



20 July 2021

Dear students, parents, and carers,

As I write to you on the penultimate day of the school year I would like to thank students, staff and parents for your many excellent contributions to JMHS this year including:

- Teachers teaching live lessons throughout lockdown and students continuing to work well at home
- Students attending Skeleton School being well supported by teaching assistants and making good progress
- Students respecting Year Group zones, keeping good ventilation and wearing masks to keep us safe
- The excellent work of support staff in keeping the school safe throughout the COVID pandemic, in keeping all procedures running smoothly through lockdown and then on our return to school, in organising the lateral flow testing programme and in making improvements to the school environment and to our IT infrastructure and systems
- Teachers teaching well planned and interesting lessons, and students being consistently conscientious in class and producing high quality written work
- Some excellent practical work including in art, technology, food, and PE
- Students in Year 10-Year 13 prepared well and worked extremely hard for their exams and assessments
- The huge efforts staff have put into awarding accurate and fair Teacher Assessed Grades
- Enrichment clubs have continued and have been well attended
- Improvements to the learning environment including installing high quality touch screen monitors and visualizers in every classroom
- Students, parents and staff have supported each other superbly in an extremely challenging year

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1. Student learning

I have been pleased with how students have continued to concentrate and produce some high-quality work in the hot weather as we near the end of the school year. We will continue to teach the curriculum planned until 11.15 tomorrow on the final day of term. I have been impressed with how teachers have worked to ensure students do not fall behind in this challenging year.

Numerous research studies have shown that students' academic knowledge and key skills such as reading and mathematics go backwards over the long summer break in the UK, so we strongly advise students in Year 10 and Year 12 to complete the homework tasks we are setting over the summer. We also believe it would benefit students in Year 7-Year 9 to complete optional tasks related to their subjects. Teachers will be setting this work via

praise and we hope to place a summary of tasks on the school website, tomorrow on the final day of term, which can be accessed here:

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/students/summer-holiday-2021-tasks/>

We would ask parents to encourage students to choose optional task that interest them and spend sometime completing them over the summer.

2. Sports Day - Monday 19 July

We were delighted with the high levels of participation and the quality of competition at yesterday's Sports Day in the sprints, relays, longer distance races, throwing and jumping events. We will announce the final results of sports day and present our house cups during our final assembly on the last day of term. However, we can congratulate the following student who set new school records on Sports Day:

Year 7

Daejuan Tulloch: 37.50m Tennis Ball Throw

Phoebe Reid: 25.95m Tennis Ball Throw

Harry Dodd 100m, 12:43s

Year 10

Tom Fleetwood: Shot Putt, 12m64

Sophie Bocking: Standing Jump, 2:21m

Harry Millis: 800m, 2m:24.84s

Year 8

Hannah Hadley: 800m 2m:46sec

3. Final day of the school year - Wednesday 21 July

Students will have lessons one and two as scheduled on the school timetable tomorrow and should bring their books for these two lessons and their usual equipment to school. Students will celebrate the end of the school year after break with their form tutors. The celebration will include watching our summer concert led by our excellent musicians, and a livestreaming of the presentation of the house cups. Following this celebration students will depart between 12.10 and 12.25 with buses leaving at 12.30. Please could parents wishing to collect their children by car from the car park arrive after 12.35. All students will be supervised until collected by their parents.

4. Exam results days and Sixth Form enrolment

Year 13 students will come into school to receive their Advanced Level results on Tuesday 10 August. The Sixth Form Leadership Team will be on hand to provide guidance, advice and support.

Year 11 students have been invited into school on Thursday 12 August to collect their GCSE results. Senior staff will be there to provide support and guidance and those returning to JM6 will formally confirm their enrolment on their chosen courses.

Mr Hawksworth and Mr Hammond have recently written to students and parents with further details of exam results days

5. Arrangements for the start of the Autumn Term including Covid testing

For Year 7, Year 12 and Year 13 the first day of term will be on Monday 6 September. All other students will have their first day on Tuesday 7 September.

[Information about lateral flow testing from September](#)

As many of you will already know, schools have been asked to test all students with an on-site asymptomatic test on return after the summer break. This approach is based on the latest public health advice and designed to help break

chains of transmission in education settings after the summer holidays when students may have been mixing with lots of people.

The first of these tests will be carried out before students return to lessons in school following the summer break and will take place on Friday 3 September and Monday 6 September. The second test will be carried out during school hours. Details of arrangements for testing and booking a test were sent out to parents and carers on Monday 19 July. The tests are voluntary, but we would strongly encourage everyone to take them. We were delighted to have over 95% uptake for our on-site testing in March, which contributed significantly to keeping our school community and families safe from COVID and hope to repeat this.

