



Your Child, Your School, Your Voice

Heads Up!

Dear Parents and Carers

Heads up is taking a break this week.

Have a good weekend,

Sarah Brinkley

Follow me on Twitter: @HeadteacherJMS

Teaching & Learning:

Focus on the English Faculty

Carnegie Shadowing



Every spring, CILIP: The Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals invites reading groups in libraries, schools, homes... in fact, anywhere there are children and young people and books, to get involved with shadowing. Children and young people 'shadow' the judging process for the CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Children's Book Awards; they read, discuss and review the books on each shortlist selected by CILIP's panel of Librarian judges and engage in reading related activity online.

Young people taking part are known as 'shadowers'. The scheme has thousands of registered reading groups across the UK and Internationally - engaging tens of thousands of children and young people in reading.

Reading activity takes place from March to June; from the moment that the shortlists are revealed to the final winners announcement. The shadowing process is supported online.

Carnegie Shadowing at John Mason School

This was our first year doing Carnegie Shadowing and we had an amazing time! We all really loved reading the short-listed books and reviewing them - no matter what our opinions were on them.

Six schools in total were participating from our local area, many of us had never met each other before but now many of us have made friends.

We met up several times, each time in a different group where we discussed the books, got to know each other and ate lots of cake!!

The Carnegie Forum was on 19th June at Christ Church Hall. We were in mixed groups and we had to make a 3 minute presentation about our favourite book from the shortlist. Afterwards we had to perform them in front of the Carnegie Judges to persuade them that ours was the book they should read.

We then voted for our favourite book, and the overall winner from our area was... Salt to the Sea, which was also the national winner. The Bone Sparrow won the Amnesty International prize.

Renata, Zara, Holly and Emma
Year 7

Masterclass Status



John Mason Year 7s are celebrating their success having been awarded Masterclass Status in reading. Renaissance who run the Accelerated Reader programme have singled out the 'gold standard' achieved by readers at the school, for the quality and quantity of students' reading practice.

Congratulations to the year 7 English class, 7y/En1 for this high achievement! Master Class is a status granted to amazing groups who manage to maintain a high average of daily reading minutes as well as high averages on reading quizzes over a 25 week period.

Only 35 schools (John Mason School being one of them) out of 4,500 managed to achieve this feat last year. We are thrilled to be part of this small, elite group again this year. Well done!

Let Teachers SHINE Competition

Peter Scutt, who joins John Mason School as STEM Development Ambassador in September has won £15,000 to realise his fantastic idea to help ignite students' passion for science as part of the annual Let Teachers SHINE competition.

Teachers from across the country are invited to submit their ideas to help disadvantaged children by raising attainment in English, maths or science. The competition is run by the education charity, SHINE (Support and Help in Education). It is supported by Capita SIMS and Tes.

This year, Let Teachers SHINE received almost 150 applications. Peter Scutt became one of just ten finalists who demonstrated their unique idea to raise achievement in science.

Peter Scutt, said "Following my successful application to Let Teachers Shine, I will be supporting primary school teachers and whole schools with the delivery of their science curriculum during the 2017-2018 academic year. As a Science Lead Practitioner and STEM ambassador at John Mason School and Governor of a primary school in Swindon, I have a passion for making science engaging and accessible so that all children feel they have the confidence and skills to become scientists of the future.

I believe that a child's interest in science is shaped before they leave primary school and this project intends to ensure that primary-aged children are exposed to engaging and inspiring science lessons that develop their enthusiasm for the science in the world around them. By having a secondary science lead practitioner and governor being proactive in supporting the delivery of a high-quality science curriculum, children can have a memorable and engaging experience of science no matter their ability and/or background. Lessons will become much more practical and the emphasis will be on the language that the children use, therefore having a greater impact on their progress due to a deepened understanding of vocabulary and content of the curriculum".

The winners were announced at an awards presentation held at the Capita SIMS Annual Conference.

The project will be run as a year-long pilot from September 2017 to September 2018. Further funding will be available for the most successful schemes.

Phil Neal, director at Capita SIMS, says: "Once again I have been very impressed by the standard and quality of the entries. Each and every winner has shown innovation and a dedication to improving attainment for every pupil. Congratulations to all the winners!"

Clare Gilhooly, CEO of SHINE, adds: "Every year the Let Teachers SHINE competition impresses upon me the tireless efforts of Teachers from across the country. The 10 finalists are a testament to the difference Teachers make in the lives of children and young people, and SHINE look forward to working with them to develop their winning ideas."

Since 2000, SHINE has invested £24.5 million to educational projects, which have helped more than 280,000 children from over 5,000 schools. The winning Let Teachers SHINE programmes make up some of the most dynamic of these projects. This year's winners will join the 74 Teachers supported through the competition so far.

For more information, please visit www.capita-sims.co.uk/shine-7

Opening of the new Abbey Play Park

John Mason Students together with other students from local schools were invited to attend the official opening of the new play park in the Abbey Meadow. The park is now home to a new play area featuring a Grand Abbey climbing area, an 'Abingdon Lock' river scene, a sensory garden, and space for ball games.

The park also features an aerial seesaw and the much-loved rocking horse has been kept. The improvements were part of a wider £615,000 improvement project to Abbey Meadow.



Community News:

Jessie's Art Shed

SUMMER Workshops 2017

For all children aged 5 - 14

AWESOME INDONESIA
 Wednesday 26th July - 1:15pm - 4:15pm
 Thursday 27th July 9:30am - 12:30pm

DAZZLING DRIP PAINTING
 Thursday 3rd August - 1:15pm - 4:15pm
 Friday 4th August - 9:30am - 12:30pm

BRILLIANT BUTTONS
 Tuesday 8th August - 1:15pm - 4:15pm
 Wednesday 9th August - 9:30am - 12:30pm

FAB FUN FAIR
 Thursday 10th August - 10am - 3pm

For more information or to book a place contact Jessie Whealy on:
 Email - jessiewhealy@gmail.com
 Mobile - 07530 669696

FosterMyWall.com

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 **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

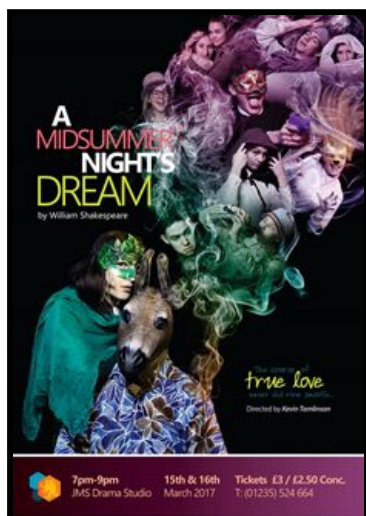
Summer Concert

Music from students and staff

Tickets: £2.50 / £2
 (£3 on the door)

Available from **JMS Student Services**





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:

- 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;