

Friday 17th October 2025

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

Welcome to another packed Parent Bulletin. This week our curriculum news comes from the Maths Department and one year since Ms Atkey joined us as Director of Maths Faculty, it is fantastic to watch this team of teachers going from strength to strength as they take such a precise analytical focus to helping students make progress in such a crucial subject.

Year 6 pupils were able to see Maths lessons, and many more up close as we were delighted to welcome Year 6 and their families to our Open Mornings this week. Our expert student guides were fantastic ambassadors for our school, sharing their experiences and showcasing our school with pride and enthusiasm.

Visitors were impressed by the warm welcome and insightful tour guides and they commented on the focus and a strong work ethic that they saw in classrooms across the school.

The spirit of leadership and teamwork was demonstrated in full force on Wednesday, when our Sports Leaders supported the Tilsey Park primary school cross-country event. They represented our school brilliantly, and we are again incredibly proud of their efforts.

Wishing all our families celebrating Diwali a joyful and peaceful Festival of Lights. May this special time bring happiness, hope, and togetherness.

Best wishes.



Alastair West
Headteacher

Curriculum News

Maths Department News

It's been a busy and exciting first term for the Maths Department! At the end of September, five Year 12 students took part in the inaugural UK Maths Girls' Competition — a new opportunity designed to inspire and challenge young female mathematicians across the UK. We are delighted to share that one student was awarded a Distinction, and three others achieved Merits — an excellent set of results!



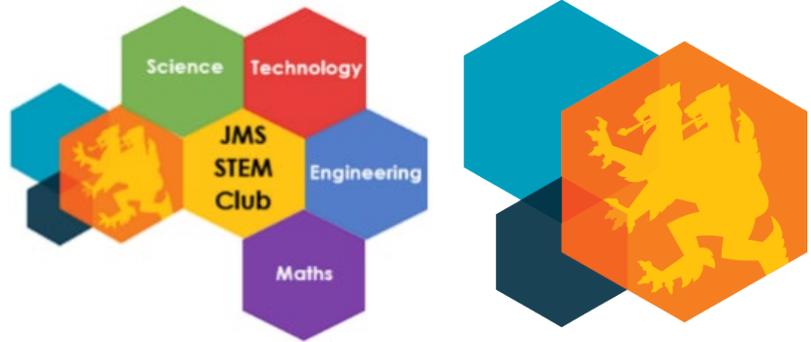
Earlier in October, our A Level students, along with 16 Year 11s, took part in the Senior Maths Challenge. We are eagerly awaiting the results to see if any students have made it through to the next round of competition. Year 9, 10, and 11 students will have the chance to compete in the Intermediate Challenge in January, and Years 7 and 8 will take part in the Junior Challenge in April.

Today (17th October) marks the final day of the KS3 House Numeracy Competition, where students have been challenged to design a poster showing how maths is used in a chosen job or profession. We're looking forward to seeing all the creative and thoughtful entries!

Our Maths Club continues to go strong every Wednesday lunchtime in B03 — everyone is welcome to come along, tackle fun problems, and enjoy some mathematical thinking. For anyone who needs a bit of extra help, Homework Support is available every Wednesday lunchtime in B02.STEM club.

Ms S Atkey
Director of Mathematics

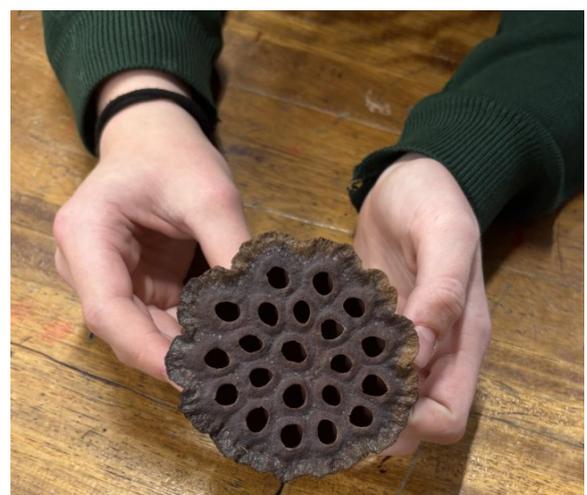
Whole School News



Stem Club

STEM Club welcomed Lauren from Oxford Botanical Gardens this week to learn about types of seed dispersal.

She brought in a variety of seeds for the club to see and hold. She brought a mixture of native and non-native seeds for us to compare. We were amazed at the different types of seed dispersal, such as water dispersal like coconuts and even fire dispersal like Banksia seeds. We look forward to inviting Lauren back soon.



OXFORDSHIRE WE ARE WITH YOU FORUM

JOIN OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!

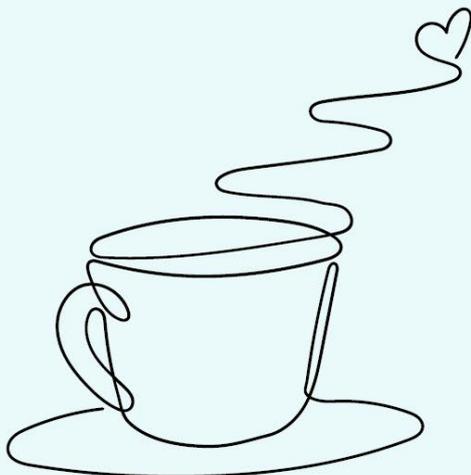
We Walking with You on your Parent/Carer journey
A warm, parent-led group for anyone caring for a child or young adult (up to age 25) facing mental health challenges.

Connect • Share • Learn Join us online or in person for relaxed, insightful sessions led by:

- Parent Peer Support Workers
- Social Prescribers
- CAMHS Mental Health Professionals

Explore topics around mental health and neurodiversity in a safe, welcoming space.

★ **Plus: Special Guest Events** Hear from professionals and services across the field! and getting out in nature.



**TO REGISTER FOLLOW
THE LINK OR QR :**



WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/INVOLVEMENT/OXON/WWY/

We are With You is open to Parents of young people aged 5 – 25 years across Oxfordshire.

We have several forthcoming in person and webinar events which will be hosted by Peer Support and Clinicians.

Navigating the Teen Years

Oxford Hub
Windale Primary School
Windale Avenue
Oxford OX4 6JD

Connect with other parents, share experiences, and find support in creating a positive environment for your family.

Come along to gain valuable insights into:

- Teenage brain development
- Maintaining healthy relationships
- Managing conflict
- Building resilience
- Setting boundaries
- Keeping safe on phones and online.

**Oxford
Hub**

6 Week Course

Wednesdays 9:30 - 11:30

5th November - 10th December

To book a place please contact Penelope (teacher of the course) from Abingdon & Witney College.

 penelope.lea@abingdon-witney.ac.uk

COP30 fortnight OX14 Oxford University Geography Lecture

What? – Food systems and climate change

Who? – Abi Brown, DPhil Geography student at St John's College, Oxford

When? – Monday 10th November, 4:10-5pm

Where? – SHSK, Lecture Theatre

How? – Sign up using the QR code. Cookies provided! Students from Y11-U6 welcome!



Do you love creative subjects but wonder how to turn them into a career?

CAREERS IN THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Explore exciting futures in art, design, media, music, performance and more!

WHAT TO EXPECT

Meet professionals and experts working in:
Visual Arts | Performing Arts |
Media and Broadcasting | Built Environment |
Design and Communications |
Heritage and Culture | Digital Creativity |
Style and Fashion |

Get inspired. Ask questions.
Discover where creativity can take you.

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Tuesday 25 November 2025
Time: 5:00 - 7:00pm
Location: St Helen & St Katharine
For: Year 9 - 11 students and their parents from all schools in Abingdon

REGISTER TO ATTEND

Students and parents need to pre-book the sessions via:
bit.ly/creativecareersindustry

SCAN ME

ABINGDON ST HELEN & ST KATHARINE

If so, attend the 'Careers in the Creative Industries' event on Tues 25 Nov from 5.00-7.00pm at St Helen and St Katharine.

You can explore a huge range of paths – from art, design, and media, to performing arts, architecture, digital creativity, heritage, and fashion. The event is organised as a carousel of three, 25-minute sessions. You will pre-book sessions about the creative sectors you're most interested in, and you'll receive a personalised timetable for the event. Meet professionals, hear their career stories, and learn what skills, qualifications, and experience they used to succeed. This is a fantastic chance to see how creativity can become a career, discover opportunities you might not have thought of, and get inspired for your future! Remember, this event is only open to students and their parents in Y9-11 and you must pre-book to attend. Book your sessions at: <https://bit.ly/creativecareersindustry>.

The creative sectors are:

Visual Arts: Painting, Sculpture, Photography

Performing Arts: Drama, Musical Theatre, Dance, Music

Media & Broadcasting: Radio, Film, Television, Video Production

Built Environment: Architecture, Interior Design

Design & Communications: Graphic Design, Invention Design, Drawing/Illustration

Heritage & Culture: Museums, Galleries, Cultural Sites

Digital Creativity: Game Design & Development, Animation

Style & Fashion: Fashion, Textiles, Beauty

OX14 Learning Partnership Weekly Update

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

Upcoming Important Dates:

Wednesday 15 th to Tuesday 21 st October	Open Mornings
Monday 27 th to Friday 31 st October	Half Term
Thursday 27 th November	JMF6 Open Evening at Fitzharrys 5-7pm

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](#)