

Friday 2nd October 2026

Parent Bulletin

Dear Families,

One of the great strengths of school life is the range of opportunities available beyond the classroom. Whether through sport, outdoor adventure, leadership programmes or educational visits, these experiences help students develop confidence, resilience and friendships while creating memories that last long after their time at school. This week has provided another excellent example of just how much is happening across our school community.

Now that teams have had the opportunity to train and selections have been made, fixtures are beginning to appear thick and fast in the PE calendar.

This week, our Year 8 boys competed with determination and team spirit despite losing to a strong Chipping Norton side, while the Year 11 boys went one better on Thursday, securing an impressive 5-3 victory against Carterton. Both teams represented the school brilliantly and demonstrated the commitment and teamwork that make school sport so rewarding.

Meanwhile, girls from Years 8 and 10 produced fantastic performances at Wednesday evening's cross-country competition. Competing against both independent and state schools from across the county, our students achieved some outstanding individual and team results in a highly competitive field.

Many students in other year groups are already keen to know when their opportunity to compete will arrive, and with a busy programme of fixtures ahead there will be plenty more chances to get involved. My thanks go to our PE department for the considerable work involved in organising and running these opportunities, both home and away.

It has also been a very busy week for Year 10 as we launched the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award programme in preparation for expeditions in Summer 2027.

It was fantastic to see so many students interested in taking part and eager to begin their DofE journey. The enthusiasm shown by the year group reflects a real spirit of adventure and a willingness to challenge themselves through new experiences. We are fortunate to have a year group full of enthusiastic and ambitious young people who are keen to explore, learn and develop new skills beyond the classroom.

We look forward to seeing their progress over the coming months as they begin working towards their award.

The coming months promise to be just as busy for students in other year groups. Year 8 students will soon be hearing more about opportunities at Welsh Farm, while students in Years 11 and 12 can look forward to further information regarding Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh programmes. Alongside these, there are many other trips, visits and enrichment opportunities currently being planned.

A huge amount of work takes place behind the scenes to make these experiences possible, and I would like to thank the staff who continue to invest so much time and energy into creating opportunities for our students. The breadth of provision available is something of which we are incredibly proud, and there is plenty more news to come in the weeks ahead.

As always, what impresses me most is the enthusiasm with which our students embrace these opportunities. Whether representing the school in sport, preparing for a Duke of Edinburgh expedition or looking ahead to future adventures, they continue to demonstrate our values of Opportunity, Respect and Determination in everything they do.

Best wishes,

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

Alastair West
Headteacher

Girls' Cross Country Relays



Year 8 and Year 10 girls entered the cross-country relays this week at St Helens and Katharine. It was a high energy and fast relay involving each student to run 1 lap passing on the baton to their next teammate. Both teams demonstrated resilience as they came up against tough competition however they should be proud of their performance.

Year 8 (Cassie, Scout and Daisy)– placed 11th overall and 4th state school.

Year 10 (Jess, Violet and Jazmine)– placed 9th overall and 2nd state school.

Well done to all our runners.

Mrs Anna Marriott
Deputy Head of JMF6

Boys Football



The Y8 boys had their first football fixture of the season on Tuesday and despite demonstrating the schools' values and representing the school with pride, they lost to Chipping Norton School. Well done to all of you involved.

Mat Davies
Director of Physical Education

Invitation to the First JMA Meeting of the Academic Year

We would like to invite you to the first John Mason Association (JMA) meeting of this academic year.

This will be a great opportunity to meet our current JMA members, along with Alastair West, Headteacher. We are keen to bring together existing and prospective members to share ideas, discuss how the JMA can develop, and explore ways it can continue to support the school community.

The JMA has already made a wonderful contribution this year by funding some striking wall art for our Maths and English corridors, which you can see in the image below.



Date: Monday 12 October Time: 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Location: John Mason School

I hope you will be able to join us. We would be delighted to welcome you and hear your thoughts on the future of the JMA. If you are unable to attend in person but would still like to attend via zoom link, the details are below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://prospect-org-uk.zoom.us/j/82582132857?pwd=yfbHKAQtDBHq0tQlkbDhjVkk5r7aS.1>

Meeting ID: 825 8213 2857

Passcode: 302987



🇪🇸 **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.

JMA fundraiser

The John Mason Association in conjunction with the JMS Performing Arts Department are raising funds to upgrade the lighting system in the school hall. These lights will be used for a multitude of reasons such as Open Evenings, Concerts, Productions, Parent Information Evenings, Celebration Evenings, etc. The goal is to enhance performance quality, improve technical capabilities, and future-proof the lighting infrastructure through phased investment. The current lights in the hall are very old and condemned so cannot be used.

In total we are looking to raise £15,000. The plan is split into three phases, so each £5000 raised can contribute to usable upgrades to lights, infrastructure, and then control and more advanced effects. Donations through this portal allows us to collect Gift Aid if you are UK tax payer, so please tick the box and allow us to collect Gift Aid from your donation. Your donation is worth 25% more to us with Gift Aid. Any amount will be hugely appreciated.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/john-mason-school-stage-lighting-upgrades>.

Thank you.

