

John Masefield High School and Sixth Form Centre

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23 June 2020

Dear parents and carers

Years 7 to 9

There will be a considerable increase in the number of live streamed lessons taught using Microsoft Teams from Monday 29 June. Students will be invited to participate in roughly 8-12 live streamed lessons per week. The majority of these lessons will be scheduled during the normal teaching slot at the times detailed below:

Lesson 1:	09:30-10:00
Lesson 2:	10.30-11.00
Lesson 3:	11.30-12.00
Lesson 4:	12.30-13.00
Lesson 5:	14.30-15.00

The live portion of the lesson will last for approximately 30 minutes and will be followed by the teachers setting a task to be completed at home which will also be logged on epraise. All students are expected to join the lesson and Year Leaders will be monitoring participation.

We cannot say exactly which lessons will be scheduled for year groups or individual students as this will depend upon when teachers are not teaching Year 10 and Year 12 or supporting Skeleton School. Students will receive details via epraise of when their live streamed lessons will be scheduled for the following week from their subject teachers. The lessons can be accessed via a smart phone, tablet, iPad or a computer through joining a Microsoft Teams meeting (a MS Teams student guide is attached). If you have any technical questions about accessing lessons, please could we ask you to e-mail peter.hammond@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk. Mr Hammond will be happy to call any parents or carers and talk you through any problems that are occurring. Additionally you can also contact Mr Henderson, our IT manager, extension 240 from the school switchboard or by email it@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk. If you have other questions or comments about the live streamed lessons, please could we ask you to contact your child's Year Leader as detailed below:

Year 7 Leader: Mr Wyatt dean.wyatt@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Year 8 Leader: Miss Newnes hayley.newnes@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Year 9 Leader: Mr Bees Anthony.bees@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Year 10 Leader: Miss Limbrick chloe.limbrick@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Year 9 - Applications for Triple Science places

A reminder that Year 9 students should submit their application to be considered for Triple Science by Friday 26 June. The Triple Science syllabus contains significantly more content than Combined Science and as a result students will be expected to attend an extra lesson every week on Tuesday Period 6 after school and should be able to organise and motivate themselves to complete an increased amount of home-learning as a result. If you have any queries please contact Miss Clayton (kay.clayton@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk) or Dr Jennings (adam.jennings@jmhs.sch.uk) and who will be happy to provide further guidance.

Year 10

The majority of Year 10 students have now attended four one and a half hour lessons either in school or delivered using Microsoft Teams. The lessons felt strange initially with only a quarter of the students in the class (on average 5-8 students attending at any one time). These lessons which are mainly scheduled in the mornings will continue until the end of term. There has been high levels of attendance. Those students who have opted to join lessons via Microsoft Teams from home have also attended and participated well. I would like to thank all students for the excellent attitudes they have shown in class.

I have also been really impressed by the way staff have been willing to have a go and learn as they go along with many delivering Teams lessons for the first time. Teachers are continuing to set work for lessons not delivered live. Test or practice exam papers will be set between now and the end of term for Year 10 to be completed at home. These will be used only for giving the students practice at GCSE questions and to give them some feedback. They will not be used for any other purpose. In addition some teachers may be teaching some additional live streamed Microsoft Teams lessons in the afternoons from Monday 29 June. They will let students in their classes know via epraise if this is the case. If parents of Year 10 students have any problems or questions, please contact Miss Limbrick, Year Leader for Year 10. Her email address is chloe.limbrick@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk.

Year 11

We are requesting that from Thursday 25 June Year 11 students return their books and any other resources borrowed in a carrier bag to Reception so that they are ready for us to use with next year's Year 11. Please could they be brought in between 9.15am and 2.45pm and the student's name should be written inside the books so that we know who has returned them. All returns should be dropped off by Wednesday 8 July.

Mr Hammond is writing to all Year 11 students explaining the arrangements for GCSE results day which is on Thursday 20 August. Our intention is to e-mail results out to students' JMHS e-mail accounts on the morning of 20 August and post a paper copy on the same day. Telephone and face to face support in school will be available for any student who needs this. Our Sixth Form Leadership Team are currently phoning all students intending to return to JM6 in September. They will be checking your choice of subjects and seeing if you have any questions.

Year 12

Teachers have been pleased and impressed with how Year 12 students have been participating in their two hour face to face lessons and how they have been working at home. Nearly all are attending their lessons in school with the small number shielding at home joining the classes via Microsoft Teams. Year 12 students will be taking end of year exams at home with their teachers going through the exams and giving feedback in class. We would like to stress that we fully understand how difficult it has been for all students to work from home for the past three months. We will not use the exam results for any purpose other than giving the students practice on a real exam paper and feedback on how they have answered questions.

Year 13

Many thanks to all the Year 13 students who have brought their books into Reception so that we can pass them onto next year's Year 13. We think that we have received the vast majority of books, but if your child has not brought theirs back yet, please could they do so this week.

Mr Hawksworth is writing to Year 13 in the near future with details of the A-Level results day which is on Thursday 13 August. If you or your child has any questions about this, about university or employment applications or applications for student finance, please contact Mr Hawksworth or Mrs Law (Head of Year 13):

Mr Hawksworth, Head of Sixth Form: mark.hawksworth@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Mrs Law, Head of Year 13: maria.law@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

End of Year Reports

We will be issuing annual reports for students in Year 7-Year 10 and Year 12 before the end of the school year. Due to the fact that students have not been in school for the past three months, the reports will be briefer than in previous years.

Headteacher's June Challenge

There have been some excellent entries for the Headteacher's June Challenge with topics ranging from Black Lives Matter, Artificial Intelligence, unusual names and emu wars. The deadline for entries is Tuesday 30 June and this month's competition 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.

Friday 3 July

Friday 3 July is a teacher training day. The teachers will be in school preparing for the next academic year and there will not be any lessons or work set on this date.

Plans for September

It is encouraging that the government are saying that students in all year groups will return to school in September. We will be absolutely delighted if this is the case and are awaiting guidance from the government about how we will achieve this safely. As soon as this advice is published, we will be working very hard to put all of the guidance into place so that we can open safely.

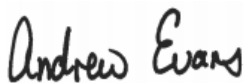
Catch Up Fund

The government last week published its intention to provide a catch up fund for the next academic year and a short document from the Education Endowment Foundation on evidence about effective strategies for catch up. The strategies in this guide include making sure all teaching is of the highest quality through training and support for all teachers along with small group and one to one tutoring particularly focusing on key subjects. At this point in time we intend to offer the extra tutoring to vulnerable children and students who have fallen behind. As part of the decision making process I intend to ask in September all parents and carers if they wish to nominate their child for extra support. It looks as if we may need a significant number of additional staff to provide the extra tuition. I believe that a good number of parents who receive this newsletter may have the skills and qualifications to help provide the tuition. Therefore I will attach an advertisement to the next newsletter for tutoring positions next academic year.

And finally ...

Thank you for reading such a lengthy newsletter, please do let us know if you have any questions or we can support you or help you in any way.

With my very best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher