

Friday 21st March 2025

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

Spring has arrived at John Mason School this week. Thursday's Spring Equinox coincided with unusually warm weather and it was a pleasure to be able to let students sit out on the grass at lunchtime to enjoy the sunshine and fresh air. Whilst we would not usually open the school field until after the Easter Holiday, we will continue to monitor the condition and allow students access where possible in the run-up to the holidays.

We are still, and will remain until the holidays, following our winter uniform policy. However, this is a good time to remind you that we will shift to the summer uniform on Tuesday 22nd April. You can find out more about our summer uniform policy [here](#) and all the details you need to order uniform can be found on our website [Uniform information and ordering](#).

It was great to finish the week on a high and this afternoon Year 11 have received their final set of internal exam results before their summer external exams. This group of young people have consistently raised the bar. Working hard in lessons, staying after school for revision sessions and showing a maturity and determination to succeed that we are incredibly proud of. There are lots of individual success stories and lots more "nearly there's" and with 8 more weeks to revise we are confident that all the hard work already done, and still to come, is going to pay off. Well done Year 11.

Finally, I would like to wish our Year 10s well as they venture out on their Work Experience placements next week. The world of work can be a daunting place, and I know that every student will gain so much from this experience. I know that many of you are also helping by hosting our students and I would like to extend a huge thank-you for making this mammoth event possible. 180 students spending 37 hours a huge range of venues which extends across Europe! We can't wait to hear the stories our students will have when they return.

Have a good weekend.



Alastair West
Headteacher

School News

Following the recently announced Parent Governor nominations we are very pleased to announce that both vacancies have been filled. Louise Aukland and Grace Challans will both be joining the Local Academy Committee in March and we would like to thank them both for their nominations and for the commitment they have offered to John Mason School.

Lynn Fathers
Trustee, Vice-Chair, Abingdon Learning Trust (Safeguarding lead)
Chair, John Mason Local Academy Committee

Alastair West
Headteacher
John Mason School

Year 8 Careers Event: Human Library

On Tuesday Year 8 had the opportunity to engage with a number of local employers. They had a simple task, work out what each person's profession was by asking them a number of questions in four minutes (and they were not allowed to ask "what do you do?") They worked in groups of six, coming up with questions to ask so that could identify the skills our visitors needed to complete their jobs. After four minutes they would have a discussion and move on to the next employer. Students had to try and work out a number of professions from property managers, economic developers, apprentices, cryogenics, a Crown Prosecutor, directors, editorial projects, a site manager, child psychotherapist and nuclear robotics.

For the second part of the morning students were researching & designing a rewilding area within the school site. This is a House competition and we will be announcing the winners with their designs in the next couple of weeks.

We would like to thank all of our community who offered their time to support this event.



Miss Gibson
Associate Assistant Head Personal Development

Madrina Oxfordshire

'You shall go to the ball'

Year 11 Prom planning is in full swing and Madrina have asked us to share this information. It is for year 11 students with the aim of helping young people who are facing challenges accessing outfits for prom.



STRICTLY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Wednesday
April 9th 10am-4pm
email us to make an appointment
madrinaoxford@gmail.com

Helping young people facing challenges
accessing outfits for Prom

Photos by Harriet Matthews Brand Photography



Who do we help?

- Pupils who are financially vulnerable
- Pupils with sensory issues and/ or autism who may find the shopping experience overwhelming
- Pupil with refugee status
- Pupils who are Young Carers
- Pupils with physical disabilities/ health issues - mental and physical
- Pupils with body dysmorphia issues

WE ARE AWARE THAT SOME STUDENTS MAY NOT FALL INTO THESE CRITERIA AND STILL NEED OUR SUPPORT, SO WE ENCOURAGE THEM TO GET IN TOUCH. THERE IS A SELF-REFERRAL FORM ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.

Jesus Christ Superstar School Production



Tickets on sale from Monday 3rd March

John Mason School
OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | DETERMINATION

JESUS CHRIST
SUPERSTAR
SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Lyrics by TIM RICE Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

Wednesday 26th March & Thursday 27th March
Doors open at 6:30pm | Tickets £8.50

There are only 20 tickets left for each show night. Thank you to everyone who has purchased tickets, please share with friends and family. [JCSS tickets](#)



British Science Week

Last week we celebrated British Science Week by completing lots of activities and competitions. One activity was a Form quiz with questions about change and adapt in STEM. Well done to the following forms for winning the quiz; 7XT, 8YO, 9XT and 10XS. All forms that entered the quiz will receive points towards their House cup.

Now for the overall winning group in year 7 for the Sustainable Solution Business. It was a really hard decision, Mrs Williams and Mrs O'Brien were amazed by the creativity, research, teamwork and presentation skills from each group.

A big well done to Leo, Oliverio, Erin and Wills from 7XO for their sustainable jumper business idea, where they researched the use of different plastics to make jumpers for school uniform. Their business involved collecting used plastic bottles and recycling them into fibres to make new school jumpers.

A big well done to all our year 7 students who took part in the British Science Week Sustainable Solutions day. Your teachers had such an enjoyable day working with you and hearing your passion for sustainability and business ideas. Your CREST award certificates have been ordered and will be given to you once arrived.



STEM Club



Since 2007, Earth Hour has been known for the “lights off” moment, with individuals from around the globe switching off their lights to show symbolic support for the planet and to raise awareness of the environmental issues affecting it.

To celebrate Earth hour which is happening at 8:30pm on Saturday 22nd March, STEM club made their own candles. They had to measure the correct amount of wax and then melt it in a water bath. Once melted they could choose the pigment they wanted to add and a scent. They looked and smelt absolutely amazing.

Are you going to join us Saturday and turn your lights off for an hour?



Important Dates:

Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th March – Jesus Christ Superstar school production

Other important dates can be found on our website calendar:

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

Term dates for the academic year are on our website:

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

Term dates for the next academic year are now on the website:

[Term Dates 2025-26](#)