



9 November 2021

Dear students, parents, and carers,

This half term has started well with an excellent response to COVID vaccinations with over 75% of eligible students having the vaccine and excellent conduct from all students involved. Students are working well in class earning House Points from the ASPIRE standards and we have had high proportions of students sign-up for extra-curricular activities this half term. This newsletter has a particular focus on Sport and PE where the performance of our Year Rugby team undefeated after 12 games is a highlight.

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1. COVID precautions and vaccines

Current COVID situation and additional precautions

We have been fortunate that our COVID cases since the start of the year have been low, but before half term we saw a rise in positive cases and in response we adopted some additional precautions. Currently the number of positive PCR cases have reduced to a third of the number with 13 current cases and this represents 1.5% of the school population. This is lower than many other local schools but we do need remain cautious. We are closely monitoring cases on a daily basis and in addition we are continuing with the following COVID precautions:

- Strongly encourage students to wear face coverings in classroom and indoor communal areas
- 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
- Increase 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.

COVID vaccinations for 12-15 year olds

The NHS vaccination team was on site on Thursday 4 and Friday 5 November to administer vaccines to students aged 12-15. We are delighted that 75% of eligible students in these year groups had their vaccines and we are aware that additionally a high number of students have had their vaccines at other settings including at local surgeries. The students who have had vaccinations are making an excellent contribution to keeping themselves, their families and our community safe.

2. JMHS Extended Senior Leadership Team (ESLT)

In previous newsletters I have asked each member of the SLT to write a short paragraph about themselves. This week I have asked the permanent members of our Extended Senior Leadership Team- Mrs Barker (SENDCO) and Mr Wyatt (Senior Year Leader and in charge of primary transition) to write a paragraph each.

Mrs Barker (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator)

I have worked at JMHS since 2004, where I was a Trainee teacher, and was taken on as a full time Science teacher the following year. I then became Head of Chemistry, followed by Assistant Faculty Leader before moving across to pastoral support as Head of Midsummer House, a role which I loved. The move to the pastoral team and my role as Chemistry teacher gave me the passion to support students with Special Educational Needs and five years ago I became SENDCO and now lead a team of likeminded and hardworking colleagues. My main responsibility is to remove barriers so that all students can access the curriculum and make progress, in line with their peers.

I came into teaching later in life, after being a bank manager for eighteen years and when I am not working I love to join in Zumba classes, I craft and recently have had a narrow boat built which has become my sanctuary.

Mr Wyatt (Senior Year Leader)

I joined JMHS in 2005 as a newly qualified PE teacher, having done my degree and teacher training in Cardiff. I became a House Leader in 2009 and have worked in the pastoral team ever since. From the very beginning of my career, I have had a passion for pastoral care and the importance of supporting young people overcome the many challenges presented by teenage life. My main role at JMHS is to lead Year 9, but I am also in charge of attendance and primary transition.

Outside of school I am kept busy by my two children who are in Year 6 and Year 4. I remain a huge fan of sport and often fill any free time I manage to find by playing, watching, coaching or reading about sport. I still play football and cricket, coach my son's football team, watch any sport on TV and enjoy reading a wide variety of books, as long as there is a sporting theme!

Our school website lists the main responsibilities and roles of SLT members. These can be viewed by clicking on the link below: <https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/about-us/senior-leadership-team/>

3. ASPIRE 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.

Tutors have been asked to go through a presentation on each standard and discuss with their tutor groups the tips that have been produced. This week the focus is on the ASPIRE standard 'Ask if ever you are unsure. Checking understanding is a great way to help you, and your classmates'. The advice that students have been given to achieve this standard are listed below. Any support you can give going through the strategies would be greatly appreciated.

What can I do?

- 1. **Check in my book.** Check that the information you need is there.*
- 2. **Check any resources** in the room such as a textbook or a display. There is often key information in the learning environment you are in.*
- 3. **Check with the person next to me.** Your learning partner(s) are a good person to share ideas with. Working together benefits all those involved.*
- 4. **Use a process of elimination.** Start with what you know to be incorrect and see if you can narrow down what could be correct.*
- 5. **Make a best guess.** Try a guess from what you know and test to see if that might be the right answer.*
- 6. **Ask for advice.** If all other methods have not helped, ask the teacher and see what support they can give.*

4. Homework at JMHS and how to support your child with homework by Mrs Laidler, Assistant Headteacher

We set homework regularly as it gives students practice at recalling and applying the knowledge they have been taught in class. Students who regularly complete homework learn more, remember more and understand better. In most subjects, teachers set homework on a weekly basis according to the homework timetable. The amount of time students should spend on each piece of homework increases from about 30 minutes in Year 7 to approximately one hour in Year 11.

We recognise that some students may find it difficult to complete homework and for this reason Homework Club runs after school each night. To be successful with homework students should:

- Listen carefully to homework instructions given by teachers in class and write down anything that may be useful.
- Check all details on Epraise, and attempt the homework early so they can ask the teacher for help if needed before the deadline date.
- Complete the homework to a high standard, present their work well and use their study guide, exercise book or other resources to look information up if needed.

Parents and carers can support their children with homework by:

- Encouraging them to check Epraise regularly and complete homework early so they can keep up to date.
- Finding a quiet place to work without distractions.
- Praising good effort with homework and taking an interest in their work.
- Booking a place at Homework Club if they are struggling to complete homework at home.

5. Sixth Form News by Mr Hawksworth, Head of Sixth Form

Sixth Form Students Lead in Sport

After the vacuum in sporting opportunities caused by COVID restrictions over the last 18 months the JM6 students have voted with their feet and thrown themselves into competitive sports fixtures against other Sixth Forms. Netball Captain and one of JM6 Sports Captains, Lucy Hayes said 'It's brilliant to get back out there, mix as a team and just enjoy playing again'. JM6 students have the opportunity to play a range of matches against other Sixth Forms including football, netball, mixed hockey, basketball, cricket and rounders.

La Liga and Super 7s

As well as the competitive matches against other Sixth Forms, this year the JM6 students have got behind lunchtime sports leagues in football (La Liga) and netball (Super 7s). The competitions involve Year 11, 12 and 13 students with over 110 students getting involved in total. Sports captains Lucy Hayes and Bruno Recordon, have helped Mr

Hawksworth develop and organise this new opportunity to help our students get active, meet other year groups, and just enjoy sport.

6. JMHS PE & Sport update by Mr Kontarines, Faculty Leader for PE & Sport

Fixtures

Due to the ongoing disruption caused by COVID, we have not engaged in as many fixtures as we would have liked to in the first term.

Numbers at netball club have been consistently high this term with 90 or so students participating in the sessions after school on Wednesdays (Years 8 and 10) and Thursdays (Years 7, 8, 11). The Year 9 netball team finished 5th in a county tournament and played some exciting free-flowing netball. Year 11s also enjoyed some success in their county tournament and produced some skilful displays against strong opponents.

Numbers at rugby club have been somewhat depleted, but this is perhaps due to Ledbury RFC holding their Junior coaching sessions on a Sunday morning and students preferring to rest on Mondays after school. That said, Year 7 have trained in good number and with plenty of energy and enthusiasm and regularly exceed 20 participants.

The Year 7 rugby team played in tournaments on 20 October and 4 November enjoying games against 12 other teams across the two days. They remain undefeated across all games and play a well-organised and flowing style of rugby that is a pleasure to watch. They like getting the ball through hands in attack and using the pace and strength of players like Harry E and Connor W, and they were resolute and organised in defence with some tremendous tackles and ripping the ball from the opposition (notably Jayden L, Max S, Connor W, Darius V and Harry E). The breakdown is a strength of the team, Fin R and Max S, masters of the ruck and their strength and positioning coupled with the agility of Harry B and the attacking lines of Hayden W, meant that we always threatened in attack.

I would like to congratulate all of the boys that took part in these tournaments for their fine effort, energy and representing JMHS so well: Harry E, Connor W, Jayden L, Max S, Connor W, Darius V, Harry E, Charles B-R, Oliver S, Ted U-K, Bryn R, Zak, Fin R and Max S, Harry B and Hayden W.

My thanks also to Mr James Seager (former student at JMHS) from Ledbury RFC who gives freely of this time every Monday to coach the team and for giving up his time to coach the team at the tournament.

House Sport

The first round of House Sport matches took place in the final week before October Half Term and students took part in flag tag, netball and touch rugby. The students were well organised in the matches and showed the right amount of competitiveness with students competing fairly and respectfully, which was a pleasure to watch.

The second round of matches will take place during the week beginning Monday 4 April and will be football, hockey and volleyball.

PE Uniform

As the weather is beginning to turn colder, I would like to remind students and parents what students are permitted to wear for PE lessons and what they are not.

Permitted: Plain navy tracksuit bottoms, JMHS rugby socks/white sport socks, plain navy shorts/JMHS skort, JMHS PE t-shirt, JMHS rugby shirt. Added to this, students can wear additional base layers underneath their rugby shirt/PE t-shirt/tracksuit bottoms.

Not permitted: Coats, hooded sweatshirts (including JMHS hoodies), any other non-JMHS sports clothes, black tracksuit bottoms, leggings.

Valuables in PE Lessons

During core PE lessons, students are to leave their valuables in their bags, which are left in the changing rooms. Every effort is made to ensure that the changing rooms are locked at the start of the lesson and remain locked for the duration of the lesson. I would like to remind students and parents to leave items of high monetary or sentimental value at home and not to bring them into school as we cannot guarantee their safekeeping.

7. Enrichment by Miss Newnes, Enrichment Co-ordinator

Please find attached the enrichment programme for Autumn Term Half Term 2. If your young person would like to take part in any of these exciting opportunities, then please follow the sign-up instructions alongside each specific club and activity. All clubs and activities require parents/carers to sign up via Schoolcloud. A guide to Schoolcloud can be found attached.

After school activities and clubs will require students to meet the club coordinator at their enrichment point in the Bus Park, where they will be collected by a staff member and escorted to the location where their club will be held. The enrichment points are at the back of the bus park.

Furthermore, if your child would like to participate in a sports club then they should bring their PE kit to school, where they will have the opportunity to change.

In the event a club or activity has to be cancelled, a message will be sent to parents/carers via ParentPay and students will be informed as soon as possible. If students are unable to make travel arrangements, we ask students to head straight to Student Services where contact will be made with their parent/carer. Homework Club will be able to host students until they are able to access their transport.

There will be a variety of different activities throughout the Spring and Summer term as part of the enrichment programme and students will be informed of these new and exciting opportunities later in the year.

8. Parents' evenings

Parents' evenings this year will be held online rather than in person at school. We will again be using an online system called Schoolcloud which uses a website that can be accessed via a computer, smart mobile phone, or tablet. You are not required to install an app. The system allows video and sound. The Schoolcloud booking system will allow you, in advance, to choose your own appointment times with teachers. We will provide you with guidance at the time. You will use key information about your child in order to log in. You will also use your email address supplied to the school and which is stored in our record system (SIMS). If you have any queries about this, please contact Student Services in advance of your child's parents' evening. Appointments will be strictly limited to a maximum of five minutes. It is therefore important that any key questions or concerns are raised with the teacher as quickly as possible. Additionally, especially in Year 7 and Year 8, we have a number of teachers who teach multiple classes. Inevitably, this will mean that they will not be available to meet every parent who wishes to book an appointment. If you have any concerns about a subject at the time, please contact the relevant teacher directly.

9. Faculty Training Afternoon

The second of our scheduled seven Faculty Training Afternoons this academic year will take place on Thursday 11 November. 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 in cars should arrive after the buses depart at or after 12.35pm.

10. Key dates this term

Thursday 11 November: Faculty Training Afternoon – students leaving at 12.15pm approximately

Friday 12 November: JM6 Taster Day for Year 11 students / Visit to Hereford & Ludlow College

Monday 22 November – Thursday 2 December: Year 11 Mock Exams

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

... And finally

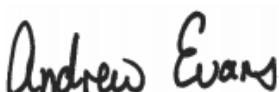
It is always useful for us to have feedback from students and parents as it helps us evaluate the quality of education and support we have provided so far this term, as well as identify areas for improvement. Please could I ask you to complete a survey by clicking the link below and completing the online survey by Tuesday 23 November – it should take approximately 10 minutes.

Parental Survey November 2021

The survey is anonymous but if you would like a specific response for question 11, we ask you to add your child's name and your email address. If you have two or more children at JMHS you may complete the survey for each child.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

With my thanks and best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher

Attached: Enrichment Programme, Schoolcloud booking system