



20 May 2022

Dear students, parents, and carers,

We have completed the first week of examinations for Year 11 and Year 13. Both year groups have worked extremely hard this year in difficult circumstances. Students have concentrated well in class gradually developing their knowledge and understanding, they have learnt how to revise and spent time on practice questions, and have responded positively to the huge challenge of studying for their exams after two years of problems caused by COVID. We would like to wish every Year 11 and Year 13 student all the very best over the next month in their examinations.

Contents

1. Curriculum Update and Curriculum Leaders	1
2. Sixth Form News	2
3. Year 10 Prefect Presentation	2
4. School Uniform	3
5. Challenge days update and payment reminder	3
6. 'Book in my Bag' for Years 7 and 8	4
7. Key dates	5

1. Curriculum Update and Curriculum Leaders

Summaries of topics covered, key learning points and vocabulary lists for this term can be viewed below:

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

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

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

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 Harris – Curriculum Leader for Religious Education

As a child I remember being completely transfixed with an illustrated page in my children's encyclopaedia that showed other children from around the world explaining their lives, cultures, celebrations and beliefs. It's a fascination that has stuck with me – RE at its core is about people and what matters to them – whether they have a faith or not.

I graduated with a degree in Philosophy from the University of Sheffield in 2012, having been particularly interested in the parts of my course that covered political philosophy, ethics, feminism and aesthetics. I had ambitions to teach and found my background in philosophy made choosing a PGCE in RE a natural choice. Having no specific background in religion, I've surprised myself by going on to specialise in Eastern religions and am endlessly fascinated by their relevance to the modern world.

I joined JMHS in September 2021, and have relished the opportunity to build a curriculum that reflects modern, diverse Britain and encourages students to challenge others (and their own) thinking. The

curriculum at JMHS is never coercive or biased towards a particular faith. I hope that in RE lessons students feel confident in expressing their ideas and identities, understanding those of others and celebrating the richness faith has brought and does provide to our shared culture and society. I am very excited to introduce RE as a GCSE option at JMHS, and have been deeply impressed and really encouraged by students' enthusiasm for the subject this year.

Mr Kenvyn - Curriculum Leader for Computer Science and ICT

The aim of the computer science department at John Masefield, is to help develop our students into critical independent learners. Computers are used everywhere within modern society, from household utilities, entertainment, communication and as central components of the nation's infrastructure. We aim to develop the critical thinking skills of our students to be able to understand the advantages and disadvantages of using computers in day-to-day lives. Furthermore, we develop the skills to be able to utilise new and emerging technologies to their full potential.

Before training as a teacher, I graduated with a degree in Games Technology from UWE. After graduating I worked at an E-learning company developing resources for coaching and mentoring, and leadership and management. It was here that I developed a passion for education that made me pursue my initial teacher training qualification and seek a change of career into education.

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

Farewell to Year 13

Today we said goodbye to our fantastic group of Year 13 students. The end of their learning journey at JM6 was marked with a leaver's assembly and brunch during which we shared some great memories and the students received farewell messages from their subject teachers.

It is always a poignant occasion but this year even more so as our present group of senior students have been particularly fabulous to work with. Full of ability, enthusiasm and good humour they have fully embraced the challenges of A level study and the opportunities afforded at JM6. Consequently they have received the highest number of prestigious university offers that we have seen for six years and are set for futures at the country's most competitive universities, some great apprenticeships, and no doubt sparkling careers. Additionally, they have created the largest and most pro-active student leadership group we have ever had contributing to the life of JM6, the whole school and the wider community. It is both a great pleasure working with our senior students, and also testament to the contribution they feel JM6 makes to their education and growth as young adults, that so many students stay in touch and let us know how they are doing; so as we say goodbye to Year 13s we wish them the very best for the future and look forward to hearing of their future careers and accomplishments.

Year 12 Work Experience

This year from Monday 11 July to Wednesday 13 July we are instigating work experience for all Year 12 students. This is an invaluable opportunity to learn more about a potential career, experience the demands of a real work environment and further develop some of the soft skills required in the workplace. Year 12 students are busy at the moment attempting to find placements but inevitably some will struggle as placements can be difficult to secure. **This is where the JMHS parents/carers might be able to help.** If you feel you could offer a placement for one or more students during this period please contact Mrs Lauzier our Sixth Form Assistant at hannah.lauzier@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk. Any placement provision would of course be subject to the usual local authority safeguarding checks.

JM6 Student Leadership 2022/22 team

Following very strong applications and interviews we are delighted to announce the JM6 Student Leadership team for next year:

Head Students: Natasha Bloom and Elli Thomas
Student Voice: Josh Crickett, India Davies, Leona Peggs
Head of Charity Fundraising: Ben Collins
Sports Captain: Abi Tinson
Performing Arts Leader: Montana Watkins

3. Year 10 Prefect Presentation

Last week I enjoyed presenting prefect sweatshirts and certificates to our excellent new Year 10 Prefects. These students have shown that they are consistently conscientious, considerate and cooperative and have made strong contributions to making JMHS a great place to learn by supporting their peers and their teachers.

