

Friday 7th February 2025

Parent Bulletin

Dear families

JMS Sports teams are on a high as we move into February. The year 8 boys football team won against Wheatley Park, the Year 10 girls came 5th in a local football tournament and Year 11 boys won against Our Lady's Abingdon. On top of this the numbers attending after school football and netball are high and growing.

It is fantastic to see so many young people balancing their lessons with additional sport. We know that building healthy habits now is a great indicator for future health and the social and team building benefits are unbeatable. You can find the huge range of clubs available during Term 3 [here](#). There will be an update for Term 4 after half term. If your son or daughter would like to join in with training after school or during lunchtime, please ask them to speak to their PE teacher.

We have noticed mobile phones are back in the news this week. We have had success this term in our efforts to ensure JMS is a phone free site. The knowledge that students get to spend at least 6.5 hours living in a mobile phone free world ensures more of their focus can be given to everything else and we are seeing the benefits in lessons. Mobile phones are confiscated if they are seen or heard by a member of staff and in 76% of cases students have not repeated the mistake and when comes to repeating the mistake twice this increases to 91%. For the small number of students who then need it, we are able to offer additional support to break habits.

On Tuesday a [BBC news article](#) pointed out that banning phones in school is not enough, and that we need your help to ensure mobile phones don't have a negative impact on students grades or their mental wellbeing.

You can help us by doing the following:

1. Talking to your child about how they use their mobile phone.
2. Checking their phone messages and social media to ensure they are using it appropriately.
3. Agreeing on 'phone free times' with your child (e.g. mealtimes, bedtimes).
4. Planning activities which your child will do instead.

Whatever you choose to do this weekend I hope you have a good one.

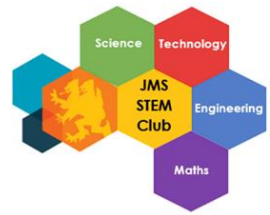
Best wishes.



Alastair West
Headteacher

School News

STEM Club



In this week’s session we extracted DNA from Strawberries. This consisted of making an extraction solution which we mixed with our thoroughly mashed up strawberries. The big reveal was when we slowly added some Ethanol to the mixture, the DNA then combined allowing us to see it. If you look at the photos it is the clouding substance.



Abingdon and Witney College Open Days 2025



Abingdon Campus
Wednesday 12th February
3:30pm - 7:00pm

Witney Campus
Wednesday 26th February
3:30pm - 7:00pm

Bicester Construction Skills Centre
Wednesday 5th March
4:00pm - 7:00pm

Common Leys Farm Campus
Wednesday 19th March
5:00pm - 7:00pm



Open Days 2025

We will have tutors, course leaders and careers advisors available to help you make the right choice for you, whether that be a study programme, a T Level or an Apprenticeship.

Add our 2025 Open Days to your calendar and find the course for you.

Be You. Be Extraordinary.

Important Dates:

14th February – school ends at 3.10pm for half term

17th – 21st February – school closed for half term

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/>