

UP-DATE

THE MAGAZINE OF JOHN MASEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



It's been a productive and vibrant Spring Term here at JMHS.

Students have made fantastic achievements in all areas of school life and in particular this term has seen some great successes in Sport and The Performing Arts

Keep reading to find out more about what students have been taking part in this term and to read all about our captivating whole school production The Wizard of Oz!

Issue 79 April 2017

Pyramid Prom

On 23rd March we held our annual Pyramid Prom involving six local primary schools and our own Chamber Choir and Jazz Band. As always, it was an inspiring event, this year filled with 147 talented KS2 pupils. We had choral performances from Ashperton, Much Marcle, Cradley, Eastnor and our biggest choir ever of 50 from Bosbury Primary School. Their singing was confident and exciting with songs such as Be Our Guest, The Lion Sleeps Tonight and Lifting Me Higher. Brave performers from Colwall, Bosbury and Cradley also gave very accomplished solo performances to a packed theatre. Parents and teachers were extremely proud of the talents demonstrated by the primary schools. For many (including JMHS) it was an excellent dress rehearsal for competing at Herefordshire's Performing Arts Festival at the end of March, good luck everyone!



Moises at Morgan Motors!



This January Y11 student Moises Baltazar was very fortunate to be invited to complete a week's work experience at the Morgan Motor Company in Malvern.

Moises spent time learning about all aspects of the assembly of a Morgan car. He spent time in the "Chassis Shop" assembling a prop shaft, and the "Tin Shop" where he used the guillotine to cut metal panels. Moises also worked in the "Wood Shop" where he was trusted to cut and finish wooden shelves that support the petrol tanks to the high quality standard expected of Morgan cars.

Moises really enjoyed his week at Morgan, and had a great overview of the hard work involved in creating these beautiful luxury cars. His favourite part of the whole week was going for a drive in one!!



Happy Easter from everyone at JMHS



Poet in Residence

We are delighted to announce that local poet Brenda Read-Brown is our first ever Poet in Residence in association with the Ledbury Poetry Festival.



Brenda is an experienced performance poet from Gloucestershire where she is currently the Poet Laureate; she is also a trustee of Ledbury Poetry Festival and Coordinator of the Poetry on Loan project in the West Midlands and has performed her poems all over the UK and abroad.

Brenda has already made two visits to the school this term. Her first visit in February involved a selection of Y7-Y10 students who attended workshops where they created and performed their own poetry as well as watching Brenda perform some of her own. The visit helped inspire students to create poetry about things they loved and enjoyed.

Brenda's second visit in March involved another Poetry Writing Workshop with a group of enthusiastic Y7 & 8 students. She then held a successful "Poetry Clinic" in the school library where students were excited to spend time with Brenda either individually or in small groups to discuss and get feedback on their poetry or prose. Brenda also attended a staff briefing to give staff ideas on how poetry can be relevant and effective in all faculties throughout the school.

Brenda will visit the school again in May to help students prepare for a final performance of their poetry at the Poetry Festival in July.



News from the Library...

Its been a busy term in the school library.



Throughout March as part of our World Book Day celebrations, Y7 & Y8 have been taking part in our sponsored Readathon, raising money for children in hospital and at the same time reading some fantastic books! We are hoping to raise more than the £85 we achieved last year, it's looking promising! Students also took part in a Book Swop on World Book Day and we held a Cake Sale to help raise funds for new books.

In February the library received a fantastic grant from the Carriers for Causes scheme of £800. The money was used for new seating for the Library to complete our recent refurbishment. The Library is a popular welcoming space for students to use throughout the school day.



FROM THE HEADTEACHER



The Spring Term has been both busy and successful. I have been impressed with how Y11 students are preparing for their summer exams. Over thirty teachers have been offering extra classes at lunchtime, during afternoon tutor time, after school, on Saturdays and during school holidays across nearly all subject areas. I am delighted with the large numbers of students taking up these opportunities and the way many Y11 students are determined to improve upon their mock exam results.

Sporting success has been another feature of the Spring term. Our Y9 Girls Netball team achieved the highest position for any state school in the West Midlands Finals. In the Herefordshire Winter Games Indoor Athletics, Y8 girls won Bronze, Y7 Girls silver and Y7 Boys gold. Our Y7 girls Hockey team also won a silver medal and our boys Badminton Team won Gold for the third consecutive year. Last week the badminton team went onto further success winning the regional tournament beating six other county champions and now have progressed to the National Finals, which is a magnificent achievement.

