

Friday 6th December 2024

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

This week and last, many of our students have been thinking about the bigger picture. Year 9 and Year 11 have had evenings with their families in school where they have been starting to plan for their GCSE and A-Level options respectively. Inevitably this leads to thinking about how these options will fit into their long-term plans, including University and careers. It has been inspiring to hear students talk about their determination to achieve their goals. Many students have clearly laid out plans for their future and many others are simply working hard to ensure that when they are ready to choose, they will have as many opportunities still available to them as possible.

During our information evenings, teachers and pastoral leaders have been on hand to listen and answer questions and our Careers Advisor has also been available to help families navigate a route which joins the dots between qualifications and employment.

With such ambition and focus it is a privilege to watch these young people in their lessons and putting in the effort which will take them down their own routes towards personal success.

Have a good weekend.



Alastair West
Headteacher

School News

Parent Voice Survey

In October we asked you to complete our Parent Voice survey which included several questions about the impact of mobile phones on the wellbeing of our students and the running of the school.

We have compared your views with those you shared with us earlier in 2024 and it is good to see that the percentages of students who are happy, feel safe and are doing well in school have all gone up. You have also told us that you have a better understanding of how your child is doing in school.

In your comments you told us that you were very pleased with recent staffing appointments, and you had noticed the impact of new members of staff in school on your child's experience in school.

You told us that better management of behaviour is beginning to have a positive impact on lessons, but we recognise that we still have work to do here. You have shared with us some frustrations around SEND provision, and I want to let you know that we are increasing our SEND staffing, and I hope you will continue to see this provision improve.

You told us that you have noticed high quality homework is being set more consistently and you have asked us for a guide to the different online platforms we use for homework and how to access them. This guide is in development, and we aim to share it with you in the new year.

Finally, you shared your concerns, as well as the benefits around Smart Phones. Many of you have requested more guidance around mobile phones and later in this bulletin you will find a poster advertising free webinars by Thame Valley Police for parents and carers on how to keep your child safe on line.

We are and will remain a mobile phone free school. Students are asked to turn their mobile phones off and keep them out of sight when they arrive at school. If a mobile phone is seen or heard in school it will be confiscated and if a phone is confiscated on a second occasion, we will request that a family member comes into school to collect the phone from reception. You can read more about how we deal with mobile phones in section 8.5 of our Behaviour Policy [here](#)

Secondary School Health Nursing Newsletter

You can read the latest School Health Nurse letter here: [SHN Newsletter 2024](#)

STEM club

STEM club welcomed Colin and Ed from Stantec to learn about Civil Engineering. We learnt what a Civil Engineer does and the career pathway that led Colin and Ed to become Civil Engineers, as well as some projects in and around Oxford they have worked on. They then set the club a challenge to build a tower out of paper that was at least 50cm tall, that would withstand a little wind or poke of a finger. Each group only had 10 pieces of A4 paper and Sellotape to build their tower in 20 minutes. They all had different designs and fantastic ideas.



Next week we start the Christmas STEM fun!



Vale Netball Tournament

John Mason hosted a successful Vale Netball Tournament for Year 10s this week. Our netball courts came alive under the floodlights with all 5 courts being used. Well done to our Year 10 team who came fourth and were fantastic ambassadors for the school, and thank you to everyone involved, for making this event run smoothly. This includes all staff who supported with organisation and refreshments as well as students from Year 11 and JMF6 who demonstrated fantastic leadership skills when umpiring matches.

Football Opportunity

Oxford United are running Premier League Kicks sessions in Abingdon every Thursday.

Details:

- Free Informal Football Sessions (Including Educational Workshops, Youth Voice, Social Action)
- White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre, Audlett Drive, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3PJ
- Indoor Sports Hall
- Footwear TRAINERS/INDOOR FOOTBALL SHOES
- Ages 9-12 Years old (School Year 5 - Year 8) – Mixed Gender Sessions - Term Time Thursday 4:00pm - 4:45pm
- Ages 13-18 Years old (School Year 9 - Year 13) – Mixed Gender Sessions - Term Time Thursday 4:45pm – 5:30pm

Please click the sign-up link if you are interested: <https://forms.gle/8CqP2C9zCGmonwm88>

(This must be completed by a parent or carer before attending the session).



Important Dates:

Saturday 7th December – Mayor’s Charity Concert
Tuesday 10th December – Winter Concert
Thursday 12th December – Year 11 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/>

CYBER PROTECT



The Digital Dilemma

Keeping Your
Kids Safe Online

December 4th, 11th, 18th



FREE WEBINAR FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Thames Valley Police

Hints and tips to secure your family
online, covering:

Gaming



Social Media



Email

BOOK YOUR SPACE:

[Eventbrite: Police - South East Cyber](#)

DON'T LET IT BE GAME OVER

LEVEL UP YOUR ONLINE SECURITY