



7 July 2021

Dear students, parents, and carers

As we move into the last fortnight of the academic year it is a pleasure to see students continuing to contribute positively to lessons and behave in a kind and civilised way around the school site.

Contents

1. Student learning	1
2. Staying safe and continuing COVID-19 testing at home	2
3. INSET Day - Friday 9 July	2
4. Sports Day – Monday 19 July	2
5. End of Term arrangements – Wednesday 21 July	3
6. Exam result days and Sixth Form enrolment	3
7. Start of the Autumn Term: Revised arrangements	3
8. Transition to JMHS for current Year 6 students	3
9. Curriculum Plans for the Autumn Term	3
10. Key dates	4

1. Student learning

Students have continued to work productively in lessons, and produce some high-quality work. Our new School Improvement Partner, Stephen Brownlow, has commented on the consistently good behaviour and good levels of concentration in lessons, as have many Year 5 and Year 6 parents when they have had tours of the school.

We will continue to teach the curriculum planned until the final day of term and set homework as usual. It is vital that with so much face to face teaching lost this year, we make the most of the last fortnight of term. Therefore, teachers will continue to have high expectations of students' commitment and work rate.

Congratulations to Year 10 and Year 12 students on finishing your end of year exams. Teachers are completing the marking of your practice exams and will give you feedback before the end of term. We will enter the exam marks on the end of year reports for Year 10 and Year 12. Teachers will set homework tasks for students to complete over the summer holiday for exam subjects in these year groups.

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-Year 12 to complete the homework tasks we are setting over the summer. We also strongly advise students in Year 7-Year 9 to complete optional tasks which will be posted on the school website before the end of term. We will include a link to this page in our final newsletter of the term.

2. Staying safe and continuing COVID-19 testing at home

As the number of positive COVID-19 cases continues to double approximately every 10 days, we are continuing to emphasise to students that in order to minimise transmission of COVID-19 that they need to:

- Wear masks on school transport
- Help teachers by ensuring all doors and windows are open in classrooms at all times
- Sanitise their hands when entering or leaving a classroom
- Obey the '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
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 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>

3. INSET Day - Friday 9 July

We have a staff training day this Friday 9 July, where the staff and teachers will be planning for next academic year. We are looking forward to the welcoming the new staff starting next academic year, who will be joining us for the day. The INSET day will give students a long weekend to relax and recharge their batteries before the final week and a half of term.

4. Sports Day - Monday 19 July

All students in Year 7-Year 10 should attend in their PE uniform on Monday 19 July to participate in our Sports Day events with other students in their Year Group as detailed below:

- Lesson One - Year 7
- Lesson Two - Year 8
- Lesson Three - Year 10
- Lesson Four- Year 9

Events will include, 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.

5. End of Term - Wednesday 21 July

Students will have lessons one and two as scheduled on the school timetable 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. Students will depart between 12.10pm and 12.25pm on the final day of term.

6. 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.

We will send out letters to students and parents with further details of exam results days from Mr Hawksworth and Mr Hammond tomorrow.

7. Start of the Autumn Term: Revised Arrangements

Prior to the start of term there will be two teacher training days on Thursday 2 September and Friday 3 September. If parents have any questions about the start of term, please contact us on admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk by 3.30pm on Thursday 2 September. We will then email or telephone you on one of the two INSET Days.

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.

8. Transition to JMHS for current Year 6 students

Due to current government arrangements, we have had to cancel the Year 6 transition day which was originally scheduled for Thursday 8 July. However, we have been giving 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 planning on holding the Transition Evening for students and parents on Tues 20 July, the day after current restrictions are due to end. At this evening, new students and parents will meet their Form Tutors and be given guidance about starting at JMHS. Mr Wyatt has written to parents giving full details of the evening.

9. 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. We will publish a link to these summaries in the final newsletter of the academic year.

10. Key dates

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

Friday 22 July: Term ends at 12.15pm

... And finally

I am looking forward to an excellent last fortnight of the school year with students continuing to enjoy learning across the curriculum and our end of term events including sports day and our virtual summer concert.

With my very best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher