



30 November 2021

Dear students, parents, and carers,

As we move towards the end of the Autumn Term, we continue to be pleased with how students are working in class and in particular how Year 11 students have prepared for and are working in their mock examinations. This newsletter includes feedback from the parental survey. I have also been impressed with how all students have started wearing their face coverings in lessons and corridors. They are showing excellent consideration for others.

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## 1. COVID precautions and vaccines

### Additional precautions: face coverings

In light of the Prime Minister's announcement over the weekend the Department for Education have issued updated requirements for students in Years 7 and above. With effect from Tuesday 30 November and until further notice, all students, staff and visitors will be required to wear a face covering in indoor communal areas, which includes corridors and classrooms. In the dining room and community lounge students who are sat down to eat will not be required to wear a face covering.

If your son or daughter has an exemption from wearing a face covering, please email [SSA@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:SSA@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk) including your son/daughter's name, form and reason for the requested exemption.

The requirement for students to wear face coverings on school transport remains in place.

### Current COVID situation and vaccines

Currently the number of positive PCR cases is 10 cases which represents 1% of the school population. This is lower than many other local schools. In our view, the large number of 12-15 year olds who had their first vaccines in school after half term is a significant factor in the relatively low number of cases over the past few weeks. If your son or daughter is over 12 years old and has not yet been able to have a first vaccine, you can book an appointment or find a local walk-in clinic using the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine-for-children-aged-12-to-15/>

16-18 year olds are now able to book a second COVID vaccine 12 weeks after their first jab. This can also be booked using the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

We are closely monitoring cases on a daily basis, and in addition to students wearing face coverings in indoor communal areas, we are continuing with the following COVID precautions:

- 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
- Continuing with our no physical contact rule
- Increased cleaning of touch points around the school

It is also vital that students continue with twice weekly home testing. If a positive result is received for a lateral flow test, the student will need to self-isolate, take a PCR test and follow the advice of NHS Test and Trace. You should also immediately inform the school by either phoning Reception or emailing [admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk).

## 2. JMHS Year Leaders

Our Year Leaders fulfil several vital functions for their Year Group including:

- Setting the ethos and high expectations
- Dealing with behavioural and other issues
- Leading their team of form tutors and the programme of activities and assemblies undertaken in tutor time
- Supporting students especially our most vulnerable students
- Supporting Mr Williams, our Designated Safeguarding Lead with safeguarding and child protection issues
- Leading supervision of the Year Group before school and at break and lunch
- Collectively developing pastoral policies and pastoral care at JMHS

At JMHS our Year Leaders teach for 13 hours per week compared to 22 hours for other teachers. This means that our Year Leaders can be proactive in supporting students and are able to lead supervision before school, at break and at lunch. They use this time well and provide excellent support as well as setting high standards.

Over the next few newsletters our Year Leaders will say a little about themselves and this week it is the turn of Miss Limbrick.

### **Miss Limbrick (Head of Year 7 and Lead Teacher for Behaviour)**

I joined JMHS as a newly qualified PE teacher in 2013. I became a House Leader in January 2016 and have been part of our pastoral team ever since. I now teach PE as well as all DT subjects, and thoroughly enjoy the variety of topics I teach at JMHS. No day at JMHS is ever the same as another and I really enjoy this about working at JMHS. My main role is being Head of Year 7, however I also lead on behaviour, always focussing upon student pushing themselves to be the best they can.

In my spare time, I enjoy supporting Gloucester Rugby Club, being outside, cooking and playing hockey. I play for Newent Hockey Club and very much enjoy seeing our students who have joined the club youth section going from strength to strength.

## 3. The ASPIRE standards

**by Mr Collard, Deputy Headteacher**

*ASPIRE is a framework designed by Mr Collard to help all students learn effectively in class and at home. In each newsletter Mr Collard will give some detail and how students can use each of the six standards to help them succeed.*

The focus for this newsletter is 'Set your work out neatly. Always show pride in the work that you are doing'. The practical advice for students is: set out below.

