



15 July 2022

Dear students, parents, and carers

As we approach a well-deserved summer holiday for students and staff, I would like to thank all members of the school for their contributions to a highly successful Summer Term. Successes this term have included:

- High quality teaching of the curriculum and students working hard and taking pride in their work
- Our first Year 5 and Year 6 evenings and days for three years with excellent contributions from Year 10 prefects and other student helpers to help prepare future JMHS students for life at JMHS
- Excellent work from our Language Leaders teaching enjoyable and well-received lessons at Ledbury Primary School
- Our Year 7 students winning the County Plate for cricket
- Excellent geography fieldwork completed by students in Year 10
- Strong performances by younger students in the latest UK Mathematical Challenge
- Welcoming many new students to our school including 6 from Ukraine who have been successful in their first term
- Strong performances and good levels of participation in a highly competitive Sports Day today
- A lovely summer concert with strong musical performances and delicious food by Year 9 students last night
- The ongoing chess tournament which has had a higher standard of play than we have seen for many years

Reminder: Due to the forecasted heatwave the school will close at 12:15pm on Monday 18 July and all day on Tuesday 19 July

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1. Curriculum Update

During the Summer Term we have commissioned six two-day reviews of the curriculum in English, mathematics, science, computer science, design technology and geography. These reviews were carried out by Liz Farr (one of our School Improvement Advisors) and highlighted strengths in curriculum design, teaching and assessment and suggested areas for development. The advice given was very helpful and all of these subjects have made improvements through the Summer Term.

All subjects have been reviewing and improving their curriculum for next academic year. New subject overviews which include key learning points, vocabulary lists and ideas for parents to help with learning will be published on the school website in September.

This week students in Year 7- 9 have been taking their latest end of half term tests. These tests have half the marks allocated for topics studied during the latest half term with the other marks awarded for knowledge covered longer ago. This way we can see how well students are retaining knowledge in their long-term memory. I have not seen all the marks for the tests yet but have been impressed with how hard students have worked in these tests, using the time available and producing their best possible work.

2. Sixth Form News

Year 10 Futures Discussions

Over 115 of our Year 10 students have now had the first of a series of 'Futures Discussions' where they have had the opportunity to talk through their career aspirations and next steps after GCSEs. The remaining Year 10 students will have their first Futures Discussion early next term. Students have been informed of the main three pathways after GCSE: traditional academic A Level route; a vocational route; and the apprenticeship route. During the discussions students were also able to receive information specifically about John Masefield Sixth Form (JM6) to find out the courses on offer and the wide range of additional enrichment and leadership opportunities they can involve themselves in at JM6. Further opportunities to learn more about JM6 will come in the Autumn Term of Year 11 with JM6 Open Evening on Tuesday 11 October and JM6 Taster Day on Friday 11 November when Year 11 students will be able to sample life and lessons as a JM6 student. Students will also have a second Futures Discussion in November or December of the Autumn Term.

Year 11 Transition to JM6

A fantastic group of Year 11 students, continuing to JM6 in September, spent Tuesday and Wednesday experiencing a variety of subject masterclasses to support their transition into life as a Sixth Form student. We are very excited about the quality of students continuing their education with us and all students threw themselves into the challenges of the two days.

The days were aimed at enthusing and preparing students for the rigors of A Level study. The students enjoyed being immersed into their chosen subjects, in maths they looked at quadratic functions, chemistry explored the iron content of dried thyme and art explored the 'beauty in the broken' creating pencil works from their own compositions. The biologists completed a multitude of practical tests looking at the properties of water, the French lesson discovered modern French music and how trends change, while in German, students experienced a cultural burst, discussing stereotypes and clichés of the culture. The taste of psychology really was a taste! Using lemons, students conducted an experiment exploring the correlation between personality and saliva production. Students were also able to sample a range of some of the activities we offer as part of our enrichment programme including, recreational sport, STEM Club, performing arts and learning sign language. During tutor time, heads of year spoke about the wide range of initiatives, including Learning Support Assistants and how the Year 11s could get involved from September. They also outlined the support available to our new sixth formers and support for developing good study habits and a balanced life as an effective student.

We look forward to welcoming them as our new Year 12s in September.

First Aid at JM6

Over the course of the year, JM6 students have been able to experience a wide range of elective activities as part of the enrichment programme. Activities have included competitive sport matches, the Sixth Form production, Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) activities, debating, learning to sign course,

recreational sport and peer to peer supporters. These activities provide a welcome break and relaxation from A Level study whilst providing an opportunity to develop new skills. Most recently 15 of our students have passed their initial first aid course. The students all engaged in and completed the course brilliantly and gained a qualification. All commented that they found the course extremely valuable and worthwhile having learnt very useful life skills.

3. Year 10 and Year 12 Examinations

Year 10 Exams

Congratulations to Year 10 on completing their end of year examinations. As these are the first formal practice exams completed for GCSEs, it is important that these are treated as a learning experience. It is important that students learn lessons when given feedback from their teachers and take these forward to help them prepare for their final exams in Year 11.

Year 12 Exams

Having not completed formal GCSE examinations due to Covid our Year 12s have experienced their first formal exam series with our recent internal end of Year 12 exams. Many students revised diligently and effectively for these and have put themselves in a good position to build upon for their more challenging Year 13 study. There will be more opportunities next year for our most senior students to hone their exam writing skills with test weeks starting Monday 17 October and Monday 5 December and the crucial Year 13 Formal Mock Exams starting straight after the February half term.

4. Challenge Day: Wednesday 20 July 2022

As communicated yesterday the Challenge Day activities and trips on Tuesday 19 July have been cancelled for the safety and well-being of students and staff as a result of the forecasted heatwave.

As the weather is predicted to be less extreme on Wednesday 20 July we plan for the trips and activities for this day to go ahead (If the weather forecast changes dramatically, we may need to reconsider this, but at this stage this seems unlikely). The trips and activities for the Challenge Day on Wednesday 20 July are summarised below.

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 *plus Year 7s not on the trip – 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* or DT Challenge Day – *led by Mrs Fox (DT students)*

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

All students on activities in school should be bring to school a large refillable water bottle. All students on trips out of school should wear clothing advised by the trip leader and bring sun hats, sun screen and water bottles. Any students requiring medication must ensure they have it with them on the trip, otherwise they will not be allowed to go. This includes inhalers and epipens and any other medication you have informed the school which may be required by your child during the day. Please can I take this opportunity to remind you that it is your responsibility as a parent/carer to ensure the contact and medical information you have supplied to the school concerning your child is up to date. Updates to this information can be emailed to data@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk.

5. End of Term

The final day of term is next Thursday 21 July. Students should bring their books and equipment for their first two lessons. After break, we had planned a whole school assembly with live performances and presentation of the House Cups. To reduce the risk of students and staff catching COVID we have decided instead to play a recording of the Summer Concert performed last night and then livestream the presentation of the house cups from the theatre to form rooms.

Students will depart from 12:15pm and buses leave at 12:30pm. If you are picking up your son or daughter by car, please could we ask that you delay entering the car park until 12:35pm.

6. Exam Results Days

A level results will be available to collect from the Sixth Form Centre from 8.30am until 10.30am on Thursday 18 August. The Sixth Form team will be on hand to offer advice and support as needed for students.

GCSE results will be available to collect from the Sports Hall on Thursday 25 August from 9.30am until 11.30am. Those students intending to attend John Masefield Sixth Form will be enrolled immediately after results have been collected. A careers adviser will be available on the morning to provide advice for students who require it.

There will undoubtedly be students who will not be able to attend JMHS to collect their results due to family holidays, work commitments etc. Students who cannot be at JMHS on results day may request for their results to be e-mailed to their personal e-mail address on their respective results day. For assurance and data integrity purposes, this request must be sent from their JMHS school e-mail account to exams.officer@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk no later than Wednesday 20 July 2022. The request must include the e-mail address the student wishes their results to be sent to. Please note that the exam results are personal data that belong to the student and the school must ensure that results are only disclosed to students, not parents or any other third party. The student may of course wish to share their results once they have received them.

7. School Uniform

Please could we encourage parents and carers to carefully check that students have school uniform that fits ready for September. The JMHS full uniform list can be viewed below.

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

Details and links to our two uniform suppliers are given below:

- ClubSport, 24 The Homend, Ledbury, HR8 1BT, Tel: 01531 635242, Opening Hours – Monday to Saturday 9am – 5.30pm. ClubSport website for [online ordering](#)
- 'Your Name On It', link to local supplier for [online ordering](#). They can also take telephone orders on 01886 881 081.

We understand that purchasing a new uniform can be costly for parents and carers, and if you have concerns about meeting this cost please contact us at admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk and we will try and help. We have a supply of good quality second-hand uniform, including a limited supply of PE uniform, please contact Mrs Chadney at val.chadney@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk for more details.

8. Start of the Autumn Term

Details for the start of the Autumn Term are given below:

Monday 5 September and Tuesday 6 September: Teacher training days. Please feel free to contact us on these days if you have any questions.

Wednesday 7 September: First day of term for students in Year 7, Year 12 and Year 13. Year 7 students will be walked to the Sports Hall when they arrive. Sixth Form students will report to the Sixth Form centre.

Thursday 8 September: First day of term for Year 8 to Year 11. All year groups in school. Year 7 students should go to the Sports Hall when they arrive. Other students should go to their year group zone before school and break as detailed below:

Year 8: Modern Languages playground

Year 9: The Quad between the Computing block and Science

Year 10: The Mathematics playground

Year 11: The area surrounding the astroturf road

Sixth Form: Sixth Form Centre

9. Key Dates

Key Dates for the Autumn Term

Monday 5 and Tuesday 6 September: Staff Training Days

Wednesday 7 September: Start of term for Year 7, Year 12 and Year 13

Thursday 8 September: Start of term for Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11

Thursday 6 October: Open Evening

Tuesday 11 October: Sixth Form Open Evening

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

Friday 11 November: JM6 Taster Day

Thursday 24 November: Year 11 Parents' Evening

Thursday 8 December: Year 7 Parents' Evening

Thursday 15 December: Christmas Concert

Friday 16 December: Last day of term, students depart at 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

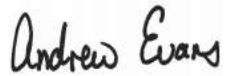
May Half Term: Monday 29 May 2023– Friday 2 June 2023

... And finally

I would like to thank all staff and students for their hard work, support, and commitment during this academic year and would particularly like to mention staff who are leaving us - Mr Hopkins, Mrs Drumgold, Mr McClusky, Mrs Hull, Mr Stevenson, and Mr Davies. All have made strong contributions to JMHS. Three of these staff have worked at JMHS for at least 14 years.

Mrs Hull has been an excellent IT technician tirelessly working to keep our computer systems running smoothly. Mr Stevenson is a popular and engaging teacher whose roles have included Year Leader, House Leader for Jubilee, and Curriculum Leader for Art and Design Technology. Mr Davies has supported many students with learning needs in his quiet, patient and highly professional way.

With my very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Andrew Evans
Headteacher