



John Mason School
OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | DETERMINATION

Friday 27th February 2026

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

Spring has certainly been in the air as we returned to school after what I hope was a restful half term for everyone. This is a short but important term, and we have set students the challenge of achieving 25 days of attendance out of 25 (or as close to this as possible). Thank you for your continued support in helping students attend every day and make the most of their learning.

On Wednesday, we held a planned fire alarm practice. Students vacated the buildings in an impressive 2 minutes and 42 seconds, lining up promptly and silently on the field. We were extremely proud of the calm, mature and responsible way they responded.

We ended the week on a real high, with our Year 11 students heading to the Welsh farm for a weekend of MFL revision. It is fantastic to see their commitment and enthusiasm as they prepare for their upcoming exams.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,

Alastair West
Headteacher

Curriculum News

Welcome to our keenly awaited Geography update for key stage 3-5.

Our Year 7 have been busy studying about 'How extreme environments shape peoples lives'. While Year 8 have studied about the continent of Africa, with a major focus on misconceptions about the continent as a whole. They will move onto the topic of 'Development' quite soon and this has a real focus on why some countries are poorer than others.

The Year 9's have been particularly busy this past term with a visit from 'Thames Water' and 'Debate mate' to look at the proposed reservoir development that will impact their lives either directly or indirectly. Next week we have 'GARD-Group Against Reservoir Development' in to inform students of their side of the argument. Then students will debate for or against this proposed project in Geography lessons.

Year 10 have been studying about 'Urban Issues and Challenges' and we have had a particular focus on regeneration of urban areas. Students have split into teams and will take part in the MEMF (My environment My future) schools competition to broaden their horizons and hopefully win the National competition, as we have done so on multiple occasions. Our Year 11's have just had their second taste of mocks and will no doubt learn a lot from the feedback they will have received. They will be going out on two separate field studies (one urban and one physical) in the coming weeks where they will need to gather information to answer the enquiry questions given to them. Lastly, Year 12 and 13 have been busy doing assessments and mocks. They have looked at topics ranging from Globalisation to Energy Security. The Year 12's will go out on their 5 day residential to Tenby in Wales in the next month or so to complete their data collection for their coursework (NEA) and the Year 13's have just handed in their final draft to be assessed and sent off.

All in all a very busy department with a lot of trips and a lot of lovely students who love the subject so we are quite lucky to have this.

We do all of the above because we want to create global citizens at John Mason School who look outwards and not inwards.

To quote Barack Obama *"The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures... and using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together."*

Mr. Conroy
Head of Geography





VA Competition

The Art department would like to thank all Year 9 students who worked really hard to get their Jungle artworks finished in time for the Art Bytes competition deadline at the end of last term. Thanks, are also extended to parents and carers for giving permission to submit the work. We were very excited to be in a position where we had such a difficult choice to narrow down the submissions to just 30 to send off. There was great variety in the pieces, from colour and approach, to imagination and personal narratives, as well as good reference to the artists that had inspired the project.



Congratulations to all of Year 9 for their efforts, and especially the following 30 students who have had their work uploaded to the competition:

Evan T, Dorothy S, Emilija V, Dylan K, Ethan B, Layla M, Isobel C, Jasmine B, Ellie-Mai W, Isla N, Rufus B, Reuben R, Emily H, Violet M, Marcus IK, Louie P, Chris R, Connor S, Olly T, Theo V, Max W, Jaydon W, Hannah A, Megan A, Andrew P, Emily W, Millie S, Hope C, Ella C, Luke C.

The next stage is for a team of arts professionals to select the top 3 entries from each participating school to move forward to a public vote in April. The winner from the public vote then moves into regional heats. The VA Faculty will alert students, parents and staff when the public vote commences to help support our students through to subsequent rounds. Please watch this space!

Whole School News



Uniform Sale Tuesday 17th March 3:30-4:30pm

We will be holding the pre-loved uniform sale Tuesday 17th March 3:30-4:30pm. **We still would like to receive more outgrown or unwanted items to help us for the event.**

We currently have plenty of shirts and trousers but would greatly appreciate donations of JMS white polo shirts, House PE shirts, and jumpers.

Thank you for your continued support!

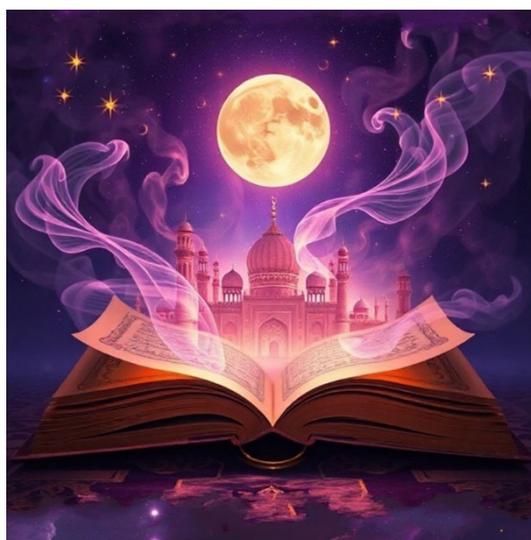
JMA Thursday 5th March

The JMA will be holding their AGM in the John Mason Library from 6pm.

All welcome to attend, just turn up. Help us improve the experience of your child and all the students at the school.

John Mason School Production - Arabian Nights, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th March

Please come along and support all the hard work our talented students have put into this year's school production *Arabian Nights*. Tickets are now on sale via this link: [John Mason School](#)



OX14 Learning Partnership Weekly Update

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

Workshop

Join us for a Workshop to support parenting your teenagers, run by Abingdon and Witney College.

**Abingdon
& Witney
College**

**Oxfordshire
Adult
Learning**

A FACULTY OF ABINGDON & WITNEY COLLEGE

FREE Workshop! Teen Boundaries and Consequences

Where?

John Mason School

When?

Monday 16^h March 1:30 - 3:00pm

Cost?

FREE and open to John Mason parents and carers

Come along and connect with other parents, share experiences, and find support in how to tackle boundaries and consequences with your teen.

The session content includes:

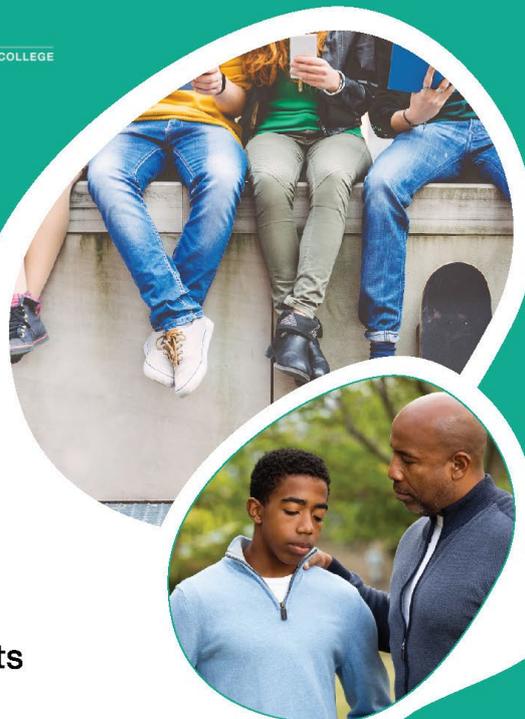
- Changes in boundaries from child to teen - how to make them realistic but effective
- How to avoid the pitfalls of consequences
- Boundaries and consequences for phones/screens



To book a place click the below link or scan the QR code and complete the **Google Form Booking Form - Teen Boundaries and Consequences**



For more information please contact the course tutor Lisa Knight: lisa.knight@abingdon-witney.ac.uk



Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council Competition

Winners will be chosen by Cllr Gabby Barody, 1st prize is £1000, 2nd is £500 and 3rd is £250. Anyone of any age are able to enter either as an individual or as a group.



PATCH FOR THE PLANET

BIODIVERSITY COMPETITION

Make a BIG difference with just one patch!



How to Enter

Take a before photo of your chosen space

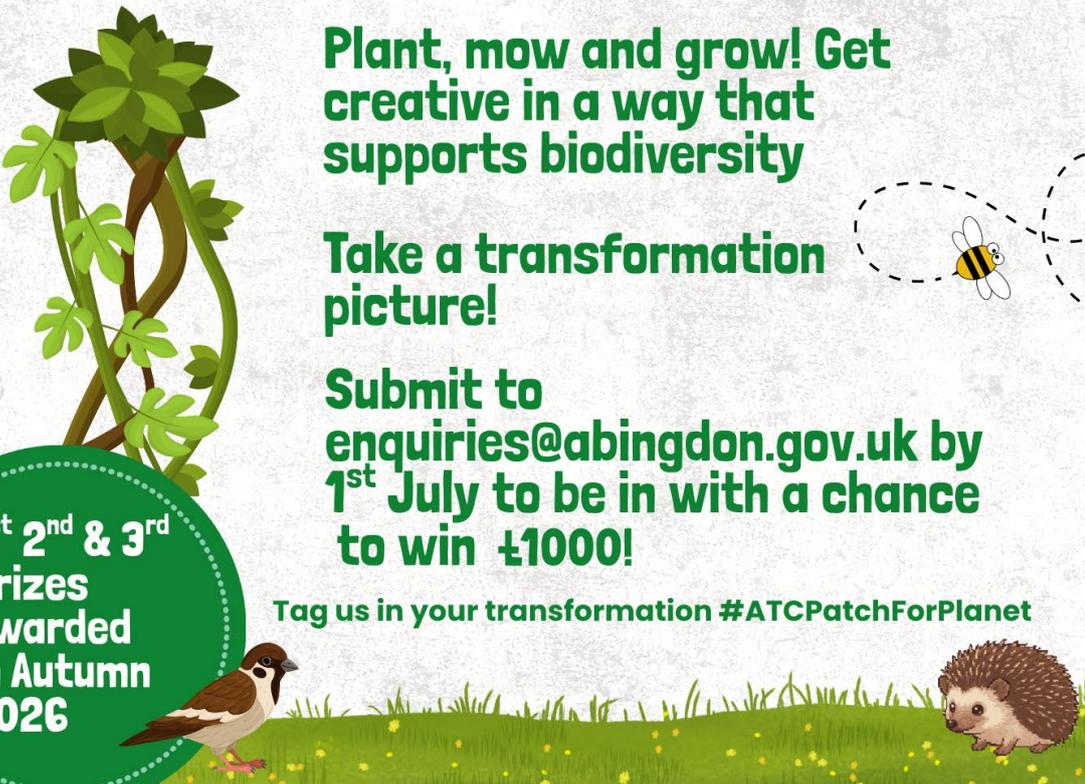
Plant, mow and grow! Get creative in a way that supports biodiversity

Take a transformation picture!

Submit to enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk by 1st July to be in with a chance to win £1000!

Tag us in your transformation #ATCPatchForPlanet

**1st 2nd & 3rd
Prizes
Awarded
in Autumn
2026**



Homework Club

Please do utilise our afterschool homework club as a supportive environment to complete your school work. We look forward to seeing you.

HOMework CLUB

with Ms Baudry

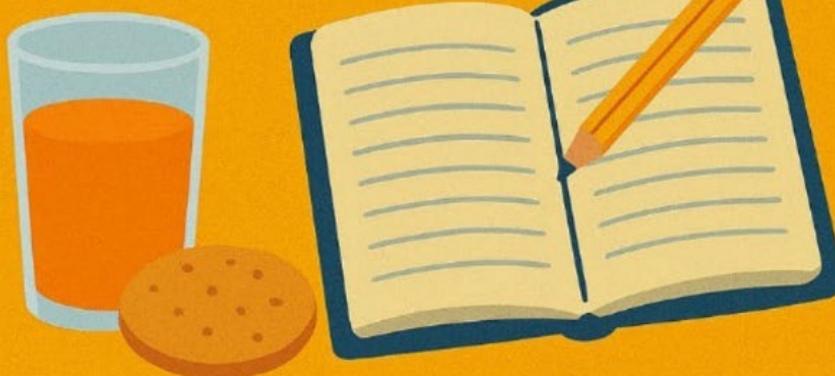
Tue–Fri 3:15 to 4:15

(you don't need to stay the full hour)

FO1 (inside learning support)

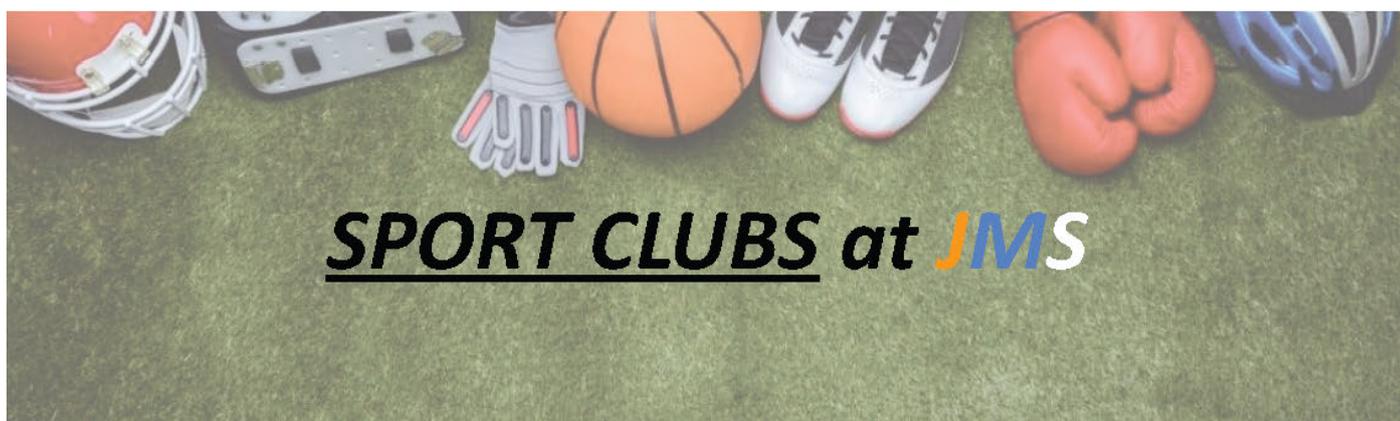
Friendly, relaxed and supportive
atmosphere

House points available



STARTING 6TH JANUARY 2026

Sports clubs from 2nd March



Clubs to start **Monday 2nd March**

Please ask your parent/carer to enrol you to the after school club you wish to attend via MCAS. Bring your PE kit if participating after school. Any questions please ask the member of staff leading that club.

Day	Lunchtime (In the Gym)	Afterschool
Monday	<i>Girls Active with Miss Uzzell and Mrs Marriott</i>	
Tuesday	<i>KS3 (Year 7, 8 & 9) Badminton with Mr Borja</i>	<i>Netball with Miss Uzzell</i>
Wednesday		<i>GCSE PE P6 with Miss Uzzell (F01)</i> <i>Football (Year 7 & 8) with Mr Davies</i> <i>Basketball (Year 7 & 8) with Mr Borja</i>
Thursday	<i>KS4 (Year 10 & 11) Badminton with Mr Davies</i>	<i>Basketball (Year 9 & 10) with Mr Borja</i>
Friday	<i>JMF6 Sport with Mrs Marriott</i>	

Women's & Girls' Cricket at Cumnor Cricket Club

U11, U13, U15, U18 & Women's



With more teams than ever this is going to be our biggest season yet. We've built the perfect environment for developing cricketers at every level, with outstanding coaches and top notch facilities. Come along - bring a friend and give it a go!

Indoor Pre-season

Sundays til 22nd March
All ages: 18:15 - 19:15
Cothill House School

Outdoor Training

Thursdays from 22nd April
Girls U11 & U13: 17:30 - 18:30
U15, U18 & Women's: 18:45 - 20:00

Contact: Annabel - Head of Womens & Girls Cricket
membership@cumnorcricketclub.com

Upcoming Important Dates:	
Wednesday 4 th March	Year 10 Art Pre-public Exam
Thursday 5 th March	Year 10 3D Pre-public Exam
Thursday 5 th March	JMA AGM in the Library from 6pm
Friday 6 th March	Year 10 Textiles Pre-public Exam
Week 16 th – 20 th March	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Tuesday 17 th March	Preloved Uniform sale
Thursday 19 th March	Year 7 parents Evening

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](#)