

Friday 22nd May 2026

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

It has been a highly successful and productive term at John Mason School, with students embracing a wide range of opportunities both within and beyond the classroom. Across subjects, students have demonstrated commitment and ambition, from the Junior Maths Challenge and Science Vertex trips to the Made in Oxford Business and Enterprise Showcase and the Year 7 BSL Song Challenge.

In PE, House Rounders provided a fantastic opportunity for teamwork, resilience and healthy competition, while the Sports Awards Evening recognised the dedication and achievement of our Year 10 and 11 students. As part of the OX14 partnership, Year 10 students represented Abingdon in a historic cricket match, while Year 9 students took part in SupportEd, further broadening their experiences and working alongside peers from local schools.

Alongside these wider opportunities, students have shown real focus in their academic work. Year 10 students approached their mock examinations with maturity, while Year 8 and Year 9 students completed their assessments with increasing independence and resilience. Year 10 students have also made excellent progress through the Duke of Edinburgh Award, developing independence and confidence. As we continue with GCSE and A Level examinations, this marks an important point that reflects the sustained effort and determination of our students throughout their school journey.

What is particularly pleasing is the culture that underpins these successes. A significant number of students have improved their attendance, reflecting a strong commitment to their education and readiness to learn. Collectively, this term has demonstrated that our students are willing to challenge themselves, take opportunities, and strive for success, and this is something of which we are all very proud.

This week has provided further opportunity to celebrate our school community. Our Spring Concert was a particular highlight, showcasing the talent, confidence and creativity of our students. It was wonderful to see such a range of performances, from newly formed groups to more established bands developing their craft. We would also like to thank all families who attended the Year 10 Parents' Evening; your support is invaluable as students prepare for the next stage of their studies.

As we continue the examination period, we would like to remind Year 11 and Year 13 students of the importance of rest, balance and taking time to recharge over the coming days. Following the success and popularity of our provision this term, we are pleased to confirm that breakfast will continue to be available for all students from 8:45am on every morning of the examination period when students return in June.

Finally, we are delighted to celebrate those students who have received their Year Group Values Awards for demonstrating opportunity, respect and determination. These students

exemplify the very best of our school community. Congratulations to Stert House for winning the Term 5 House Quiz, and to Ock House for gaining an outstanding number of achievement points this term and for leading on attendance so far this year. Congratulations once again to Stert, who are currently leading the House Cup competition for Term 5.

Have a great half term and stay safe in the warm weather. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 1st June.

Best wishes,



Alastair West
Headteacher

Upcoming Important Dates:	
Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th May	Half Term
Thursday 16 th July	Summer Concert
Friday 17 th July	School closes at 1.05pm - 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](#)

OX14 Learning Partnership Weekly Update

Please find the OX14 Learning Partnership weekly [update linked here](#) for information.

