



16 June 2020

Dear parents, carers and students

I hope you and your families are well and that you have coped with the challenges of the extended lockdown we have experienced and are managing with the demands of home schooling.

It was great to see students arriving at school again yesterday. I very much enjoyed visiting the classes and seeing staff and students working together again. The social distancing measures worked well at the start and end of sessions and student attendance was good with 38 out of 41 students in Y10 attending and 29 out of 30 sixth form students attending their Block A lessons. In addition 18 students in total worked in Skeleton School. Student behaviour was very good and all observed the two metre rule which we will continue to use at JMHS until at least the end of the Summer Term (even if government guidance changes). All classrooms were cleaned after sessions and health and safety measures worked well with students and staff commenting that they felt safe. It was also encouraging that many staff said they were impressed with the work that students had been completing at home. I would like to thank all parents who brought their children into school and collected them for the orderly and safe way this was done.

I would also like to thank all of the parents who responded to our second online survey. I have read every comment made and copied them into a word document so that every member of staff can see your feedback. I know some parents asked very specific questions. Unfortunately as it was an anonymous survey I cannot answer these questions, but we will respond to any questions sent to admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk. It is great that over 170 parents have so far responded with the vast majority identifying positives and giving suggestions for improvement. A brief summary of the results is given below:

- 90% said students complete e-praise work on most days;
- Students are completing an average of 3-4 hours work per day;
- 97% say teachers set core and extension tasks all or most of the time;
- 75% say they have about the right amount of work, 15% not enough and 10% too much;
- 40% have received regular feedback, 50% occasional feedback, 10% no feedback;
- 25% have participated in a Microsoft Teams session;
- 85% of those who have had a Microsoft Teams session have found them useful;
- 25% of parents say their child has had regular pastoral support, 50% some contact, 25% no contact;
- Most rate this support as quite useful and almost a quarter as very useful;
- 90% rate communication from the school as either very useful or quite useful.

The survey identified many positives including:

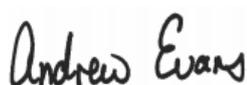
- Many subjects have had much positive feedback;
- Many staff members have been mentioned as being helpful;
- Parents have appreciated live streaming lessons and short videos posted;
- Individual help and staff e-mailing or phoning to provide this help;
- Clarity of work and variety;
- Consistency of setting work;

Suggestions for improvement included a strong feeling from many that we should have been delivering Teams sessions for all students, particularly mentioning that it's very hard to motivate students working at home where there is no interaction with teachers or peers. There were also requests for more feedback so that parents could understand how students are doing and requests for tutor sessions to give social support

Following this feedback, we are now planning how to address these suggestions and are holding a staff meeting to communicate and give training and support to staff on delivering live streaming sessions using Microsoft Teams on Monday 22 June. We are aiming in addition to the face to face sessions for Year 10 and Year 12 and Skeleton School, to provide some live streaming Teams lessons per week for students in Year 7 to Year 10 from Monday 29 June until the end of the Summer Term. We will give further details next week after we have held our staff meeting about how these will work and how we will communicate when sessions are to be held. However we have attached a parent and student guide to accessing Microsoft Teams lessons to this newsletter, which we hope you will find useful. The good news is that it is easy to access Teams lessons on almost all mobile phones, as well as laptops and tablets. If you have any technical questions or you would like someone to telephone you about using Teams, please could we ask you to e-mail peter.hammond@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk.

In next week's newsletter I also hope to outline how we intend to work next academic year (dependent upon government guidelines and instruction) and also outline further changes we are aiming to address some of the other feedback parents gave in the online survey.

With my very best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher