



A newsletter written by students, for students

October 2016

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Work Experience and Summer Schools, Upcoming Events, and more!



Head Boy and Head Girl 2016-2017

"We are really pleased to introduce ourselves as the new Head Boy and Head Girl for 2016/17.

This year, our aim is to improve cohesion and pride within the Sixth Form by encouraging more people to participate in activities and projects throughout the year.

We hope to build upon existing community links and get more people involved in representing and raising the profile of the Sixth Form.

We are extremely grateful to be given this responsibility and look forward to working alongside student leaders and staff to improve our School and Sixth Form."

Ryan Ing and Lucy Admans

Balloon Launch Success



On Thursday the 15th of September, Head Boy Ryan Ing launched a high altitude weather balloon to collect data on how pressure, humidity and temperature changes occur through the different levels of the atmosphere as part of his EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) which is worth half an A-level. This also gave Ryan a chance to develop his understanding and knowledge on two topics he finds interesting, which are Science and Geography. Ryan received massive support from his friends and family as well as the Sixth Form teachers, and had an audience to support the launch of the balloon from sixth formers and school students. The balloon and its payload rose to 81,500ft before the drop in atmospheric pressure caused the balloon envelope to burst. The payload then went into freefall, reaching a speed of 110mph before the parachute opened, and it later landed in Presteigne after a flight time of 2hr 20mins. In addition to Ryan's incredible achievement, the school has entered the Boscombe Balloon Challenge, which is a competition run by the University of Southampton, Qinetiq and the Royal Aeronautical Society. If you are interested in participating, please email Ryan or Miss Williams.

Outstanding Results

A-level results day is always a nerve-wracking experience for students across the country, yet fortunately for students at John Masefield Sixth Form, the 2016 results proved to be some of our best to date. John Masefield students have consistently achieved well in their A-level examinations, and this year was no exception – with 35% of grades falling within the A*- A bracket and 67% between A* - B. No wonder our sixth formers had a reason to celebrate! 90% of our students achieved a place at their first choice university, including Oxford, Durham and Exeter to name a few. Beth Hiley is going to study Medicine at Oxford University, and many other students have chosen to take apprenticeships to gain useful experience. These fantastic results are surely an encouragement for all the new Year 13 students this year.





Back row (left-right): Ellen Griffiths, Sarah McKeown, Teeana Clueit, Lauren Hill, Maddie Tudor

Front row (left-right): Charlie Hayes, Chloe Randall, Darcy Wood, Chloe Merredy, Millie Park

Our Sixth Form netball team is going from strength to strength as the academic year progresses. It is already clear that the girls have improved their skills just from the two competitive matches that they have already played. The first match of the season was against Hereford Sixth Form, where our girls performed exceptionally well. This was closely followed by a home match against Hanley Castle Sixth Form, where the match was extremely close. This year we have a great team and a full list of fixtures as the girls continue to represent the Sixth Form in the Herefordshire league. We wish them the best of luck!

Upcoming Trips:

Performing Arts
London

29 Sept - 1 Oct

Art & Photography

BMAG & IKON
Galleries
Birmingham

Tuesday

11th October

Performing Arts

Warwick Arts
Centre

Tuesday

18th October

Senior Maths
Challenge

Malvern College

Thursday

17th November

Accounting

ICAEW BASE
Competition
Worcester

Wednesday

23rd November

Humanities London

Monday

12th December

History & German

Berlin

Easter

Adding to the ever-growing list of educational opportunities for John Masefield Sixth Form students is the joint History and Geography trip to London, which will take place on the 12th of December. After arriving in London, the historians and geographers, including Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students, will split up to take part in their respective activities. For the History students, this consists of a visit to the fascinating Churchill War Rooms, which will provide an invaluable insight into the atmosphere of wartime Britain. For Geography students, the London trip is an excellent opportunity to attend informative and insightful lectures at University College London, one of the leading universities in the country.

In October, the Performing Arts department will visit Warwick Arts Centre to see Frantic Assembly's new piece 'Things I Know To Be True', which is already receiving huge critical acclaim. Students will then be encouraged to go and see 'Woyzeck' at Ledbury Market Theatre on Friday 18th November, which is the first piece by former student Ben Mowbray and his new theatre company. Both of these trips will help Y13 with their devised piece and also their written exam, and help Year 12 to extend their Live Theatre experience in preparation for their written AS exam.

"explore this exciting city"

"A level German and History students have the opportunity at the start of their Easter holidays to travel to Berlin to explore this exciting city. Berlin is not only a vibrant and fascinating capital, but it is also the best place to appreciate and understand Europe and Germany's traumatic history. We will visit the renovated Reichstag, Checkpoint Charlie, the Jewish Museum and the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp on the outskirts of the city. We will also find time to do some shopping, walk alongside the last bit of the Berlin Wall with its famous graffiti artwork and soak up the atmosphere in this lively, multicultural city! In the evenings we hope to enjoy traditional German fare in a local Kneipe which of course includes sausages and a drink!"

Mrs Whitton – Trip Leader

Following the start of the school year, there has been an impressive return in the number of students that have got involved in sporting fixtures. The Sixth Form football team has already taken part in two matches against Dyson Perrins and Hanley respectively, winning 4-1 against Dysons.



Summer Schools and Work Experience



“I learnt new skills, got to experience working in a scientific setting and met new people.”

“I developed skills such as creativity, communication, decision making and time management.”

Alumni

Over the summer, sixth formers dedicated themselves to summer schools and work experience in order to give an insight into possible career paths. Here are some of their reflections on their experiences:

Lucy Admans & Freya Henderson (QinetiQ): Lucy said “I learnt new skills, got to experience working in a scientific setting and met new people.”

Lauren Hill (Three Choirs Festival and Young Composers Project, Birmingham): “As well as developing my musical skills as a composer and performer, I developed skills such as creativity, communication, decision making and time management. I'm planning to do some work experience with the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group later on in the year.”

Polly Mikulicz (tutoring): “From this experience, I have gained skills such as organisation, planning, effective communication and patience which I believe will be very important and useful for my last year of Sixth Form as well as a future degree at University.”

PJ Recordon (University of Exeter and Malvern Instruments): “At Exeter we learned about Cornwall's mining history and had some hands on experience in the test mine drilling, blasting and using the materials to understand why they work.” “At MI in the Engineering Department I helped to construct and wire up various particle measuring systems”.

Emily Warmington (Nuffield Research, University of Birmingham). Following her six week placement, her research was chosen to be published in a scientific journal. Emily also entered the Oxford Medical School Gazette essay competition for Y11, 12 and 13 students and came second nationally.

Emma Warren (UNIQ Summer School , Oxford University and the Sutton Trust Summer School at Cambridge University): “The summer schools provided me with a wonderful opportunity to experience university life, and helped me to better understand what a typical music degree involves.”

Rhianna Levi (The Little Princess Trust): “I highly recommend that you get involved in doing work experience. It has taught me new skills, built up my confidence and I have had the chance to meet some wonderful people.”

Every year, it's always lovely to hear from former students telling us about the adventures that they have had since finishing Sixth Form.

This year, we were delighted to welcome back former student Natalie Kenney who left in 2012 to study Psychology at Royal Holloway University, London. Her exciting new adventures have led her to work as a Research Assistant at the University of Roehampton and in July she asked us to help with a project she is working on. As part of her research, she visited JMHS to test twenty Year 8 and Year 12 students for a week where she interviewed them on a one-to-one basis. She enjoyed returning to John Masefield to gather everyone's opinions and of course, we were very happy to help.

Year 13 Formal

On Friday the 24th of June, students from Year 12 and 13 came together at Alexander Park to wish the Year 13s good luck in their future career paths and to say farewell. All students that went to the event had a great time filled with laughter, great company and socialising. Each year this event is organised by our very own students here at the Sixth Form and it's a good excuse to get dressed up, look amazing and celebrate after the exams.

Photos by Richard Weaver Photography.



On Friday the 7th of October, John Masefield Sixth Form held a Macmillan Coffee Morning organised by Emma Warren.

It was great to see so many people get involved and support this charity.



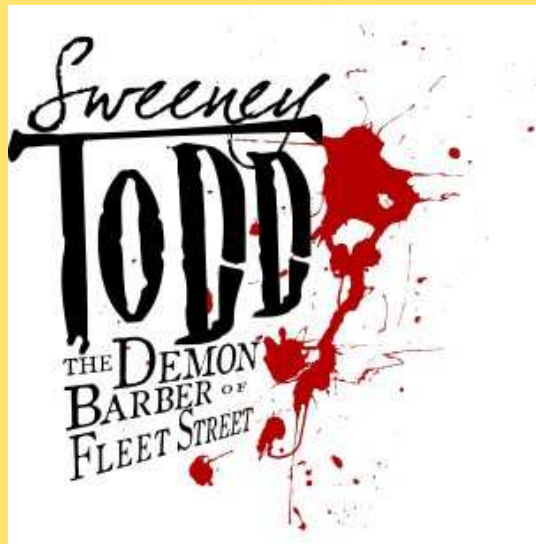
In July, Y12s took part in challenge days, working in teams to solve interesting puzzles (*see right*).

On Wednesday the 28th of September, Year 12 and 13 students took part in an icebreaker event. Students had a great time and built friendships during a game of paintball (*see picture below left*).



Enrichment

At John Masefield Sixth Form, enrichment activities are held every Wednesday afternoon, which include yoga, team sport, recreational sport, debating, cooking on a budget and Fusion (performing arts). It's a great way to mix with other students and learn new skills!



Last year, the Sixth Form production was a massive success with 'Little Shop Of Horrors' but this time, we are pleased to announce that we are having a production of 'Sweeney Todd' on the 25th of November at 7pm. This year, our very own students Emma Warren, Polly Mikulicz and Jason Johns are the Directors with a strong and dedicated cast to help make this achievable. Students are also involved with lighting and backstage and it promises to be an unmissable night! You can get your tickets from the Finance Office or online when they become available.

Edited by Paige Baker and Christina Manns