



A newsletter written by students, for students

April 2017



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## Royalty Visits Ledbury

The Duke of Gloucester visited Ledbury on Friday 17 February and JMHS were asked to send representatives. Y13 Rhianna Levi wrote reflectively "Head Girl Lucy Admans, Paulina Mikulicz, myself, and Mollie Health had the honour of representing the school and throughout his visit, the Duke visited various parts of Ledbury, learning about the town's history. During the event, as members of the Sixth Form Student Leadership Team, we were able to speak to the Duke about the school and our enjoyment of being part of the community. The Duke was welcoming and showed interest in what we had to say about JMHS and why we like being part of it. Attending this event was something which shall stay with us all for a very long period of time; we all beam with pride when it comes to being members of the Student Leadership Team and we embraced representing both the Sixth Form and lower school."



Mr Evans subsequently received a letter of thanks from The Mayor, Councillor Debbie Baker who said "the students were a credit to the school and the Duke and other dignitaries appreciated the representation, even though it was the half-term holidays. Thank you for your contribution to what was a memorable day for Ledbury."

## Ryan Reaches New Heights

On Thursday 15 September, Y13 Ryan Ing launched a weather balloon as part of his Extended Project from the school playing field. The balloon reached a height of 24,500m before it burst and landed 60km away after a flight time of 2hr 20minutes. Following on from this, Ryan completed extensive data analysis to complete his Project and presented his findings to students and staff in February. In addition, he was pleased to be asked by The Royal Meteorological Society to write an article for their monthly newsletter and on 4 November he presented to Herefordshire Radio Society. Furthermore, QinetiQ had heard about Ryan's EPQ balloon

flight and were so impressed they decided to invite him to the Royal Aeronautical Society's prize-giving event which was held on 10 February at MoD Boscombe Down. Accompanied by Mr Henderson, the school's ICT Manager, Ryan gave a presentation on his flight to a highly distinguished audience, including the President of the RAS, and the founder of Cameron Balloons. The presentation was well received and afterwards Ryan and Mr Henderson were invited by the branch society's Chairwoman to see the Meteorological Office station, where Ryan gained an invaluable insight into the work of a Meteorologist. They then visited the helicopter hangar where they sat in a Gazelle and looked at some of the other rotary wing aircraft. All-in-all a fascinating and enjoyable day. Finally, in February half term, Ryan enjoyed a Taster week at Reading University shadowing students to experience life as a student and attended lectures in Meteorology.



View from payload

Stop press: Two Y12 students have confirmed 'Study Day' places at Brasenose College, Oxford University in June

## Bright Futures

Having started early with their research, Y13 were keen to send off their university applications as soon as they returned in September. As a result, we are delighted that for yet another year John Masefield Sixth Form students are holding offers from some of the UK top universities. This year 38% of offers are from the highly competitive Russell Group universities and 12 offers are Unconditional. Highlights include offers for Medicine, Midwifery and Music (Oxford), with the most popular courses this year being English Literature and Psychology.

Former student Rebecca McMann who left John Masefield Sixth Form in 2014 and studied A-levels in Geography, German, ICT and Physics recently shared with us her experiences after she completed her studies. After doing her research about post-18 options she decided that an apprenticeship would suit her learning style more and she has since completed her NVQ L2 & L3 in Business & Administration; she now works as an Assistant Business Support Officer for the Sanctuary Group. We were delighted to hear at the recent Worcestershire Group Training Association Apprenticeship Awards, that she jointly won the 'Commerce – Apprentice of the Year Level 3' Award. Well done Rebecca!

## A Taste Of Oxford Languages

Ten Sixth Form language students together with ten talented Y10 linguists were fortunate to experience a 'Language Day' at Hanley Castle High School. We joined four Worcestershire schools including Malvern St James and The Chase to take part in three 60 minute sessions, delivered by tutors from Oxford University. The sessions covered French and German literature at A level, translation skills and an introduction to Italian. Our students had the chance to experience an Oxford-style tutorial and work in groups on analysing and translating literary works to gain an invaluable insight into the depth of study expected at university.

## Masterclasses

Sixth Form students enjoyed lectures at Birmingham University on 16 November in a range of topics including: 'Using Maths to Survive The Zombie Apocalypse'; 'Spectroscopy'; 'Healthy People Need a Healthy Planet'; 'Taxing Our Wealth'. On 7 December students visited the University again to attend seminars on 'Creative Writing Other Lives'; 'Boost Up Your Languages' and 'The Eye, Fact or Fiction'.

Throughout the year, academically-able students regularly enjoy masterclass lectures as part of the HE+ Programme run by Cambridge University. In March, along with students from other local colleges students participated in a two-day residential trip to Christ's College, Cambridge with a packed itinerary which included a campus tour, Q&A with undergraduates, visits to other Cambridge colleges, lectures and free time to explore this beautiful city.

## What A Performance!

In October, Performing Arts students enjoyed a residential trip to London with a full and exciting itinerary. They went to see an energetic performance from 'Stomp', watched an unusual but inspiring play at the Vaults Theatre (underneath Waterloo Station) and went to the Royal Albert Hall to see the London Philharmonic Orchestra play a concert of film music by John Williams. This was an action-packed few days and allowed Sixth Form students to have an inspiring experience and an enjoyable time for students and teachers!

## "Oxford-style lectures, masterclasses at Birmingham & Cambridge, and much, much more."

Y11 students who have applied to study at JMSF from September have just completed their interviews and received their Conditional Offers. To help them decide, in October students enjoyed A-level taster sessions in a wide variety of subjects, e.g: in Geography, they debated whether China could take over the world; in Biology students used chlorophyll chromatography to examine pigments in leaves; in Computing (*a new course*) they looked at logic gates and a debugging programme and in Core Maths students calculated wind chill factor formulae. A-level transition lessons have been planned for 3-5 July to help students bridge the gap and timetables will be issued after Easter.



## Upcoming Events

24 April  
Mock exams  
(some subjects)

25 April  
Summer term  
begins

4 May  
'Gone But Not  
Forgotten' - One  
Act Play written by  
Caitlin Ronan  
JMHS

15 May - 9 June  
Y12 AS Study Leave

15 May - 29 June  
GCE Formal  
Summer Exams

26 May  
Y13 Leavers' Brunch  
& study leave starts

27 May - 4 June  
Half term

12 June  
Post-18 carousel of  
presentations for  
Y12

13 June - 21 July  
Y12 A2 Teaching

3-5 July  
Y11 Transition

5 July  
Summer Ball at  
Alexander Park

18, 19, 20 July  
Challenge Days

21 July  
Last Day of Term

17 August  
A-level Results Day

24 August  
GCSE Results Day &  
Sixth Form  
Enrolment

**Edited by Paige Baker and Christina Manns**



## Solo Award for Emily

Y12 student Emily Henry who is studying A-levels in French, Drama and German enjoyed recent success on the 18 March at The Worcester Competitive Arts Festival winning the 'U17s Solo Acting Class'. She was delighted to be asked to perform her piece from Medea (*an ancient Greek tragedy written by Euripides, based upon the myth of Jason and Medea*) at a Gala Concert on Monday 27 March. Emily is incredibly modest and hardworking with a real passion for Drama and Languages which she would like to study at university. She is a keen supporter of school productions, performing recently in the Sixth Form's production of Sweeney Todd as Tobias Ragg and also played in the orchestra for the hugely successful production of the Wizard of Oz. Furthermore, Emily performed as 'Kitty' in Caitlin Ronan's one act play 'Gone But Not Forgotten' at Wellington Heath on 24 March, which due to sell out audiences, is being performed again on 4 May at JMHS.

## Success for Ben

Former student Ben Mowbray who studied A-levels in Dance, Drama and English Literature and successfully runs his own Theatre Company 'Our Star Theatre Company' has enjoyed further success with LADS.

On 11 March, Ledbury Amateur Dramatic Society won first place at the Herefordshire County Drama Festival at The Courtyard with their entry, 'The Last Bread Pudding' which picked up three well deserved awards: 'Best Actor', 'Best Director' and 'First Place'. This award-winning production featured current JMHS students Jason Johns and Daria Kokidko-Da Silva, and former students Ben Mowbray ('Best Director') and Georgia Gill.

The cast will be competing at the All-England Theatre Festival Quarter Finals at the Highbury Theatre Centre in Sutton Coldfield on 8 April, as well as at The Courtyard again on 25 April at a fundraising evening for the charity Breast Cancer Haven, and at a 'pay-what-you-can' evening at The Market Theatre Ledbury on Saturday 13 May. They would welcome your support and we wish them continued success.



## Sweeney Todd Success

If putting on what is considered one of the most vocally intricate and musically challenging stage shows was not enough, the extremely talented Sixth Form students of John Masefield decided to do it without any input from the teachers and play the music live! This was the brainchild of Emma Warren, Y13 student and Artistic Director for the show, who decided to embark on this task for her Extended Project Qualification and did a tremendous job of showcasing another great performance with support from a fantastic cast. The production of Sweeney Todd was the culmination of eight months of hard work for Emma and all the cast. Paulina Mikulicz and Jason Johns were the Co-Directors of the piece and students raised funds to pay for the overheads. A huge well done to everyone involved and clearly demonstrates the tremendous talent and team effort which went into making the production a big success.



## Professional Rugby Player Motivates Students

Charlie Sharples who currently plays for Gloucester, and has also represented nationally wearing the England shirt on four occasions, spoke to Y10, Y11 rugby players and A-Level PE students about the life of a professional rugby player. He covered training, the day-to-day programme, nutrition, rest and recovery and the importance of having a career to fall back on when the rugby ends. Additionally, he spoke about careers available in rugby, from coaching to nutritionists and even the people who fly drones over the training group to be able to monitor how hard the players have worked! Students found the talk very useful and inspiring and we are grateful to Charlie for taking the time out of his busy schedule to come in.