Beacon	Holywell	Jubilee	Midsummer
Isla Christopherson	Lewis Arnold	Chelsea Chester	Lily Branagan
Vaughan Cresswell	Tom French	Felicity Cox	Johnny Burch
Teodora Fotache	Jacob Geller	Emonie Huckle	Lucy Copeland
Samuel Hartness	Sam King	Jordan Kibble	Scarlett Evans
Joe Keegan	Nathaniel Mepham	Martha Loraine	Henry Flanagan
Nancy Newbrook-Bell	Rufus Morley	Erin Norton	Oscar Jenkins
Harley Peggs	Milana Omelcenko	Reo Selwyn	Cameron Jones
Henry Thompson	Zak Owen	Keilan Taylor	Charlotte Kroese
Hannah Willis	Alexandra Sutton	Theresa Thomas	Alanna Leeming
	Rose Widdows		Connor Shakesheff
			Isobel Shipman
			Jessica Smith
			Caleb Taylor-Black
			Ellie Walker

The prefects will commence their duties after half term which will include:

- Helping next year's Year 7 get to know JMHS and make a good start
- Organising sports and arts events, and helping with clubs and activities
- Acting as reading buddies and maths buddies

4. School Uniform

Throughout this school year we have kept every door and window in the school open to mitigate against the risk of students catching Covid 19. Hence, the classrooms have been cooler than usual and we have allowed students to wear coats in lessons. Now that the warmer weather has finally arrived, we are no longer allowing students to wear coats in lessons or in tutor time. We are insisting that all students wear their school uniform. The JMHS full uniform list can be viewed below.

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/parents-information/school-uniform/>

Please could we remind you of the following:

- a. Students should not bring any jewellery to school with the exception of a maximum of two stud earrings per ear. Necklaces, rings etc can be dangerous in PE and practical lessons. We will ask students to hand in jewellery if worn and we will return to parents and carers.

- b. Students must not wear or bring hoodies into school. We will ask them to hand hoodies in if they are worn and we will return them to parents and carer.
- c. Students should use a rucksack to carry their belongings and equipment in school. Handbags and single strap fashion bags are not permitted.

5. Challenge days update and payment reminder

Plans and arrangements are well underway for our Challenge Activity days on Tuesday 19 July and Wednesday 20 July – it will be the first time since 2019 we have been able to hold these events. **The remaining balance for the trip you have booked for your child should be paid by Friday 27 May via ParentPay or in the Finance Office.** If any parent/carer has difficulty paying for this trip, please contact me to discuss and arrange financial assistance.

The trips and activities are summarised below.

Tuesday 19 July 2022

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

Year 8: Bowling trip plus football & rounders tournament – *led by Mr Ward, Head of History*

Year 9: Oakerwood outdoor activities trip - *led by Mrs Laidler, Assistant Headteacher, or, Maths problem solving day in school*

Year 10: Watersports Trip to Croft Farm – *led by Mr Kontarines, Head of PE, or, Enterprise day in school – led by Mrs Males, Head of Vocational studies*

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

Wednesday 20 July 2022

Year 7: Black Country Museum trip – *led by Mrs Haynes, Faculty Leader for English*

Year 8: Performing arts day in school – *led by Mrs Kyle, Faculty Leader for Performing Arts*

Year 9: Science activities day in school – *led by Dr Jennings, Faculty Leader for Science*

Year 10: Careers activities in school – *led by Mr Elliott, Careers Lead*

Year 12: Aztec Watersports Adventures, Upton Warren – *led by Mr Hawksworth, Head of Sixth Form*

6. 'Book in My Bag' for Years 7 and 8

We know how important it is to encourage and monitor independent reading. Therefore, immediately after half term, we will launch 'Book in My Bag' for all Year 7 and 8 students and these students will be required to have a reading book in their bag at all times. Students will be asked to complete independent reading for at least 30 minutes for English homework each week, and this will be monitored by English teachers and our librarian. The library is open both before school, during break and lunchtimes and after school, so students can choose from the plethora of exciting new titles. We are sure that this strategy will impact positively on our students' confidence in reading. We would appreciate your support with this programme by ensuring Year 7 and 8 students have a book in their bag and that they are reading at home.

7. Key dates

Spring and Summer Term

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.

Sunday 26 June to Thursday 30 June inclusive – Year 8 French trip

Friday 8 July: INSET day

Friday 15 July: Sports Day

Sunday 17 July to Thursday 21 Jul inclusive – Year 10 French trip

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

As this has been such a short half term there will not be the usual tests in most subjects for Year 7 to Year 10 next week. The content covered during this term will be tested in July instead.

With my very best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher