

UP-DATE

THE MAGAZINE OF JOHN MASEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



Maths Challenge 2019



On 22nd March JMHS students Meg Day, James Austin, Alfie Fisher and Lily Graham represented the school in the regional finals Junior Maths Team Challenge held at Earl Mortimer School in Leominster. This is a national competition run by the UK Maths Trust. Throughout the day all four mathematicians demonstrated some outstanding problem solving and collaborative working skills which resulted in the team achieving third place out of eighteen teams. This was against some very tough opposition. In doing so we became the highest placed state school team for the second year running. At the end of the competition the team also received a special commendation for the resilience they showed. Despite the team having a relatively disappointing first round after which they were in eighth position, they did not lose heart and proceeded to have the highest score out of all teams in two of the remaining three rounds, in doing so only narrowly missing out on winning the competition! Well done Team!

Issue 85 Apr 2019

HPFA WIN!!

After a year off, we once again took part in the Herefordshire Performing Arts Festival, which sadly is to be the last ever one after running for 85 years. We entered a number of ensembles and soloists in varied categories. Once again pupils performed brilliantly, receiving excellent feedback from the esteemed judges, including one who was amazed with the amount of talent coming from JMHS, and therefore felt he really needed to visit Ledbury! Our piano quartet were also given stunning feedback, that they showed all the skills that the judge had been telling competitors they needed all day! We received an extremely high number of Distinctions (80-89/100) and some Outstandings (90/100). Notable achievements include:

JMHS Clarinet Quartet – Won Advanced Wind Chamber Group
JMHS Jazz Band – Won School Jazz Band
JMHS Piano Quartet – Won advanced Chamber Group with an outstanding score of 90/100
JMHS String Ensemble – Won Open String Ensemble

Harry Unthank – Gold medal in Grade 6 woodwind
Anna Brown – Gold in Songs from Shows & Films, Girls aged 12-15
Libby Warren – Gold in Songs from Shows & Films, Girls aged 16-18, with an outstanding score of 91/100
Fred Gunning – Gold in Songs from Shows & Films, Boys aged 9 - 13
Tom Hill - Silver in Grade 6 Woodwind
Kath Owen - Silver in Grade 3 Woodwind
Angelina Gill – Silver in Songs from Shows & Films, Girls aged 12-15
Anna Brown – Silver in Youth Solos, Girls aged 12-15

Elly Merryman – Silver in Grade 8 Woodwind
Katy McCabe – Bronze in Songs from Shows & Films, Girls aged 12-15
Isabel Horne – Bronze in Youth Solos, Girls aged 12-15
Isabelle Thompson – Bronze in Songs from Shows & Films, Girls aged 12-15
Lotte Kroese – Bronze in Grade 1 Strings

We were delighted to be invited to perform at the Gala concert at the end of the week, showcasing the best performances of the week. Libby Warren gave a heartfelt performance that had many of us in tears, and the Jazz Band were the grand finale of the concert, giving their best performance to date. To end this spectacular week we were awarded the esteemed **Elgar in Hereford Young Musician's Award** for the amount of students that performed in the festival and the high standard shown by all. This is the fourth time that we have won this sought after award, but it is a great honour each time, and is well deserved by all of our students that worked so hard. Well done to everyone and enormous thanks to Mrs Goldup for the organisation of it all!



Enjoy the Easter Break—Summer Term Starts on the 30th April

NEW POET IN RESIDENCE

On 27th February our new Poet in Residence Kurly McGeachie made his first visit to JMHS.

Kurly is a Birmingham based poet who performs a mixture of poetry, hip hop and rap. He has been helping children develop emotional literacy through poetry for over a decade.



He held four assembly sessions with Y7 to Y10 throughout the day, performing for the students as well as encouraging them to write their own simple rhyming couplets and raps which they could then perform to the assembly if they wished. It was wonderful to see how inspired the students were by Kurly and how involved they all were in the assembly.

He will be visiting the school a further two times over the next few months to work with students on poetry and performance techniques ready to perform a showcase at the Poetry Festival in its opening event on Friday 12th July. Thank you to the Poetry Festival for their continued support of poetry at JMHS



SYM

Strong Young Minds

Ledbury Rugby Club Captain Dave Wargen visited JMHS in March to talk to our Y7 and Y8 boys in association with the Strong Young Minds project in Herefordshire. Dave talked about his own battles with mental health and the importance of talking with others and checking in on friends and family.

JMHS continues to work with the Strong Young Minds Project to promote mental health and wellbeing in our students and we look forward to welcoming Dave back to the school to talk to the boys in our older year groups later this term. Thank you to Dave and the Rugby Club for their support of the project.



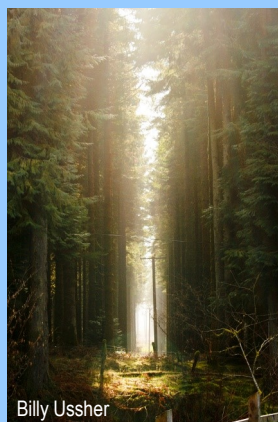
Dave Wargen pictured here with Mr Wyatt



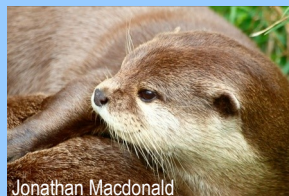
PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Earlier this term students at JMHS were invited to compete in a photography competition. Over 50 photos were submitted with the theme of Nature. There were many high quality entries and choosing only three was a very difficult task.

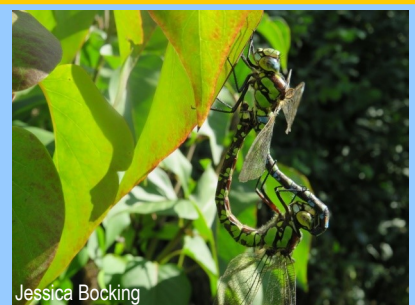
After a lot of discussions Mr Price and Mr Stevenson awarded first place to Jessica Bocking for her Dragon Flies photo, second place to Billy Ussher for his Forest photo and third place to Eleanor Short for her Beach photo. An Otter photo by Jonathan Macdonald and a Raindrop photo by Gabrielle Lyndon also caught the judges eye. All 5 will receive a prize, with Jessica also receiving Serif PhotoPlus X8 Software. You can see all the entries on our website's news section.



Billy Ussher



Jonathan Macdonald



Jessica Bocking



Eleanor Short



Gabrielle Lyndon

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents/Guardians

Its been a very long, busy and successful Spring Term. I have just finished interviewing over eighty Y10 students who will be appointed as our new prefects from the start of the Summer Term. This will be the highest number of prefects ever appointed at JMHS and reflects the excellent contributions so many of our students make to school life.

There have been great successes with girls sport and our basketball teams have totally dominated local opposition and made good progress in national competitions. For the second year running our junior mathematicians have been the top state school in the UK Maths Challenge regional team quiz, a great result for our young 'mathletes'. Our musicians have come from the Herefordshire Performing Arts Festival receiving great praise and a horde of medals and trophies. Whilst over a hundred students contributed magnificently to our wonderful production of The Sound of Music. Cultural opportunities have included an author visit and an exciting first day with our new poet in residence.

I would like to conclude by thanking staff and students for their contribution to such a successful Spring Term and wishing all our Y11 and Y13 students all the best with their summer exams

Andrew Evans

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 2019

Term Starts Tuesday 30th April
Half Term Monday 27th May—Friday 31st May
Term Ends Friday 19th July

* May Day Bank Holiday—Monday 6th May

* Staff Training Afternoon—Students finish at 1.10pm Friday 24th May

Autumn Term 2019

Term Starts Wednesday 4th September
Half Term Monday 28th October—Friday 1st November
Term Ends Friday 20th December

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

STEWART FOSTER

To celebrate World Book Day 2019 we welcomed the author Stewart Foster to JMHS on 1st March. Stewart held an assembly for Y7 and Y8 and then workshops in the library where he encouraged students to explore their creative writing skills. It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved and he has truly inspired our students who created some wonderful stories in the library during the workshops. Stewart is the author of two children's books "The Bubble Boy" and "All the Things that can go Wrong"



We were able to fund this visit thanks to the Tesco Bags of Help for Help funding received in 2018.

 Bags of Help

FJMHS
FRIENDS OF JOHN MASEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

**SUPPORTING YOU &
YOUR SCHOOL**

Recycled School Uniform

FJMHS has a stock of good quality, clean uniform for sale at very reasonable prices. Shop on-line at www.fjmhs.org.uk or browse the honesty rail that is out at school events attended by parents. All funds raised go to school.

School Lottery



Have you bought your school lottery ticket yet? Sign up for just £1 a week and you are in for a chance to win a weekly prize within the school ticket owning community (£35+) as well as a country-wide whopping £25,000 prize. 40% of ticket sales goes direct to school. To buy tickets, go to www.yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for John Masefield. If you want more information, take a look at www.fjmhs.org.uk.

Friends helpers wanted.

FJMHS needs more people to help with on-going projects such as the recycled uniform and the school lottery. We would also welcome more people to organise as well as help at our one-off events, including the Friends Cafe and car park stewarding (next stewarding date: July 14th). Get in touch by emailing info@fjmhs.org.uk, or come to one of our meetings, to offer as little or as much time, ideas and support as you can. Meetings are held in the Community Lounge at school, usually in the evening and dates are advertised via parentpay.

