

Friday 25th September 2026

Parent Bulletin

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of another busy and successful week, I would like to thank students, staff and families for their continued support in helping to make John Mason School such a positive place to learn and work.

This week we were delighted to welcome prospective students and their families to our Open Evening. It is always one of the highlights of the school year and provides an opportunity to showcase not only our facilities and curriculum but also the values and culture that sit at the heart of our school. Our ambition is clear: we want John Mason School to be the school of choice for families in our community. We are proud of the progress we have made and remain committed to continually improving because our children deserve the very best.

What stood out most throughout the evening was our students. Reputation is built through the everyday actions of students and staff. The courtesy, confidence, kindness and maturity shown by our young people demonstrated exactly what it means to be part of the John Mason School community. Our students are our greatest ambassadors, both in school and beyond, and I would like to thank them for representing the school so positively.

September marked the introduction of our complete ban on mobile phones being brought into school, and I am pleased to report that the impact has been overwhelmingly positive. Whilst phones have never been permitted to be switched on during the school day, there is a significant difference between knowing a device is hidden in the bottom of a bag and knowing that it is either safely stored away before entering school or left at home altogether.

The change in atmosphere around the school has been noticeable. Social times are calmer, students are spending more time talking face-to-face, and there is a stronger sense of connection across our community. We are seeing young people engage more fully with one another, develop their communication skills and enjoy the simple pleasures of conversation, laughter and friendship without the distraction of technology.

We have dealt very seriously with the small number of occasions where students have attempted to bring phones into school. The severity of the consequences reflects our commitment to maintaining a genuinely phone-free environment. Consistency is important if we are to protect the many benefits that this change has already brought.

Most importantly, this approach helps us create an environment where students can focus on learning, build positive relationships and spend the school day free from many of the pressures and distractions associated with social media. There is no doubt in my mind that we are a happier, more vibrant and more focused community as a result. It is a change that we fully embrace and one that helps lay the foundations for a fantastic year ahead and an exceptional future for our school.

Thank you once again for your continued support. The success of this initiative relies on the partnership between home and school, and we are grateful for the backing we have received from families. Together, we are helping to make John Mason School an exceptional place to be for students, staff and the wider community.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al West'.

Alastair West
Headteacher

Sketch book club

Students from all years had fun last Thursday with the first 'Sketchbooking' lunch club taster session, run by New York artist Ariel Wright from the Creation Station.

The club is focused simply on creative fun and exploration of materials, so students had an open brief of colour and pattern, playing with paint sticks to draw and mark-make and then re-constructive collage effects to create imaginative freestyle works.

The atmosphere in the room was lovely, with friendly groups and cheery faces having fun with art over their lunchboxes!

Students can now sign up to join the club as a regular weekly session. contact arielsartcollective@gmail.com

We are keen to ensure that opportunities like this are accessible to all students. If you would like to discuss support with participation, please contact the school confidentially.



🇪🇸 **Fluent Spanish Speakers Wanted!** 🇪🇸

Could you help inspire the next generation of linguists?

Our MFL Department is looking for fluent Spanish speakers to support GCSE and A Level students with developing their speaking skills. This is a fantastic opportunity to share your language skills, build students' confidence, and make a real difference to their learning.

Whether you're a native speaker, bilingual, or simply fluent in Spanish, we'd love to hear from you. You may even know a friend, family member, or colleague who would be interested in volunteering.

To find out more or express an interest, please contact ABalaguer@johnmason.school.



Community News

Please find the OX14 LP Parent Letter attached and [linked here](#).

In it there is a link to the most recent impact report, website and an agreed parent question.

September

[OX14 Pride Social](#)

September 28 @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Please speak to your Partnership Champion Teacher to sign up

[Thinking Supper](#)

September 29 @ 4:30 pm -

6:00 pm St Helen and St

Katharine pm Abingdon

School

Upcoming Important Dates:	
Thursday 1st October	School Photos
Wednesday 7 th October - Tuesday 13 th October	Open Mornings, Booking required
Monday 26 th - Friday 30 th October	Half term
Monday 2 nd November	Start of term 2

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](#)