



John Mason School
OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | DETERMINATION

Friday 3rd July 2026

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

The summer term has moved through several exciting phases and, as we approach the end of the academic year, it is wonderful to reflect on all that our students have accomplished.

The term began with focus and determination for the examination season before shifting into a period of transition and looking ahead. We have been delighted to welcome our new Year 6 students into school as they begin their journey towards joining us in September. It was also fantastic to see so many families attend our busy Year 6 into Year 7 Information Evening yesterday.

Earlier this week, we were equally pleased to welcome our Year 11 students back for their JMF6 taster lessons, giving them an opportunity to experience the next stage of their educational journey.

Meanwhile, students across Years 7 to 10 have continued to work hard in lessons, completing topics, consolidating learning and bringing together the knowledge and skills they have developed throughout the year. Their efforts are helping to create strong foundations for a successful start in September.

Today, our final group of Year 8 students departed for their Welsh Farm residential. These experiences provide invaluable opportunities for young people to develop independence, teamwork and resilience. As this year's final group prepares to return home, they will also be helping to pack away and leave everything spotless for the next visitors, a fitting end to another successful season of day and residential trips.

Across the school, music can be heard echoing from classrooms, halls and practice spaces as soloists, bands, ensembles, orchestras and choirs make their final preparations for our Young Musician of the Year Concert on Thursday 16th July. This promises to be a wonderful celebration of the talent, dedication and hard work our students have shown throughout the year and we welcome you to attend the event.

Not to be outdone, our sporting stars are beginning to limber up for our annual Sports Days. Events will take place on Monday 13th July at school and Tuesday 14th July at Tilsley Park, where students will have the opportunity to compete, represent their houses and strive for personal bests. The question remains: how many school records will tumble this year? We will soon find out!

Looking ahead, the forecast suggests another period of warm weather next week. At present, conditions are expected to be more typical of July and not at the extreme levels we experienced recently. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and will keep families informed should anything change, but we are hopeful that no significant adjustments will be required.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school. I hope you and your family have a wonderful weekend.

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](#)

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

Whole School News

Art Beat 2026

We enjoyed a great turn out at both Art Beat open events earlier this month. Thank you to all the students, parents, staff and governors that supported the event and provided some lovely feedback about the work on display. It is always great to allow the wider community into the school and provide students with the chance to share their success with their extended families and friends.

Several Year 10s were brilliantly spotted making the most of the opportunity to see what completed coursework looks like and fantastic to see Year 7 and 8 getting excited about where art and design can take them beyond KS3 as well as some of our new September intake students and their families.



A massive thank you to Mr Harrison, Ms McGoldrick & Ms Marsh and the site team for their support opening the school beyond normal hours.

Also, to the VA staff that have taught exam groups this year; and for their help in the creation of another great JMS end of year art show - my 29th one!

Finally - thank you to the Stars of the Show - the Y11 and 13 artists and designers that we are immensely proud of. We wish them every success in their next creative adventure.

Ms Pennington & VA Team

Curriculum News

Maths Department News

As the final school term draws to a close, we are proud to reflect on another busy and successful term in the Mathematics Department.

Alongside the GCSE and A Level examination season, several of our students took part in the follow-on rounds of the Junior Maths Challenge. We are delighted that one Year 7 student and two Year 8 students qualified for these prestigious rounds. Congratulations to all three students on this fantastic achievement. In particular, special recognition goes to our Year 7 student, who was awarded a Distinction in the Junior Mathematical Olympiad, an outstanding accomplishment.



Looking ahead, the dates for next year's UK Mathematics Trust challenges are:

- Senior Maths Challenge: 7 October
- Intermediate Maths Challenge: 27 January
- Junior Maths Challenge: 5 May

Students with an interest in mathematics are encouraged to join Maths Club, which continues to run every Wednesday lunchtime with Ms Richards. The club provides an opportunity to explore fascinating mathematical ideas and problem-solving beyond the curriculum in a friendly and supportive environment.

Also on Wednesday lunchtimes, Ms Atkey runs a Maths Homework Clinic, where students can receive help with classwork, homework and revision. It is open to all students who would benefit from some additional support.

Our Year 10 students are already looking ahead to their GCSE examinations and have been making an excellent start by attending Period 6 intervention sessions on Thursday afternoons. It has been encouraging to see so many students taking advantage of this extra opportunity to strengthen their understanding and prepare for next year.

For students who would like to keep their Maths skills sharp over the summer, Sparx Maths will remain available throughout the holidays. We encourage all students to make use of it regularly to maintain their fluency and confidence. Spending time practising times tables will provide an excellent foundation for success in the new academic year!

Ms Atkey

STEM Club

To celebrate **World Rainforest Day**, our STEM Club enjoyed a hands-on activity exploring the fascinating world of rainforest ecosystems by creating their own miniature terrariums.



The session began with a discussion about what a terrarium was and how to look after one. The students then selected their jar and mini succulent. Then they got to work building their terrarium by adding a layer of gravel at the bottom of their jar with soil on top. Planting their succulent was a little tricky depending on the size of their jar, but students worked together and created some beautiful miniature ecosystems.

The activity encouraged creativity, teamwork, and scientific thinking as students considered the needs of living plants and the conditions required for them to thrive. Each terrarium was unique, reflecting the imagination and care of its creator.



OX14 Learning Partnership Weekly Update

Please find the final OX14 LP update of the year [linked here](#) for your information.

Many events/ activities have been booked in for next year, please note the Business Language Challenge has now changed from the proposed 15th October to 13th October.

As a reminder, the summer newsletter is available via the website here: <https://www.ox14lp.org.uk/2026/06/22/summer-newsletter-3>