



Friday 5th June 2026

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

Welcome back. I hope you and your families had a restful half term. I am also very mindful that, for many families across the country, this has been a deeply difficult period as they come to terms with several recent tragic events.

In response, our assemblies both before and after half term have focused on water safety. Given our proximity to the River Thames, this is particularly important for our community. We have shared, and will continue to reinforce, the Water Safety Code with students, and will be marking Drowning Prevention Week (13–20 June) to further raise awareness. You can read more about this below.

Our heartfelt condolences go to all those affected by these tragedies. We ask that you support us by reinforcing with your child three simple but vital messages to help keep them safe:

- **Stop and think** – always assess the risks around water
- **Stay together** – never enter the water alone
- **Call 999 in an emergency** – and ask for the appropriate rescue service

By working together to reinforce these messages, we can help ensure that all our young people stay safe.

DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK 13–20 JUNE 2026
Raising awareness.
Saving lives.

RECENT TRAGEDIES
The recent death of a young person in the River Thames is a heartbreaking reminder of how quickly things can go wrong in open water.
Drowning can happen quickly and silently.

COLD WATER SHOCK
Sudden immersion in cold water can cause involuntary gasping, rapid breathing and loss of control – making it difficult to stay afloat or swim.
Learn more:
riss.org.uk/cold-water-shock-the-facts

FOLLOW THE WATER SAFETY CODE

- STOP AND THINK**
Take time to assess the risks.
- STAY TOGETHER**
Never swim alone. Look out for others.
- FLOAT AND CALL FOR HELP**
Float to live. Call for help.

This week has seen the launch of our “30 Days of Summer” challenge for Years 7–10. Each day, students are working to earn House Points by demonstrating our core expectations through the following daily challenges:

- Attending school every day
- Lining up promptly and being silent at the bell (am and pm)
- Walking to tutor in single file (am and pm)
- Using their planner consistently

Students are collectively working towards an ambitious target of 100,000 House Points over the first 30 days of the summer term. If this is achieved, it will be celebrated with a non-uniform day and additional rewards in the final week of term. They have made a fantastic start, and we are looking forward to seeing this momentum continue.

During the week, we were disappointed to have to cancel some planned outdoor events due to torrential rain, thunder and lightning. We know this was frustrating for students, and we hope to reschedule or provide alternative opportunities later in the term.

Despite this, it has been great to see a number of successful events take place. Orchestra Day at Larkmead School was a particular highlight, showcasing students’ musical talent, and Year 9 Futures Day provided valuable opportunities for students to explore their next steps. From health education and careers guidance to a visit to Abingdon & Witney College, students engaged with a wide range of experiences to support their future decision-making.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,



Alastair West
Headteacher

Outgrown Uniform Collection

Please bring in any outgrown good quality uniform that we can offer to the next Year 7’s due to start in September

We currently have plenty of shirts and trousers but would greatly appreciate donations of JMS white polo shirts, House PE shirts, and jumpers.

Thank you for your continued support it will help families just starting with JMS.

30 DAYS OF SUMMER

make the most of your summer



ATTEND



LINE UP &
SWITCH ON



FULLY
EQUIPPED

★ **100,000 POINTS** ★
TO WIN A NON-UNIFORM DAY

Whole School News

GCSE Psychology students have been busy bringing brain science to life by building their own models of neurons. Students explored how information travels in the brain by creating hands-on neuron models that showed the key structures and their functions.

Using craft materials, students designed and built representations of dendrites, axons, myelin sheaths and cell bodies, showing how each part contributes to communication in the nervous system.

This practical task supported deeper learning by encouraging students to visualise and explain how the brain sends messages. It also developed teamwork, creativity and scientific communication — all valuable skills for GCSE success.

Our Year 10 Health and Social Care students have been engaging in a hands-on practice creative and therapeutic activity session this week as part of their preparation for the next stage of their OCR Cambridge Nationals coursework.

This practical session supports their understanding of creative and therapeutic activities and helps them build the skills needed for their upcoming RO34 activity planning and delivery task.

This practice session of decorating cakes and biscuits prepares students for the next piece of assessed work, where they will:

- Select a suitable activity for a specific individual
- Justify their choice using PIES or wellbeing language
- Plan and deliver the activity safely and effectively
- Evaluate its impact on the individual's wellbeing

In A Level Business, our Year 12's have recently prepared and delivered presentations to the class on the topic of the Competitive Environment. Students were working in pairs and tasked with researching a business and analysing their competitiveness in the industry they are in. Businesses included Aston Martin, Hotel Chocolat, Costa Coffee and Davidson London.

As well as improving subject knowledge, the presentations enabled students to develop essential life skills. We spent time focusing on body language, intonation and presentation skills - all vital to having a successful job interview. After each presentation, students reflected on their own delivery, what went well and areas for improvement, whilst the audience were also tasked with providing constructive feedback.

The presentations were a success and helped prepare our students for the future.

Director of Social Science
Ms Tilley





John Mason School
OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | DETERMINATION

GCSE & A' LEVEL

Art, Graphics, 3D Design & Textiles



ART BEAT 2026

EXHIBITION

Open Viewings

Thursday 18th June 3.30pm-7pm
Saturday 20th June 9.30am-12.30pm

06 Gallery & Visual Arts Faculty



Be inspired by the creativity of young minds

Annual Art Beat Show 2026

Please join us to celebrate the achievements of our amazing Year 11 and 13 Visual Arts students at our annual Art-Beat show in the 06 Gallery and Art department.

This is an inspiring opportunity for KS3 students and parents to see examples of GCSE portfolios and the types of learning and skillsets that creative subjects offer, and to get excited about how far students can progress through deeper study at GCSE.

Besides celebrating their own achievements, for KS4 students, it is a great opportunity to view all three A level courses offered across the disciplines of Fine art, Textiles and Graphics, and see where some of our KS5 students are heading off to in the creative industries or Higher Education.

For KS5 students, it is a real celebration of their whole secondary school artistic career; friends and family are all invited to share in the close of one educational chapter and to help herald the start of a new one.

We are opening on a Saturday morning again this year as this has proved popular in the past to allow more people to see the work. It would be lovely to see as many members of our school and local community as possible.

Thank you for your support
Claire Pennington

National competition

A promotional poster for National Book Tokens. The background is bright yellow. On the left, large blue text reads 'HELP US WIN £1,000 FOR OUR SCHOOL'S LIBRARY'. Below this is the hashtag '#rebuildthelibrary' in white on an orange banner. In the center, there is a photograph of a smiling young girl with braids, wearing a school uniform. Surrounding her are colorful icons: a pink book, a stack of books, and a blue ribbon. In the top right corner, the 'NATIONAL BOOK tokens' logo is displayed in a dark blue box. Below it, the text 'In association with' is followed by the 'Read for Good' logo in a red cloud. At the bottom right, the text 'GO ALL IN.' is written in large white letters, with 'National Year of Reading 2026' written in smaller text below it.

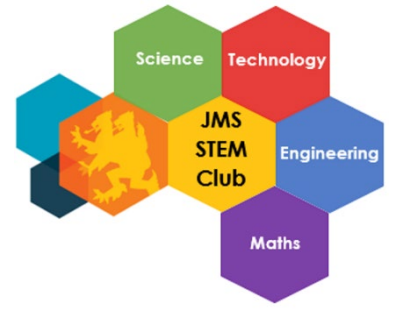
The annual prize draw is back to give five schools across the UK and Ireland the chance to **win £1,000/€1,000 in National Book Tokens** and fill their shelves with new and inspiring books.

Nominate the school using the [form link](#), and if yours is one of the five winning entries, you'll also **win a £100/€120 National Book Token to spend in your favourite bookshop.**

<https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools-prize#form>



STEM competition



Show your stripes!

What are the stripes?

- No words. No numbers. No graphs. Just a series of vertical-coloured bars, showing the progressive heating of our planet in a single, striking image.
- The climate stripes were created by Professor Ed Hawkins at the University of Reading in 2018.
- They show clearly and vividly how global average temperatures have risen over nearly two centuries.

How do they work?

- Each stripe represents the average temperature for a single year, relative to the average temperature over the period as a whole.
- Shades of blue indicate cooler-than-average years, while red shows years that were hotter than average.
- The stark band of deep red stripes on the right-hand side of the graphic show the rapid heating of our planet in recent decades.

Competition...

Design your own stripes for Oxford.

<https://showyourstripes.info/l/europe/unitedkingdom/oxford>

You can choose how you are going to design your stripes. This could be painting, embroidery, Lego, recycling, play-do, baking etc.

You need to hand in your stripes to Mrs Williams in C15 (make sure you have put your name and form on your work). The winning design will receive a prize and all entries receive house points towards the house cup.

The deadline for entry is Monday 15th June 2025 3pm.

Please join us for our summer concert.

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





John Mason School

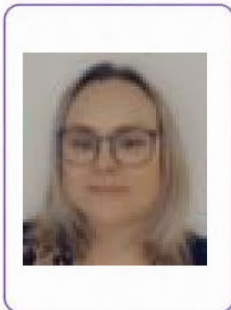
JOHN MASON SCHOOL HAS A

DOMESTIC ABUSE CHAMPION



At John Mason School, we believe everyone has the right to feel **safe, respected** and **supported**.

Our Domestic Abuse Champion



Name:

Mrs Ludlam

Role/Position:

Home School Link worker

Email:

cludlam@johnmason.school

Talk to our Champion in confidence.

Our Champion can:



Listen and offer a safe space



Help you understand your options



Connect you with support services



Respect your privacy and go at your pace



We're proud to be part of a network of schools and organisations working together to end domestic abuse and support young people.



DOMESTIC ABUSE CHAMPIONS NETWORK OXFORDSHIRE

Community • Collaboration • Change

For help and support scan the QR code or visit:

www.dacnoxfordshire.org.uk



Kindness. Respect. Safety. For everyone.

Community Event

In Big Green Week, join One Planet Abingdon At Wear it Out on Saturday June 13th in Abingdon's Guildhall.

It opens between 10am and 10.15am until 4pm. Inside the Guildhall, there will be a range of stalls and demonstrations, including a pre-loved clothes sale, upcycling and more - all the ways we can dress fabulously and more sustainably to help our planet (and save money)!

At 2pm there is a Fashion Show - tickets need to be purchased for this, and throughout the day there will be a raffle.

Come along and enjoy a fantastic day for free- details are on the flier, and here's the link for purchasing fashion show tickets: [ticket](#)

If younger children would like to take part in the procession, parents can follow this link. They will be needed from approximately 9.15am until 10.15am and during the short opening procession they will be wearing a rag tutu made from recycled fabrics. Further details are provided once you've signed up here: [Parental Consent](#)



Wear It Out!

**Abingdon Guildhall
Saturday
13th June**

**Discover new hacks
& skills at Abingdon's
Sustainable
Fashion Show**

**Get Creative &
Celebrate your own
personal style**

Get involved / get info
Want to model, do a workshop, submit designs or help with event? please email: abingdoncec@gmail.com.
IG: @1planetabingdon or pop into the One Planet Abingdon eco-cafe beneath the museum & talk to us.

Local Makers **SCAN ME**

**Repairing
Upcycling
Vintage
Retro**



oneplanetabingdon.org
buy your ticket or donate today

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK



OX14 Learning Partnership Weekly Update

Please find the weekly update for the OX14 LP update linked [here](#).

Website link with calendar is here: <https://www.ox14lp.org.uk/events/>

In case of any website issues, here are the key dates:

8th June - Partnership Champion Away Day at Cosener's House

9th June - Y9/10 Chemistry competition

17th June - Oracy CPD at Radley

Upcoming Important Dates:	
Thursday 18 th June 3.30-7pm & Saturday 20 th June 9.30-12.30pm	Art Beat Open Viewings
Thursday 16 th July	Summer Concert
Friday 17 th July	School closes at 1.10pm - 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](#)