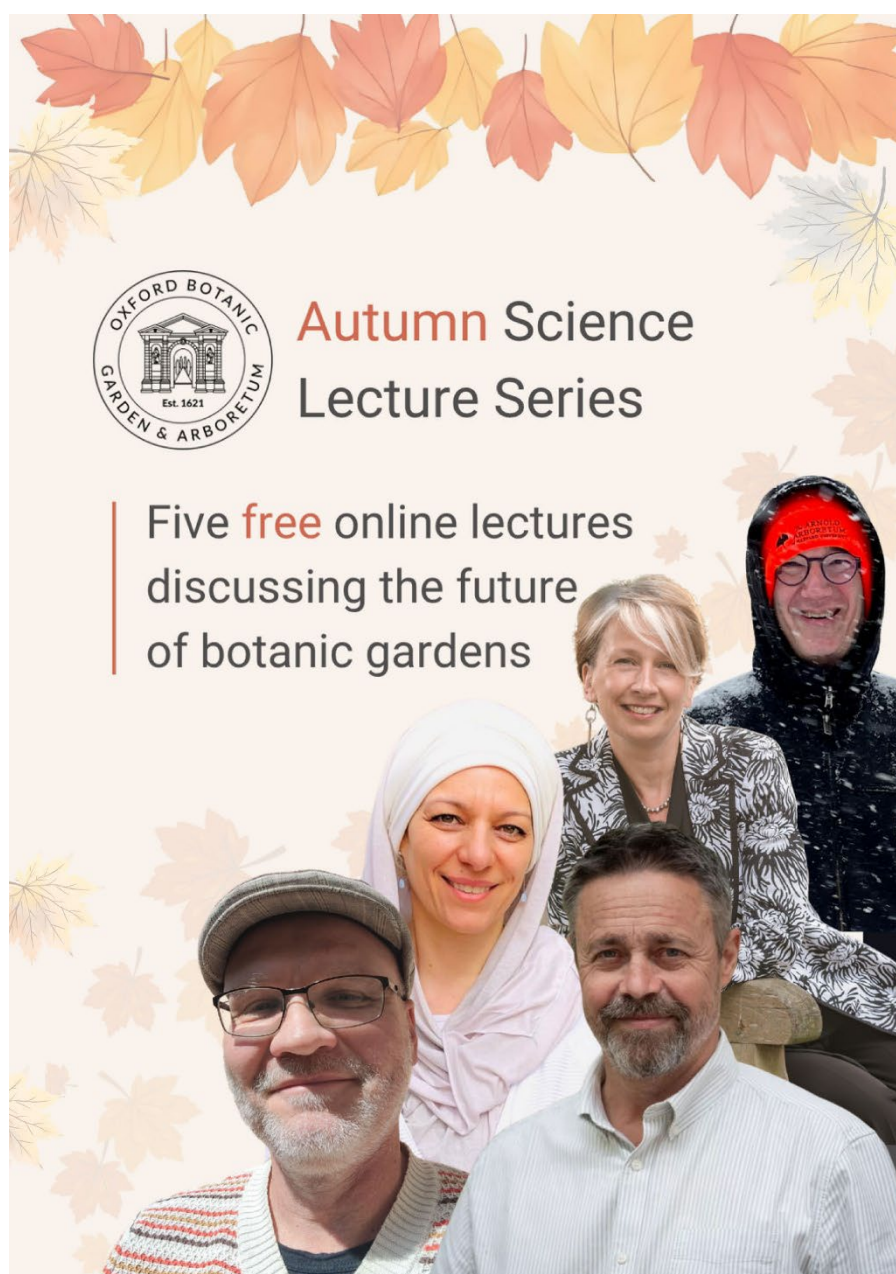


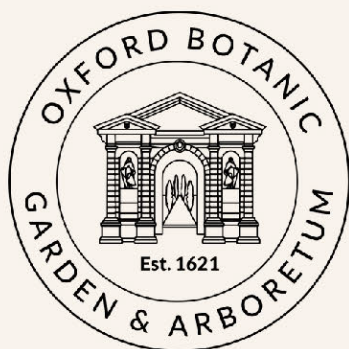
Community News

The Oxford Botanic Garden and Arboretum's **Autumn Science Lecture series**, which may be particularly valuable for KS4 and KS5 students with an interest in the natural world, plant science, conservation and the environment.

This year's theme is **The Future of Botanic Gardens**, with five leading international speakers exploring how botanic gardens can respond to some of the major environmental challenges facing the planet, from climate change and biodiversity loss to food security and the conservation of threatened plants.

The lectures offer students an opportunity to hear directly from scientists and conservation leaders working in these fields, and could provide useful enrichment for those studying Biology, Geography and Environmental Science, as well as students considering further study or careers relating to plants, ecology and conservation.





Autumn Science Lecture Series

2026 Theme: The Future of Botanic Gardens in a Changing World

15 October, 7pm — Professor William (Ned) Friedman
Director of Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University

22 October, 7pm — HRH Princess Basma bint Ali
Founder of the Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan

5 November, 7pm — Professor Max Weigend
Director of Bonn Botanic Garden

19 November, 7pm — Dr Paul Smith CMG FLS
Former Secretary General of Botanic Gardens Conservation
International (BGCI)

3 December, 7pm — Sara Blair-Manning
Chief Executive of Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Reserve your free space using the
website below, or scan the QR
code:

www.obga.ox.ac.uk/whats-on



Your
voice.
Your
views

£15 +



Join us for

pizza & politics

**Thursday 29 October | Oxford |
5.30pm to 8.30pm**

**Are you aged 11–18, and live or go to
school in Oxfordshire?**

Join us in central Oxford for a Pizza & Politics event
about **Votes at 16**:

- Explore how politics affects your life
- Put your questions to politicians and decision-makers
- Find out what Votes at 16 could mean for you.

You'll get to chat directly with politicians, experts and
senior leaders, share your views, enjoy free pizza – and
receive £15 as a thank you for taking part.

Let's
talk

Politics

Scan for
more info



Spaces are limited, so sign up now!

letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/pizza-and-politics-votes-at-16

OX14 LP

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

October

[Business Language Challenge](#)

October 13 @ 9:00 am - 3:30 pm Abingdon School

Y10/11 Linguists, ask your language teacher about taking part

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:	
Wednesday 7 th October - Tuesday 13 th October	Open Mornings, Booking required by email
Monday 12 th October	JMA Meeting, all welcome
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](#)