



12 May 2023

Dear students, parents, and carers,

The first few weeks of the summer term have seen some exciting student events and achievements and the appointment of two new Deputy Headteachers who will commence in their new posts from 1 September 2023.

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1. Appointment of Deputy Headteachers

Following the well-deserved promotion of Mr Collard to Headteacher of St Egwin's School in Evesham, our governors and I conducted interviews for Deputy Headteacher last Thursday and Friday.

We had 15 strong applications and saw six candidates on Thursday who have all made a positive difference in their current schools, two of whom are experienced and successful Deputy Headteachers in schools in the West Midlands. All candidates had two interviews on curriculum, assessment and teaching and behaviour and attitudes; presented their vision for the next four years; completed a highly challenging prioritisation task in 30 minutes and taught a lesson observed by Mr Collard and Mrs Laidler.

Two excellent candidates progressed to a rigorous 90-minute interview with two governors who have experience of Headship and have been Deputy Headteacher for many years, the Chair of Governors who has extensive experience of leading change management in FTSE 100 companies and myself. Both candidates excelled and we decided to appoint Mr Adem Osbourn and Mrs Chloe Limbrick to be the two Deputy Headteachers of JMHS from 1 September 2023. I am sure you will wish to join me in congratulating Mr Osbourn and Mrs Limbrick and wishing them all the very best in their new roles.

It will be a period of change for JMHS with a move to having two Deputy Headteachers rather than one. However, it should be noted that many schools of our size have two Deputy Headteachers and that governors and I checked financial viability before making this decision. Both roles will be equal, there will not be a 'Senior Deputy Head'.

Mrs Limbrick has taught at JMHS for 10 years and is currently 'Head of Year 8' and our 'Lead Teacher for Behaviour.' She has planned and led staff training on effective class management and ensuring high standards of behaviour this year. Mrs Limbrick has been a member of our Extended Senior Leadership Team for the past two years. Mrs Limbrick has written the paragraph below to introduce herself to those who do not yet know her.

Mrs Chloe Limbrick

I joined JMHS as a newly qualified PE teacher in 2013. In January 2016, I became a House Leader and have been part of our pastoral team since. I currently teach PE, as well as DT and thoroughly enjoy the variety of topics I teach at JMHS. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time outside on adventures, cooking and playing hockey. I play for Newent Hockey Club and very much enjoy seeing our students who have joined the club youth section going from strength to strength. I used to play Rugby for Gloucester-Hartpury, however now I prefer to enjoy supporting them! At JMHS, I love that each day is always different in some shape or form. JMHS students, staff and parents/carers are massively supportive of what we do here, and I am sure this will continue. Becoming Deputy Head in September is hugely exciting and I look forward to the new opportunities and challenges this role will bring.

Mr Osbourn has taught at JMHS for 5 years and is currently 'Assistant Faculty Leader for Science' and our 'Lead Teacher for Teaching and the Curriculum'. Mr Osbourn has planned and led training for Curriculum Leaders and all teachers this year. Mr Osbourn has been a member of our Extended Senior Leadership Team for the past two years. Mr Osbourn has written the paragraph below to introduce himself to those who do not yet know him.

Mr Adem Osbourn

I am delighted to have been appointed as Deputy Headteacher at JMHS. Before becoming a teacher, I completed a master's degree in Chemistry at Cardiff University and I am particularly interested in Green Chemistry, such as developing fuel cells for hydrogen powered cars and novel solutions for producing clean drinking water. As part of my master's degree, I undertook a nine-month research project in the Cardiff Catalysis Institute, which is where I developed my passion for investigation and research. As an educator, this interest has become a fascination in cognitive science and the research behind how we learn. I truly enjoy being in the classroom and sharing my excitement for Science with students. Also, I love the variety that teaching offers, from teaching Year 7 students to use a Bunsen burner for the first time to discussing quantum theory with A Level students. As a curriculum leader, I relished the opportunity to design the Science curriculum, considering what key knowledge students needed to acquire and the best way to sequence it. As Teaching Lead, I have thoroughly enjoyed providing staff training and coaching that has supported the excellent teachers at JMHS to deliver outstanding lessons. Outside of school, I like spending time in the kitchen, cooking meals for friends and family. I also enjoy watching live music and live comedy and I'm always looking to book tickets to the next concert (as long as it's not on a school night). I am extremely proud of all of the staff and students at JMHS, and I look forward to being able to continue to support them to achieve excellent learning in my new role.

Mrs Limbrick and Mr Osbourn have collaborated closely this year planning staff training and our coaching programme for teachers. They will work closely with me during the rest of the summer term to prepare for their new roles in September.

2. Year 11 and Year 13 exams

Year 11 students have already taken practical examinations in a number of subjects including art, design technology, drama and food and nutrition. They have also completed their speaking exams in French and German. We will not know the marks students have achieved in these exams until GCSE results day in August, but I do know that their teachers are full of praise for the magnificent effort students put into these exams. Year 11 students commence their written exams next week and we would like to wish them all the very best for these.

Our Year 13 students commence their study leave and written Advanced Level examinations next week. We would like to thank them for their wonderful and wide-ranging contributions to JMHS and for being such great role models for our younger students. We would also like to wish them all the very best for their examinations and to say we are sure they will achieve deserved success and happiness in their future lives.

Earlier this week our Exams Officer, Tim Peggs, wrote to all parents and carers of students sitting formal exams in Summer 2023 with detailed information on the requirements and arrangements for these exams. A copy of the letter can be accessed below.

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Final-Letter-to-Parents-Summer-2023-Exams.pdf>

3. Karl Nova visit for World Book Day

Year 7 were treated to a lively performance by the poet and rapper Karl Nova on the Thursday 4 May. Karl entertained the Year 7's with stories about his journey to becoming a rapper and poet and publishing his amazing books of poetry. He also performed a few of his most popular poems. Karl then held a workshop in the Library with a group of Year 7 and Year 8 students. We are delighted that Karl will be returning to JMHS on Thursday 8 June to work with these students on their poetry which they will then be performing at the Ledbury Poetry Festival on the Wednesday 5 July.

Thank you to the Ledbury Poetry Festival for providing us with this wonderful opportunity to work with an established poet and create some inspiring poetry.

4. Stem Club success at QinetiQ

As part of the Science STEM club, pupils from Year 7 and Year 8 took part in a science day at QinetiQ in Malvern. The day consisted of fun activities ranging from code breaking to making robots, as well as the programming of computers to open and close safety locks and building bridges with only Jenga blocks as materials. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by the 12 pupils and staff who participated and through hard work and team work during each activity we were able to achieve 2nd place in the competition against the other schools present. This was a fantastic achievement as we were the youngest team there and had the fewest pupils. A huge congratulations to Denisa T, Holly J, Andrei F, Oliver K, Oliver M, Maddox I, Koby B, Lidia S, Summer J, Darcy Scott, Ruby L D and George T.

5. Mayor of Ledbury's visit to JMHS Sustainable Garden

Ms Linda Davies has been running our Gardening Club for a number of years and to expand their work she applied to the Royal Horticulture Society (RHS) for a grant to build a sustainable garden, turning an unused piece of school ground into a working garden. The aim of the garden project is to provide food for use by our Food Technology department, food boxes for the Ledbury community and food bank, and in the summer term open up the garden to staff and students to pick some produce for a small donation to support the garden for the following year.

The grant was approved by the RHS earlier this year and over the following months Ms Davies with her Year 8 students set about the difficult task of helping get the site ready for planting. We are very grateful to these students for working so hard and giving up their lunch breaks to come and work in the garden: Rio B, Poppy B, Gracie C N, Elsie F, Archie F, Lewis H, Connor J, Maddox I, Holly J, Oliver M, Chloe N, Emily P, Marissa P, Charlie R, Lydia S, Charlotte S, Abel S, Oliver S, George T, Shyla T, Edward W.

We held a competition to design the sign for the garden gate and from the many entries Nyela's colourful design in Year 7 was chosen as the winner. On Wednesday 10 May the Mayor of Ledbury, Councillor Phillip Howells, visited to unveil the garden gate and see first-hand the new sustainable garden. He was very impressed with the work of the volunteers.

Over the months we have had many local community supporters who have assisted with the garden; special thanks to Haygrove Community Garden project who came and gave us a new 26ft polytunnel and Steve Large, Landscape Gardener, and his team for the main landscaping and clearing. We are especially grateful to Ms

Davies for her huge commitment and tireless work with the local community and in school; the garden would not have happened without her as the driving force.

