

Your Child, Your School, Your Voice

Heads Up!

Dear John Mason Student

At this time of year I see anxious faces as you work hard to prepare for all manner of exams.

For our younger students, you will be sitting in an exam hall for the first time, in rows with adults walking up and down, breaking the silence with their clicking heels. You will prepare for these tests, in class and at home, pouring over revision to ensure you are ready, using feedback to plan your answers and get better and better. You will chat with your friends about how worried you are, maybe worried about how this will define your future; will it put you in a particular group? Will it change your target grade? Will it make you a bad person if you don't do well?

No. These exams are about seeing how you achieve when you try your hardest; your success or failure does not make you a bad person or inadequate in any way – they are simply part of your journey. Learning and qualifications are the reason you are here, but as you know, who you are and the way you interact with other people is far more important. The aim is for us to see what help you need next in order to help you be the best you can be, and for you to experience sitting in the hall and the formality of exams.

For students in Year 11, 12 and 13 – this is it; what you have been working towards. The end is in sight for you and the hours of study, revision and preparation are about to be put to the test. As you go into this period I do not wish you good luck; luck has nothing to do with good grades. I wish you clear mindedness, restful and restorative sleep, the ability to keep calm and be mindful that this period, like all others, will pass. I wish you resilience, so that you can stick with the difficult topics and go back even when you think you can't; I wish you good friends and family to remind you that you are loved and cared for when it seems that you are alone.

You are the most powerful thing you have at the moment; your success lies ahead of you, but not without hard work and all of the above. You have the intelligence, memory, learning tools and skill to do this – and we are with you every step of the way.

Remember, who you are, life is so much bigger than exams; you are fantastic, kind, funny, brave young people ready for your next adventure. Go get it.

Have a good weekend,

Sarah Brinkley

Follow me on Twitter: @HeadteacherJMS



Teaching & Learning:

Focus On Humanities Faculty

Social Sciences Across the Ages

The Humanities Faculty have been engaging younger students in social sciences to take the subject from purely a GCSE/A level subject, to a subject which can be enjoyed by all year groups.

Year 7 students have had lessons on the family and conditioning during their humanities lessons. They have been able to grasp sophisticated concepts, such as 'why does a dog salivate when it hears a bell' and the ethics of manipulating animals/infants for the sake of research. We have had lots of positive feedback in relation to how much they have enjoyed having these lessons as part of their humanities education, from staff and students alike.

In addition, Mrs Fairgrieve has been delivering lessons on offender profiling to the Level Up Club and to our future Year 7 students, when they came to their Transition Tea. They have been looking at the crimes of a particular offender and piecing together their likely characteristics, then looking at various psychological explanations for their behaviour.

Students really enjoyed the session and were able to discuss A level standard concepts, such as why people turn to crime, which has been extremely impressive and has challenged them to think beyond their current understanding.

Many thanks to Mrs Fairgrieve for the delivery of these sessions.

News from the 6th Form – May 2017

Year 13 – Destinations



Of the 50 students in Year 13 this year we have:

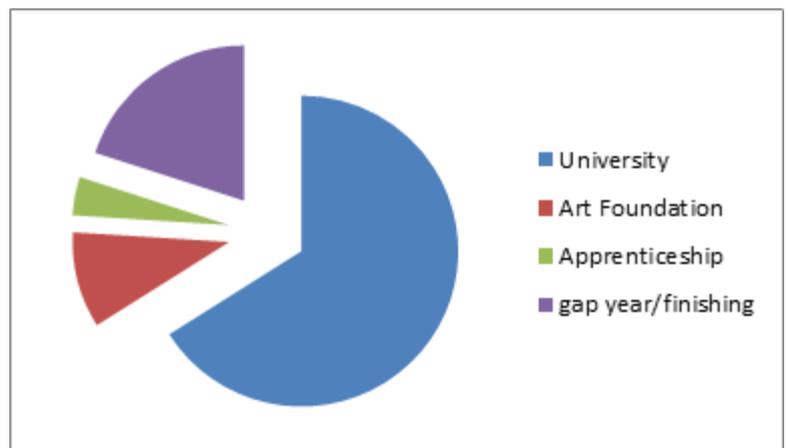
33 who have applied to University. Most of these have received a full house of offers and have now chosen their firm and insurance choices.

5 students have secured a place on the Art Foundation course at Abingdon and Witney College.

2 students have already secured an apprenticeship place.

The final 10 students are either applying next September once they have their results and they have sorted out gap year activities and experience or they will be finishing their A level study with us whilst getting some work experience.

The art and textiles exams have already finished and what an amazing range of techniques and methods were used and finished to a very high standard. Congratulations to the visual art team – you are truly inspirational and it shows in the breadth of work produced. Good luck for graphics next week.



Study leave for the exam period

Year 12 start study leave on Friday 12th May and Year 13 on Friday 26th May.

Students will be registered and expected to attend all lessons up until the point they take their exam in that subject. They have the choice of staying at home to revise rather than having to be in school to study at that time.

Year 12 are back in for Year 13 Induction on Friday 9th June 2017.

Mr Sissons and the 6th form team wish everyone all the best for their exams.



Wednesday lunchtime saw the Thames House conducting their challenge competition in the courtyard. Our house captains decided to turn the recent trend of 'Bottle Flipping' into an exciting tournament that had everybody practicing this unique skill into a perfectly calculated manoeuvre. The perfect bottle flip requires a problem solving mind to experiment with a variety of variables including force, trajectory, weight, bottle shape, surface friction, distance as well as determination to be the best we can be (this term's school ethos focus).

