John Mason School
OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | DETERMINATION

Friday 23rd October 2026

Parent Bulletin

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of our first term of the 2026-27 academic year, I would like to thank our students, families and staff for helping to make it such a positive and successful start to the year.

Over recent weeks, we have shared a number of updates celebrating the many strengths of our school community. From strong engagement in lessons and enrichment activities, to the positive culture we see around the site each day, it has been encouraging to reflect on just how much our students have achieved already this year. Our students continue to demonstrate our values of Opportunity, Respect and Determination, and there is much for all of us to be proud of.

As we look ahead to next term, I would encourage all families to read our Preparing for Term 2 guidance, which contains key information and reminders to help students make a successful return after half term. You can find the document here: Preparing for Term 2.

Alongside maintaining our high expectations around attendance, punctuality, equipment and readiness to learn, next term we will continue our work to ensure classrooms remain calm, focused and ambitious environments where every student can thrive. We are also looking forward to another busy programme of enrichment opportunities, performances, sporting events and house competitions.

One of the highlights of this term has undoubtedly been the fantastic enthusiasm shown by students in our House Cup competitions. Students have thrown themselves into a wide range of events including Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages, Year 7 Uno and House Quiz competitions, with excellent participation and good-natured rivalry throughout the term.

I am delighted to announce that Thames House has emerged as the overall leader at the end of Term 1, securing first place in the overall house competition standings. Congratulations to all members of Thames House on a fantastic achievement, and thank you to students from Thames, Ock and Stert for contributing to such an exciting competition. The House Cup remains very much all to play for as we move into Term 2, with another exciting programme of competitions already planned.



Finally, many of you will have noticed the dramatic change in weather this week. Whilst the rain has certainly brought a few umbrellas out of retirement, it has also provided some much-needed water for our school fields after an unusually dry start to the autumn. Rumour has it that conditions have improved sufficiently for the JMS Fishing Squad to begin exploring some exciting new fishing opportunities!



Gone Fishing - the JMS way.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support throughout what has been a highly successful first term. We wish all our students, families and staff a happy and restful half term. Please take care in the stormy weather, stay safe, and enjoy a well-deserved break before we return for another exciting and productive term at John Mason School.

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Alastair West
Headteacher

More clubs at school





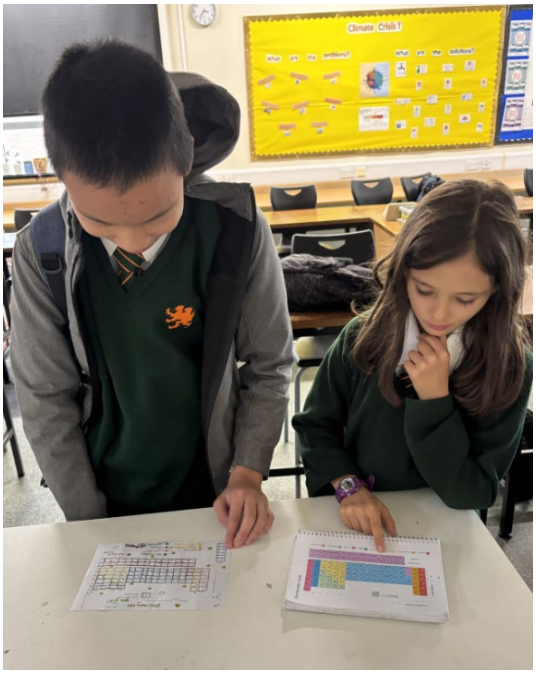
STEM Club

One of our Year 10 STEM Ambassadors, Edward, recently led an exciting STEM Club session, challenging students to put their chemistry knowledge to the test with a Periodic Table Scavenger Hunt!

Students worked in teams to search for chemical element symbols hidden within words on posters and signs around the school. When they spotted a symbol, they had to take a photograph as evidence before bringing it back to have the corresponding element ticked off their periodic table.

The challenge encouraged students to think creatively, work collaboratively and look at everyday words in a completely different way! There was plenty of enthusiasm as teams raced to discover as many elements as possible.

Congratulations to the winning team, who managed to tick off over 40 elements! A huge well done to Edward for organising and leading such an engaging session, helping students develop their chemistry knowledge while having fun.





COULD YOUR CHILD BE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM)?

MORE THAN JUST A FREE LUNCH!

SUPPORTING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES, EXPERIENCES AND BRIGHTER FUTURES

If you qualify for Free School Meals, your child can access lots of extra support to help them thrive at secondary school.

EQUIPMENT

INCLUDING PENCIL CASES AND CALCULATORS.



REVISION GUIDES AND RESOURCES

FOR STUDYING GCSE COURSES.