6. Year 10 County Football Final by Mr Wyatt, Year Leader for Y10

The Year 10 football team concluded their season with a close defeat in the County Cup Final against Whitecross school. The team have enjoyed an excellent season, reaching the last 16 of the National Small Schools Cup and qualifying for the County Cup Final for the second successive season. It has been an absolute pleasure to see the team work together and support each other through the challenges of the season. We have had 20 different students represent the team on the pitch or by supporting PE staff with team management. The County Cup Final was a very tight game, with neither team able to gain complete control or play with fluency. JMHS responded well to conceding early to go in at half-time level at 1-1. In a closely contested second half, both teams had chances, but it was Whitecross who took theirs to win the game. I would like to conclude by thanking the players for the effort and commitment they have applied this season and for representing JMHS so well. I would also like to thank the parents for their committed support throughout the season. We will go again in Year 11 and try our best to secure a well-deserved trophy.

Students: Ed S, Freddie D, Casper W, Archie W, Brad L, Mason Z, Louie J, Ollie P, Nuo H L, Noah M, Cameron B, Callum L, Ollie J, Callum P, Tom C-N, Aidan S, Lily I, Tim P, Eddi N, Charlie D

7. Ledbury Swifts Football Success

We are delighted to be able to share the news of success for many JMHS students who are involved in Ledbury Swifts Football Club.

The Ledbury Swifts U16s boys team won their HFA Junior Cup in a thrilling final against Ross Juniors which ended 3-1. Winning the cup was a wonderful way to finish their time at Ledbury Swifts. The squad comprises of Year 11 students: Joe B, Max C, Callum C, Reece E, Noah J, Kris K, Jack M, Will H, Elliot P, Charlie P, Fin S, Arthur Z. We wish them all the best as they make the move into senior football.

The Ledbury Swifts U14 girls team also won their cup in an exciting final at Edgar street where they solidly beat Belmont Wanderers 6-0. The girls have had a wonderful season and comprise of many Year 8 and 9 JMHS students: Poppy B, Gracie C N, Harriet D, Ella P, Ruo Q, Angela M, Lily M, Eden M, Holly R, Stella R C, Tilly O, Eloise T, Louisa W.

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

Year 13

On Friday 12 May we said goodbye to our fantastic Year 13 students with a leavers assembly reflecting upon their time in JM6 and John Masefield High School. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with this cohort of lovely young people and with the formal A level exam period starting on Monday 15 May, we wish all students all the very best for successful outcomes.

Year 12

As part of their Next Steps programme all Year 12 students have recently had presentations from both apprenticeship and University providers. Nicky Scott from HWGTA was fantastic in speaking to our Year 12 cohorts about the benefits and pathways into apprenticeships. The presentations highlighted the importance of students not simply 'sleepwalking' into a university course but to seriously consider apprenticeships as an alternative next step. An increasing number of our students over the past 6 years have acted on this information and secured excellent apprenticeships via HWGTA and other apprenticeship providers. Students also had the opportunity to chat to a current apprenticeship student in the engineering sector. Swansea

University also provided an excellent presentation on the benefits of university study, the key factors when selecting a course and provider, and also how to put together a personal statement.

9. Key Dates

Monday 15 May – Friday 23 June: GCSE and A level exam period
Monday 15 May: Year 8 HPV vaccinations
Friday 26 May: Year 12 Reports available to parents and carers
Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June: Half Term
Thursday 8 June: GCSE & A level exam contingency day
Tuesday 13 June: Year 10 GCSE Geography trip - Rivers
Wednesday 14 June – Friday 16 June: Year 12 Work experience
Thursday 15 June: GCSE & A level exam contingency day
Thursday 15 June: Y10 French trip: Parents meeting 18:30
Tuesday 20 June – Friday 30 June: Year 10 exams
Wednesday 21 June: Staff training afternoon, students depart 12:15pm
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
Wednesday 28 June: GCSE & A level exam contingency day
Friday 30 June: Year 10 GCSE Geography trip
Friday 30 June: Year 11 Prom
Wednesday 5 July: Year 10 Sixth Form taster day
Thursday 6 July: Year 6 transition day
Thursday 6 July: JM6 Formal
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
Thursday 17 August: A level results day
Thursday 24 August: GCSE results day

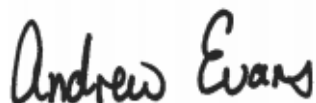
2023/24 Term Dates

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 particularly thank Year 13 students for their many excellent contributions to JMHS. It has been a huge pleasure to see them grow and mature into kind and thoughtful young adults

With my very best wishes



Andrew Evans
Headteacher