Curriculum News

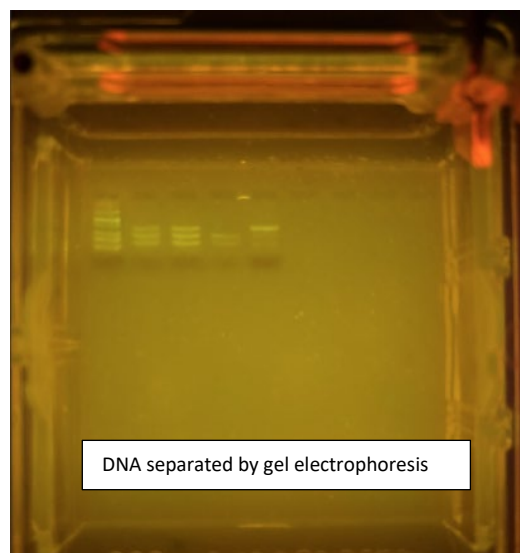
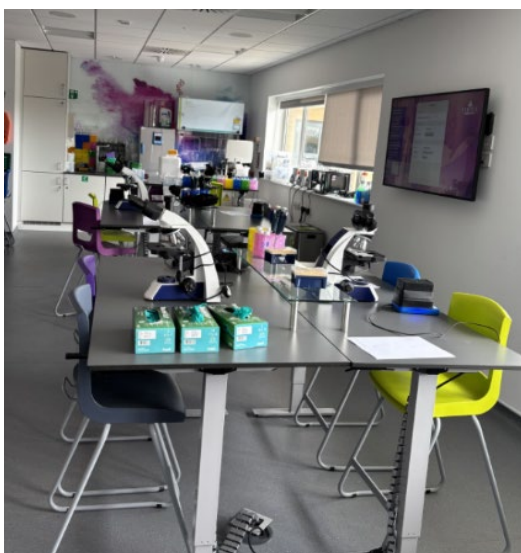
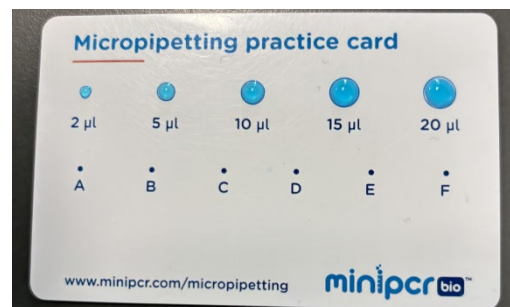
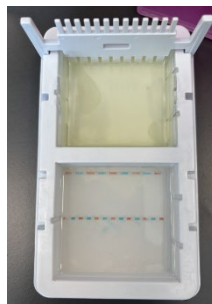
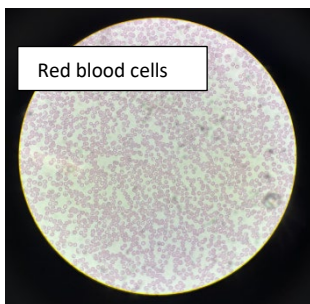
Year 10 students recently enjoyed an exciting and educational visit to Vertex Pharmaceuticals in Didcot. The trip was designed to consolidate topics studied in Year 10 Biology and support students as they prepare for the transition into Year 11.

Throughout the day, students were given the opportunity to see how the scientific knowledge they learn in the classroom is applied in real-world medical and research settings. The visit aimed to deepen students' understanding of Biology while also inspiring them by highlighting the wide range of career opportunities available within the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.

A key part of the visit focused on identifying genetic disorders in humans through the use of DNA gel electrophoresis. Students took part in practical activities that simulated the work of real scientists, analysing DNA samples to investigate inherited conditions. This hands-on experience directly supported future Year 11 learning on DNA, inheritance, and genetic disorders.

The activities allowed students to:

- Apply their classroom knowledge in a professional laboratory environment.
- Develop practical scientific and analytical skills.
- Gain a deeper understanding of inheritable disorders and DNA analysis.
- Explore how biotechnology is used to improve healthcare and diagnose disease.
- Learn about potential future STEM careers.





DofE Bronze Practice Expedition 15–17 May

Well done to our Year 10 students for completing their first DofE practice expedition, showing excellent resilience every step of the way!

