

Friday 8th November 2024

Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

Whilst most people use half term to ensure they had a good rest, two groups of students, and staff, were off on their travels around Europe to support their studies and by all accounts they all had a great time.



Firstly, the JMS trip to Berlin from 18th – 21st October. 30 of our year 11 German or History students once again visited the historic city of Berlin. It was a whirlwind tour of sites of pivotal historical importance including Checkpoint Charlie, the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag. Students also got to enjoy the stunning views from the TV Tower, boat along the Spree river and visit the East Side Gallery. Despite all the fascinating historical tours there was some indication that the students' favourite part of the visit was either the Ritter Chocolate Emporium or the Olympic Stadium- especially when they got to the changing rooms and were able to sit themselves in the spots previously used by some of their sporting

heroes. The trip was somewhat tiring with Sunday being quite a restful day at only 21,000 steps, the lowest of the week. Student behaviour and engagement was exceptional and every student on the trip represented John Mason to great credit, especially at those sites of particular sensitivity such as Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and the Holocaust Memorial. Year 10 do look out for the 2025 trip which will be advertised shortly!

At the other end of the week the JMS trip to Valencia took place from 31st October – 4th November. Given the tragic news of flooding in the Valencia region there was some anxiety about visiting the city and after many phone calls to our contacts and hosts in the city, as well as the tour company, we were reassured that not only would students be able to complete their itinerary but that they would be safe and welcomed. Our hosts in Valencia were wonderful and expressed their appreciation for continuing to support their economy which relies heavily on the tourism industry. Again, students emersed themselves in the local dialect as well as the unique Spanish culture.



The coming days mark an important period of reflection as we approach Armistice Day when we remember the sacrifice of others. This morning, I visited the war memorial in Abingdon with a group of our students who are also cadets. I know that many of you will be paying your respects on Remembrance Sunday both in Abingdon town centre and other locations. On Monday we will be marking Armistice Day by gathering in the courtyard for a 2 minute silence. To make this work we have adjusted the times of the day slightly with Year 11 breaktime taking place from 10:20 – 11:45 and Y7-10 breaktime taking place from 11:10- 11:35.

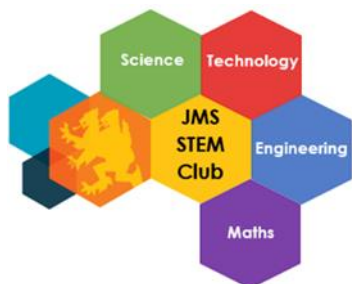


Best wishes

Al West

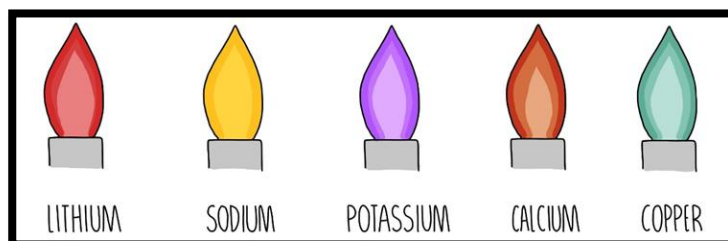
Alastair West
Headteacher

School News



To celebrate Guy Fawkes night STEM club were carrying out flame tests for different chemicals. They experimented with liquids verses solids to see which produced the biggest and brightest flame. Students concluded that using the chemical in its solid state was best for a bigger and brighter flame.

The two favourite chemicals were Copper which turned the flame green and Lithium which turned the flame red.



Year 11 Mock Interviews

We need your help



Click to give us an hour of your time
on Tuesday 17th December 2024

This is your opportunity to help us to shape the future

- Give students interview confidence
- Help students to experience the world of work
- Share your knowledge

Complete the form here: [Year 11 Mock Interview Form](#)

Important Dates:

Friday 8th November – Year 7 Inter house quiz

Thursday 28th November – JMF6 Open 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/>



Year 7 Inter Form Quiz Night

Friday, 8th November, 6:30pm for a 7pm start - 9:30pm, School Hall

Entrance Fee: £1 per person (free to children younger than secondary age)

Licensed bar, tuck shop and baskets of chips available to buy on the night.

Pupils, parents, families, and staff are all welcome to join in the fun. Bring your enthusiasm and team spirit for an evening filled with challenging questions, laughter, and camaraderie.

All funds raised will go towards the Welsh Farm Bore Hole appeal.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

