

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025

## Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

I am thrilled to share that many of our Year 7 students have recently enjoyed their first opportunity to visit the Vertex Laboratories. This exciting experience allowed them to see scientific research in action and explore how the concepts they learn in school are applied in real-world settings. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity grow as they begin to think about future career opportunities and pathways in science and technology.

On Wednesday, our Year 9 students demonstrated outstanding leadership by organising and leading a series of sports events for local primary schools. They were fantastic ambassadors for our school, showing teamwork, responsibility, and enthusiasm throughout the day. A huge thank you to Mrs Marriot for her hard work in making this event such a success and for helping our students develop these invaluable leadership skills.

We are also proud of our Year 11 students, who have returned to lessons with focus and determination following a successful week of Pre-Public Exams. This marks an important stage in their academic journey. Students will soon receive their marked papers, which will serve as a vital resource as they move into the next phase of learning. Using this feedback, they can consolidate their strengths and address any gaps in knowledge to ensure they are fully prepared for the months ahead.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes.



Alastair West  
Headteacher

## Curriculum News

### Its Geography Awareness Week from 17-22<sup>nd</sup> November.

In recent years it has enjoyed a surge in GCSE and A Level students studying geography– with over 100,000 more entries in the last 10 years alongside an increase in students going on to complete a geography degree.



### So why is it important to study Geography?

Geography develops an understanding of physical properties and processes that shape our landscape. It builds an awareness of the differences of human geography and physical landscapes that shape our societies, cultures, economies and politics

It helps us to develop an appreciation for the world around us too.

### What careers can Geography help me get into?

- Architectural technologist, Business analyst, Cartographer
- Data analyst, Environmental consultant
- Geographical information systems officer
- Marketing executive
- Nature conservation officer
- Sustainability consultant
- Town planner
- Construction manager
- Ecologist
- Hydrologist
- Landscape architect
- Market researcher
- Palaeontologist
- Political risk analyst
- Secondary school teacher
- Supply chain manager
- Transport planner

### So what can you do to improve your knowledge of people and places?

You could learn about the geography of your local area, including its natural features, history, and cultural diversity.

Check for geography-related events, lectures, and workshops in your community or online.

Read books, watch documentaries, or take online courses that expand your geographic content.

Conduct research on geographic topics, especially those related to environmental conservation and sustainability. You could take part in or organise a litter pick in the local area or even use an online carbon calculator to calculate your carbon footprint.



## Pastoral News

On Monday 24th November we are celebrating the achievements of our Year 8s with a Movie Evening. This recognises the hard work that students have been undertaking this term and since September with Year 8 students currently achieving the highest level of rewards across all year groups! This we feel requires recognition and a movie night running from 16:00-18:30 with complimentary snacks is the way forward!

Well done Year 8!

Mr Gregory Progress Leader Year 8.

**JMF6**  
ABINGDON

**SIXTH FORM  
OPEN EVENING**

**THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2025**  
**5:00pm - 7:00pm**  
**Location: Fitzharrys School**  
All welcome - no need to book

Abingdon  
UNIVERSITY

## Whole School News

### Have Your Say – Parent Voice Survey

We value your feedback and want to ensure your voice helps shape the future of our school. Please take a few minutes to complete our **Parent Voice Survey** by clicking the link below:

[Complete the Survey Here](#)

Your opinions and suggestions are important to us, and your responses will help us improve the experience for all our students and families. Thank you for your support!



Dear families ,

Please see attached invitation to our Christmas party on Saturday 29th November at Sunningwell School of Art, Sunningwell.  
7pm for 7.30pm, family and friends welcome.

**RSVP** if possible, by 24th November.

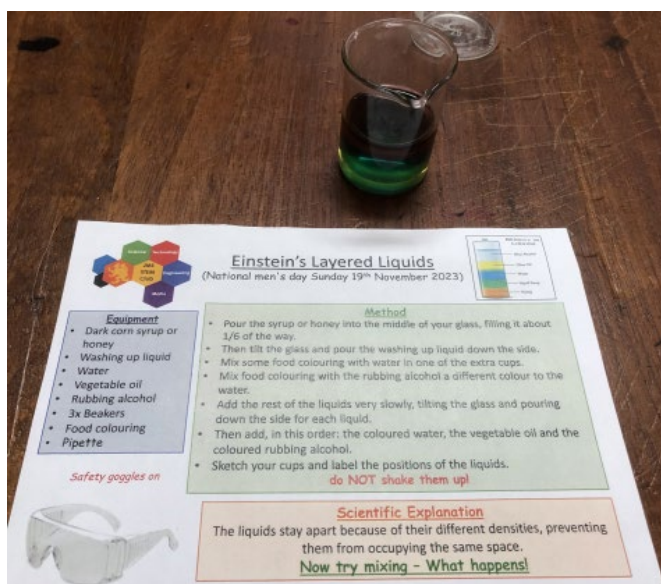
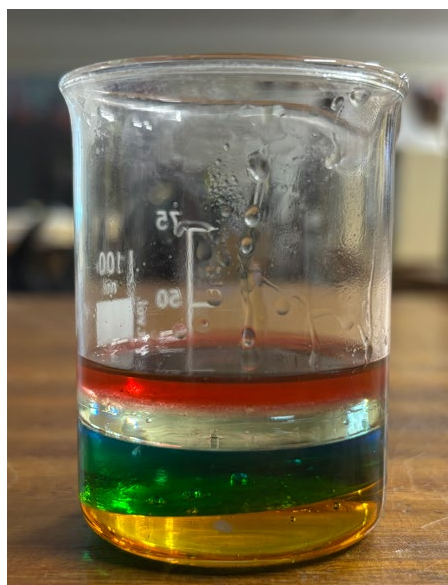




## STEM Club

STEM Club celebrated National men's day this week by making Einstein's layered liquids. This consisted of adding different liquids with different densities to a beaker. They had to make sure they added each liquid at the correct time to keep the different densities separate, creating the colourful layers. We had a great time experimenting and comparing each other's end result.

We also celebrated students dedication to STEM club by awarding STEM club badges. The students have been wearing them with pride.



<b>Upcoming Important Dates:</b>	
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Y8 Reward Evening
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	JMF6 Open Evening at Fitzharrys 5-7pm
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 11 Art Pre-public Exam
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 11 3D Pre-Public Exam
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 11 Graphics Pre-public Exam
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Yr 7-9 Flu Vaccinations
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Yr 10-11 Flu Vaccinations

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](#)