



Tuesday 14 July

Dear parents and carers

1. Full opening in September

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all students back to school and teaching the full curriculum in September and are working extremely hard to make sure the school is ready and as safe as it possibly can be.

We have divided the school into six zones for September, one for each of Year 7-Year 11 and one for the Sixth Form. Each zone has 6 or 7 classrooms which will be used exclusively for that year group. In addition to this, teachers will book practical spaces for certain lessons which may include Food Technology, ICT, Science and Design Technology. On days when students have PE, they should come to school wearing their PE uniform, so that students do not need to get changed in crowded changing rooms. They can wear blue tracksuit bottoms and school fleeces or jumpers over their PE uniform in order to stay warm. Students will have majority of their lessons outside on the tennis courts, the astroturf pitch or on the field.

We are working very hard to make the school as safe as possible for September. This work includes clear labelling of each block, entrances, exits and corridors, figuring out how students move between lessons to stay separate from all other year groups and installing over 100 wall mounted sanitiser stations in classrooms and corridors so that students can sanitise their hands whenever they move to a new lesson. In order to minimise the amount of shared equipment between students we are asking that all students come to school each day with the following equipment:

- At least two good quality blue or black pens
- At least two sharp pencils
- An eraser
- A 30cm ruler
- A scientific calculator
- A green pen for marking their work
- A glue stick for sticking work into their books
- Exercise books and text books for the day
- A large pencil case to put their equipment in

In addition it would save students time in queuing up to use a sanitiser stations if students brought a small bottle of hand sanitiser into school. In September we are asking students not to use lockers so that there is not unnecessary mixing of year groups, instead we are asking them to bring their books and equipment for the day and take them home again at the end of the day.

We will of course be emphasising with students the importance of safety and hygiene measures including:

- Washing their hands regularly and thoroughly for at least 20 seconds
- Sanitising their hands each time they arrive in a new classroom
- Coughing or sneezing into a tissue and immediately disposing of the tissue in the bin
- Avoiding physical contact with other students and doing the best they can to remain at least one metre away from other students
- Remaining in their 'year group bubble' and not mixing with students from other year groups

It would be most helpful if parents could also stress the importance of adhering to these safety measures to their children to help us make our school as safe as possible for everyone.

If a student becomes unwell during the school day with symptoms of COVID 19, we will follow the latest advice from the government and Public Health England. We will ensure the student is isolated until parents arrive to collect the student and that parents arrange a test for COVID 19 as soon as possible. If there is a confirmed case or cases we will immediately contact Public Health England with full details and follow their advice. It is possible that in this case we may be advised to ask a year group to work from home. If that occurs our intention to continue to deliver live lessons via Microsoft Teams and set follow up activities via epraise.

We are slightly tweaking the times of the school day. This includes asking students who walk to school or are driven into school by the parents or carers to arrive in school at the following times:

Year 7: 8.30-8.35am and then to report straight to the Sports Hall where they will meet their Year Leader or Tutor before being walked over to their first lesson

Year 8 and Year 9: 8.40-8.45am and then to report straight to their zone and the classroom for their first lesson

Year 10 and Year 11: 8.50-8.55am and then to report straight to their zone and the classroom for their first lesson

Sixth Form: 8.35-8.40am and then report straight to their zone and the classroom for their first lesson

Morning break will be from 11.00-11.15am with students supervised in areas close to their teaching rooms. After third lesson, Year 7 will be escorted to the Dining Room for an early lunch at 12 noon. Between 12.15pm and 12.45pm Year 9 and Year 11 will have their lunch break whilst Y8 and Y10 have tutor time. Between 12.45pm and 1.15pm the year groups will be swapped so that Year 7, Year 9 and Year 11 have tutor time and Y8, Y10 and the Sixth Form have lunch. Each year group will be kept separate from other year groups at lunch.

At 3.00pm Year 7 students will be walked down to the bus park and students who walk home will be able to do so, whilst those who wait for a bus will be supervised until the buses arrive. Parents of Year 7 students who wish to pick up students in their car may arrive in the school car park between 2.45pm and 3.00pm.

No vehicles except school buses will be allowed to enter the car park between 3.00pm and 3.30pm.

Year 8 and Year 9 students will be walked to the bus park at 3.10pm and students who walk home will be able to do so, whilst those who wait for a bus will be supervised until the buses arrive.

Year 10, Year 11 and Sixth Form students will be walked to the bus park at 3.20pm and students who walk home will be able to do so, whilst those who wait for a bus will be supervised until the buses arrive.

Parents who wish to collect their children by car may do so after 3.30pm and students will remain under supervision in their year groups in the bus park until parents arrive.

On Tuesdays the after school lessons for students studying triple science in Year 10 and Year 11 and for dual linguists in Year 8 will continue as planned and will be located within each year groups teaching zone with lessons finishing at approximately 4.20pm. After these lessons students will be escorted to the bus park by their teachers and then they will be able to walk home or supervised until they are picked up by their parents or wait for their late bus.

We will forward a separate letter to parents from Herefordshire Council about buses and school transport and we would encourage you to read this carefully and contact the council if you have any questions about this. If

you have any other questions about how we will work in September, please could we ask you to contact us via admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk and we will arrange for your child's Year Leader or another member of staff to contact you.

2. Survey for parents of Year 7-Year 9 students about Microsoft Teams lesson

Many thanks to the parents who have already responded to this survey. I have read all responses and they are very helpful and will be passed onto teachers. The deadline for completion of the survey is tomorrow (Wednesday 15th July). The link for those who still wish to complete the survey is given below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=h9QXkipHEkSqJlaQB-bBMSIH81LhQEhPs3c4GfEBH-xUM1NBN1haNzFGNTc3TzIDSE4yQzJXWIA2Ri4u>

A brief summary of the results so far is given below:

- Nearly all students have an average of two to three Teams lessons per day
- Nearly all respondents have indicated that their child is participating in all or most of the lessons set
- 45% of respondents so far indicate they feel the Teams lessons have been very useful, 45% quite useful and 10% not useful
- Approximately 75% would recommend that if we have work remotely in future that we use Microsoft Teams as our main method of delivery, 15% are unsure and 10% would recommend that we do not do so

3. Arrangements for the end of term and the summer holiday

Term finishes on Friday this week, Friday 17 July. Teachers will continue to teach face to face lessons booked for Year 10 and Year 12, Teams lessons for Year 7- Year 9 and set online work until Friday afternoon. If you have any questions or you need help over the summer break please email us at admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk.

Mr Hawksworth and Mr Hammond have written to parents and students in the last week giving details about the A-Level exam results day on Thursday 13 August and the GCSE results day on Thursday 20 August.

On the first day of term, Thursday 3 September, Year 7 and Sixth Form students only will be attending. Year 7 students will be directed to the Sports Hall and Sixth Form students to the Theatre where their tutors will be awaiting their arrival.

On Friday 4 September, all students will be attending and they will be directed to go their form room on arrival by duty staff. During the first hour they will receive a briefing from their Form Tutor and Year Leader about how school will be working and safe and hygienic behaviour and will go to lessons from lesson two at 10.00am. Students will only be required to bring in the key equipment as listed earlier in this newsletter and not PE Kit on the first two days of term.

4. Sixth Form update from Mr Hawksworth

I am now pleased to say that we have been able to change our plans so that we can give out Year 13 exam results in person on Thursday 13 August. Parents and students have been sent a separate letter detailing arrangements. Year 12 students have continued to have almost 100% attendance at lessons and have been making good progress with their courses. Last week they were able to test their understanding in the Year 12 exams which this year have had to be completed remotely. They will still provide an excellent platform to consolidate knowledge and go on to Year 13 success. The Year 12s are excited at the prospect of being joined in September by a tremendous group of new Sixth Form students and we look forward to a busy and purposeful atmosphere with the energy that a new cohort of young adults always bring. On their GCSE results day (Thursday 20 August) the Year 11 students will also be able to complete their enrolment into our Sixth Form and be provided with key information about starting on Thursday 3 September.

5. New Year 7s from Mr Wyatt and Mrs Fox

We are looking forward to welcoming the new Year 7s in September. We hope those that have been here for visits have enjoyed the sessions and had any questions answered. If any of you or your children have any further questions, please check the Year 7 September 2020 section under the parent tab on our website or make contact with either Mrs Fox or Mr Wyatt. We hope the children enjoy their summer holidays and we look forward to seeing them you in 6 weeks.

6. Catch up programme update

I am delighted to announce that we have appointed Miss Sally King who is a highly successful and experienced former headteacher and SENDCO as our Catch Up Programme Coordinator. Miss King and Mrs Barker are this week contacting applicants for Catch Up Tutor positions and organising approximately 30 interviews. We are also appointing Subject Coordinators who will work with Miss King and liaise with tutors to ensure that the programme is as useful as possible for students participating. Miss King will be writing to parents with more details of how the programme will work in September.

7. Staff changes

I would like to thank the following staff members who are leaving us at the end of this academic year:

- Mrs Savage, who has taught music in a positive and inspiring way this year and is going to teach in a middle school in Evesham
- Miss Clayton, who has been an excellent science teacher and Assistant Faculty Leader for science for the past three years and has deservedly been promoted to Head of Science at a school in Coventry
- Miss Trezeux, a highly successful teacher of French and Spanish and leader of many languages oversees visits who has also earned promotion to become Head of Modern Foreign Languages at Newent School

I would particularly like to pay tribute to two wonderful long serving teachers who are retiring at the end of this term.

Mrs Trish Knight joined us a supply teacher in 1998, she rapidly developed a reputation as being a wonderful teacher of French immersing our students in French culture, expecting the very best of every individual and always giving gentle but steely encouragement. I have loved visiting Mrs Knight's classroom over so many years seeing how she inspires students to love languages. As Head of Languages Mrs Knight planned and led a huge number of foreign visits which have been loved by our students; she has built a culture of excellence in languages and inspired many former students to achieve great success.

Mrs Jenny Davies joined JMHS in 1984 fresh from the Welsh valleys and after 36 years continuous service is by far the longest serving member of staff we have ever had our school. Mrs Davies, is an excellent English teacher and form tutor. She is kind and caring, thorough and totally professional and ensures that students in her classes have the knowledge and self confidence to succeed. Mrs Davies, as Head of English has built a strong, mutually supportive and dynamic English team who are continually improving the way we teach the subject.

The following new staff are joining JMHS next academic year:

- Mrs Caton - Mathematics
- Ms Davis - Music
- Ms Fieldhouse - Humanities and Science
- Mr Kenvyn - ICT and Computer Science
- Mrs Lehmann - Head of Modern Foreign Languages

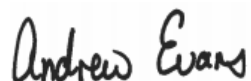
We would like to wish all of our new staff a happy and fulfilling time at JMHS.

And finally

I would like to give a huge vote of thanks to students, parents and staff for keeping going with such determination and good spirits in these most difficult of circumstances and say how much I looking forward to seeing all students back for face to face teaching full time from the start of the Autumn Term.

I wish you all a happy and healthy summer holiday.

With my very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Andrew Evans
Headteacher