

Friday 26th June 2026

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding. The extreme weather conditions we have faced in Abingdon over the last three days have put students, staff and their families to the test. It is a huge testament to the character of our students that they have continued to attend school, work hard and demonstrate maturity and resilience, both in school and when travelling home safely.

Thank you in particular for your patience and understanding each time we sent updates during the week. Making significant changes to the school day is never our intention and, given the wide variety of circumstances faced by families, such changes can cause considerable disruption. We are very grateful for your support and cooperation as we navigated these challenges together.

This week, we were also delighted to welcome our new Year 6 students for Transition Day. They approached the experience with enthusiasm, confidence and maturity, embracing opportunities to explore the school, meet staff and experience a range of secondary school lessons. We were incredibly impressed by their positive attitude and behaviour, and they will undoubtedly be a fantastic addition to the John Mason community in September.

A special thank you must also go to our existing students who took on leadership roles throughout the day. Whether acting as guides, ambassadors or mentors, they represented the school with pride and professionalism, helping our visitors feel welcome and supported. They were exceptional role models and showcased the very best of our school values. We are extremely proud of the contribution they made to the success of the day.

With everything else taking place this week, there has also been a poignant reminder of our purpose and the huge privilege we have in supporting young people as they move on to the next stages of their lives. Our final farewells go to both Year 13 and Year 11 students as they celebrate with their Leavers' Balls.

It was fantastic to speak with our Year 13 students on Wednesday evening about their plans for the summer and the exciting destinations they will be moving on to next year. The range of university courses, apprenticeships and employment opportunities they have secured serves as a reminder that every student has their own unique pathway ahead of them. They leave with the very best wishes from me and from every member of our JMS community.

Tonight, it will be the turn of our Year 11 students. Whilst we look forward to welcoming many of them back to JMF6 and seeing them again on Results Day, it is also an important opportunity to celebrate all that they have achieved and to wish them every success and happiness for the future.

Thank you again for your support. I hope you enjoy however you choose to spend your weekend, and we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday for what will hopefully be a much cooler start to the week.

Best wishes,



Alastair West
Headteacher

Upcoming Important Dates:	
Thursday 16 th July	Summer Concert
Friday 17 th July	School closes at 1.05pm - End of Summer Term
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](#)

OX14 Learning Partnership Weekly Update

Please find the [OX14 LP weekly update linked here](#) and the website linked [here](#).

Please also find the link to the OX14 LP Summer newsletter here:
<https://canva.link/pw7h5ob4z8dxlti>

Curriculum News

The year 10 Geographers went for an adventure last week as part of their fieldwork for Paper 3. Mr. Creighton, Mrs. Yates and Mr. Conroy were all in attendance and we can honestly say they were all fantastic.

We had students of all abilities doing a variety of tasks in their own pre selected groups. Students had two areas of enquiry, one from human and one from the physical geography.

Firstly, students looked at the environmental quality in and around Abingdon. Some students downloaded the GeogIT app and collected data digitally. Methods used included looking at vehicle counts, vehicle ages, recording the noise levels in areas using the decibel meter and using questionnaires. Students focussed on Bury street and the Farmers market. Students also took photos of the built environment and did field sketches at each of the two sites. Students had a well earned break at a local well known bakery and wandered to the river study site.



Finally students visited the River Ock and calculated the velocity, depth and width of the river. Students were mature and worked incredibly hard all day, and only one person fell in! Upon completion of the data gathering, students twisted the staffs arm to visit a local yet global eating establishment. It was enjoyed by all.

As a result of being so committed to doing well on the day, I have no doubt that students will get amazing results in the fieldwork element of paper 3.

Well done Year 10 geographers...

Mr A Conroy



Whole School News

Celebration of the Arts



Congratulations to Reuben for receiving his Certificates last week in London at the South East Region Art Bytes celebration (in collaboration with the National Gallery).

He also collected certificates for the JMS runners up - Chris and Ethan.

We are very proud of Reuben and hope it was an amazing experience!

On Wednesday evening, Shirc performed at the Celebration of the Arts at Abingdon School. Despite the heat, they delivered an excellent four-song set, combining covers with original material. The students represented John Mason School superbly, showcasing both their musical talent and creativity.

Congratulations to all four students on a fantastic performance.



Young Musician of the Year 2026

Prizes for:

- Best KS3 Musician
- Best KS4 Musician
- Best KS5 Musician
- Young Musician of the Year



Concert:

Thursday 16 July 2026
6:00-8:00pm
Main Hall
£3 (on MCAS)

Auditions:

Wednesday 10th &
Thursday 11th June
After school in the Music
block.

If you are interested in
auditioning, please email Mr
Spacksman

Prizes include house points,
certificates and trophies!
House points rewarded to
students

Soloists only

For more details: check
Daily News slides or contact
Mr Spacksman

Email Mr Spacksman at:
sspacksman@johnmason.school