

Friday 24th May 2024

Parent Bulletin

Dear Families,

We have reached the end of another half term, and this will be a special break for Year 11 and Year 13. It has been a privilege to speak to our students after each of their exams and to see their smiles as they know that all the hard work they have done in preparation has helped them produce exam performances that they can be proud of. All students have earned a break over the next week, but I am sure Year 11 and 13 need it even more. Well done to all of them for getting through the first phase of their exam season.

Water Safety Sessions for Teens aged 11 years+

White Horse Leisure Centre are running a free course created to inform teens on the dangers they may come across in open water and it allows them to practice/learn the skills needed to assist themselves and others if they get into trouble in and around water.

The date for this is Wednesday 29th May from 10:30-11:30am

Only bookable via their centre, please contact whitehorse@gll.org for further information or to book.

STEM club

STEM Club welcomed Laura from Oxford Botanical Gardens this week to learn about carnivorous plants. Lauren discussed the concerns behind the continuing loss of plant species across the world. The club learnt about plant blindness, which is a human tendency to ignore plant species. Laura brought different species of carnivorous plants for the club to look at as well as Pitcher Plants that the club were allowed to dissect and observe internal structures.



We would like to say a big thank you to Laura for this fascinating session.



Year 10 Work Experience

Work experience is an important part of our students' school life. It offers a unique insight into the world of work and it gives students the opportunity to know how it feels to work alongside adults; how people work together and how objectives are achieved in the world of work. We believe it is an invaluable experience, where students will learn many new skills as well as make contacts that may prove useful in pursuit of employment later in life.

Work experience does not necessarily have to link to each students' career aspirations, as many young people do not know which career path they may take in the future; however, it does provide them with the opportunity to develop transferable skills: such as communicating in a formal environment; working alongside a range of professionals; understanding different types of roles, as well as meeting deadlines and responding to direction in an unfamiliar setting.

During the week of 29th April - 3rd May our Year 10 students undertook their work experience. We had students working all over the local area as well as some students traveling further afield to London & Cambridge. Placements included beauty and hairdressing, hospitality and catering, car manufacturing, administration, local primary schools, RAF, construction, golf clubs, fitness centres, care homes, science centres and Williams F1.

Staff visited most students in their placements throughout the week and the feedback we had from employers was excellent.

We are always interested to hear from our parent/carer community if they think they could offer a placement to our students. Please get in touch: workexperience@johnmason.school

Charity Fundraiser Day

In addition to their school uniform, we are inviting students to wear something blue or yellow on 7th June. This is to support our charity fundraiser for Sobell House Hospice. Students can bring £1 in as a donation, or parents and carers can donate online via their MCAS account under the products section.

Please be aware that this is **not a non-uniform** event, and students should still be wearing their school uniform. Year 11 students will need to wear only their full school uniform while sitting exams and will be able to add their blue or yellow accessories when they leave the exam room.

I am aware that students have worked with us to improve standards of uniform throughout this term, and I have been approached on several occasions requesting a non-uniform day. I have promised the student council that, if uniform continues to improve, and our Charity Fundraiser Day for Sobel House is a success, then we will have a non-uniform day before the end of the academic year.

The poster features the logos for Sobell House Hospice and OxTrail's School Project 2024. The main title is 'CHARITY FUNDRAISER DAY'. The text reads: 'In support of Sobell House and OxTrail's School project 2024, we're having a BLUE and YELLOW day! A day where you get to pick an accessory or item of clothing: jumper, tie, glasses, to wear with uniform to celebrate what this brilliant Charity does for us. Please bring in £1 or anything you can afford and wear one item of clothing or accessory that is BLUE or YELLOW WITH UNIFORM on the 7th June. *Please ask your teacher/tutor if you're not sure what to wear.* We are raising money for Sobell House Hospice, a locally based charity that provides specialist end of life care to adults across Oxfordshire.' The poster includes illustrations of a blue sweater, a blue bow tie, yellow glasses, a white shirt with a yellow tie, a white scarf, and a blue cap. At the bottom, there is a colorful cow illustration and a photo of a group of people in school uniforms.

We welcome you all to our ArtBeat 2024 Exhibition in the 06 Gallery and Visual Arts Faculty on Saturday 8th June or Monday 10th June. Please come along and view all the A level and GCSE work our talented students have produced.



John Mason School
Excellence Through Creativity

GCSE & A' LEVEL

Art, 3D Design, Graphics & Textiles



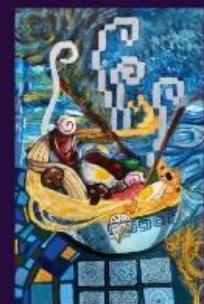
ART BEAT 2024 EXHIBITION

Open Viewings

Saturday 8th June 9.30am-1pm

Monday 10th June 3.30pm-7pm

06 Gallery & Visual Arts Faculty



Be inspired by the creativity of young minds.



Career Insight Morning

Do you think a role working with young people might be right for you?

John Mason School is looking to recruit new team members to work with our young people. Prior experience is valued but not essential.

 Thursday 6th June

 9.00 - 11.00

 John Mason School
Wootton Road, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 1JB

Come and share a coffee with the Headteacher, members of our SEN and Alternative Provision Teams and talk with some of our students. Tour the school and our new on-site provision facility.

We are very interested in hearing from people with practical skills and interests, including:

- Sports
- DIY
- Maintenance
- Cookery

We would also like to hear from you if you have experience in mental health, especially anxiety.

We can offer part-time and flexible working arrangements, term time only.

We support TAs and student support workers into a number of different teaching pathways including apprenticeships, Assessment Only, PGCEs and TeachFirst.

Scan the QR code to let us know you are coming or call us on 01235 524664



Important Dates

24th May Term ends at 3.10pm
27th-31st May Spring Half Term

Yours sincerely

Alastair West
Headteacher
John Mason School