



29 March 2023

Dear students, parents, and carers,

I would like to thank all students and staff for their support, their hard work and kindness to others this term. It is always a pleasure for me to see students showing our key qualities of being conscientious, considerate and co-operative on a daily basis.

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1. Timings for the School Day from September 2023

Following government legislation stating that the length of the school week should be 32.5 hours or longer from September 2023, we will make some small adjustments to the timings of the school day.

Students arrive by 08:40 when the warning bell is rung
AM Registration & Check in: 08:45-08:55 with tutors
PSHRE: 08:55-09:15 with tutors
Lesson 1: 09:20-10:20
Brunch: 10:20-10:40
Lesson 2: 10:40-11:40
Lesson 3: 11:45-12:45
Lunch: 12:45-13:20
Lesson 4: 13:20-14:15
Lesson 5: 14:20-15:15 (Years 7-9) and 14:20-15:20 (Years 10-13)

Points to note

1. Students will need to arrive in school by 08:40, 5 minutes earlier than the current time. As now students may arrive earlier. The School Library opens at 08:00, the outside areas and year group zones are supervised from 08:15 and the Dining Room is open from 08:20 for any student wishing to have breakfast.
2. We will liaise with bus companies to ensure all buses arrive on time.
3. The day starts with tutor time and PSHRE. This enables the tutor to check students are OK, are wearing the correct uniform, and have the equipment and books they need before lessons start. As now, the PSHRE lesson may include class reading, Personal, Social, Health, Religious & Economic Education (PSHRE), a careers related session or an assembly.
4. After Period 1, all students will have the opportunity to buy a snack from one of two Dining Rooms.
5. After lesson three students will have lunch. As now Year 7 will be released slightly early for lunch to enable every student in Year 7-Year 9 to eat their lunch in the main Dining Room. Students in Year 10-Year 13 will be able to purchase food from the Community Lounge.

6. To prevent overcrowding as they walk home, students in Years 7- 9 will finish school at 15:15; students in Years 10 - 13 will leave at 15:20. As now, buses will leave between 15:25-15:30.

2. Feedback from Spring Progress Checks

We would like to thank parents for acknowledging receipt of the Spring Term Progress Checks. As these are accessed electronically it is essential for us to know that they have been received by parents. I have carefully read all the comments made in the Feedback MS Forms we asked parents to complete. Parental feedback is informative and helps us improve the school. Where parents gave us individual specific questions, a teacher, your Year Leader or a member of our SEND Team will contact you directly. There were some generic comments and questions asked by a number of parents which I have addressed below.

Why there are no teacher comments on progress checks?

Progress checks are issued approximately half way through the school year so parents can see how hard students are working in class and with homework, as well as their average marks for subject tests taken so far during the academic year. We do not ask teachers to add written comments as most teachers teach between 150 and 500 students, so this would generate excessive workload for teachers.

In the end of year report, rather than each subject teacher providing a short comment, there will now be a single comment from your child's form tutor. Tutors know their tutees well, both in relation to pastoral matters and academic performance, and so we believe that their comments will be of value to parents and carers. We feel that a combination of the academic data on the report, alongside focused discussion at Parents' Evening, provides clear information about progress and attainment in each subject.

More emphasis should be given to homework and students should be shown how to revise for tests.

We agree that homework is important. This year we have been working with teachers to develop their teaching skills in class e.g. the quality of classwork tasks, explanation, questioning and modelling. Next academic year we will focus more on the quality of homework tasks.

We also agree that teachers should show and help students revise for tests and we are asking teachers to help students with this.

How do I know which topics my child is are studying so that I can help them revise?

The topics can be viewed through the curriculum pages on the school website or by clicking the link below.

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/curriculum/termly-curriculum-plans-by-subject/>

Changes of teachers during the school year can make it difficult for students.

We can see this does create problems. This year three teachers have gone on Parental Leave during the school year and one teacher has moved to another school. This means there have needed to be some changes.

Questions about PE Uniform, changing, fixtures and clubs

The PE and Sport Department will look carefully at these suggestions and comments which will be helpful for making improvements.

3. Prefect Appointments

All Year 10 students must meet challenging criteria before they are invited to apply for a JMHS Prefectship. I have received some very strong applications and am delighted to be able to appoint 41 Year 10 Prefects this year. These students have shown that they are consistently conscientious, considerate and cooperative and have made strong contributions to making JMHS a great place to learn by supporting their peers and their teachers.

Beacon
Ffion Evans
Joe Inman
Lily Irving
Oliver Jessop
Kai Phillips-Drew
Sofia Skliarova
Poppy Smith
James Whitehouse

Holywell
Roxy Baldwin
Rebecca Broadbent
Sophie Cage
Will Fraser
Max Griffiths
Alana Haines
Alice Lane
Izzy Mason
Hannah Vesma

Jubilee	
Liepa Balciunaite	Lily Millis
Ollie Burton	Edward Nolan
Layla Crickett	Nia Otieno
Miller Cummings	Holly Quin
Jakub Gierula	Zoe Smith
Macsen Hunt	Eleri Weaver
Bella Jones	Callum Wicks
Abby Jordan	Bryony Williams
Jem Mephram	Tilly Wright

Midsummer
Chloe Chapman
Dan Chester
Abbi Miller
Heidi Mitchell
Ava Smith
Huw Woolley

I am particularly delighted this year at being able to return to inviting parents and carers of these students to the Prefect Presentation on Friday 21 April. The prefects will be presented with their Certificates and JMHS Prefect Sweatshirts, and will commence their prefectship after the presentation.

There will be an opportunity for Year 10 students who did not meet the prefect criteria in January to apply in June after their next report.

4. GCSE Examinations

Year 11 GCSE Food students undertook their practical exam this month and all Year 11 students will have commenced their GCSE exams from close to the start of the Summer Term with French and German Speaking exams and Art/DT practical exams commencing before the main written exams. Once written exams commence, we will amend the Year 11 timetable to maximise effective preparation for exams. For safety and safeguarding reasons, all Year 11 students are required to attend school as normal until at least the half term holiday (29 May to 2 June). Lessons will take place, with subject teachers focusing on revision for their subject. Once a subject’s examinations have been completed, in those lessons, students will be supervised with revision for their other subjects. Options for allowing students to study from home after half term during June on days when they do not have an exam will be provided to parents and carers in May.

It is vital that Year 11 students complete revision timetables that clearly specify which subjects they will revise and when, including over the Easter Holidays. If students need help with this they should speak to Miss Newnes (Head of Year 11).

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

With Year 13 Mock A Levels now completed our senior students are receiving detailed feedback from their subject teachers to fill any knowledge gaps, improve their understanding and hone their exam skills. It has been informative for the Year 12 students to see how diligently the Year 13s have prepared and have supported each other during the mock period. The A level exam period starts on Monday 15 May with the last day of formal teaching for Year 13 being Friday 12 May and study leave beginning on Monday 15 May. During study leave subject teachers will be available as usual at the normal lesson times in case any students want support or help with their revision. It is helpful however if Year 13 students email their subject teachers directly before the day signalling their intention to be in the lesson so that teachers can be best prepared to support them.

We would very much welcome the support of parents and carers in ensuring thorough preparation for these crucial exams. This can be achieved in a number of ways:

- Ensuring that any paid work outside of school is minimised, or preferably stops, in the weeks before the exams and does not occur during the exam period.
- Encouraging the students to create comprehensive revision plans to support their preparation.
- Taking an interest in their subjects and if possible testing students on simple recall knowledge where appropriate.
- Ensuring students have a quiet area to revise without the distractions of social media if possible.

I am confident that with your support our wonderful Year 13 students can achieve very well this summer.

6. Year 8 Choices

Thank you to Year 8 for completing their choices for next year. The timetable blocks have now been created from their choices and you will have received their allocations. Please can I ask you to respond to the letter about subjects allocated by either selecting that you are happy with the choice allocations or by asking for a change to be considered. There can only be one subject chosen from each block, which are shown in the allocation letter. All replies should be in school by Friday 31 March.

7. Key Dates

Spring and Summer Term

Thursday 30 March: A level Drama performance exam

Thursday 30 March: Year 11 Health & Social Care students: First Aid assessment

Friday 31 March – Monday 3 April: Sixth Form Berlin trip

Friday 31 March: Year 13 Reports available to parents and carers

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

Monday 17 April: INSET

Tuesday 18 April: First day of term

Tuesday 18 April – Wednesday 26 April: Year 12 exams

Thursday 20 April – Friday 21 April: GCSE Art Exam

Friday 21 April: Year 10 Prefect Presentation at 9am

Monday 24 April: GCSE French speaking exams

Monday 24 April – Friday 28 April: GCSE DT exam (excl Wednesday 26 April)

Tuesday 25 April: Year 10 GCSE History trip - Ludlow

Thursday 27 April: Year 9 Parents' Evening

Monday 1 May: Bank Holiday

Wednesday 3 May – Friday 5 May: A level Art exam

Monday 8 May: Bank Holiday

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

Monday 15 May: Year 8 HPV vaccinations

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

Friday 26 May: Year 12 Reports available to parents and carers

Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June: Half Term

Monday 12 June: Year 8 HPV vaccinations

Tuesday 13 June & Wednesday 14 June: Year 10 GCSE Geography trip - Rivers

Wednesday 14 June – Friday 16 June: Year 12 Work experience

Monday 19 June – Friday 30 June: Year 10 exams

Wednesday 21 June: Staff training afternoon, students depart 3:15pm

Sunday 25 June – Thursday 29 June: Year 8 Normandy trip

Monday 26 June: Year 9 and Year 10 Reports available to parents

Tuesday 27 June – Year 11 transition day to JM6

Wednesday 28 June: GCSE & A level exam contingency day
Friday 30 June: Year 11 Prom
Wednesday 5 July: Year 10 Sixth Form taster day
Thursday 6 July: Year 6 transition day
Friday 7 July: INSET day
Friday 7 July – Tuesday 11 July: Year 9 Mosel trip
Sunday 9 July – Thursday 13 July: Year 10 Normandy trip
Monday 20 July: Year 7 and Year 8 Reports available to parents
Thursday 20 July: Performing Arts Summer Showcase 6pm
Friday 21 July: Sports Day
Tuesday 25 July: Last day of term, students depart at 12:15pm


2023/24 Term Dates

Autumn Term: Wednesday 6 September – Friday 22 December 2023
Half term: Monday 30 October – Friday 3 November 2023
Spring Term: Tuesday 9 January – Friday 22 March 2024
Half term: Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February 2024
Summer Term: Monday 8 April – Friday 19 July 2024
Half term: Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May 2024

And finally

I would like to wish all members of the school a very happy Easter holiday and particularly Mr Haden who leaves us to take up a new teaching post. Mr Haden has been a successful and popular Form Tutor and teacher of Design Technology, and we would all like to wish him all the very best for the future.

With my very best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher