



10 May 2024

Dear students, parents, and carers,

The highlight for me so far this term has been seeing the wonderful variety and quality of work produced by our 45 GCSE Art students in Year 11. Their exam pieces are the best I have seen in 27 years at the school. I have also been impressed with practical exam work in design technology and food technology; and our language students' command of French and German in their recent speaking exams.

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1. Year 11 students and the GCSE exam period, by Mr Wyatt (Head of Y11)

The GCSE written exam season started on Thursday 9 May with GCSE Drama. Year 11 are now in a busy period of exams leading up to the half term break. Students and parents are encouraged to keep checking their exam timetable so they know what to expect each day. As previously communicated all Year 11 students will attend full time until Friday 24 May. Whilst in school students will be supported in their normal lessons with revision activities to help them prepare for upcoming exams. After school revision sessions will continue to be run and students are encouraged to attend.

All students have made a very positive start to their exams over the last two days, and recently completed DT and Art exams with great diligence and skill. This reflects the general gaining of momentum in recent months. The atmosphere in lessons has been purposeful and productive, and I feel confident that all students are well placed to embrace the challenges of the coming weeks.

2. Year 13 students, by Mrs Laidler (Head of Sixth Form)

Our Year 13 students commence phase one of their exam preparation leave and written Advanced Level examinations next week. Subject lessons will run as normal until half term so that students can benefit fully from the expertise of their teachers. Formal study leave will commence after half term where teachers will be available during lesson times to support students on an individual basis. Some revision sessions will run over the half term holiday, a list of these will be distributed as soon as possible.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for being part of our wonderful sixth form community. It has been amazing to watch them develop into strong young adults with so many wide-ranging skills, interests and dreams. We would like to wish each of them all the very best as they move onto the next phase of their journey.

3. Appointment of Year 10 Prefects

I had the pleasure of presenting prefect certificates and sweatshirts to 35 Year 10 students last Friday. The students had to meet challenging criteria before they were invited to apply for a JMHS Prefectship. I received impressive applications from students showing 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.

The prefects appointed are:

B10A	
Luke	Carney
Freya	Park
Riley	Price
Komila	Saidova
Leah	Seabourne
Julia	Wazna
Felix	Whitehouse

B10B	
Bella	Duberley
Ella	Power
Bayon	Taylor
Louisa	Willis

H10A	
Sam	Baldwin
Vinnie	Griffiths
Tilly	Williams

J10A	
Ellen	Adams
Alex	Bloom
Miron	Champion
Bella	Hughes
Isabella	Kendrick
Madison	Peggs

M10A	
Harriet	Pattin
Niamh	Vernall
Eve	Vipond
Nicolas	Vos

M10B	
Rowan	Batchelor
Esme	Bowlcott
Orlagh	Galligan-Malone
Angelica	Hathaway
Georgia	Hooper-Lewington
Austin	Lawrence-Fielden
Daisy	Ruddick
Erin	Ryman
Hosanna	Taylor-Black
Tyler	Trigg
Poppy	Wilkins

Each new prefect will contribute through one of our prefect teams: Arts, Sports, Reading Buddies, Maths Buddies and Primary School Liaison, and will receive training in the near future from the staff member leading that team.



4. Year 10 Exams & Information Evening, by Miss Phillips (Head of Year 10)

I have been immensely impressed and proud of the progress of Year 10 students this year. They have demonstrated care, concentration and resilience which will set them up for a successful Year 11. In order to prepare Year 10 students for formal exams in Summer 2025 and ensure a smooth transition into Year 11, students will complete end of year exams between Monday 10 June and Friday 21 June 2024.

For most subjects, these will take place in class and will reflect content learnt in Year 10. For core subjects, (English, Maths and Science), students will sit an assessment in the Sports Hall on the Thursday 20 June and Friday 21 June. This is to give students an experience of formal exams and working under exam conditions.

Mr Osbourn, Mr Hawksworth and I would like to invite parents and carers of Year 10 students to an Information Evening held in our theatre on Thursday 16 May from 6pm – 7pm. This will provide parents with information on how to support their child make the best progress and to revise effectively in preparation for these and GCSE examinations next year.

5. Sports Update, by Mr Morgan (Head of PE)

It has been a busy period so far this term in PE. At the start of the term, we had all students in Year 7 to Year 9 representing their houses in the House Sport competition, across the sports of football, volleyball, hockey and flag tag. It was fantastic to see so many students fully engaged and contributing to their teams' efforts in an attempt to win points for their tutor group and house.

On Monday 29 April our Year 9 girls football team competed in the County Cup final against Wigmore High School at Edgar Street in Hereford. With the team losing 1-0 at half time, a Holly R goal in the second half made the score 1-1, but unfortunately a late Wigmore goal meant we lost the game 2-1. The students represented themselves and the school brilliantly. This is the first time JMHS has reached a girls football county cup final which is a fantastic achievement and I am sure there will be plenty more in the near future.

Team: Holly R, Poppy B, Stella R-C, Eden M, Tilly O;B, Lily M, Angela M, Gracie C-N, Eloise T, Elsie F, Bea P, Maisy H

We also had the athletics track league at Hanley Castle High School recently. The stand out performance being Troy T winning the Year 8 100m in a time of 12.14s, alongside a 200m victory. Other winners of their events include Charlie M (Year 7 – 800m), Amy C (Year 7 – 100m), Maisy H (Year 8 – 200m), Vlad M (Year 9 – 200m), Jaz B (Year 9 – 100m and 200m) and Poppy B (300m).

Team: Daniel V, Tyler B, Charlie M, Sonny R, Alex S, Ethan L, Amy C, Zara B, Nicole S, Harriet W, Troy T, Ruben C, Jack W, Finley W, Maisy H, Bea P, Chloe H, Sophie T, Phoebe E, Vlad M, Max D, Oliver M, Lucas F, Jaz B, Alice L, Isabelle B, Eden M, Angela M, Poppy B, Holly R, Gracie C-N, Stella R-C

6. Robotics Club Success, led by Mr Kenvyn (Subject Leader for Computing)

Written by Ben Williamson (Year 8) and Maddox Ing (Year 9), Finance and Communication Officers

After many weeks of mechanical and digital engineering, we headed off to Aston University for the competition which was early for some – 6 am! After signing in for the competition at around 8am, we underwent preparations such as a field inspection (robot's ability to move around the field), robot inspection and judge's inspection (how well we worked as a team). At 12pm, we started playing matches against other teams and we won 3 out of 5 matches for our alliance. In the end, we walked away 5th on the current leader board of qualification, a very good result.



There was lots of work to do to prepare for the competition as well as trial and error for the engineers, for example, constructing the mechanical arm for the robot. The inventory manager helped make a spreadsheet of the parts we had so the finance officers could then price all parts in case new ones or lost ones were needed. Our CAD engineer made our crucial acrylic chassis while also creating our logo.

As well as being Finance Officers, we juggled that that role with Communication Officers.



Robotics has given us many exciting experiences and problem-solving skills that we will remember!

7. Sixth Form News

Our students have again been very busy both inside and outside of the classroom. Year 13 are working hard towards their upcoming exams and enjoying deepening their understanding and knowledge as they complete their revision. It is lovely to hear the subject conversations now being had in the sixth form as they support each other with the more complex topics.

Ms Lehmann, Head of Modern Foreign Languages took a small group of French A level students to Paris just before Easter. The students all came back with lovely stories and huge enthusiasm both about the city itself and its magical Parisian atmosphere. A real highlight was spending time at the school where they each met with their French pen-pals – such a fantastic thing to be able to do.

Each week students take part in an enrichment activity on a Wednesday afternoon. A small group of students opted to work on a Sixth Form production under the support of Mr Rodgers. Their hard work culminated in a fantastic evening of

entertainment in the form of a variety show. They performed group and individual songs, skits, jokes, musical pieces on the piano, cello and guitar all tied together by the wonderful compere for the evening. I was very proud of the students for pushing themselves out of their comfort zone and putting their heart and soul into making the evening special. It was enjoyed by all.



Year 11 Transition Day

We have now processed the sixth form application forms from Year 11 students and offer letters will be sent out shortly. All students who have applied will be invited to the Transition Day on **Tuesday 25 June 8.40 – 16.30**. Students will have a day in the sixth form so that they can settle into the environment with the students who will be with them next year. They will attend lessons for the subjects they have chosen to study, have a tutor chat and spend some time on social activities. The subject lessons will give the students an overview of the course and a chance to work on some content that will support their start in September. A small amount of transition work will be set to complete over the summer break.

Applications for sixth form are still open and can be accessed online through our website. Students have been sent individual log in details to access the form. Please email ana.laidler@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk if you have any questions.

Year 10 Next Steps Day

The students in Year 10 have attended an assembly this week to help them understand the possible future pathways. Part of the process will be taking part in the Next Steps Day on **Thursday 27 June**. The students will have two events open to them, a Sixth Form Taster Day and an Employability and Skills day led by the Army. Students who are considering moving on to level three courses such as A levels or Level 3 BTEC awards will attend the taster day, the students looking at a different level or avenue will attend the day run by the Army. The taster day will be looking at trialling subjects in the Sixth Form to help students consider which subjects they may wish to study post 16. The Army run day will look at researching careers, considering employability skills and working on activities to develop teambuilding, leadership and cooperation skills.

8. The Ledders Charity Run



On the hottest afternoon so far this year, Wednesday 8 May, and with just days to go before the beginning of the A level exams, Year 13s took time out of their revision sessions and timetabled lessons to stop and think of relatives, friends and other sufferers of Alzheimer's disease and dementia. They set out with their Year 12 peers (41 in all) on a 14.5 km run to raise funds and achieve something most of them had never done. They were dropped off at Malvern's Rosebank Gardens by minibus (which Community Action Ledbury generously provided free of charge) and ran back to school - the first runners (who set off at 13:05) appearing at around 14:40pm!

It was such an incredible show of teamwork and collaboration. Every single one of the runners (and 5 who walked the course), made it to the finishing line. They have raised £1,482 for the [Alzheimer's Society](#)! More donations would be wonderful and the JustGiving page will be open for another few weeks.

Lucas Recordon, Year 13, organised the event, "This was such a great way to end our sixth form life at John Masefield High School; I had no idea that so many would join us. My grandma had Alzheimer's and so many of those who have sponsored us have had personal experience of this devastating illness. Amazingly a member of the public handed £5 to us as we ran! My friends and peers ran the hills, woods and fields back to school and I am so chuffed with them all for making this such a great event!"

Thank you to all who supported this event, including Lucas' family who provided a pit stop and marked the more difficult sections of the route with arrows.

We are so proud of our Sixth Form!

9. Endeavour Awards

On Thursday 9 May we hosted our first Endeavour Awards Ceremony for Year 11 Students. Endeavour Awards have been created to celebrate student effort, progress and commitment to learning. Throughout the school year students receive progress checks for each subject and grades for 'care and concentration' are given for focussing on taking pride in their work and their attention to detail, in class and homework, as well as commitment to lessons. The grades given are between 8 for 'outstanding' and 1 for 'very poor', students should always aim to achieve as high as possible in all subjects.

Awards are categorised into Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum:

Bronze – To achieve an average above 6.5

Silver – To achieve an average above 6.75

Gold – To achieve an average of above 7

Platinum – To achieve an average of above 7.5

Fifty-four students achieved Endeavour Awards in Year 11 and celebrated their successes with parents and family members. The ceremony was inspiring and a positive end to a successful year before starting their exams. Here are just some of the students that received awards.



10. Second-hand Uniform

We have a good stock of most items of second-hand school uniform. If you need any items for your child, please contact Mrs Chadney, Student Services (val.chadney@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk).

Currently our stock of the following items is running low and we would welcome donations of:

- Polo shirts – Medium and above (we have plenty of smaller sizes)
- School skirts – 28” and above (we have plenty of smaller sizes)
- PE uniform – Medium and above (we have plenty of smaller sizes)

Donations can be dropped off at Reception.

11. Key Dates

Key dates for the Summer Half Term 1

- Week commencing Mon 13 May: Year 11 and Year 13 Formal Summer Exam period commences
- Wed 15 May: Year 8 Normandy trip – Information Evening at 18:00
- Wed 15 May: Year 12 Reports released
- Wed 15 May: Year 10 & Year 12 Drama trip to Malvern Theatre (39 Steps) - afternoon
- Thur 16 May: Year 10 Information Evening at 18:00
- Tue 21st Y12 Drama performance exam, Theatre
- Fri 24 May: Year 11 Celebration Event – period 4
- Fri 24 May: Last day of half term

2023/24 Term Dates

Summer Term: Mon 8 Apr 2024 – Fri 19 Jul 2024

Half Term: Mon 27 May 2024 – Fri 31 May 2024

2024/2025 Term Dates

Autumn Term: Wed 4 Sept 2024 – Fri 20 Dec 2024

Half Term: Mon 28 Oct 2024 - Fri 1 Nov 2024

Spring Term: Tue 7 Jan 2025 – Fri 11 Apr 2025

Half Term: Mon 17 Feb 2024 – Fri 21 Feb 2024

Summer Term: Mon 28 Apr 2025 – Fri 18 July 2025

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