

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

We have enjoyed an absolutely packed final week of what has been a short – but incredibly busy term. And I know we have many excited skiers who are off to Spain on Sunday morning and so the term is not quite over. We wish them a lovely time in the snow.

While our skiers will be enjoying the cold we are looking forward to summer term and a reminder that our summer uniform rules will be in place from our first day back, Monday 13 May. Full details of the summer uniform policy can be found [here](#) along with how you can purchase summer polo shirts.

Following up on the fantastic Arabian Nights performance, we have had a great response to our appeal to fund new lights for our stage in the Main Hall. Thank you to the anonymous donation of £300 and another of £100 to our GoFundMe page. This has got us off to a brilliant start and also a huge thank you to everyone else who has already donated. Every penny helps and no matter the size, your contributions will be greatly appreciated.



On Thursday this week we celebrated the rich diversity of our school community with the student-led initiative of Culture Day. It was great to see the pride with which so many of our students were able to share their heritage and various national identities to which they have close or distant links. The size of opportunity to learn from our students was one that is unmatched in my experience. Thank you to our wonderful students for sharing this with us.

Also on Thursday, our Business Studies students entered two teams into the ‘Made in Oxford’ competition at the Westgate. In a gruelling competition against strong opposition John Mason School were overall winners. They will be moving on to the regional semi-finals in the summer term.



And finally, we have finished our week with the Big Reveal Assemblies for term 4. With House Points being accumulated throughout the term from house competitions, attendance, achievement points in and out of lessons and from subject based nominations for subject trophies in each year group the competition has been intense, but it is Ock House who have snuck into the lead at the end of term 4. Stert and Thames are close behind and will be doing everything they can to get ahead this summer.

Have a great Easter break.

Best wishes,

*Al West.*

Alastair West  
Headteacher



# Subject Trophy Winners - Term 4 - March 2026

Year 11



Year 10:



Year 9:



Year 8:



Year 7



## John Mason School - Local Academy Committee: March 2026 Update

**Who are we?** Governors are part of the school's leadership team. We are all volunteers, bringing a wide range of skills and experiences and a shared determination to support the school, its students and staff. Our role is to provide oversight and strategic direction to help achieve John Mason School's vision:

*To transform the life chances of every learner by ensuring they feel valued, connected, and inspired to succeed.*

This autumn, we were delighted to welcome more applications from community members keen to support the school as governors. Conversations with prospective governors are a powerful reminder of the value volunteers can add - commitment, insight, and fresh perspectives that help the school keep on improving.

This term we welcome two newly appointed governors, Dominic Laurie and Anthony Roberts, adding valuable experience and additional capacity to our [team](#).

**What do we do?** We meet regularly with the headteacher to approve policies, agree targets, monitor improvement plans, and review progress.

At our meetings so far this year, governors:

- **Approved** [policies](#) covering Safeguarding, Behaviour, Accessibility, and Equality
- **Agreed and monitored** work to progress improvement priorities focused on attendance, educational excellence, student-school connection, and tailored support for all students
- **Reviewed and approved** statutory reports such as the annual [SEND Information Report](#) and [Pupil Premium Statement](#), reflecting high aspirations for every student
- **Considered** staff, pupil, and parent survey feedback, and the school's response, which includes a continuing focus on high standards for behaviour and strengthening communication. Please visit the school's [Parent Voice](#) page on the website for more information.

Governance is more than meetings. So far this year, governors have also undertaken a number of school visits, joined Trust reviews and network meetings, and completed training in safeguarding, cyber security, Ofsted, attendance, Pupil Premium, Careers and data analysis—all of which informs our discussions and decisions.

**Celebrating achievement:** Improving [attendance](#) remains a top priority and to support the school's work on this we have introduced a Governors' Award for students who show determination by attending school regularly. I was delighted to represent the Local Academy Committee in an end of Autumn term assembly to present the first of these awards and celebrate student achievements.

I also joined an end-of-term meeting with staff, thanking them for their hard work and hearing some fantastic feedback from students about how staff have supported and inspired them during the opening terms of the year.

**Next steps:** 2026 continues with a busy schedule of meetings and visits planned as we look forward to seeing improvement plans move forward and celebrating success along the way.

For more information about the JMS Local Academy Committee and Abingdon Learning Trust governance please visit the [school website](#) and, if you are interested in becoming a governor, do please get in touch.

*Lynn Fathers, Chair of JMS Local Academy Committee, March 2026*

## Whole School News

### LRC Book Fair – Help Us Earn Free Books!

The LRC will be holding a book fair from 21st-27th April. Students from all year groups are welcome to come along at lunchtime to view the books on offer. Orders can be made using the online link, QR code or the wish list order form - available for every student.



Parents are invited to view and order books on-line at [www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay) and selecting John Mason from the drop-down menu. Orders can be made between 7th-27th April, and the books can be collected from the LRC.

The more orders, the greater the chance that our school will receive free books.

Please help us earn FREE BOOKS for the LRC by ordering a book for your child this Easter!

**SCHOLASTIC**

# LRC BOOK FAIR

## NEW and TRENDING?

Your **NEXT FAVOURITE READ** is waiting

OVER 200 BOOKS TO CHOOSE FROM

The **BOOK FAIR** is here on:  
**April 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>**

**GO ALL IN.**  
National Year of Reading 2019

**Order and pay for books from 7<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April**

Scan the QR code to pay online!

- Select **John Mason** from the drop-down menu. Follow the online payment link.
- Order using the **Wish List** (Collect a form from the LRC)

## Art Bytes



**Guardian of the Temple**

Ethan B

Watercolour & coloured pencil, 20cm, 20cm

**VOTE NOW**

**View in AR**



**Rio**

Reuben R

Watercolour & pen, 20cm, 20cm

**VOTE NOW**

**View in AR**



**The Temperate Toucan**

Chris R

Watercolour & pen, 20cm, 20cm

**VOTE NOW**

**View in AR**

Over the last week, an [esteemed panel of judges](#) have been busy shortlisting their top 3 artworks from our 30 Year 9 entries. Congratulations to: Ethan B, Reuben R, Chris R and indeed to all 30 entrants!

### Public Vote

From Friday 20th March – Sunday 19th April 2026 you will be able to VOTE for your favourite artwork and it is the public vote which determines each school's winner.

Winners then go forward into the next round of judging to be in with a chance of becoming a regional - or even national winner! To raise the profile of the Year 9 artists in our community, please encourage everyone to vote - students, teachers and parents/family members can all get involved.

Please remember to cast your vote. Go to [John Mason School | Schools | Art Bytes](#) and click on the 'VOTE NOW' button. Under the top 3 artworks will be a 'vote now' button. Each person may cast one vote.

Thank you  
Ms Pennington

A stylized illustration of a stage with a wooden floor and red curtains. Several spotlights are mounted on a truss above the stage, casting a warm orange glow. In the center of the stage, there is a logo consisting of three overlapping hexagons: a blue one on top, a dark blue one on the bottom left, and an orange one on the bottom right containing a yellow rampant lion.

# Help JMA raise funds for new stage lighting!

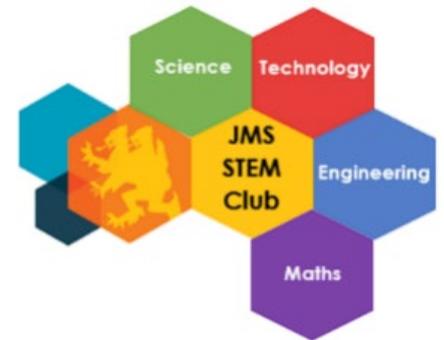


Brighten our performances.  
Help us light the stage today!  
Visit our GoFundMe page.

Donations can be made through [this link to the GoFundME portal](#) or the QR code on the poster.

## STEM Club

Students in STEM Club recently stepped into the role of forensic scientists during an exciting investigation activity. The club was presented with a mystery: someone had broken into the Senior Technician's prep room, moved equipment around, and left behind a note reading "I were ere."

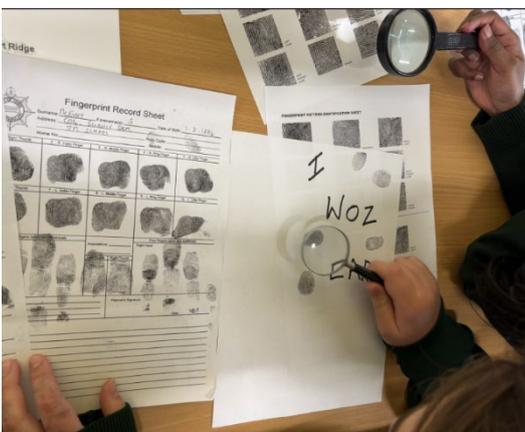


To solve the case, students had to apply real forensic science techniques. Their first task was to dust the scene for fingerprints, carefully lifting prints left on items in the room. They then analysed and compared the fingerprints with those of three suspects to see if there was a match.

The investigation didn't stop there. Students also carried out a chromatography experiment to analyse the ink used in the note. By separating the different pigments in the ink, they were able to compare it with pens belonging to the suspects.

After carefully examining the fingerprint evidence and the chromatography results, the students were able to identify the culprit. The evidence pointed clearly to Mr McEvoy, who was revealed as the guilty party.

The activity gave students a hands-on experience of how forensic science is used in real investigations. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to develop their scientific skills, work collaboratively, and see how techniques learned in the lab can help solve a mystery.

A completed fingerprint record sheet for a student named Mr. McEvoy. The form includes fields for Surname, Forename(s), Date of Birth, Address, Home No., and Mobile. The student's details are filled in: Surname: McEvoy, Forename(s): S, Date of Birth: 1-2-1984, Address: COL, SCIENCE DEPT, JMS SCHOOL, Post Code: [blank], Mobile: [blank]. The form also contains a grid for recording fingerprints for the Right and Left hands, with specific boxes for the Thumb, Index, Middle, Ring, and Little fingers. There are sections for "Four Fingers taken simultaneously" for both hands, and a section for "Amputations". The form is signed by the Prisoner and includes fields for "Classified by", "Verified by", and "Date".

## OX14 Learning Partnership Weekly Update

Please find the [OX14 LP update linked here for information and circulation](https://www.ox14lp.org.uk/events/). The website link is here: <https://www.ox14lp.org.uk/events/>

Please also find details of an upcoming AI webinar for students Y11-13

### **Workplace Skills in an AI-enabled World, Wednesday, 29 April 2026, 7:00–8:00 pm – webinar on Zoom**

What skills are needed to be effective in a workplace enabled by AI? Hear from professionals who have seen AI integration from the inside: its successes, its failures, and what it really demands of the people working alongside AI. Learn what technical and non-technical skills make a difference in organisations embracing AI adoption and how to start building those skills, whether you're still at school, at university, or just starting out in your career. Panellist presentations will be followed by a live Q&A. Webinar is open to Year 11–13 students and parents from Abingdon School and our OX14 partner schools, as well as to recent Abingdon School leavers (OAs) who are either at university or in employment. Webinar registration required [here](#).



# Workplace Skills in an AI-enabled World

*What skills will you need to be effective in a workplace enabled by AI?*

Wed, 29 April 2026, 7:00–8:00 pm – on Zoom



*Hear from professionals who have seen AI adoption from the inside. Learn what skills make a difference in organisations embracing AI. Get ideas on how to start building these skills. Live Q&A follows panel talks.*

Hosted by:



ABINGDON

Open to:

Year 11, 12, and 13 students and parents from Abingdon School and OX14 schools.

Register for webinar:



[bit.ly/AIWorkplaceSkills](https://bit.ly/AIWorkplaceSkills)

## Bake Sale

Students in Year 9 led by Amelia C recently organised a successful bake sale to raise money in support of Down's Syndrome Day. The event brought together students and staff who were eager to support the cause while enjoying a variety of homemade treats.

The bake sale featured a range of delicious items, including cakes, cookies, and brownies, all generously baked and donated by Year 9 students. Thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of everyone involved, the bake sale raised a total of £59.10 for Down's Syndrome Oxford. The money will go towards supporting awareness and resources for people with Down's Syndrome.

Year 9 would like to thank everyone who baked, donated, and purchased items at the sale. Your support helped make the event a great success and showed how small actions can make a meaningful difference.

## Community Information

# sewing SESSIONS

**Thursdays**  
**9:30 - 11:30am**  
**Welfare Offices, Shippon**

At the far end of Cholswell Road,  
OX13 6HW



<https://dorcassdressproject.org/sewing-sessions-uk/>  
Christian UK registered charity (1177034).

A friendly and social time where you are welcome to complete your own sewing projects or learn new skills through pre-set topics.



You may use our sewing equipment knowing there is technical advice at hand, or bring your own.

Maria has over 30 years of experience teaching and working in the clothing & textiles industry.

Each session includes:

- space to complete your own project, or
- teaching space where you are welcome to participate with the topic of the week.
- a mid session refreshment break where we gather and chat together, being friends is important to us.

Our intention is to bring local community together. Sessions are free of charge, especially for those with no regular income, however we do ask those who can afford it to help cover our costs. Each session costs us about £120.

Visit our website for more details or email [dorcassdressproject@gmail.com](mailto:dorcassdressproject@gmail.com)

<b>Upcoming Important Dates:</b>	
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holidays
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	New Term - All Students Return to School
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Year 11 Art GCSE
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 10 Pre-Public Exams
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Year 11 Graphics and 3D exams

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](#)