Form groups ran their own pre-challenge trials to find their champion bottle flipper who would represent them in the tournament. The buzz of the event drew in the lunchtime crowds to spectate and witness which house could complete the most successful flips in 1 minute, after all the selected champions contributed their efforts the final results were calculated by the Thames captains and adjudicated by Mr Davies.

The final results concluded a draw between Thames and Ock houses, both scoring 44 flips With Stert in second place with 37. These points will be added to the individual teams to decide who will win the house cup at the end of the academic year. Overall this event really captured the student voice by turning a trending activity into a nail-biting competition. Well done to all that took part.



PE Faculty

This term all pupils will be taught athletics, tennis and a strike and field activity (rounders or softball).

Please ensure students come to school with the correct kit this term: House t-shirt, (rugby top if weather is cold) plain black shorts or plain black sports leggings, change of socks & trainers (these are not to be trainers that they may wear as their school shoes). As the weather hopefully becomes warmer, a bottle of water is also advised.

Upcoming Fixture Dates

Wednesday 10th May: Aqua-thon

Thursday 18th May: Vale Tennis

Monday 22nd May: U14 and U16 Vale Super 6's athletics

Tuesday 6th June: Year 7 and 8 Vale Rounders

Wednesday 7th June: U13 Vale Softball

Thursday 8th June: U15 Vale softball Year 9 and 10 Vale Rounders

Friday 9th June: Sports Leaders Rush Common Sports Day

Wednesday 14th June: Sports Leaders Radley

Tuesday 20th June: Year 7 Quadkids & Sports Leaders

Thursday 22nd June: Field Sports Day

Friday 23rd June: SPORTS DAY

There will be other rounders fixtures throughout the term against the other local schools.

SPORTS CLUBS		
<i>Clubs to start Monday 8th May</i>		
DAY	Lunchtime Sportshall	Afterschool
Monday	Tennis	
Tuesday	Tennis	Athletics, all Years, 15:15-16:15
Wednesday	Tennis	Rounders, girls, all Years, 15:15-16:00
Thursday	Tennis	Girls Football, all Years, 15:15-16:00
Friday	Tennis	

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 8th May: Year 8 girls HPV injections;

Wednesday 10th May Year 7, 8 and 9 core subject exams;

Thursday, 11th May Year 7, 8 and 9 core subject exams;

Friday 12th May Year 7, 8 and 9 core subject exams;

Wednesday 24th May: Argentan parent information meeting;

Thursday 25th May: Year 7 Storyteller Visit;

Thursday 25th May: Parents Forum;

Friday 26th May: Term ends at 3.10pm

Monday 5th June: Term starts;

Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd June: Sports Days

Sunday 25th June: Year 8 Welsh Farm trips start;

Monday 26th June: Community Concert

Thursday 13th July: Argentan trip leaves;

Friday 14th July: Year 8 Welsh Farm trips end;

Friday 14th July: i-Day;

Sunday 16th July: Koln trip leaves;

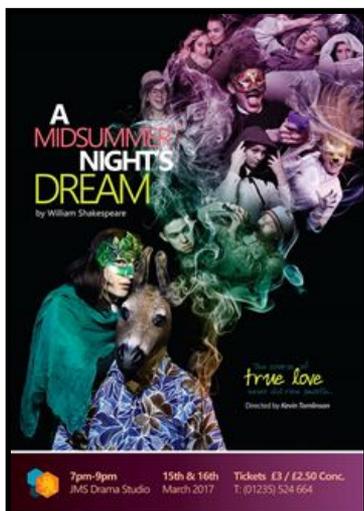
Monday 17th July: i-Day;

Tuesday 18th July: i-Day;

Wednesday 19th July: i-Day;

Thursday 20th July: term ends at 1.10pm;

Midsummer Night's Dream by the Duodecim Theatre Company



It's back!

For TWO nights only

Wednesday 28 June & Thursday 29 June at 7pm.

Following the huge success of this show in March, we are performing it again in June and entering it for the 2018 NATIONAL STUDENT DRAMA FESTIVAL.

Tickets are now on sale (£3) for the June performances. Book them now, before it sells out.

Email Student Services or call on 01235 524664.

Kevin Tomlinson
Drama Faculty

Community News:



Please donate your unwanted uniform via school reception

JMA will be organising another sale in the summer

SPRING MADNESS JMA Lucky Numbers £100 May bonus draw

All Lucky Numbers bought between **1 September 2016 and 30th April 2017** entered
(and also entered in remaining 2016/2017 academic year draws)

PLEASE JOIN TODAY!

PAY VIA PARENT MAIL SHOP

OR

£15 cheque to 'JMA Lucky Numbers Club'
via School Office (please include your email address)

Supporting our school

50% of entry fees - prizes to winners

50% of entry fees – supporting John Mason School

!!!!EXTENDED!!!!
Join by 31st May 2017
for your
chance to win £100

For more details contact
luckynumbers@jma.org.uk



Abingdon UI3's Rugby Club
(Current Yr 7's/Yr 8 in Sept'17)
is looking for new players.

Ahead of the new season in September 2017, we are running some extra summer training sessions. Ideal for coming along to see if you like it, all abilities welcome.

Extra Summer training sessions start
Sunday 2nd July @ ARFC
Lambrick Way, Abingdon
10.00 – 12.00 – all ages welcome

ARFC SUMMER PARTY 2017

Tickets now on sale

Saturday 29th July 2pm onwards

Adults £10 – Children £5 inc. food

Contact: amieeh@hotmail.com

*Any questions, contact the U12 co-ordinator
Jane Colmer – info@remloc.co.uk*