

John Mason School

Parents' Forum

Your voice, your school



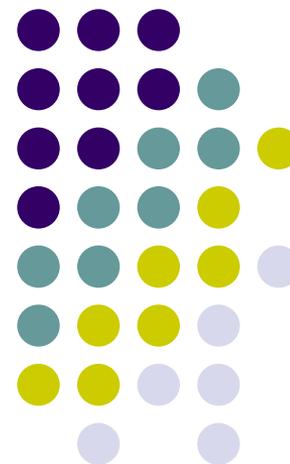
Tuesday 29th September 2015, 6.30pm in the LRC

This forum's focus:

Supporting and encouraging our children to become independent learners in all aspects of life

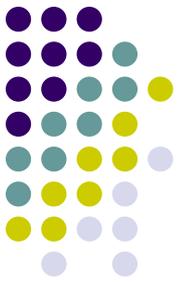
The session will be led by Mrs Sarah Brinkley, Headteacher. There will be a short presentation about how we can support and encourage our children to become independent and resilient in all aspects of life, including learning, whilst protecting them and keeping them safe. The second part of the forum will be a question and answer session.

We would like to hear your views.
Your child, your school, your voice.
Refreshments will be provided.



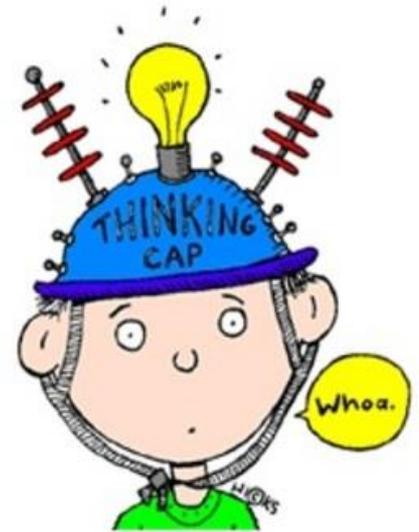
Please let us know you are coming: Events@johnmason.oxon.sch.uk Tel: 01235 524664

What do we mean by independence?



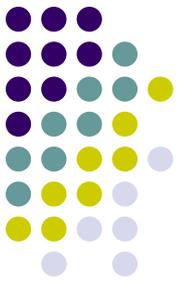
At home:

At school:

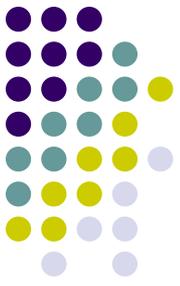


What does an independent learner look like in school?

- Doesn't stay stuck
- Uses resources available to him/her
- Ask questions of their work
- Organised
- Sees failure as part of a learning journey
- Understand or are curious about the process of learning (metacognition)
- Have creative approaches to problems
- Discuss their learning with their peers
- Enjoys a challenge
- Recognise they can't do it....

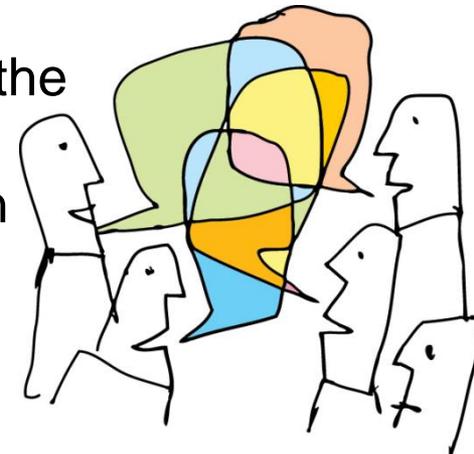


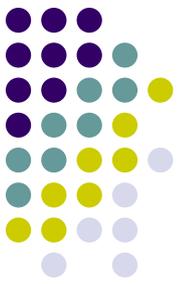
YET



Scenario:

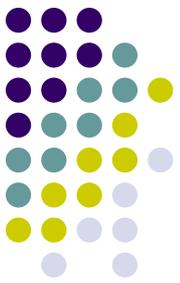
- 1) Your child comes home with a 6 week project from history, to be completed independently: How do you help?
 - 2) Your child wants to play out at the park after school until 7.30pm – ‘that’s when everyone else is.’ How do you respond?
 - 3) Your child has a GCSE chemistry exam paper to sit at home, but they can’t get started; what do you do?
 - 4) Your child wants to take alcohol to a party, they are 15, and there will be alcohol at the party – how do you respond?
 - 4) Your 11 year old child wants a Facebook account; what do you do?
 - 5) Your child has English homework and it is a subject they do not enjoy. They have been struggling in English for some time; how do you help?
 - 6) Your child is in the sixth form and has a part time job, is learning to drive and their grades are starting to slip; what do you do?
- In your groups – discuss the scenarios and how you might handle the situation





Who can help?

- **The Hub:** Abingdon Early Intervention Hub is really the main Intervention (The Net on Stratton Way – Telephone 01865 328400) The Hub can offer advice, support, signpost various interventions: Parenting courses, drug and alcohol support, careers, young carers etc.
- **Children Centres** can also support with some of the above.
- **Doctors** can often offer advice and can help with self harm, addictions etc. They can make referrals to PCAMHS/CAMHS for mental health difficulties, eating disorders and anxiety.
- **Safer Schools Police officer** PC Mike Dix (tel: 07967 159469) advice on a large variety of behaviours – Sexting, cyber-bullying, ant-social behaviour etc.
- **School Health Nurse**
- **School Counsellor**

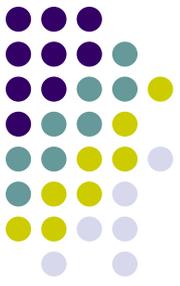


Over to you:

- What is the current staffing situation at John Mason - are all subjects now covered?
- What difference does uniform have on education? As long as the pupil is presentable and tidy and respectable, why the change?
- Will there be an opportunity to meet new form tutors this term?



Over to you:



- Why do we have to purchase text books for AS/A2 for some courses and not others ? e.g. Biology and Geography. I am concerned that some students may not be able to afford £25 + each time
- Why are the Sixth Form not allowed to organise a Christmas Ball this year when other schools in the Consortium are doing so?
- How is the school ensuring that there is consistency regarding the quality of teaching in the classroom? How can parents be reassured that students will receive excellent teaching in all subjects at A2?

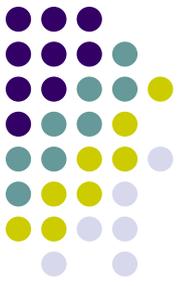


Over to you:

- How are the sets (top, middle, low) determined for maths and English and is there any opportunity for students to be moved into higher sets during the year?
- What is John Mason's Homework Policy? How much homework should a student receive per subject, per week?

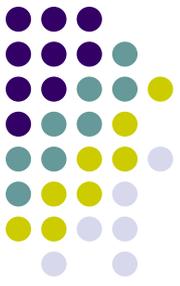


Over to you:



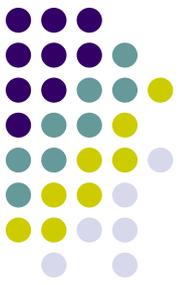
- In Year 8 the children select subjects and are then told which subjects they have on return to Year 9. I understand that there is a shortage of space in DT (now called 3D design I believe). My son has therefore been given Art. Have contacted year head and been told there were not enough spaces but he could move to Music. My son is unfortunately not academic and would like to pursue a career in something manual - possibly engineering or an apprenticeship in carpentry or plumbing. He would like to do a GCSE in DT to prepare him for this but cannot do this subject this year. Obviously as parents we are not at all happy that he will instead be doing Art or Music. Are there any plans to review this in the immediate future?

Over to you:



- Which school policies and procedures apply in the 6th Form?
- Is there any written guidance for students and parents in the 6th form as regards
 - a) what is expected of students eg. duties, enrichment, volunteering etc.
 - b) what equipment is provided and what has to be supplied by students eg. text books, stationery
 - c) how parents can best support the students eg. timetable for exams, work required during school holidays, university applications etc
- Are 6th formers registered to use the school diner and LRC?

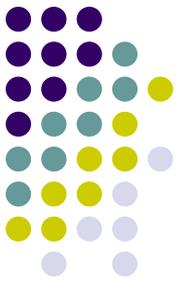




Over to you:

- What can a student do if their learning (and enjoyment of) a class is severely disrupted by other students?
- Is there a new evaluation system at John Mason? In the past, students would be awarded bronze, silver or gold certificates depending on how many ‘Outstandings’ they achieved in their subjects.





Over to you:

- What is the best way to contact an individual member of staff at the school?
- When I ask a question, can I be assured that my child will not have attention drawn to them in front of their peers because of this?

