



15 June 2021

Dear students, parents, and carers,

It has been a successful and sunny start to the final half term of the school year. Students have continued to work hard and contribute positively in lessons, with teachers completing the task of finalising Teacher Assessed Grades for Year 11 and Year 13 in addition to their usual teaching and other duties. This difficult task has been approached with great diligence and professionalism by all the staff involved.

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1. Student learning and preparing for end of year exams and tests

Many students, particularly those in Year 7 and Year 8 took assessments and tests in several subjects just before the half term break. Teachers have marked the assessments and been going through students answers in class showing them how they could do even better in the future. This process is extremely helpful. Students reflecting on how they prepared for the assessment or test and learning how to revise effectively and achieve their best in future tests is definitely more important than the mark they achieve.

Students in Year 10 started their end of year exams in lessons on Monday 14 June. They will continue for the next fortnight and I would like to wish Year 10 students all the very best in their exams. Mr Bees has emailed parents and students detailed advice on preparing for exams and has presented an assembly about this. I would encourage students in Year 10 to use the revision methods suggested by Mr Bees as the advice he has provided is excellent.

Year 12 students commence their end of year exams on Monday 28 June. These important exams are used to help teachers make predicted grades for university and employment applications. Therefore, it is essential that students prepare for these as thoroughly as possible. Teachers and form tutors are helping Year 12 students prepare for these exams in the following ways:

- As part of ongoing study skills in tutor time, tutors have given guidance on preparing an exam timetable and revision skills
- Mentors will support any students who need extra support with organisation/ revision techniques
- Subject teachers have let students know exactly what content will be covered in the exams/ length of each exam etc
- Homework over the next fortnight is revision or revision related tasks

Students in other year groups will have smaller tests or assessments. I have included below some of my top tips for revision:

1. Learn as you go along particularly for content-based subjects such as science, history and geography. Learning as you go along is much more effective than trying to learn large amounts of content just before an exam.
2. Do practice questions and try to practice for a few minutes daily in mathematics and languages. Regular practice and repeating key language or concepts helps you to gain accuracy, confidence and speed.
3. Revise actively by taking notes, making revision cards or using mind maps. Try different methods for revision and figure out what works best for you.
4. Ask a friend, sibling or parent to test you so that your revision is interactive and fun.
5. Practice topics you are good at as well as ones where you wish to improve as this will build confidence.

2. Staying safe and continuing COVID-19 testing at home

With cases of COVID-19 increasing rapidly across the country, due to the spread of the Delta variant, and the Prime Minister's announcement that the current restrictions will continue for the next four weeks, it is vital that we do all we can to reduce transmission of COVID-19 and do all we can to keep our community safe.

At JMHS, we are continuing to emphasise to students that in order to minimise transmission of COVID-19 that they need to:

- Wear masks on school transport
- Help teachers by ensuring all doors and windows are open in classrooms at all times
- Sanitise their hands when entering or leaving a classroom
- Obey the 'no physical contact rule'

We would like to thank all students for taking lateral flow tests at home. You are making an important contribution to keeping your friends, family and our wider community safe. It is important that regular testing continues with students and staff taking two tests per week to keep us all safe.

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.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

3. Water bottles

Please could parents ensure students bring a large water bottle (one litre approximately) each day to school. Student can refill their water bottles at break and lunch, but we cannot allow them out of lessons to refill their water bottles.

4. New Head Students, by Mark Hawksworth, Head of Sixth Form

We are delighted to have an incredibly strong and large sixth form student leadership group this year.

The process for selecting the sixth form student leadership team involves students being asked to write a letter of application outlining their suitability for the role they are applying for and the contributions they will make to our JM6 community and beyond. We had 11 enthusiastic and talented students apply for the Head Student's role. All students who applied for the head student role were invited for an interview with the Head of Sixth Form and Head of Year 12. Students were graded on their responses to fixed questions and the letter of application was also graded. In a year of so few opportunities for our students and in recognition of the strength of the field we appointed four Head Students, their profiles are detailed below:

Izzy French is studying Chemistry, Geography and Biology and intends to study medicine at university. Her main initiative is to start up a Competitive Applicants Society, where Year 11 and 12 students can seek help and advice on applying for competitive courses including applications to Oxford and Cambridge University, medicine and veterinary medicine. Outside of school Izzy enjoys playing sports, cooking, working on her EPQ and reading.

Alex Allcock is studying Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Computer Science, and intending to study Maths at university. His Initiatives are to help integrate lower school and Sixth Form by providing lower school forms with Sixth Formers to help support them at tutor time. This will be a great opportunity for lower school students to get to know Sixth Form students and learn about the Sixth Form, as well as sixth formers providing positive role models to younger students. Alex also intends to set up friendly competitions between year groups within school, including sports, games and quizzes. Outside of school Alex coaches and referees at Ledbury Rugby Club and plays bass guitar.

Eleanor Morley is studying French, German and English Literature and intending to study Modern Languages at university. Her initiatives for the Sixth Form and the school will be to improve the Sixth Form experience and transition from GCSE to A-level, as well as furthering communication between year groups. Outside of school, Eleanor is a proud member of both the Hereford Youth Orchestra and the English Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Rebecca Carney is studying English Literature, French and Psychology and intends to study English Language and Literature at university and then hopes to pursue a career in either teaching or journalism. Her main Sixth Form initiatives are to develop enrichment opportunities and to engage in more charity events. Outside of Sixth Form, Rebecca's main interests include playing piano, dance and reading.

Other key appointments are:

Joint Heads of Student Voice - Izzy Horne and Esmee Platt

Sixth Form Newsletter Editor - Millie Clayton

Sports Captains - Lucy Hayes and Bruno Recordon

Further members of the sixth form student leadership team who will help support both the JM6 experience and liaison with lower school are Tom Hill, Sam Palmer, Laurel Baker, Lauley Exton, Sophia Kroese, Kate Hathaway and Lexi Atkin.

5. Sixth Form Induction Days: Fun in the Sun for our new JM6 recruits

by Mark Hawksworth, Head of Sixth Form

A fantastic group of Year 11 students returning to JM6 joined our existing, talented group of Year 12 students for two days last week to support their transition into life as a Sixth Form student at JMHS. We are very excited about

the quality of students continuing their education with us and all students threw themselves into the challenges of the two days. The days were aimed at starting to prepare students for the rigours of A-level study and involved masterclasses in all subjects across the two days. Students were also able to hear from our superb group of Sixth Form Student Leaders who spoke about their wide range of initiatives and how the Year 11s could be involved from September. Student Leaders outlined the support available to new sixth form students including subject buddies, developing good study habits and becoming an effective student.

Our Year 11s and present Year 12s have not had the opportunity to participate in many fun activities this year with Covid restrictions, so the days also involved some high energy teambuilding activities including tug of war and an obstacle course. The sun was out and the competition was fierce! Students were also able to sample a range of activities we offer as part of our enrichment programme including competitive and recreational sport, senior choir, drama, book club and learning sign language. We are very keen to offer even more support to our new JM6 recruits in this unprecedented year and will be running a further transition day on Wednesday 23 June. We look forward to seeing students again on this day.

6. Curriculum Plans for the Summer Term

Each curriculum subject has produced single page summaries of the topics they are covering this term, the key learning points and assessments for all classes in Year 7 to Year 10 and Year 12. We hope that knowing the topics to be covered and the key learning points will be useful for students and parents. They are summarised on the JMHS website in the Curriculum section, and can be viewed here:

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/curriculum/summer-2021-curriculum/>

7. Extra-Curricular and Enrichment Activities

Sports, performing arts and other enrichments clubs have been well attended and enjoyed by students and staff. The current programme of enrichment activities can be viewed on the school website or via the link below:

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/parents-information/clubs-and-enrichment/>

8. Summer Arts Celebration and School production next academic year

Due to the continuing Covid 19 restrictions we are unable to go ahead with our planned summer music concert. However, we will be producing a virtual concert for you to enjoy which will feature both music and dance. The link to this will be sent to you all via ParentPay towards the end of this term. In the Autumn term we are planning a musical extravaganza titled 'The Show Must Go On'. This will feature students from across the school performing songs, acts and dances from a variety of musicals. We will confirm the final dates with you as soon as possible but rehearsals begin this week!

9. Overseas visits 2021-22

We are aiming to resume our successful trips in the next academic year if the restrictions are lifted and trips abroad are allowed. All plans are only provisional and would be subject to international travel and school trips being possible again, but we remain hopeful!

Germany:

Year 11 German students: Cologne Christmas Trip - Fri 3 Dec 3 to Mon 6 Dec

Year 12 & 13 German & History students: Berlin Trip - Fri 8 April to Tue 12 April

Year 9 German students (optional for Year 10 German students): Mosel Summer Trip - Sun 17 July to Thurs 21 July

France:

Year 8 students: Normandy - June (date to be confirmed)

Year 10 French students: Paris - July (date to be confirmed)

10. Ledbury Carnival Association Need Volunteers

The Carnival Committee are planning a smaller family carnival event on the afternoon of August Bank Holiday Monday in St Katherine's car park, subject to Covid restrictions. They need additional volunteers to arrange the event and provide support on the day itself. They are particularly looking for students to become involved and perhaps in the following year involved with a large-scale street carnival. The aim this year is to keep 'The spirit of Carnival alive' and have a fun afternoon for families. If any students would like further information or are interested in becoming involved they should contact Jill Jupp, Secretary for the Ledbury Carnival Association, on 01531 635129 or email at info@ledburycarnival.co.uk.

11. Key dates this half term

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

12. Term dates and holidays next academic year

Thursday 2 September 2021 and Friday 3 September 2021: INSET days

Monday 6 September 2021: Autumn Term starts

Monday 25 October to Friday 29 October 2021: Half Term holiday

Friday 17 December 2021: Last day of Autumn Term

Tuesday 4 January 2022: INSET day

Monday 5 January 2022: Spring Term starts for all students

Monday 21 February to Friday 25 February 2022: Half Term holiday

Friday 8 April 2022: Last day of Spring Term

Monday 25 April 2022: INSET day

Tuesday 26 April 2022: Summer Term starts for all students

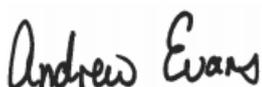
Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June 2022: Half Term holiday

Friday 22 July 2022: Last day of Summer Term

... And finally

Just to say that we are currently planning an exciting school year from September to include all teachers teaching from their base rooms, more practical activities in the arts, science and sports, reopening the Library, and an even wider range of clubs and activities and school visits. We are very much hoping that all restrictions will be lifted and we can deliver an even more exciting curriculum.

With my very best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher