



Your Child, Your School, Your Voice

Heads Up!

'Not all heroes wear capes.'

Dear Parents and Carers

Today we welcomed our new MP, Layla Moran and Councillor Emily Smith to JMS, to meet their new constituents and talk to them about our town and surrounding villages and of course, education. These two women serve our communities; Layla described herself as 'the mouthpiece for the public'.

Our students were interested to learn about campaigning and what it was like in parliament. The students wanted to express how much they valued the arts in their education, a sentiment that seemed very much aligned with what Layla had to say. I was impressed by her engagement with our young people and her interest in their work and learning. She was also keen to better understand the financial pressures facing our local schools and how she might voice these concerns. I look forward to welcoming them both



back in the near future, to help our school better understand the political system and workings at a national and local level, as well as to strengthen parliament understanding of our comprehensive education system.

Public service has been something very prevalent in our recent news yet again, I am sure you have been struck by the bravery and compassion of our fire fighters, police and medical professionals in recent weeks, as they have fought to save lives and make good the tragedies that have befallen parts of our country.

Our public services, (and I would include teachers in this group), seem to be the people that are expected to stick things back together when they break, and I suppose in part, this is why they choose these careers. To serve your community is a great privilege and requires selflessness and understanding, regardless of who stands in front of you. The officer who hugged the child in Manchester who had lost her mother, the officer dancing with children at the Ariana Grande concert, the fire fighter sat exhausted with a Grenfell pensioner; all had no thought to their own safety or to the colour, creed, belief or background of the people they helped.

I read this week about the medical team who were treating the injured after the Borough Market attack and that the first patient through the trauma doors was one of the terrorists. I wonder what would go through my mind if I was met with the face of someone who had caused so much harm and suffering. Fear? Disgust? Or the need to help and save life at all costs? When the fire fighters ran towards a building that everyone else was so desperately running away from, what instinct kicked in? When the police were called to London Bridge where innocent people lay dying and injured, what fuelled their courage?

All of these people that choose to serve others do so because of the power of connection, of being part of something greater, and a desire to cure hate with love and kindness. They are the lungs of our society, labouring at times under the strain of man's inhumanity to man, but constant, methodical, rhythmic in their desire to serve and protect. We cannot survive without them; thank you, if this is you.

This spirit is one that I believe every child should understand – that we are part of something greater and all have a contribution to make. This is partly why we follow the Duke of Edinburgh Award in Year 10, and from September, all sixth form students will follow the Gold Award, because it allows young people the chance to make a difference in their community.

Today we had live music in the courtyard and invited children and staff to eat lunch together outside as part of the 'Great Get Together' in memory of Jo Cox, an MP who was serving her public when she was murdered last year. I think her legacy is a mighty one; unity, understanding, connection. If you can this weekend, get together with people – new or old friends and neighbours, let them know we are stronger together than apart, that your door is open if needed - be the change you want to see in the world, be a hero.

That's all from me,

Have a good weekend,

Sarah Brinkley

Follow me on Twitter: @HeadteacherJMS

Teaching & Learning:

Focus on Summer in the 6th Form

Exam Season

This is a particularly stressful time of year as the reality of final exams happens and for the Year 13s the inevitability of leaving JMS – home of learning for the last 7 years – looms ever closer. Students in both Year 12 and 13 are allowed some study leave, they are expected in lessons until they have taken the exam in that subject but at other times they can stay at home to study.

In Year 13 we have 50 students, they have made their Firm and Insurance University choices, and at present our destination data looks like this:

33 are aiming to go on to higher education either at University or College;

5 are going to do an Art Foundation course;

2 have secured apprenticeships already;

5 are coming back to JMS to finish their A level courses; and

5 are taking a gap year to get some work experience before moving on.

We wish them all the best for the remaining exams and fingers crossed for August and results day – Thursday 17th August 2017.

Year 12 are back in school having finished their exams and have started A2 coursework. It is a busy term for them as they have to start writing Personal Statements for University applications in the autumn, they are allowed 2 days off school for University Open days. Applications and interviews for the Senior Student team will take place, there will be training for the Peer Mentors and we have organised a first aid course too. They also have the time to finish off their voluntary hours and make sure that this is all signed off. Throw on top of all that the Summer Ball and the organisation that goes into that – chasing the non-payers, seating plans, menus, photobooth organisation, decorations and last but not least – What am I going to wear!

Year 11 - Taster Week

Monday 26th June – Thursday 29th June, 8.30am - 3.10pm

Meet the teachers and take part in a taster lesson of your chosen subjects.

Students will be given a booklet with all the information for week. They need to use this information to plan their sessions and record information about their subjects. We have set up these sessions to help them confirm that they have chosen the right subjects. Please do not hesitate to ask questions and talk to the teachers.

Monday students need to bring food for a picnic to sit and eat on the playing fields after the Inter tutor group activities.

Art-beat 2017

Come and see our students' work at our Art-beat event.



Parentmail

We have received the following notification from Parentmail which we have been asked to forward to you. Please be reminded that if you have a Parentmail account and your details change, you need to login to your account and update them:

Please be aware that over the weekend the email provider Orange closed a number of legacy email domains which may impact our ability to deliver emails to parents who use these email addresses.

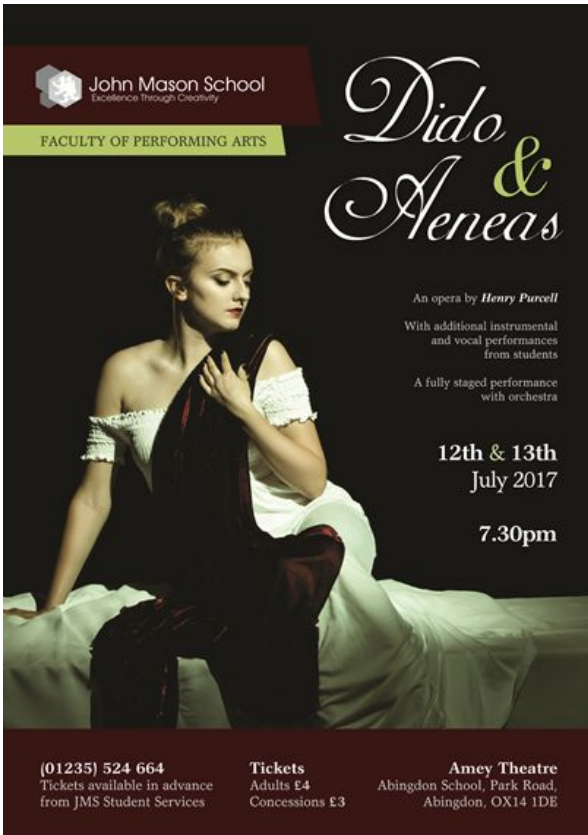
Please note: Parents will still be able to log in to their ParentMail account and use the App, however emails may not reach their personal inbox.

Email addresses affected are:

- Orange.net
- Orangehome.co.uk
- Wanadoo.co.uk
- Freeserve.co.uk
- Fsbusiness.co.uk
- Fslife.co.uk
- Fsmail.net
- Fsworld.co.uk
- Fsnet.co.uk

If you have an email account from one of the above email domains, you will need to login to your account and update your details if you have a new email address.

Community News:



John Mason School
Excellence Through Creativity

FACULTY OF PERFORMING ARTS

Dido & Aeneas

An opera by *Henry Purcell*
With additional instrumental and vocal performances from students
A fully staged performance with orchestra

12th & 13th
July 2017

7.30pm

(01235) 524 664
Tickets available in advance from JMS Student Services

Tickets
Adults £4
Concessions £3

Amey Theatre
Abingdon School, Park Road,
Abingdon, OX14 1DE




John Mason School
Faculty of Performing Arts

June 26th 2017
7pm

Summer Concert

Music from students and staff

Tickets: £2.50 / £2
(£3 on the door)
Available from JMS
Student Services



Join us for a BIG DAY OUT at The Pump House Project

This Sunday 18th June, Join us at The Pump House Project, Swan Lane, Faringdon for a BIG DAY OUT.

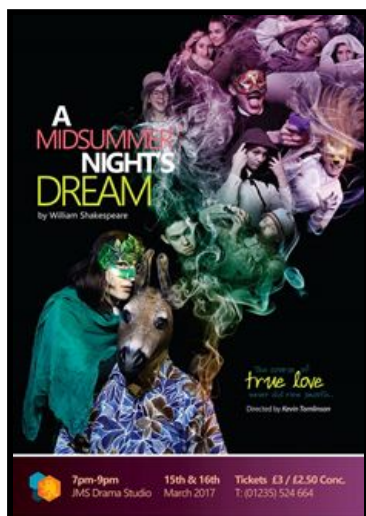
Together with "The Great British Get Together" in memory of Jo Cox.

The BIG DAY OUT is a fantastic way to spend a day with your community, meeting new people, reconnecting with old friends and to see what is new at

The Pump House Project.

A Free day out for the family, there is something for everyone!

We look forward to seeing you there. TPHP



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.



Please donate your unwanted uniform via school reception

JMA will be organising another sale in the summer



ABINGDON ANTIQUES & VINTAGE FAIR

· ORIGINAL · UNIQUE · CLASSIC ·
· RETRO · ECLECTIC · LOVED ·

Town Centre
10.00-3.00
Saturday 8th July

Take a nostalgic walk through our market and take home a piece of history, vintage homeware, collectable antiques, and retro-styled gifts, PLUS sizzling street food, family activities, music & more...

Vintage finds VISIT **ABINGDON** from the past

www.rural-events.co.uk and abingdon@rural-events.co.uk

Dates for your Diary:

- Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd June: Sports Days
- Tuesday 20th June - Saturday 24th June: Art-beat exhibition (see poster above)
- Sunday 25th June: Year 8 Welsh Farm trips start;
- Monday 26th June: Community Concert
- Wednesday 5th July: Open Morning - 9.00am -12.30pm
- 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;