

UP-DATE

THE MAGAZINE OF JOHN MASEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



Issue 87 Dec 2019

ANOTHER YEAR OF STRONG RESULTS!

JMHS celebrated another year of great exam results for both our A Level and GCSE students.

Our Y13 students received strong A Level results . 76% of all grades were at A* to C with a 99.5% pass rate.

On the back of these results the vast majority of students have gone onto their first choice university and can be extremely proud of how well they have achieved. A Level subject highlights include:

Mathematics 59% A* to A grades

Geography 55% A* to A grades

French 75% A* to B

Accounting 50% A* to B

Vocational subjects were also strong with Health & Social Care and Business Studies both achieving 60% Distinction* to Distinction.

We are very proud of the ongoing success of our students and Sixth Form. Another year of hard work and focus from our students and excellent teaching and

dedication from John Masefield staff has ensured some fantastic results and supported our students going on to superb futures.

Y11 also celebrated strong results in their GCSE examinations this year. Many students who had worked extremely hard deservedly achieved good results with one individual highlight being Ella Lipscombe who achieved 9 grade 9s

66% of Year 11 students at John Masefield High School achieved at least 5 good grades including both English and Maths, a similar proportion to last year.

There were particularly strong results in Chemistry and German in each of which over 40% of entries resulted in grade 7 or higher.

For the fifth consecutive year JMHS did particularly well with the Ebacc measure, 38% of the cohort achieved good grades in all of the E-bacc subjects, well above the national average of around 20%.



We hope you have a great Christmas —Term Starts Tuesday January 7th

WORCESTER UNI VISIT

On 15 November, Y13 A Level PE students and some Y11 GCSE PE students went on a fantastic trip to the University of Worcester. Students conducted fitness tests which included a batac wall to measure reaction time, measuring peak power output on a watt bike and grip strength. Students then went on to experience wheelchair basketball learning the rules and techniques involved. We were also treated to a tour of the campus and an excellent talk from a student giving her perspective on uni life. JMHS students returned to school tired from the fitness tests, in awe of the wheelchair basketball experience and given plenty of food for thought about studying at university. My thanks to Miss Dix

who accompanied the trip, the students that went for being amazing and to the staff and students at the University of Worcester for making us so welcome and setting up a great experience for our students.



J Kontarines

WORLD FAMOUS AUTHOR VISITS 6TH FORM

Margaret Atwood is an incredibly talented Canadian writer and poet who has published an extensive range of works. Not only has she gained international critical acclaim and numerous awards for her books and poems but she also campaigns for change as an environmental activist. At A-level, English Literature students study her famous novel 'The Handmaid's Tale' which, although it was written in 1985, is particularly relevant today due to its focus on deteriorating women's rights. Atwood visited the sixth form on the 11th of July and read several of her poems before holding a fascinating Q&A in which gave extensive insight into The Handmaid's Tale and some hints about the content of her upcoming book The Testaments (which went on to jointly win the Booker Prize).

This event was truly amazing as even she claimed that she does not often do school talks. Therefore, JMHS owe a special thanks to the Ledbury Poetry Festival who helped organise her visit.



S. Admans

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week I had the huge pleasure of presenting GCSE certificates to our Y12 students along with Achievement and Merit awards to those in Y13. At the event, I remarked to parents how fortunate we are to have such a super group of young people in our sixth form. They are conscientious, highly supportive of each other and a pleasure to teach. We have a relatively small sixth form, but the students in our sixth form achieve consistently strong exam results and often go on to achieve great things, making us and their parents extremely proud. We learnt last year that a significantly higher proportion successfully complete their degrees than those in other schools or colleges. For instance the Higher Education Research Council reported that 89% of students from who have studied at JM6 achieve Upper Second Class or First Class Honours Degrees compared to a national average close to 70%. It has been interesting talking to former students about what they feel has contributed to their success at university and beyond. All give slightly different answers, but many cite small classes that have enabled excellent interaction and great teaching from teachers fascinated by their subject and committed to supporting all of the students in their class

It has also been a highly successful term for current JM6 students. Highlights include our physicists winning the Malvern Physics Olympiad, great success achieved in the UK Senior Maths Challenge including one student, Lizzie Austen, qualifying for the Olympiad and Will Flaherty achieving an excellent result in the Chemistry Olympiad. In addition to this academic success, the Sixth Form production of DNA was a huge success, we have had excellent participation in our sports teams and several of our young men raised considerable sums for the charity MIND. A group of Sixth Form students have also organised in conjunction with Community Action Ledbury, to entertain Ledbury's senior citizens on Wednesday 18th December with song, music and mince pies.

