

Friday 18th September 2026

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

This week, we were delighted to welcome a group of former John Mason School students back to school. Having attended JMS during the 1960s, they shared photographs, stories and memories from their time here, reminding us that whilst school is a place of learning and achievement, it is also where lifelong friendships are formed and lasting memories are created. Last week I wrote about the importance of building new relationships at the start of the academic year. The friendships our students are making today may well become some of the most important relationships in their lives. It is often the shared experiences of school that create the strongest bonds, and this is one of the reasons we place such importance on the extensive range of clubs, competitions, trips and enrichment opportunities available to students at JMS.

We have already seen fantastic participation in extracurricular activities this term, and we encourage all students to get involved. Whether through sport, music, drama, STEM, house competitions or one of our many lunchtime and after-school clubs, these opportunities help young people develop confidence, discover new interests and create memories that last far beyond their school years. The full list of extracurricular opportunities was sent out earlier this week and can be found [here](#). Please take some time to talk to your child about which opportunities they will try and sign them up through your MCAS account.

We are also incredibly proud of our JMF6 students who have completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition this week. Their resilience, teamwork and determination exemplify the character and ambition that we seek to develop in all our young people.

As I have visited lessons around school this week, I have been hugely impressed by the positive attitudes of our students. I have seen kindness, enthusiasm, friendship and a genuine sense of belonging throughout the school community.

Looking ahead, I have no doubt that in 2086 another group of former JMS students will return to these grounds, sharing memories of their own school days and reminiscing about September 2026. Our role is to ensure that every child leaves John Mason School not only with excellent qualifications, but also with friendships worth keeping, memories worth sharing and experiences worth celebrating for a lifetime.

Best wishes,



Alastair West
Headteacher

Former John Mason Students Return After More Than 60 Years



This week, John Mason School was delighted to welcome a group of former students back to the school more than sixty years after they first started their secondary education together.

Inspired by recent stories of school friends reuniting decades later, the group worked hard to trace as many former classmates as possible before gathering to renew friendships that began in the classrooms and corridors of John Mason School during the 1960s. Their visit provided a fascinating insight into the history of our school and an opportunity to reflect on how much has changed over the years, while also recognising the values and sense of community that continue to define JMS today.

The visitors shared photographs, memories and stories from their time at school, recalling the friendships, experiences and opportunities that helped shape their lives. What was particularly striking was the strength of the bonds that had endured over six decades. Despite following different paths and living in different parts of the country and beyond, they spoke warmly about the friendships they made at school and the shared memories that had stayed with them throughout their lives.

As the group left, they reflected on the lasting impact that their time at JMS had made on their lives. Their story serves as a wonderful reminder that whilst school years may pass quickly, the friendships and memories created during them can endure for generations.





John Mason School
OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | DETERMINATION



OPEN EVENING

Thursday 24th September 2026

5.00pm - 8.00pm (No booking required)

With an address from the Headteacher at 5.15pm, 6.15pm & 7.15pm

Open Mornings Wednesday 7th October - Tuesday 13th October from 9.15am

To book an appointment for Open Mornings email: events@johnmason.school

Committed to improving the life chances of every learner we serve



Thomas Reade School Association
proudly presents

HAPPY'S CIRCUS

Back to School
Special tickets
£10.50 each!!



A full length professional Big Top Circus
Acrobats, Aerialists, Magic and much more!

FRIDAY 02 OCTOBER

Gates open at 4:45pm

Show starts at 6pm



www.pta-events.co.uk/thomasreadesa

The Pizza Boys
Real Belgian Fries
Danni and Dave's Ice Cream
Alex's Crepes
Sweet treats

Upcoming Important Dates:	
Thursday 24 th September	School closes at 1.10pm - Open Evening Preparation
Thursday 24 th September	Open Evening 5.00-8.00 pm
Friday 25 th September	Inset Day – Staff Training
Monday 26 th - Friday 30 th October	Half term
Monday 2 nd November	Start of term 2

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](#)