



29 September 2022

Dear students, parents, and carers,

I have been pleased with the first month of this academic year. Some highlights include:

- Attendance is currently back to pre-COVID levels and above 95%
- Students are focussing extremely well in lessons, commencing tasks promptly, presenting their work well and completing large amounts of high quality written and practical work
- We have a wider range of enrichment clubs and more students are participating than last year

Contents

1. JMHS curriculum	1
2. The ASPIRE standards	2
3. Attendance and COVID	2
4. Half termly tests and progress checks	3
5. Sixth Form News	3
6. Open Evening	3
7. Sixth Form Open Evening and Taster Day	3
8. Faculty Training Afternoons	4
9. Enrichment activities	4
10. Lunchtime sport	5
11. Key dates for the Autumn Term	5

1. JMHS Curriculum

JMHS teachers have spent many hours over the past four years developing the JMHS Curriculum. They have planned subject curriculums so that all students know more, can remember more and understand better. To do this they have:

- Ensured the most important facts and key knowledge are taught near the start of the course and are revisited many times gradually building complexity.
- Sequenced learning so that new knowledge can be linked to previous learning and that topics are taught in an order that helps students to know more, remember more and understand better.
- Linked ideas and knowledge to key concepts, showing students the big ideas within each subject.
- Determined end points for each module of learning that are clear and precise.
- Detailed small components of learning to achieve the end points.
- Identified the key vocabulary students need to know and use within each module.

Each subject has developed detailed learning schemes with teaching resources which are constantly being refined and improved as we learn more about what works best.

A summary of each subject curriculum which includes an overview of courses taught and details what students in each year group will be learning this academic year can be viewed through the curriculum page of our website or by clicking the link below.

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

2. ASPIRE by Mr Collard, Deputy Headteacher

At JMHS we use ASPIRE to identify and celebrate excellent learning habits that help students to achieve their best. Members of staff use each of the terms to award House Points for students who demonstrate these learning values. Teachers provide excellent lessons that help secure new knowledge and help all students achieve their personal best so ASPIRE helps students to play their role in their own success story. If you can support us with discussing these excellent learning habits with your son/daughter it is greatly appreciated.

Ask if ever you are unsure. Checking understanding is a great way to help you, and your classmates.

Set your work out neatly. Always show pride in whatever work you are doing.

Push yourself in every lesson and for your homework. Finding things a challenge and making mistakes are a crucial part of learning. Never give up!

Identify where you can make improvements and work hard to develop your work. You're doing well, but you can always improve!

Respect yourself and others. Follow the instructions of staff and always show consideration for your classmates.

Extra-curricular clubs and activities are a great way to find new and exciting things to do at JMHS. Get involved in the many things we have for you to do!

3. Attendance and COVID

It was noticeable but not surprising with this year's GCSE and A-Level results that on average students who achieved the best results had significantly higher attendance than those who achieved less well. Over the last 3 years, many students who would otherwise have excellent attendance missed time through no fault of their own to COVID. Students who missed time but still achieved well had made the effort to catch up on work missed. We do expect students who have missed time to catch up and will provide more specific guidance on this and work for each subject to help students who have missed time on our website and in our next newsletter.

The latest government guidance on managing COVID-19 in children and their attendance at school is given below:

Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting.

Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.

It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional.

If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can. After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower.

Please can I remind all parents and carers that we need to be contacted as early as possible on every day of absence. This can be done by phone, 01531 631012 Option 1, or email studentabsence@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk. We will only authorise absence for illness where sufficient detail and explanation is provided. Students can attend school feeling 'under the weather' and should be encouraged to do so. Medical and dental appointments should be arranged outside of school time wherever possible. Planned absences are only authorised in exceptional circumstances and requests should be made as early as possible.

4. Half Termly Tests and Progress Checks by Mr Hammond, Assistant Headteacher

Starting next month, all students in Years 7 to 11 will be formally tested at the end of each half term in all of their subjects. The tests will comprise 50% of questions on content covered during the current half term, the rest of the test includes topics covered earlier in the key stage (with the exception of Year 7 students, and Year 9 students in option subjects which are new to them). This will enable teachers to be able to track current learning and mastery of previous content, and will help teachers to plan more effectively. Students can revise for these tests using a range of resources. The notes that they make in lessons along with information from subject knowledge checklists are an excellent starting point. Students receive a knowledge checklist at the start of each module or unit; the checklist summarises the key knowledge required. They are glued into exercise books and enable students to track their own learning. In addition, students are encouraged to use high-quality digital resources such as BBC Bitesize, as well as subject-specific resources which teachers in many subjects guide students toward.

Starting this year, there will be significant changes to the school progress check and annual report. In summary, there will be one progress check and one report each year. These documents will include precise details of your child's attainment in the form of a cumulative average test percentage. It is also planned that each subject's year group average and class average will be shown. Subject teachers will also grade your child's Care and Concentration, and Quality of Homework. On the summer term report, tutors rather than subject teachers will provide a comment. We will include your child's cumulative attendance percentage and the year group attendance average in the report, and we also plan to provide behaviour points and the year group average. A fuller explanation will be sent to parents and carers in early October.

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

The term has started with purpose and pace for our sixty-three new Year 12 students who have joined our successful and thriving JM6 community. Students have had induction sessions with their tutors and an introduction to some of the study skills required for A Level study. Taking their prompt from our great cohort of Year 13 students, Year 12 are learning to make the most of the morning sessions for independent study when not in lessons. It is also pleasing to see how they have thrown themselves into the life of JM6 with their support of sports fixtures and the Sixth Form production. We look forward to seeing them grow as young adults over the next two years.

6. Open Evening – Thursday 6 October

We have had a fantastic response to our Open Evening on Thursday 6 October. There is still space available in both sessions, but they are filling up fast. The evening will include an introductory talk from me and a tour of the school led by our Year 11 Prefects. The tour will take visitors to all faculty areas where staff and students will be available to talk about each subject at JMHS. Staff will also be available to discuss SEND, student services, uniform, and transport. Booking is available through the following link: [JMHS open evening booking form](#).

We are also offering tours of JMHS during the school day for Year 6 families. Tours can be arranged by contacting us at transition@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk.

7. Sixth Form Open Evening and Sixth Form Taster Day

For those students who are considering A levels as their next step (rather than a college course or an apprenticeship) the next opportunity to gain valuable information is the JM6 Open Evening on Tuesday 11 October commencing at 5.30pm in the Theatre (registration from 5.15pm to 5.30pm).

Although many students have already decided that they definitely want to study at JM6 because of its excellent, sustained academic record and pastoral support, this evening is crucial for any student considering A level study at JM6 or elsewhere. The evening provides a valuable opportunity to hear subject presentations from teachers and Year 13 students taking those subjects. This really helps students to refine their ideas about A level subject choices and affords the opportunity to ask questions. There is also an opportunity to meet our fantastic Student Leadership Group and hear about the enrichment and leadership opportunities available to students at JM6.

Further opportunities to refine choices about post-16 study will come on Friday 18 November with our A level Taster Day when students can sample up to five actual A level lessons in different subjects. They can also experience life as a sixth form student for a day including use of our JM6 common room and facilities. More information will be given to Year 11 students after the half term break.

8. Faculty Training Afternoon – Thursday 20 October

For the past six years at JMHS, we have scheduled seven Faculty Training Afternoons during the year. On these afternoons, students leave at the start of lunch and teachers work together in their faculty teams (eg English, languages, arts) to plan the curriculum and improve the consistency and quality of teaching. Since we have started using this additional training and planning time for teachers, we have made significant progress in improving the quality of the curriculum, sequencing teaching to help students understand better and remember more and to make teaching more engaging and motivating.

The dates for this academic year are as follows:

Thursday 20 October 2022	Wednesday 15 February 2023	Wednesday 21 June 2023
Thursday 10 November 2022	Tuesday 21 March 2023	Thursday 29 June 2023
Friday 2 December 2022	Tuesday 16 May 2023	

On the first afternoon, Thursday 20 October, 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 12.30pm.

9. Enrichment activities for the Autumn Term by Miss Newnes, Enrichment Co-ordinator

At John Masefield, we know how important it is to develop students' experience of the world, cultural capital, character, and sense of adventure. For this reason, John Masefield follows an Enrichment programme that supports and develops their character in line with our expectations of students and empowers them to become happy and successful in life, education, and employment. Our Enrichment programme for the Autumn Term has now been launched and we have had a total of 217 students already registered for a club or activity. If you or your young person is yet to join one of our clubs or activities, then please use the link below to access our wide variety of Autumn Enrichment opportunities.

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/parents-information/clubs-and-enrichment/>

All clubs and activities must be booked via Schoolcloud, following the link below.

<https://johnmasefield.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

10. Lunchtime sport

Provided the weather is dry and surfaces are not too slippery we give any students who wish to do so the opportunity to play sport on the tennis courts or astroturf pitch after they have eaten their lunch. In order to play safely, students need suitable footwear with good grip. If your child wishes to play sport at lunchtime, please encourage them to bring the correct footwear (eg trainers with good grip) into school so they can play.

11. Key dates the Autumn term

Thursday 6 October: Open Evening

Tuesday 11 October: Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 13 October: Year 7 Tutor virtual meeting

Thursday 20 October: Faculty training afternoon – students leave at 12:15pm approx.

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

Tuesday 1 November to Friday 11 November: Year 11 Mock Exams

Friday 18 November: JM6 Taster Day

Thursday 24 November: Year 12/13 Parents' Evening

Friday 2 December: Faculty training afternoon – students leave at 12:15pm approx.

Thursday 8 December: Year 11 Parents' Evening

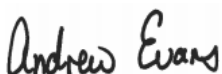
Thursday 15 December: Christmas Concert

Friday 16 December: Last day of term, students depart at 12:15pm approx.

... And finally

Tomorrow evening sees the official opening of Masefield Arts with students performing for the sponsors who contributed towards the £70,000 we raised for the tiered seating in the Theatre. The new seating is excellent and will greatly enhance the experience of the audience for school shows, performances and productions. We very much hope all students and parents will benefit from the improved facilities.

With my very best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher