



**John Mason School**  
OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | DETERMINATION

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

## Parent Bulletin

Dear families,

Our final assembly of the term was a great way to celebrate the fantastic achievements of so many groups, teams and individuals across every subject and a huge range of sports and extra-curricular groups. We enjoyed wonderful performances from the Big Band, Scarlet in Year 11 and a reunion performance from the cast and band of Jesus Christ Superstar.

Earlier in the week, we were very proud of the year 8 football team who progressed in the County Cup competition, and it was an absolute pleasure to welcome back our year 10's after their work experience week. Thank you to all of you who were involved as hosts. It has been humbling to hear your feedback, and we couldn't be prouder of the example this year group has set in their conduct in the world of work.

After Easter, exam season will start and we hope that all students manage to fit in some rest between their revision sessions and enjoy the nice weather.

We return on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April and students are able to wear summer uniform if they should choose.

Have a restful Easter break.

Alastair West  
Headteacher

## School News

### Rugby Success

Noah in Year 8 and his team (Oxford Harlequins) recently became the Under 13s County Rugby Champions. After going a try down at the start they eventually beat Didcot 25 - 10. Congratulations to Noah and his teammates.



### ArtBytes – National art Competition Y9 – you can now vote!

[John Mason School | Schools | Art Bytes](#)

Public voting has now opened. Please get your votes in and share with your family and friends.

It would be great if there were lots of votes cast! Individuals need to enter an email address to be able to vote, so can only vote once. Anyone can vote, so do please encourage friends and family.

The winner from the school round then goes through to regional finals.

Thank you for showing the Y9's your support.

Claire Pennington  
Director of Visual Arts

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1. Download the free BetterPoints app.
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3. Take the quick Get Started Survey to earn 100 BetterPoints and start earning for your trips straight away.

Keep an eye on the app for prize draws (including electric bikes and European city breaks), boosted BetterPoints, new local vouchers and advice on how you could travel locally.

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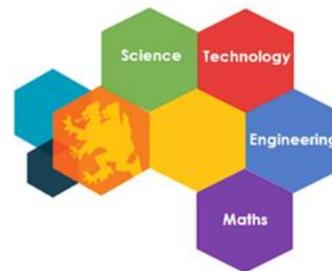
Download the free app now: <https://oxon.betterpoints.uk/>

You can turn your Better Points into rewards and redeem them at many high street and local Oxfordshire based businesses.

## STEM Club

Spring is in the air!

With the addition of bird nests in the trees, STEM club have made bird feeders using recycled materials. The students used old bottles, plastic food trays, string and sticks from around the school. We hope these support the many different species of birds and their new arrivals.



## John Mason School Local Academy Committee – Update

The Local Academy Committee's work this term has centred on supporting the school in responding to OFSTED's report recommendations and progressing our improvement priorities to:

- **Improve learning and teaching** – ensuring teachers are consistent in the way they check students' progress, identify barriers to learning and make adaptations where necessary;
- **To teach and celebrate positive attitudes** – continuing to prioritise high expectations of students and celebrate their achievements, to grow the JMS community and increase daily attendance;
- **To refine and embed our systems and processes** – making sure they are well understood and consistently followed by everyone at John Mason School.

This term governors have reviewed a wide range of reports used to assess pupil progress and discussed with school leaders the strategies they are using to support learning. We have also heard about school leaders' plans and the impact of actions helping students work toward the high expectations we have for regular school attendance and the high standards of behaviour which continue to be a key focus and an essential part of helping all students achieve success at school. We have also learnt more about the many opportunities that John Mason offers for [personal development](#) including an impressive range of leadership and career development opportunities developed by staff in partnership with local groups and businesses.

One of our tasks as governors is keeping up with changes to legal requirements and ensuring that the school's policies are kept up to date. With regular changes to guidance this can be a challenging process, and this term has seen us consider updates to SEND, Staff Pay, Appraisal, Careers, Relationship & Sex Education and Health Education policies. Once again, thanks go to staff for ensuring that our school community is supported using up to date advice. We are also looking ahead at the proposed changes to the OFSTED framework which is currently out for consultation. If you would like to know more about the proposals or contribute to the consultation (which ends on 28<sup>th</sup> April) please visit OFSTED's [website](#).

In addition to keeping ourselves informed through training, visits and reports, governors continue to use your feedback and the views of students to help us consider the effectiveness of actions and inform future approaches. This term I was pleased to join a recent student voice event hearing first-hand about student experiences in school and governors are looking forward to more opportunities to meet with staff and students as part of visits planned for the Summer Term as well as considering any feedback you provide through the school's surveys.

This term it was a pleasure to welcome Louise Aukland, back for a second term of office on our Local Academy Committee, and to introduce Grace Challans to our team. Grace and Louise bring considerable experience of Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) and safeguarding helping ensure that, collectively, governors bring a wide range of knowledge and perspectives to help move John Mason forward on its improvement journey.

Looking back on another busy term and all the many opportunities and activities celebrated through the school's newsletter and beyond I can't help but reflect on how fortunate we are to have such a committed community including staff, students, parents, John Mason Association, colleagues from Abingdon Learning Trust and local governors all working together to achieve the best for John Mason students. Thank you to everyone for all that you do to support our school and students.

*Lynn Fathers, Chair of Governors*  
*April 2025*

### **Important Dates:**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 1.10pm - term ends

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – term begins

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/>

Term dates for the next academic year are now on the website:

[Term Dates 2025-26](#)