Our music students are currently performing and winning many awards at the Herefordshire Performing Arts Festival whilst our dancers once again excelled at the National Rock Challenge Dance Competition. I and so many others enjoyed the wonderful whole school production of The Wizard of Oz. The production captivated the audience from the very first scene and was hugely enjoyable. All the main actors performed flawlessly with panache, energy and enthusiasm. Every line was delivered with clarity and confidence. The cast were wonderful, creating a show that was visually spectacular with brilliant, acting, dancing and singing. The orchestra performed with great skill and professionalism. The excellent set, lighting, costumes, make up and special effects transported us to the Land of Oz.

Lastly I would like to thank and congratulate Mr Andrew Sampson who leaves JMHS at the end of this term after 11 years of sterling service to JMHS. Mr Sampson is one of the best science teachers I have ever had the pleasure of working with. His lessons are well planned, interesting and active; he explains difficult ideas clearly and has the highest expectations of all of our students. Mr Sampson has fulfilled many key roles at JMHS with great professionalism and skill including Initial Teacher Training Co-coordinator, Deputy Head of Science and Faculty Leader for Science. On behalf of us all I would like to wish Mr Sampson all the very best for the future.

Andy Evans

Y10 Represent JMHS at Regional GA World Wise Quiz

3 Y10 boys represented the school at the regional GA World Wise Quiz, hosted by Hereford Cathedral School. The boys were Will Flaherty, Chris Warmington and Charlie Davis. They had to go through rounds of questions, map skills, fieldwork methods and general knowledge. The top 3 scoring teams were : Hereford Cathedral School (47 points), Fairfield (46 ...oh so close!) and JMHS (41). So, well done to Cathedral who hold onto the shield for a second year. The other schools taking part were (in alphabetical order) : Aylestone, Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls, Monmouth School, Queen Elizabeth Bromyard, St. Mary's Lugwardine and Whitecross High.



FRIENDS OF JMHS

The Friends had a great first fundraising event, a Quiz Night, on March 17th. Over 100 people filled the school theatre to tax their brains and enjoy the



school. A successful evening!

After several well attended meetings, Friends was officially revived in January this year. Parents and supporters of John Masefield now have a clear channel for donating time, resources and money to help make the school an even better place for our children. That support has already been really energetic and positive and is evident in so many ways: volunteers have worked behind the scenes to set up the



organisation on a sound footing, people have organised and come to events such as the Quiz Night, donations are coming in, teams have served teas and coffees at school events (did you see us at Parents' Evenings or at the Wizard of Oz show?) and several projects are underway, such as uniform recycling, a lottery and a Fun Run in September.



With all this energy buzzing around, FJMHS needs as many people as possible to be actively involved. Could that be you? Perhaps you could join the refreshments team or help run an event. Are you a writer or designer? Have you got committee skills? Do join this young and thriving organisation and make lots of new friends on the way. There is a meeting the first Monday of every month at 7pm in the Seven Stars, Ledbury where everyone is welcome. You can sign up to our newsletter by emailing info@fjmhs.or.uk or go to our website www.fjmhs.org.uk to see further details and sign up from there.



TERM DATES

Summer Term 2017

Term Starts Tuesday 25th April
Half Term Monday 29th May—Friday 2nd June
Term Ends Friday 21st July at 1.15pm

Autumn Term 2017

Term Starts Wednesday 6th September
Half Term Monday 23rd October—Friday 27th October
Term Ends Tuesday 19th December

Staff Training Afternoon (Students finish at 1.15pm)

Friday 26th May

Staff Training Day (No School for Students)

Friday 7th July

For more information on important school dates etc. please visit www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Careers

Y10 recently devoted a full day to developing their career awareness and skills. All students took part in a variety of interactive sessions which included personal branding, learning about advanced and higher apprenticeships and developing enterprise skills and attributes that are important in working life. In addition, students took part in a careers fair, during which they were able to speak to over 30 visitors representing a range of career sectors, including health & social care, engineering, science & technology, hospitality, sport & leisure. This gave students a fantastic opportunity to develop confidence speaking to employers and training providers,



to explore specific career areas and to find out about the world of work in general, particularly what employers are looking for in their employees. We were lucky enough to have JMHS Alumni in attendance, who are current apprentices with a range of organisations, who gave an insight into their career progression since leaving JMHS.