We hope to see you soon!

The SOUND of MUSIC





Over 100 students took part in this year's production of The Sound of Music. The performances were a culmination of months of hard work by all students and staff involved and were a resounding success for the school, finishing with a much deserved standing ovation at the final performance and one of the most emotional finales we have ever seen. Congratulations to all involved for such an outstanding piece of work.

For the school's anniversary we are seeking to improve our technical facilities through the refurbishment of the Theatre. We intend to replace the school's lighting and sound systems; to improve access to the stage and to upgrade to motorised raked seating, ultimately increasing our capacity from 200 to 334 seats. Over the next few months, we intend to raise as much money as possible to put towards the upgrade. Profits from our concerts, shows and main productions will go towards this project as will associated activities such as the refreshment sales and raffle tickets kindly provided by the Friends of John Masefield during the production (they raised over £366 during the Sound of Music!)

We are also looking to gain community support with this venture as well seeking to access some funding from the Arts Council and other local sources to achieve our goal. If you are interested in donating to the project please contact Julie Kyle at julie.kyle@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk



CERN TRIP 2019

In January, A-Level Physics students flew to Geneva in Switzerland for a three-day visit to the European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN). The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN is a 27 km-long particle accelerator situated underneath the French-Swiss border and it is here in 2012 that physicists made the widely-reported discovery of a fundamental particle known as the Higgs boson.

Against a stunning backdrop of the snow-capped Alps and the Jura mountains the JMHS students were given tours and presentations which helped them to understand aspects of the science that is carried out at CERN and the history of scientific exploration at the site. Students visited the ATLAS detector control room and also toured the SM-18 site, where engineers develop the enormously powerful superconducting magnets that are required to steer the particles around the LHC.

The science was particularly relevant to the Y13 students who have recently completed units of work based on particle physics and particle accelerators, and the exposure to this kind of science at the cutting-edge of modern physics is intended both to supplement and extend their recent learning and to provide inspiration for their future studies and career paths. Students enjoyed the trip enormously and were amazed by the scale of the endeavour at CERN.

Students also had the opportunity to visit Geneva itself to walk around the edge of Lake Geneva, to see the famous 100m high fountain and to experience a busy day in the city before returning to Ledbury, tired but enthused and inspired by the trip. JMHS tries to run this visit every two years and it is open to those who choose to undertake our A-Level Physics course.

Dr J Lewis



HE+ 2019

John Masfield Y12 students have been involved in an enrichment programme run by the University of Cambridge aimed at inspiring students to



apply for academically competitive universities. They have been attending extension lessons which serve to challenge aspiring students with higher level thinking and skills in several different topic areas from which students can choose. As part of this programme several students have been invited to attend a residential at Christ's College, Cambridge where they will experience master classes run by current Cambridge academics, and gain further insight into the application process and university as a whole. John Masfield has been involved in this project since its inception and many students have benefited from the experience going on to successfully apply for many of the top universities in the UK.

Y12 Geography Trip

Y12 Geographers visited Leeson House in Dorset for their 2019 fieldwork. The rain that 'always' occurs with JMHS fieldwork only affected Friday and the rest of time it was glorious! Students examined biodiversity, wind speed, PH and moisture content of soil at Studland, which overlooks Old Harry Rocks. Unfortunately there is now an oil rig in the middle of the bay searching for oil. If found this will lead to a planning application to extract and pipe the oil across this fragile ecosystem - watch this space for an update.

Students visited Boscombe and examined the success of the regeneration programmes as well as visiting Swanage to measure the success of management strategies.



M. Hughes

Old Harry Rocks

CAREERS FAIR

On 12th February, John Masefield opened up its Sports Hall to local colleges, sixth forms, training providers and employers from the local area. Students were invited to come along and find out more about life after GCSE's and beyond.

Overall the event was a great success with all who came to talk to our students commenting on how keen and polite they were when discussing their futures.



HELLENS CONCERT

For the second time we have worked in collaboration with William Howard, a well known pianist formerly of the Schubert Ensemble, and Hellems to produce an excellent concert of chamber music, compositions and singing. Back in November William visited the school to give a composition workshop to GCSE Music students and run a masterclass with the newly formed piano quartet (David Baltazar, Eleanor Morley, Isabelle Inman, Jack Bloomer). He then returned in January and performed compositions that some of the class had written, giving them feedback on what they had done and how to further develop their work. The culmination of the project was a performance in March at the wonderful Hellems in Much Marcle. Fantastic performances were given to the packed barn by our piano quartet, chamber choir, senior chamber choir and full choir, as well as William Howard himself. William also performed 5 compositions written by Millie Clayton, Katy McCabe, Tom Hill, Sophia Kroese, Rebecca Carney and A Level student Jack Bloomer. William Howard was very impressed with the high levels of performance, and standard of our compositions.



