

Friday 15th November 2024

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,



John Mason School fell silent on Armistice Day to honour those who have died in conflicts around the world. As part of a short service in the courtyard, 1000 students and staff observed the traditional 11th November two-minute period of remembrance at 11:00am. The Last Post was played by Reuben, Alex and Dexter and this was followed by our Head Student, Bella, reading the poem 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae.

This came after JMS students representing local cadet groups laid a wreath at the War Memorial in Abingdon on Friday on behalf of the whole JMS community, and many more members of our community paid their respects as part of the Abingdon memorial service on Sunday.

All week students have been learning about the 300 young men from Abingdon who lost their lives in the First World War and it has been an important week for everyone to be grateful and proud to live in a country where democracy, tolerance, respect, liberty and the rule of law are so highly valued.

This week has also been anti-bullying week and I would like to express my thanks to all of our anti-bullying ambassadors for the work they have done to raise the profile of this important cause from wearing odd socks to selling wrist bands. We do not tolerate bullying in any form at John Mason School and this has been an important week to remind us of the importance of being kind and looking out for one another.

As sports teams are forming, fixtures have also been getting underway with a wide range of success. We'll update you on some of the latest scores next week. Until then, have a good weekend.

Best wishes.



Alastair West
Headteacher

School News

Year 7 Quiz Night

Last Friday's quiz night was a great success enjoyed by students, their families, staff and members of the JMA. A big thank you to Mr Conway for challenging everyone with a fantastically creative quiz. Another big thank you to everyone who helped run the event including staff, Y9 students and those on the JMA who all worked hard beforehand, behind the scenes and during the event.

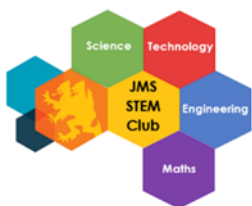
It was an entertaining evening where families and staff were able to network and get to know each other in a more relaxed atmosphere. It was great to see Y7 students confidently mixing with their peers and having fun.

In addition to the quiz, there was a second hand book stall, games and challenges. Drinks as well as hot and cold snacks were also appreciated.

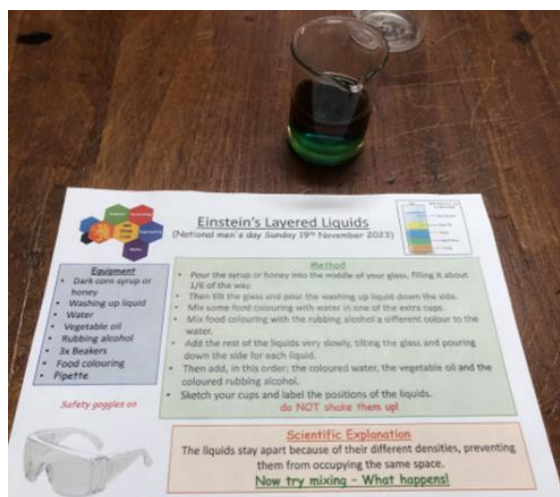
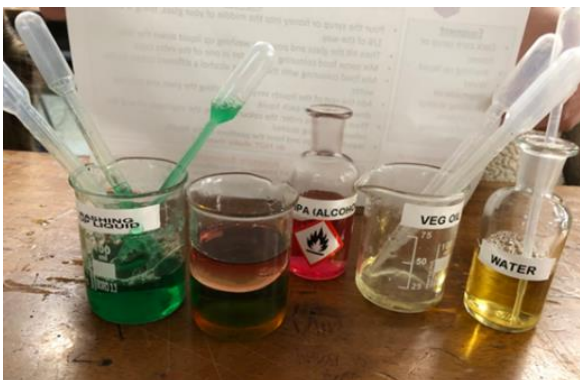
The total amount raised was £257.51 which all goes towards the Welsh Farm borehole appeal.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it such a successful event. We look forward to welcoming you to future events so watch this space!

STEM club



STEM Club celebrated National Men's Day this week by making Einstein's layered liquid. This consisted of adding different liquids with different densities to a beaker. They had to make sure they added each liquid at the correct time to keep the different densities separate, creating the colourful layers. We had a great time experimenting and comparing each others end result.

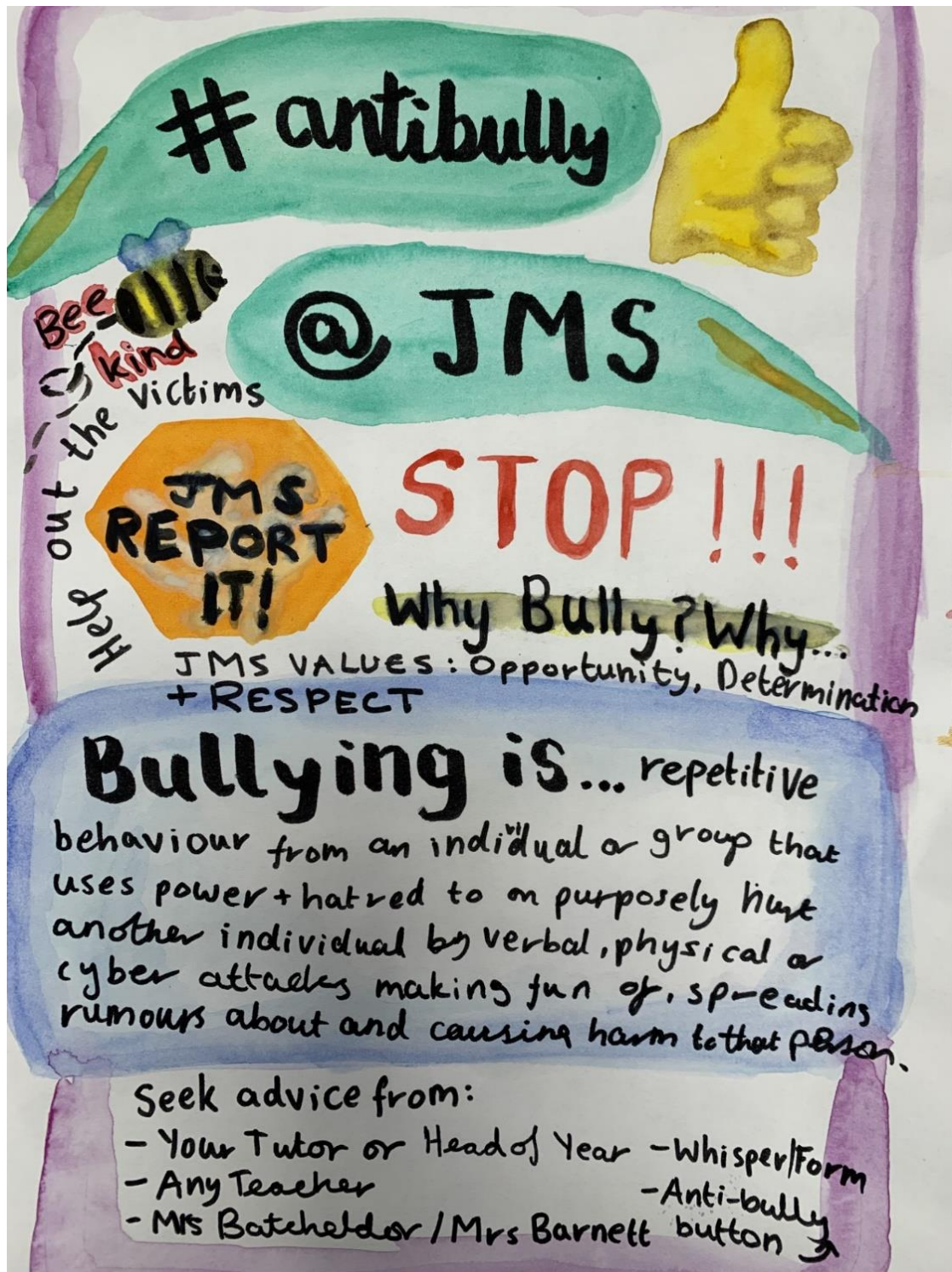


Anti-Bullying Week

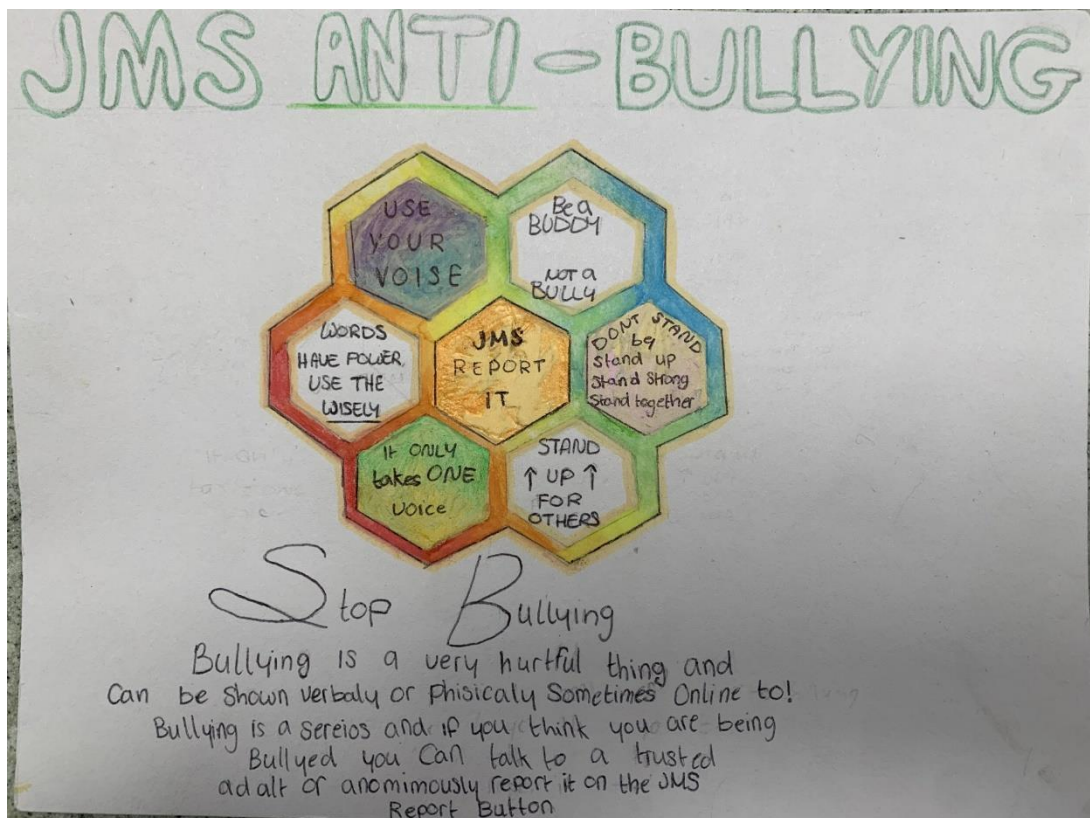
We are thrilled to share the success of our recent Anti-Bullying Week activities, which were all about building a community rooted in respect, opportunity, and determination. This year's events have been truly inspiring, as our students took a strong stand against bullying and demonstrated their commitment to creating a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Our Anti-Bullying Poster Competition was a great success, with over 100 students participating! Their artwork showcased powerful messages, with designs that spoke to the importance of kindness, acceptance, and respect. Judging the posters was a challenging task for our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and Chair of Governors, we were impressed by the creativity and determination from each student entry.

And the winner is Hollie from Y9! Hollie will be working with Mr Harrison to digitalise this water colour entry to enable easy scaling and printing.



With such a high standard, two posters were joint 2nd place.



We also celebrated the Anti-Bullying Alliance's national Odd Socks Day, where students and staff wore mismatched socks as a symbol of individuality and respect for differences. It was wonderful to see the vibrant colours and unique styles all around the school—a reminder that we all belong, just as we are!

To further support the cause, we have been selling Anti-Bullying Alliance 'Choose Respect' wristbands, and the response has been incredible. The wristbands are a way for our students to express their commitment to respect every day, and we are proud to see so many wearing them with pride.



Thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we are creating a community that values respect, fosters opportunity, and demonstrates determination in standing against bullying.

Christmas Competition

OPEN TO ALL. WIN A CHOCOLATE PRIZE

DESIGN A LASER CUT CHRISTMAS DECORATION AND EARN POINTS FOR YOUR HOUSE.

LASER CUT CHRISTMAS DECORATION COMPETITION

ALL ENTRIES TO BE HANDED IN BY TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER

MEET CHRISTMAS AT THE WEAR

Create a Christmas Tree decoration design in a black line drawing which can be cut out using the laser cutter. Remember to think about what will stay in place and what will fall out when cut!

Please email your design to Mr Stacey at estacey@johnmason.school or give them to Mr Stacey or Mrs Pritchard in D1

Important Dates:

Thursday 28th November – JMF6 Open Evening

Thursday 5th December – Year 9 Options Evening

Saturday 7th December – Mayor's Charity Concert

*The Mayor invites you to a
Fundraiser
Christmas*

- CONCERT -

SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER
DOORS OPEN 2:45PM
JOHN MASON SCHOOL

Performances by

militarywives
Choirs
Abingdon & Didcot

 John Mason School

 **ABINGDON MUSIC CENTRE**
Music for Everyone
Charity No. 309181

SCAN HERE

 Abingdon & District
VOLUNTEER CENTRE

 One Planet Abingdon
CLIMATE EMERGENCY CENTRE

Tickets available via QR code
£5 per person plus booking fee
www.ticketsource.co.uk/abingdon-town-council/t-pqaprrv

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/>