

Friday 5th December 2025

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

This week saw the start of December and the start of our 15-day Attendance Challenge. With well over half of JMS having attendance levels above 95% this is an opportunity to celebrate those who have shown, and continue to show, determination and resilience in maintaining good habits of attendance and punctuality. With December having the shortest length of daylight it can be a struggle to get out of bed and ready for school in the mornings and this is an opportunity to celebrate the efforts that the young people at JMS keep making.

A range of rewards and prizes are being shared with tutor groups and individuals in our afternoon registration times with the intention of recognising those who consistently get things right and prove to be great ambassadors for our school.

I was delighted to see the John Mason School choir spreading festive cheer at the Mayor's Christmas Meal at the Hilton Hotel earlier this week. This special event supports some of the older members of our community, and our students led a wonderful singalong filled with smiles, applause and plenty of audience participation. A huge thank you to everyone involved and to Mrs David for organising such a memorable occasion.

With only 10 days left until the end of term I know many of you will be in school to support the many events taking place. The Winter Ball, and the Winter Concert are two seasonal highlights which I know many are looking forward to, but we also have important evenings for with the Parents Information Evening for Year 9s as they start their GCSE Options process, and the Parents' Consultation Evening for Year 11 to reflect on their recent Mock exams. Please check dates carefully at the end of this bulletin or the website and I look forward to seeing many of you both in school and out and about in our community throughout December.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes.



Alastair West
Headteacher

Curriculum News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are pleased to share an update on the exciting topics students are currently studying in science across all year groups. Your support in encouraging discussions at home is greatly appreciated and helps reinforce the learning taking place in class.



Year 7 – Particles and Their Behaviour

Students are developing an understanding of the particle model and how it explains the properties and behaviour of solids, liquids and gases. They are exploring changes of state, diffusion, and how temperature affects particle movement.

Year 8 – Bioenergetics

Year 8 are investigating how living organisms obtain and use energy. This includes studying photosynthesis, respiration, and the factors that can affect these vital biological processes.

Year 9 – Microbiology

Students in Year 9 are learning about microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, protists and fungi. They are exploring how microbes can be both useful and harmful, and how diseases spread and can be prevented.

Year 10 – Medicine and Chemical Change

Year 10 are studying medicines, including pathogens and their treatments. They are also investigating chemical reactions, rates of reaction, and factors that influence chemical change.

Year 11 – Inheritance, Organic Chemistry and Waves

Students are working across three key areas:

- **Inheritance:** understanding genes, DNA, and how characteristics are passed from one generation to the next.
- **Organic Chemistry:** studying carbon-based compounds and their reactions.
- **Waves:** exploring the properties and applications of sound and electromagnetic waves.

Thank you for your continued support in your child's science education.

Warm regards,

Mrs K Williams

Deputy Director of Science



Year 7 Winter Ball

The year 7 rewards evening is on Monday 15th December from 6.00-7.30 for recognition for all the hard work students have achieved during their first term at John Mason.

It is going to be a lovely evening with a DJ Disco, photobooth, snacks & drinks.

Tickets are £5 through MCAS, we hope to see you there.

DJ *JMS* *Disco*

Snacks & Drink *Year 7 Winter Ball* *Photobooth*

MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER 6.00-7.30

We are delighted to be hosting a Year7 disco in recognition of all the hardwork students have done during their first term at JMS

Tickets £5 available to purchases from MCAS

Whole School News

The Music Department is delighted to share some festive news: our school choir performed at the Hilton Hotel for the Mayor's Christmas Meal for the elderly. As far as I am aware, this is the first time John Mason students have taken part in this event, and I must say, they exceeded all expectations.



Before leaving school, we held a quick rehearsal to prepare for the performance and set expectations. Once at the hotel, every student's behaviour was impeccable. Although we had been prepared to help serve food, we found out on arrival that this would not be required. This did not deter the students in the slightest; instead, they continued to present themselves brilliantly throughout the entire afternoon.

From serenading guests in a 'guard of honour' as they arrived, to engaging in mature, warm conversations with attendees during the meal, the students shone. We received compliments from start to finish. The choir also assisted with drawing raffle tickets and handing out prizes, which was greatly appreciated.

When it came to the singing, the choir performed four songs designed for audience participation and participate they did! There were smiles, laughter, applause and cheers throughout. The final piece, Carol of the Bells, performed entirely from memory, was a particular highlight and drew an especially enthusiastic response. We even had someone call out from the back requesting more music!

The students represented themselves, the school, and their age group exceptionally well. They should be very proud of their conduct and their performance. I was especially impressed with how confidently they held conversations with people they had never met before.





After our performance, the Mayor expressed her gratitude and shared a heartfelt speech praising the students. She said:

“I had a wish for what I wanted this event to be, and you have delivered. I feel like I have won the lottery with what you have done this afternoon. Thank you so much, I am so proud of you.”

Our students truly did an amazing job. They were wonderful ambassadors for John Mason School and for young people in our community.

I am very much looking forward to our second (of three!) visits next Wednesday to Stowford House Care Home in Shippon, where I am confident the choir will once again bring joy through carols and Christmas music.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Frances David

Music Teacher

Together we can make this



Save the Children

Christmas
Jumper
Day 

the best one yet!

Save the Children Fund is a charity registered in England & Wales (213890), Scotland (SC039570) and Isle of Man (199). Registered office: 1 St John's Lane, London, EC1M 4AR



Christmas Jumper Day Thursday 11th December

Students will be allowed to wear Christmas Jumpers, Christmas Hats, Christmas Ties & Christmas Socks. Other items will be their regular school uniform.
Donations will be available to be made on MCAS

Christmas card competition



The overall winner who has been voted as Hollie Y10

A beautiful piece of textile art that shows a variety of skills from machine and hand embroidery to applique and crochet.

Year group winners this year are:

Yr 7- Jesse, Yr 8 -Tabitha, Yr 9 - Lizzie , Yr 10 – Hollie and Yr 11 - Cerys

Well done & thank you to all who entered, it was lovely to see all your designs.

If you would like to purchase a pack of these Christmas cards, please check MCAS later.

Year 9 Options

We are looking forward to seeing you on Thursday 11th December, between 5:30 and 7:30pm, for our Parent Information and Options Evening for Year 9 students and their families.

On the evening each student will be given a printed copy of our Options Booklet which is full of information, advice and details of the subjects on offer.

If you would like a preview of this, the online version has now been put onto our website.

Please find it here: <https://www.johnmason.oxon.sch.uk/students-and-parents/year-9-options/>

Upcoming Important Dates:	
Monday 8 th December	Yr 7-9 Flu Vaccinations
Tuesday 9 th December	Yr 10-11 Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 10 th December	Stowford House Choir
Thursday 11 th December	Year 9 Options Evening (including PIE)
Monday 15 th December	Year 7 Rewards Evening
Wednesday 17 th December	Winter Concert at Trinity Church
Thursday 18 th December	Year 11 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](#)