The school is very grateful to all of the employers and training providers who took part, including Speller Metcalfe, QinetiQ, The Feathers Hotel, the Armed Forces, West Mercia Police, John Richards Nurseries, Hereford and Worcester Group Training, Sequani, Severn Trent Water, Salters Hill and Eastnor Pottery. We are always looking to develop partnerships with local organisations to enhance students' career learning; if you are able to help us with this, for example through providing a work experience placement, speaking to students, providing case studies, conducting mock interviews etc. please contact

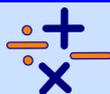


Andy Williams (assistant head teacher with responsibility for careers and vocational learning) at andy.williams@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

We also celebrated National Careers Week in March with careers-related PSHE sessions and the 'Careers Inspiration Station' in Bridge Corridor, which allowed students to browse and take away career information resources and to talk to school's careers advisor Catherine Webster.



INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE



Our Y9,10 & 11 mathematicians took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, a nationwide competition run by the UK Mathematics Trust. The students did extremely well and we had some brilliant results

Dan Disney, Lizzie Austen, Tobi Raison & Will Flaherty all achieved a gold award

Silver awards were won by Oliver Davis, Ella Lipscomb, Chad Warren, Joe Fisher, Thomas Williams, Sam Lipton, Tom Cox, Alice Unthank & Ella Barber

Bronze awards were won by Victoria Merker, Greg Ward, Charlie Davis, Rhys Morris, Josh Solomon, Phoebe Bennett Hobbs, Daniel Thompson, Jemima Stokes, Abi Hamblin, Chris Warmington, Jack Bloomer, Jessica Schofield & Rosalind Crowson.

Dan Disney, Lizzie Austen, Tobi Raison and Ella Lipscomb also won a place in Kangaroo Maths Challenge, a competition for the best scoring candidates in the country!

THE BIG MATHS QUIZ

A group of 12 Y10 students took part in the Big Maths Quiz at Birmingham University on 8th March. They had an exciting day setting off early in the morning to catch the train to Birmingham and took part in some challenging and enjoyable maths activities during the day. They made their teachers proud to be supporting such a well behaved and enthusiastic group of students.

The Wizard of Oz





After months of preparation, our long-awaited performances of *The Wizard of Oz* took place at the start of March. We kicked off with 2 matinees to our local primary schools followed by 3 performances to the public. Over 100 students took part from every year group in the school, whether this was in the cast, in the orchestra, backstage, lighting, sound or set painting. Casting was excellent, and fantastic acting and musical performances were given at every show by our leads Libby Warren (Dorothy), James Welch (Scarecrow), Roma Farnell (Tinman) and George Chambers (Lion), as well as supporting roles from Destiny Dawe, Katiemae Munrowd, Jason Johns, Polly Mikulicz and Rosy Turner to name but a few. The chorus of over 50 students wowed the audience in their colourful costumes with confident singing and exciting choreography. Our biggest orchestra yet, of 26 students, performed the difficult score superbly, whilst backstage and technical crew were able to run their teams without much help from staff. The Performing Arts staff are incredibly proud of all the students that were involved in the production, with many calling it the best production yet. After many tough rehearsals, barely a single mistake was made in our performances to the public - well done everyone!



A Royal Visit...

The Duke of Gloucester visited Ledbury on 17th February for an event organised by Ledbury Town Council. Along with other community organisations, John Masefield High School were asked to send representatives to meet His Royal Highness. Mrs Jupp who co-ordinated the event said "the Mayor was so pleased to have representation from the School and the girls were a great credit to JMHS." Y13 student Rhianna Levi has written a reflective article on how the day went:

Head Girl Lucy Admans, Paulina Mikulicz, myself, and Mollie Health had the honour of representing the school at a Royal Visit to Ledbury by the Duke of Gloucester. The Duke visited various parts of Ledbury, learning about the town's history and the people who help to make it thrive. During the event, as members of the Sixth Form Student Leadership Team, we were able to speak to the Duke about the school and our enjoyment of being part of the community. The Duke was welcoming and showed interest in what we had to say about John Masefield High School and why we enjoy being part of it. Sometimes, we forget about the importance of being part of a community and connecting with those around us; undeniably, the spirit of a community and what it means to be part of one shone through at the event when such a large amount of people came together for this meaningful day. Attending this event was something which shall stay with us all for a very long period of time; we all beam with pride when it comes to being members of the Student Leadership Team and we embraced representing both the Sixth Form and lower school.



