



17 February 2023

Dear students, parents, and carers,

Last night I had the pleasure of seeing Guys and Dolls, our first whole school production since the COVID pandemic. I would like to congratulate all the performers and all who contributed to the show. The quality of acting, singing and dancing were superb, the band were brilliant, and the contribution of the backstage team including lighting, sound and scenery was excellent. The production is the result of excellent teamwork and huge efforts of the arts team. I would like to thank all students and staff involved with 'Guys and Dolls' for your magnificent efforts.

Contents

1. Teachers' Strikes	1
2. Faculty Training Afternoon - Tues 21 March: Cancelled	2
3. Progress Checks and Reports	2
4. Year 8 Subject Choices	2
5. Sixth Form News	2
6. Year 11 Mock exams and next steps	3
7. School Uniform next Half Term	4
8. Ledbury Community Cost of Living Day	5
9. Key Dates	5

1. Teachers' Strikes

Unfortunately, the government and the National Education Union have not resolved their differences over teacher pay. As a result of this, a significant number of JMHS teachers will be taking part in the strikes which are taking place on 1 March, 15 March and 16 March. The measures we have planned are summarised below:

Wednesday 1 March: Y9, Y11, Y12 and Y13 will be in school. Y7, Y8 and Y10 will work from home.

Wednesday 15 March: Y8, Y10, Y12 and Y13 will be in school. Y7, Y9 and Y11 will work from home.

Thursday 16 March: Y7, Y11, Y12 and Y13 will be in school. Y8, Y9 and Y10 will work from home.

Points to note:

- These are provisional plans which could change if there is a substantial increase or decrease in the number of teachers striking from the previous strike day.
- For the Sixth Form roughly 60% of planned lessons will take place. Where lessons are cancelled, students will be able to revise or study in the sixth form centre. Year 13 Mock exams on Wednesday 1 March will continue as planned.
- Where students are in school but lessons are cancelled, students will have supervised study.
- Where students are working from home, teachers not participating in the strike will set lessons for this day for students to complete at home. The teachers will set this work using eprise.
- Food will be served as usual from the Dining Room for students in school.
- For those students who usually receive a free school meal in year groups working from home, it will be possible for them to pick up a good quality packed lunch from the Dining Room. Please let us know if your son or daughter would like to collect a lunch on **Wednesday 1 March** by using this form: [Lunches 1 March](#)

- All enrichment clubs, after school classes and sports fixtures will be cancelled.
- We will provide a supervised study room for vulnerable students and students of key workers for year groups who are scheduled to work from home but who are unable to do so safely. If this applies to your son or daughter, please email us at admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk at least two days before the strike day.

We do apologise for the inconvenience caused. We understand that for some families and students that the strike will cause serious problems. If you have any questions, please email us admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk.

2. Faculty Training Afternoon - Tuesday 21 March: Cancelled

Due to the three strike days in March we have decided to cancel the Faculty Training Afternoon scheduled for Tuesday 21 March. All students will now attend school all day on this date.

3. Progress Checks and Reports

Your child's Progress checks and Reports are now only available via your MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) account, through both the MyChildAtSchool website and the app. In order to view your child's Progress check and, later in the year, their Report, you need to have signed up to MyChildAtSchool. Instructions for doing this were emailed to you in December and again on 9 January and are available on the school website:

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/parents-information/my-child-at-school-mcas/>

If you experience any problems signing up, or using the app, please email data@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk where the team will be able to help you. To locate a Progress check on the MCAS app, at the left-hand side please look under Reports. If you are using the MCAS website, the latest Report will be on your dashboard. **We would also ask that you acknowledge receipt of each Progress check or Report by completing the form that is linked in the emailed letter which accompanies each Progress check or Report. It is important to us that we know whether you have received those documents.**

4. Year 8 Subject Choices

Thank you to all students, parents and carers for your preparation work undertaken in order to make good selections in the Choices interviews. The interviews have all been completed and the subjects are currently being blocked for the timetable. When this process is finished, Mrs Laidler will speak to any students who may not have received their first choices and therefore a reserve will need to be used. If you have any questions or want to suggest any amendments to Choices, please continue to use the Y8choices@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk email. Initial allocations will be sent home prior to Easter.

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

With Year 13 Mocks straight after Half Term, Year 13 students have been focussing on thorough preparation to lay a strong foundation for their A level exams in the summer. For many there is now the added incentive of knowing they have an offer of an exciting university course at an excellent university. Presently over 98% of students who applied to university have received offers including: English at Bristol, Marine Biology at Southampton, Neuroscience at Exeter, Liberal Arts at Warwick, Robotics at Plymouth and Sports Science at Swansea.

Sixth Form English Literature trip to London by Dr Lewis, Assistant Faculty Leader - English

The Sixth Form trip to London proved hugely successful and was worth the efforts on the part of stalwart staff members to rearrange it at short notice due to the train strikes. Arriving at a deeper understanding of how historical, cultural and physical context is embedded into English Literature was the purpose of the trip and

the British Library was a fitting first port of call. The students observed at first-hand the Kings' Library and the astonishing treasures in the permanent exhibitions.

We then walked from the British Library through the patchwork of pre-war and post-war architecture and squares to the British Museum for a compelling encounter with some of the most beautiful - and controversial - exhibits in the world, where, like all the texts we study at A-level, every piece is far removed from the setting it is interpreted within today.

This rich introduction to London's cultural positioning was deepened by attending the West End performance of 'As You Like It', starring Rose Ayling-Ellis in 'a benchmark of inclusive theatre' that highlighted the enduring place of Shakespeare's plays in the nation's cultural psyche. After a quiet night at the Earl's Court YHA, we spent the next day at Shakespeare's Globe on a study day that focused on Othello, our A-level Shakespeare drama. Led by an RSC actor, the students were challenged to consider the play in ways that physical presence in and near the theatre itself drew out - including a deeper understanding (through experience) of what it takes to stand on the stage and shout lines into a space that has no roof.

The rail strikes meant we had to catch a later train than originally planned back to Ledbury in the evening, and as the evening was clear and crisp we walked back along Southbank and got the tube to Paddington from Westminster, stopping off for an hour at Tate Modern for a last immersion into the spaces associated with the nation's cultural capital. Our last look at the refurbished Big Ben was a fitting coda to a trip about context, because politics has always played its own part in the function of literature in society.

6. Year 11 Mock exams and next steps by Miss Newnes, Head of Year 11

Over the last two weeks, Year 11 have participated in their Mock exams. We would like to congratulate students on their hard work, dedication and resilience during a very exciting, but challenging fortnight. Although the Mock exams are over, we do encourage students to continue to revise using the information from their PSHRE Revision Workshop and from their copy of 'How to revise?' by CGP which the school has provided for all Year 11 students. I urge students to reflect on their Mock exams, and prioritise the subjects and topics they found most difficult, and those areas they were least successful in. In addition, please ask your young person to review the revision resource sheets created by Faculty Leaders, which can be found on our website via the following link, <https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/students/revision-resources/>. The revision resource sheets advise students of the areas that they need to revise, and therefore, we would encourage students to read these for all of their subjects.

Over the past few months, we have focused on using Cornell Notes, Revision Cards, Memory Journeys and Palaces. However, I would like students to experiment with the following revision techniques over the next few weeks.

Mnemonics

Mnemonics are memory devices that help learners recall larger pieces of information, especially in the form of lists like characteristics, steps and stages.

Music Mnemonics

Music can be used to help students recall important details to main ideas and many learners have made songs out of information when a list of items must be learned. You can make a song or jingle using any type of music you choose for any list of items. **Music Mnemonics** work best with long lists. For example, some children learn the ABCs by singing the "ABC" song.

Name Mnemonics

In a **Name Mnemonic**, the 1st letter of each word in a list of items is used to make a name of a person or thing.

Examples:

ROY G. BIV = colours of the spectrum (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet)

PVT. Tim Hall = Essential amino acids

(Phenylalanine, **V**aline, Threonine, Tryptophan, Isolucine, **H**istidine, **A**rginine, Leucine, Lysine)

Expression Mnemonic

This is by far the most commonly used mnemonic. To make an **Expression or Word** mnemonic, the first letter of each item in a list is arranged to form a phrase or word.

Examples: In English, the 7 coordinating conjunctions are **For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So** = **FANBOYS**

Mind Maps

Instead of writing reams of linear notes, create a Mind Map for each subject you need to revise. Add a central idea to represent each subject, then draw main branches off from this to represent the information, facts, and figures that you need to remember. A Mind Map uses one keyword or phrase per branch, allowing you to condense information onto one sheet, so all your notes stay together. Having one clear, visual resource to refer to makes managing large amounts of notes easy, allowing you to see connections between topics, facts, and ideas at a glance.

We understand that Year 11 can be as challenging for family life as it is for the pupils themselves and it is our sincere aim to support you and your child in any way, we can through this demanding but also exciting time. Please do not hesitate to get in contact if you have any queries or concerns. Please note, if for any reason your young person was unable to complete an exam, there will be another opportunity for them to complete this after half term.

7. School Uniform next Half Term by Mrs Limbrick, Behaviour Lead

As the weather is warming and there are no current issues with the school heating system, from Monday 27 February all students will **remove coats in all lessons**. We will continue to ventilate classrooms when possible, whilst maintaining a comfortable classroom temperature.

We are aware, during the cold spell students have been wearing hoodies/hooded sweat tops as coats, please be reminded students are **not permitted to wear hoodies** (ie non-JMHS hooded sweatshirts including those with zips) on school site. Coats are permitted to be worn during social times and to and from lessons for warmth. Any hoodies worn to school may be confiscated. When students are in corridors or classrooms, hats and hoods (on coats) should be removed.

In addition, we are aware some students are wearing shoes that are not plain black and have significant white logos or stripes, **only plain black shoes are permitted**. If students wear non-compliant shoes to school they will be provided with plain black plimsols.

We would like to remind all parents and students who may be considering having a nose piercing that we require **all nose studs to be clear and plastic**. We have some spare clear plastic nose studs in Student Services. We also have a stock of plain black socks; these will be issued to students wearing non-black socks. Both of these are however at a cost to the school so we urge parents/carers to be vigilant.

Finally, to prepare students for the world of work and to replicate a professional working environment in school, we would ask that all parents support us in our efforts to **ensure skirts are worn at a level above the knee which would be considered professional**. If a student is repeatedly non-compliant in relation to their skirt length, they could be directed to wear trousers to school.

Please could you discuss the above uniform requirements with your child before they return to school after Half Term. If you are in any doubt whether or not your child's uniform is compliant or you have any concerns regarding the above, please email your child's Year Leader. We understand replacing uniforms in the current economic climate is difficult for many families, if this is the case and you are unable to fully equip your child please contact Student Services, we have various mechanisms we can support families with.

We will be looking to canvas parents and carers soon fully on uniform moving forward, long before September 2023 and incorporate everyone's viewpoints in any long-term uniform changes.

8. Ledbury Cost of Living Community Day

A community event bringing together a range of local organisations that can help with financial planning, debt management, benefit applications, food waste and many other costs saving ideas, is being held on Saturday 11 March from 9am to 12:30pm at the Ledbury Rugby Club. Further details are at the end of this letter.

9. Key dates

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

Wednesday 1 March – NEU strike: Y9, Y11, Y12 and Y13 will be in school, Y7, Y8 and Y10 will work from home

Monday 13 March – Friday 17 March: House Sport

Monday 13 March – Year 9 Vaccination

Wednesday 15 March: Y8, Y10, Y12 and Y13 will be in school, Y7, Y9 and Y11 will work from home

Thursday 16 March: Y7, Y11, Y12 and Y13 will be in school, Y8, Y9 and Y10 will work from home

Wednesday 15 March – Information Evening for Sixth Form Berlin trip, 7pm

Friday 17 March: Sixth Form production, 7pm

Week commencing Monday 20 March: Report available to parents and carers of Year 11 students

Monday 20 March & Wednesday 22 March: Year 11 Dance performance exam

Thursday 23 March: Year 7 Parents' Evening & GCSE Drama performance exam

Thursday 30 March: A level Drama performance exam

Thursday 30 March - Tuesday 4 April: Sixth Form Berlin trip

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

Monday 1 May: Bank Holiday

Monday 8 May: Bank Holiday

Monday 15 May – Friday 23 June: GCSE and A level Exam period

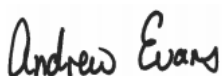
Tuesday 16 May: Staff training afternoon, students depart 3:15pm

Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June: Half Term

And finally

The Half Term after Christmas is often a tough one for students and staff. With the colder weather and dark evenings. This year it has been longer than usual at 7 school weeks, but I have been pleased with the standards seen in lessons and the considerate behaviour of nearly all students. I would like to thank all students and staff for their hard work and wish you all a happy Half Term holiday.

With my very best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher

Ledbury Cost of Living Community Day

Helping Ledbury Flourish



11th March 2023
Ledbury Rugby Club



9.00 - 12.30 pm

Are you struggling financially?
Don't feel alone!

We are bringing together a range of local
organisations that can help with
financial planning, debt management,
benefits applications, food waste and
many other cost saving ideas!



Funded in part by the Household Support Fund (DWP)