

Friday 15th March 2024

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

We have so much to celebrate at this time of year with students' hard work coming to fruition all across the curriculum. So much, in fact that I've had to save some messages for next week.

The 'Lord of the Flies production' was a monumental success. Both casts put together performances with such professionalism and energy. This special performance comes just as Mr Harrison moves from teaching Drama to another of his passions, teaching Graphics, and I know that he was extremely proud of every student involved. You can read his review on the next page.

Students have also been taking an opportunity to put the skills and techniques they have learnt so far this year in to action. The '06 Gallery' provides an opportunity to feast your eyes on the diverse range of work they have produced, and I've shared some of our Year 9 work with you on page 4.

It was lovely to see Year 7s bringing their families into school for their first John Mason Parents' Evening. For many of you this was an opportunity to put faces to names and get to know your teachers from a wide variety of subjects. It is never a surprise to see a few nerves on students faces as they lead parents into the room, but it was wonderful so see the smiles broaden across their faces throughout the evening as their hard work and achievements were shared. It was clear to see that year 7 are making their parents proud. Well done to all Year 7 students for a great start to your John Mason career!

With many fixtures being played at home and away there are lots of updates from the PE department. I'll share these with you next week so for now it is a pleasure to hand over to Mr Harrison to share his review of Lord of the Flies.

LORD OF THE FLIES

John Mason School's adaptation of Lord of the Flies was a daring and stunning performance which was utterly compelling throughout!



After seven months of preparation, production season has now drawn to a close after three nights of awesome performances by the cast and crew. The final week of shows illustrated a modern interpretation of the classic novel and featured two full casts who were excited to represent the performing arts faculty and their school.

Mr Harrison (Head of Drama) said that ***“This was a truly unique production that showcased the hard work and dedication of the cast and crew. Musicals are great, but there are many other types of shows worth seeing that demonstrate impactful stagecraft and performance skills. This particular stage adaptation gave us so many challenges and problems to solve, the dialogue between the characters is very fast and the locations are difficult to stage too. But in the end, I am extremely proud of what we were able to achieve together as a team and being able to realise the vision that I had for the show”***



Thank you for the fantastic feedback from the audiences that came to support the event.

“Having read the book I wondered how a stage production could work.

It certainly did and the acting, lighting, music, make up and costumes were superb. The scenery was great using recycled material and the pig’s head was brilliant.

Having a confident signer, as a new initiative, added to making it a professional production. It was a refreshing change to have an inclusive drama.

Thank you for all the time and effort.”



“What a fantastic performance last night! We were blown away by the quality of the whole performance, from lighting and technical support through to direction, set design, acting, and the impressive signing. This must have been a tremendous amount of work but it has definitely paid off from where we were sitting. Congratulations to you all!”



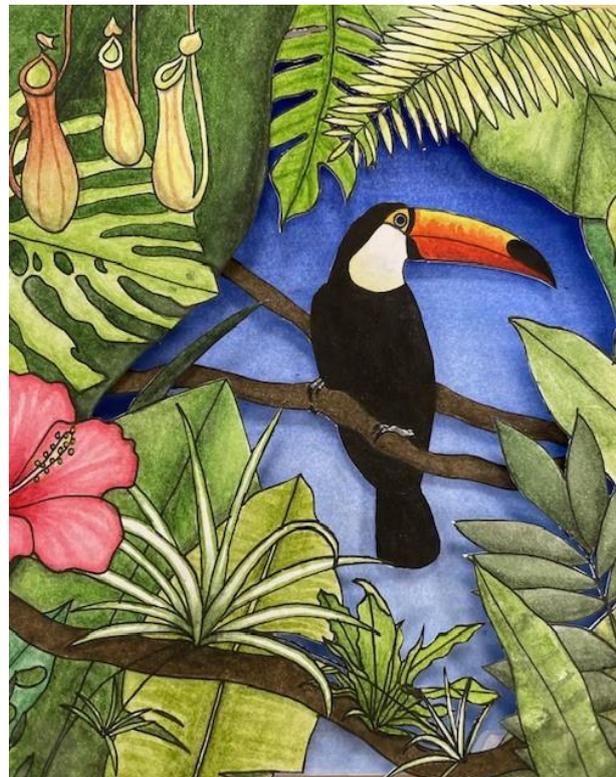
Drama club will return again after the Easter break where existing members and new students can sign up to take part in skills workshops, games, and mini showcases as part of our ongoing extracurricular offer within the faculty.

Year 9 Art Bytes

Congratulations to all our year 9 students who worked super hard to finish their Jungle artworks ready for the competition deadline. We had a hard job to select just 30 of the many accomplished illustrations to upload, but we are pleased to announce that the following students have had their creations put forward to the judging process: Freddy, Henry, Henry, Abel, Max, Lucy, Holly, Aakanksha, Yasmine, Olivia, Lucy, Rebecca, Eva, Dylan, Joana, Rona, Evie, Belle, Tinaye, Joseph, Catherine, Ava, Phoebe, Charlie, Seth, Miya, Nia, Penelope, Jake and Cain.

The next stage is for the professional team of judges to select the top 3 artworks from each participating school, which will then be opened up to a public vote, and the winner from that will continue on to regional finals.

Watch this space!



Futures Fair



The OX14 Learning Partnership are looking forward to welcoming students to the upcoming Futures Fair on April 23rd. It is a great opportunity for current year 12s and year 11 and 13 students and parents to meet representatives from a range of universities. More information and booking is via the website [linked here.](#)

 Free Webinar

Neurodiversity & Anxiety: Exam Preparation



17.04.2024



10am

Register your place at witherslackgroup.co.uk/exam-preparation

TURTLE
KEYARTS



"It was amazing
and I didn't want
it to end!"

Aaron
Turtle Opera participant
2022

JOIN OUR FREE MUSIC & DRAMA PROJECT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

Nine three hour workshops with a professional composer and director, creating your own stories and music for an informal performance. A specialist team from Turtle Key Arts will support the group, enabling fun and friendships!



FOR **11 TO 15** YEAR OLDS



Frequency **WEEKLY**
Day **SATURDAY**
Dates **20 April - 15 June**



Time **2:00pm til 5:00pm**



Ogston Music School
24A South Parade
Oxford OX2 7JN

APPLY NOW! Free
Limited spaces available

COMPLETE
THE STEPS
TO JOIN.



Scan the **QR code** to reach
the registration page.

Submit the **online form** and
we'll send you a reply.

Call us on **020 8964 5060**

Email ceri@turtlekeyarts.org.uk

Important Dates

28th March at 1.10pm School breaks for Easter
15th April Term starts

Yours sincerely



Alastair West
Headteacher
John Mason School



Caretaker Vacancy

John Mason School is looking to appoint an experienced Caretaker. We are looking for a candidate with significant experience of working as a site support and/or a trade background with experience of project management.

Please see

<https://www.johnmason.oxon.sch.uk/joining-us/vacancies/> for more details.



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