## All Hail To the Footballers

Elliot Hawkes, Sixth Form Sports Captain reports that on 22 March the football team achieved another well-deserved victory against Hereford & Ludlow College, in a game stricken by tough conditions, namely a hail storm! The team secured a well-earned a 2-0 victory, with goals coming from Ali Holder and Elliot Hawkes, which adds to the number of victories already attained this season. Well done lads!



## Children In Need

Students wore onesies and PJs for the day and organised a tombola and raffle raising an impressive £220.90. In line with the gunge theme this year, students also competed in 'Pie Face' at lunchtime where some proved luckier than others!



On 24 March students held a cup cake competition and apart from their honour, much was at stake with the ultimate accolade of being awarded 'JM Sixth Form Baker 2017'. There were a high number of entrants with fantastic cakes being offered for students to buy who voted by paying for their cake in a numbered pot. Y13 Freya Henderson was crowned with the coveted title narrowly beating joint runners-up Y12 students Brandon Caffall and Rosy Turner. On the day students also wore red and ran a red tombola. All-in-all a great effort with students raising over £130 for charity.



## Tribute to Caitlin



Y12 student Caitlin sadly passed away on 17 November 2016 following a rapid deterioration in her health; she suffered from a progressive neurological disease called CIDP and was a true inspiration to anyone who met her. She had a love for singing and musicals and despite all she endured, she tirelessly fundraised and promoted schemes she was passionate about. She raised a total of over £34k towards Eyegaze systems for herself and others and made three videos to help promote the benefits of these <https://thinksmartbox.com/news/caitlins-fundraising-story/>. JMHS students supported Caitlin with her fundraising by arranging a number of events raising a total of £911.35.

'Fixers' who are 'young people using their past to fix the future' are motivated by personal experience to make positive change for themselves and those around them. Caitlin made a film in September 2016 about children who receive regular hospital care who can be very anxious about the transition of their care from child to adult. The film was launched on 20 March 2017 at The County Hospital in Hereford to an audience of NHS professionals and special guests, including Caitlin's family. <http://www.fixers.org.uk/>

Caitlin felt very passionately about disabled actors being able to perform alongside able-bodied actors on stage and the family have set-up 'Caitlin's Stars' to fundraise for The Graeae Theatre Company based in London. To-date 'Caitlin's Stars' has raised over £6,400.

## Lessons From Auschwitz

On 22 March two Y12 students were honoured to be selected to participate in the *Lessons from Auschwitz* (LFA) Project which is run by the Holocaust Educational Trust and involves a one-day visit to the former Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland. Calum Shalofsky and Harry Dunnett also attended two orientation seminars in Birmingham and now plan to share what they have learnt with other students. Harry said "it was extremely thought-provoking for me and whilst standing in the pouring rain in my warm coat, I cannot comprehend how people of all ages coped in such harsh conditions, in sub-zero temperatures in the winter, with inappropriate clothing and food."

## Strong Young Minds

Y13 student, Nicole Barrow, is currently studying A-levels in Psychology, History and English Literature and has offers to study Psychology at university. Through researching Mental Health issues for her Psychology course she found out about a local scheme called 'Strong Young Minds' which helps young people in Herefordshire. She applied to be an Ambassador and recruited several of her peers to be involved with the Project also; the group met weekly afterschool for six weeks to complete their Ambassador training for the charity. <https://www.thesymproject.org/>

## Charity Run

Year 12 student Elen Clarke recently ran the Rotary Blenheim 10k race to raise awareness for the charity Beat who provides care for people with eating disorders. Beat is the UK's leading charity supporting anyone affected by eating disorders, anorexia, bulimia, or any other difficulties with food, weight and shape. Elen did a tremendous job of raising money with a total of £1,311. On Friday 3 March, Sixth Formers wore silly socks for 'Sock It', a charity event run by Beat, and donated just under £80.



## 'Gone But Not Forgotten'

This is a One Act Play written by Caitlin during her drama lessons with Pippa Henry and was completed in August 2016. The first performance was put on by Wellington Heath Amateur Dramatics Society's junior members to a packed audience on 24 March 2017. As well as staging the play, it was also a musical celebration of Caitlin's life with performances from her friends and the John Masefield High School Chamber Choir. There will be a second performance on **Thursday 4 May** at John Masefield High School starting at 7pm. Tickets can be booked: [www.positickets.com/eventdetails.php?EventID=2488#.WNJqn7FFC1u](http://www.positickets.com/eventdetails.php?EventID=2488#.WNJqn7FFC1u) £5 for Adults and £3 for students/children with all profits made going to 'Caitlin's Stars'.

Caitlin's family would like to thank everyone for their continued support.