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

JMHS Girls Can!

We have had a brilliantly busy term for girls sport - Over 60 students have been involved in Hockey and we are regularly having over 70 students take part in Netball club – the level of commitment is outstanding!

Well done to the Y8 Girls who qualified for the Indoor Athletics Finals at the school games and reached 4th place, the Y7 Girls team didn't qualify this year, however have their eyes on success in Y8.

Our Y7 girls made the semi-finals at the County Hockey tournament, being knocked out by the eventual winners HCS. Outstanding performances by all! The Y8 girls were competitive in their County tournament, but narrowly missed out on a semi-final place.

Y7 & 8 have competed in their County Netball tournaments with varied success, however they have showed resilience, great team work and were a pleasure to take. It has been great to turn out 3 Y8 teams and 2 teams in both Y10 and 9 for friendly netball fixtures this term.

After their County Champion Success, our Y11 Netball team competed at the Regional Netball Tournament in Telford (see team pic). A tough day in horrible conditions, however the girls fought during every game and played some fantastic netball.



Many thanks to the almost 100 parents who have contributed to match transport raised nearly £1000. This equates to 6 matches worth of transport involving about 200 students.

JMHS Basketball domination a real community success!

JMHS are now double County Boys Basketball Champions after winning both the U16 and U14 County competitions. The U16 Boys beat Earl Mortimer College and the U14s beat Whitecross in their respective finals with comfortable victories.

Both teams then went onto compete in the regional stages of the competition with the U14s sadly knocked out after a competitive regional game vs Alcester Grammar.

The U16s made it though 2 rounds of the regionals beating Ormiston Sheffield Academy from Walsall in a dramatic 74 to 60 win in their match and take them through to the zonal rounds where unfortunately they lost in an away match against Northampton School for Boys (who have over 1600 boys in their school!). In the week before the match we were also unbelievably unlucky to have lost 2 of our starting 5 players to ankle injuries, the boys who played however put up a great fight and should be as proud of themselves as we all are at JMHS. Well done boys!

Mr Hawksworth who oversees the basketball at John Masefield said 'These successes are a great example of community partnership. As well as weekly school practice the boys' superior skill levels and enthusiasm for the game have been mostly developed by the highly successful Leadonites Basketball club which the vast

majority attend with some of the boys being members for three years. John Masefield basketball teams also use the Leadonites basketball kits for their school matches and are extremely grateful for their generosity. Furthermore to ensure continuity of coaching, John Masefield utilises one of Leadonites capable coaches Jack Powell who delivers weekly training sessions and attends some school matches. Finally Community Action Ledbury provide transport to the matches which helps reduce the cost to the school. It's a real community team effort!



Hockey!

Hockey has been limited recently, due to our Astro turf's condition, however fixtures have taken place indoor where possible and away at other schools. Y7 & 8 girls competed at the Worcester Girls Can Tournament (see pic) and met Lizzie Neal (England Hockey Player), both teams came third in their age groups and were fiercely competitive against RGS, Kings, Tudor Grange, Chase and Nunnery Wood (out of ten games we won 4 and drew 2). Well done to Chloe Roffe and Jemima Spiller who have been committed to the U14 County Hockey Team and have competed for them in recent tournaments.



The U16 Boys Hockey battled hard in their recent match against the Chase, 1-1 at half time however built confidence throughout the game to score a further 2 goals to win 3-1.

The Astro turf has been a source of increasing frustration for JMHS and especially our hockey players as it has been unsafe most of the winter, due to the desperate need to have the surface rejuvenated. This will cost in the region of £13k and would take up to 6 weeks. If any parents are in a position to discuss helping us in moving this project forward, we would be very happy to hear from them via email at jordan.kontarines@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Football

Strong starts made by Year 7 and Year 9 and Year 10 teams, who are looking like they are going to progress to the semi finals in the final week of term. Well done to all the boys who have represented JMHS at football.

Badminton

We have had two fixtures this term against Hereford Cathedral school, played with good skill and in wonderful sporting spirit. Well done to all those students who have taken part and to the ones who come to play after school during the normal week.

Squash

Squash club is going from strength to strength with numbers ever increasing. Come along and start playing!!

Cross Country

In January JMHS students competed in the District Cross Country Championship on Malvern Common. The courses were gruelling, lung busting and very undulating. Our students were amazing; they tackled the course with gusto and verve and ran in some very good performances. In Y7 Fliss and George finished 2nd and 3rd in their respective races, while Hattie finished 5th in hers and Fraser an amazing 12th in his (most runners in that race were from the year above). Well done to all who took part.