



2 September 2021

Dear students, parents, and carers

It is exciting getting ready to welcome students back for the new term. We have had a busy summer refurbishing classrooms and we are very much looking forward to the new school year, being able to teach the full curriculum in teachers' specialist teaching rooms and providing our full range of enrichment activities.

I am writing to you today to outline the arrangements for the start of term next week.

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1. 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.

Schools have been asked to give all students two on-site asymptomatic COVID-19 tests. This approach is based on the latest public health advice and designed to help break chains of transmission in education settings after the summer holiday.

The first of these tests will be carried out before students return to lessons 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 with reminders sent through ParentPay during the summer break. 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. We would like to thank the vast majority of parents who have already booked a test. The deadline for booking appointments was Tuesday 31 August. **If you have not booked a test, please email rebecca.french@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk or deborah.sutcliffe@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk by 5pm on Thursday 2 September.**

Monday 6 September

Year 7 students will be met by duty staff at the main entrance of the school and will be guided to the Sports Hall where they will be met by Miss Limbrick (Head of Year 7) and their form tutor. On the first day they will:

- Get to know students in their tutor group and their form tutor
- Have a tour of the school, where to go in the event of a fire bell and learn how the school timetables work
- Learn how to log onto the IT system and use epraise, our system for setting online homework and awarding house points

- Have their thumb print taken so that they can have school dinners if they wish to do so
- Have their photograph taken, so staff can recognise them
- Take a reading test so we can recommend suitable reading books from our Accelerated Reading Programme
- Have their first lesson during period 5

On their first day Year 7 students will not need to bring in PE kit. From Tuesday 7 September, they will attend all lessons as per their timetable and will require their subject specific equipment. A letter will be sent in early September for parents and carers with details on accessing epraise for homework information. If Year 7 parents and carers have any questions ahead of Monday 6 September, please contact Chloe Limbrick (Head of Year 7) via chloe.limbrick@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk.

Year 12 should arrive at the JM6 building by 8.45am to register and will be met by their tutors. The first two hours of the day will involve:

- A welcome and overview of sixth form and expectations from Head of Sixth Form, Mark Hawksworth
- How to make an excellent start to their A level studies
- Issuing of timetables
- Meeting their JM6 Tutors
- Individual photographs
- Lessons will start period 3 after break

Year 13 should arrive at the JM6 building by 10.30am to register and will be met by their tutors. However they can arrive earlier if necessary and go to their tutor rooms. They will then have a short briefing that will involve:

- A welcome back and how to maximise their time in Year 13 from Head of Sixth Form, Mark Hawksworth
- Issuing of timetables with tutors
- Lessons will start P3 after break

Tuesday 7 September

All year groups will be in school on this day. When students arrive, they will be directed to their social zones and then to their form room by senior staff and year leaders.

During the first lesson students will have an assembly which will give details about how we will work this academic year, they will be given their timetables and an explanation of how the new two-week timetable will work. They will then attend their timetabled lessons from 10am. Students will not need to bring PE kit in on their first day.

If parents have any questions about the start of term, please contact us on admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk.

2. COVID vaccinations

We are delighted that following the government announcement that 16-17 year olds could have vaccines, many of our sixth formers have already booked their first vaccine. We would encourage all students who are eligible for the vaccine to book as soon as possible. By doing this they will be contributing to keeping themselves, your family and our community safe. We will always authorise absence for students to have their vaccines.

3. 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 and enhance student safety. We will also continue with our staggered lunch 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.

COVID Precautions

We will continue to:

- Require all students on school transport to wear a suitable face covering.
- 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
- Ask students to sanitise their hands on entering or leaving a classroom
- Encourage students to continue with lateral flow testing at home and ensure they self-isolate, then organise a PCR test following a positive test result

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	Morning Break
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: 8.30-8.35am 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: 8.35- 8.40am and then to report straight to their zone
- Year 10 and Year 11: 8.40-8.45am and then to report straight to their zone
- Sixth Form: 8.35-8.40am 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 who bring their children into school by car, that we cannot allow cars into the car park after 8.25am in the morning due to the large number of buses coming onto and leaving the school site and more than 500 students walking into school. Similarly, we cannot allow cars onto the school site before 3.30pm.

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.

We would also like to remind students who travel to school by bus to wear a suitable face covering.

Year Group Zones for before school, break and lunch

In order to ensure safe supervision before school and 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 break	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 ParentPay 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 ParentPay 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 kit to school and will change into their kit at the start of their PE lesson or club and will then change back into school uniform at the end of the lesson. 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.

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/>.

Two-week timetable

We have been looking carefully at our curriculum distribution and have decided to move to a two-week timetable to enable more flexibility in allocating lessons. 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. Next week, 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 use 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. The week commencing Monday 6 September will be Week One.

4. Curriculum Plans for the Autumn Term

Each curriculum subject has produced 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/>.

5. Enrichment activities for the Autumn Term

Our extensive, free of charge, Autumn Enrichment programme will be published next week. 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.

6. Key dates

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

Thursday 2 December: Year 7 Parents' Evening

Monday 6 December: Staff training afternoon – students leaving at 12.15pm

Thursday 9 December: Year 11 Parents' Evening

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

Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 July: Challenge days- programme to be published

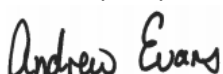
Thursday 21 July: Term ends at 12.15pm – this is a day earlier than originally planned. The Diamond Jubilee additional bank holiday falls in the summer half term break and in keeping with other Herefordshire schools following advice from Herefordshire Council, we will take this additional day on Friday 22 July 2022.

... And finally

We are aiming to make this our best ever school year, with our exciting curriculum, precise and helpful teaching, excellent learning and extensive enrichment activities.

If you do have any questions please contact us on admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk .

With my very best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher