



# JOG News

17th December 2021

## Message from the Head of School



Mr. Hawthorne

It has been a fantastic 15 weeks of term, despite Covid and a few other winter bugs trying their best interrupt our plans! Students and staff, ably supported by parents and carers of course, have worked incredibly hard to make sure that JOG has continued to be a vibrant, pleasant, and learning-centred school no matter what is thrown at us.

There has been a great deal going on too, and the updates from Faculties and each year group below, include just some of the many things that have been happening in and out of school. I thought that I would also pick out just a few highlights from the past few months.

September saw us welcome our new Y7 intake. They really are a super cohort, and it has been a total pleasure getting to know them and we enjoy the extra buzz that they bring to the school. Meeting many parents at the Y7 Tutor evening was also an absolute pleasure, not least because it was our first face-to-face event for a very long time.

In September we held our first 'JOG Freshers' Fayre'. This event was aimed at showcasing the numerous extra-curricular opportunities we offer and activities available included silversmithing, model making, maths club, dodgeball, choir, band, the 'Book and Biscuit' club, 'Eco Club', a writers' club and the 'Duke of Edinburgh Awards'. It was also great to welcome external representatives too, offering opportunities including 'PSA Juniors', part-funded by the PSA's work and the generosity of local businesses and the new Hungerford Youth Council, which includes the chance to work with Hungerford Town Council, The Youth and Community Centre, Town and Manor, and St Lawrence's Church, engaging young people and giving

them a voice.

In October we were able to hold a face-to-face 'Welcome to GCSE' evening for Year 10 students and their parents, outlining the key information they'll need to know for the next two and very important years of their studies. Of course, October was also the month that we held our annual Open Evening. It was our busiest ever and this is testament to the work we're all doing to make JOG a truly excellent school and the school of choice in the local area and I was extremely proud to showcase the school. What was even better was hearing the overwhelmingly positive feedback (and we do ask for this formally too!) about our student helpers and tour guides who did us proud as usual. We held a little thank you celebration for them after half term, but I'd like to formally thank them again here too.

Year 11 students were kept busy in November sitting their latest mock examinations. Students acquitted themselves very well overall and the results assembly that followed a couple of weeks afterwards allowed us to give feedback and start to plan for the summer exam series that we hope will run from May.

**(Continued on Page 2...)**

## In this Issue

<b>Message from the Head of School...</b>	<b>Pages 1– 2</b>
<b>Progress Leader Messages .....</b>	<b>Pages 2-3</b>
<b>Subject Updates .....</b>	<b>Pages 3-4</b>
<b>Remembrance Day.....</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>JOG Christmas Service.....</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Year 11 Fundraising.....</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Year 11 Hoodies.....</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>Jog Charities and Community.....</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>St Lawrence Church Carol Service.....</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>PSA Cake Sale.....</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Celebrating Success.....</b>	<b>Page 6</b>

## Message from the Head of School (cont.)

Whilst the results from mocks are often more mixed than actual results for obvious reasons, it was good to see that, for many of our learners, the work they and their teachers have been doing to close some of the Covid gaps, has begun to bear fruit. I'm sure they acted as role models for our Year 9 students, who will be having their own assessment week early in the new year. This is an important time for those students, who will soon be choosing their GCSE Options.

In November, we welcomed our new 'Student Leadership Team'. This group of students have been selected to provide feedback to staff and real leadership for their peers too. If the meetings I had the privilege of popping into in the last few weeks are anything to go by, they will not disappoint. Their work with the Vice-Principal and Assistant Vice-Principal to create a 'pledge' about the most effective practices we can consistently do to improve their learning was fabulous! Their feedback was mature and inciteful and demonstrated everything about JOG students that I admire so much. We can't wait to see them grow and develop as a group and I know that they'll certainly hold us to account too.

We were finally able to run fixtures this term, and there have been some great results from our teams, including a recent 7-0 win for the Y7/8 girls football team this week! Well done to all students who have participated in any of our teams. I say it often, but given our smaller cohort sizes, their ability to compete so brilliantly with larger schools is inspiring and part of why we say that JOG is #smallbutmighty! It has also been great to see so many students participating in the extra-curricular clubs that the PE team offer at lunchtimes and after school

There have also been a wide range of other activities keeping us busy, including numerous fundraising activities, external trips such as the one to Whitechapel for History students, online parents' evenings, careers assemblies and events across various year groups, visiting speakers, PSHE events, revision seminars, homework clubs and the installation of our new 'quiet garden' to name just a few.

As you can see, there has been much occupying our time and I am extremely proud of the staff at JOG, who work tirelessly and go above and beyond every

day in our pursuit of excellence. As I stated above though, the support from home and the positive attitude and resilience of our students is also a significant part of this. Therefore, I offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone in the JOG community for helping make the last term a success despite the challenges we've all faced. I hope that you and your families have a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

---

## Message from the Year 7/8 Progress Leader



Miss Harris

Our Year 7's have been busy learning their way around John O'Gaunt, getting to know their new teachers, and starting many new subjects. Their enthusiasm and effort has been simply outstanding.

Our Year 8's have settled back in fantastically and have done a brilliant job of getting stuck in with lessons and extracurricular activities. Many students in both year groups have gone above and beyond to help their teachers and peers, showing both kindness and compassion as one of their many strengths, teachers have said they are a pleasure to teach and we are all very proud of them!

---

## Message from the Year 9 Progress Leader



Miss Barnes

So far this year, our Year 9's have been demonstrating wide knowledge and understanding around important topics such as the use of language, positivity and spreading kindness, anti-bullying and most recently, the importance of preparing for making the correct GCSE options choices. They truly are great advocates and ambassadors for our

school.

Our Year 9's have shown an incredible amount of maturity, creativity and leadership so far this year and here at John O'Gaunt, we very much look forward to the fantastic things we know they will achieve in 2022.

Thank you for your hard work and resilience Year 9!

## Message from the Year 10/11 Progress Leader



Miss Eggbeer

### Year 10

Our Year 10s have been working on their aspirations and career pathways they think they may want to pursue after their time here at JOG, students have been researching their 'dream job' and seeing what kind of lifestyle they could have off their yearly wage.

Dream jobs included a pilot, surgeon, and some teachers! 2022 is bound to be a busy year, continuing their hard work with GCSE's and working towards those dream jobs & we are fully behind them.

### Year 11

This term our Year 11s have been incredibly busy, they performed their first Mock exams, fundraised for the OAP's in the local area that we support over the festive period, received a McDonalds breakfast as a treat for all their hard work and have had lots of visits from Post 16 opportunities to encourage and support them in their next adventure. 2022 will be one of the most important ones of their lives and we wish them the very best and hope for a 'normal' year.

## Maths

Year 7 and 8 have been following the Mastering Program, Year 7 students have developed deep understanding of Place value, fractions, decimals and percentages and year 8 on Proportions, exchange currencies and similar shapes.

The Students can use their knowledge of these mathematical concepts to solve unfamiliar word problems, and undertake complex reasoning, using the appropriate mathematical vocabulary.

Topics you can discuss with them during Christmas includes sales- percentages and portion sizes during cooking. They will amaze you.

YR9 students have worked on Geometry ranging from Pythagoras to angles.

If you are considering buying a computer or tv as a gift, ask them to use Pythagoras to help find the right sized computer: monitor size is given as measure of diagonal.

Year 10's are now experts on sequences, fractions and ratio and year 11 students have been preparing for their mocks which will take place when they resume.

## English

Through the exploration of texts such as *The Breadwinner*, *Darkside*, *Things a Bright Girl Can Do* and *A Christmas Carol*, our students at John O'Gaunt have developed their skills in textual analysis this term. These texts have been vehicles to different parts of the globe, into fantasy worlds and have transported students back hundreds of years. Lessons have sparked enriching conversations about equality, diversity and social responsibility. We have also been really proud of a whole year 11 class who had their poetry published in a Young Writer's book back in October: this was an incredible achievement!

## Science

Students have had a great term in science getting to do lots of practicals. Year 10 have enjoyed heart dissections (some more so than others), year 7 have measured the speed of paper aeroplanes, year 8 have solved crimes in a forensics lesson, year 9 have been able to observe some of their own cells under the microscope and year 11 have separated inks using chromatography. Our students even managed to freeze a glass beaker to wood using a chemical reaction. I wanted to end with a festive science joke but all the good ones argon.

## History

In History, this term has seen the launch and development of the scale model club. We have twelve students building their own model P51 Mustang aircraft, which played a key role in the United States Army Air Force (USAAF) during World War II.



Archie Lowe (Year 7) has made excellent progress constructing his P51 Mustang!

## Geography

In Geography, as part of the field of human geography, students have been learning about how crime can impact a local area, as well as global issues such as the trade of 'blood diamonds'.

## French

In French, Year 8 students have been developing their knowledge of leisure activities of various kinds and the conversations that can take place around these.

## Religious Studies



In Religious Studies, both Year 7 and GCSE students have been exploring the importance and significance of Christmas. This week, GCSE students have been exploring the symbolism of the Christingle and its importance for Christians.

---

## PE

It has been a busy few months in the PE department, which has seen swimming return to the curriculum after several (covid) delays, we were also lucky enough to welcome Oxford Power Sports who ran a 5-week weightlifting course with some of our year 10 and 11 students.

This year has also seen a huge increase in our extra-curricular provision, with nearly 40% of students regularly attending a club, with many firsts for some of them students. These have included students playing in their first ever rugby, football, badminton or basketball fixture against other schools. Also, not forgetting the memorable trip where 40 year 10 and 11 students watched England thump Albania 5-0 at Wembley in November.

Plans for next term are already well underway with football, netball, badminton and handball fixtures already organised! We look forward to seeing even more of you at extra-curricular clubs in the new year!

---

## Media

**Year 11:** Students have been working on the CSP's - close study products that they have to know, memorise and understand for the exam. they can be tested on 9 different topics including newspapers, magazines, Television series, Films, Static Adverts, Social Media and TV adverts. We are currently working on The Daily Mail and comparing it to The Times, understanding the target audiences, representation and how they understand media texts.

**Year 10** are working on a multi-level product - having created and designed a new perfume, bottle and advert, and then create their own story board after

---

## Drama

Year 7s have conquered the Haunted Mansion; using various performance skills; building tension through soundscapes and crafted a radio play. Year 8 & 9s have been tackling the art of monologues; writing their own and preparing for a performance and written assessment in the New Year.

## Creative iMedia

**Year 11** are working on a multimedia presentation to promote the local area of either Newbury or Hungerford, highlighting areas of interest to a particular target audience. They will be adding sound, music and their own photographs to make it more professional.

**Year 10** are completing their first compulsory unit understanding all the processes needed to create a product.

---

## Music

Year 7 have had a fantastic term in music; they have begun learning and developing keyboard skills playing works by Beethoven. Year 8 have been working on Jazz, Blues and Ragtime music. Year 9 have been learning all about film music and are embarking on composing their own soundtrack for the James Bond film *No Time To Die*. Years 10 and 11 are busy working on composing and performing coursework and are making great progress. In our Christmas assembly we had some fantastic performances by Harry Edwards (year 7) who played Jingle Bells on the cornet and Ben Brown (year 11) performed Christmas Lights both singing and playing piano. What fantastic talent we have here at JOG

---

## Computer Science

Year 7 students have been working on their algorithmic thinking using the block-based programming language Scratch. They have designed a maze game which incorporated features such as IF statements and Forever loops.

Year 8 have also been exploring the concept of algorithms, they looked at linear and binary searches and also flowchart design before moving onto a basic introduction to text-based programming using Python.

Year 9 have built on the work that Year 8 have been doing, looking at both search and sort algorithms before creating their own text-based programs in Python using IF... Else statements.

Year 10 initially completed a crash course in basic programming before looking at data storage. They have recently been working on converting between binary, denary and hexadecimal values whilst also looking at how computers perform calculations such as binary addition and bit shifting. This was followed by exploring how computers store characters, images and sound.

## Visual Arts

This has been an incredibly busy term for Art with students starting a range of exciting new projects designed to challenge and encourage experimentation with different medias. Each year group have shown renewed focus and are producing wonderful pieces of personalised art. However, my favourite art piece this term is the collective piece created by the whole school for Remembrance day, with the department and corridor flooded with photography and art based on poppies.

In Design and Technology we have finally seen a return to full practical work and it has been fantastic to see the department a hive of activity with creative projects coming out of each subject area. Some students have been working hard to create a range of products including, mood lights, Grab and Go bags and Alessi inspired desk tidies, whilst others have been developing their culinary skills in Food Technology, cooking up some delicious dishes whilst learning about nutrition. Our new year sevens have taken to the visual arts brilliantly and have blown us away with their creativity and imagination; so far they have looked at E-textiles, levers and mechanical grabbers, approaching each topic with enthusiasm and curiosity.

Our GCSE students have also been working hard and for most in Visual Arts this term has meant the start of the NEA and a move towards greater independence over their own studies; what an opportunity for them to tailor their projects towards their own interests and passions and produce work to be proud of.

This term has also seen the launch of our initiative, Designer/chef/Artist of the month, all students are automatically entered with the creators of the best pieces of work being chosen for display and being awarded the converted title and of course, badge. Huge congratulations to this months winners and we can't wait to see all the wonderful work that our students will undoubtedly produce next term.

## Remembrance Day



**Remembrance Day:** On Sunday 14 November, John O' Gaunt School was represented by Naomi Fox-Shatford and Rosie Gregory who laid the wreath as part of the service held at the War Memorial in Hungerford to remember those who lost their lives for a better world for us to live in today.

Students collected sold poppies throughout the week and raised a total of £52.43 which contributes to the district total of over £22,000. Students at John O' Gaunt 5 also created a huge wall display of art, with an individually designed poppy laid on photographed

## Quiet Garden



Another project that was completed this term was the quiet garden – an area where students can sit quietly on the premises in a space designed to be contemplative and restful. This was with the help of grants from The Good Exchange, Hungerford Town Council and Miss Lawrence Trust.

## JOG Christmas Service



On Wednesday 8 December 2021, all of Years 7, 8 and 9 were invited to a Christmas Gathering Concert where Harry Edwards opened with a beautiful rendition of Jingle Bells, Lottie Williams and Bella Walklet read from the Gospel of Matthew, and Josh Stone and Denis Raducanu read from the Book of Luke.

Rev. Mike Saunders talked about why we celebrate Christmas, and read a poem about our greatest need, and we were treated to a beautiful rendition of Christmas Lights: Cold Play, by Ben Brown Year 11 on piano and voice. As part of our SMSC statutory requirements, we decided to start our Christmas Celebrations as a school together.

## Year 11 Fundraising for the OAP



Although due to Covid19 we were unable to put on our Annual Christmas Party for the OAP's of Hungerford, we decided that we would still do some fundraising and felt that they were still part of our community. Three students –

Tiegen Henderson, Katie Griffiths and Bebe Thatcher, along with Mrs Parsons, our Data Manager and ex Food technology Teacher here at JOG, made 300 cookies, which were tied together with a wooden laser cut bauble by our Technician Mrs Stone and distributed throughout the community the various care homes and individuals that we support.

In order to pay for this the students raised funds by doing a cake sale which raised **Avery: £22.20, Brunel: £52.26 and Columbus: 26.44** to the total of £100.90, and a penny race which raised **Avery: £61.46, Brunel: £19.17 and Columbus: £54.66** with a total of £135.29. They also put on a weekly tombola which raised **£113.84. Our grand total for this year is: £350.03**



## Year 11 Hoodies

Year 11 are pleased to get their personalised '22 Leavers Hoodies to wear on the last day of term for our Christmas Jumper Day.



## JOG Charities and Community

This year our Student Leadership Team are focussing on three charities – Local, National and International, and these will be decided by input from all the tutor groups. We have a series of events planned over the year, and our first non-school uniform raised £359 towards their efforts. These will be awarded in Term 6 to the charities concerned, but it is a great amount to open with!

## St Lawrence Christmas Carol Service

Two of our Year 11 students – Jonathan Kelly and Ben Brown have been invited to represent the school by reading a lesson at the Carol Service at St Lawrence's Church.

## PSA Cake Sales

The PSA and Junior PSA have held two cake sales this term on the town hall steps which is to raise funds for the JOG Stage Lighting Project which is currently on as a bid for funding on The Good Exchange. Both cake sales raised a whopping £276.00 and a big thanks to all who made cakes for the PSA.



The PSA also organise the Extravaganza Tombola and with the help of the tombola prize as part of the giving for the non-school uniform day, they raised £397.11 towards the lighting project. This concludes our fundraising for this project and with a donation from the PSA itself, we have raised £4066.48 for the revised plans to update the JOG Stage Lighting.

All 'leftover' prizes have been donated to the Foodbank for Christmas, which we hope will bring some cheer to those in need.

## Celebrating Success



At JOG, we are immensely proud of all that is achieved by our students. Many come back and tell us how well they are doing, sometimes in career paths, which they would never have contemplated while at school. There are also times when it is right to mention outstanding academic achievement and in the past, we have had students who have gone to Oxbridge or other Russell Group Universities. We are therefore delighted to report that Matthew Morecroft has been awarded a place at Oxford, to read Biology. We are thrilled for Matthew and his family; this is so well deserved and all at JOG wish him every success for the future. Well done Matthew!