

Friday 3rd November 2023

Parent Bulletin

Dear families

I hope you've enjoyed a good half term. We have seen an explosion in the number of positive behaviour points being collected by students. This is a testament to their tenacity and resilience. They are working hard in lessons and being fantastic ambassadors in the community. At the end of the first term, we celebrated with students who had received particularly high numbers of positive points and it was a privilege to be awarding Year 11 students certificates to recognise the contribution they make day in, day out.



The start of this new term has also been busy and exciting. I have met each year group to share plans for reviewing our school values. You will recognise the phrase 'Excellence Through Creativity' as summing up what the community of 2010 believed John Mason School meant to them. This sits alongside our values:

- Passionate about Learning.
- Proud of our Creativity.
- Keen to Inspire.
- Determined to be the best we can be.
- Valuing ourselves and each other.

In 13 years our community has changed significantly and this has given us an opportunity to think again about what JMS means to us. Throughout this term we will be running a number of surveys, consultations and discussions with students, families, School Governors and members of staff. We aim to celebrate everything our stakeholders value in JMS but also identify what we all share both in recognition for what JMS already gives us but also our aspirations for how we want John Mason School to grow over time. Please look out for opportunities to contribute your own views over the next few weeks. We look forward to hearing from you all.

School Health Nurse

[Please click here to find the latest SHN newsletter which is now in SWAY format.](#)

We are grateful to Sarah Shaw for her work as School Health Nurse at John Mason school Her contact details are sarah.shaw@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk or you can call/text 07500 227807.

You will also find further information regarding the services available from Sarah on the school website here: [Stay Safe Feel Well](#)

John Mason Association Family Quiz Night



We would be delighted to see as many of you, your children and relatives as possible at the annual Family Quiz Night on Friday 17th November.

Please find details here: [What's On](#) and get revising!

Archery Club

As part of or our membership to the OX14 Learning Partnership students have an opportunity to join an Archery Club. Please find more details here: [Archery Registration Form](#)



STEM Club

STEM Club have been busy the last two weeks, they had a visitor last week from the University of Oxford Arboretum. The students learnt how to identify different seeds and got the chance to handle seeds from the UK and other countries. This week they were making Alka-Seltzer rockets to celebrate world space week and sparklers to celebrate bonfire night. Next week they are looking forward to our visitor from Alpine F1. There are still a few places left so please come join us.

Poppy Appeal



If students would like a poppy, we have poppies available in return for a donation in the reception area of school.

Booking extracurricular activities

From 13th November, we are trialling a new system for booking your child's extracurricular activities in school. You will be able to book your child's place via your My Child at School app in the Clubs section on the menu bar. This will be for both lunchtime and after school clubs.

We ask that if your child is an existing member of a club that you still enrol them to ensure their place is secure. Spaces for each club are limited so we request you only enrol your child in activities they will attend.

The Berlin Trip!

I've been sent this message from Miss Mannion following the MFL department trip:

What an amazing trip with 38 amazing year 11 pupils. We could not have asked to have travelled with a more curious, lovely group of ambassadors from JMS. We certainly made the most of everyday and it was lovely to see so many of them use their German. We left JMS at 2am on Friday, arriving in Berlin at 10.30am. We headed by S-Bahn from the airport into the city centre and left again for the airport on Monday at 4pm.

In between we experienced so much of Berlin's cultural past starting with WW2 and a visit to Sachsenhausen concentration camp, this was a chilling experience for the pupils and we followed this up with visits to the Holocaust memorial, the memorial church and the Jewish Museum learning about how Germany has come to terms with its past.

We also took some time to learn about the Cold War era, visiting the Eastside Gallery, learning about the 'Ampelmann' and Checkpoint Charlie. We also enjoyed the sights that Berlin had to offer visiting the Reichstag, Potsdamerplatz, Alexanderplatz, the TV Tower, the Olympic Stadium, the Brandenburg Gate as well as taking a boat trip along the Spree capturing views of Berlin's Museum Island, the Cathedral and so much more. We even managed to fit in some shopping, face masks, pool and lots of card games! At the Olympic stadium Mr Conway also bumped into a former JMS pupil he taught History to, who is now a teacher and leading his own trips to Berlin.

Looking forward to Berlin 2024!

Follow @JMSGEMAN on X (formerly Twitter) to see a short video and other pictures from the trip.

It has been great to hear from our students how much they enjoyed this experience and I'd like to thank all staff involved for the time they have given up to make this opportunity happen.

Clive Rackham

It is with great sadness that we learned that Clive Rackham who taught at John Mason School for over 20 years until retiring in 2007 has passed away. He was Head of Design Tech and ICT and then Assistant Headteacher and in both roles he brought huge passion for his subject and its importance in children's futures. He was responsible for securing significant funding for equipment and resources that form the basis of some of the incredible DT facilities our students still benefit from today, including the bid for specialist status and construction of our art gallery. A fierce advocate of the power of technology in education, he also drove change in the school's investment in these areas and ensured that, for the time, John Mason was at the vanguard of technological innovation. Our strong Computing department and Geek Club continue to build on that legacy today. A stern disciplinarian with a huge commitment to teaching and to John Mason School, Clive is well remembered by many former students, including parents and grandparents of our current cohort. He is one of the teachers we are most commonly asked about at open events and reunions! Our thoughts and best wishes are with his family at this time.

Important Dates

9th November – Key Worker Meetings

9th November – Year 7 Parents' Information Evening

17th November – JMA Family Quiz

23rd November – JMF6 Open Evening (at Fitzharrys School)

Yours sincerely



Alastair West
Headteacher
John Mason School