

Friday 3rd October 2025

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

This has been a long week for 86 students and 10 of their teachers, starting on Saturday evening as they gathered at the front of school to start the very long journey to Köln. By all reports the Year 8 group had a fantastic time exploring the German city and some of the best tourist attractions in Europe. It was all worth those weary eyes on Wednesday morning!

All week, staff and students have been putting together final preparations for Open Evening. Please remember that on Thursday 9th October the school will close to students at 1:05pm. For students who get the bus to and from school, early buses have been arranged, or parents have been contacted directly.

We are excited that so many students have volunteered to come back into school and take part in an evening that truly celebrates what it means to be part of the John Mason School community

If you haven't completed the consent form for your child yet, you can do so [here](#). A huge thank you from me to all our students for giving up their evenings I hope they have a great evening.

Whilst staff will be back in school after a late night, a reminder that we have an INSET day on Friday 10th October.

I'm incredibly grateful to our staff for generously giving their time during evenings and weekends, and I'd also like to thank you once again for your continued support in enabling students to take advantage of the many opportunities we are fortunate to offer. Whether it's attending trips, joining after school clubs, or representing the school in a range of sports fixtures, it's fantastic to see so many students going above and beyond by engaging fully in school life

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes.



Alastair West
Headteacher

Curriculum News

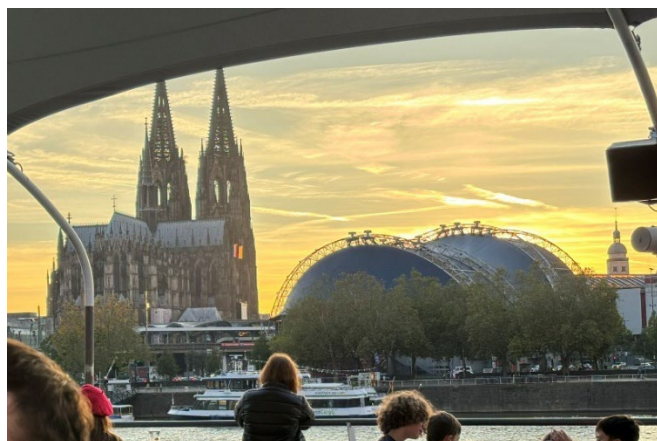
Year 8 trip to Cologne

84 students from year 8 travelled on the Cologne trip this weekend. They left on two coaches on Saturday evening and travelled through the night to arrive in Cologne in time for breakfast.

The first part of the day was spent visiting the zoo and aquarium before taking a cable car ride across the river Rhine with some simply stunning views.



We then took the tram into the city centre to visit the impressive cathedral. Many students took the opportunity to climb the 533 steps to the top of the cathedral tower, where you could see in all directions for miles around. After some time to explore the shops and get some food, the group went on a cruise along the river before ending the first day with a meal at the Hard Rock Café.



The second day involved a visit to Phantasialand, a theme park. They were impressed with the quality and variety of the rides, with something for everyone. Highlights included Taron, a very fast coaster and FLY where they were suspended upside down as the coaster hurtled along the track. Queues were very short, which meant more time for rides. One student managed to go on the water rides 33 times but still dried off in time for the coach journey back to the hostel. After our evening meal, there was time for some games, table tennis and getting to know some German school students, who were sharing our hostel.

The group travelled back on Tuesday and had a great time together on the coach and ferry. It was great to see the group having such a wonderful time together. I'd like to extend my thanks to the members of staff who gave up their time to allow the trip to run so smoothly.

Mr A Walker



Pastoral News

I am delighted to share how well our Year 10 students have settled into the new school year.

Moving into Key Stage 4 is an important milestone, and I have been so impressed by the way our students have approached the challenge with maturity, enthusiasm, and determination.

From the very first week, Year 10 have demonstrated a strong sense of responsibility and commitment to their studies. They have adapted quickly to the increased expectations of GCSE courses, showing resilience in managing new timetables and learning new subjects. Teachers across all subjects have commented on their positive attitude to learning and the energy they bring to lessons.

Beyond the classroom, many of our Year 10 students are taking part in extra-curricular activities, sports teams, and leadership opportunities. Their involvement in school life shows a real sense of pride in our community and a willingness to contribute beyond their own learning.

I am very proud to carry this year group through for another year as their Progress Leader, and look forward to seeing what year 10 brings for them.

Mrs A Kent
Progress Leader Year 10

Whole School News



**Remember to place your portrait photograph order by
Monday 06/10/2025
before the exclusive prices end**

Every order generates funds for your school too

www.schoolphotographs.co.uk



If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium and you need assistance, please contact us at pquery@johnmason.school

Calling all parents, grandparents, and carers!

Do you have a little bit of spare time, looking for something fulfilling to do? Even a couple of hours a month would help!

The John Mason Association (JMA) is our school's Parent Teacher Association, supporting students through fundraising and community events for nearly 50 years.

Thanks to the JMA, students have benefitted from:

- Duke of Edinburgh kit
- Library books and STEM telescopes
- Stage lighting for performances
- Sports kits and support for the Year 11 Ball

We're planning a fundraising event at the end of 2025, and we'd love your help! Whether you're a parent, carer, or grandparent looking to get involved by baking, crafting, donating a raffle prize, or simply spreading the word, you can help!

Interested in getting involved?

Fill out our quick [questionnaire](#):

Let's work together to support every student at JMS!

OX14 Learning Partnership Weekly Update

Your school is part of the OX14 Learning Partnership, a group of schools in the Abingdon area working to raise educational aspirations and increase collaboration by providing a range of opportunities for students and teachers to work together.

This update provides a look at upcoming events and activities. Please note that some events are for specific year groups or invited students only. We will continue to add new events to the calendar, so please check the [website](https://www.ox14lp.org.uk/events/) for further details. <https://www.ox14lp.org.uk/events/>

October 2025

October 2 @ 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

[Lecture: Professor Philomen Probert 'Why languages are similar'](#)

Abingdon School

October 6 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

[History Lecture – Sixth Form](#)

Abingdon School

Sixth form students are invited to attend a lecture at [...]

October 6 @ 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

[Chemistry Lecture – Sixth Form](#)

Radley College

Join students from across the partnership at this lecture with [...]

October 13 @ 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm

[Chemistry Lecture – Sixth Form](#)

Radley College

Join Students from across the partnership at this upcoming lecture. [...]

October 16 @ 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

[Business Language Challenge](#)

Abingdon School

An exciting opportunity for Y10/11 linguists to take part in [...]

Upcoming Important Dates:

Tuesday 7 th October	Berlin PIE
Wednesday 8 th October	Year 8 PIE & Welsh Farm
Thursday 9 th October	Open Evening and School closes at 1.05pm Opens again at 5-8pm
Friday 10 th October	Inset Day

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](#)