



2 October 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 anyone in a household displays any one of these symptoms, they must self-isolate for at least ten days. Everyone in their household must self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person started having the symptoms.

You should arrange a NHS test for coronavirus as soon as possible for those with symptoms. If the test is positive, the person with symptoms must complete the remainder of their 10-day self-isolation. Everyone in the household must also complete their 14-day self-isolation, from when the person with coronavirus started having symptoms. If the test is negative, other household members no longer need to self-isolate. If the person with symptoms feels well and no longer has symptoms similar to coronavirus, they can stop self-isolating (unless they have been contacted separately by NHS Test and Trace as a contact of someone who has tested positive).

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.

After completing the first month of the Autumn Term we have been most impressed with how students, staff and parents are working together to keep everyone as safe as we can and to achieve our primary aim of excellent and enjoyable learning for all. The ethos in lessons has been consistently good, students have been supportive of school staff, who have multiple challenges including arriving slightly late to their classes moving from the opposite side of the school for their lesson and having no consistent teaching base. When students arrive at a lesson before their teacher, we are asking them to make sure they go to their allocated seat, get their books and equipment out and read through and review the content covered in their previous lesson. The vast majority of students are being considerate and this helps give the teacher time to log in to the computer and commence the first teaching activity for the class.

I am particularly pleased that with additional cleaning in place, practical work has been able to take place in all relevant subjects at JMHS including cookery, art and design, ICT & computing, design & technology, PE, dance, drama and music. The teachers for these subjects have worked incredibly hard to ensure that safety protocols are implemented and that practical work can take place. We feel that students benefit hugely from practical tasks in terms of enjoyment and motivation as well as gaining important skills.

Start and end of the school day

I would like to thank all students who walk to school for arriving at their specified times:

- Year 7: 8.30-8.35am
- Year 8 and Year 9: 8.40-8.45am
- Year 10 and Year 11: 8.45-8.50am
- Sixth Form: 8.35-8.40am

Over 99% of students are arriving at their classrooms before lessons start at 8.55am (8.45am for the sixth form) and this gives us an orderly and punctual start to the school day. I would also like to thank parents who have been most helpful in not attempting to drive onto school premises after 8.30am or before 3.30pm. This has helped make the bus park a safer and calmer place and your help is much appreciated.

Lunch time

The staggered lunch and tutor time continue to work well. Many students are enjoying the 'meal deal' lunch where for £2.30 they receive a choice of three nutritious hot meals or a baguette/sandwich, with one of several cold deserts and either a carton of fruit juice or a bottle of water. I purchase my lunch from the dining room each day and have to say that the quality is consistently good. I have attached two sample menus so that parents can see the typical options that are available to purchase using our cashless system, which can be topped up online via ParentPay.

It has been good to see students in Year 7 and Year 8 playing netball, football, rugby and basketball on the tennis courts at lunch time and students attending after school sports clubs. We believe that at this stressful time having the opportunity to play sport or engage in hobbies or interests is especially valuable.

Forgotten items

Due to the Coronavirus and Health and Safety advice we have received, we can no longer accept forgotten items at Reception. We can assure you that if a student leaves an item at home occasionally they will not receive a sanction and will be allowed to work on paper or given the relevant equipment. If a student forgets their packed lunch, we will allow them to have food from the Dining Room and pay for it later. They only need to speak to a member of staff in the Dining Room if this occurs.

Faculty Training Afternoon: Friday 9 October

Next Friday we are holding our first Faculty Training Afternoon. From 12:30pm teachers work together in their faculty teams (eg English, languages, arts) to plan the curriculum and improve the consistency and quality of teaching.

The first afternoon is 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. Buses will leave at 12.30pm. Parents picking students up in cars should arrive after the busses depart at or after 12.45pm.

Enrichment activities and school trips

Extra-curricular clubs are continuing for students within their year group bubbles. We have been pleased that increasing numbers of students are attending clubs and would encourage all students to look at our programme to decide if there are activities that interest them

Unfortunately, along with all other schools we will not be able to run any school trips or visits in the foreseeable future. In particular, we have regretfully decided not to run any foreign visits this academic year. We realise

that this may be disappointing for many students, but we definitely intend to resume our visits to France and Germany next academic year as we feel these are excellent experiences for all of our students.

Self-isolating students

We would like to thank all students, parents and families for co-operating with keeping students at home or collecting them from school when they or a family are displaying Coronavirus symptoms and arranging tests promptly. This is protecting our community and all members of the school. We have not yet had a positive test result for a member of JMHS, but are aware that this is likely to change in the near future. If we do have a positive test result, we will be required to contact the Department for Education and the Local Area Outbreak Team and then ask close contacts to self-isolate and remain at home for two weeks. We realise that this will be very disappointing for the students and families involved and would like to thank parents and families in advance for your help and co-operation with this.

We are asking all teachers to set work via Epraise for students self-isolating so that they do not miss out on work covered in class. If you have questions about this, please could you contact your child's Year Leader at the email address listed below:

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

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

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

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

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

Y12 Mrs Law: marial.law@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Y13 Miss Mason: jess.mason@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

... And finally

To support our autumn learning in English we have some reading suggestions for all year groups. The books chosen have been especially selected to complement the texts the students will be studying in school. These fantastic books will promote reading for pleasure and inspire the imagination. Many of these books will be available from Herefordshire or Worcestershire Libraries Click and Collect services or from your local bookshops.

To see the reading list posted on our website please follow the link: [Autumn English extended reading list](#). If you would like further information please contact the library at library@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk.

With my very best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher