



Your Child, Your School, Your Voice Heads Up!

Dear Parents and Carers

This week's Heads Up is for your children – please ask them to read it!

Dear Students

I wanted to write and thank you for the pride and courtesy you have shown to our visitors this week. As you know, Ofsted inspections are tricky beasts; in our case, a team of 7 with smart suits and sharp eyes.

All of our visitors spoke to students; some in groups, others in the playground, corridors and classrooms. Each and every one of you spoke confidently about your school, about how behaviour and learning have improved and how you are encouraged to be the best version of yourself you can possibly be. Your passion for learning, love of our Welsh Farm and enthusiasm for taking part in the life of the school were highlights for the team, as well as observing your teamwork and growing independence.

I was absolutely moved by your team spirit; you always act with kindness and respect for one another, but this week there was more. You walked a little taller, smiled a little wider and it was a pleasure to see.

Thank you for your absolute pride and faith in your teachers; we believe in you as much as you believe in us – together TeamJMS is growing a fantastic place to learn. I hope you enjoyed your non-uniform day today – it was a small gesture of thanks from me to you.

Have a great weekend – and see you on Monday.

Your Proud Headteacher

Mrs. Brinkley

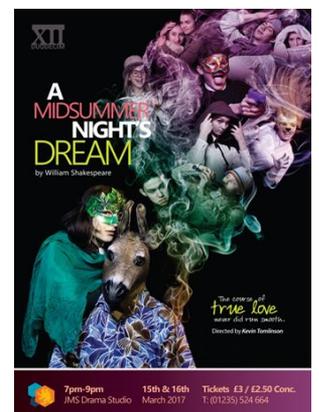
Teaching & Learning:

Focus on Performing Arts Faculty

Magic, Love and Dreams at JMS

Something magical is happening at JMS this term! And you will get a chance to see it - if you are one of the lucky ones - 15 and 16 March (7pm-9pm).

My twelve, highly talented Year 11 Drama students are performing a new, edited version of Shakespeare's classic comedy A Midsummer Night's Dream, set in a modern Health and Wellbeing Centre; where visitors are encouraged to relax, unwind and dream fantastic dreams.



The show is on for 2 nights only in the Drama Studio Theatre and only 35 lucky people will get to see it each night (70 people in total). Tickets are on sale from today and information on how to book is at the end of this article.

The students have been working on the play since September and it is proving a joy to direct them. Why? Because - put simply - these 12 students are some of the most talented and hardworking students I have ever taught in my 25 years of teaching drama. That is some statement, I know. But the lucky 70 people who will get to see the show in March, will understand what I mean when they see this production in all its sumptuous glory.



All 12 actors have charisma and speak the lines beautifully, but they have also worked brilliantly as a team to invent fantastic stage action and imagery to bring the play to life visually and emotionally; with each scene being captivating, funny, and suspenseful or touching. Most importantly of all, they are bringing the 32 characters to life in such creative and captivating ways. We have a passionate, Polish Titania! A cheeky, water pistol wielding Puck! A silver masked, intimidating Oberon! And the Mechanicals have been transformed into the Wedding Workers at the wedding of Duke Theseus and Hippolyta (Bottom is now a wedding dress maker; Snout has become Sally Sassoon the hairdresser; Flute is a florist; Starveling has become Tom Mabyelline the make-up artist and Quince is a wedding planner). We've also decided to set the beginning of our production in a Health and Wellbeing Centre, so the audience are met at the doors and led to their seats by our Welcoming Staff, whilst relaxing music is played in the background. The staff of this centre then proceeds to offer each



audience member a drink and nibbles, to help them relax and unwind. Following this, the audience are asked to imagine that they are falling asleep and the play then becomes the dream that they all collectively have; with the staff off the Centre now appearing in the dream, as the characters in the story (a device we have borrowed from The Wizard of Oz).



The play itself has been edited down to a fast paced, highly enjoyable, 1 hour and 55 minutes (which includes the interval); without losing any of the plays charm or famous lines, such as:

- "the course of true love, never did run smooth"
- "I'll met, by moonlight, proud Titania!" and...
- "Fie, fie, you counterfeit, you puppet, you!"

If you get a chance to buy one of the 70 tickets, do so ASAP; before the show sells out! I promise you, it will be one of the best £3 you have ever spent. This is going to be a production that gives great joy to all that see it and will live long in the memory. To buy a

ticket to see this production, simply phone JMS on 01235 524664 and ask for Student Services. Or email Kirsty Hutt on: khut0353@johnmason.oxon.sch.uk

Tickets are £3 (£2.50 for under 16s). This includes a free interval drink and popcorn. All the money from the ticket sales goes toward the cost of the set, props and costumes. We look forward to seeing you at the show

Cast list: Kerry Underwood, Rebecca Smith, Rosie Shaw-Moore, Ruth Pigott, Justyna Piekarz, Jack O'Keefe, Isobel Norman, Alex McNeil, Thea Marsh, Hagen Maddock, Aidan Bowen, Rachel Akkouche



Kevin Tomlinson, Drama Teacher at JMS

Trip to Birmingham 26th January 2017

We took 15 of some of our most promising musicians on a trip up to Birmingham designed to inspire and help them to aspire. Most of the day was spent at the Birmingham Conservatoire, one of the country's best music colleges; attending their open day. Once we'd been welcomed by the conservatoire's principal, Julian Lloyd Webber, the students chose which workshops and talks to attend – some listening to the college's string groups, others enjoying the volume and excitement exuded by the resident percussion ensemble. We were taken round the music technology suites and got a chance to chat with a JMS alumni, who is now there studying recorder.



At the end of the open day we had some time free so the students were allowed some time to explore the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.



After a pizza and some time to stretch their legs around the wonderful canal area of Birmingham's Brindley Place we then settled down in the Symphony Hall to enjoy the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra play Rimsky-Korsakov's Sheherazade, followed by Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No3, and then his Romeo and Juliet (made famous as the music to the Apprentice!)

A long day, but an inspiring one.

Ms R Williams, Director of PA Faculty

JMS School Council

The JMA and School Council collaborated on a very successful Bingo Night in December raising £426 which the JMA Committee then matched to help fund the new indoor seating for students to use during break and lunchtimes. James and Mrs Fairgrieve reported back to the Committee the Council's ideas for future fundraising events."

James Fry (Y7) with Mrs O Fairgrieve representing the JMS School Council collecting a cheque for £852 from the JMA Chair Jane Enticott.



Immunisations – Year 9 & 11

As part of the UK immunisation schedule all young people in Year 9 are due a booster dose of diphtheria, tetanus and polio (TdP – 1 injection) and an additional dose of Meningitis ACWY. They should receive a second MMR if they have not already received two. We are currently offering those children in Year 11 an additional dose of Men ACWY that only received a Men C booster when in Year 9.

Whilst the diseases diphtheria, tetanus and polio are rare the consequences of contracting one of these diseases can be life changing and even result in death. Meningitis causes swelling of the brain and septicaemia (blood poisoning) which can result loss of limbs and again death. Since autumn 2015 the Men ACWY vaccine has been given to teenagers in Year 9 in place of the Men C booster vaccine in response to an increase in cases of Men W in the UK. Vaccination does work - since the Men ACWY programme started, there has not been a case of MenA, MenC, MenW or MenY disease in a vaccinated teenager in the UK.

It is therefore important that your young person receives their due booster doses on the 23rd (Yr11) and 28th February (Yr9). Please sign and return your young person's consent form as soon as possible, if this has been misplaced an electronic version can be requested from Student Services.

Many Thanks – Sara Skidmore. (School Health Nurse, John Mason School)

GCSE Year 11 Revision Sessions

Please be reminded that revision sessions will be running over the half term holiday. Your child should have received a letter requesting their attendance at the relevant sessions.

Schedule for GCSE Year 11 Revision Sessions: 2017

| Sessions (10-3pm) | Session & Rooms | Staff | Room |
|---|--|-----------|------------------|
| Monday 13 th Feb | English, Textiles and FT | LJF/TH/JH | Conf Room/ D4/D5 |
| Tuesday, 14 th Feb | ECDL | DAB | IT2 |
| Wed, 15 th Feb | Media GCSE | JPD | IT2/3 |
| Thurs, 16 th Feb | ICT/Geography | DAB/HL/MS | IT2/D2/H5 |
| Fri, 17 th Feb | | | |
| Monday 10 th Apr | History | | |
| Tuesday 11th Apr | Media GCSE and AS Level | JPD RAD | |
| Wed 12 th Apr | English Literature | JPD | |
| Thursday 13 th Apr | A2 Media | RAD | IT3 |
| Friday 14 th Apr | Good Friday – Bank Holiday – School Closed | | |
| Monday, 17th April | Bank Holiday – school closed | | |
| Tuesday, 18th April | Psychology | | |
| Wednesday, 19th April | PE | MDD JD | |
| Thursday, 20th April | Business Studies | IWF | |
| Friday, 21st April | ECDL (15 pupils) | DAB | IT2 |
| | MAY HALF TERM | | |
| Monday, 29 th May | Bank Holiday – school closed | | |
| Tuesday, 30 th May | | | |
| Wed, 31 st May Thurs 1 st June Friday, 2 nd June | | | |

Community News

Tickets: £5.00 per adult
£3.00 per child
£12.00 per family ticket (2 adults, 2 children)
Available from Student Services

Year 7 and the JMA @JMS
Present: Valentine's Quiz Night!

Pizza and bar
Student entertainment
Parents/carers/family V
Staff

Be there or
miss it

On Friday 10th February between 7 and 9 pm, Year 7, in conjunction with the JMA, will be hosting a fabulous Valentine's-themed quiz night for members of staff and Year 7 students and their families/carers. Refreshments, including a licenced bar, will be available for purchase. All proceeds will go to JMS' JMA who provide so many essential resources for our school. It is guaranteed to be a fun-filled night with student acts to entertain you! Tickets are available to buy from Student Services and are priced as follows: £5 per adult, £3 per child, and £12 per family ticket (2 adults, 2 children). I look forward to seeing you there.
Miss Davies, Head of Year 7

Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 8th February - Year 9 Parents' Evening 4.30-7pm [Click here for more information](#)

Friday 10th February - Wear it Red Non-Uniform day in aid of the British Heart Foundation

Year 11 mock exams - Monday 6th February to Friday 10th February 2017

Year 10 Visual Arts mock exams - Monday 6th March to Friday 10th March 2017

Year 10 mock exams - Monday 13th March to Friday 17th March 2017

Summer GCSE 7 GCE Exams - Monday 15th May 2017 to Thursday 29th June 2017

No Two Things

February half term – on this day in history.
We have adopted a historical theme this half term as there are lots of special events in Didcot this year such as: the Railway Centres 50th and St Birinus Schools 80th anniversary's

| Workshop | Description | Date/Time/Cost |
|---|--|---|
| Knit and Natter Drop in at 10 and stay as long as you want... | Every Monday we knit – today children are welcome to join us and learn to cast on and knit some rows. | Mon 13th Feb 10 – 12noon £5 |
| Snoopy house Drop in anytime this AM | Today, in 2000 , the last Peanuts cartoon was published. So we are going to make a Snoopy dog house complete with a foam clay snoopy dog on top. | Mon 13th Feb 9.30 – 12.30 £5 |
| Sew a phone case Must be booked | On this day in 1876 , Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. We are going to sew mobile phone cases from pretty fabric. | Tue 14th Feb 9.30 – 11am or 11.30 – 1pm £15 |
| Valentine's Day Drop in anytime this PM | Foam clay/silk clay hearts Using the Styrofoam and /or cardboard hearts. | Tue 14th Feb 2 pm onwards £5 |
| National gumdrop day Drop in anytime today. | Today, apparently, is National Gumdrop Day – but rather than just munch a load of chewy sweets we're going to make some 'finger print' pottery and it will look like lots of Gumdrops ☺ | Wed 15th Feb 9.30 - 4.30pm £ depends on what you paint. |
| Teddy bear Drop in anytime this pm. | Today, in 1903 , the first Teddy Bear was made. If you bring along your teddy today we'll help make some clothes for him or her | Wed 15th Feb 2pm onward Pay a donation ! |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Mummy Cat Must be booked | On this day in 1923 , archaeologist Howard Carter entered the sealed burial chamber of Tutankhamen. So we are going to make lookalike mummified cats | Thurs 16th Feb 1pm onward £6 |
| Random act of kindness day! Drop in anytime this AM | Make something nature friendly for the hard working animals in your garden – today we're using recycled materials to make a bug house ☺ | Fri 17th Feb 9.30 – 12.30pm £5 |
| Decopatch a Butterfly Drop in anytime this PM | On this day in 1911 Puccini's opera 'Madame Butterfly' had its world premiere at La Scala in Milan, Italy. So today we will Decopatching an operatic mask or a butterfly box – you decide. | Fri 17th Feb 2pm onwards £6 |

Don't forget:

Parties - We cater for crafty children's birthday parties – please ask for our information sheet – or see the website www.notwothings.co.uk Prices start from £85.

Pottery - You can paint pottery throughout the term as well as during the school holidays – no need to book – just pop in ! Either to take children's hand and footprints onto ceramic pieces or just to create some free flow style pottery to give as gifts, keep the kids entertained or to create lovely family heirlooms ☺ Prices start from £6.

Adult workshops and groups – once the children go back to school, treat yourself to some 'me' time at one of our regular craft groups or on a crafty workshop. Remember – you're never too old to learn a new skill !

See you all soon
Di and Beth

01235 511550 info@notwothings.co.uk

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