

Head's Up!

Dear Parents and Carers,

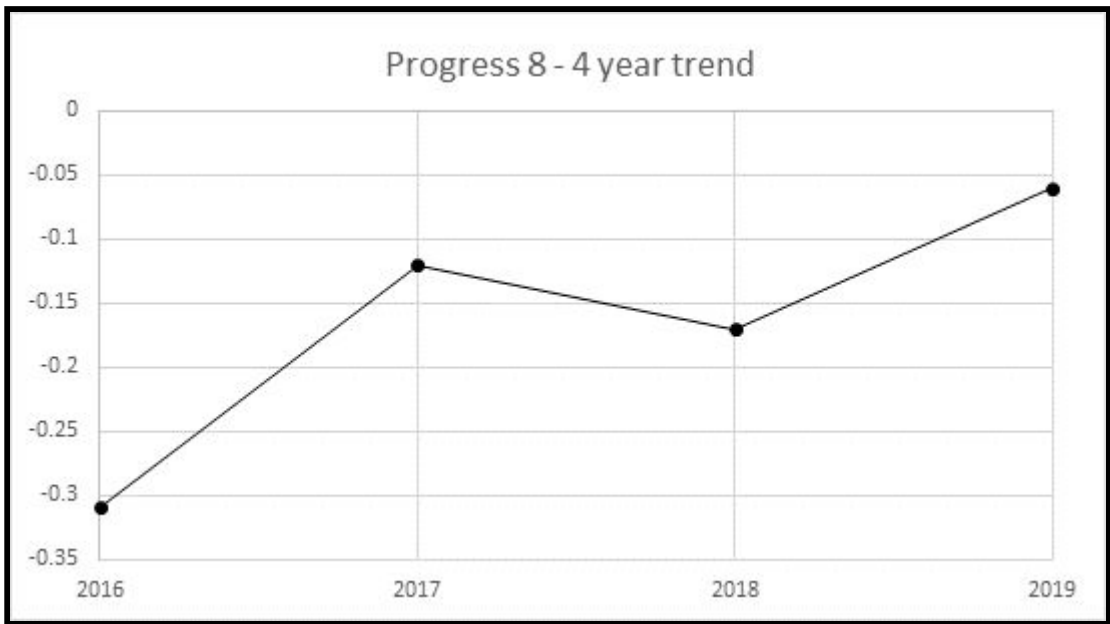
Welcome to the first Heads Up of the year. We have had a fantastic first week back; your children look smart, have shown excellent manners and are ready to learn. Arriving at school in precise uniform and with the correct equipment, means that your child starts the school day calmly and without the conflict of being told off – so thank you for your support with these simple but important things. Our new staff have also had a good week and we are very pleased with how positive and purposeful the school has felt.

GCSE Results

Team JMS are once again celebrating a rise in GCSE standards and we are delighted with the achievements of our students. Overall, levels of progress and attainment improved and there were many fantastic performances across the full ability range. The success of our students is a true reflection of their hard work and dedication as well as the support given by parents, carers and teachers in helping our children prepare for their exams. The vast majority of our students have achieved the grades they need to move forward into the next stage of their education and training, whether that is studying A Levels in the Sixth Form, starting an apprenticeship or studying at College.



The school's key performance measure, Progress 8, has continued an upward trend. It doesn't look very aspirational – but it shows real academic success in the 'new money' of GCSE scores.



The majority of subjects performed better than last year in both attainment and value-added measures, including English, maths, sciences, history, geography, psychology, art, graphics and textiles. In English the percentage of

students achieving a grade 9-7 has increased to 24% and the percentage achieving a grade 9-5 has increased to 59% - both are above national average. Similarly, in maths the % of students achieving a grade 9-7 has increased to 24%, which is also above the national average.



We were pleased with the improved progress of all prior attainment groups, but particularly with our more able, whose progress score is estimated to be +0.11 and the percentage achieving a strong pass (9-5) in both English and maths increased to 87%, with both measures significantly above the national average. At the start of the year, we set our girls the target of outperforming the boys; they duly rose to this challenge and performed exceptionally well, with a progress score of +0.16. Progress of SEN students also improved significantly, and the progress gap compared to other students has closed considerably. Well done to everyone; TeamJMS only works if staff, parents and children work together and every year the results improve – it's just fantastic.

A Level Results

It has been quite the summer for JMF6, the joint provider of sixth form for John Mason and Fitzharrys schools. We are celebrating once again with results that reflect the 'outstanding' rating achieved in May's Ofsted inspection. Our highest attainers placed the school in the top 5 in the county, with the percentage of A*/A grades increasing to 29%. 80% of all our students achieved 3 A levels at A*-C. And at the same time we had the highest completion rate of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award in the South East England regions and successfully put through our first cohort of EPQ students. This success meant all our students secured their desired pathway. We sent students to Oxford and Cambridge, Russell Group universities, Higher level Apprenticeships with the Police and the NHS, and at least one to university in Paris! JMF6 is sending young adults into the world not just equipped with exams, but with the character, personality and skills to truly shine.



Which might explain part two of this extraordinary summer for JMF6. On Wednesday we welcomed a record 134 new Year 12 students to their first day at JMF6. These young people come from both John Mason and Fitzharrys, but an increasingly large number drawn from schools across the county. It meant a busy, hectic and vibrant first couple of days as they settle down to being the professional learners, and leaders of our school community that we expect them to be. WE now have a Sixth Form with 230 students in total. Expect news of great things from this talented group in the coming weeks and months.

Following our Ofsted inspection in May, these results are a fabulous validation of the quality of learning at John Mason; this year we continue to focus on quality teaching and rich opportunities for your children to be inspired about learning and their futures. That's all for this week – have a good weekend,

Sarah Brinkley
