



23 June 2023

Dear students, parents, and carers

Students and staff have coped well with the warm weather and hot classrooms over the past fortnight, with teachers continuing to teach, explain and model effectively; whilst students have concentrated well and produced large amounts of high quality written and practical work. I often say to students that concentrating and working hard when the conditions are not perfect builds resilience and is helpful preparation for the world of work. As high temperatures are likely to continue until the end of term, I have reiterated below the advice I have given previously to students and parents:

- Students should bring a large water bottle with chilled or frozen water to school. These can be refilled at break or lunch from one of the eight watercoolers we have in school.
- Please note that we cannot allow individual students out of class to fill their bottles. In very hot classrooms, a teacher will organise for two students to fill bottles for all who need it.
- With the UV index at 7, the highest risk figure for sunburn in the UK this week, we advise students to apply sunscreen before coming to school each morning.
- We advise students to stay in the shade of the many beautiful trees we have on the JMHS site at break and lunch, and drink regularly to stay hydrated.
- At this stage, we are not allowing students to wear PE uniform rather than school uniform to school. This will be reviewed if temperatures above 30C are forecast.

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1. NEU strikes: Wednesday 5 July and Friday 7 July

The National Education Union (NEU) has announced the above two dates as new strike days. Friday 7 July is one of our five INSET Days this year for staff training, therefore, students were not due to be in school on this day and this strike day will not affect parents, carers or students. However, as there are many teachers at JMHS who are NEU members, it is very likely that we will ask several year groups to work from home on Wednesday 5 July. We will write to parents and carers by Wednesday 28 June to let you know the arrangements for the day. The Year 10 Next Steps Day on this day has been postponed.

2. Educational visits and events this half term

This half term, we have more educational visits scheduled than at any time since the pandemic. These visits give students the opportunity to see the application of their learning in the real world and also help to broaden cultural horizons. I have asked the teachers organising some of the visits and events to summarise or preview below.

Geography fieldwork in Tewkesbury by Miss Phillips

On Tuesday 13 June and Wednesday 14 June we were delighted to be able to take the Year 10 GCSE Geographers to Tewkesbury Nature Reserve to conduct a fieldwork enquiry, investigating the success of river management strategies along the River Swilgate (which runs into the River Avon). Despite the downpour on Monday night, lots of students got stuck in and really impressed us with their resilience and teamwork! It was great to see them applying geographical concepts and theories into a real life case study and I believe that this really helped students consolidate knowledge as well as understand how important geography is to day to day life.

Year 12 Work experience placements by Mr Hawksworth

Wednesday 14 June to Friday 16 June saw Year 12 students put their academic study on hold for three days and experience the real world of work. Our Year 12 students, supported by the Sixth Form Team, secured a tremendous variety of placements including veterinary practice, auctioneers, West Mercia Police, film-makers, electricians, accountants, local primary schools, QinetiQ and a pharmacy. The students all gained worthwhile insights into a range of careers.

Year 9 and 10 Drama trip by Mrs Kyle

On Thursday 15 June, GCSE Year 9 and Year 10 Drama students were fortunate to see a performance of Titanic at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham. This was the first trip to see a show for our GCSE candidates since the pandemic so we were all very excited. It was an excellent show which showcased the skills of a wide range of theatre makers and inspired us with a myriad of ideas for our own theatrical work. The students were thrilled to experience this work and are very much looking forward to their next theatre event.

Three Counties show by Miss Adams

On Friday 16 June a small group of Year 7 students attended the Three Counties Show in Malvern. The day was full of exciting activities which some students had never experienced before. We started the day with a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workshop with the Army and students completed a shooting challenge, played a virtual reality game, learnt how they cook on missions and saw a telecommunication set up. We followed this with the falconry display, the red devils stunt team display and saw blacksmiths making shoes for horses' hooves before having a go at fishing where all students caught a fish! Finally, we finished the day with a close and personal experience with cattle including a one month old calf. All students represented the school with excellent behaviour and good manners; it was a delight to spend the day with them.

Normandy languages trip by Miss Escande

The MFL Faculty is thrilled to be taking Year 8 students once again to the Château de la Baudonnière in the Manche region of Normandy from Sunday 25 June to Thursday 29 June. This trip is a great opportunity for our students to fully immerse themselves in the French culture ; typical French meals are served by native French speakers who encourage our students to repeat and use the necessary vocabulary. The staff at the château use practical, spoken French wherever possible to explain a range of fun yet structured activities. Students will visit the pretty coastal town of Saint Malo where the beach, the shops, the old town ramparts and the French ice creams are always popular. This trip aims to provide students with a better understanding of French culture and language, and will allow them to return home feeling more confident and motivated in their learning. Beyond developing academically, students will have the opportunity to practise teamwork skills by taking part in various outdoor activities

such as orienteering, archery, a treasure hunt and aero ball. In their free time, students will enjoy socialising and playing games on the beautiful lawns in front the château.

We are looking forward to seeing the French sun shining, as well as our students' smiles.

Year 11 Prom by Mr Hammond

On Friday 30 June, around 120 Year 11 students will be attending the Year 11 Prom between 7.00 pm and 10.30 pm at Ledbury Rugby Club. The Prom is held as a reward for Year 11 students who have worked hard and conducted themselves very well throughout the year. Each ticket includes the disco, a soft drink and a buffet. The bar will be serving non-alcoholic drinks to students and so students may wish to bring some money to buy further soft drinks. Parents and carers are required to provide consent for their child to attend the Prom by completing the Terms and Consent Form, which they have already been sent. If parents or carers have any questions about the Prom, please contact the Finance department: finance@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk.

By providing consent, parents and carers are also committing to make firm arrangements for their child to be collected from Ledbury Rugby Club by 10.45 pm at the latest. A number of school staff will be present and we hope, as in previous years, that the event is enjoyed by all those who attend.

Mosel Languages trip by Mrs Whitton

Forty Year 9 German students join us on our first trip in three years to the beautiful Mosel River area from Friday 7 July to Tuesday 11 July. We will be sole occupants in a friendly, family run hotel on the outskirts of a small town on the banks of the river. Each day will be spent visiting attractions in the area, including the stunning Burg Eltz castle, Phantasialand theme park, a local vineyard, a boat trip on the river and the Cochem chair lift. There will also be time for shopping, exploring the local town, swimming and football in the park, and of course practising their German language in real situations such as meal times and buying ice creams!

JM6 Formal by Mr Hawksworth

This year's JM6 Formal for both Year 12 and Year 13 students is being held on Thursday 13 July and will see a change of venue to Stanbrook Abbey Hotel at Callow End. The evening will start at 7.30pm and finish at 11.15pm and promises to be a great evening with students dressing up smartly for the occasion, a lovely buffet dinner and disco. It is always a superb occasion and fitting way to say farewell to our most senior students.

3. Molly Stone fundraiser: Sunday 27 August 2023

Molly Stone was a hugely valued member of the school during her seven years at JMHS. It was with much sadness that we learned of her tragic death in November 2022. Her family have organised a family fun day in memory of Molly and to raise money in aid of Road Peace and the ELY memorial fund. Both charities support bereaved families and victims of road traffic collisions and have been a huge support for Molly's family. The fun day will be held at Verzon House on Sunday 27 August and event details are available from the link below:

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/alert/molly-stone-fundraiser/>

4. Tesco community grant

We need new goals for the Astro Turf Pitch and unfortunately constraints on the school budget mean that we do not have the funds for them. Thankfully our application for a Tesco Community Grant to support the cost has been successful. We now need your support as the amount of funding we receive is dependent on local support. In the Tesco store in Ledbury from 1 July to 30 September you will have the

opportunity to 'vote' with the blue tokens for our new goals – if we get the most votes we will receive a larger grant. Our current goals are in poor condition and we use them extensively during football and hockey lessons and extracurricular activities at lunch and after school.

5. Sixth Form transition day for Year 11 by Mrs Laidler

We are very much looking forward to a good number of our Year 11 students as well as some external students, joining our sixth form in September. In order to make a fantastic start we are running our transition day on Tuesday 27 June, from 8:30am to 4:30pm. This day will enable the students to have a lesson in their chosen subjects, an introduction to study skills and to find out all the details they need to prepare themselves ahead of September. The students will taste what life is like as a sixth form student and will be able to enjoy the sixth form facilities throughout the day.

If any Year 11 students who have not signed up, are undecided on their next step and would now like to attend the transition day, please email me so I can make the necessary arrangements, iana.laidler@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk.

6. End of Year Reports for Year 7 – Year 10 by Mr Hammond

We would like to remind you that your child's school report will be made available to you via your My Child At School (MCAS) account. Further to earlier school communications, you will already be aware that every student is formally tested in each subject regularly throughout the school year. Test results are recorded as a percentage, and it is your child's cumulative average test percentage that is reported in progress checks and in the summer term report. Our view is that reporting an average test percentage is more meaningful. In addition to your child's own average test result in each subject, the progress check and report includes the class and Year Group average for each subject. This will enable you to better gauge your child's attainment. Each subject teacher grades your child's Care and Concentration, and Quality of Homework in each report.

As we previously informed you, there is a change to this year's report. We believe that a combination of the precise academic data on the progress check and report, alongside discussion at each Year Group's Parents' Evening, provides clear information about progress and attainment in each subject. Therefore, in the forthcoming report, rather than each subject teacher writing a short comment, there will be a single comment from your child's form tutor. Tutors know their tutees well in relation to both pastoral matters and academic performance, and so we believe that their comments will be helpful to parents and carers. For students in Year 10, an early end-of-Year 11 projected grade in each subject will be provided.

Reports will be available on MCAS as follows:

- Year 8: week commencing 26 June
- Year 9: week commencing 26 June
- Year 7: week commencing 10 July
- Year 10: week commencing 17 July

7. Arrangements for the end of term

The summer holiday starts later than in recent years with the final day of term on Tuesday 25 July. On this day students will attend their first two lessons and then after break, go to a whole school assembly, where we will enjoy some excellent performances and announce the winners of the House Cups. Students will leave between 12:10pm and 12:25pm with buses departing at 12:30pm. Please could parents picking up students by car arrive after 12:35pm, when all buses will have departed.

Careers speed networking event by Mr Elliott

On Wednesday 19 July, seventeen local and national employers, training providers and colleges will be spending the day at JMHS, talking with all of our students and giving them the latest information they will need to help them make their choices for the future. Students will come off timetable for one hour of the day to give them the chance to listen to these representatives and ask them questions. Here is our current list of confirmed participants:

- University of Worcester
- Crowthers Chartered Accountants
- Construction
- HWGTA
- Halo Leisure
- Galebreakers
- Hartpury College and University
- LB Law
- Bradfords Building Supplies
- The Helping Hand Company
- Dan Barker Studios
- Sequani
- Balfour Beatty
- Ornua Foods
- Amcor
- HCR Hewitsons Law

Performing Arts Summer Showcase by Mrs Kyle

On Thursday 20 July our Summer Showcase will take place. The event will begin at 6.15pm with canapes from the Year 9 Food Technology students and a wonderful gallery of Art and Design work in the Community Lounge. At 7pm there will be a dance and music concert in the Theatre. This is a fantastic event which celebrates the creative endeavours and achievements of so many students. Tickets will be available shortly and we would encourage you to come to a truly unique event.

Sports Day by Mr Kontarines

This year's Sports Day will take place on Friday 21 July when students in Year 7 to Year 10 will have the opportunity to compete in an event for their form group. In order to avoid overcrowding in the changing rooms, students should come to school in their full JMHS PE uniform. Please also ensure that your child has appropriate protection from the sun and enough water to keep them safe if the weather is hot.

As part of the competition, students can also take part in the Tug of War during PM registration on either Wednesday 19 July (Year 9 & 10) or Thursday 20 July (Year 7 & 8). Students taking part in the Tug of War event should come to school in their full JMHS PE uniform.

9. Key Dates

Sunday 25 June – Thursday 29 June: Year 8 Normandy trip
w/c Monday 26 June: Year 8 and Year 9 Reports available to parents
w/c Monday 26 June: Y10 Exams continue
Tuesday 27 June : JMHS Sixth Form transition day
Wednesday 28 June: GCSE & A level exam contingency day
Thursday 29 June: Year 6 Information Evening 6pm – 7:30pm
Friday 30 June: Year 10 GCSE Geography trip
Friday 30 June: Year 7 Joe Coelho trip – Ledbury Poetry House 1pm – 3pm
Friday 30 June: Year 11 Prom
Monday 3 July: Y10 GCSE Geography trip & Y12 English Literature Poetry study day
Monday 3 July & Tuesday 4 July: Y10 English Speaking and Listening exams
Wednesday 5 July: NEU strike – arrangements to be confirmed
Thursday 6 July: Year 6 transition day
Friday 7 July: INSET day and NEU strike – no students in school
Friday 7 July – Tuesday 11 July: Year 9 Mosel trip
Sunday 9 July – Thursday 13 July: Year 10 Normandy trip
w/c Monday 10 July: Year 7 Reports available to parents
Thursday 13 July: JM6 Formal
w/c Monday 17 July: Year 10 Reports available to parents
Wednesday 19 July: Careers speed networking event

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

Wednesday 6 September: Start of term for Year 7, Year 12 and Year 13 students

Thursday 7 September: Start of term for Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 students

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

Staff have admired how hard GCSE and A-Level students have worked in preparation for their exams and during the examinations. I would like to wish all Year 11 and Year 13 students and parents all the best for their exam results and for their next steps.

With best wishes

Andrew Evans
Headteacher