

Friday 28th February 2025

Parent Bulletin

Dear families

After a well-earned rest students have returned from half term full of enthusiasm this week. Having now covered half the year, we have taken the opportunity to focus on the routines and systems we introduced in September to ensure we get the most out of every minute students spend in school.

In lessons we have focused on arriving promptly and swiftly settling into Do Now Activities while teachers take the register. Between lessons we have been focusing on speedy transitions from one class to the next to ensure not a moment is wasted.

Students are aware of the importance of coming to school with their timetable and planner and fully equipped for which ever lessons they have on any given day. Students have also planned the fastest route between lessons, and how to work as team when moving large groups between different places, such as into and out of assemblies.

With over 1000 students in school every day, it is the little things that make a big difference and spending a little time on ensuring that every student and teacher is taking a consistent approach to everything we do helps the school run smoothly and saves time in the long run, time which can be spent on the far more interesting things, like the lessons that teachers have been busy preparing. Consistency is key!

Away from the day to day running of the school we have also had visitors in school this week. Our sports leaders welcomed Year 1 children from 6 local primary schools, running 2 sessions of PE exercises and competitions, our sports leaders were impeccable ambassadors for the school and ensured that our Year 1 visitors, whether they won or not, left on an adrenalin high.

We also hosted the 'I can & I am' bus to the John Mason car park which worked with students, providing tools to help build self-esteem and maintain good mental health. Students who were involved came away with a range of new skills and most importantly developed their ability to know and take care of themselves.

As we reach the end of the week, budding scientists across Abingdon will be craning their necks and looking to the heavens. In science lessons, students have been planning to make the most of being able to see 7 planets in the sky at one time, for the last time until 2040. By then, Year 7 will be 27 years old! If you want to join them, you can find out more information from the BBC [here](#). We have a few budding astronomers across the school, and I can't wait to hear how many of the 7 planets they spot!

Until then, keep your fingers crossed for clear skies, and have a great weekend.

Best wishes.



Alastair West
Headteacher

Jesus Christ Superstar School Production

We are excited to announce that tickets will be on sale on Monday 3rd March for our fabulous school production of Jesus Christ Superstar. This is going to be a truly spectacular show and one not to miss. Tickets can be purchased using the QR code in the poster below or clicking here: [JCSS tickets](#)



The poster features two young women in period costumes against a dark background with faint gold patterns. The text on the poster includes: 'Tickets on sale from Monday 3rd March' at the top; the John Mason School logo with the motto 'OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | DETERMINATION'; the title 'JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR SCHOOL PRODUCTION' in large gold letters; 'Lyrics by TIM RICE Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'; and the performance dates 'Wednesday 26th March & Thursday 27th March' with 'Doors open at 6:30pm | Tickets £8.50'. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

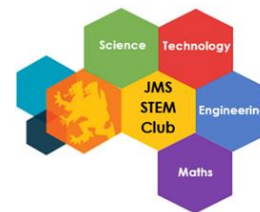
JMA AGM

We have the AGM of the John Mason Association on Wednesday 12th March in the LRC and we would like to invite as many parents and carers as possible to attend to come and find out about the JMA, hear what we have been up to over the last 12 months and help us shape the future. We are looking to make changes to modernise the JMA and would welcome new faces and fresh ideas to help us do this.

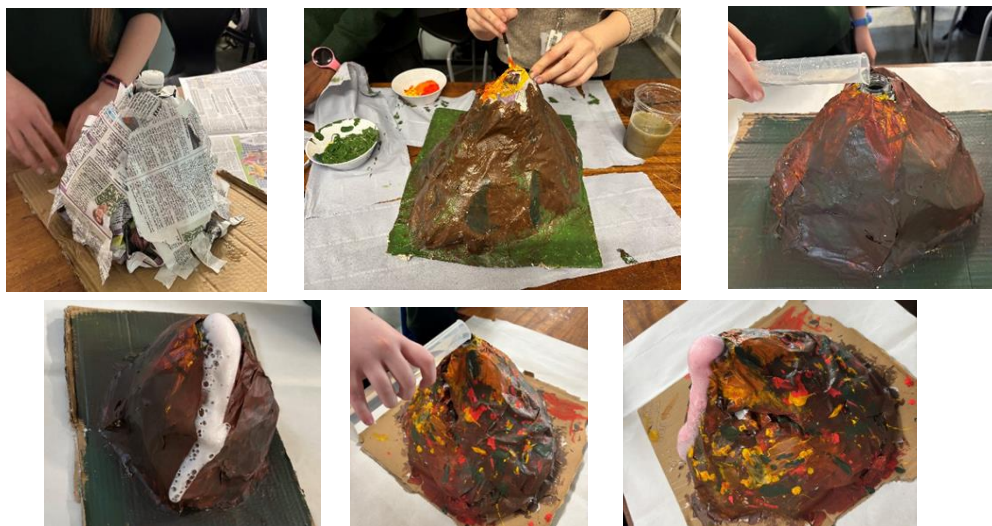
If you are at all interested in joining us to create a JMA that supports the school in the best way we can meet us at the front of school at 6pm, there is no obligation to sign up for anything. We look forward to welcoming you on the 12th

School News

STEM Club



Over the last 3 weeks, STEM club have been designing and building volcanoes. This week they were very excited to be able to erupt them. They mixed water, washing up liquid, baking soda, food dye and vinegar together for the chemical reaction that mimicked the eruption. There was a little trial and error with volumes and amounts, but all were successful and not too much mess made!



John Mason School will be hosting the British Science Week again this year which has a theme of 'Change & Adapt'. See below for activities and competitions that you can get involved in.

Activity	Year group	Date	Notes
Form quiz	KS3-4	WC 10 th March	Tutor to email answers to Mrs Williams
Assemblies	KS3-4	WC 10 th March	
Sustainability CREST award project	Year 7	Wednesday 12 th March	Year 7 will be off timetable to complete a sustainability project to complete a CREST award
STEM club	Year 7&8	Wednesday 12 th March	Theme 'Change & Adapt'.
Evolve Biology and Fusion Physics magazine competition	All years	Entry deadline Friday 14 th March	This competition is to have an article, an interview, some art, photography or a puzzle linked to Biology or Physics published in the magazine. For more details see google classroom. Entry to Mrs Williams by email
British Science Week poster competition	Year 7-9	Deadline Friday 14 th March 3:20pm	Prizes to be won! Hand in poster to Mrs Williams in C15. See google classroom for more information.



Important Dates:

Wednesday 12th March – JMA AGM at 6pm

Thursday 20th March – Year 7 Parents' Evening

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/>