



9 December 2022

Dear students, parents, and carers,

As we approach the final week of the Autumn Term, I would like to thank all members of the school for a successful and enjoyable term. I have been impressed with how hard students have worked and how polite and supportive they are of each other and the staff. I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting lessons and seeing the excellent teaching and support for students in class. I have appreciated how helpful and supportive parents and carers have been.

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## 1. OFSTED Inspection

On Tuesday 29 November and Wednesday 30 November, two OFSTED inspectors (Dr Anthony Edkins and Mrs Janet Lewis) visited JMHS. They observed many lessons, watched students at break and lunch, checked curriculum and safeguarding documents, and met with students and staff.

We would like to thank all parents, students and staff who responded to the OFSTED questionnaires. We had a higher number of responses than many schools receive which was very helpful for OFSTED in giving a balanced view of the opinion of students, staff and parents.

The results of school inspections and the findings of inspectors remain confidential until the publication date on the OFSTED website. We will forward a copy of the report to all parents as soon as it is published.

However, Mr Collard and I visited lessons with inspectors and we were pleased that the quality of teaching we observed was high and that student behaviour in lessons and around school was excellent.

## 2. Letter from Ukrainian families

It has been a huge pleasure for us to welcome children from Ukraine and Afghanistan to JMHS over the last year. All these students have shown excellent manners, are working hard and contributing well to JMHS. We were delighted to receive a lovely letter from our Ukrainian families. I have copied the letter below so that all members of our school community can read this.



Dear friends,

We are Ukrainian families who came to the UK to find protection from the war and a safe place for our children. We want to express our gratitude to all the staff and pupils at John Masefield High School for welcoming our sons and daughters as members of your [NE1] school family. Every day our children feel supported by the teachers and children around them.

We so appreciate the opportunity for our children to study in warm classrooms, to have light and to not flinch from the sounds of air raid sirens.

We came to England from different parts of Ukraine, from big cities and small towns with thousands of years of history, a unique culture and language, and with rich traditions and fertile lands. Some of us used to live near the sea or near the forest, in mountainous or flat parts of our country. But all of us have the same desire - to eventually return to a peaceful life at home. We are very proud of the heroism of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and all Ukrainians who, despite everything, continue working for one common goal - the defence of our country.

Ukrainian children are children of war. They are sensitive and vulnerable, and they are learning the value of life and of things they have in the past taken for granted, like light and warmth and a good education. Our children have left their homes and pets, their relatives and friends, and hobbies. They have lost their dreams. The only dream Ukrainians have now is peace for their country.

We thank you for understanding and accepting our children as they are. Hard times will always reveal true friends and we can confidently say that we have found them here at John Masefield High School and in friendly homes in the whole of Great Britain.

With best regards, Ukrainian families in GMHS.



### 3. Prefect application process for Year 10 students

In mid-January all Year 10 Tutors will let me have their nominations for students from their tutor group for the position of Prefect. All nominations will then be assessed against the challenging prefect criteria which all students must meet; the criteria are as follows:

- Demonstrate being conscientious by striving to achieve their personal best; considerate by being thoughtful about others' feelings and learning; and cooperative by working together as a team to achieve success
- Excellent attendance – when able to attend and catches up with any work missed (medical absences are discounted for students with ongoing medical issues)
- Excellent punctuality and behaviour record (less than 6 behaviour points and no more than one late mark since the start of Year 10)
- No grades on their January Progress Check less than Good
- Average grade on their January Progress Check is Very Good
- Willingness to contribute to at least one prefect team
- Students must consistently adhere to uniform standards

Students that meet the prefect criteria will then be invited to submit an application form to me to become a JMHS Prefect. In their application students are expected to demonstrate how they have been conscientious, considerate and co-operative at JMHS and how they wish to contribute to building our school community so that we all support each other. Successful applicants will be appointed as prefects from the start of the Summer Term.

Students that do not meet the prefect criteria in the first review will have the opportunity to make the necessary improvements and a second review will take place in the second half of the Summer Term. Successful applicants will be appointed as prefects from the start of Year 11.

#### **4. Sixth Form News**

A productive term for Year 12 and Year 13 students has ended with Test Week 2. This has involved students sitting classroom assessments in their subjects to check their knowledge retention and understanding. This will be followed by feedback from teachers on how to improve their grasp of specific topics or concepts. This is particularly important for Year 13 students in order to establish a strong foundation for their crucial A Level Mock Exams which occur straight after the February half-term.

As an extension to their Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) programme all Year 12 students have now engaged in a series of presentations under the 'Safer Streets' initiative. The students can now identify what the early warning signs of an unhealthy relationship are and have an increased awareness of sexual abuse and exploitation. They are also aware of the importance of active bystander behaviour when dealing with inappropriate behaviour. The students responded well and felt that they had benefited from the sessions delivered by Purple Leaf Education and West Mercia Women's Aid.

#### **5. Christmas Concert, Christmas Jumpers 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 the 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. Students can then walk home or await their bus whilst being supervised by staff. Parents picking students up in cars should not arrive before 12:35pm.

On Friday 16 December students are invited to wear a Christmas jumper to school in place of their normal school jumper. Of course, a Christmas t-shirt over the top of their normal school jumper is fine and school

jumpers with Christmas decorations added on, are also allowed. If you wish to donate to our chosen charity, Birmingham Children's Hospital, you can do this via ParentPay.

We look forward to seeing lots of festive knits!

## **6. Extra-Curricular Sport by Mr Kontarines, Faculty Leader for PE**

### **Netball**

It has been great to see so many students attending Netball Club on Mondays. Year 9 and Year 11 played in a County tournament with both year groups finishing in the top half.

JM6 students continue to lead a practice on Monday afternoons for Year 10 and 11 students. JM6 netball results have been improving during the course of the term, with the high energy and positive mental attitude of the students shining through.

### **Hockey**

There have been a fantastic number of boys and girls attending Hockey Club on Wednesday afternoons. Our Year 8 and Year 9 teams performed well in their County tournament.

### **Rugby**

#### Year 8

Large numbers of Year 8 students have attended training led by Mr Seager (Ledbury RFC). Students have played some hard-fought games. Most impressive have been situations where the boys have passed the ball well and run onto the passes with pace and energy through the gain line. I would like to thank Mr Seager and Ledbury RFC for all their hard work with coaching the boys and allowing us to hire their excellent facilities for matches.

#### Year 10

Year 10 have had another strong season on the rugby pitch, which saw them crowned as U15 County Champions. They played some hard-hitting powerful rugby and the skill and pace of our backs has been most impressive.

We played Bishops in the County final. The game started with JMHS needing to defend resiliently under some severe pressure. Fortunately, we kept discipline and made tackles to prevent the opposition from scoring. The first half was a tense affair as both teams fought hard to gain any sort of foothold in the game. JMHS opened the scoring with a penalty kick from Callum P that meant we went into the break 3-0 to the good. At half time the mood was confident and determined.

The second half started much like the first with Bishops in the ascendency. JMHS did however look a constant threat with their pace out wide and were unfortunate with a couple of breaks that did not quite work out. With the game finely poised and both teams knowing any score would be huge, Eddi N made a stunning break from deep in his own half to score the first try of the game. JMHS now looked more confident and energetic, and scored two further tries through Alex D and Nathan F to win the game 24-0.

It was great to see the game played as it should be; tough, hard-fought, yet always in the right spirit.

The squad have had a terrific season and should congratulate themselves on the focus, discipline and resilience they have shown in training and in matches.

Squad members: Harry O'B, Callum P, Eddi N, Fabian K, Fletcher T, Ben P, Ryan S, Keanu C, Brad L, Callum L, Freddie D, Casper W, Ollie J, Adam B, Nathan F, Alex D, Tom CN, Fergus RC, Tim W

Results: JKHS 55-10, Fairfield 42-22, Kingstone 24-12, Bishops 24-0 (final)

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ledbury RFC for supporting us through the course of the season; they are a fantastic community club. Special thanks to Mr Powers and Mr Smith for their commitment to supporting the team throughout the season.

### Year 11

Year 11 were able to get a team together to play in three fixtures at the start of term, which was wonderful to see. They played with gusto and energy and tackled hard as well as producing some free-flowing rugby that led to some memorable tries.

### **Football**

U15 and U16 teams are progressing well in the ESFA Small Schools trophy. Both teams have recorded wins against some strong opponents and are looking to continue this run into the New Year. Year 10 are through to the last 16 of their competition and the U16 team are into the last 32. In Year 10, selection has been an issue with 18 high quality players available to play, all of whom have played their part in the results thus far.

Results U15s: TDMS (Cheltenham) 4-1, Thomas Keble (Stroud) 2-1, Dyson Perrins (Malvern) 3-0

Results U16s: Kingstone 4-0, Ludlow 3-1

## **7. Teenage Mental Health Awareness Evening**

At JMHS we have a number of pastoral approaches to support student's mental health and wellbeing during their time at JMHS as well as working with a number of partner organisations including CLD, school nursing service and 'Kooth'. This year we are fortunate to be part of a regional CAMHS initiative with Jess Knight as our school partner from Worcestershire and Herefordshire Mental Health in Schools. With the support of Jess Knight and other partner organisations we are planning on holding an awareness evening for parents and carers about the mental health support available in school and from other organisations.

We would like to gauge interest in the evening planned for Tuesday 31 January and would be grateful if you could use the link below to let us know if you are interested in attending the event.

### [Mental Health Awareness Evening](#)

## **8. Key dates**

Thursday 15 December: Christmas Concert

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

Tuesday 3 January: INSET

Wednesday 4 January: First day of term

Tuesday 10 January: Year 11 Information Evening

Thursday 12 January: Year 8 Choices Evening – On-line

Monday 23 January: Progress Checks sent to parents and carers of Year 10 and 11 students

Thursday 26 January: Year 8 Parents' Evening

Monday 6 February – Friday 17 February: Year 11 Mock 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 Test Week 3

Wednesday 15 February: Faculty training afternoon – students leave at 12:15pm approx.

Monday 20 February – Friday 24 February: Half Term

Monday 27 February – Wednesday 8 March: Year 13 Mock Exams

Monday 20 March: Report 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: Report sent to parents and carers of Year 13 students

Friday 31 March: Last day of term, students depart 3:15pm

Monday 17 April: INSET

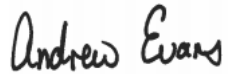
Tuesday 18 April: First day of term

Thursday 27 April: Year 9 Parents' Evening

**... And finally**

After such a busy and successful term it is good to be looking forward to the Christmas break and I would like to wish all students, staff, parents and carers a very Happy Christmas.

With my very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Evans". The script is cursive and fluid.

**Andrew Evans**  
**Headteacher**