



# HEADLINES

May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

This may have been a shorter term in length but it was still packed with lots of different events and activities and it is hard to believe how much we have fitted into the past five weeks. Most notably, external exams have started again - we now have both our A Level and GCSE students taking their formal exams for the first time in two years!

Many of you will be aware that Mrs Prior will be going on maternity leave very soon. We wish her all the best of luck! You will be reassured to know that Mr Gilkes will be taking over as Director of Key Stage 4 from next term.

## International Day of Living Together in Peace (Mr Fulwell, Director of Key Stage 3)

On Monday 16th May, Year 8 students marked The International Day of Living Together in Peace - this is a United Nations event with an important historical background and with pertinent messages for young people about respect, tolerance and kindness. I think we can all agree that, given the events going on in the world, a focus on peace is particularly important at present, whether local, national or international.

Year 8 created posters about the importance of working together in peace and learned about the origins of the day; they also contributed to a chalk-in at lunchtime where the courtyard was festooned with positive messages which was very pleasing to see.

## Decarbonising Abingdon (Mr Conroy, Director of Humanities)

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> May Mr Conroy, Miss Evans and a group of our Year 8-10 'Carbon Crushers' environmental committee at JMS attended an OX14 partnership meeting at Abingdon School to discuss how we can reduce our carbon footprint. There were guest speakers and specialist teachers who helped our students chair discussions and present their ideas. They then presented their ideas to David Johnston OBE Conservative MP for Wantage at the Amey Theatre. Our students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and came back with some exciting initiatives for us to implement across the school.

## Senior Student Team (Sixth Form Team)

Once again, we have been incredibly impressed with the professionalism and strength of the Senior Student Team applicants this year. Each candidate was put through a rigorous process, consisting of application forms, presentations, interviews and staff and student evaluations.

We are delighted to confirm the team:

**Student Presidents:** Hayley Katsande and Opal Woodley

**Vice Presidents:** Ewan Sleep, Zara Chaudri, Mariam Beldishevski, Archie Worth

**Lead students:** Renata Avignone Rossa (Specific responsibility for Student well-being and mental health), Luna Smith, Elliot McLernan, Ace Manthey, Ana Tipter, Ruben Boswell

We are very much looking forward to working alongside them and are excited by the potential of the whole team.

## Carnegie Shadowing Quiz (Mr Holme)

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May our intrepid Carnegie Shadowers went to SHSK School to participate in the Carnegie Quiz. Students from six Abingdon schools were divided into ten teams of eight. There was a round of questions on each of the shortlisted books and for the first time in 22 years we had a tie at the end of the quiz! A tie breaker was introduced:

Q: The Carnegie prize is named after which famous Scottish philanthropist?

Do you know the answer without looking it up?

Table 8 was the winner of this year's quiz featuring JMS' Rosi. Well done to all our brilliant shadowers who took part - Rona Pollard, Catherine Brett, Rosi Gill-Wagner, Henry Griffin, Jasper Marshall Davila, Eliza Parsonson, Oliver Forcer, Kyla Barney, Lucy Schwaebisch, Penelope Siefring.

A fantastic time was had by all.

### **Duke of Edinburgh (Mr Edwards, D of E Co-ordinator)**

With two Bronze practice expeditions and one Silver already completed this year, Our Duke of Edinburgh Team and participating students are in full swing. We have a total of 160 participants going out on the river or completing their Assessed Expeditions during the next few weeks, which promises to make our May half term a busy one. We look forward to our Bronze participants walking around White Horse Hill but also seeing our Gold Award students gliding through central Oxford in their canoes.

### **Careers (Mr White Director of Maths and Computing, CEAIG Lead)**

Having delivered successful information sessions at the recent Year 10 Careers Expo, software consultancy HSO returned to the school to provide a group of 30 Year 10 students with the opportunity to take part in a mock Candidate Selection Process.

Some comments from our students are below:

"We were provided with an invaluable experience, working through a mock graduate assessment, which allowed us to gain knowledge to boost us into employment when we leave school or university. They were engaging and provided realistic yet fun and achievable tasks for us to work through, leaving us with knowledge of what would be valuable later on in life. Dean, who was running the session, helped us progress in the challenges we sometimes found hard, adding in productive questions during debates and arguments, keeping a level head. All three presenters were lovely, meaning everyone in the room felt included and had an amazing time. Anything we didn't understand was explained and worked through with us, and despite a couple of us being unsure at first, we all loved the experience and are glad we went."

### **Bromcom**

Thank you to everyone who has redeemed their invitation code for My Child at School (MCAS). MCAS is a valuable tool that allows parents and carers to see what their child is doing at school.

The next phase of the roll-out is for students to get the Student Portal on their mobile phone. Students have been shown what to do in assemblies and there is a document attached with instructions. Please ask your child to install this over the holidays.

We are also now close to enabling the Finance module of MCAS. We will no longer be using Parentmail in September for payments and lunch account top-ups so if you haven't got your MCAS account up and running yet, it is important you do so, please contact the office if you need assistance.



Adrian Rees  
Head of School

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