



Your Child, Your School, Your Voice

Heads Up!

Dear Parents and Carers

I had the delight of meeting our new Year 7 students this week at Transition Tea; I wonder if you remember when your child came for their tea? Time flies, doesn't it?

The students arrived in their primary plumes of red, purple, blue, gold and green, the uniforms that they will be saying goodbye to in a few short months. There was an atmosphere of nervous excitement as they looked around and saw who else would become their Year 7 family at JMS. We had 227 applications for Year 7 this year and so we are full to the seams again; fantastic. As a result of our continued popularity, we have adjusted our catchment area for this September and we are delighted that North Abingdon is now included in our designated catchment.

Our new Year 7 took part in an exciting afternoon of science, psychology, languages, textiles and computing, getting to show their creative thinking and meeting new friends. By the time they were returned to their parents, all nerves were gone, replaced by giggles and confident smiles.

It has always fascinated me, the resilience of our children. As parents we will always worry; will he make friends? Will the teacher know that she is shy? Will they remember to bring their homework in? Will they find their way around? Is he safe? Is she happy?

Of course the answers are always positive, but our fears for our children are very real and cause us sleepless nights and the hereditary grey hairs of our own parents. We find ourselves spouting stock phrases we swore we never would; reminding them to take a coat (even when they hit adulthood it seems in my house), asking if they have their lunch and the one I have on repeat, 'Have you got your PE kit?' My belief is that I still ask these questions because it is both my job and my privilege to do so; as our teenagers grow up, we lose control over their every move, but everyone needs to feel that someone has their back, no matter how old you are.

Unfortunately, the safety net of our parents is one that not everyone is able to have. I watched, as always, in awe at the London Marathon runners last weekend, as they hobbled, sprinted and carried each other over the finishing line. If you have followed the fate of the 'Mind over Marathon' runners, I am sure you were as moved as I was by Rhian, a woman who lost her child and then her husband 5 days later, leaving her with two children and a broken heart. The fact that her children will not have their father in their lives is insurmountable for her; she is bereft.

During my time as a teacher I have seen many children lose a parent. It always makes me weep and feel lucky; weep for the trauma and sorrow to come and grateful that I go home to my own children and hug them a little tighter. These grieving children show remarkable strength and clutch onto the normality of school at a time when they cannot see clearly at home. Our role is to keep things stable, surround them with things that allow them to breathe and in the words of the 'Mind over Marathon' team, move forward.

So our Year 7s begin their journey with us; for many of your children, their time is coming to an end and the exam season has already begun. Our Year 11, 12 and 13 exam takers need more than ever for us to reassure them that things will be alright. We may have to stop moaning about the state of the bedroom, because revision and calm is more important for a few weeks, or restrict them going out late because sleep is the bringer of good grades. Whatever your parenting style, your child will be OK with love and the knowledge that you will be there, regardless. This period

of time, as did the time in which they have gone from transition to young adult, will pass. You and your child are not alone – we are here to help.

Have a good weekend,

Sarah Brinkley

Teaching & Learning

Focus On the Visual Arts Faculty

JMS Arts Extend

In the past month Mrs Neyland has visited Dunmore and Thameside Primary Schools to run full day art workshops. The aim of these was for students to produce a collaborative piece of work exploring colour, mark making, texture and layering, inspired by the natural forms of 'Spring'. The ideas have been taken from the work of textile artist Anne-Marie Cadman who's techniques many of our students have explored for their GCSE and A level coursework. Both days were a real success and we are hopeful that the links made can be developed further in the future.

Comments from the students/staff:

'I loved doing the artwork and it looks amazing' Anne

'I loved it as we learnt how to do lots of things' Davey

'This has been the best school day ever!' Matthew

'It was a great experience for our children and the end product looks amazing. Very much appreciated' Mrs Abdollahi, Thameside Primary

Our thanks are extended to Mrs Neyland for her work in preparing and delivering the workshops and inspiring students from a range of age groups to get involved in making artworks collaboratively.

Mrs C Pennington, Director of VA Faculty



Dates for your Diary

Monday 1st May school closed for May day Bank Holiday;

Tuesday 9th May Carnegie Quiz for selected Year 7 and 8 students;

Friday 12th May to Thursday 29th June 2017 Summer GCSE Exams - click [here](#) to view the skeleton timetable;

Monday 8th May Year 8 Girls' HPV injections;

Wednesday 24th May Argentan parent information evening in the hall from 6.30-7.30pm;
Thursday 25th May Year 7 Storyteller visit in the Learning Resource Centre during the school day;
Thursday 25th May Parent's Forum - (see below);
Friday 26th May term ends at 3.10pm;
Monday 5th June term starts at 8.30am;



John Mason School
Excellence Through Creativity

Parents' Forum

Your voice, Your school

Thursday 25th May, 6.00pm in the LRC

This forum's key topic:

**Reports and Parents' Evening –
how do I know how my child is doing?**

A discussion and sharing of views on reports and parents evenings at JMS.

Please let us know you are coming: L.Cotmore-Brown@johnmason.oxon.sch.uk
Telephone: 01235 466033



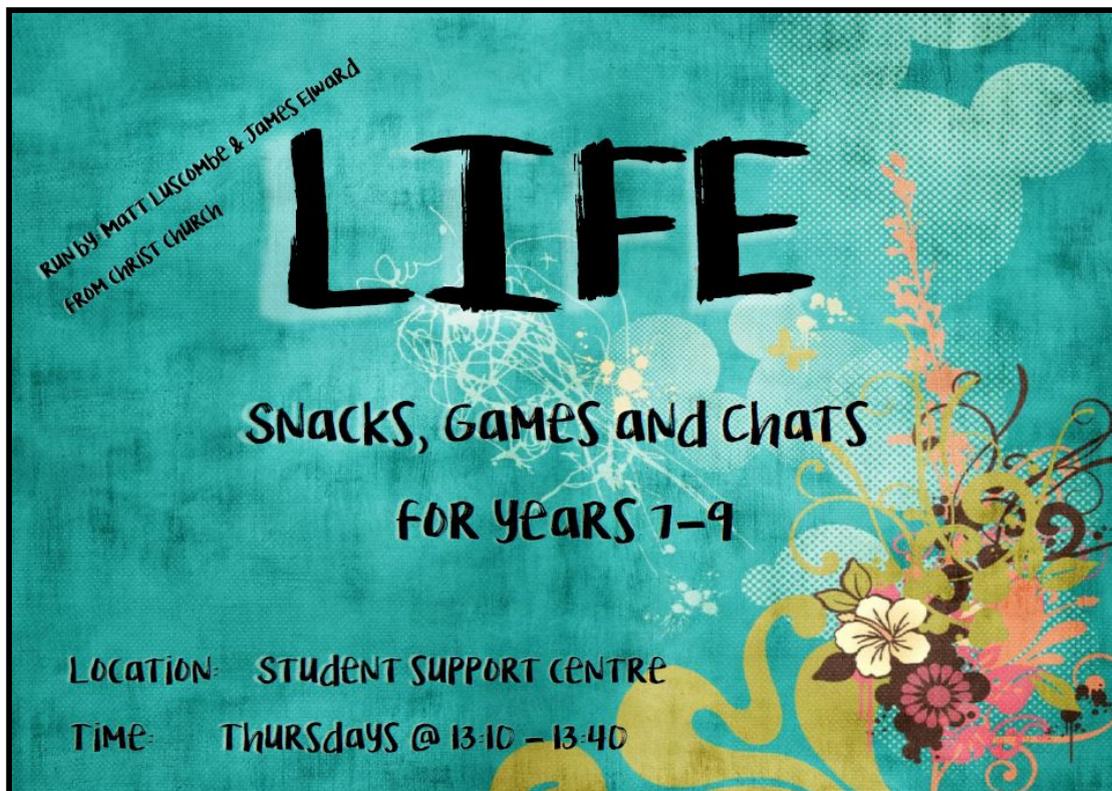
*RUN BY MATT LUSCOMBE & JAMES EDWARD
FROM CHRIST CHURCH*

LIFE

**SNACKS, GAMES AND CHATS
FOR YEARS 7-9**

LOCATION: STUDENT SUPPORT CENTRE

TIME: THURSDAYS @ 13:10 - 13:40



Community News



Synchronised swimming for fitness and fun

At OLA Pool, Radley Road, Abingdon

Thursdays 8.00-9.00 p.m. starting 27th April

9 Week course - £63.50

Interested? Come along for a free taster session

For more information contact:

Hayley - 07980 884 223

or email reynoldshayley@yahoo.co.uk

Hurry, places limited!

For Age 12 and over, must be confident in deep water

All participants will be required to complete a Physical Activity Readiness Questionnaire (PARQ) before starting the course.



ROTARY CLUB OF OXFORD SPIRES PRESENTS

The World Poohsticks Championships



Fun for all the family



See Tigger and friends



Be a world champion



Pick a stick, any stick!

SUNDAY 4TH JUNE 2017, FROM 12PM
LANGEL COMMON, WITNEY

TEAM GAMES AND INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS
REGISTER ONLINE FOR TEAM GAMES
WWW.POOH-STICKS.COM

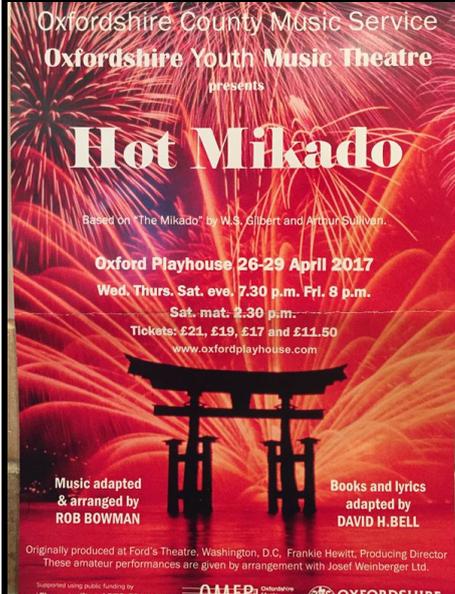
 @POOH_STICKS |  THE WORLD POOH STICKS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Rotary Club of Oxford Spire Charitable Trust Fund Registered charity no. 1132474

Raise funds for John Mason School

Raise funds for John Mason School while you shop online! Please go to easyfundraising.org.uk and search for **John Mason Association** then register as a user/supporter. Every time you shop online if you go first to the Easyfundraising site and follow their links the companies involved will donate to our school. **It doesn't cost you a penny extra** - shop with one of their registered 3,065 donating shops and sites and a donation will come to us. For the more forgetful among us they even now provide a handy reminder pop up which you can register for when you sign up.

Many thanks!
The JMA Team



Oxfordshire County Music Service
Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre
presents

Hot Mikado

Based on "The Mikado" by W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan.

Oxford Playhouse 26-29 April 2017

Wed. Thurs. Sat. eve. 7.30 p.m. Fri. 8 p.m.
Sat. mat. 2.30 p.m.

Tickets: £24, £19, £17 and £11.50
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

Music adapted & arranged by **ROB BOWMAN**

Books and lyrics adapted by **DAVID H. BELL**

Originally produced at Ford's Theatre, Washington, D.C. Frankie Hewitt, Producing Director. These amateur performances are given by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd.

Supported using public funding by
  

Some tickets still available - some our our JMS students are in this show.

