

Friday 24<sup>h</sup> January 2025

## Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

We are very glad to have missed the worst of Friday's weather with students staying dry at break and lunchtime today. I am particularly grateful to the wonderful JMS students who demonstrate such resilience and maturity when we need to adjust their normal routines due to anything beyond normal control.

Half of our Year 10 trips to Vertex Pharmaceuticals based at Milton Park have been completed over the last two weeks. Vertex invest in scientific innovation to create transformative medicines for people with serious diseases and they offer our students a unique opportunity to visit their premises and gain experience in working in lab conditions in their teaching lab. This is just one of a growing number of careers events taking place this year and for Year 10 the biggest event will be their Work Experience week in March. The opportunities our students can access cover a huge range and I'd like to thank those of you who have offered your support in offering placements or talking to students. From speaking to our students, we know how important it can be for them to think about the bigger picture and how they want their lives to unfold. The opportunities can provide inspiration, clarity and focus as they make their way through their school career.

Finally, please find out more about the exciting developments at our Welsh Farm on page 2. A huge thanks to our Parents Association, the JMA, for the incredible work in making the Welsh Farm Borehole a reality. With so many of our older students being involved in residential trips in the first half of the year I know that our younger students are looking forward to hearing about what opportunities are available to them and information about trips for year 8 are coming soon.

Have a great weekend.



Alastair West  
Headteacher

## School News

### The Welsh Farm Borehole - Thank you!

Thank you for all the help with our fundraising to install a borehole at the 'Welsh Farm'. With your help we have managed to raise the £15,000 we needed to do this.

I am really pleased to let you know that work has begun and we will shortly have a permanent running water solution. This will replace the old spring tank that we have used for many years, but due to deforestation and climate change was not able to supply water in the quantity needed.

This reliable water source now enables us to move forward with our development plan of upgrading the bathrooms and plumbing system within and you will see us continue enthusiastically with our fundraising efforts so we can continue to make this resource the best it can be for our community to enjoy.

Look out for our display in Unit 24 in the precinct in town (The old Samuel's store). It will be there from 1st - 8th February.

**A heads up for year 8 parents**, letters for this year's trips will be with you in the next couple of weeks. Once again, thanks, what a fantastic JMS community effort it was to get this far, we did not imagine that we would have raised the funds so quickly so that the current year 8 could benefit in this academic year!





## Term 3: Secondary School Health Nursing Newsletter

January 2025

Term 3: 6 January - 14 February 2025

[Go to this Sway](#)

### **Important Dates:**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Year 9 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/>