

UP-DATE

THE MAGAZINE OF JOHN MASEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



For the full scoop on this years whole school production see the centre pages...

Issue 82 Mar 2018

School Remembers Macca Davies

It is with immeasurable sadness that we recently learned about the tragic passing of former student Macca Davies.

Macca was a student who made a huge impression on staff and students with his infectious smile and constantly positive outlook. He loved to share a joke and was always so much fun to be around. All those who taught him remember his enormous sense of fun and bringing the best out of other people, whether it be playing football where he represented the school on many occasions, or around the school community. In 2015 it was Macca who took responsibility for putting together a relay team at short notice for his House and it was Macca who inspired that team to an unlikely victory which is a fitting testament to the fact that he enjoyed nothing more than sharing his enthusiasm with others.

He was proud to be a member of Jubilee House and constantly kept his form tutor and form mates entertained with his never ending 'Maccarisms' which involved adopting pet rocks, singing the Narwhal song repeatedly and becoming the forms self-designated plant keeper! He was the life and soul of the form and despite his cheeky nature he had a heart of gold and would do anything to help any member of the form or his tutor. On one occasion his GCSE English class wrote to the poet Michael Rosen about his poem 'Chocolate Cake', which Macca adored, and he replied with a good

luck message for the class. It was Macca who brought laughter to all as he recited the poem whilst devouring a large slice of the chocolate cake that had been brought in for the class to share. It is exactly this sense of laughter and fun that will be what staff and students so fondly remember.

Whilst Macca always enjoyed making people laugh he was also thoughtful, caring and considerate. He displayed warmth to students and staff and was always alert to the needs of others. He would always want to know how others were and how he could help, going out of his way to assist if someone was having a difficult day. To this end he really was a true gentleman.

The thoughts of the school community are with his family at this difficult time.



Enjoy the Easter Break, The summer term starts on the 17th April.



Outstanding Achievement in Performance Tables

Students and staff are proud to be well above all other Herefordshire schools in the latest school performance tables for pupils aged 16-18.

For the 55 students who took A-Levels last year at JMHS Sixth Form, the Department for Education progress score was +0.42, well above all other schools in the county. This makes John Masefield the only school in Herefordshire to achieve a rating of 'well above average'.

The only school with more than 20 sixth formers in Worcestershire that achieved the same rating was Malvern College, with a progress score of +0.35, less than John Masefield.

Headteacher, Andy Evans is delighted that students at John Masefield Sixth Form are making better progress than students at many top public schools and grammar schools. He attributes this success to the combination of high-quality rigorous teaching, high expectations of staff of every student and the caring ethos of the school.

The performance tables also show that 28 per cent of John Masefield students achieved at least AAB grades in challenging facilitating subjects,



Photo courtesy of The Ledbury Reporter

compared to a national average of just 12 per cent. Given that John Masefield Sixth Form is an all ability establishment that aims to nurture every student and has an extremely high completion rate, this represents an excellent achievement.

The current group of Y13 students are also excelling, with 95 per cent having received offers from their first-choice universities, including offers to study Mathematics at Cambridge; Wildlife and Ecology at Bristol; Aerospace Engineering at Manchester and Mechanical Engineering at Nottingham. Head of Sixth Form, Mark Hawksworth said, "We are very proud that our students progress so well and continue to move on to top universities and apprenticeships."

MIMI THEBO RETURNS!

The English Faculty were delighted to welcome the author Mimi Thebo back to the school this January.

Mimi held a captivating assembly talk with all of our Y7 students where she discussed her Carnegie Award nominated book *Dreaming the Bear* and the benefits of reading and creative writing. 35 lucky students then got to take part in a fascinating creative writing workshop with Mimi where they get a sneak peek into the way she writes and imagines her story. Students applied for the opportunity to take part in this workshop and all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Mimi also visited the school library at lunch where she met with our Y7 book club who have

been reading *Dreaming the Bear* after raising money last term through a cake sale to purchase a set of the fantastic book so they could all read it together.



Mimi returned again in March to hold another author talk with over 90 Y5 & 6 pupils invited from our local primaries. We held a huge creative writing workshop with all the students after her engaging talk and this was a wonderful introduction for our future students as to how we work to promote reading for pleasure at JMHS.

Mimi is a truly inspiring and entertaining author and we would like to thank her for helping to motivate our current and future students to get reading!

These visits have been made possible by the generous grant given to the school library from the Tesco's Bags of Help Scheme.

TESCO Bags of Help



FROM THE HEADTEACHER



The second half of the Spring Term has been a sad time for us at JMHS with the devastating news that Macca Davies, a recent ex student, aged 18, has been killed in a road traffic accident. Macca was a cheerful, lively and affable character, well liked by his peers and his teachers. He left JMHS two years ago at the end of Y11. Our thoughts are with his friends and family at this very sad time. It has been noticeable how many of our students and staff have shown kindness and support to Macca's family and friends and I would like to thank everyone for this.

I have been particularly impressed this term with the excellent attitude of Y10 students who are applying to be prefects with so many determined to make a strong contribution to helping others and making JMHS an even better place to study. Equally all of those who have contributed to School Of Rock have helped create an exciting, memorable and vivid performance- a great team effort for all involved.

Every week our students this term have been raising money for local charities through sponsored events, cake sales and other activities. I have been impressed with the initiative they have shown and their commitment to a wide variety of good causes varying from environmental work, cancer charities and St. Richard's Hospice.

Lastly I would like to thank and congratulate students in Y9 who have formed the Strong Young Minds team for their great work in raising awareness about mental health issues and promoting good mental health

Andy Evans

Readathon

This year's Readathon was an outstanding success, with double the amount raised than last year with a fantastic **£293** winging its way to the charity for 2018. Huge congratulations to all the students who took part but in particular to J7a who raised the most collectively as a form with £92 and won doughnuts as a treat!

Readathon encourages children to read for fun through the sponsored read and use the money raised to give books & stories to children in hospital.



Y7 MATHS QUIZ

12th February saw the rearranged finale of the Y7 Maths Quiz. The students involved had already competed in a preliminary round to win the privilege of representing their House, so could already be considered to be winners. The event was well supported by parents and there was a real buzz of excitement in the theatre.

All the students competed in the first five rounds where they were presented with a variety of mathematical challenges. Rounds included pair based collaborative working, mental arithmetic, a mathematical relay and a really complex giant jigsaw. Despite some of these rounds being challenging not a single student ever gave up and everyone continued to strive for every point for their House.

After these initial rounds Jubilee and Midsummer had stretched out a bit of a lead and progressed to the final two rounds. These last two rounds were both on the buzzer and the speed at which some of the students were performing calculations was scary at times! Despite a valiant effort from Jubilee it was Midsummer who dominated these rounds and therefore were crowned Y7 Maths Champions for 2017/18.

All of the students involved really did themselves proud and should be congratulated. They showed fabulous commitment and demonstrated a wide range of top-rate Maths skills.

Winning students were Chloe Roffe, Thea Bowcott, Noah Nolten and Louis Vos

UNIFORM REMINDER

Please could we also remind parents to ensure all school uniform and school equipment is named adequately. We have a large amount of property handed into the House Office over the school year and items that are un-named are almost impossible to return.

TERM DATES

Summer Term 2018

Term Starts Tuesday 17th April
Half Term Monday 28th May—Friday 1st June
Term Ends Tuesday 24th July at 1.15pm

Autumn Term 2018

Term Starts Wednesday 5th September
Half Term Monday 29th October—Friday 2nd November
Term Ends Friday 21st December

Staff Training

Friday 25th May - Staff Training Afternoon—students finish at 1.15pm
Friday 6th July - Whole Day

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



FJMHS

FRIENDS OF JOHN MASEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

SUPPORTING YOU & YOUR SCHOOL

- **Recycled Uniform Shop.** Shop on-line or directly from the rail at school events
- **School Lottery.** Weekly £30+ prize, only £1 a week
- **Donate.** Monthly donations mean we can plan ahead
- **Events.** Volunteer or come along
- **Newsletter and joining in.** Sign up on-line

For more info see www.fjmhs.org.uk

THE NEXT GENERATION

SCHOOL of ROCK

THE MUSICAL





On 16th March, Andrew Lloyd Webber's School of Rock started a phenomenal run which culminated in a deserved and prolonged standing ovation on Saturday night. The performers, musicians and crew created a stunning event filled with energy, excitement and good old fashioned rock and roll.

The audience were blown away by the standard of the show and many commented that they forgot that students were performing due to the level of talent on display on stage. There was dancing in the aisles and a strong sense of joy in the audience.

The Arts Department are extremely proud of all the students who took part both on and off stage. Here's to next year!

Special thanks should go to the Friends of JMHS who provided a very popular and delicious cafe to add to the atmosphere of the event. Should you wish to get involved in supporting the Friends, please get in touch with the school for more information.



A Literary Visit to London!

This January Dr Lewis and Miss Newnes departed with Y12 and Y13 students on an English trip to London. We arrived at London Paddington at midday



and began our journey via the notorious London Underground. Our intellectual expedition continued when we arrived at the British Library, a place of history and thousands of fascinating, individual stories. After a workshop with an expert of the British Library, we were all ready to arrive at the hostel (which exceeded expectations) to have some downtime. As one of the focus points of the trip was how wealth and power feed into the production and reception of literature, we went back out in the evening to see some very expensive and impressive mansions on Billionaires' Row, which included the Embassy of Romania, France and Russia.

