

John Masefield High School and Sixth Form Centre

Mabel's Furlong, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2HF

Telephone: 01531 631012

Email: admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Web site: www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Headteacher:

Andrew Evans BSc MA

Deputy Headteacher:

Andy Collard BA



20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly I would like to thank you for the supportive and encouraging messages that you have been sending and for how co-operative and helpful your children have been over the past fortnight

Schoolwork

Teachers have been setting the first batch of work using e-praise for today's lessons. Each day the teachers will set work for lessons on that day. We are attempting to set a variety of tasks that students can complete at home. If you are able to encourage your child to complete the work set to very best of their ability, that would most helpful. If you have any questions about the work, please could you e-mail the teacher setting the work. Each lesson's work should take between 40 and 60 minutes for students to complete and once they have completed the work students should mark this as complete on e-praise.

We will endeavour to set work for every lesson on a given day. However there will be occasions, eg if a teacher is unwell, when this may not be possible. We will be setting lessons on every school day, but no work will be set for the Easter holidays or weekends, so that the children do get a break. Please also note that we do not expect any work to be printed out as we know how expensive computer ink can be.

Monday 23 March – Friday 3 April

From Monday 23rd March, until further notice, schools throughout Britain have been asked to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans. Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined by the Government. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home, particularly if they are of secondary school age and, therefore, **every child who can safely be at home should be.**

If you fall within the critical categories, you should confirm with your employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, your specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

JMHS will run a 'skeleton school' until such time as the government advises schools are safe to fully reopen.

If you require a place for your child/ren, we ask that book in advance so that we can organise staffing and care. Please email admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk no later than Sunday evening for the week you require a place. Please let us know if you need a place for a single day, couple of days or all week.

If you are eligible to send your child the following information is important:

1. The school day operates under the normal timetable. There will be no after school clubs or wrap around care.
2. Students do not need to wear school uniform but will need to wear appropriate and comfortable clothing.
3. **Students sign in at main reception at 845 and sign out at main reception at 315. We will not be responsible for your child outside of these times.**
4. Students should wait for staff in main reception in the morning.
5. Students will be served a free hot meal in the dining room at lunchtime. Parents will need to provide drinks/snacks for other times.
6. There will be a small number of staff in each day, on a rota basis. The activities students undertake will depend on which staff are in for each day.
7. Students who are in school completing activities are not expected to complete any school work at home that day.
8. The member of the school leadership team for the day will make decisions about activities completed.
9. Students will abide by all school rules and expectations as if it were a normal school day.
10. Parents/carers must inform JMHS through the admin email if any deviation from the school day is required, ie if you wish to collect your child at lunchtime.
11. The government advice for social isolating will apply at all times. Students who display symptoms, or live in a family where there are symptoms will not be permitted into school for 14 days.

Please be aware that these plans are subject to change and will run from Monday 23 March – Friday 3 April in the first instance. Future plans will be advised towards the end of March.

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should do so. I cannot stress highly enough how important it is to keep your child at home if you can as part of our national effort to combat this disease.

Examination Grades

At the time of writing this letter, we have not yet received the government's decision on how examination grades will be awarded. On Monday, after we have received this information and have had time to digest this and decide any action we take as a school, we will update you on this.

Lastly I would wish you and your family members all the very best at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Evans
Headteacher