



13 January 2023

Dear students, parents, and carers,

Term has started well with students building on the good quality work and high test marks they achieved last term. We are pleased we have now received our OFSTED inspection report and we can give our full attention to continue to build an excellent curriculum, more effective teaching and a wider and varied programme of opportunities for students.

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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.

A copy of the OFSTED Inspection Report has been attached to this message.

We are pleased that the report recognised the tremendous efforts of school staff to support students, our well planned curriculum and high standard of teaching and student work. We feel it is a fair reflection of JMHS. We have already started work on considering how to ensure all students especially those who do not study computer science to develop their IT skills in Year 10 and 11.

2. Progress Checks and Subject Tests

Progress checks will be sent to parents and carers over the next few weeks, and will be made available via the MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) app. Contacts with parental responsibility should already have received guidance as to how to access this facility; an email was sent before Christmas and again on Monday 9 January.

We would politely ask that, if you have not already signed up, please do so as quickly as possible. If you need any further assistance please contact the Data Team who will be happy to help. Their email is data@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk

The progress checks will be available on the following dates:

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Years 10 and 11 | 23 January |
| Years 12 and 13 | 26 January |
| Years 7, 8 and 9 | 13 February |

Information about the new style of reports and progress checks was sent to you by Mr Hammond in early November. In summary for Years 7 - 11, in addition to your child's own average test result in each subject, we also plan to include the Class and Year Group average for each subject. Each subject teacher will also grade your child's Care and Concentration, and Quality of Homework in each report. For Years 12 -13, in addition to your child's subject test result, the subject test average and a grade for Organisation, Classwork and Independent Study will be in each report.

Students in Years 7 to 10 will be sitting their third end of block subject tests just before the February half term holiday. Students will be tested on the content that they will have been taught during this half term, as well as on content from previous terms. A few quick tips to help students to prepare for tests include making sure that they know which topics will be tested – students should note carefully what teachers tell them about the test. They could use each subject's Knowledge Checklist to support the notes that they have made in their exercise book. Before revising a topic, they should read through the content and make a note of, or highlight, content that they are confident with, need to check briefly again, and are really not confident with. This will guide them as to what to focus on when they revise their notes. Revision needs to be active – not just reading through notes. Covering the answers to questions and trying them again, and using quizzes in resources like BBC Bitesize can be really helpful. A student shouldn't leave revising for a test until the night before; it's helpful to go back and check their notes each week. A student can always ask their teacher if there is something that they do not understand – they will do their best to find some time to help.

3. Curriculum Plans

Students in the current Year 8 will be choosing 4 subjects in addition to English, maths and science that they will be studying for their GCSEs and commence their studies in these subjects from the start of Year 9. Details of how they will be supported in making these choices are given in section four.

Following changes in DFE guidance and a decision at the October Governing Body meeting, students in Year 7 and all subsequent year groups will follow a three-year Key Stage Three and commence their GCSE studies in all subjects from the start of Year 10. Subject Leaders at JMHS are currently adjusting their curriculum plans to take account of these changes. We will publish revised curriculum overviews on our website for Year 7 and for subsequent year groups once this process has been completed. Curriculum overviews and detailed curriculum plans for students in Year 8 and above can be viewed via the link below:

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

4. Y8 Subject Choices

It is an exciting and sometimes daunting time for Year 8 students when they start to look at which subjects they would like to continue through to GCSE and beyond. We have a full program of support to help them make the decisions that are right for them. Students have been given their 'Futures' booklet which is a focussed guide to their Key Stage 4 curriculum. They have started the process of looking at which subjects they might like to study alongside their core curriculum and have watched some of the subject presentations in school. They are encouraged to watch the rest at home to help them with their decisions. Following on from the virtual presentation evening with students and parents/carers, senior leaders will be conducting interviews with each Year 8 student in order to complete their choices. A schedule of what is happening with the Choices program is in the Futures booklet.

The booklet and all of the subject presentations can be found on the Year 8 Choices Team and also on the school website:

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/students/year-8-choices/>

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

Sixth Form students have started back with excellent enthusiasm and focus for this important term in which they need to increase and consolidate their learning. For Year 12 students there is their third Test Week scheduled for week commencing Monday 13 February to focus their minds. A strong performance in these should support their achievement in the Year 12 Formal exams beginning straight after the Easter break. Year 13 students will be focused on achieving well in their Mock exams which take place straight after the February half term break. It is crucial that Year 13 students prepare thoroughly for these to provide an excellent platform on which to build success this summer. Student's achievement will be supported by our study skills programme which this half term will focus on having the correct student mindset and effective revision techniques.

In line with national Sixth Form study requirements we are asking all Year 12 students to arrange to have meaningful work experience for three days from Wednesday 14 June to Friday 16 June 2023. Informing students and parents at this early stage should enable them to begin to search for and secure a placement well ahead of the time and before students from other institutions start to do the same. We advise students to start to look for placements as soon as possible.

6. Whole School Production - Guys and Dolls

We are excited to be presenting our first whole school musical since March 2020 in our much improved theatre space this term. On Thursday 16 February and Friday 17 February, we will be showing Guys and Dolls. Students from across the year groups have been working hard since September in re-creating this vibrant, classic musical for your enjoyment. Tickets are now on sale and can be found here <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on?q=john%20masefield>. We are looking forward to welcoming you back to our theatre in February 2023.

7. Year 11 Football Success

Our Year 11 boys have reached the final 16 of the English Schools Football Association Trophy. This is a huge achievement and all squad members deserve our congratulations:

Spencer A, Joe B, Callum C, Max C, Tom H, Will H, Noah J, Kris K, Jack M, Charlie P, Reece P, Elliot P, Fin S, Sam S, Arthur Z

The team qualified for participation in the trophy after a successful season in Year 10. Please find below reports of the last three matches written by Mr Day who leads on football at JMHS.

Last 32 game v Sir Thomas Boughey, 6-2

On Thursday 5 January, JMHS travelled to Newcastle-under-Lyme to play against Sir Thomas Boughey school (STB), in a game that was re-arranged from before Christmas. JMHS started off brightly and created the early chances and looked the better team. Nerves were settled after 14 minutes when Fin S opened the scoring after the keeper fumbled a shot from Elliot P. Fin added a second with a well taken goal following a foray into the box and a hard low shot into the corner of the goal. STB pulled one back with a very long-range free kick that swirled its way over Arthur Z's head and into the goal. 1-2 at half time. JMHS started well in the second half and Kris added to the score line with a strike from the edge of the area following some excellent build up play. JMHS continued to play well and added more goals following intricate passing and moving which was a joy to watch. Spencer A converted from a Sam S cross for the fourth, Elliot P scored with a wonderful, curled finish following a miss hit goal kick and Spencer A wrapped up the scoring pouncing on the loose ball for his

well-deserved second goal and JMHS's sixth. STB scored an excellent second goal with an audacious lob from 45 yards. 2-6 the final score.

Last 64 v Ludlow CofE, 3-0

A composed and controlled victory was achieved through two goals from Jack M to stop any potential threat from the opposition. Elliott P rounding out the dominate display in the second half with a well-timed finish. The boys showed maturity and discipline to control the game for long periods of time. Ludlow failed to register a shot for the game which attested to the dominance showed by JMHS.

Last 128 v Kingstone, 3-0

The first round saw JMHS come out as winners. Despite the performance being below the usual standards the boys were able to take a 1-0 lead going into half time. This was thanks to an Elliott P tap-in after the goalkeeper parried the ball into his path. Spencer A came out with a point to prove in the second half netting two goals to secure a 3-0 victory and onto the next round.

8. Extra-Curricular Spring Programme by Miss Newnes, Enrichment Co-ordinator

We have now launched the Spring 2023 Enrichment programme which began on Monday 9 January 2023. There is still time to register your young person to take part in some of these exciting opportunities. Please follow the sign-up instructions alongside each specific club and activity. Some clubs and activities require parents and carers to sign up via Schoolcloud. A guide to Schoolcloud, as well as a list of clubs and activities can be found using the following link <https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/parents-information/clubs-and-enrichment/>.

After school activities and clubs will require students to meet the club coordinator at their enrichment point in the Bus Park, from where they will be escorted to the location of their club. The enrichment points are at the back of the Bus Park. If your child is participating in a sports club then they should bring their PE kit to school, where they will have the opportunity to change.

In the event of a club or activity being cancelled, a message will be sent to all parents and carers via ParentPay and students will be informed at the earliest convenience. If students are unable to travel home, then we ask students to head straight to Student Services where contact will be made with their parent or carer. If contact is unable to be made, Homework Club will host students until they are able to access their transport.

All extra-curricular clubs and activities will end at 4.30pm, and we ask that parents and carers arrange transport home with their child. In the event that you are unable to collect your child, or that you need to change the travel arrangements, we ask that you ring Reception as soon as possible to inform them.

We do take a register of all students who attend, however, we do not have the capacity to inform you of whether or not your child has attended the club or activity. If you would like to check if your child is at a specific club or activity, you can ring Reception on 01531 631012.

9. Key dates

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

Thursday 26 January: Year 8 Parents' Evening & Progress Checks available to parents and carers of Year 12 and 13 students

Tuesday 31 January: Teenage Mental Health Awareness Evening – further details available shortly

Monday 6 February – Friday 17 February: Year 11 Mock Exams

Thursday 9 February: Year 10 Parents' Evening

Monday 13 February: Progress Checks available 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.

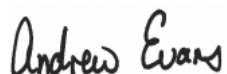
Thursday 16 and Friday 17 February: Guys and Dolls – whole school production

Monday 20 February – Friday 24 February: Half Term
Monday 27 February – Thursday 9 March: Year 13 Mock Exams
Monday 13 March – Friday 17 March: House Sport
Monday 20 March: Report available 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 available 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

We have much to look forward to this term. I will particularly enjoy seeing Guys and Dolls and hope many of you will be able to join us.

With my very best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher