



JM6 Update 20 January 2021

Dear Sixth Form Students, Parents and Carers

Year 12 and Year 13 working well

I am extremely pleased to report how well our Year 12 and Year 13 students have been adapting to virtual learning and have had some great feedback from many staff on both students' engagement in lessons and the quality of work they are submitting for marking. It is great to hear that both Year 12 and Year 13 students have contacted their subject teachers by email when they have further questions or are uncertain about a topic. Please continue to do this as it really helps us to help you.

IT Access to Teams Lessons

The Sixth Form tutors have been contacting any students we feel may need support with IT provision. After providing loan laptops to a few students we believe at the moment that all Sixth Form students have good IT access. Please contact rebecca.french@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk if the situation changes so we can support you.

A Levels and Level 3 Vocational

We are still unsure of the detail of how A level grades / BTEC Level 3 grades will be calculated and this is likely to be the case for a few more weeks and until the national consultation has been completed. Whether a decision is made to include or not include externally set papers, consistency of approach, engaging fully in lessons and completing all work to the best of your ability is the surest way to get the grades you are working towards.

GCSE retake success

A highlight of last week was receiving the GCSE Maths and English re-sit results for those students who wanted to improve on their Year 11 grade. I am proud to say that 80% of students entered did improve their grade and this is testament to both the hard work of those students and the excellent support they have received from the English and Maths teachers. Well done to all.

Year 13 UCAS

Nearly all our present Year 13 students who intend to continue to university have now completed their UCAS application process. The deadline for submissions has been extended to 18.00 on Friday 29 January. My huge thanks to the Sixth Form staff for their tremendous support of students' applications. Their expert guidance continues to ensure that personal statements and references are of the very highest quality. As a result we look set to continue our long term track record of gaining first choice university offers for over 90% of our students.

Of course, not all students are intending to continue to university and although we cannot meet face to face we want to assure you of our continued support in pursuing an alternative. With this in mind I want to signpost some useful websites for students. I would also encourage students to contact their mentors if they need further help.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<https://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk/>

<https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/>

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors>

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Year 13 students who are completing an EPQ this year are finalising their reports / artefacts and preparing their presentations. They then have to present their research findings to a small audience of teachers and students. These are always fascinating and showcase the high quality of independent work that our students can produce. There are a large number of Year 12 students interested in completing an EPQ this year and this is an ideal opportunity to get started with researching their chosen area. Students need to keep in email contact with Mrs Law and send her their completed sections of their production log as outlined in an email sent to those students on Friday 15 January.

And last but not least, the Sixth Form teachers are all very much missing the face to face contact with our fantastic young adults but are greatly impressed by their approach and resilience in these difficult times. These times will pass!

Yours faithfully



Mark Hawksworth
Head of Sixth Form