### What can I do?

1. **Show care.** Blue or black pen is for writing and a pencil for drawing.
2. **Use the correct equipment.** Make sure dates and title are underlined and that graphs and tables use a ruler.
3. **Organise your work.** Make sure that sheets are neatly stuck in and information is up to date.
4. **Plan your work.** Think in advance what you are going to do and work in rough first if it helps.
5. **Start again.** If something hasn't gone well and you are disappointed, consider starting it again if it would help make it clearer for you.
6. **Compare your work.** Look at a piece of work you are proud of and compare your current work to it. Does it match up? If so that's great, if not, what could you do about your current work?

## 4. Feedback from Autumn Term Survey for Parents, Carers and Students

### Parental Survey - November 2021

We would like to thank the 241 parents who responded to the parental survey published on 11 November 2021. Receiving your feedback is invaluable in helping us see how and where we need to improve.

The table below summarises responses to the survey.

Question	Percentage who agree or strongly agree
Do you feel that the arrangements to offer the full curriculum and extra-curricular activities this term and make JMHS as safe as we can have worked well so far this term?	96%
Does your child feel he/she is making good progress this academic year?	96%
Do you and your child feel the quality of pastoral care has been good so far this year?	94%
Do you feel the quality of communication from the school has been good this academic year?	94%
My child is happy at JMHS.	91%
My child feels safe at school.	94%
JMHS makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	85%
JMHS makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	86%
When I have raised concerns with JMHS they have been dealt with properly.	90%
My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed	77%
My child has not been bullied	72%
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	65%
The school has high expectations for my child	90%
My child does well at JMHS.	94%
JMHS lets me know how my child is doing.	84%
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at JMHS	94%
My child can take part in clubs and activities at JMHS	95%
JMHS supports my child's wider personal development	87%
<i>I would recommend JMHS to another parent</i>	95%

I have now read all the responses and would like to thank all parents who contributed such helpful and constructive comments. Comments have been shared with Senior Leaders, Faculty Leaders and Year Leaders who will carefully consider comments and where relevant make improvements in their subject or area of responsibility. Parents who asked specific questions of Year Leaders and supplied their email address will receive personal replies in the next two weeks.

All comments are valuable and will be used to inform how we move forward. This year they were very varied and covered many areas. However, some of the most commonly mentioned are listed below:

### **Positives**

- Inspiring teaching and effective teachers
- Students improving in subjects they found difficult
- Excellent support particularly from Year Leaders
- Problems quickly resolved
- Timely and effective communication
- Effective response to COVID whilst aiming to minimise anxiety
- New students settling in well
- Students enjoying learning and gaining confidence
- Excellent experiences in our Sixth Form

### **Areas where most suggestions for improvement made**

- Teacher absence and students working less well when there are supply teachers or cover teachers
- Making sure homework is linked to topics that have been covered in class
- The behaviour system and use of behaviour points
- Suggestions for more clubs and about the booking system for some clubs
- Suggestions about use of house points and uploading them promptly
- Communications about progress

We will ensure that we pay particular attention to the areas identified above when planning for improvements.

## **5. Sixth Form Taster Day for Y11 and Futures Discussions** **by Mr Hawksworth, Head of Sixth Form**

On Friday 12 November 130 of our Year 11 students had a break from their usual GCSE diet and became Sixth Formers for the day experiencing a range of A level lessons as part of our advice and guidance on selecting the right path for themselves post-16. The students enjoyed being immersed in a wide range of A level experiences. In Maths they investigated what differentiation is and why we need to use it. In English they explored the role of dreams in the Gothic genre in challenging cultural taboos. In Biology students undertook a range of experiments to hone their practical skills including a heart dissection and use of more technical microscopes to investigate cell division while in German they looked at popular culture and politics to explore new vocabulary and gain an insight into modern Germany. Drama students interpreted an A level set text utilising four different styles including the physical theatre of Berkoff and the Chemists conducted practical experiments and calculated the molar volume of the mass of gas produced in reactions. ICT students analysed the uses and impact of AR (Augmented Reality) and VR (Virtual Reality) whilst Business students looked at how the Government raises and spends funds including the basics of our taxation system. Overall students really enjoyed the day and the insight it gave into life as a sixth form student at JMHS. The day will be followed up with 'Futures' discussions with a member of the Sixth Form leadership team over the next four weeks to discuss further their subject choices.

## 6. Sixth Form News

by Mr Hawksworth, Head of Sixth Form

Twelve of the JM6 students have undergone 'Peer to Peer Support' training from Mrs Law, Head of Year 13. Now fully trained, the students will be deployed in lower school buddying up with younger students who might need a little extra support. The JM6 students will be able to help support with issues such as anxiety, loss of confidence, feelings of isolation and where a student has recently moved their school setting. It is another great example of how our senior students are giving generously of their time helping the wider school community.

Additionally, in order to support our JM6 students with their high aspirations we have had a workshop from the University of Leeds about the value of the Extended Project Qualification and tips on how to choose a good research focus. Meanwhile our Oxbridge candidates have been having mock interviews with Mr Evans. All students have valued the experience and feel better placed as a result. We wish all of our Oxbridge hopefuls the very best of luck.

## 7. Faculty Training Afternoon

The third of our seven Faculty Training Afternoons this academic year will take place on Monday 6 December. On this afternoon teachers work together in their faculty teams (eg English, languages, arts) to plan the curriculum and improve the consistency and quality of teaching. Students will finish the school day between 12.10pm and 12.20pm and be escorted to the bus park by their teachers at the times listed below:

Year 7 & Year 8: 12.10pm

Year 9 & Year 10: 12.15pm

Year 11 & Sixth Form 12.20pm

Students will then walk home or await their bus whilst being supervised by staff. Parents picking students up by car should arrive after the buses depart at or after 12.35pm.

## 8. Herefordshire's Christmas Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Talk Community is offering free activities to eligible primary and secondary pupils through Herefordshire's Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF). Children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals will be able to access and enjoy up to 16 hours of free activities during the Christmas holidays, along with receiving a free nutritious meal. The online activity booking system will be available on the Talk Community website at [www.talkcommunity.org/holidayactivities](http://www.talkcommunity.org/holidayactivities) from Monday 29 November 2021. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis and the attached letter gives further details.

## 9. Forty Club Cricket award for Ledbury Cricket Club Under 15s

The Forty Club was set up in 1936 with the aim of encouraging sportsmanship in young people by playing cricket around the country with Junior teams. Every year they play over 130 fixtures in eleven districts of the UK, and nominate either a school or Youth XI in each region as a District winner in terms of sportsmanship and teamwork. A black tie dinner is held for the 11 winners at Lords where they are presented with their awarded.

This year the West Midlands district award was won by the Ledbury Cricket Club Under 15s team. This is a tremendous achievement and the team were the only grassroots cricket team to win a district award, with most district winners coming from independent schools. Their captain, Thomas Fleetwood (JMHS student), was presented with the trophy at the Lords' dinner on 19 November 2021, proudly watched by the team's coaches (all ex-JMHS students). The Under 15s team in addition to captain Thomas Fleetwood includes the following JMHS students: Jack Cambridge, Billy Ussher, Jacob Evans, Bertie Butcher, Fraser Renfrew Clarke, Joseph Pugh.

The youth section at Ledbury Cricket Club has gone from strength to strength over the last 10 years through the dedication and commitment of their team of volunteers and make a fantastic contribution to the local community. We have been delighted as a school to work with them to support the development of youth cricket in Ledbury.

## 10. Key dates this and next term

Thursday 2 December: Year 7 Parents' Evening via Schoolcloud

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

Wednesday 8 December: Year 11 GCSE German – German experience day to Birmingham

Thursday 9 December: Year 11 Parents' Evening via Schoolcloud

Friday 17 December: Term ends at 12.15pm

Tuesday 4 January: Staff training day

Wednesday 5 January: Spring Term starts

Thursday 20 January: Year 8 Choices Evening

Thursday 27 January: Year 12/13 Parents' Evening

Thursday 10 February: Year 8 Parents' Evening

Monday 21 February – Friday 25 February: Half Term

### ... And finally

I would like to thank all students and parents for your continuing support. I am particularly pleased that there were over 241 responses to our survey which will be invaluable in helping us move forward.

With my thanks and best wishes



**Andrew Evans**  
**Headteacher**