



15 December 2021

Dear students, parents, and carers,

At the end of a challenging but successful term, I would like to thank students, staff and parents for your excellent contribution and ongoing support. It has been great to see students working conscientiously, preparing for their end of term tests, setting their work out clearly and contributing enthusiastically to lessons.

Beyond the classroom I have been delighted with the bustle of the busy library, Y7 students planting 250 trees at lunch time, and high attendance at extra-curricular clubs. I have also witnessed many instances of kindness and thoughtfulness to others when a student who is upset or having a bad day is supported by their peers

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1. COVID testing in school and the start of the Spring Term

As communicated last week, we have to adjust the arrangements for the start of next term following the government announcement that all students should have an in school Lateral Flow Test (LFT) before returning to school. The updated arrangements are given below:

Tuesday 4 January: INSET day - During the morning we will set up the theatre for lateral flow testing. From 1.30pm-5.30pm students in Years 11, 12 and 13 will have their lateral flow test at their pre-booked appointment.

Wednesday 5 January: First day of term for students in Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13. Lateral flow tests for students in Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 at their pre-booked appointments from 8.30am until 5.00pm.

Thursday 6 January: First day of term for students in Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10.

Please book an appointment for a LFT through the link below. **The deadline for booking appointments is Monday 3 January at midday**, but it would help us enormously with the considerable amount of administration that needs to be finalised if parents could complete this as soon as possible.

[JMHS Schoolcloud log-in](#)

2. JMHS Year Leaders

In the previous newsletter we asked Miss Limbrick (Head of Year 7) to tell us a little about herself. This time we hear from Mrs Fox (Head of Y8) and Miss Newnes (Head of Y10).

Mrs Fox (Head of Year 8 and Curriculum Leader for Design Technology)

My John Masefield journey started in 2010 when I joined the Design Technology department to teach Food and Textiles. Having studied Graphics at degree level, I then introduced this subject alongside Product Design. In 2013 I became House Leader and lead Jubilee house to win 4 Sports Days running, this has to be my biggest achievement to date as the other 3 House Leaders were all PE teachers!! At present I am Head of Year 8 as well as Design Technology Curriculum Leader; combining my two passions of pastoral care and being crafty in the workshop. Life is pretty good!

Miss Newnes (Head of Y10 and Enrichment Co-ordinator)

I joined JMHS as an English teacher in 2016 and then the pastoral team in 2018 as a Head of House, which I thoroughly enjoyed. More recently, I have been appointed as Enrichment Coordinator and I am determined to create an extracurricular curriculum which is rich and gives all students the opportunity to pursue their own areas of interest. I now teach English, RE and History, and have the pleasure of being the Head of Year 10.

Before I was a teacher, I was a journalist and had the opportunity to interview many influential people such as David Attenborough. Recently, I have completed the Three Peaks Challenge in twenty-three hours and raised £7,000 for the charity MIND.

3. Curriculum Development at JMHS

Our Subject Leaders have worked extremely hard to develop high quality subject curriculums over the past three years. They have ensured that:

- The curriculum is interesting, relevant, and prepares students for life in modern Britain.
- Key knowledge is identified, taught early in the course and constantly revisited to make this secure.
- Topics are carefully sequenced so that students can always link new learning to previous knowledge.
- End points for each module are precisely and concisely identified.
- Small components of learning have been identified along with the subject vocabulary to achieve each end point.

We have completed curriculum summaries for the Spring Term detailing the key learning and vocabulary for each subject. Subject Curriculum Summaries and Key Vocabulary for each term, each year group and each subject can be viewed on the school website or by clicking the link below:

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/curriculum/spring-2022-curriculum/>

This term Mr Hammond (Assistant Headteacher) and Mrs Males (Head of Vocational Studies and a seconded member of our Extended Leadership Team) have researched effective assessment through relevant literature and visiting successful schools. They have formulated new assessment procedures for JMHS which have been presented to staff and will be implemented next term. In the first newsletter of next term Mr Hammond and Mrs Males will write an article explaining how these will work.

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

A productive term for Year 12 and 13 students has ended with Test Week 2, our second summative assessment point this academic year. This has involved students sitting classroom assessments in their subjects to check their knowledge retention and understanding. This is followed by feedback from teachers on how to improve their grasp of specific topics or concepts which should support further progress next term. This is particularly important for Year 13 students in order to establish a strong foundation for their crucial A Level Mock Exams which occur straight after the February Half Term.

It has been a very busy time for our Medicine and Oxbridge applicants with multiple interviews over the past couple of weeks. We have this year extended our support to applicants where possible with extra practice interviews with colleagues from other academic institutions such as Malvern St James College. Students involved found these practice interviews suitably challenging but rewarding.

5. Performing Arts Update by Mrs Kyle, Faculty Leader for Performing Arts

In spite of occasional restrictions, Performing Arts has continued to provide a variety of clubs for a range of students. In Dance, Year 7 and Year 8 have been learning a variety of choreographic styles and performances working towards the school production in the future. In Senior Dance Club (mixed year groups) we have been working towards a dance which we are entering for the first time in The Great Big Dance Off, taking place in the Spring term. Students are getting excited at the opportunity to perform the dance at the Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham competing against other schools in the West Midlands. Year 10 will be working with TwoFaced Dance Company next term which we are very excited about.

The music ensembles have been working extra-hard to get ready for our virtual Christmas concert. Miss Davis was delighted to finally hear the orchestra play Sleigh Ride! After Christmas, all music clubs will continue to run, with the aim of working towards a summer performance. New clubs to look out for in the Spring term: Year 7 Singers on a Monday lunch time and Guitar Group on a Tuesday lunch time.

Year 7 Drama club have been looking at 'Poe Plays', which is set in a school detention, when students find a collection of ghost stories that they take in turns to tell. These are adaptations of famous stories from Edgar Allan Poe. The play has now been cast and students are looking forward to performing it sometime during the next term – further information will be released soon.

The school production has been on a brief hiatus but will return in the New Year ready to rehearse and ultimately entertain our audiences with a wide collection of musical theatre numbers. The students themselves have been devising the story which links the musical numbers together which has been great fun to explore.

6. Penguin Lit in Colour Book Giveaway

The English Faculty is delighted to announce that it has won 130 new books in the Penguin Lit in Colour book giveaway. Penguin UK received over 1600 applications from schools around the UK - including ours written by Dr Ruth Lewis - and a panel of judges picked John Masefield High School to be one of the recipients.

Three big boxes arrived last month with 100 Penguin books by authors of colour for our students to enjoy, as well as 30 copies of Sathnam Sanghera's 'Empireland' and an accompanying resource pack. Plans for this wonderful literary haul have already been made, and the English Faculty is hoping to introduce the texts in a range of ways over the next few months. We look forward to reading and showcasing the texts in Year 7 Creative Writing Club, English lessons, library lessons and displays, A-level study and a wide variety of other activities.

"I was in my final year at university before I read a brown author. I was well into my forties before I began to get my head around the complexity of British imperial history and its modern legacies. It has

been a thrill to see Empireland seized upon by people, on the left and right of British life, as a balanced way into the often toxic debate about colonialism. And it's exciting that thousands of young people across Britain will not have to wait as long as I did to start thinking about these issues."

Sathnam Sanghera, author of Empireland

7. End of Term Arrangements

The Autumn term finishes this Friday 17 December with students leaving at lunchtime. Students will attend their first two lessons until break and should bring their books and equipment for these. During lesson three students will celebrate the end of term in their tutor groups. These celebrations will include watching the excellent Christmas concert by our performing arts students and an assembly message from their Year Leader.

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.

8. Key dates next term

Friday 17 December: Term ends at 12.15pm

Tuesday 4 January: Staff training day and Covid testing by appointment for Years 11-13

Wednesday 5 January: Spring Term starts for Year 11-13 and Covid testing by appointment for Years 7-10

Thursday 6 January: Spring Term starts for Years 7-10

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

We are aware that many families are looking forward to travel and holidays returning to normal in the future, we have therefore published term dates, teacher training days and dates of school holidays up to and including the summer holidays for 2024 on our website. They can be viewed by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/parents-information/term-dates/>

... And finally

I would like to wish all students, staff and families a safe, happy and relaxing Christmas break and a very happy new year

With my thanks and best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher