

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2026

## Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

It has been a wonderful, first week of the academic year. We began on Tuesday and Wednesday with our staff training days, including an inspiring opportunity to come together with colleagues from across ALT Trust. Sharing expertise and learning from one another reminds us of the power of collaboration, both within John Mason School and across our wider family of schools. Together, we continue to focus on how we can nurture curiosity, ambition, resilience and courage in our young people, while fostering a deep-rooted compassion for others and for the world around them. Ultimately, our shared goal is to ensure that every student is equipped with the choices, opportunities and character needed to lead a happy and successful life.

Thursday gave us our first opportunity to put these ideas into action as we welcomed Year 7 students officially into the John Mason School community, Year 11 students as they embarked upon perhaps the most important year of their school lives so far, and Year 12 students as they began an exciting new chapter in JMF6.

Before lessons began, we spoke about the concept of time. The ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus once observed that "you cannot step into the same river twice". The constant flow of time brings continual change. At precisely 8:35am, our students stepped into the 2026-27 academic year. It was a fresh start, a clean sheet and a year full of possibility.

We also reflected on the responsibility that comes with such an opportunity. Each student will experience this year only once, and it has already begun. We challenged them to embrace three powerful habits that can make a real difference: to take responsibility for their own destiny, to visualise what success will look like for them, and to prioritise what matters most by putting first things first and making the most of every minute.

On Friday, Years 8, 9, 10 and 13 joined us, and the school felt complete once more. There is something truly special about having over a thousand young people under one roof, all learning, growing and striving to become the very best versions of themselves. The energy, enthusiasm and positivity around the school have been wonderful to see. As I visited classrooms throughout the day, it was clear that students had returned ready to work hard, engage fully and make the most of the opportunities ahead.

The year has only just begun, but it has already been an honour to witness such a positive start. We cannot wait to do it all again on Monday!

Best wishes,



Alastair West  
Headteacher



**John Mason School**  
OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | DETERMINATION



# OPEN EVENING

**Thursday 24th September 2026**

**5.00pm - 8.00pm** (No booking required)

With an address from the Headteacher at 5.15pm, 6.15pm & 7.15pm

**Open Mornings Wednesday 7th October - Tuesday 13th October from 9.15am**

To book an appointment for Open Mornings email: [events@johnmason.school](mailto:events@johnmason.school)

Committed to improving the life chances of every learner we serve



## Managing Anxiety

a Workshop for new Year 7 Parents

**John Mason School**  
Wednesday 9th September  
5.30 - 6.30pm

With ideas and advice  
from an Educational  
Psychologist  
Session will be led by  
Miss Carvel and Mrs Amos

For parents whose children  
might have experienced  
anxiety that has affected  
their attendance,  
performance and wellbeing

Practical guidance, tips and the opportunity to share with others to find some solutions.



| Upcoming Important Dates:                                 |                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September                       | Y7 Parenting Workshop - Managing Anxiety           |
| Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September                       | School closes at 1.10pm - Open Evening Preparation |
| Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September                       | Open Evening 5.00-8.00 pm                          |
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> September                         | Inset Day – Staff Training                         |
| Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October | Half term                                          |

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](#)