



12 March 2021

Dear students, parents, and carers,

I am writing to congratulate all students and staff on an excellent return to school and to thank all parents and carers for playing their part in ensuring such a smooth start. All students with consent have completed at least two COVID-19 tests in school, all are wearing masks in lessons as required, and students have made an excellent start with their learning in class.

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## COVID-19 testing

### Students

COVID-19 testing has been working well with students testing themselves in supervised conditions carefully and sensibly. There has been one positive test so far on Monday for a Year 12 student and we were able to rapidly identify close contacts so that they could self-isolate. Classrooms were deep cleaned and parents of close contacts were notified and they collected their child quickly.

At the time of writing all students have had their second test and older students their third test. All students will have completed their third test by Monday 15 March. We are issuing home test kits with instructions when students have their third test in school. It is important that students and parents read the instructions for home testing carefully, clean the testing area, and wash or sanitise their hands before carrying out the test. After the 30 minute waiting period and results are obtained, students and parents need to log the results twice:

1. Online with the government test and trace site at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result)
2. You will also need to inform the school of the result by completing a short form, using this link [Student test result reporting form](#)

If a positive result is received, your household will need to self-isolate and you should also immediately inform the school by either phoning Reception or emailing [admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk) as we will need to identify close contacts and ask them to self-isolate. The letter we sent out on Wednesday and accompanying the home test kits contains detailed instructions about home testing and full guidance in the event of a positive result.

Students should conduct the test twice a week. To maximise the effectiveness of home testing, we recommend that students take one test per week on Sunday evening or early Monday morning before coming to school and their second test on a Tuesday evening, Wednesday morning or evening or on Thursday morning. We appreciate that taking two COVID-19 tests per week at home is an additional imposition on students and families. However, we would also like to stress that doing this makes an excellent contribution to keeping all students, staff and our community safe. We would like to thank you for your continued support.

### Members of households, childcare or support bubbles of school staff and students

From 1 March 2021, if you are a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a student (but not a secondary school student, a primary or secondary school staff member), it is recommended you also get

tested twice a week, 3 or 4 days apart. You can follow this link to find out how to access rapid lateral flow tests, <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-3/stay-home-stay-safe/13?documentId=900&categoryId=200250> .

## School routines

### Arrival at school

We would like to thank all students who have walked sensibly to school to arrive by their designated time as detailed below.

- Year 7: 8.35-8.40am
- Year 8 and Year 9: 8.40-8.45am
- Year 10 and Year 11: 8.45-8.50am
- Sixth Form: 8.35-8.40am

We would also like to thank students travelling on school transport for wearing their face coverings and behaving in a safe and considerate way.

To prevent traffic congestion around the school we would encourage students to walk to school or use public transport whenever possible.

In order to ensure student safety, no parental or sixth form cars are permitted to enter the school car park after 8.30am. We would like to thank all the parents who have made the effort to bring children in before 8.30am. Your contribution to keeping us all safe is much appreciated

### What to bring to school

We have been pleased that students have consistently been bringing the correct equipment to school each day as listed below. Many students have commenced working in new exercise books since and are making an excellent effort to present their work well and complete a large quantity of high-quality written work. A reminder of the equipment needed is listed below:

- **A close-fitting face covering must be worn in all classrooms and indoor communal areas**
- At least two good quality blue or black pens
- At least two sharp pencils
- An eraser
- A 30cm ruler
- A scientific calculator
- A green pen for marking their work
- A glue stick for sticking work into their books
- Exercise books and text books for the day
- A large pencil case to put their equipment in
- On days with PE lessons, students should attend school wearing their PE Uniform
- A large water bottle filled with fresh water
- Their school timetable

**Please could we ask that you remind your son or daughter to check their equipment carefully before leaving for school as the current restrictions mean we cannot accept items brought to Reception by parents if students forget them.**

### New Brunch service to all students

From Monday 15 March, we will be offering a brunch service to all students. Students wishing to purchase items at brunch will need to buy a token from their Dining Room using their Parentpay account. Tokens cost 85p and can be exchanged for a snack from the catering trolley which will visit their year group zone during brunch. Cash cannot be accepted and no refunds can be issued if tokens are lost. Tokens will be on sale every lunchtime in the Dining Rooms and cannot be purchased at any other time.

### Expectations of students - safety

I have been extremely impressed with how all students have helped us by complying with our safety instructions below. In particular I have been visiting lessons throughout the day for the past week and have not had to remind a single student about wearing a face covering in class.

- If your child or a member of your household shows symptoms of COVID-19 you must not send your children to school. A test should be arranged for the person showing any of the following symptoms:
  - **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
  - **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
  - **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Follow this link for advice on the next steps: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

- Students must wear a face covering on school transport, in communal indoor areas and in classrooms
- Students must sanitise their hands when entering a classroom, go straight to their allocated seat, face the front of the classroom at all times and obey any instructions the teacher gives to keep the class safe
- Students should do all they can to maintain social distancing in school, remain within their year group bubble at all times and obey the 'no physical contact rule' at all times.

### Expectations of students - learning

Students have made an excellent start in lessons. They have been conscientious, considerate and co-operative. In particular they are:

- Arriving promptly to lessons and starting tasks immediately
- Listening attentively and asking helpful questions
- Taking pride in their work and presenting it well
- Helping other students focus by working quietly on written tasks

### Staggered finish to the school day

In order to prevent crowding when students leave the school site, students finish school at the times listed below:

Y7: 3.05pm

Y8 and Y9: 3.10pm

Y10: 3.15pm

Y11 and Sixth Form: 3.20pm

Students are escorted by their teacher to the bus bay and then released. Students who walk home leave immediately, whilst those catching a bus are supervised in the bus park until their bus arrives.

We would like to thank parents and carers for not driving onto the school site before 3.30pm.

### Homework

This half term we are setting homework as follows:

- Sixth Form are set homework following each lesson and may be set longer weekly assignments
- Year 11 are set one piece of homework per subject each week of 40-60 minutes for each piece
- Years 9 and Year 10 are set one piece of homework per subject each week of 30-45 minutes for each piece
- Years 7 and Year 8 are set one piece of homework in English, maths, science and language each week

Our intention is to get students back into the habit of completing homework without setting excessive amounts.

### Communications with parents and visitors to school

In order to keep our school and the wider community safe, we will continue to minimise the number of visitors to JMHS and encourage parental meetings to be via phone or Microsoft Teams. **Please do not come onto the school site unless you have an appointment booked.** If you do have an appointment, please ensure you wear a face covering at all times and remain two metres distant from students and staff.

## Catch up tutoring

We believe that the best way for most students to catch up after two lengthy periods of home learning over the last 12 months is to put 100% effort into every lesson and ask their teacher for help when needed. However, we recognise that for some students, additional help with small group or one to one tutoring is needed. Our team of catch up tutors have now recommenced their programmes and our Catch Up Co-ordinator, Miss Sally King, is liaising with staff and parents in prioritising students for our programme. If you would like to discuss help for your son or daughter, please email [sally.king@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:sally.king@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk).

## Enrichment and after school clubs

After school lessons including those in science and languages are continuing to take place as scheduled on the school timetable. After school sports clubs as detailed below which will be starting on Monday 15th March. If your child wishes to participate, they should wait at the back of the bus park at the end of the school day where they will be collected by a teacher, who will escort them to the location of the club.

Day	Football	Netball	Staff	Finish Time
<b>Monday</b>	Year 7 – Astro	Year 9 – top courts	<b>Football:</b> Mr Kontarines, Mr Day, Mr Mulka <b>Netball:</b> Miss Dix, Miss Limbrick and Miss Faux	<b>Year 7 – 4:15</b>
	Year 10 – field	Year 11 – lower courts		<b>Year 9 – 4:20</b> <b>Year 10 – 4:25</b> <b>Year 11 – 4:30</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Year 9 – Astro	Year 7 – top courts	<b>Football:</b> Mr Wyatt, Mr Mulka <b>Netball:</b> Miss Limbrick	<b>Year 7 – 4:15</b> <b>Year 9 – 4:20</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Year 8 – Astro	Year 10 – top courts	<b>Football:</b> Mr Kontarines, Mr Day <b>Netball:</b> Miss Dix	<b>Year 8 – 4:15</b>
	Year 11 – field			<b>Year 10 – 4:25</b> <b>Year 11 – 4:30</b>
<b>Thursday</b>		Year 8 – top courts	<b>Netball:</b> Miss Dix, Miss Faux	<b>Year 8 – 4:15</b>

Please note, that there are lots more clubs and activities provisionally planned for the Summer Term. However, we are waiting to hear from the government if these can go ahead.

## Grades for Year 11 and Year 13

The government has confirmed that in Summer 2021, students taking GCSE, AS and A levels regulated by Ofqual, should be awarded grades based on an assessment by their teachers. The DFE have stated that:

*‘Teachers can use a range of evidence to make a judgement of the grade they are performing at. Students should only be assessed on what they have been taught, ensuring sufficient coverage of the curriculum to enable progression. When determining the grade, teachers should reflect the standard at which the student is performing now, not their potential.’*

*‘Teachers should use the time remaining to balance continued teaching with any assessments they want to undertake. Work done at home can be included as evidence to support a teacher’s judgement if it cannot be produced in the school or college environment because of the pandemic, and where teachers are confident that it is a student’s own work.’*

**At JMHS each GCSE, Advanced Level and vocational subject are currently planning on how they will assess students. They are determining which tests, coursework, practice exams, homework and other tasks already taken by students can be included in their assessment. They are also planning further assessment opportunities**

between now and May Half Term in order to be able to make a fair and balanced judgement on Teacher Assessed Grades for each student.

We will publish a summary of how students are being assessed for each subject on a new area of our website before the end of March and earlier if we are able to so, so that every student and parent can check how they are being assessed for all their subjects.

Mr Hammond and Mr Hawksworth are working hard with subject teachers to ensure assessments are reasonably spread out and are producing updates to Year 11 and Year 13 parents and students on a regular basis.

## Year 10 Prefects appointments

Students in Year 10 that met the challenging prefect criteria were invited to submit an application for JMHS Prefect in February. Applications were of high standard demonstrating clearly how applicants are conscientious, considerate and co-operative members of our school community and the strong contributions they have already made to help other members of the school. I reviewed all applications and was delighted to appoint the following 62 students as JMHS Prefect. Many congratulations to all of these students on this excellent achievement. Their role as a Prefect will commence in the Summer Term.

B10a	H10a	H10b	J10a	J10b
Jennifer Arnold	Archie Badham	Katie Broadbent	Louise Chester	Lydia Beagles
Jennifer Butcher	Harry Bennet-Hobbs	Dominick Canaes	Edmund Doswell	Aimee Bell
Maya Carter	Kai Haines	Kirsten Hunter	Max Gleeson	Sophie Bocking
Noah Evans	Billy-Jo Holland	Kielan Lineham	Fynn Haynes	Beth Cooper
Alfie Fisher	Izzy Inmann	Lucas Recordon	Lewie Hobby	Olivia Duncan
Lilian Graham	Abigail Johnson		Eloise Jones	Kyle Dutton
Lucy Mae Payne	James Johnson	<b>M10b</b>	Bear Kattan	Olivia Fawcett
Adele Rutter	Charlie Kingaby	Liam Chester	Harry Millis	Angelina Gill
Jemima Spiller	Beth Roberts	Eleanor Lavery	Toby Preedy	Anna Hedley-Brown
Oliver Warner	Megan Williams	Ben Marshall	Adam Robinson	Archie Kopsch-Loader
Gabriella Wilce	Hayley Wixey	Noah Nolten	Hannah Stewart	Zoe Lloyd
		Joseph Pugh	Roger Tonks	Eloise McKinnon
		Chloe Roffe	Charlotte Walker	Rebecca Thomas
		Jalol Saidov	Dominic Seaborn-Williams	
		Jensen Walker		

We will shortly conduct another prefect review and a final one in the summer term. Year 10 students that meet the prefect criteria will be invited to submit an application for JMHS Prefect.

### ... And finally

It has been an excellent first week back for all students. All are behaving in a considerate way, respectful of the safety of others. Students are working productively in class, producing high quality work and helping their teachers lead excellent lessons. We now need to build on this impressive start and make the most of every day and every lesson.

With my very best wishes



**Andrew Evans**  
Headteacher