful year, I would like to thank our students, staff, families and wider community for their continued support. It has been a year filled with achievement, opportunity, resilience and kindness, and we are incredibly proud of all that our young people have accomplished.

For now, we say goodbye for the summer and look forward to welcoming students back for the start of the new academic year:

- **Thursday 3 September** – Years 7, 11 and 12
- **Friday 4 September** – All other year groups

You can find our useful guide to the start of term [here](#).

On behalf of everyone at John Mason School, I wish you a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break.

<https://www.johnmason.oxon.sch.uk/assets/Documents/Attachments/Preparing-for-September.pdf>

Best wishes,



Alastair West
Headteacher

Upcoming Important Dates:	
Monday 20 th July	Inset Day – Staff Training
Monday 20 th July – 31 st August	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](#)

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

John Mason School Local Academy Committee - a Year of Progress

As we approach the end of another academic year, I would like to thank our pupils, staff, parents and carers for their continued support and commitment to our school community.

Being a Governor is an incredible privilege. It provides the opportunity to see first-hand how the hard work of our students, the professionalism and dedication of staff, and the support of families help our school thrive. This partnership drives improvement and provides a strong foundation for future success.

If you would like to join our committed team of volunteer Governors, please contact the school or consider putting your name forward for the Parent Governor vacancy available from September.

Throughout the year, Governors have worked closely with school leaders to provide both support and constructive challenge, ensuring every decision remains focused on achieving the best possible outcomes for John Mason students. Through school visits and discussions with staff and pupils, we have seen many achievements and developments taking place across the school.

Some of this year's highlights include:

- The introduction of new teaching approaches designed to secure strong academic outcomes for every student. While Years 11 and 13 have now completed their exams and left school, we look forward to celebrating their achievements on results day.
- Continued improvements in behaviour, with increasing numbers of students consistently demonstrating the respect and consideration we value. Staff continue to support students who need it so that positive behaviour becomes the norm both in and out of the classroom.
- Safeguarding, attendance, wellbeing and SEND provision remain at the heart of the school's work. Governors have been encouraged to see improved systems and new pastoral structures that strengthen support and help keep all students safe.
- An exceptional range of opportunities including sports, art exhibitions, musical performances, residential and day trips, a wide variety of clubs, and challenges such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award all helping students build confidence and develop their talents.

These achievements are the result of the determination, care and commitment of students, staff, governors and families working together and going the extra-mile to create opportunities, overcome challenges and encourage success. Thank you to everyone who has played a part.

On behalf of the Local Academy Committees, I wish everyone a happy and restful summer break. Governors look forward to supporting the school through another year of learning, achievement and opportunity when we return in September.

*Lynn Fathers, Chair of John Mason Local Academy Committee
July 2026*

STEM Club

Year 9 Sustainability Solutions Project CREST award

A class of year 9 students have recently completed an exciting Sustainability Solutions Project, developing their creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills while exploring real-world environmental challenges.

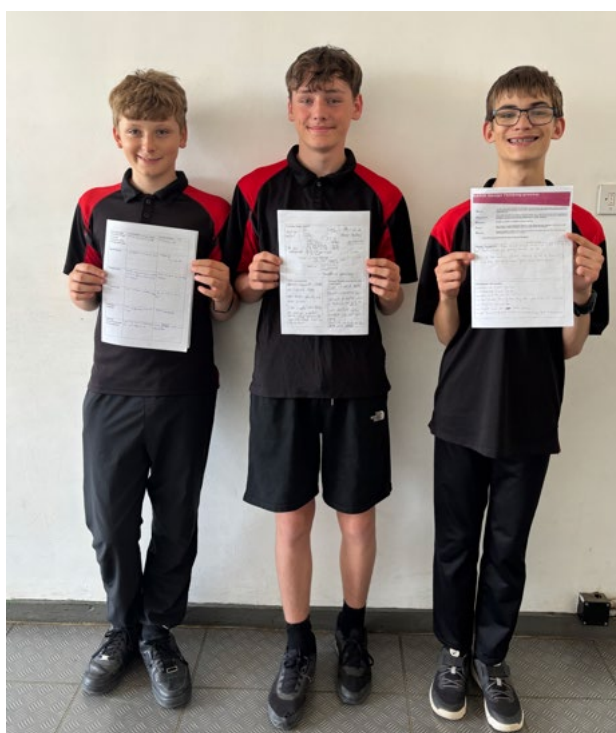
During the five-hour, student-led project, the students investigated a range of sustainability issues affecting both local and global communities. They explored how businesses are developing innovative solutions to tackle these challenges and considered the role that entrepreneurship can play in creating a more sustainable future.

Working collaboratively in teams, students identified a sustainability issue within their own community before designing a business idea to address it. They then brought their ideas to life by building a prototype and presenting their solution to the rest of the class, explaining how their product or service could make a positive environmental and social impact.

The project encouraged students to think critically, communicate effectively and apply their scientific understanding in a meaningful context. It was fantastic to see the originality and enthusiasm demonstrated by every group, with ideas ranging from recycling materials to reducing the use of raw materials.

We are delighted that every student successfully completed the project, creating an impressive range of prototypes, including recycled plastic flower vases, a hydroelectric river-cleaning robot, and the overall winning design, the **Biokinetic Gym**. In recognition of their hard work and achievement, every student has been awarded a nationally recognised **CREST Award**, celebrating their commitment to scientific enquiry, innovation, collaboration and sustainability.

