



18 November 2022

Dear students, parents, and carers

I would like to start by thanking the 258 parents who responded to our survey. I have personally read every response and they are most helpful in informing us about the views of parents and suggesting possible areas for improvement.

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1. Parental Survey Results

The percentages of parents who replied and stated that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statements made are listed below.

Question	Percentage who agree or strongly agree
Does your child feel he/she is making good progress this academic year?	92%
Do you and your child feel the quality of pastoral care has been good so far this year?	90%
Do you feel the quality of communication from the school has been good this academic year?	87%
My child is happy at JMHS.	91%
My child feels safe at school.	95%
JMHS makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	83%
My child has not been bullied.	77%
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	69%
JMHS makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	81%
When I have raised concerns with JMHS they have been dealt with properly.	85%
My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	69%
The school has high expectations for my child.	92%
My child does well at JMHS.	92%
JMHS lets me know how my child is doing.	83%
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at JMHS.	92%
My child can take part in clubs and activities at JMHS.	94%
JMHS supports my child's wider personal development.	85%
I would recommend JMHS to another parent.	88%

There were well over 200 parents who commented on areas that they felt were particular strengths of the school. The areas most commonly commented upon were:

- Communication and support from the Year Leader and Form Tutor
- Quality of teaching overall and in particular subjects
- Students enjoyment of school
- Pastoral care and ensuring thorough supervision at break and lunch
- Excellent relationships between students and staff
- Recent improvement in certain subjects eg art
- Extra-curricular activities eg arts, sport, cooking and the Library
- Help from teachers and support staff
- Support from the SEND Team
- Responding to concerns and supporting with anxiety

The suggestions for improvement were very helpful and varied. The most common suggestions were focussed around:

- Repetition of primary school work in mathematics in Year 7
- Teaching revision methods and exam technique
- The behaviour of some students in older year groups in corridors
- Communication about extra-curricular sport
- Increasing variety of food for school lunches
- Students carrying PE kit around the school
- Students needing support or the work explained in different ways in particular subjects

We are planning or already addressing the areas above in addition to some other suggestions for improvement.

The survey was anonymous but for parents and carers who gave their email address for question 9 about specific issues affecting their child you should receive a reply to the question within the next two weeks. Please let us know if you do not receive a reply.

2. Year 11 Practice Examinations

We would like to congratulate Year 11 students for working so hard in preparation for their GCSE practice exams which they took during the fortnight after half term. We have been most impressed with the way they focussed and strove to achieve as well as they possibly can. Over the next week all Year 11 will have a revision planning seminar with Miss Newnes (Head of Year 11) which will help them learn from their mock exams and start to revise systematically. We will also be holding an evening for parents and carers where we give advice on supporting your child with exam preparation and revision. This will be held on Tuesday 10 January from 5.30pm to 6.15pm.

In order to help students in Year 11 prepare as thoroughly as possible for their GCSE exams there will be a further set of practice exams from Monday 6 February to Friday 17 February.

3. Sixth Form News by Mark Hawksworth, Head of Sixth Form

Sixth Form LSAs

As part of a wide range of leadership opportunities, JM6 students can become paid Learning Support Assistants (LSAs). After receiving training, LSAs support students in Year 7-11, either on a one-to-one basis or in lessons usually working on a one-to-one basis. This is having a significant impact on the confidence and progress of the students they are supporting. In the past, LSAs have supported in English, maths and science, but now we are using their support across all subjects.

Support for students applying to Oxford or Cambridge University

On Wednesday 16 November, we arranged for Ellie Wood, Admissions and Outreach Officer for Christ's College, Cambridge University, to meet our Year 13 Oxbridge applicants to provide advice and guidance for their interviews. This was followed up with Ellie meeting our potential Year 12 Oxbridge applicants for an

introduction to Oxford or Cambridge and the application process. The students found the sessions extremely useful and informative.

Safer Streets initiative

As a development of their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) programme, Year 12 students are participating in the Safer Streets initiative organised by West Mercia Women's Aid and Purple Leaf Education. The initiative involves a series of three sessions in November aiming to educate our students to identify healthy and unhealthy relationships.

4. Christmas Concert and end of Autumn Term

The orchestra, jazz band, choir and male voices are all working tremendously hard preparing a range of traditional carols and popular Christmas tunes for the Christmas Concert. The concert will be held on Thursday 15 December at St Michael and All Angels Church, Ledbury and will begin at 7pm and finish between 8pm and 8.30pm. We are delighted to invite parents and carers to this Christmas Concert for the first time since before Covid.

On the last day of term, Friday 16 December, lessons will run as normal for period 1 and 2. At the start of break Year 7 and 8 will walk supervised to St Michael and All Angels Church for a re-run of the Christmas Concert and Year 9 to 11 will have an end of term celebration with their tutor group. All students will depart from the school site at 12:15pm and buses will depart at 12:30pm.

5. The Anti-Violence Bee

John Masefield was selected to be a part of the Bee Monument tour, which visited our school on Friday 11 November. The Bee Monument is a UK sculpture made entirely of firearms and was created as a dedication monument for the UK's second largest city, Greater Manchester to become a catalyst for anti-violence programmes nationwide.

All weapons were collected as part of the Greater Manchester Police's 'Forever Amnesty', and students from Year 10 and 11, got the opportunity to see the scale of weapons which were surrendered in order to clear the streets of violence and aggression.



Many students were shocked and surprised at the sheer scale of the weapons used to create the monument, as well as amazed at the construction and detail of the monument.

6. Communication by email

Parents should always telephone for urgent matters and let Reception know that it is urgent. The email address, admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk, is for general enquiries and emails to this address will be forwarded to the appropriate member of staff to respond within 48 hours. You can also email your child's Year Leader directly; these email addresses are monitored from 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday to Friday:

Year 7 Miss Adams: terri.adams@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Year 8 Mrs Limbrick: chloe.limbrick@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Year 9 Miss Phillips: ami.phillips@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Year 10 Mr Wyatt: dean.wyatt@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Year 11 Miss Newnes: hayley.newnes@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Year 12 Mrs Cullis: jess.cullis@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Year 13 Mrs Law: maria.law@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

Student absences and medical appointments should be reported by email to studentabsence@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk or by phone, 01531 631012 Option 1. ParentPay is an unmonitored inbox so, please use the email address, admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk if you have any queries in response to a ParentPay message.


7. Key dates

Friday 18 November: JM6 Taster Day
Thursday 24 November: Year 12/13 Parents' Evening
Friday 25 November: Dance Showcase, 7pm
Friday 2 December: Faculty training afternoon – students leave at 12:15pm approx.
Monday 5 December to Friday 9 December: Year 12/13 Test week 2
W/c Monday 5 December: House Sport
Thursday 8 December: Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 15 December: Christmas Concert at 7pm
Friday 16 December: Last day of term, students depart at 12:15pm approx.
Tuesday 3 January: INSET
Wednesday 4 January: First day of Spring Term
Tuesday 10 January: Year 11 Information Evening, 5.30pm to 6.15pm
Thursday 12 January: Year 8 Choices Evening
Monday 23 January: Progress Checks sent to parents and carers of Year 10 and 11 students
Thursday 23 January: Progress Checks sent to parents and carers of Year 12 and 13 students
Thursday 26 January: Year 8 Parents' Evening
Monday 6 February to Friday 17 February: Year 11 Practice Exams
Thursday 9 February: Year 10 Parents' Evening
Monday 13 February: Progress Checks sent to parents and carers of Year 7, 8 and 9 students
Monday 13 February – Friday 17 February: Year 12 only Test week 3
Wednesday 15 February: Faculty training afternoon – students leave at 12:15pm approx.
Thursday 16 & Friday 17 February: School Production of Guys & Dolls
Monday 20 February – Friday 24 February: Half Term
Monday 27 February – Friday 10 March: Year 13 Mock exams
Monday 20 March: Reports sent to parents and carers of Year 11 students
Tuesday 21 March: Faculty training afternoon – students leave at 12:15pm approx.
Thursday 23 March: Year 7 Parents' Evening
Friday 31 March: Reports sent to parents and carers of Year 13 students
Friday 31 March: Last day of term, students depart at 15:15pm approx.
Monday 17 April: INSET
Tuesday 18 April: First day of Summer Term

... And finally

I am particularly looking forward to the Dance Showcase next Friday. It is always great to see the skill and dedication of our dancers and this will be the first student performance with our new tiered Theatre seating. Tickets are selling fast but at the time of writing there are still a few available which can be purchased using this link, <https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/news/autumn-dance-showcase-friday-25-november/>.

With my very best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher