

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

The last school week of 2024 has raced by. On Monday Year 7 displayed magnificent skills on the dance floor during their Winter Ball. It was a wonderful evening to celebrate their first long term at John Mason School, and we are so proud that they are now a fully integrated part of the JMS community.

On Tuesday our Year 11s completed their Mock Interview Day. I cannot find words to express how grateful I am to our visitors who put Year 11 through their paces. The opportunity to gain this level of experience during Year 11 is quite unique and I have no doubt that this the potential to make the difference when they first find themselves in the hot seat for the real thing!

On Wednesday we celebrated with Christmas lunch. Thank you to all the staff who made this even such a success. For those who took up the offer it was a special occasion to sit with friends and enjoy a festive meal together.

As we reach the end of the week, we have just finished our final assembly of the year. With solo and group performances the music department, as always, threatened to be the stars of the show. However, to see our PE department sharing their country dancing really was the perfect way to see out the term. Seeing so many students collecting certificates of achievement reminds us all how much effort has gone into 2024.

I have every confidence that 2025 will be even better. But for now, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and happy holiday over the Christmas break.

Best wishes.

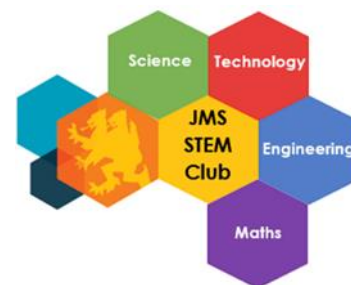


Alastair West  
Headteacher

# School News

## STEM Christmas Bauble Competition

A big well done to all the students who entered this year's STEM Christmas Bauble Competition, as always choosing the winners is very difficult. We received loads of amazing baubles from DNA to aliens and planets to conical flasks. I was blown away yet again by the creativity, imagination and effort that went into these baubles and have enjoyed them decorating my Christmas tree in my lab. The winner of the 2024 STEM Christmas bauble competition is Josh, and the runner up is Tabitha.



I look forward to the next STEM competition and the first of 2025.



## YR11 Mock Interview Day

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December we welcomed 25 visitors into John Mason to carry out one-to-one interviews with all our Yr11 students. This was a great opportunity for the students to gain insight into how an interview process takes place and the skills employers look for. The interviewers were a mix of parents, local employers and ex-students, of whom Katie Ledger a former BBC & ITN & Channel 5 news reporter was one.

The students were asked about their skills and strengths. Of which all our students have so many to celebrate. Each of them came away from their interview with a smile on their face from the feedback they received.

We will continue to build on careers opportunities with all students having a Careers Advisor appointment after Christmas.

## **Year 10 work Experience**

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025 our Yr10 students will participate in our Work Experience week. This allows students to gain an insight into the world of employment and give them the opportunity to develop the skills needed in different work environments. If you feel you would be able to accommodate students for this week we would love to hear from you. Please email: [workexperience@johnmason.school](mailto:workexperience@johnmason.school)

## **Important Dates:**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – JMS school closed for INSET

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – First day of term at JMS

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Year 8 Parents' Evening

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/>