Congratulations to all of our Year 9 students on their hard work and well-deserved success!



Whole School News

Sports Day 2026

Sports days are the highlight of the year for our PE team. Supporting and encouraging students to personify our school values fills us with such pride.



This year, we added House sports in the week before sports day/s. This enabled students to participate in volleyball or tennis and earn extra points for their house.

We had a new school record in the Year 9 Girls 1500m when Jasmine took 6 seconds off a record set last year. What a fantastic achievement.

Our day at Tilsley Park included some amazing individual and team performances but also some truly inspiring displays of determination and courage. It is so great to see the school come together and celebrate each other as they represent their House.

Congratulations to Ock House who retained their title as Sports day champions, narrowly beating Stert and Thames.

We would like to congratulate all those that participated and look forward to celebrating more sports next school year- thank you for your support as always.

Mr Davies
Director of PE.

The Young Musician of the Year 2026 was another success!

We saw 10 incredibly finalists compete in two categories; Junior Category, Senior Category and then the overall winner!

Junior Category winner: Jesse H (Yr 7)

Senior Category winner: Joana V (Yr 11)

Young Musician of the Year 2026: Edward A (Yr 10)



We also had many ensemble groups demonstrate their skills. From the JMS ensembles, we had the orchestra, choir, folk group, BSL club and we had the resident Year 10 rock band Shirc perform too!

With Helen Eccleston of Abingdon Music Centre and JMS Headteacher Al West as judges, and with invites to the Chair of Governors Lynn Fathers and the Abingdon Town Mayor Andrew Skinner, it was a great turn out and a night of excellent musicianship!

Thank you to the JMA, J Halstead, Claire Milligan, Jon West and Geoff Long, Jude Yates, the judges, all the staff that helped with front of house and refreshments and Frances David for all your help in creating another wonderful concert.

I'll see you next year for the 2027 Young Musician!

Sam Spacksman
Subject Lead of Music



Community news

⚽ KB SPORTS GROUP SUMMER FOOTBALL CAMPS ⚽

📅 Week 1: Tues 21st July - Thurs 23rd July

📅 Week 2: Tues 28th July - Thurs 30th July

📅 Week 3: Tues 11th Aug - Thurs 13th Aug

📅 Week 4: Tues 18th Aug - Thurs 20th Aug

📍 (Astro turf pitch) Chalgrove Village Hall, Baronshurst drive, OX44 7TE

✅ BLOCK BOOKINGS- 3 & 6 day blocks available

✅ Early bird offer ➡ Use code KB10 to get 10% off (Until July 20th)

✅ Sibling discounts

In the Summer holidays we will be hosting our Football Camps for ages 5-15. High energy, engaging and professionally led sessions. The perfect blend of entertainment and fun mixed with high quality football coaching. ⚽

👕 Ages 5-15

🕒 9:00am - 1:00pm/ 3:00pm

★ Guest coaches

🏆 Exclusive player kits available

● Free memberships included with kit purchase (EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS)

📱 Book via our website, limited spaces available! for any questions contact us via email or our contact number.



SUMMER FOOTBALL CAMP AGES 5-15

LOCATION: CHALGROVE VILLAGE HALL (ASTRO TURF)
BARONSHURST DRIVE, CHALGROVE, OX44 7TE

JOIN NOW ➡ 

📅 21ST JULY - 23RD JULY
📅 28TH JULY - 30TH JULY
📅 11TH AUGUST - 13TH AUGUST
📅 18TH AUGUST - 20TH AUGUST
🕒 9:00AM-1:00/3:00PM

KB SPORTS GROUP

📱 @kbsportsgroup | 📧 kbsportsgroup2024@gmail.com | 📞 07530681679



GUEST COACHES

Block booking discounts available!

JOIN NOW ➡ 

10% OFF SINGLE DAY BOOKINGS (OFFER UNTIL JULY 20TH)
- USE CODE KB10

12% OFF SIBLING BOOKINGS
- USE CODE SIBLINGS

3 DAYS 9:00PM-3:00PM = £80.00

6 DAYS 9:00PM-3:00PM = £145.00

KB SPORTS GROUP KITS AVAILABLE - COMES WITH EXCLUSIVE MEMBER DISCOUNTS

KB SPORTS GROUP

📱 @kbsportsgroup | 📧 kbsportsgroup2024@gmail.com | 📞 07530681679

MARSH
TOMPSETT
School of Dance

NEW FOR SEPTEMBER 2026!!!!

MT CHOIR



Abingdon Music Centre, Larkmead School, Faringdon Road, ABINGDON

WEDNESDAYS DURING TERM TIME

4:30 - 5:15pm Junior Choir..... children in years 3 - 6

5:15 - 6pm Senior Choir.....secondary school students year 7 and up

6 - 8pm Private vocal coaching sessions available



Dominic Marsh welcomes you to the MT Choir!

An Associate of the Royal Academy of Music, Dominic brings over 25 years of experience as a West End actor, singer, and professional vocal coach. He combines incredible expertise with a warm, high-energy approach that makes singing fun and accessible for ages 8-18. Whether your child already loves the stage or has only ever sung in the shower, Dominic's inspiring leadership will help them build confidence, make friends, and discover the pure joy of singing together!

Get in touch now to book your place!

07876 565261 dominicmarsh.vocalcoach@gmail.com