Sixth Formers 'Sock It' Fundraiser

On 3rd March Sixth Form students fundraised for 'Sock it' which was a charity event run by Beat (the UK's eating disorder charity) which helps improve the way services and treatment is provided, and supports sufferers and their families.

This event was part of 'National Eating Disorders Awareness Week 2017' and students wore an array of bright, colourful and silly socks to raise awareness of eating disorders raising over £79 which is enough to run an online support group for carers. For more information on Beat please visit www.b-eat.co.uk



Boscombe Down Balloon Challenge

The Royal Aeronautical Society's branch at Boscombe Down celebrated the Society's 150th anniversary by organising a balloon competition for schools at the end of last year. The Boscombe Down team had heard about Ryan Ing's EPQ balloon flight and were so impressed they decided to invite him to the prize giving event which was held on 10th February.

Accompanied by Mr Henderson, the school's ICT Manager, Ryan went to Boscombe Down, which is an MOD site run by QinetiQ, where he gave a presentation on his flight to a highly distinguished audience including Professor Chris Atkin, President of the RAS, and Donald Cameron MBE, founder of Cameron Balloons.

Mr Henderson commented: "The presentation was very well received and after lunch we were invited by Dr Sophie Robinson, the branch Chairwoman, to see the Meteorological Office Station where Ryan gained an invaluable insight into the work of a Meteorologist. We then visited the helicopter hanger where we sat in a Gazelle and looked at some of the other rotary wing aircraft of the Empire Test Pilots' School. All-in-all a fascinating and enjoyable day."

University Offers

We are delighted that John Masefield Sixth Form students are holding offers from some of the UK top universities. This year 38% of offers are from the highly competitive Russell Group universities and 12 offers are unconditional.

A summary of the courses applied for can be seen on the school website and highlights include offers for Medicine, Midwifery and Music (Oxford). The most popular courses this year were English Literature and Psychology.

NEWS FROM THE SIXTH FORM

A taste of Oxford Languages!

We were very fortunate to be invited to take a group of ten of our Sixth Form language students together with ten of our talented Y10 linguists to a Language Day hosted at Hanley Castle High School. We joined 4 Worcestershire schools to take part in three 60 minute sessions, delivered by tutors from Oxford University. The sessions covered French and German literature at A level, translation skills and an introduction to Italian. Our students had the chance to experience an Oxford style tutorial and work with students from other schools on analysing and translating literary works, gaining an invaluable insight into the depth of study expected at university.



Former student wins WGTA Apprentice of the Year Award

Former student Rebecca McMann who left John Masefield Sixth Form in 2014 and studied A-levels in Geography, German, ICT and Physics recently shared with us her experiences after she completed her studies. After doing her research about post-18 options she decided that an apprenticeship would suit her learning style more and she has since completed her NVQ L2 & L3 in Business & Administration; she now works as an Assistant Business Support Officer for the Sanctuary Group.



We were delighted to hear that at the recent Worcestershire Group Training Association Apprenticeship Awards she jointly won the 'Commerce Apprentice of the Year Level 3' Award.

SPORTS NEWS ● SPORTS NEWS ● SPORTS NEWS ● SPORTS NEWS ●

Y8 Girls Hockey Silver at Winter School Games

The Y8 Hockey Tournament was held as part of the Herefordshire School Games. Our students faced Cathedral, St Marys and Bishops in the rounds; winning all games put JMHS at the top of the group. We then faced John Kyrle in the semi-final where the girls raised their game even more to beat them convincingly and go through to the final. The final was a re-match against Cathedral, who had the bit between their teeth, ready for a comeback. Unfortunately we could not hold out against a very strong Cathedral team and lost the final. Winning silver was a vast improvement from last year. The girls now believe the only way is up when they are in Y9 and are destined and determined for Champions Gold



County Cross Country

Tom Smith H8A and Nathan Chowns Higgs B10A previously qualified to run in the County Cross Country Championships, to represent JMHS and Malvern Hills. On 22nd January, in gruelling conditions the boys ran across a challenging course. Following his qualification in 2nd place, Nathan Chowns Higgs came 14th out of a field of over 50 runners and Tom Smith finished 30th out of 75 runners. It is great to see two fantastic students representing JMHS and hopefully this has fuelled their passion, as well as others, for future Cross Country Success. Well done boys!

Nathan has now been selected as a Reserve ahead of the National Cross Country Championships – watch this space!

County Rugby Selection Success!

Nathan Chowns Higgs has also been selected for the U15 Herefordshire County Rugby team. Nathan has a focused, mature and committed approach to his sport and school work, now being rewarded with County (Rugby) and possibly national competition (Cross Country) recognition. Congratulations Nathan, keep up the great work!

Y9 Netball Team County Champs compete at West Midlands Tournament in First Ever for JMHS

After being crowned Herefordshire County Netball Champions before Christmas, our nine students have been training hard ahead of the West Midlands tournament held at Bromsgrove School on the 29th January.

Our students looked fantastic in their kit, kindly sponsored by Mr Richard Carter (Chartway), The Ledbury Rotary Club and Speller Metcalfe. Their dresses and tracksuits (along with staff jackets) were worn with pride and provided an extra boost to rise up to the challenge ahead. In extremely cold and wet conditions they faced a number of private schools in the West Midland Finals. They faced a hard challenge of 6 games played between 9am and 1:30pm, requiring focus and constant team cohesion, as well as key conversations and reflection between games. Out of the six games, we won one, closely lost another 11-10, however the girls never lost their fight or passion and this experience will lead to them striving to qualify again in Y11. Amongst the 3 state schools out of 16 in the West Midlands who qualified at U14, JMHS came out on top. This is a fantastic

achievement for JMHS, Ledbury and Herefordshire too! Our students did us proud playing with resilience and in great team spirit.



Thank you once again to our sponsors for their generosity! Thank you for being a key factor in our students experience, where memories have been created, which will last a lifetime.

Players: Jess Schofield, Lola Carter, Lucy French, Lexi Henry, Gemma Clarke (Captain), Jess Neath, Ella Smith, Caroline Rumjanceva & Abbie Williams

Y7 Boys County Indoor Athletics Champs, Y7 Girls Silver & Y8 Girls Bronze

Qualification took place at Whitecross School in January ahead of the school games finals. JMHS won the heats in Y7 Boys, Y7 Girls and Y8 Girls. At the school games, with a more challenging format and fierce competition our students faced the notorious indoor athletics strength of Weobley as well as Whitecross and Bishops. Outstanding individual efforts and team performances in both track and field events left us in medal hopeful positions. The final scores were incredibly close, where the Y7 boys were crowned joint champions with Weobley, Y7 Girls placed silver and Y8 Girls won bronze. The Y7's have a second attempt during Y8 to grab boys and girls gold in 2018.



Y7 Girls Hockey Silver

Our Y7 students fought through arctic conditions at Whitecross School during their County Hockey Tournament. They faced 7 other schools from across the County and fought their way through the rounds, facing St Marys, Lucton, John Kyrle, Whitecross and Lady Hawkins to name a few. Our nemesis, Cathedral, beat us in a hard fought game, which was end to end and fantastic to watch. Overall we finished a very proud second place and wore our silver medals proudly home! The girls displayed grit and determination, even in horrendous conditions, never giving up. This experience has brought them closer as a team and increased their hunger for Hockey victory in Y8.



Players: Piper Meek (Captain), Otti Owen, Hattie Cox, Natalie Freestone, Abbie Tinson, Ellie Bates, Talia Jones, Esme Platt, Katie Dudley & Ellie Thomas

Regional Badminton Champions

After winning the county tournament, our KS3 Boys' badminton team travelled to Birmingham to represent Herefordshire in the Regional Badminton Finals. This is the third time the boys have made it to the regionals and they were determined and full of confidence to make it third time lucky. The matches consisted of two singles games and three doubles games.

Chad Warren started the tournament on the front foot by comfortably winning his singles rubber. JJ Hobson and Max Williams stepped up to then win their doubles rubber followed by Sam Nicholls winning his singles game. The boys relaxed in the doubles eventually winning the match 4-1.

The team were able to win their second match 4-1 meaning they were through to the final. Nerves were building but the confidence hadn't dropped. Chad Warren was tested but not enough to stop his momentum winning his match. The first doubles pairing of JJ and Max were beaten but not out. Sam faced a tough, strong opponent but was able to keep his nerve and play some excellent badminton. One more game to take the team through to the National finals. Up stepped Chad and Max and after some excellent doubles play, took the win and took the team to the next round.



The team has made JMHS sporting history to be the first ever team to make it to a National final. The boys are a credit to the school and we wish them all the best for the National Finals in May to be held in Milton Keynes.