



10 September 2020

Dear students, parents and carers

We have been impressed with the way students have adapted to our new ways of working. They have been co-operative and considerate of others by remaining in their year group zones at all times, moving calmly and sensibly between lessons and adhering to our new rules including sanitising their hands when arriving at every classroom.

Attendance has been high so far, close to 94% and students have been punctual to school and lessons and the quality of work produced in lessons so far has been high across all year groups.

Travelling to and from school

Students who come to school by bus are required to wear a mask whilst on the bus and to sit in their year group zone on the bus unless they are exempted from wearing masks in enclosed public areas. Bus drivers are reporting that students are not wearing masks for the whole journey and will stop students from travelling unless they do so.

I would like to remind parents that bring their children into school by car, that we cannot allow cars into the car park after 8.25am in the morning due to the large number of buses coming onto and leaving the school site as well as more than 500 students walking into school. Similarly, we cannot allow cars onto the school site before 3.30pm. Please also stick to the 5mph site speed limit.

We would like to thank the vast majority of parents who have been most helpful dropping their children off in Ledbury early so that they can walk into school.

What should students bring to school?

We would also like to thank students for ensuring they bring in the correct books and equipment to school each day. As a reminder 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 saves students time in queuing up to use a sanitiser station if they bring a small bottle of hand sanitiser into school.

Hygiene and Covid 19

Students have been most helpful in upholding high standards of hygiene and I would like to thank parents for reinforcing the measures listed below:

- 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

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 ask 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 is to continue to deliver live lessons via Microsoft Teams and set follow up activities via epraise, so that students do not miss out on learning. We are showing younger students who may not have used Microsoft Teams before how to do so in their ICT lessons, so that we can be prepared for this eventuality. If you as a parent need any help with this, please could you contact Mr Henderson (ICT Manager) at it@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk.

If your child or a member of your household shows symptoms of COVID 19 you must not send your children to school. The main symptoms listed on the NHS website are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

The NHS also instructs that if you have any of the symptoms of coronavirus:

1. **Isolate:** as soon as you experience coronavirus symptoms, medical advice is clear: you must self-isolate for at least 10 days. Anyone else in your household must self-isolate for 14 days from when you started having symptoms
2. **Test:** [get a free NHS test immediately to check if you have coronavirus](#) or call 119 if you have no internet access
3. **Results:** if your test is positive, you must complete the remainder of your 10-day self-isolation. Anyone in your household must also complete self-isolation for 14 days from when you started having symptoms. If your test is negative, other household members no longer need to self-isolate. If you feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus, you can stop self-isolating (unless you have been contacted separately by NHS Test and Trace as a contact of someone who has tested positive).
4. **Share contacts:** if you test positive for coronavirus, the NHS Test and Trace service will send you a text or email alert or call you with instructions of how to share details of people with whom you have had close, recent contact and places you have visited. It is important that you respond as soon as possible so that we can give appropriate advice to those who need it. You will be told to do this online via a secure website or you will be called by one of our contract tracers. If NHS Test and Trace contact tracers are unable to contact you for 24 hours, they may pass your case to your local authority to follow up by phone or in person.

Start of the school day

We would like to remind students who walk to school to aim to arrive 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

It is understood that students will sometimes arrive early, but it is essential that as soon as they arrive in school that they walk straight to their year group zone and their classroom for their first lesson.

Lunch

We are pleased that with separate lunch arrangements for each year group, we are managing to reduce queues in the dining room and serve students quicker. Behaviour in year group zones at lunch and break has been consistently good. We are aiming to encourage more students to play sport on the astroturf pitch and the tennis courts at lunch as we feel playing sport is good for them both physically and mentally.

Please note that because we need to keep students within year group zones, students will not be able to use the cash machines in school to top up their ParentPay accounts. This means that parents and carers will need to top up their accounts online. If you need help with this, please email us at admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk.

Extra-curricular activities

Miss Newnes, our new enrichment co-ordinator, will be contacting parents next week with details of our amended extra-curricular programme which will be year group based.

Catch Up Programme

Mrs King, who has led The Hub for the past two years is leading our catch up programme and can be contacted at sally.king@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk if parents have any questions about catch up or supporting vulnerable students. We are making sure all tutors are fully trained and understand how we work, safeguarding and school procedures before they commence tutoring.

Parents' evenings and events

Events such as our Open Evening and Sixth Form Open Evening will be run as virtual events this term. Full details will follow from Mr Wyatt and Mr Hawksworth in the near future. Parents' evenings have been scheduled for the Spring Term and are likely to be online rather than face to face. Further details will be given out at the start of the Spring Term.

Risk Assessment

Our risk assessment detailing the steps we are taking to ensure the safety of students and staff has been placed on the school website or can be accessed [here](#). If parents have any questions about the risk assessment, please could you email admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Homework

In Years 7 and 8 students are set homework each week in English, maths, science and languages. In other subjects students will be set homework once every two to three weeks. In Year 7 and Year 8 students are expected to spend 30-40 minutes on each homework task.

In Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 students are set one homework for each GCSE or BTec subject on which they should spend 45 to 60 minutes work per week. This homework may consist of two or more parts eg reviewing previous knowledge and consolidating current learning.

In the Sixth Form students are set private study tasks after every lesson as well as longer weekly assignments which will involve examination questions. In addition, they are expected to complete additional reading and to continually review content covered in class.

If you are concerned that a student is spending too long or too little time on their homework tasks in a particular subject, please could we ask you to contact the subject teacher in the first case. If the problem is across several or all subjects, we would recommend contacting the Year Leader.

For students who find completing homework at home particularly difficult, a place can be booked at our homework club by emailing sally.king@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk.

Parental enquiries

If you have questions or concerns about your child, please could we ask you to phone us at student services on at student services on 01531 631012 ext 113 or contact your child's Year Leader via email:

Y7 Mrs Fox: donna.fox@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Y10 Mr Bees: anthony.bees@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Y8 Mr Wyatt: dean.wyatt@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Y11 Miss Limbrick: chloe.limbrick@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Y9 Miss Newnes: hayley.newnes@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

.... And finally

I would like to thank all students and parents for your contributions in making the start of the Autumn Term such a positive and enjoyable experience.

With my very best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher