



6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear parents and guardians,

It has been wonderful to see our students again after the summer vacation. They arrived with smiles and started the new term with enthusiasm and hard work. The last few days have flown by, and it feels like we've been back for weeks.

I especially enjoyed seeing our Year 12s begin their Sixth Form experience. We have a small Sixth Form, and this gives us a great opportunity to get to know our students as individuals and provide excellent education and pastoral care. In turn, we are lucky to have our Sixth Form, who are inspiring role models and leaders for our younger students.

It was also a particular pleasure to welcome our new Year 7s, who have made an incredibly strong start to the year. When I met them on Wednesday, I spoke about how fortunate they are to join such a warm, welcoming and supportive community. I said that this community has been created by countless acts of kindness and positivity from all the students who have come before them, and how grateful we should be to inherit this legacy. I also said that the adults in our community want the very best for them and have high expectations. They have met all of our expectations this week and every teacher I have spoken to has told me how impressed they have been. Our Year 7s should be very proud of their start.

I am, of course, also formally joining the John Masefield community this week. I, too, am also very grateful to be here, and to everyone who has built this wonderful community. I have said so to every year group in our assemblies this week, and I have also talked about how important it is for us to express our gratitude. Gratitude strengthens the connections within our community, and it is also an important ingredient to a happy life. Our tutors will be asking their tutees to reflect on what they are grateful for in the coming weeks, and I hope our children share this with you: we will certainly ask them to do so.

When I wrote to our families last term to introduce myself, I said that I would invite you all to events where we would be able to meet in person. I am looking forward to these. To help us with our planning, could I please ask you to let us know if you would like to attend an event by using this form:

[Expression of Interest Form](#)

We will use this to plan the dates of the events as, depending on how much interest there is, we may need more than one. **Please complete the form by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September.** Once we have confirmed dates, I will write to those of you who expressed an interest with more details. I will, of course, be at information evenings, parents' evenings, performances and many other events so there will be plenty of other opportunities to see me.

I also plan to spend time in the community outside of the school. We are in a privileged position, being the only secondary school in Ledbury, and it is important that our school, and our children, are fully involved in our wider community. I am looking forward to developing our strong local relationships.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Holmes', written over a white background.

**John Holmes**  
**Headteacher**

# Notices

**DT projects.** We have lots of DT projects from current Year 8-11 students left over from the end of last year. I am sure that you would like to see the excellent products your children have made so please do remind them to pop over to the DT department at the end of the school day to collect them.

**School production auditions.** Our next whole school production will be Oliver in February 2025. Auditions are being held in the Studio at lunchtime, on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September for Years 7, 8 and 9 and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. When I spoke to last year's Year 7, many of them said being involved in the school production was the highlight of their school year: please join us in encouraging as many students to audition as possible, regardless of whether they've done anything like this before.

**Epraise.** Epraise is up and running again – in fact, the bug was fixed about 30 minutes after I emailed you to tell you it was broken! We will be setting homework on epraise as usual from the start of next week. Year 7 will only have English and maths homework for the first half term, as they settle into the secondary routine.

**Year 9-11 Equipment.** A quick reminder that a reading book and a scientific calculator are both part of the Year 9-11 equipment. You will find calculators available on ParentPay if that is helpful: they are priced at £10.80 and they are the model Casio FX - 83GTX - S.

**Early help offer.** The John Masefield Early Help Offer is for all parents, carers and young people, and provides a pathway to supporting you and your child as they grow up when you or they may need further support or guidance. Full details of our offer is available on our website and from this link:

[JMHS Early Help Offer](#)

**Year 11 – 13 Drama Trip:** We are delighted to have been able to give Year 11 –13 drama students the opportunity to see 'Wonder Boy' at the Bristol Old Vic on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September. Students booked on the trip will be leaving at 12:45pm and returning to school at 6:00pm.

**Year 11 information evening** will be on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September; **Year 7 information evening** is on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. We look forward to seeing you there.

**PE Uniform.** Last year, the PE department carried out some student voice to see how we could improve our PE kit offering to allow the students to feel more comfortable and confident when taking part in their PE lessons. From this student voice survey, we have decided to introduce navy sports leggings to our PE kit. The sports leggings contain the JMHS logo and are available to buy from Clubsport in Ledbury, with a range of sizes available.

The prices of the leggings are: Junior sizes - £22; Senior sizes - £25

These leggings are not compulsory, but an additional option for students to wear in PE. They can be worn as a sports legging or under shorts/tracksuit bottoms as an additional layer during the colder months. Clubsport have been able to stock these sooner than expected, but currently have a reduced amount of leggings available and will have full stock when we move into the colder months of the year. **If your child does choose to wear leggings during PE lessons, they must be the branded JMHS leggings and not any other type of sports leggings.**

If you require financial support to purchase the leggings, please email Mr Morgan – Faculty Leader of PE ([andrew.morgan@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:andrew.morgan@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk)) so that we can discuss how we can support you in purchasing the item.