

Friday 16th January 2026

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

It has been a pleasure to see students fully back into the rhythm of school during our first full week of lessons this term. Despite the wet and windy weather, their energy and enthusiasm have not wavered. It was also fantastic to welcome so many families into school last night for our first Parents' Evening of 2026. Teachers shared overwhelmingly positive feedback: students are arriving prepared, working hard, and making excellent progress. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces as families headed home, the year group should be incredibly proud of themselves.

Our refreshed approach to supporting good attendance is beginning to make a real difference for individual students. Thank you to all the families who have taken the time to speak with us over the phone, meet in school, or welcome a home visit. These conversations have helped us understand any barriers affecting punctuality or daily attendance, and together we have already reduced some of these obstacles. For several students, this has been genuinely transformational. We really value this partnership and look forward to continuing this work with you.

This week we have also received messages from some of our neighbours regarding parking during drop-off and pick-up times. We are fortunate that many students can travel to school on foot, by bike, or by bus, helping reduce congestion around the site. For families who do need to drive, we are grateful for your care in choosing safe and considerate places to stop, ensuring access for local residents and nearby businesses is respected.

Have a great weekend.



Alastair West
Headteacher

Curriculum News

Maths Focus

This term, Year 9 students have been developing their understanding of financial mathematics in lessons. They have explored key real-life concepts such as taxation, budgeting, and bank accounts, including calculating income tax and VAT, as well as gaining an introduction to mortgages and loans. These topics help students build essential life skills that will support them well beyond the classroom.



Later this month, students in Years 9, 10, and 11 will have the opportunity to take part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. This national competition encourages students to think creatively, tackle complex problems, and apply their mathematical knowledge in unfamiliar and engaging ways. It is an excellent opportunity for students to stretch their problem-solving skills and build confidence.

We also offer a lunchtime enrichment club, Maths Circle, for students who enjoy exploring mathematics beyond their regular lessons. One Year 12 student describes the club as: “Maths Circle is a fun and engaging club where we apply our maths and reasoning skills to challenging real-world and hypothetical problems. These problems are highly rewarding and satisfying to solve, whilst also encouraging us to think in new ways that are not normally be taught within lessons.”

They meet in B03 every Wednesday lunchtime, all years are welcome from Yr 7 through to Yr 13, please bring your lunch with you.

For any student worrying about their homework, or may have missed a lesson or two we also run a catch up club in B02 every Wednesday lunchtime where students can come and work on their homework or ask questions about anything they may be unsure of in Maths.

And finally, as Year 11 prepare for their next set of mocks at the end of this term, Maths Revision guides will be available to purchase on MCAS from Mon 19th January, with the deadline for orders Mon 26th January.

Ms Atkey
Director of Maths

Whole School News

OX14 Learning Partnership Weekly Update

Please find the weekly update for the OX14 LP linked [here](#) for circulation and the website link here: <https://www.ox14lp.org.uk/events/>



Gap Year Advice Evening

Abingdon School and St Helen and St Katharine are again co-hosting the annual **Gap Year Advice Evening Webinar** on **Tuesday, 10 February 2026, 7:00-8:15 on Zoom**. The webinar starts with a brief presentation on electing, planning, and managing a Gap Year. This is followed by a further presentation from Independent Gap Advice (<https://independentgapadvice.org/>) on travel abroad during a Gap Year. Then, a panel of school leavers from Abingdon School and SHSK will share their individual stories of what they did during their Gap Year and how they felt about the choices they made. This will be followed by a Q&A session for any of the speakers or panellists. Students and/or parents **MUST** register in advance for the webinar: bit.ly/GYAE2026

Gap Year Advice Evening Webinar

Tuesday, 10 February 2026, 7:00-8:15pm on Zoom

Parents welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please register in advance: bit.ly/GYAE2026



Co-hosted by:



ST HELEN &
ST KATHARINE



ABINGDON

For 6th Form Students
and Parents from:

Abingdon School
Fitzharrys
John Mason
Larkmead
Radley
St Helen and St Katharine

Presentations | Panel discussion with recent school leavers | Q&A



JOIN MILTON UNITED U13'S

Milton United FC U13's are looking to
add to their squad for the current
season.

If you are interested you can contact
Mike Pitchers on:

07746691812

mjpitchers1983@outlook.com

Uniform Sale

We will be holding another pre-loved uniform sale after the February half-term. If you have any unwanted branded items, please do send them in to help us prepare for the next event.

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!

Upcoming Important Dates:	
Monday 26 th January	HPV Vaccinations
Tuesday 3 rd February	Ski Trip PIE Evening
Tuesday 5 th - Friday 13 th February	Year 11 Pre-public exams
Week 16 th – 20 th February	Half Term
Wednesday 4 th March	Year 10 Art Pre-public Exam
Thursday 5 th March	Year 10 3D Pre-public Exam
Thursday 5 th March	Year 9 Parents Evening
Friday 6 th March	Year 10 Textiles Pre-public Exam

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](#)