



18 March 2022

Dear students, parents, and carers,

It has been great to see the students coming into school today wearing blue and yellow supporting Ukraine at a time when its citizens face the most difficult and harrowing circumstances imaginable. We are aiming to raise close to £1,000 from the non-uniform day. We would also like to thank students, parents and staff for all of the donations brought into school.

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1. Curriculum Update and Faculty Leaders

As described in previous newsletters, Curriculum Leaders have spent the past three years improving subject curriculums to ensure that the most important concepts and ideas are taught effectively and so that students know more, remember more and understand better.

Although writing a curriculum is a never-ending task where improvements can always be made, most subjects will have reviewed and completed their revised curriculum by September 2022. From September subjects will focus on improving the detail and lesson resources for two year groups each year, starting with Year 7 and Year 9 in 2022-3.

Curriculum Leaders have recently completed overviews of the curriculum for their subjects, each about two pages long and these can be viewed via the link below:

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

In addition to these curriculum overviews the website also contains termly summaries for each subject which can be viewed below:

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

In this newsletter I have asked two of our Curriculum Leaders to outline their philosophy for developing their subject at JMHS and tell us a little bit about themselves.

Mrs Males - Faculty Leader for Vocational Subjects

Whilst studying a joint honours French and German degree at the University of Bristol, I had the exciting opportunity to undertake a module to learn how to be an effective modern foreign language teacher. It

was this experience that sparked my interest in becoming a secondary teacher and undertaking my PGCE at the University of Worcester. I first joined JMHS in 2015 where my role involved teaching French, German and Business Studies.

In 2017 a fantastic opportunity became available to lead the Vocational Faculty. Upon the successful appointment, I have since overseen many subjects within the Vocational domain. I am passionate about providing a suitable education for all regardless of a student's academic ability. Likewise, with the rest of my team, we strongly believe that our Vocational department endeavours to equip our students with the practical skills, knowledge of key terminology and understanding of an ever-changing society. Our teaching contextualises learning by putting it in a relatable, real-life context ensuring students can apply new knowledge to the world of work around them.

Mrs Kyle - Faculty Leader for Performing Arts

Performing Arts is a vital, energetic and vibrant part of the curriculum at John Masefield High School. Beyond the academic teaching of the subjects, this area provides a space for self expression and to grow students as self-confident, effective communicators. We aim to deliver a curriculum which instils an appreciation of all areas of the Performing Arts and also enables students to discover new ideas and ways to engage with the wider community and the world. Our curriculum is designed around the three elements of creating, performing and responding, and we encourage students to be imaginative and to take risks with their learning. We also give students the opportunity to learn skills beyond performance and we have excellent lighting and sound equipment of industry standard to train students in areas they will not have come across before. Students in Performing Arts at JMHS have gone on to some of the best schools and colleges including Bird College of Dance, RADA, Italia Conti, LiPA and Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Of course, there are also a myriad of opportunities to develop your skills, learn new ones and engage with students across the school through our extra-curricular programme including choirs, orchestra, ensemble, drama and dance groups. Performing Arts have a wonderful reputation for delivering excellent shows and concerts. By the time students move into Sixth Form they are creating shows independently with minimal support from the team.

I have been teaching now for 21 years and have always been a part of the local area, originally attending Hanley Castle High School. I trained in English and Drama in London at Queen Mary College and Royal Central School of Speech and Drama after originally wanting to do a degree in Law. My English teacher advised me to always be creative and I have tried to emulate his way of teaching and his engagement of students in everything I've accomplished since. I have a passion for theatre and spend a lot of my time involved in some way or another, although that has slowed as I have become a parent and I now spend a lot of my spare times cheering on at touchlines.

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

With Year 13 Mock A Level exams now completed our senior students are receiving detailed feedback from their subject teachers to fill any knowledge gaps, improve their understanding and hone their exam skills. It has been informative for the Year 12 students to see how diligently the Year 13s have prepared and have supported each other during the examination period.

We are thrilled to announce that, in addition to our students being offered places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, both of our Medical Science applicants have been successful in gaining offers for next year. Malika Chahdan who came to us in Year 12 from Dyson Perrins school has received offers from the Universities of Birmingham and Plymouth. We are delighted that Malika has thrived at JM6, worked hard and put herself in a position to receive these offers. One of our Head Students, Izzy French, has also received two offers to study medicine at St George's, University of London and at the University of

Birmingham, so richly deserved for all Izzy's hard work and support of other students. Last but not least, and continuing with the medical theme, we are also extremely proud to announce that four of our students have secured offers to study nursing. The future NHS looks to be in safe hands.

3. Equalities Campaign

Our equalities campaign continues to be rolled out across year groups with students being encouraged to sign up to a pledge against all forms of discrimination in the school. Our new Equalities policy is also ready for implementation from the summer term and spells out our responses to equalities breaches and outlines our 4 year objectives. The new policy, which will be available on the school website, also incorporates materials to support professionals in trying to educate young people in how to respond to discrimination and giving them the "language" and understanding to call it out. We have appointed an equalities coordinator who will have responsibility for, and oversight of, all our work in this area and will commence in post from September 2022.

4. COVID Update

We are continuing with the following COVID precautions:

- Ensuring all doors and windows are kept open to maximise ventilation
- Asking all parents and carers to ensure that students with Covid symptoms take a PCR test and then self-isolate if it is positive
- Students sanitising their hands on entering or leaving a classroom
- Continuing our 'no physical contact rule'
- Increased cleaning of touch points around the school

Whilst we are still experiencing cold weather, please could students attend school wearing base layers and warm coats. We will continue to allow students to wear coats in lessons.

5. Challenge Days July 2022

During the final week of the Summer 2022 Term, we are planning two Challenge Activity days for each year group, which will give students an opportunity to participate in what we hope will be enriching and enjoyable educational experiences. Sports day will be on Friday 15 July and the last day of term is Thursday 21 July.

Tuesday 19 July 2022

Year 7: Team building skills in school - *led by Miss Dix, Assistant Faculty Leader for PE (free of charge)*

Year 8: Bowling trip plus football & netball tournament – *led by Mr Ward, Head of History (approx. cost £10)*

Year 9: Oakerwood outdoor activities trip - *led by Mrs Laidler, Assistant Headteacher (approx. cost £40) or Maths problem solving day in school (free of charge)*

Year 10: Watersports Trip to Croft Farm – *led by Mr Kontarines, Head of PE (approx. cost £40), or, Enterprise day in school (free of charge) – led by Mrs Males, Head of Vocational studies*

Year 12: CV writing/UCAS workshops – *led by Mr Hawksworth, Head of Sixth Form (free of charge)*

Wednesday 20 July 2022

Year 7: Black Country Museum trip – *led by Mrs Haynes, Faculty Leader for English (approximate cost £22)*

Year 8: Performing arts day in school – *led by Mrs Kyle, Faculty Leader for Performing Arts (free of charge)*

Year 9: Science activities day in school – *led by Dr Jennings, Faculty Leader for Science (free of charge)*

Year 10: Careers activities in school – *led by Mr Elliott, Assistant Faculty Leader for English and Careers Lead or, DT/Art practical day in school – led by Mr Stevenson, Subject Leader for Art/Mrs Fox, Subject Leader for DT (free of charge)*

Year 12: Aztec Watersports Adventures, Upton Warren– *led by Mr Hawksworth, Head of Sixth Form (approximate cost £40)*

Our intention is that every student will be able to participate in both their year group challenge day trip and an in-school activity. Students who currently receive Free School Meals, or who have done so within the last six years, receive a 50% concession. If the cost of the trip might prevent your son or daughter participating, please let me or the teacher organising the activity know and we will see what we can do to help with the costs. If any students do not go on their year group trips they will join in with another year group activity in school.

Teachers organising the out of school challenge day trips will write to you next week with further details of the trips, payment and a proforma to give your permission for your child to go. In order to secure a place on a challenge day trip, a non-refundable deposit of £10 needs to be paid by Friday 8 April and then full payment by Friday 27 May. For any student where payment has not been made and no request for help with payment has been received by Friday 8 April, we will allocate the student to an in-school activity.

6. Vaccination UK survey: Year 9

Vaccination UK were in school on Friday 4 March to deliver the teenage booster vaccination for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio and Meningitis ACWY to Year 9 students. They have let us know that all the students were lovely and their staff really enjoyed the session. They are constantly looking for ways of improving their service and would appreciate feedback from you and your child. The links below are to their surveys; one for parent feedback and one for student feedback. The survey responses will go direct to Vaccination UK once completed and submitted.

Parent and Carer feedback survey link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/family-feedback>.

Pupil feedback survey link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/pupil-feedback>

7. Key dates

Spring and Summer Term

Monday 28 March – Friday 1 April: House Sport events

Friday 8 April: Term ends at 3.15pm

Monday 25 April: INSET day

Tuesday 26 April: Start of term

Monday 2 May: Bank Holiday

Wednesday 11 May: Faculty training afternoon, students depart 12.15pm approx.

Monday 16 May – Tuesday 28 June: Year 11 & Year 13 exam period

Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June: Half Term

Monday 13 June: Faculty training afternoon, students depart 12.15pm approx.

Friday 8 July: INSET day

Friday 15 July: Sports Day

Tuesday 19 July & Wednesday 20 July: Challenge Days

Thursday 21 July: Last day of term, students depart 12.15pm approx.

2022-2023 Term Dates

Autumn Term: Wednesday 7 September 2022 – Friday 16 December 2022

October Half Term: Monday 24 October 2022 – Friday 28 October 2022

Spring Term: Wednesday 4 January 2023 – Friday 31 March 2023

February Half Term: Monday 20 February 2023 - Friday 24 February 2023

Summer Term: Tuesday 18 April 2023 – Tuesday 25 July 2023

May Half Term: Monday 29 May 2023– Friday 2 June 2023

... And finally

We are gradually increasing the number of trips and events as we get used to 'Living with Covid'. This week our Year 10 Geographers spent a rainy day doing their fieldwork in Worcester, whilst some of our Biologists in Year 12 spent Wednesday exploring gene splicing at Birmingham University. We are looking forward to further increasing trips and activities during the summer term.

With my very best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher