

Monday 6th January 2025

Dear families

Re: Return to school for Term 3

Happy New Year and welcome to 2025. We are looking forward to all students returning to school tomorrow, Tuesday 7th January at our new time for the start of the school day of 8:35am. A reminder that the times for the day will be as follows from tomorrow.

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|---------------------|-----------------|
| • 8:35am – 8:45am | Morning Tutor |
| • 8:45am – 9:45am | Lesson 1 |
| • 9:45am – 10:45am | Lesson 2 |
| • 10:45am – 11:05am | Break |
| • 11:05am – 12:05pm | Lesson 3 |
| • 12:05pm – 1:05pm | Lesson 4 |
| • 1:05pm – 1:50pm | Lunch |
| • 1:50pm – 2:10pm | Afternoon Tutor |
| • 2:10pm – 3:10pm | Lesson 5 |

We are hopeful that from tomorrow, the rest of this week will remain dry, however it is likely to be extremely cold. Please can I ask that you ensure you send your child to school with a suitable winter jacket, along with a hat and gloves. We will ensure that the Main Hall is open to students before school starts, at break time, and at lunchtime however our site does have a lot of outdoor space which students need to use and so must bring appropriate winter clothing.

A reminder as well that all students must be in full school uniform. You can view the school uniform policy [here](#). We do have some uniform stock which we are able to lend any student who is not correctly dressed, but it always ensures a smooth start to the school day if your child arrives in school properly dressed and equipped for school.

In December, I shared the outcomes of our consultation on the use of smart phones by young people. I remain very concerned by the damage done to the mental health of some of our young people due to smart phones.

Registered Office: Abingdon Learning Trust
Hendred Way, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2AW

John Mason School is part of the Abingdon Learning Trust.
Abingdon Learning Trust is an exempt charity and a
company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales: **Company No. 7931866**

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We are a mobile-phone free school and I know that many young people struggle to adjust between the freedom of using their mobile phones regularly during the school holidays and then switching it off when they come onto the school site.

Please be aware that if a member of staff sees or hears a mobile phone on the school site before 3:10pm then the phone will be confiscated. If this happens once, your child will be able to collect their phone from Student Services at the end of the school day (after their detention if applicable). If a phone is confiscated a second time within a term, we will contact you to arrange for you to collect the phone from reception. If issues continue then we will require your child to hand their phone in before they enter the school site. I would be very grateful if you could have a conversation with your child about this to ensure they are prepared.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with you to ensure that your child receives the best opportunities, experiences, and outcomes in 2025.

Yours sincerely



Alastair West
Headteacher
John Mason School

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