

Friday 23rd February 2024

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

After a well-deserved rest over half term, it has been good to see students back to working hard, whether it be starting their last preparations for external exams or putting the finishing touches to what promises to be an unmissable performance of Lord of the Flies.

Whilst we are seeing glimpses of spring, we are still experiencing very changeable weather so please ensure you send students in with a proper outdoor coat to keep them dry as they move between lessons and at break and lunch times.

Parent/carer survey

Thank you all for your responses so far. If you haven't completed the parent/carer survey already then please do so [here](#). Your responses are extremely valuable to us in helping to understand what is working at JMS and what can be improved.

UK Maths Trust Intermediate Maths Challenge

The UK Maths Trust intermediate maths challenge is a national maths competition and the highest performing maths students in the country are entered. Of these, the top 8% get gold certificates, the next 16% get silver and the next 25% get bronze. Those with gold certificates have performed in the top 2.5%, those with silver in the top 5% and those with bronze in the top 15% nationally. 18 year 11 students, 24 year 10 students, 11 year 9 students achieved either gold, silver or bronze and letters of congratulations will be sent home letting their parents and carers know about their fantastic achievements.

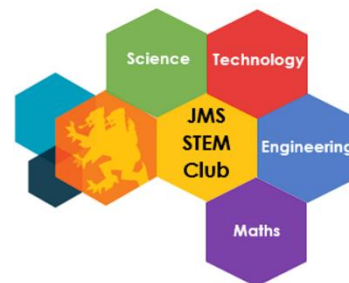
9 of these students qualified for a European follow-up competition in March which means they are in the top 8,000 in the country.

STEM Club



A lot has been going on in STEM club over the past few weeks.

They discovered that mixing calcium chloride and water together creates an exothermic reaction, this means it releases heat to the surroundings. They carried out an investigation to decide the optimum amount of calcium chloride for the warmest hand warmers. Once they had decided on amounts, they made and tested their hand warmers.



STEM Club were also lucky to receive a visit from Enara Bio who work in cancer immunotherapy. They explained the current research the company is doing in cancer immunotherapy and the equipment they use. The students carried out three investigations, DNA extraction, molecule structure identification and cancer tumour classification. They used different techniques and equipment such as computer analysis.

The club really enjoyed meeting the scientists and were really inspired. They want to say a big thank you to the team for the amazing investigations and gifts from the company.



If you are in year 7 or 8 and are interested in anything STEM related, then please come along to our STEM club that runs every Wednesday 3:10-4:10pm S4. If you are in year 9 or 10 and are interested in leading STEM then please speak to Mrs Williams about helping with the club.

Tickets for our school production are still available to purchase on MCAS.



Important Dates

6-8th March School Production – Lord of the Flies
14th March Year 7 Parents' Evening

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Al West'.

Alastair West
Headteacher
John Mason School