

Wednesday 28th August 2024

Dear families

Re: The start of the 2024-25 academic year

I hope you have had a good Summer, and your child has enjoyed a very well-earned break.

Staff are getting ready for the new academic year, and we look forward to students returning to school next week. This letter is to help you and your child ensure you are ready for the start of the new year and can make the most of the return to school.

The start of term

As we start the new term students will be returning on different days, depending on their new year group:

- Monday 2nd September - Staff only return, for INSET training day.
- Tuesday 3rd September - New Year 7 and new Year 11 return to school.
- Wednesday 4th September - New Year 8s, 9s, 10s, 12s and 13s return to school.

All students should make their way to the main courtyard at the start of the school day where they will meet their tutor who will take them to their tutor room and provide them with a paper copy of their timetable.

Uniform

The full winter uniform is detailed in our policy which can be found [here](#). Having the correct uniform ensures that students have a smooth start to the term. Each morning there will be several staff stationed at the front gate to meet and greet students when they arrive at school. If any student is not in the correct uniform, then we will need to address this before they proceed with their normal school day.

Should this occur then one or more of the following responses is likely:




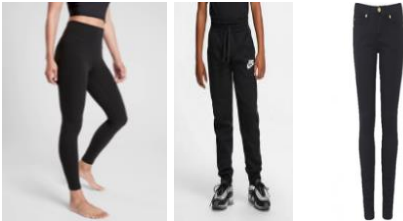





- A phone call home to check if the student has the correct uniform at home and it can be delivered to school.
- A loan, for the day, of a missing item of uniform (if available).
- Spending time in our reintegration room until a solution is found.

It is only fair that we should have the same expectations of every child in following the uniform policy. For



this reason, we ask for your support to ensure that your child arrives at school in the correct uniform to avoid a negative start to the day.

I hope the following guide offers helpful clarification:

Item	Allowed	Not Allowed
<p>Jumper, shirt and tie Students are now expected to wear full uniform. Summer polo shirts are not allowed.</p>		
<p>Tailored trousers or shorts These can be skinny or wide fit. No denim or denim look fabrics, metal rivets etc. No leggings or jogging bottoms.</p>		
<p>Skirt Reasonable length – no shorter than mid-thigh. No legging/stretchy fabric. Flared or pencil skirts are allowed.</p>		
<p>Shoes Black flat shoes or plain black trainers (including sole)</p>		
<p>Jumper or coat Hoodies and sweatshirts should not be on school site. They will be confiscated for the day if seen.</p>		

Registered Office: Abingdon Learning Trust
Hendred Way, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2AW

John Mason School is part of the Abingdon Learning Trust. Abingdon Learning Trust is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales: **Company No. 7931866**

School Address: Wootton Road
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Mobile Phones

Mobile phones damage student's wellbeing and education and this is why John Mason School continues to be a mobile phone free zone. Each morning, we will remind students to turn their phones off and put them in their bags before they enter the school.

We know that breaking the bond with their phone is a real struggle for some children. You can find advice [here](#) from the NSPCC about keeping your child safe when on their phone.

If any student is not able to meet our expectations in keeping their phone switched off and out of sight, then we will require them to hand it in at the start of the school day and collect it again at the end. If you think this might be a challenge for your child, then please do talk to them about it before we return.

We really value your support in ensuring that school remains a place where all children can be free from the interference and distraction that mobile phones can cause so that they can concentrate on interacting with other people and being successful in their lessons.

Social Times

Before school and during break and lunch times students are free to use a variety of spaces around the school. These include the Main Hall, several covered spaces which have tables and chairs to eat at, and the school field.

Students are not allowed to congregate in classrooms or corridors. They should either be in the Main Hall or outside so please ensure they come to school with a warm outdoor coat, especially as the weather begins to get colder. The exception to this rule would be poor weather requiring us to make additional indoor facilities available and we will let students know when we move to our 'Wet Break' arrangements.

Toilets

Five blocks of toilets, all adjacent to the courtyard, are available to be used during breaks and lunch times. These include:

- Near the main hall a block of toilets for Year 7 boys and one for Year 7 girls only.
- Attached to the DT building, a block with individual and gender-neutral toilets.
- Inside the Visual Arts building, a block available for Year 8-11 boys, and a block available for Year 8-11 girls.

We expect students to make every effort to use the toilets during break and lunch times only.

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Students should not be visiting the toilets during lesson time, other than on very rare occasions. If there is a medical reason why this should not be the case for your child, then please contact your child's Head of Year so that we can make necessary adjustments.

Key Dates

Here are some key dates you may find helpful for weeks ahead:

- Monday 2nd September - Staff only return, for INSET training day.
- Tuesday 3rd September - New Year 7 and new Year 11 return to school.
- Wednesday 4th September - New Year 8s, 9s, 10s, 12s and 13s return to school.
- Thursday 3rd October - School Closes at 1:10pm for Open Evening.
- Friday 4th October - INSET day.
- Thursday 24th October - New Tutors Evening (for all students with a new tutor).
- Friday 25th October - School Closes at 3:10pm for Half Term.

I hope you can make the most of the last few days of holiday and look forward to welcoming all our students back for an exciting new term.

Yours sincerely



Alastair West
Headteacher
John Mason School

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