We are also extremely fortunate that many of our Sixth Formers are doing brilliant work with our younger students working as paid teaching assistants.

Lastly I would like to wish all of our readers a very Happy Christmas

Andrew Evans

CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Thank you to all parents, carers, students and the local community for supporting the first John Masefield Climate Change Conference on 18 November. The Conference was opened by Millie McCarthy and ended with Hester Wilder and refreshments. Dr. Des McDougall illustrated the current glacial extent, focusing on the Alps and explained that the current glacial extent does not follow the expected natural climatic variations. He linked the causes to the CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere, which are unprecedented. He showed the complexity of the glacial and inter glacial patterns and noted that the current melting was revealing further, more accurate indicators of previous climates. These show that climate has been warmer, as trees are being released from the bottom of melting glaciers; frozen in time and allowing carbon dating to be undertaken. He stressed the importance of local factors and climatic feedback loops that provide a very difficult terrain for predicting specific impacts. However, he did confirm the most prolific impact will be global sea level rise and its implications for people and places.

M. Doughty-Cook

UNIFORM REMINDER

Please could we 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

Spring Term 2020

Term Starts	Tuesday 7th January
Half Term	Monday 17th February—Friday 21st February
Term Ends	Friday 3rd April

Staff Training Afternoons—Students finish at 1.10pm Tuesday 4th February & Wednesday 11th March

Summer Term 2020

Term Starts	Tuesday 21st April
Half Term	Monday 25th May—Friday 29th May
Term Ends	Friday 17th July

Staff Training Afternoons—Students finish at 1.10pm Thursday 7th May & Wednesday 17th June.

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

CHRISTMAS STORY TIME

The Library was delighted to host 2 story time sessions for LPS pupils on the 9th and 10th of December. The visiting Y2 students were read to by some of our Y7, 8 & 9 students.

We shared Christmas stories including Rudey's Windy Christmas which caused a few giggles (mostly from our Y9's) as well as some old favourites.

This is a lovely opportunity for JMHS pupils to practise and develop their reading aloud skills and also to help promote a love of reading in the younger children. We hope to hold more sessions in the New Year.



BOOK TASTING

35 Y7 and 8 students received a free book this October as part of the Bookbuzz initiative from the BookTrust. During book tasting sessions in the Library students had the opportunity to "taste" all the 15 titles available to choose from by looking at the covers, reading the blurb and the first chapter. The students then chose which book they wanted to read and a few weeks later their books were delivered to the library ready for them to collect. All the students were delighted with their books!



Bookbuzz

SYM

On 7th October two of the JMHS Strong Young Minds Champions Georgie Westaway and Stephen Beard were honoured to speak at the Herefordshire Children and Young People's Partnership Showcase at the Shire Hall. They presented a speech about who the Strong Young Mind champions are, what work SYM and The CLD trust does, what they have done as champions and what they think should be happening in Herefordshire regarding young people's mental health services. Whilst at the event they met many people who work through Herefordshire including Chris Baird – Director of Children's Services, and Sue Thomas – Superintendent Policing Commander for Herefordshire. They both enjoyed the event and felt privileged to be able to share their experiences and views.

Then on the 21st November, 4 of our students (Georgie Westaway, Millie McCarthy, Ellie Gale from Y11 and Eli Thomas from Y10) were invited to the 25th anniversary of The CLD Trust. They performed speeches and a flash mob presentation to open up about their experiences with mental health from a teenagers perspective; each of them a proud representative of not only Strong Young Minds but also JMHS. Also in attendance were Mrs Davies and Mr Wyatt. Mrs Davies spoke about her tough cycling challenge to raise money for SYM (more info in this edition). It was a successful event to support the CLD trust and to spread awareness for mental health issues.



Georgie Westaway & Ellie Gale

HOUSE CAPTAINS 2019



MIDSUMMER

Molly Schofield, Lily Brown-Goode & Georgie Westaway



JUBILEE

Millie McCarthy, Sammy Palmer & Laurel Baker



HOLYWELL

Eleanor Morley & Izzy French



BEACON

Rebecca Carney, Aliyah Blandford & Ellie Gale



**WINNERS OF THE
2018-19 HOUSE CUP**

MIDSUMMER!

CAREERS

2019 Careers Fair

On 20th November, JMHS opened up its Sports Hall to 22 different colleges, universities, employers, training providers and apprenticeship advisers. These ranged from the national employers such as the NHS to local representatives for Eastnor Pottery.

The turnout was fantastic and the atmosphere was buzzing. Students from every year group attended to learn a little bit more about their options post-16 and post-18.

Many of the visiting employers also commented on how well our students communicated with them, asking very specific and detailed questions and showing a very keen interest in a variety of areas.

Visit to World Skills Live

On 21st November, 40 JMHS students from years 9-12 attended the World Skills Live Careers Fair at the NEC in Birmingham. This was a huge event with hundreds of employers, training providers and recruitment groups holding events and manning stalls to give students from across the country information about their future career choices.

Students took part in a range of activities including some fantastic performance opportunities, working with technology and meeting experts in fields such as engineering. Not only was the trip very educational for all students involved, but it was also very exciting to be in such a vibrant atmosphere.

The event takes place every year and is also free to the public, running into the weekend.

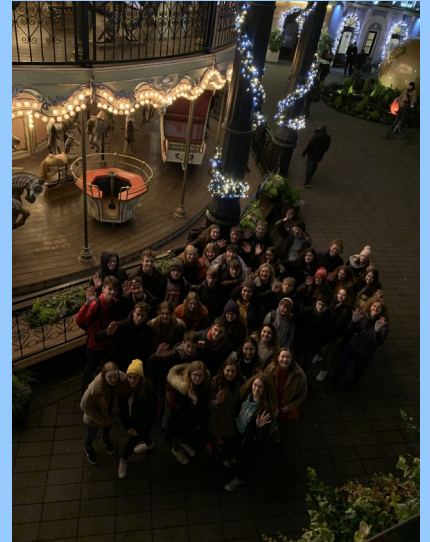
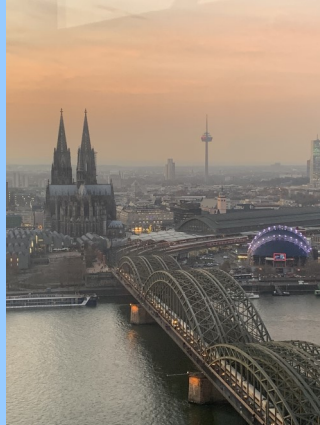


COLOGNE 2019

40 Y11 German students and 4 members of staff wouldn't let the terrible weather forecast dampen their spirits and set off on Wednesday 4th December for Cologne to experience a little bit of traditional German Christmas.

Early on Friday, we climbed the steps of the 900 year old Gothic Cathedral, which overlooks the pedestrian city centre in Cologne. Students could then have a first flavour of the 3 beautiful Christmas markets in this area, and later in the day everyone enjoyed a visit to the Lindt Chocolate Museum. The majority of students braved the outdoor ice-rink in the centre of one of the picturesque markets.

Saturday was spent in Phantasialand theme park with its thrilling rides, festive costumes and artificial snow. Each evening the students made their way back to the Christmas markets to enjoy and experience the lights and festive friendly atmosphere.



Journey's End

On 23rd July Jacqui Ferrett and Jenny Davies set off for Penzance and from there began what was for them an epic journey – cycling the full length of the country and raising money for the CLD Trust...

Over 16 full days and 2 part days, we made our way first down to Land's End and then all the way up the west of the country to John O'Groats, carrying everything we needed on the bikes. And believe me - for me to pack in such a minimalist way was a huge undertaking in itself!!

More seriously, neither of us had ever undertaken anything like this before! Travelling down in the van, it properly dawned on us what we had undertaken to do. But, despite the odd moment of niggling doubt, we believed we could do it.

Five days later, we were back in Malvern, before heading off again the next day. We always wanted to make this a special occasion - but were overwhelmed by the number of family, friends, colleagues from JMHS, Malvern Joggers and, of course, representatives from the CLD Trust there to give us an amazing send off.

Down south we cycled through pretty intense heat, but were aware as we headed north that the weather had changed. We were so lucky to get through Manchester along the canal systems between the flooding - a day either side would have caused us a problem. And indeed, as we made our way further north, we seemed to only just miss the flooding in Inverness and Fort William.

But if this sounds like we escaped the deluges, actually no we didn't - on several days we got hit by very heavy rain. Sometimes we were lucky to find shelter in bus shelters, while other times we just got very wet. A friend once said to me, you don't know what getting properly wet is until you get wet on a bike, and I think we can safely say, we can vouch for

that. When you are cycling with actual puddles in your shoes and the padding in your shorts is so saturated with water, it feels like you're wearing a nappy, then you know you cannot get any wetter!

But we were determined to keep going no matter what! Probably the most hazardous part of our journey was climbing Shap, a 10 mile climb in the Lake District. Mid way up, we were hit by a deluge of biblical proportions with rain so heavy it made steps across the road and at times it turned to hail. In an exposed area with lightning threatened, we found ourselves cycling tucked tightly one behind the other and making plans to get off the bikes and lie flat on the sodden ground at the roadside if needs be. Luckily it did not come to that. However, we did alarm a couple in a car who made two attempts to transport us and our bikes safely off the hill. However, we remained firm telling them that we were raising money for charity - a pound for every mile we were to pedal - and that we couldn't cheat! Committed or foolish? The jury is still out on that one!

And yes, our sense of purpose remained with us. On the wettest of days, as I pedalled, I thought of the fact that teenage mental health is grossly under-funded and this gave power to my legs and pedals. On the 9th August, we arrived at John O'Groats after **1083 miles** of pedalling and **51630 feet** of climbing. We both felt a strong sense of achievement at having completed our personal challenge and (thanks to all the generous sponsorship) at having raised over £2,000 for the CLD Trust.



Y13 Physicists win Physics Olympics!

On 16 October, four Y13 Physicists took part in the Malvern College Physics Olympics, competing against schools from all sectors in Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire.

Ten teams were given very difficult Fermi questions to complete throughout the day, alongside tackling six 25 minute practical tasks which rigorously tested, challenged and stretched their Physics skills. The winners were announced after a talk from Dr Davide Gerosa (Lecturer in Gravitational Wave Astronomy from the University of Birmingham) and JMHS were proud to take first place, beating some very stiff competition.

A huge well done to Ben Davies, Will Flaherty, Mitch Robinson and Tom Williams who showed real star quality at the event. A big thank you to Mrs Williams-Hewitt and Mr Crossley who organised the team and accompanied the students.



MIND—THE MENTAL HEALTH CHARITY

Morgan Skidmore recently held a bake sale at the Sixth Form and on the 9th October shaved his head with Toby, Matt, Cole, Dan, Dan, Nathan, Sam, Ben, Tom, Rhys and Will in order to raise much needed awareness around mental health. He said, "My aim is to raise awareness and to prove that talking about our own mental state is actually ok, to not be embarrassed by how we are feeling. Also to realise, to not feel ok and ask for help is actually ok too. Anxiety is something I've always suffered with from a young age, up until present. Gradually getting worse over recent times, resulting to depression. I've learnt through some of the toughest times of my life that TO TALK is the very best medicine. This head shave means the world to me, I'm doing this along with other friends who've helped me no end through my recent struggles." Morgan's Just Giving page for the mental health charity Mind has raised over £2,500 since it was set up on the 13th of September. Please visit the link below to donate:
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/morgan-skidmore-justtalk>



Watersports at Aztec

On 18th of July, the last day of the last school year, students in Y12 visited Aztec Adventure in Bromsgrove to take part in a range of water sport activities. The morning consisted of paddle boarding and kayaking whilst in the afternoon they completed a large inflatable obstacle course. This was a great day out which marked the end of a tough but brilliant year.



S. Admans

2019 REMEMBRANCE PARADE

Our Head Students Jess Haffield and Toby Raison represented John Masefield during the town's Remembrance Sunday parade this year, laying the wreath on the war memorial on behalf of all our staff and students.



Y11 TASTER DAY

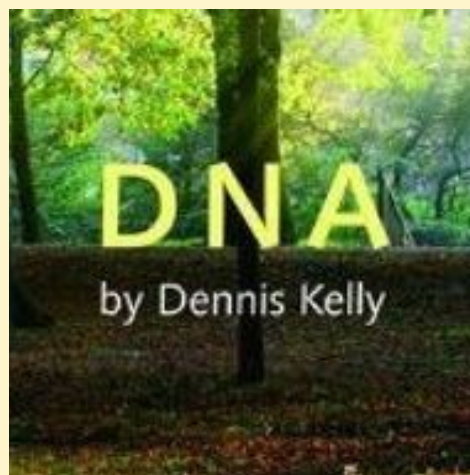
On 25th October 130 of our Y11 students had a break from their usual GCSE diet and became Sixth Formers for the day experiencing a range of A level lessons as part of our advice and guidance on selecting the right path for themselves post-16. The students enjoyed being immersed in a wide range of A Level experiences from Maths investigations into what differentiation is and why we need to use it, to English where they explored how Margaret Atwood and Mary Shelley use the motif of three main dreams to convey meaning. In Biology students negotiated a series of practical experiments including dissection of a locust to explore what makes a good investigation while in German they looked at popular culture and politics to explore new vocabulary and gain an insight into modern Germany. Drama students analysed the work of Berkoff and his representations of the dirty underbelly of society and the Chemists experimented with transition metals investigating how their different energy levels influenced the part of the spectrum that was absorbed and therefore their colour. The students really enjoyed the day and the insight it gave into life as a Sixth Form student at John Masefield. The day will be followed up with discussions with a member of the Sixth Form team in early November to discuss further their subject choices.



SIXTH FORM PRODUCTION

This year we decided to do something different for our annual sixth form production. Instead of a musical, we performed the dark comedy DNA by Dennis Kelly. In this play, a group of teenagers do something bad, really bad, then panic and cover the whole thing up. But when they find that the cover-up unites them and brings harmony to their otherwise fractious lives, where's the incentive to put things right? Dennis Kelly's language convincingly portrays teenagers today, with characters interrupting and repeating each other which gave the performers a new challenge in terms of line learning and timing the delivery of their lines. All of the cast and crew worked incredibly hard to prepare this poignant, hilarious but also very dark hearted piece within 2 months and performed on 9th December 2019 in the JMHS Studio. The set was minimalistic with stark lighting highlighting the harsh themes of the play. This show had an unusual twist in that it was performed on a thrust stage with the audience on three sides so the audience felt fully immersed in this intense piece. As always the production is entirely funded through ticket sales and fund-raising, this year led by Production Manager Vicki Merker. We would like to say a special thanks to the Bell at Bosbury for their fantastic donation from their quiz night.

Thank you to everyone who supported the production and well done to everyone involved!



OLYMPIAD SUCCESS

A huge well done to Will Flaherty who took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry's 51st annual Olympiad. This competition was open to top students aged 16 to 19 and consisted of a considerably challenging written exam. This went beyond the content covered at A-level and was designed to develop students thinking and problem solving skills. Will achieved the Silver Certificate for Round One, which is an immense achievement as in 2018 only 33% of 6527 entries received higher than bronze.

S. Admans



ROB WILSON—UK YOUNG RALLY DRIVER OF THE YEAR

For the last 3 years I have competed in the Junior 1000 Rally Championship, the British rally championship for young people aged from 14 to 17.

We started 2017 in a standard Nissan Micra rally car, we ran on a very small budget against much more experienced teams. In only my second event I won the class and came 5th overall. Throughout that year we picked up 5 class wins and the pre-03 championship title.

In 2018 we bought a top spec car that was well prepared. We won the first event overall in this car but due to multiple problems throughout the year we came 4th in the championship.

2019 has proven to be the most successful year in motorsport for us. We picked up a title sponsor, Ravenol, who have helped with the costs for 2019 and we hope to continue with them for 2020. The year got off to a great start, having 3 consecutive overall wins and going on the win 5 rounds in the year. We consolidated this with 7 podiums leading us on to win the 2019 Junior 1000 championship effectively putting us as the best under 17 team in the UK.

The achievement led us to the Professional Motorsport world expo awards. We were short listed as one of 5 potential drivers for the award, The UK young rally driver of the year. The evening was great, meeting the

head of BMW motorsport and also sponsors from 2019 and meeting potential 2020 sponsors also. It was a huge honour to take home the 2019 UK Young Rally Driver of the year award.

For 2020 we are hoping to move into senior rallying where the competition becomes a lot more fierce and we are hoping to move into a much faster car in hope to further my career. This of course depends on securing some great sponsorship.

R. Wilson



JMHS RUGBY

YEAR 7 - good numbers of students are coming to club and skills are really improving quickly. Looking forward to the upcoming tournament at Luctonians.

YEAR 8 - played exceptionally well in a recent county tournament and were unbeaten! Congratulations to them!

YEAR 9 - are playing some excellent rugby, very well organised and looking good for the future.

Many thanks to all the coaches from Ledbury RFC who have given freely of their time to expertly coach the boys and improve them as players.

Huge thanks to all the parents that have made transport contributions - this really helps.

Finally, big thanks to Community Action Ledbury, for providing us with a great service to some of our fixtures.



SIXTH FORM NETBALL!

JMSF 1st's Netball Team have qualified for the West Midlands Regional competition on the 26th January after successfully negotiating the Herefordshire U18 County Netball Tournament on 13th November. The girls played out of their skins with great performances against Hereford Sixth Form 1st team and the Independent schools of Hereford Cathedral and Lucton amongst others. Working strongly from defence to attack the John Masefield team left everything on the court. We wish the girls the best of luck at the regional competition.

