John Masefield High School and Sixth Form Centre
Mabel's Furlong, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2HF

Headteacher: John Holmes MA(Cantab) MTeach EdD
Deputy Headteachers: Chloe Limbrick BSc, Adem Osbourn MChem

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Dear parents and carers,

Well done, Year 7

Last Friday, we welcomed back over 100 Year 7 students from their PGL residential trip. It was a very cold trip, I'm told, but extremely fun and the children were a credit to us. Students back at school also had a fantastic three days of activities.

A trip like this is a huge undertaking and I want to thank the many staff – too many to name – who have worked tirelessly to ensure the trip could run safely, who spent time away from home to staff the trip, who covered lessons and duties for colleagues who were on the trip, and those who ran the sessions for students staying in school. All of that hard work is more than worth it when we see the joy it has given the children. We'll be sharing some more pictures on Facebook shortly.

This trip marks the end of the Year 7 induction, at the end of the students' tenth week with us and it is hard to believe that is all it has been. They've made a terrific start, accumulating over 7,700 house points: 50 on average each. It's been a pleasure to have them, and we look forward to the next seven years working together.

Friends of John Masefield

The Friends of John Masefield, our PTFA, met just before half term. This year their main fundraising project will be a school minibus (we go on *a lot* of sports fixtures and having our own transport will help with this, and save a lot of money on hiring transport). They are also planning to make a contribution to some football goals so we can better host our own fixtures.

The next meeting will be the group's AGM. If you would like to join then please indicate your interest using this form:

RSVP for interest in PTFA AGM meeting – Fill in form

In the meantime it is possible to support our fundraising by using Easy Fundraising, which automatically generates donations from your usual shopping:
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fjmhs

You are also able to buy a school lottery ticket via the national Your School Lottery website. This lottery is a way of making regular donations to the school – beginning at £1 per week – with each £1 donation buying a lottery ticket and a chance to win a jackpot of £25,000. It is a terrific way for families who are keen to support the school but short on time to make a regular contribution.

Parent governor elections - a message from Mike Clayton, Chair of Governors

It is almost time for elections for parent governors and I wanted to ask those who are interested to nominate themselves.

When I became a Parent Governor, I had little idea what the role really required and less knowledge of the English school system. All I really brought to the role was a willingness to get involved and some spare time.

What I have got back in return for my time is quite extraordinary. I have an insight into the working of a complex organisation that I certainly took for granted, I've met some incredible and dedicated staff, and I get to strategically support the future direction of the school.

All the governors have different backgrounds. Some are retired, some work full or part time, and we look to schedule our meetings around the teams' busy schedules. Our meetings cover a lot of ground and cover some serious topics which we discuss and debate as a team.

We are always on the lookout for Parent Governors to bolster the current team. There is a lot of training and support available to you so you don't need any prior experience. You just need enthusiasm, a willingness to commit to five in-person, and four remote meetings a year, and to keep up to date with developments between meetings.

If you have the time to commit, have any questions or if you would like to know more about how you could help our school support every child on their education journey, please get in touch with me at chair@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk.

Student Council Elections

This week, tutors are sharing information about the Student Council with our young people: elections are next week. We are sharing the link with students directly via email but please do discuss this with them, and if they are interested, encourage your child to nominate themselves.

Student Council Nominations – Fill out form

Please share your children's stories

Many of you will have seen on our Facebook page that four of our students' incredible textiles work has been entered into the Shrewsbury Drapers' Young Textile Designer Competition 2026. Well done, Erin, Cecily, Isabel and Abbie, and sincere thanks to Ms Attenborough for making a long round trip and ensuring the textiles got to Shrewsbury in time for display. You may also have seen Oscar, who was at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, representing the UK Fire Cadets: one of only 30 in the UK selected for this honour. Thank you, Oscar.

It's lovely to share this news this you, and it is lovely for me to share this news with staff at our weekly whole staff briefing. We love being able to congratulate and celebrate our young people in school and give them the recognition they deserve. With that in mind, I wanted to ask you to please let us know if there is something your child is doing outside of school that you would like us to share with staff, in assembly, or with our wider community by writing to us at admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk (please let us

know if you would rather we didn't celebrate this on Facebook). We look forward to hearing, and sharing, many wonderful things.

Road safety around the school

The eagled eyed among you will have noticed that a 20mph speed limit zone has been introduced around the school, which will be in force for the start and end of the school day with flashing lights to alert drivers during these times.

The pavements around the school are narrow in places, particularly along the Southend, and the speed and volume of traffic on these roads has been a concern. The introduction of this road safety measure will help improve the safety of our children on their journey to and from school.

To be considerate of the residents in our neighbouring roads and support the safety of our children walking to school, please can I remind you not to block driveways or park on pavements when dropping off or picking up your child.

Yours sincerely,



John Holmes
Headteacher