

**John Masefield High School and Sixth Form Centre**

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*Deputy Headteacher:*

Andy Collard BA



Monday 18 May 2020

Dear parents, carers and students

I hope you and your families are well and that you are coping with the challenges of lockdown in your working and personal lives.

**Setting of online work**

We continue to be impressed with the effort students are putting into keep up with their studies and the support that parents are providing. Following the government announcements this week, it seems unlikely that students in Year 7 - Year 9 will return to school before the summer holidays and it seems probable that there will be support sessions in school starting in June for Year 10 and Year 12 students (whilst maintaining social distancing), but that even for these year groups the majority of their learning will be at home. We appreciate that this is a difficult situation for students and families and want to do all that we can to help. Please do contact a subject teacher, form tutor or year leader if you would like some support or if you have specific questions. I have attached a copy of the parental guide to supporting learning at home that I sent out a fortnight ago in case some parents missed this last time as well as list of teacher's email addresses.

**Parental feedback**

I would like to thank all parents who have given us feedback either through the online survey or via e-mail. We have been trying to take on board this feedback to improve the quality of learning whilst making sure it is accessible to all. In particular we have been asking teachers to clearly label core and extension tasks for all lessons and have been asking teachers to clearly label assessment tasks where the students need to submit work via e-mail and the teachers give feedback. Please note that due to safeguarding requirements teachers are only able to give feedback to students school e-mail accounts not to personal e-mail addresses. As always we would be grateful to receive further parental feedback.

**Skeleton School**

Our Skeleton School remains open for children of key workers and vulnerable children. We intend the skeleton school to be open over the half term holiday, with the exception of the bank holiday Monday. If you would like to book a place at our Skeleton School please e-mail [admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk) at least 48 hours in advance.

**New students starting in September**

We very much look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students in September. This week we have written to or emailed all of the families joining us, and are working closely with primary schools to ensure we do all that we can to support students in being prepared for high school. We appreciate that this is a big step at the best of times, and even more challenging in the current circumstances. We would encourage any of our parents with questions or concerns to contact Dean Wyatt, Head of Primary Transition, at [dean.wyatt@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:dean.wyatt@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk). Finally, we would also like to draw your attention to the Y7 September 2020 section of our website under the Parents heading.

**Students commencing JM6 in September**

The Sixth Form team have been impressed with the positive attitude of students they have spoken to, many of whom have been involved in completing the 'transition / preparation for A level' work set in many subjects. Please

encourage students to continue to complete this work if at all possible and keep in contact with subject teachers particularly if there are any issues.

Monday 29 June and Tuesday 30 June were supposed to be our Y11 transition days. This will not occur now due to the health risk. We are not concerned however as we know that this new Y12 cohort will have completed remotely vastly more actual transition work in preparation for their A Levels than any other cohort before. Parents and students should be assured that they are well placed, to take on the exciting challenges ahead of them and that we will continue to support them in their preparation. The Sixth Form Team want to keep in touch with you. Therefore in lieu of the transition days you will receive a phone call from a member of the team checking how you are doing and so you can ask any questions you have. This will occur between the Monday 22 June and Friday 3 July. We won't phone too early and if we can't get an answer we will phone again!

We also wanted to repeat our reassurance that all students who have been offered a place at JM6 will be able to join in September regardless of the final grades awarded by the examination boards.

### **Headteacher's May Challenge**

I have received some excellent entries for the Headteacher's May Challenge which is to produce a short research project and e-mail it to me at [andy.evans@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:andy.evans@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk) in any form the student chooses which may be a powerpoint presentation, a short video, a poster, an essay etc. I am happy to accept entries from any student up until Friday 22 May, our last day of this half term. I have already received some excellent entries with topics varying widely from climate change to the Royal Navy and Giant Hogweed. I will give house points and personal feedback to all entrants via e-mail and will announce the prize winners in my next Headteacher's Update.

### **Provision for Y10 and Y12 after half term**

The government has asked secondary schools to look at how we can provide additional support for Y10 and Y12 students during June and July. We will be emailing an outline programme to all Y10 and Y12 students by the end of this week. Our plan is to organise a series of two hour seminars for all Y10 and Y12 students, where they would meet with their class teacher in a small group of about 5-7 students and receive a combination of face to face teaching and help with the work that they have been completing at home. It is likely that Y10 and Y12 students will attend approximately 2 sessions per week which will be designed to supplement rather than replace their learning from home via e-praise and Microsoft Teams. We would ensure social distancing during these lessons and stagger start and finish times to minimise social interaction and keep students safe. Our preference would be for students to walk, cycle or be driven into school for their session and then to walk home, cycle or be picked up when it finishes. We are requesting this as social distancing on school transport would be very difficult, but we realise that this may not always be possible.

### **And finally**

I would like to thank and wish all Year 11 and Year 13 students well. You would have finished for study leave on Friday and in many cases celebrated your final day at JMHS. Both year groups have so many wonderful students who have consistently demonstrated a great work ethic, being kind and thoughtful to others and have made excellent contributions to making JMHS a great place to learn. We very much look forward to welcoming 70 - 80 Year 11 students into our Sixth Form in September. I also need to stress that we will be there to support students in Year 11 and Year 13 throughout the rest of this term and the summer holidays in helping you move onto your next stage, even though we will no longer be setting regular online lessons for you. Please contact your form tutor or year leader if you need help or advice. However in what would have been your final week before study leave, we wish every one of you all the very best for the future.

With my very best wishes



**Andrew Evans, Headteacher**