

AMBITION - CARE - COURAGE

02 October 2026

Dear parents/carers,

Re: Mid-term update and Parent Bulletin

We're now in week 5 of our 8-week first term, and I'm writing with a short update and to reintroduce you to our Parent Bulletin.

It has been a very busy start to the school year for JOG. The vast majority of our students have come back after summer break with a positive attitude and a thirst for learning. As your child may have told you, unfortunately the work in our Main Hall is still ongoing. This was unforeseen and we are working hard to reopen it as soon as possible. I apologise for the ongoing inconvenience of this.

Staff have already attended a great deal of training this term, as we strive for further improvement. From the lesson visits senior and middle leaders have been conducting, this is impacting positively on the quality of teaching, learning and wider provision for our students.

This is built on a very positive foundation of exam outcomes, with an overall upward trend over the past 3 years and record results across a range of our results from this summer. For example, more than 61% of our students achieved a grade 4 or above, nearly 47% a grade 5 and more than 22% a grade 7 or above, the latter figure placing JOG above the national average in this category for the first time.

Both English, with 59.5% grade 4 plus and Maths, returning 61.9%, were above the national average too. Perhaps more important, were the individual stories of progress, achievement and success that we saw from across the cohort of Year 11, with everyone having something to celebrate on results day back in August. I think you'll agree that they're a credit to themselves and JOG and I'm sure you'd join me in commending them for their ambition, care and courage!

The work of any school, including John O'Gaunt, can only ever go so far unless we have the support of parents and carers, so I want to thank you on behalf of the staff for supporting us and helping us to provide the very best we can for our students.

Finally, please find attached this year's first edition of our Parent Bulletin. Introduced last academic year, this fortnightly newsletter sent on a Friday is intended to be a concise, one-stop-shop for you to receive important messages and updates from the school. We know that you receive lots of emails and communications from us, so this is our attempt to rationalise some of them. Please do let me know if you have any thoughts about how we can improve it or communicate with you even better – I'm happy to hear any feedback you might have!

Of course, you can always contact the school directly with any queries you have too. Your child's tutor or subject teacher is usually the best starting point for a query, but the office can always direct any query that you might have if you're not sure.

In the meantime, thank you again for your ongoing support for the school and your children. I hope you find the bulletin useful.

Yours sincerely,



Mr R Hawthorne
Principal

[Parent Bulletin #1](#)