



2 June 2020

Dear parents and carers

I hope you and your families are well and that you had a relaxing and enjoyable half term break. Teachers have recommenced setting online lessons and we will continue with the pattern we established before the half term break with teachers setting lessons on days when classes had lessons in their subject. We are asking teachers to set core and extension tasks so that students who need more time to complete work are not overwhelmed and so that students who complete work rapidly can move onto the extension task. Teachers will be asking students to submit one task via e-mail roughly every six to eight lessons and will e-mail feedback to the student's school e-mail account. Any student or parent/carer who requires help with work or wishes to request specific feedback or advice is encouraged to e-mail the class teacher directly. If any parent/carer or students wishes to discuss a pastoral matter they are encouraged to e-mail the student's form tutor or year leader. In the near future we intend to post a follow up survey to the one published in April about the setting of online lessons and students working from home. We hope that the feedback received will enable us to make further improvements.

### **Opening for Year 10 and Year 12 students from 15th June**

Following government guidelines and instructions for face to face provision for students in Year 10 and Year 12 published during the half term break, we have had to amend the plans we provisionally put in place before we broke up for half term. Mr Hawksworth will write to Year 12 students and parents/carers and Miss Limbrick to Year 10 students and parents/carers with full details of the revised plan. However I have included a brief summary below:

- Sessions for Year 10 and Year 12 will commence from Monday 15th June;
- A wide range of measures have been put in place to ensure the school is as safe as can be including greatly reducing the number of students in school, hygiene measures, ensuring students are two metres apart at all times;
- For Year 10 the plans involve a maximum of 25% of the year group being invited in on any one day. On their given day, students will work in a group of a maximum of 8 students. They will arrive at or just before 9.00am and will be supervised by their class teacher in the bus park and escorted to the classroom where they will have a one and a half hour seminar with their maths, English or science teacher. At 10.30am students will be escorted to the dining room or patio area where they will be supervised to ensure social distancing. At 10.45am their class teacher for one of their option subjects will collect them and escort them to their teaching room for a second 90 minute seminar. At 12.15pm the class teacher will escort students back to the bus park ensuring social distancing and will then allow students walking home to depart whilst supervising those who are waiting to be picked up by parents in cars. Please could all parents park in a designated parking bay and not leave their vehicles. Each Year 10 student will have one seminar in each of their option subjects and two seminars in English, maths and science (with three sessions for those students studying three separate sciences);

- Year 10 students should wear their school uniform and bring in their work completed at home for the subjects studied that day;
- For Year 12 students, there will be seminars in one option block per day. Year 12 students will be asked to arrive at 1.00pm after all Year 10 students have departed. They will have a two hour seminar with one of their subject teachers. Year 12 students should meet in the bus park to be collected by their subject teacher and will be walked back to the bus park at the end of their seminar. Sixth Form students may drive their cars into school, but cannot give a lift to other students unless they live in the same household. Before the end of term each Year 12 student will have had four 2 hour seminars in each of their subjects;
- For students who are unable to make it into school, teachers are going to deliver a session using Microsoft Teams aiming to provide support in a similar way to those in school.

I would like to thank all parents and students for confirming whether students will attend the seminars in person, this information has been most helpful. We know that a clear majority of Year 10 students and almost all Year 12 students will be attending in person and this is most helpful for our planning.

### **Skeleton School**

Parents and carers who are key workers or parents and carers of vulnerable children may book a place at our Skeleton School by e-mailing [admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk) at least 48 hours in advance of the place being required which enables us to plan staffing. Students attending Skeleton School should wear their school uniform and bring their school bag with their books, their pencil case and a packed lunch.

### **Headteacher's Challenge**

The results of the May Headteacher's Challenge which was to produce a short research project and submit it to the Headteacher are as follows:

- 1st Prize - James Austen: Harmonic Series
- 2nd Prize - Elyse Marriage: The science of climate change
- 3rd Prize - Ava Smith: Employment across the world

The above students will each be awarded a gift voucher.

The following students submitted projects which were highly commended and will receive 10 house points:

- Nathanael Tanton: Communication
- Jakub Gierula: Fungi
- Henry Flanagan: The history of football
- Heather Blackmore: Russian Dwarf Hamsters
- Roger Tonks: Organising work
- Zoe Smith: Giant Hogweed
- Isabel Smith: The Royal Navy

I loved reading all of the entries and would encourage students to enter the June Headteacher's Challenge which is to produce a short newspaper report about any recent event or news that interests you. It can be about something that has happened to your family, news about Ledbury or

our local community, as well as national or international news. Entries should be set out as newspaper reports with a headline, the main article and photographs, diagrams and charts if the student wishes to include these and should be e-mailed to me at [andy.evans@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:andy.evans@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk) .

### **Cheltenham Science Festival**

One of the educational highlights each year for me is the Cheltenham Science Festival which includes wonderfully stimulating and fascinating talks and interactive sessions led by leading scientists, mathematicians and engineers. This year's festival is online and free. It starts today and continues until Sunday 7th June, with the majority of talks being broadcast live on You Tube and some interactive sessions using Zoom for which users can access for free. The topics vary widely from Supercomputers, AI, Sustainable Development, Black Holes, the End of Time and Mathematical Proof. I will be watching and joining in a number of sessions with my children and would encourage other parents whose children love science to consider doing the same. The programme can be viewed on the Cheltenham Science Festival website

### **And finally**

I would like to wish all students and parents well for the second half of the summer term and encourage any of you who wish to speak with myself or a member of staff to get into contact via e-mail. We wish to support all students and their families in any way that we can.

With my very best wishes



**Andrew Evans**  
**Headteacher**