On Friday we had a quick visit to the Tate Modern before making our way to what was undoubtedly the highlight of the trip, the utterly fascinating Globe Theatre. We were all instantly in awe of this beautifully designed theatre and were all fascinated by the stark contrast of its traditions in comparison to other theatres and productions in the modern era. Passionate and talented actor Chu Omambala gave us a tour of the theatre and then in the afternoon hosted a workshop with us which was very well received. On our way back to the hostel, we had a quick look at the spectacular sights of the London Eye and Houses of Parliament from Westminster Bridge. After having our evening dinner, we had one final poetry workshop at the Victoria and Albert Museum which was run by Dr Lewis. We all found it very insightful and it was a nice ending to an educational and thoroughly enjoyable trip.

Harry Dunnett Y13

UK Senior Maths Challenge Success

Y12 and Y13 Mathematicians entered the UK Senior Maths Challenge in December 2017. This is an annual national competition run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. All of the Sixth Formers that took part did extremely well.

A Gold certificate was awarded to Jamie Hiley (Jamie was also awarded the Best in Y13 and Best in School Certificates)

Silver Certificates were awarded to Ollie Reynolds, Arthur Huxley, Dan Disney and Anais Meale (Anais was also awarded the Best in Y12 certificate)

Bronze Certificates were awarded to Pippa Stokes, Samuel Hall, Jessica Leigh, Lauren Lambert, Jennifer Kennedy, Samantha Thompson, Rylan Ashman and Menno Recordon.

These are excellent results, well done to all who took part.

Due to Jamie Hiley's outstanding performance in the Senior Maths Challenge the UK Mathematics Trust selected him to take part in the British Maths Olympiad. This is a very prestigious competition which is designed to showcase mathematical understanding and skills beyond the A level curriculum. Jamie is one of only a handful of JMHS students (past and present) to have been asked to take part and he performed very well achieving an excellent score. Well done Jamie!

Join the Debate at JMHS!

A new Debate Club is now open for students in Y9 to Sixth Form.

The club is run by Y12 student Katherine Allsopp, for people passionate about

politics and for those who want a wider political and social awareness of the 21st Century. Whilst learning about current issues students are also developing their debating skills and hope to go on to debate against other schools in the future. Previous debate topics include: should the voting age be lowered and which human rights are the most important? Our next topics include immigration, abortion rights and gun laws. Any students interested in debating should come along to HU3 on Tuesday lunch times



A Brief Encounter

On the 8th February Y13 A Level Drama went to see Kneehigh's Brief Encounter. After enjoying a cheeky Nando's we headed out to the Birmingham Repertory Theatre to experience this wonderful production. This play was an exploration of an affair between a married couple based on the 1944 film of the same name. We were blown away by Kneehigh's inventive style and how they interpreted the story with their anarchic and creative direction and performance. We thought that it was timeless expression of love which transcended all boundaries and kept us spellbound throughout. The Drama class would highly recommend seeing this production when it arrives in London for the summer.



THE GREAT SCIENCE BAKE OFF!

This March students were invited to test their creative baking prowess and bake a cake with a scientific theme!

The judges were impressed with the range of cakes which took inspiration from all areas of science including an edible periodic table, a solar system and a magnificent cooling tower.

Our judges Dr. Jennings and Mr. Oaten were hard pressed to select a winner from the wonderfully inventive entries but are pleased to announce the winners as follows:

1st: Megan Williams (H7b)

2nd: Lucy Milner and Olivia Morris (H8b)

3rd: Oliver Clarke (H8a)

Highly Commended: Rosie Crowson Jeffrey (B10A)

Congratulations to the winners and to all the students who took part and supported this competition.



Doctor Bethuel Setai School

Thank you to all those who bought Christmas cards and donated books in aid of the Doctor Bethuel Setai School. We have bought and delivered sports equipment, posters, maps and school books. This really made a difference to the school and is greatly appreciated by all the students and teachers.



CHESS TOURNAMENT

Building on the popular success of the chess club in the autumn term, a chess tournament was launched in January to find the top chess players in the school. With over thirty entrants and speculation rife about who would be crowned the school chess champion the stage was set for a momentous battle. Hopeful athletes were pitted against each other in a brutal, knock-out competition spanning 6 weeks. It turned into the most popular spectator sport of the winter term drawing large crowds for the most intense battles between the big name stars. After a gruelling competition 3 finalists were left. Only a win over both other challengers would suffice for the undisputed title of school chess champion and so at the time of writing there is still no clear cut winner. Congratulations though to Bear Katton, Alex Clark and Eizens Jegors for reaching the final and a massive well done to all those that gave up lunchtimes to compete and support the tournament.



STRONG YOUNG MINDS

We are the Strong Young Minds Champions. We work to raise awareness and reduce the stigma around young people's mental health. During the Children's Mental Health awareness week in February, we promoted the '#beingourselves' campaign through a week of interactive house assemblies, a whole school survey and an information stand where we celebrated the '#meicanbe' campaign.

A third of the students in the school said as a result in the survey that they didn't feel students received adequate help at JMHS with regards to mental health problems. As a direct result of this we ran a workshop for teachers, where we found that none of them had ever had any specific mental health associated training, including members of the house office. The workshop covered topics such as; What is mental health? What conditions are young people experiencing? What they could do to have a healthy mental health themselves? What they could do? How and where students can get support?

All the 180 Strong Young Minds Champions, around Herefordshire were nominated in the Youth Champion category at the Hereford Community Champions Awards. Earlier this month, three of our members (Georgie Westaway, Zack Godfrey and Millie McCarthy) represented all the champions when they were invited to a meeting with all the other nominees at the Chairman of Herefordshire Council, Brian Wilcox's office at the Shire Hall. The Chairman discussed what the awards were about, and we had an interview with the Hereford times in which the nominations were later published.

On 16th March Georgie, Zack and Millie attended the award ceremony at the Town Hall in Hereford. Strong Young Minds were the winners of the Youth Champion category. We received a certificate, a trophy and £500 to use to invest back into the group to carry on the work we are doing as champions. It was a great night, we thoroughly enjoyed it and would like to thank the coordinators of Strong Young Minds and especially our coordinator Patricia Sarmiento for making this all possible.



U14 Boy's Hockey

JMHS's U14 Boys Hockey Team Compete at West of England Tournament

On Monday 5th March we travelled to Bristol Grammar School to be one of two Herefordshire Schools, in the past 4 years, to compete at the West of England tournament. Following an eventful trip, the tournament was relocated to Cheltenham College. We faced Taunton School, Cheltenham College and Kingswood School in a gruelling tournament. The boys fought all day, being the only comprehensive school in the competition, the boys were up against it! Unfortunately all games were lost during the day, but spirits were high throughout. All John Masefield Students showed resilience and dedication throughout the day and were a pleasure to take. We hope to compete again, in future years, following this character building experience.



Year 10 Students' Rugby Success

Y10 student Tom Crane has been part of Worcester Warriors developing player pathway for the past two seasons, with 200 other players at four centres across the North Midlands. During half term he played matches against the other centres as part of a selection process to create the Warriors U15 development squad. Tom's continued focus and dedication won him a place in the U15 squad of 35-40 players, who will be representing the club this season. Congratulations to Tom on this fantastic achievement.



COUNTY CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING REPRESENTATIVES

After qualifying at the Malvern Schools District Trials, five John Masefield students represented Herefordshire in the County Cross Country Championships, held at Sanders Park. In horrific weather conditions all runners fought against the elements, showing sheer resilience. Tom Smith (Y9) finished 22nd out of 67 and was second place for Malvern, after qualifying Pat Jessop (Y9) unfortunately did not finish the race due to injury. Hattie Cox (Y8) came 21st, Immy Parsons came 29th and Josie Thomas (Y8) finished 39th out of the 72 Y8 girls. Well done to all the runners for your success.

Football

Strong starts have been made by the Y7, 8 and 9 teams along with the Y11's too. Good numbers are coming to training on a Monday night and the boys are playing an exciting and skilful brand of football. Fixtures are coming thick and fast now as the snow days have created a back log of fixtures. We are hopeful of winning some silverware this year!

Y10 Student's Archery Success

Phoebe Rogers is an up and coming Archery star, she is a committed member of Bromyard Archery where she attends twice a week. Previously, Phoebe has been collecting badges for her success within her age group and has been improving week after week. In January, Phoebe shot 60 arrows and scored 452, where she beat senior players who attend the club. This score is an incredible achievement which Phoebe is very proud of too! Phoebe has now been awarded a badge for reaching the massive 450 score and as well as this she has been awarded the Annual award for being the "Most Promising Junior". Well done Phoebe!



NEW SQUASH CLUB

The PE department is delighted to now provide an after school Squash Club. This is open to all year groups and abilities. We are fortunate to be able to have an external professional squash coach provide the coaching at these sessions. If you would like to take part please come along on Fridays 3.15 - 4.30pm.