The link to book your child a test is <https://johnmasefield.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

If you previously consented for your child to have a test, you do not need to re-consent. If you did not consent previously and wish your child to take part in September, please use this link :

[Testing consent form Sept 2021](#)

Following a second test in school, students will go back to twice weekly home testing.

Testing over the summer break

In line with government guidance, we will not be providing tests for asymptomatic testing over the summer. However, testing kits will still be widely available and can be collected from either your local pharmacy or online <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

6. Transition to JMHS for current Year 6 students

Due to government advice, we have had to cancel the Year 6 transition day which was originally scheduled for Thursday 8 July. However, we have been giving Year 6 students and their parents a tour of the school instead with a senior member of staff this half term. We have scheduled most of the events planned for the transition day on the Year 7s first day of term, Monday 6 September.

We are holding our Year 6 Transition Evening for students and parents tonight (Tuesday 20 July). Form tutors are looking forward to meeting students and parents. If you have any questions after the meeting please email us at transition@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

7. Routines and expectations from September 2021

Next academic year we will continue with a staggered start and finish to the school day to relieve congestion on pavements on the way into school and enhance student safety. We will also continue with our staggered lunch break and year group zones at break and lunch supervised by Year Leaders, tutors and senior staff to ensure that we provide good supervision and support for students and reduce queuing for lunch.

COVID Precautions

We are not yet aware of the exact precautions the government will put in place for schools in September beyond the lateral flow testing described earlier in the newsletter. However, we will continue to:

- Ensure all doors and windows are kept open at all times to maximise ventilation
- Ask all parents and carers to ensure that students with symptoms self-isolate and take a PCR test
- Continue to ask students to sanitise their hands on entering or leaving a classroom
- Require students to continue with lateral flow testing at home and to self-isolate then organise a PCR test following a positive test
- Apply our no physical contact rule

What should students bring to school?

In addition to their school uniform and PE uniform on days when students have PE Lessons, students should bring the follow each day

- 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
- A warm waterproof coat

Times for the school day

08.30-08.45: Staggered arrival times for students walking to school

08.50-09.50: Lesson one

09.50-10.50: Lesson two

10.50-11.10: Break in distinct social areas

11.10-12.10: Lesson three

12.10-12.45: Lunch for Year 7, Year 9 & Year 10

12.10-12.40: Tutor time for Year 8, Year 11 & Sixth Form

12.45-13.15: Tutor time for Year 7, Year 9 & Year 10

12.40-13.15: Lunch for Year 8, Year 11 & Sixth Form

13.15-14.15: Lesson four

14.15: Lesson five starts

15.05-15.20: Staggered finish to the school day

Arrival at school

In order to minimise crowded pavements in Ledbury, students who walk to school should arrive at the times listed below and walk to their year group zones:

- Year 7: 08.30-08.35 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: 08.35- 08.40 and then to report straight to their zone
- Year 10 and Year 11: 08.40-08.45 and then to report straight to their zone
- Sixth Form: 08.35-08.40 and then report straight to their zone and the classroom for their first lesson

Travelling to and from school

As a school we are committed to supporting sustainability and reducing carbon emissions to combat climate change. Therefore, we encourage as many students as possible to walk or cycle to school or to use school transport and catch the bus.

We would like to remind parents that bring their children into school by car, that we cannot allow cars into the car park after 08.25 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 15.30.

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

Year Group Zones for break and lunch

In order to ensure safe supervision before school, at brunch and lunch by form tutors, year leaders and senior staff, we have allocated areas of the school for each year group as follows:

Year Group	Year Leader & SLT Member	Before school and brunch	Lunch
7	Miss Limbrick & Mr Evans	Patio & tennis courts	Dining room, patio, tennis courts & top field
8	Mrs Fox & Mr Collard	Languages playground	Dining room, patio, tennis courts & top field
9	Mr Wyatt & Mr Williams	Science & ICT Quad	Dining room, lower field and astroturf pitch (humanities end)
10	Miss Newnes & Mr Hawksworth	Maths playground	Community lounge, lower field and astroturf pitch (sixth form end)
11	Mr Bees and Mr Hammond	Community lounge & around service road	Community lounge, lower field and astroturf pitch (humanities end)
Sixth Form	Miss Mason and Mrs Law	Sixth Form Centre and surrounding area	Sixth Form Centre and surrounding area

Lunch breaks are scheduled as follows to minimise queuing for food and to ensure students have access to a large social space for sport and other activities as follows:

12.00-12.45: Year 7

12.10-12.45: Year 9 and Year 10

12.40-13.15: Year 8, Year 11 and Sixth Form

All year groups will be able to purchase food from the dining room or community lounge at lunch time using their thumb print which is linked to their Parent Pay account. Year 7, year 11 and sixth form students will be able to purchase a range of snacks at brunch between 10.50 and 11.10. Parents are asked to ensure the Parent Pay account is topped up before the start of term.

School Uniform and PE Uniform

We will be expecting students to wear their full school uniform every day from the start of the Autumn Term. On days when students have PE or an after-school sports club, they should put bring their PE Uniform to school and will change into their PE Uniform at the start of their PE lesson or club and will then change back into school uniform at the end of the lesson.

The school uniform and PE uniform required is listed on the school website and can be accessed here:

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/parents-information/school-uniform/>

We intend to be especially vigilant in ensuring school uniform is worn correctly by all students in September and request parents support with this. Uniform can be purchased from Club Sports in Ledbury or online from 'My name on it'. Full details of these uniform suppliers is detailed on the school website and can be accessed via the above link.

If buying school uniform will cause you significant financial difficulties, please could email us to let us know and we will try to help you with this.

Two-week timetable - by Mrs Laidler (Assistant Headteacher)

We have been looking carefully at our curriculum distribution over recent years and have decided to move to a two-week timetable to enable us to have more flexibility in allocating lessons. Part of this change has been to increase History and Geography to two hours each week in Year 7 and 8, by reducing Maths and English each to 7 hours per

fortnight. It has also allowed us to create consistent hours for the Choices subjects in Years 9 -11. Previously they have had either two or three hours a week depending on their block and alternating each year. The advantage of a two-week timetable is that they now have 5 hours a fortnight each year which will enable improved curriculum planning and parity between choices.

This will mean that the students will need to prepare for each day by first checking which week we are on. We will send out a calendar so that you know which weeks are Week 1 and which are Week 2, and will also have reminders around the school, on computers and on our website. In September students will be given two copies of their timetable so that they can keep one in their bags and one at home. The timetable can also be accessed on epraise which the students are used to using for checking homework. As this will be new to everyone, any assistance with organisation so that they bring the correct books on the right day would be very much appreciated.

Week commencing Monday 6 September will be a Week 1.

8. Curriculum Plans for the Autumn Term

Each curriculum subject is producing single page summaries of the topics they will be covering during the Autumn Term with the key learning points and assessments for all year groups. A link to these summaries is included below:

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

9. Enrichment activities for the Autumn Term

Our extensive, free of charge, Autumn Enrichment programme, which will consist of Rugby, Hockey and Chess Club to name a few, will be launched in September. Despite there being an academic focus to some of the sessions, our aim of enrichment is to give students an opportunity to enjoy their learning further and to continue to love spending time at school. For many students, our Enrichment programme supports their emotional and social needs, increases their confidence, and gives them the opportunity to grow as individuals.

Although our Enrichment programme is non-compulsory, we encourage students to choose at least one enrichment opportunity per term.

I would also like to remind you of the iheart Wellbeing Workshops, which will begin in September. If you wish to know more or would like to reserve a space for your child to take part in this amazing opportunity, then please email Hayley Newnes on hayley.newnes@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk.

10. Key dates

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

Friday 9 July: Staff training day

Monday 19 July: Sports day

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 September & Friday 3 September: INSET days

Monday 6 September: Term starts for Year 7, Year 12 and Year 13

Tuesday 7 September: Term starts for Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11

Friday 8 October: Staff training afternoon – students leaving at 12.15pm

Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October: Half Term

Thursday 11 November: Staff training afternoon – students leaving at 12.15pm
Monday 6 December: Staff training afternoon – students leaving at 12.15pm
Friday 17 December: Term ends at 12.15pm
Tuesday 4 January: Staff training day
Wednesday 5 January: Term starts
Wednesday 2 February: Staff training afternoon – students leaving at 12.15pm
Monday 21 February – Friday 25 February: Half Term
Thursday 10 March: Staff training afternoon – students leaving at 12.15pm
Friday 8 April: Term ends at 3.15pm
Monday 25 April: Staff training day
Tuesday 26 April: Term starts
Wednesday 11 May: Staff training afternoon – students leaving at 12.15pm
Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June: Half Term
Monday 13 June: Staff training afternoon – students leaving at 12.15pm
Friday 8 July: Staff training day
Thursday 21 July: Term ends at 12.15pm – this is a day earlier than originally planned. The Diamond Jubilee additional bank holiday falls in the summer half term break and in keeping with other Herefordshire schools following advice from Herefordshire Council, we will take this additional day on Friday 22 July 2022.

... And finally

I would like to wish all students, staff, parents and carers a happy and relaxing summer holiday.

With my very best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher