



17 September 2020

Dear students, parents, and carers

**Government Advice: COVID-19**

**The main symptoms of COVID-19 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

**If your child is sent home from school or displays any one of these symptoms at home, they must self-isolate for at least ten days. Anyone else in their household must self-isolate for 14 days from when your child started having the symptoms. The only exception to this is if the child has a negative test and are feeling well.**

**We do appreciate that the impact of a family having to isolate is significant but it is vital that we adhere to the government guidelines.**

During the first fortnight of term, we have had a chance to look at how our new routines have been working. Overall, we are extremely pleased with how students and staff have adapted to the new routines. Zoning the school to keep the Year Groups as separate bubbles has worked smoothly, staggering the lunch break has meant less queuing time, better behaviour and almost no litter and most importantly students are working hard and enthusiastically in class. We have decided to continue with a similar shape for the school day with some small adjustments and these are detailed below.

**Start and structure of the school day**

We will continue to ask parents and sixth formers wishing to drive onto the school site to aim to arrive at 8.25am or earlier. After taking specialist health and safety advice, we have concluded that it is unsafe to allow parents or sixth formers to drive onto the site between 8.30am and 9.00am with hundreds of students streaming across the car park and 10 buses arriving and departing. Therefore, no sixth formers or parents will be able to drive onto the site between 8.30am and 9.00am. We would also remind anyone driving onto the school site that they must observe the strict 5mph speed limit.

Students who walk to school are asked to arrive at the following times (as before):

- **Year 7:** 8.30-8.35am and then to report straight to the Sports Hall
- **Year 8 and Year 9:** 8.40-8.45am and then to report straight to their zone
- **Year 10 and Year 11:** 8.50-8.55am and then to report straight to their zone
- **Sixth Form:** 8.35-8.40am and then report straight to their zone

Lesson one will commence at 08.55am for Years 7-11 rather than 09.00am as we have found that all students are in school by this time and ready to start their lessons rationale is that all students are on site by then. For sixth formers lesson one will commence at 08.45am as now.

Lesson two will start at 09.55am for all students.

Morning break will be from 10.55am-11.15am in Year Group Zones making it five minutes longer. If it is a wet break 5 intermittent bell rings will be sounded and students will move to their class for lesson three where they will be supervised by duty staff until their teacher arrives.

Lesson three will commence at 11.15 and will finish at 12.15pm for all year groups except Year 7 who will be taken to the Dining room between 12.00pm and 12.10pm as follows so that they can have their lunch in the Dining room before other year groups:

- Y7 classes being taught in rooms 125 and 225 will arrive at the Dining room at 12.00pm
- Y7 classes being taught in rooms 126 and 226 will arrive at the Dining room at 12.05pm
- Y7 classes being taught in rooms 21 and 228 will arrive at the Dining room at or before 12.10pm

The staggered lunch and tutor time will continue to take place. If it is wet lunch 5 intermittent bell rings will be sounded and students will be moved to a large indoor space for their year group (eg Sports Hall, Theatre, or Dining room) and will be supervised by duty staff.

As now lesson four will commence at 13.15pm and lesson five at 14.15pm.

We have made some small changes to the staggered finish to the school day so that now Year 7 will be escorted to the bus park at 3.05pm, Year 8 & Year 9 at 3.10pm, Year 10 at 3.15pm and Year 11 & Sixth Form at 3.20pm. This enables Year 7 to have slightly longer for their final lesson and means that there will be a five-minute gap between Year 10 and Year 11 departing to prevent crowding for students walking home.

As now students catching the bus will be supervised in year groups by class teachers until their bus arrives. Bus companies have asked us to remind students that they will not be allowed to travel on the bus unless they wear a facemask and while on the bus remain in their designated year group zone. We are currently working with the Schools Transport at Herefordshire Council and Midland First to resolve an overcrowding problem with the 675 and 676 after school buses. We are pleased that several bus drivers have commented that behaviour of JMHS students on their buses is usually better than those of other schools and I would like to thank students for their thoughtful and considerate behaviour.

I would like to thank parents for avoiding driving onto the school site before 3.30pm. The last buses are leaving at about 3.30pm. We cannot have parents driving onto the school site before all the buses have departed. Therefore, please could we remind parents to arrive at or after 3.35pm when picking students up.

Students attending after school lessons should remain in their year group zone after school and then report to their classroom just before their lesson is due to start. We are ensuring all students have a 15-minute break before their lessons start. The times for after school lessons are as follows:

Year 8: 3.25pm-4.20pm      Year 10: 3.30pm-4.25pm      Year 11: 3.35pm-4.30pm

Students attending after school lessons may walk home as soon as their lesson finishes or wait in the bus park for the two late buses or to be picked up by parents.

### **Faculty Training Afternoons**

For the past five years at JMHS, we have scheduled seven Faculty Training Afternoon during the year. On these afternoons, students leave at the start of lunch and teachers work together in their faculty teams (eg English, languages, arts) to plan the curriculum and improve the consistency and quality of teaching. Since we have started using this additional training time and planning time for teachers, we have made significant progress in improving the quality of the curriculum, sequencing teaching to help students understand better and remember more and to make teaching more engaging and motivating.

The dates for this academic year are as follows:

Friday 9 October	Tuesday 9 March
Thursday 12 November	Thursday 13 May
Monday 7 December	Wednesday 16 June
Thursday 1 February	

The first afternoon is in a fortnight on Friday 9 October. On this day students will finish the school day between 12.10pm and 12.25pm and be escorted to the bus park by their teachers at the times listed below:

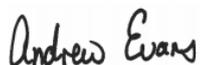
Year 7: 12.10pm	Year 10: 12.20pm
Year 8 & Year 9: 12.15pm	Year 11 & Sixth Form 12.25pm

Students will then walk home or await their bus whilst being supervised by staff. Parents picking students up in cars should arrive after the busses depart at or after 12.45pm.

**... And finally**

I would like to thank all students, parents and staff for helping us have such a successful start to the school year and for reading all of this detailed information. If you have any questions, please could I encourage you to contact your child's Year Leader or to email us at [admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk).

With my very best wishes



**Andrew Evans**  
**Headteacher**