LOWER COST YEAR 11 EXTRAS

REDUCTION IN COST OF YEAR BOOK AND PROM TICKET.



UNIFORM SUPPORT

SUPPORT WITH UNIFORM AND SCHOOL FOOTWEAR.



TRIPS AND RESIDENTIALS

20% OFF EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL TRIPS AND RESIDENTIALS, HOME AND ABROAD.



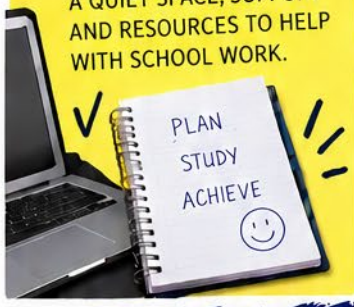
DUKE OF EDINBURGH

20% OFF DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPERIENCES AND SUPPORT WITH EQUIPMENT.



HOMEWORK CLUB

A QUIET SPACE, SUPPORT AND RESOURCES TO HELP WITH SCHOOL WORK.



BUS PASSES

SUPPORT WITH BUS PASSES.



FREE SCHOOL LUNCHES AND BREAKFASTS

DURING TERM TIME.



MUSICAL INSTRUMENT TUITION



SAME TALENT. BRIGHTER OPPORTUNITIES.

CHECK IF YOU QUALIFY TODAY!

It only takes a few minutes and could make a big difference.

SCAN HERE

Community News

The North Wall Arts Centre this October has a new half-term workshop running from 26th to the 27th of October. We'd love to bring some new faces to The North Wall to express their creative personalities and to make some new friends!

The workshop session is an opportunity for young people to come together and develop a range of different drama skills, build confidence and to have fun over a period of two days.



YouthLab is a welcoming and inclusive space for all young people to flourish and work alongside industry professionals.

We are thrilled to be able to offer a limited number of free places - which we call bursary places - on every workshop.
Our bursary places have supported families from low-income households, young carers interested in the arts, looked-after children in foster care or in the care of their local authority, and young people whose lives are disrupted who would benefit from accessing a youth group.
Our bursary places are awarded on a first come, first served basis, and are not means tested.

If you would like to apply for a bursary place or travel contributions towards any of our workshops or masterclasses, please complete our Online Bursary Form.
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact The North Wall Participation Team: participation@thenorthwall.com.



Applications to join the Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust Youth Action Group have just opened! The Youth Action Group is made up of a group of committed students aged 11-21, from across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire who want to contribute to decision-making in their local NHS Trust while building their skills and experience to support them with their future.

This is an extremely popular opportunity with spaces limited to 40.
We are recruiting for new members of the Youth Action Group, and your students can apply to:

- Share their voice & support decision-making within their local NHS Foundation Trust.
- Develop their confidence, teamworking, communication & leadership skills.
- Gain insight into how the Trust operates and potential career paths within Oxford Health.

For more information about this opportunity, please see the linked poster. Applications for the Youth Action Group are open now until 10 a.m. December the 1st, 2026. Please share the application form and poster below with your students and encourage them to apply!
https://bit.ly/OxfordHealthApplication2026



Cygnets half term art workshops next week in Abingdon.

10% off Half Term workshops with this discount code: QKGZCVV

Book here: https://bookings.cygnetsartschool.com/public/workshops/449/2818



ABINGDON MUSIC CENTRE
Music for Everyone
Charity No. 309181

AJO

(Abingdon Junior Orchestra)

For school aged children playing an orchestral instrument at Grade 1-3 standard.

Sessions will take place on:
Mondays 5:45-6:30pm
at Abingdon Music Centre,
Music Block, Larkmead School.

Class fees: £45 per term
(20% off for a younger sibling)

First session is FREE!

Please contact the office to book:

admin@abingdonmusic.org.uk
07934 364940

Abingdon Music Centre is looking to recruit new members for its Abingdon Junior Orchestra, which launched at the beginning of the autumn term. Pupils may be interested, particularly those learning orchestral instruments within the Grade 1–3 range. I have attached flyers which you could also include or display.

OX14 LP

Please find the OX14 LP Weekly update.The events calendar link is here: https://www.ox14lp.org.uk/events/

November

Peer Support Lead training November 17 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Training for existing PSLs

ChallengED Event – Y8

November 18 @ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

A collaborative team event for students in Y8 with a focus on STEM.

Please could we also draw your attention to the Atom Society Lecture series. These lectures are held locally and include talks from a range of Scientists and experts in their field. Membership is free for under 18s. We are also looking forward to the upcoming Atom festival with a series of interesting and enjoyable events. Find out more here

Upcoming Important Dates:	
Monday 26th - Friday 30th October	Half term
Monday 2nd November	Start of term 2
Monday 9th - Friday 13th November	Year 11 Pre-Public Exams

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