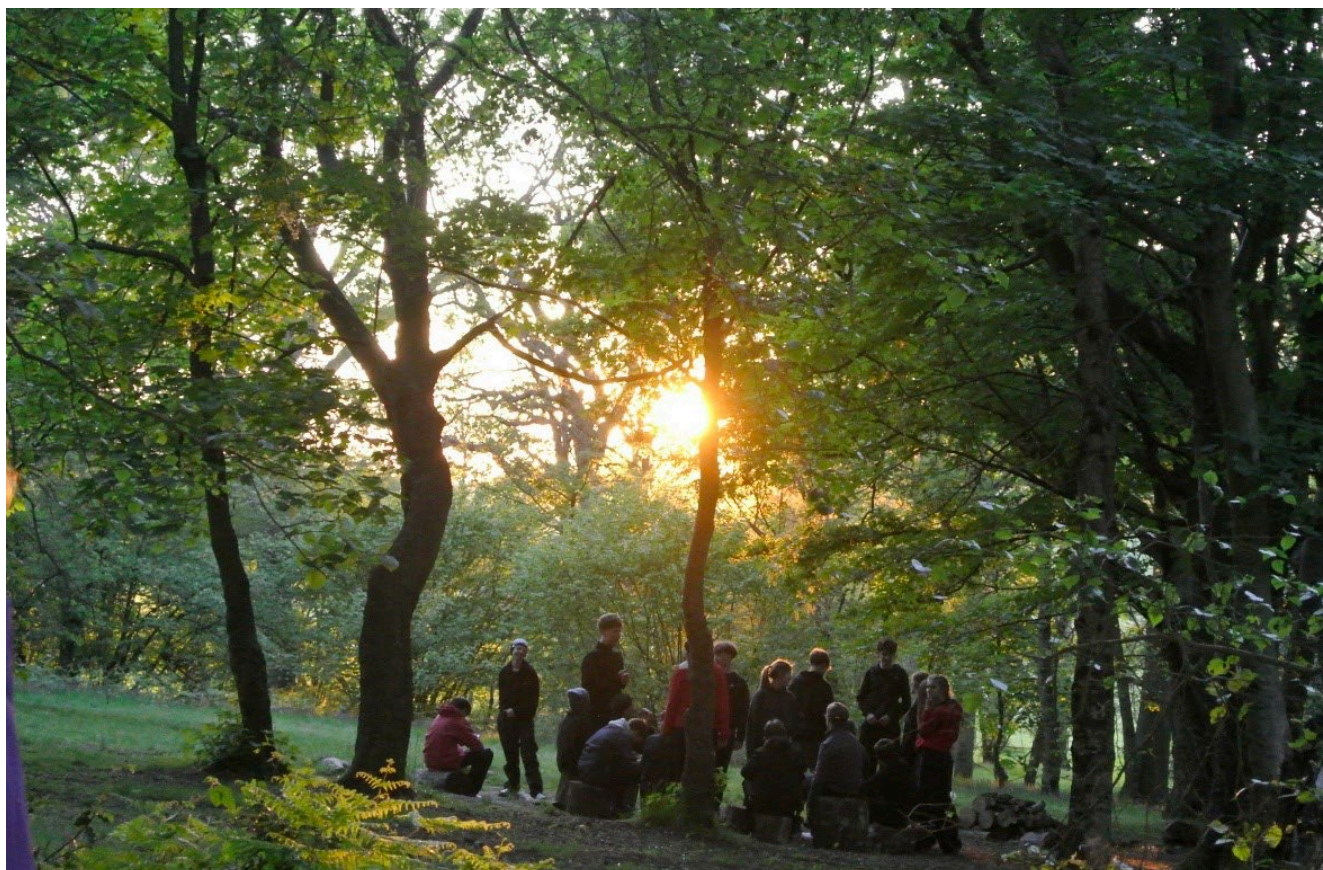
67 students took on the challenge, walking to Youlbury, cooking their evening meals on Trangia's, and camping overnight. The following day, they continued in their groups to the Rose Revived at Newbridge, which was no small feat, especially in the ever-changeable British weather!

Throughout the weekend, they demonstrated kindness, problem-solving, maturity, and real team spirit. Most importantly, they discovered that confidence often comes after the challenge, not before it.

You should all be incredibly proud of yourselves, you tackled the weekend with determination and smiles, and it was an absolute joy for staff to be part of.

A big thank you as well to the staff who supported the trip. We now look forward to the qualifying expedition in June!

Mrs A Kent





Whole School News

Support Futures Day – Can you help?

We are excited to be running our Year 9 Support Futures Day on Friday 5th June, and we are looking for support from parents and members of our community.

If you, or someone you know, would be willing to share career experiences, offer advice, or give insight into the world of work, we would love to hear from you. Even a small contribution of time can have a significant impact on our students' aspirations and future choices.

If you are able to help, please contact: lgibson@johnmason.school



Thank you for your continued support in helping us inspire the next generation.

**INVEST IN THEIR FUTURE.
INSPIRE YOUR COMMUNITY.**

SUPPORT FUTURES DAY

Friday 5th June | Year 9 Students

Help shape the next generation.

Your time
**THEIR
FUTURE**

CARERS
OPPORTUNITIES
FUTURES

We are inviting local employers and education providers to get involved in our Year 9 **Futures Day** – a dedicated day to inspire, inform and prepare our students for the world beyond school.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED



SPEAK TO STUDENTS

Share your career journey, industry insights and day-to-day experiences in an engaging and meaningful way.



CV & APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

Help students develop their CV writing and communication skills through practical, real-world advice.



OPEN DOORS, OPEN MINDS

Host a visit, virtual tour or talk about your organisation and the exciting opportunities available.



WORK EXPERIENCE ADVICE

Provide tips on securing work experience and what employers look for in young people.



BE A ROLE MODEL

Show students what's possible and help them build confidence in their future choices.

WHY GET INVOLVED?

- ✓ Make a real difference in young people's lives
- ✓ Raise your profile in the local community
- ✓ Inspire future talent and potential employees
- ✓ Support your Corporate Social Responsibility goals
- ✓ It's rewarding, impactful and only takes a few hours!



**TOGETHER, WE CAN OPEN
DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY.**



INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?

We'd love to hear from you!
Please contact:

Miss L. Gibson

Email: lgibson@johnmason.school

*Thank
you!*

YOUR INSIGHT. THEIR FUTURE. OUR COMMUNITY.



Our Sports Leaders in Action

We are incredibly proud of our student Sports Leaders who supported the Abingdon Sports Partnership primary tennis tournament at the White Horse Leisure Centre this Wednesday.

Taking on important roles as officials, they were responsible for keeping score and managing match results, ensuring the event ran smoothly for all involved. They carried out their duties with professionalism, confidence and enthusiasm, demonstrating real leadership throughout the day.

This is a fantastic example of our value of *Opportunity* in action, with students stepping beyond the classroom to develop new skills, support younger pupils, and contribute positively to the wider community.

Well done to all involved!

Mrs Marriott



Community Activities

INSPIRED GK CAMP

AT TILSLEY PARK, 3G PITCHES

MAY HALF TERM
TUESDAY - THURS
26TH - 28TH
10AM - 4PM
U8 - U15'S

£85
FOR 3 DAY
CAMP

ONLY 5 SPACES
WORK WITH GK COACH
& INTEGRATE WITH
OUTFIELD PLAYERS FOR
GAMES

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For more info & to book visit:
www.inspiredsport.org

In partnership with



INSPIRED FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

TILSLEY PARK, DUNMORE ROAD, ABINGDON, OX14 1PU

FRIDAYS 17:30-19:00
U12'S-U15'S

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High level coaching
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MAY HALF TERM
TUESDAY - THURS
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£85
PER 3 DAY
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FOR UNDER
U8'S-11'S &
U12'S-U15'S
TRAIN SEPARATELY

inspired
inspiredsport.org

For more info & to book visit:
www.inspiredsport.org

In partnership with



Community Donation Event



DONATE YOUR BIKE

Help us get young people cycling!

Introducing the new Bike Library at Fitzharrys Secondary School!

A collaboration between Active Oxfordshire, Oxfordshire County Council & Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue

We loan second-hand bikes to students without access to one, and plan to offer bikes for younger children too.



BIKE DONATION EVENT

Saturday
23rd May
10am - 12pm

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue
Abingdon Fire Station,
Ock Street, Abingdon,
OX14 5DH

We're looking for:

- 24"
- 26"
- 27.5"

bikes for teenagers up to young adults

TO DONATE

- Come along with the bike(s) to Abingdon Fire Station, Ock Street, Abingdon, OX14 5DH between **10:00am - 12:00pm.**
- Members of Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service will be on hand to receive your donation – it's as simple as that!



Donated bikes will be refurbished, safety checked and provided to students to loan until they outgrow the bike or no longer need it.



We reserve the right to decline bikes that aren't economically viable to fix.



Do not leave bikes outside the 10:00am-12:00pm slot.



YOUR BIKE COULD MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE TO A LOCAL YOUNG PERSON.

THANK YOU!