



29 March 2021

Dear students, parents, and carers,

As we near the end of term, I would like to congratulate all students for their excellent work at home during lockdown and then returning to school with such enthusiasm for learning and consideration for others. I would like to thank our staff for their dedication, support and high-quality teaching. I would also like to add my thanks to parents and carers for your continuing support in such challenging times.

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Continuing COVID-19 testing at home

Following 99% of our students taking three COVID-19 tests in school, we are delighted that the vast majority have continued to take two tests per week at home. We would like to thank you for making such an important contribution to keeping our community safe and encourage you all to keep testing twice per week throughout the Easter holidays and beyond. Students will be issued with testing kits for the Easter holidays this week.

When testing it is important to:

1. Avoid eating or drinking for at least 30 mins before doing the test to reduce spoiling the tests.
2. Read the test result after 30 minutes - set a timer to help you remember. You should not wait any longer than 30 minutes.

Parents and carers need to log the results twice:

1. Online with the government test and trace site at 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 as we will need to identify close contacts and ask them to self-isolate. Detailed instructions about home testing and full guidance in the event of a positive result can be found on the school website, <https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/> .

If your child develops any Covid related symptoms, your household must immediately self-isolate and book a PCR test, regardless of the LFD (home) test result.

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. You can follow this link to find out how to order rapid lateral flow tests:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

Parental consultation on Parents' Evenings

Many parents have given us positive feedback on using Parent Cloud for online Parents' Evenings. Much of the feedback has been positive with some suggestions for improvement. However, in order to decide whether to continue with online Parents' Evenings next year, we would like to invite all parents to complete a brief Microsoft Forms survey which can be accessed below. The deadline for responses is 9am on Friday 23 April.

[Parental Consultation: Online Parents' Evenings](#)

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 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.

Please could we ask that your son or daughter checks their equipment carefully before leaving for school as we cannot accept items brought in by parents and carers if students forget them.

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 has planned how they will assess students. They have determined which tests, coursework, practice exams, homework and other tasks already taken by students can be included and what further assessment will take place between now and May Half Term to make a fair and balanced judgement on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) for each student.

We have published a summary of how students are being assessed for each subject on a new area of our website, so that every student and parent can check how they are being assessed for all their subjects

This area of the website can be accessed here:

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/parents-information/teacher-assessed-grades/>

If parents have any questions about awarding grades, please could we ask that you email peter.hammond@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk for Year 11 and mark.hawksworth@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk for Year 13.

Arrangements for the end of term

Term will finish on Thursday 1 April. Normal lessons will continue until 3.15pm on this date. During tutor time on the final day of term I will lead an assembly reflecting on the events of this term and letting students know the standings in our house competition.

Plans for the Summer Term

There is an INSET Day on Monday 19 April and the Summer Term begins on Tuesday 20 April.

At the time of writing, we have not received any update on safety information from the government. We are therefore assuming that all current safety measures including the wearing of face covering in classrooms and communal indoor areas, taking Lateral Flow Tests at home twice per week, use of sanitiser, and maximising ventilation will continue for the start of the Summer Term. We appreciate that some students and parents have found these measures difficult, but greatly appreciate your excellent support in keeping yourselves, your families and our community safe.

Extra-curricular activities for the Summer Term

Here at JMHS, we strive to enable our students to go beyond learning in the classroom and continue to develop as an individual. Our dedicated staff provide a range of enrichment activities for our students to engage with during and after school, these enrichment opportunities are tailored to appeal to the interests of every student. Please find below a list of the enrichment activities which are available next term. Our sports clubs and other opportunities are currently being organised, and these will be published during the first week after Easter. If your son/daughter would like to participate in any of these opportunities, then they should wait in the bus park to be collected by the member of staff.

Club	Year Group	Day/Time	Teacher
Art Club	Year 9	Wednesday 3:20pm -4.20pm	Miss Vickers
Book Chat & Activities	Year 7	Tuesday 3.15pm – 4.30pm	Mrs Locke
Book Chat & Activities	Year 8	Thursday 3.15pm - 4.30pm	Mrs Locke
Choir	Year 7	TBC	Miss Davis
Choir	Year 8	TBC	Miss Davis
Choir	Year 9	TBC	Miss Davis
Choir	Year 10	TBC	Miss Davis
Dance Club	Year 11	Monday lunch time 12.15-12.45 Theatre	Mrs Goodall
Dance Club	Year 10	Wednesday lunch time 12.45-1.15 Theatre	Mrs Goodall
Dance Club	Year 9	Monday after school 3.30-4.30	Mrs Goodall
Dance Club	Year 8	Thursday after school 3.30-4.30	Mrs Goodall
Dance Club	Year 7	Friday after school 3.30-4.30	Mrs Goodall
Drama	Year 7	Tuesday 3.15 - 4.15	Mrs Kyle
Drama	Year 8	Thursday 3.15 - 4.15	Mrs Kyle
Gardening Club	Year 7	Thursday 3.15pm - 4.30pm	Ms Davies
Gardening Club	Year 8	Tuesday 3.15pm – 4.30pm	Ms Davie
French Pen Friend Club	Year 7	Monday 3.15pm – 4.30pm	Ms Jones
iHeart Programme – Well being & resilience post lockdown	Year 10	TBC	Miss Newnes
Orchestra	All year groups	Wednesday 3.15 - 4.15	Miss Davis

Year 12 Exams

To give Year 12 students the maximum amount of time to prepare for their end of year exams, these have been scheduled from Monday 28 June to Wednesday 7 July. These exams are used to help teachers enter predicted grades for university applications. We recommend that students commence revision for these exams as soon as possible, reviewing work covered in the first two terms over the Easter holiday. Subject teachers will provide detail on how and what to revise and tips on exam technique during the Summer Term.

Year 10 Exams

Year 10 students will take practice exams covering content covered so far in their GCSE courses from Monday 14 June to Friday 25 June. The practice exams are the first stage in preparing students for their GCSEs next summer. The exams are likely to be taken in classrooms rather than the exam hall due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Assessments for students in Year 7 – Year 9

Students in these year groups will continue to take in class tests and assessments rather than sitting an end of year exam.

Summer Term Curriculum Overviews

Teachers are preparing a summary of the topics to be covered next term with key learning points listed for each topic. These will be posted on the school website during the first week of the Summer Term so that parents and students can see an overview for the term.

Key dates for the Summer Term

Monday 19 April: INSET day

Tuesday 20 April: Start of Summer Term for students

Monday 3 May: Bank Holiday

Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June: Half term holiday

Wednesday 16 June: Staff Training Afternoon – students depart at 12.10/12.25pm

Monday 14 June to Friday 25 June: Year 10 Exams

Monday 28 June to Wednesday 7 July: Year 12 Exams

Friday 9 July: Staff training day

Monday 16 July: Sports day (provisional and may need to take a different format to previous years)

Wednesday 21 July: Term ends – students depart at 12/10/12/25pm

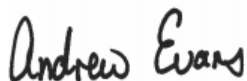
Tuesday 10 August: A-Level Results Day

Thursday 12 August: GCSE Results Day

... And finally

I would like to thank all staff, students and parents for an enjoyable and successful three weeks since we returned to school. I would also like to wish you all an excellent final week of term and a very happy Easter holiday

With my very best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher