



21 May 2021

Dear students, parents, and carers,

With one week to go before half term, I would like to congratulate students and staff on the excellent learning and teaching I have seen this term. With students and staff wearing face coverings in lessons until last Friday, students have done extremely well to focus and produce high quality work. It has not been easy for staff to explain and communicate clearly whilst wearing a face covering for four or five hours per day. However, teaching has been consistently clear, positive and supportive. I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting lessons each day and would like to thank students and staff for their contributions

## Contents

<b>1. Staying safe and continuing COVID-19 testing at home</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Student learning and preparing for end of year tests and exams</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>3. Curriculum Plans for the Summer Term</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>4. Early arrival at school</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>5. School Uniform</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>6. Extra-Curricular Enrichment Activities</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>7. Plans for Year 11 and Year 13</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>8. Relationship and Sex Education Policy Consultation</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>9. Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>10. Blue Planet or Plastic Planet?</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>11. Swim the Big Blue 2 Expedition</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>12. Key dates</b> .....	<b>6</b>

## 1. Staying safe and continuing COVID-19 testing at home

Following the Prime Minister's announcement last Friday about the surge in cases in a number of areas caused by a new variant of COVID that is more transmissible and the decision that students and staff do not need to wear face coverings, we must be even more vigilant with other safety precautions especially checking for symptoms, twice weekly testing, and full ventilation.

Students did really well with wearing face coverings in lessons and are helpful in reminding staff to keep all doors and windows open. They are continuing to wear face coverings on school transport, sanitising their hands when entering and leaving classrooms, keeping to year group bubbles, and are doing their best to stick with our no physical contact rule.

We would like to thank all students for taking lateral flow tests at home. You are making an important contribution to keeping your friends, family and our wider community safe. It is important that regular testing continues with students and staff taking two tests per week to keep us all safe.

When testing it is important to:

1. Avoid eating or drinking for at least 30 mins before doing the test to reduce spoiling the tests.
2. Read the test result after 30 minutes - set a timer to help you remember. You should not wait any longer than 30 minutes.

Parents and carers need to log the results twice:

1. Online with the government test and trace site at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result)
2. You will also need to inform the school of the result by completing a short form, using this link [Student test result reporting form](#) .

If a positive result is received, your household will need to self-isolate and you should also immediately inform the school by either phoning Reception or emailing [admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk) as we will need to identify close contacts and ask them to self-isolate. Detailed instructions about home testing and full guidance in the event of a positive result can be found on the school website, <https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/> .

If your child develops any Covid related symptoms, your household must immediately self-isolate and book a PCR test, regardless of the LFD (home) test result.

From 1 March 2021, if you are a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a student (but not a secondary school student, a primary or secondary school staff member), it is recommended you also get tested twice a week. You can follow this link to find out how to order rapid lateral flow tests: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

## 2. Student learning and preparing for end of year exams and tests

Over the past three weeks I have been looking at students' books in Year 7 aiming to give them some individual feedback on the learning standards, allocating extra house points where there are strengths and identifying possible areas for improvement. I have looked at 4-6 students' books each day during afternoon tutor time. I will continue to do this until I have seen books from every student in Year 7. I have been impressed with the quality of work I have seen in students' books. Strengths observed have included:

- A large amount of high-quality written work completed
- Well set out mathematical calculations and accurate graphs and diagrams
- Carefully thought through explanations and well organised work

In a few books that were less good, students had not set their work out clearly, not always used a ruler and books were not as well organised. These students will find it harder to use their books to revise and prepare for tests and assessments.

Students in Year 10 and Year 12 will have end of year exams and students in other year groups are likely to have tests and assessments after half term. I am often asked by students and parents about the best way to prepare for exams, tests and assessments. I have included below some of my top tips:

1. Learn as you go along particularly for content-based subjects such as science, history and geography. Learning as you go along is much more effective than trying to learn large amounts of content just before an exam.
2. Do practice questions and try to practice for a few minutes daily in mathematics and languages. Regular practice and repeating key language or concepts helps you to gain accuracy, confidence and speed.
3. Revise actively by taking notes, making revision cards or using mind maps. Try different methods for revision and figure out what works best for you.
4. Ask a friend, sibling or parent to test you so that your revision is interactive and fun.
5. Practice topics you are good at as well as ones where you wish to improve as this will build confidence.

We will deliver an assembly on revision after half term which will go into more detail and give clear examples.

## 3. Curriculum Plans for the Summer Term

Each curriculum subject has produced single page summaries of the topics they are covering this term, the key learning points and assessments for all classes in Year 7 to Year 10 and Year 12. We hope that knowing the topics to be covered and the key learning points will be useful for students and parents. They are summarised on the JMHS website in the Curriculum section, and can be viewed here:

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/curriculum/summer-2021-curriculum/>

## 4. Early arrival at school

We have noticed that a small number of children are arriving at school around or just after 8.00am. Unfortunately, we do not have duty staff available to ensure safe supervision until 8.15am. Therefore, please could we request that students arrive after 8.15am.

## 5. School Uniform

With the weather becoming warmer, we have decided that students will no longer be allowed to wear coats or non-uniform items in lessons. Students must now wear either their school uniform or correct PE uniform smartly or correctly. Students must bring a school jumper or fleece to school each day in case they are cold in lessons. We have attached a link to the school uniform list on the website below:

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/April-2021-School-Uniform.pdf>

**We would like to remind students that they must not bring jewellery to school.** In practical lessons or at lunch and break when many students are playing or running around, wearing a chain, necklace or dangly earrings is particularly dangerous. Therefore, we will always ask students to remove jewellery. The only exception to this is that students may wear two small studs are allowed in each ear only (no other types of earrings).

## 6. Extra-Curricular enrichment activities

Sports, performing arts and other enrichments clubs have been well attended and enjoyed by students and staff. The current programme of enrichment activities can be viewed on the school website or via the link below:

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/parents-information/clubs-and-enrichment/>

There will be some changes after half term.

We endeavour to ensure that clubs are not cancelled. However, if this unfortunately must happen due to unforeseen circumstances or bad weather, then a message will be sent to parents/guardians via ParentPay and students will be informed. Furthermore, if a student needs to make alternative arrangements due to this cancellation, then they should report to Student Services and/or their Year Leader, who will assist them.

## 7. Plans for Year 11 and Year 13

In the final week before half term (Monday 24 May - Friday 28 May), students who have missed assessments or who have been severely disadvantaged may take the missed assessments or alternative assessments during contingency week.

After half term, A variety of opportunities and learning activities will be provided for students which will include a combination of in school activities (including sixth form transition days) and online activities and work. Further details of activities during the contingency week and activities after half term are given below.

### Year 11

#### Arrangements for the week 24 - 28 May

For Year 11 students who are not involved in assessments during the contingency week (24 – 28 May), subject lessons will continue, and we plan to offer activities which we hope students will find interesting and helpful as they transition to 16-19 education or training. Friday 28 May will be the last day where all Year 11 students are required to be in school. We intend to hold some celebration activities involving students and staff at around lunchtime, with students being permitted to go home at 1.30 pm.

## Support for Year 11 students in June

Further to Miss Limbrick and Mr Hammond's email, sent via Parentpay on 10 May regarding parental/carer consent for the period 7 – 25 June, we are grateful to parents/carers who have already responded. As a reminder, there are two possible options for a Year 11 student between 7 and 25 June:

- With parental/carer consent, a student will be permitted to work at home full-time (study leave), or;
- With parental/carer consent, a student will be permitted to have flexible study leave which allows them to work mainly at home but also to attend all or some of the planned on-site JMHS activities

It is essential that all parents/carers confirm the type of study leave for their child, either full-time study leave, or flexible study leave. This can be easily done by completing the Microsoft Form link which was sent to parents and carers on Monday 10 May via the Parentpay email, or by using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/BQVyNwEZ43>

In order to assist us in planning the provision we ask that parents/carers confirm their choice by Tuesday 25 May. A Parentpay email will be sent in the next few days where parents/carers will be able to choose which JMHS activities they would like their Year 11 child to attend.

Parents/carers are responsible for a student when they are not in school. They should make arrangements for supervision to ensure that the student is safe. If a student is attending school, parents/carers must arrange for their safe travel to and from school. Parents/carers should also ensure that the student attends school on time for all on-site activities. Please note that we are unable to assist with, or sanction, any work experience during this period. This is because, as it is still school time, all our health and safety checks would need to be completed, including employer liability insurance and workplace Covid risk assessments. The current restrictions make this impossible. Should you wish to make your own arrangements for work placements, you must do so to take place after 25 June.

## Year 11 JMHS 'hoodie'

We are pleased to offer Year 11 students the opportunity to purchase a Year 11 JMHS 'hoodie'. Details of the hoodie, sizes, price, and ordering are at <http://www.yournameonitshop.co.uk/jmhs2021.html>. Hoodies will be delivered directly to home from the supplier. Please note, the hoodies are not supplied with student names printed on them.

## **Year 13**

Thursday 27 May will be the last day where all Year 13 students are required to attend. Period one lessons continue as normal. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer a Year 13 Formal this year but to make the final week more enjoyable we will have a leavers assembly/brunch period two on Thursday 27 May followed by rounders on the field period three. Students will be able to go home after period three.

After the May Half Term holiday, up to Friday 25 June, the school will be making provision to support our Year 13 students in moving forward. Students will be contacted and supported by their tutors and Head of Year to ensure they are fully prepared for their next steps be that university, apprenticeship or the world of work. Students will be able to make in-school appointments with their tutors or Head of Year if required. Exam results day is Tuesday 10th August and further details will be provided closer to the time.

## Year 13 Leavers Hoodie

We are pleased to offer all Year 13 students the opportunity to buy a John Masefield Sixth Form leavers hoodie. Details of the hoodie with a choice of colour and personalisation are available from <http://www.yournameonitshop.co.uk/jmhsy13.html>. Hoodies are ordered directly from the supplier and delivered to a home address. Orders must be placed before Friday 28 May.

If parents have any questions about awarding grades, please could we ask that you email [peter.hammond@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:peter.hammond@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk) for Year 11 and [mark.hawksworth@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:mark.hawksworth@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk) for Year 13.

## 8. Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

A huge thank you to all parents, carers and staff who contributed so thoughtfully to the PSHE / RSE consultation on the new policy and curriculum. It was reassuring to see that so much of the policy and curriculum has been so well-received. There were also some very useful suggestions for improvements, from small, technical tweaks, to clarification needed with certain areas and language, and added emphasis with priority resources, topic and themes.

We will review these suggestions carefully and make some changes as we continue to work with local partners and our school governors to ensure the best PSHE package that we can for our students.

The final version of the policy will be considered by governors in June and then published on the school website.

## 9. Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

As restrictions are being lifted the DofE programme will now start up again. The Bronze Certificate of Achievement will be open to current Year 9 and 10 students and enrolment will be by the beginning of June for Year 10 and end of June for Year 9. The timing of this award will still allow for completion before students move to further studies in the Sixth Form where then can take the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. Information regarding enrolment will be circulated in due course via form tutors and letters on ParentPay. More information on the scheme can be found on the DofE website, <https://www.dofe.org/do/> .

## 10. Blue Planet or Plastic Planet?

Year 7 have been busy exploring the staggering impact of human activity on ocean quality and life over the past half term and why, living over 50 miles away from the nearest coastline, we still have a responsibility to protect our oceans.

Year 7 have pledged to make a conscience effort to make simple swaps to ensure we play our part in protecting the oceans from microplastics. This has involved collecting single use plastics at home and creating their own plastic footprint and their own sustainable item (some of which I eagerly await to be pitched on Dragon's Den in the future)! Undoubtedly, making simple sustainable swaps is something we can all get involved in to ensure our oceans remain blue.

## 11. Swim the Big Blue 2 Expedition

Ben Hooper, a parent of a JMHS pupil, is taking on the incredible challenge of swimming the Atlantic for charity to fund much needed ocean and marine research. The 'Swim the Big Blue 2 Expedition' is a world-first and Ben is set to tackle the 3,000km across the Atlantic from Africa to Brazil in October 2022. During the 200-day charity swim, which will be filmed by Chief Productions for a television documentary, a range of research will be carried out.

The team will be conducting human physiology research with the University of Portsmouth (Professor Tipton, Extreme Environment Labs and Prof Igor Mekajivic - Institut Josef with the European Space Agency) and ocean and marine research with AtlantECO and Plankton Planet Projects while raising funds for Young Minds UK (children and young person's mental health concerns) and Ocean Generation (environmental oceanographic & plastics). Sir Ranulph Fiennes is the expedition patron and the sailing crew consists of two former servicemen and one current serviceman. Ben hopes that together they will achieve the extraordinary and inspire our nation and children, at a time where Mental Health, wellbeing, and our environment, are more important than ever for the future of our children. Ben will be coming into school when possible to talk to us more about his expedition and fundraising opportunities, further information is available on the webs tie, [www.swimthebigblue2.com](http://www.swimthebigblue2.com) .

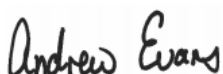
## 12. Key dates

Thursday 27 May: Year 13 Leavers assembly and brunch, and last full day in school for all of Year 13  
Friday 28 May: Last full day in school for all of Year 11, these students will be permitted to leave at 1.30pm  
Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June: Half term holiday  
Wednesday 16 June: Staff Training Afternoon – students depart at 12.10/12.25pm  
Monday 14 June to Friday 25 June: Year 10 Exams  
Monday 28 June to Wednesday 7 July: Year 12 Exams  
Friday 9 July: Staff training day  
Friday 16 July: Sports day (provisional and may need to take a different format to previous years)  
Wednesday 21 July: Term ends – students depart at 12.10/12.25pm  
Tuesday 10 August: A-Level Results Day  
Thursday 12 August: GCSE Results Day  
Thursday 2 & Friday 3 September: Staff training days  
Mon 6 September: Start of Autumn Term

### *... And finally*

Next week will be the last full week for Y11 and Y13 students in school. We would like to congratulate students in these year groups for their conscientious attitude during such a difficult year and the way they have supported their peers. We will see many Y11 students when they return for the sixth form but for those of you who are going elsewhere and all of Y13 I would like to wish you all the very best for the future

.With my very best wishes



**Andrew Evans**  
**Headteacher**