

Friday 13th December 2024

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

I feel like I regularly tell you we have had a busy week at John Mason School, but the penultimate school week of 2024 really has been special! One highlight was the Winter Concert. Such a huge range of performances with the audience being treated to a little bit of everything and there was no escaping the Christmas feel with our huge Christmas tree taking pride of place on the stage and Christmas stars hanging from the ceiling. The sneak preview of songs from the musical 'Jesus Christ Superstar' were a reminder that there is plenty more to come from our fantastic Performing Arts department in 2025.

This was also a big week for Year 11s. Following their mock exams in November, and the JMF6 Open Evening at the end of November, students brought their parents into school for their Parents' Evening yesterday. It was nice to see so many smiling faces as families left knowing that the hard work in revising for those mocks has paid off and with clear strategies on how to approach the next set of mocks and ultimately the GCSE exams in the summer.

And finally, Tuesday and Wednesday saw us hosting inspectors from Ofsted in school. This was a busy couple of days for everyone involved. I would particularly like to thank our support staff and teaching staff. Support staff have been at the centre of so many improvements we have made to our systems and processes over the last 12 months and teachers continue to ensure their classrooms are inviting and stimulating places for students to learn.

The behaviour of students across the two-day inspection demonstrated their respectful attitudes, their determination to make the most of every opportunity they are given, and a strong sense of connectedness between each other and with their teachers. They spoke eloquently to inspectors, sharing their pride of being part of the JMS community.

I would also like to thank so many of you for the well-wishes you have sent into school. We know that John Mason School is on a journey to become the best school it can possibly be, and it is reassuring to have such a strong sense of collaboration with so many people working towards a shared endeavour. I look forward to sharing the outcomes of the inspection with you at some point in the New Year.

This is the last weekend of the term, so I hope it is a good one for all of you as we look forward to our end of term celebrations.



Alastair West
Headteacher

School News

Christmas Lunch

This year Christmas lunch will be served in the hall on Wednesday 18th December. If you would like your child to have a Christmas lunch, you must purchase this via your MCAS account by the end of the day on Sunday. Students will not be able to use their 'fingerprint' to purchase a Christmas lunch on the day. Hot food will be served at morning break, and a selection of cold food will be served from the Snack Shack at lunchtime for those students who do not want a Christmas lunch. If your child is in receipt of PP or FSM, please email events@johnmason.school if they would like a Christmas lunch as they can have one free of charge but for catering purposes you must email us to request this.

JMA Update

The JMA have had a busy term including serving refreshments at the Mayor's Christmas concert on Saturday and then the school Christmas concert this Tuesday. Thank you to everyone who has given their time to help prepare, work behind the scenes, serve refreshments and then pack away after events. It's always great to support functions at school as well as raise much needed funds to enrich students' experience of John Mason school and towards Welsh Farm's borehole appeal.



Thank you everyone who bought refreshments from us as well as take books away on Tuesday. This has now made space in the JMA cupboard for the second-hand uniforms which are always popular.

The JMA are planning a programme of events in the new year. Further news to follow in due course. We'd welcome more members to get involved so if you're interested please email JMAsecretary@johnmason.school

Our next committee meeting is 6.30pm on Wednesday 8th January at The Earl of Abingdon pub (in the Coxeters building, OX14 5AJ). If you're interested simply come along and buy a drink.

Thanks again to everyone who has supported us and wishing you all a peaceful Christmas break.

Model United Nations Conference

The Model United Nations group who meets weekly attended a conference at Abingdon School on Saturday 23rd November. The event was supported by a number of other schools and sixth forms. They discussed, debated, presented and argued many topical issues. Some of these included: The Question of Border Disputes between Venezuela and Guyana, The Role of Private Military Companies (PMCs) in Conflict Zones and The Question of Reducing Economic Inequality between Developed and Developing Nations.

We were very proud of how professional our delegates were in such an environment with new people in such a specialist environment. The skills our students of MUN are developing are specialist and will support their learning and wider enjoyment of current affairs. JMF6 students Aeryn and Kenzie lead, plan and run the

weekly sessions bringing our weekly topic and crisis debates but we have an outstanding number of year 10 and 11 students who are now a part of the group. A big well done to Jack, Kenzie, Akaalsimar, Aspen, Jacob, Ollie, Joseph, Ben, Jasper, Eva, Emma and Jordyn who represented at the conference. Within our group Ollie won the award for distinguished delegate with the Economic and Social Council and Joseph highly commended delegate in the international court of justice group.
Miss Arora and Mrs Marriott

Last chance to purchase a ticket for the Year 7 Winter Ball on Monday. Please purchase this via your MCAS account by the end of the weekend.



Important Dates:

Monday 16th December – Year 7 Winter Ball
Wednesday 18th December – Christmas lunch
Friday 20th December – Term ends at 1.10pm
Monday 6th January 2025 – JMS school closed for INSET
Tuesday 7th January 2025 – First day of term at JMS

Other important dates can be found on our website calendar:

<https://www.johnmason.oxon.sch.uk/events/calendar/>

Term dates for the new academic year are on our website:

<https://www.johnmason.oxon.sch.uk/events/term-dates/>