



20 April 2020

Dear Parents

We hope that you and your family are well. We live in such difficult and challenging times and I have heard so many desperately sad stories about families losing loved ones before their time. We send our most sincere condolences to these families. I know many other families who have family members who have become unwell and it is such a worrying time for all concerned. We would like to send our very best wishes to all of our families and remind you that you can contact us at any time if you would like one of our pastoral staff to phone and speak to you or your children. I would also like to reiterate our thanks to all key workers and volunteers who are working so hard to help others and save lives. We are so grateful to you for your wonderful work.

### **Students completing lessons from home**

Term will start tomorrow on Tuesday 21 April. As with last term teachers will be setting lessons via e-praise on the day students normally have their lesson. This means that the majority of students in Y7-Y10 will have 5 lessons per day. The teachers are aware that home circumstances vary and that some students will work much slower or much quicker than others. Teachers are therefore trying to set lessons, so that for those families who are finding it harder to get students to complete work at home the main content can be completed in 30 minutes, whilst for those who wish to complete more work they can spend a full hour on the lesson. Teachers are also aiming to set extension tasks for students who finish the work rapidly and need some extra challenge. Please note that this extension work is optional. Lessons will continue to be set using e-praise on school days until school reopens for all students.

### **Use of Microsoft Teams**

Teachers are using Microsoft Teams with Y12 students to teach some online lessons and are also using this resource with Y11 in selected subjects to provide preparation for Advanced Level study. We have also started to use Microsoft Teams to teach some online lessons to Y10, but are only doing this where the teacher is confident that all students in the class can access Microsoft Teams.

### **Setting lessons for Y11 and Y13 students**

For Y11 and Y13 students the final day when lessons will be set is Friday 22 May, the day they would have finished at JMHS to commence their study leave. Some Y11 and Y13 students are sensibly prioritising subjects which will be of most benefit for their further study rather than completing all of the work set for all subjects. We fully support students who are using their initiative in this way. Y11 students who wish to discuss their approach to study are encouraged to contact their form tutor or Mr Hammond. We would encourage Y13 students to contact their form tutor, Mrs Law or Mr Hawkworth for advice and guidance.

## **Online survey for parents**

In order to help us see how useful the lessons we have been setting are for students and parents and how we might be able to make improvements, we have created an online survey which can be accessed via the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=h9QXkipHEkSqJlaQB-bBMcCK5WxKan1GiMRRQtQq8khUNlo2UUNLNVJNUVNHQTZYSUg2TERaVUxPWi4u>

Please could we ask that if you wish to complete the survey, to do so by Monday 27 April. It has been designed so that it can be completed in less than 5 minutes, but also gives the option of more detailed feedback. The survey is optional and we appreciate that not all parents will have time to complete this, but I can assure you that Year Leaders will look at every response for their Year Group and that I will read and consider every submission. Parents and carers who have children in more than one year group may wish to complete individual responses for each of their children.

## **Curriculum Overviews to be posted on website**

In order to give parents an overview of work to be covered during the Summer Term, Curriculum Leaders are compiling overviews for this term which we hope will be useful to students and parents. These will give brief summaries of the work to be completed in each subject for Y7- Y10 and Y12. They will be posted on the Curriculum section of the website in a folder entitled Summer 2020 Curriculum. We are starting to add these onto the website now and aim to complete this task by Monday 27 April. If you have any questions about these summaries please could we ask you to contact the Curriculum Leader for the subject.

## **Awarding of examination grades**

An announcement was made on Friday 3 April about how GCSE and A-Level grades are to be awarded. Teachers are to submit the grade that they believe each student would have achieved had they sat their GCSE or A-Level examination, based on a range of evidence including work completed throughout the course and the results of assessments, tests and mock exams. These grades are then moderated by the Curriculum Leader or an experienced teacher for the subject to check that they are fair for all classes taking the subject. Senior staff, including myself as Headteacher, will check that the processes that have been followed across all subjects to make sure that they are as fair and thorough as possible. The teachers will then place the students in a rank order for their subject. For example if there are 20 students who have been given grade 6 in maths, the maths teachers would need to rank the students from 1 to 20. Our teachers are putting in place thorough procedures to make sure this process is done as fairly and accurately as possible. Once this has been completed and the processes used have been checked by myself and senior staff, grades will be submitted to the exam boards. Exam boards will then check the overall grades the school has awarded using a range of statistical measures, and decide whether and how to adjust the grades moving them up or down depending on whether they feel we have been too generous or too strict in each subject.

**We have been instructed by the exam boards and the government that we must not discuss the grades teachers are recommending or the rank order with any parent or any student, so it is very important that students and parents do not ask teachers questions about the grades they are recommending or the rank order. I can however assure parents that the process being followed in all subjects at JMHS is extremely thorough with all teachers working hard to ensure grades and the rank order are fair and accurate.**

We have been informed that students or parents will be able to lodge an appeal if they feel that the school or exam board have not followed processes correctly. We have also been informed that students may retake exams where they are dissatisfied with grades in September.

The procedures for awarding grades for vocational subjects have not yet been published.

**It has now been confirmed that A-Level results will be issued on Thursday 13 August and GCSE results on Thursday 20 August. We will let you know nearer the time how these results will be distributed to students.**

### **Skeleton School**

Our Skeleton School remains open for children of key workers and vulnerable students who cannot safely remain at home. If you would like to book a place, please could you email [admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk) two school days in advance. This will enable us to make sure appropriate levels of staffing are in place. Furthermore if your child needs to travel by bus please let us know which bus they require and we will endeavour to ensure this is available.

Finally I would like to thank all parents, students and staff for your help during such difficult times. We do hope you and your families stay well. Do contact us if we can help in any way.

With my very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

**Andrew Evans**  
**Headteacher**