



7 March 2025

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your children have been enjoying the warmer weather this week. It's been lovely for us to have a drier site, with children playing again on the grass. We even have a stick-den built against one of our trees, so we will be well prepared if the weather gets worse again.

There are a lot of notices this week, but I promise you this is the abridged version! We have lots of clubs, fixtures and performances that I haven't had time to mention. I'm so pleased that our extra-curricular offer continues to grow. This is an important part of our school experience, and I am looking forward to even more activities in the future.

You will also see, I hope, that we are responding to your feedback and we will continue to ask for your thoughts on the school. I am very grateful to you for taking the time to share your experiences.

### **Epraise and My Child at School**

Last half term we piloted using My Child at School to set homework, hoping to reduce the number of applications that our families have to use to get information from us. We asked you how you found the change and the feedback was overwhelmingly in favour of a return to Epraise.

We will therefore revert to setting homework on Epraise from Monday 10 March. Thank you for feeding back on your experience. Although this pilot has not led to a lasting change, we'll keep on reflecting on how we can make it easier for you all to have easy access to information from us.

### **In-person parents' evening - chance to feedback**

In the autumn term I asked for your preferences regarding parents' evening and, again, we had an overwhelming response in favour of one option: in-person parents' evenings. I said, then, that after we began these, we would give an opportunity for those who attended to share their experience and ensure that they were happy with the change.

Can I therefore please invite parents of Year 9, Year 11 and Year 13 students who have attended the evenings, to answer this short, three-question survey, sharing their experience and whether they have any suggestions for improvement. We will collate responses on Monday 17 March.

<https://forms.office.com/e/quQu75NRmb>

## **Year 10 prefects**

One of the additions that helped our Year 9 parents' evening run smoothly was the support of the Year 10 prefects. Seeing their maturity, their kindness, and their ability to take responsibility was a treat for us all. Over the next year these prefects will be supporting primary age students with transition, running clubs and events, and supporting their peers. We are so lucky to have so many young people in our community who want to generously give of their time to support the rest of us, and I am grateful to them. I know they will find it a rewarding experience.

## **Student council**

I have spoken before about our Sixth Form leadership team: a different way of contributing to the community that many of our prefects will go on to take up. One of the most exciting things they have introduced this year is a student council, which has been launched in assemblies this week by one of our head students. The student council will provide opportunities for students in every year group to have their voice heard, with different committees contributing to different aspects of school leadership. I am looking forward to working with this new council. We are, of course, here for students and it is incredibly important that we learn from their insight and hear directly from them what they feel will help give them an even better time in school. Please do encourage your children to get involved in any way they can.

## **Oliver!**

For many of us, the half term holiday began in spectacular style thanks to the cast and crew of our school production, *Oliver*. Dozens of students and staff were involved in this accomplished, professional, superb performance. I'd like to thank Mr Rogers, Miss Mortimore-Price, Mr Mowbray, Mrs Neville, and Mr Soper for giving this opportunity to so many of our children.

I am also very grateful to the students who committed so much time to the show. I have enjoyed speaking to them and hearing what a thoroughly enjoyable time they had. Please do encourage your children to audition for the next performance when the opportunity comes, whether they were involved this year or not, so that they can have a similarly positive experience.

## **Ledbury's Got Talent**

The performing arts team had no sooner caught their breath following *Oliver*, than they were supporting Ledbury Town Council with the second annual Ledbury's Got Talent. I'm very proud that we are able to support the community by hosting this charitable event, which raised over £3,000 last year. I was prouder still to see how much of the talent in Ledbury comes from members of our school community – both children and adults.

The John Masefield Senior Rock Band were crowned winners, after a seamless performance of their original composition, *Trapped*. Of course, now that they are being scouted by festivals, they need a new name – Full Treble – though they'll always be JMHS Senior Rock Band to us.

I am constantly impressed by this band's talent and their dedication but, most of all, by their generosity. In between writing their own material they have played at our Christmas concert and members of the band supported at *Oliver*! Most notably, they recently visited Ledbury Primary

School to play for children there as part of their Times Table Rock Star event – inspiring the next generation of performers.

### **Board games club**

This week we have launched Board Games Club, every lunch time in the DT department. Based on our conversations with children, there was a lot of demand for an indoor space to play games, and we're hoping to see lots of students there. We have provided some cards and board games, and children are very welcome to bring their own. We'll continue to talk to our children about their interests and think about how we structure extracurricular activities to let them indulge in their hobbies and passions.

### **Second-hand uniform**

In readiness for our new intake in September, we would like to replenish our second-hand uniform supplies. We would welcome donations of any school uniform in a good condition that your child has outgrown. Any donations can be dropped off at Reception for the attention of Mrs Chadney. We are in particular need of:

- JMHS light blue polo shirts - age 12 and above
- JMHS skirts - all sizes
- Grey school trousers - all sizes
- PE plain navy blue shorts (no stripes) - all sizes
- PE plain navy blue skorts – all sizes

Yours sincerely,



**John Holmes**  
**Headteacher**