



5 July 2024

Dear students, parents, and carers

As we move into the final three weeks of the summer term, I am delighted with how students are sustaining and building upon their excellent work this academic year. Students in all year groups have prepared thoroughly for end of year tests and exams, producing high quality work and achieving some great marks in these assessments.

I have also been impressed with the range of extra-curricular opportunities available to students, all of which have been put in place through the hard work of our staff. These have included:

- Excellent sporting performances especially from our athletes in the District Sports Competition
- Superb art and photography work which will be shown at our Summer Art and Design Exhibition
- Highly successful residential activity and languages trips to Normandy, France and Mosel, Germany
- Visits to the Three Counties Show, Birmingham University, and Gloucester for geography fieldwork
- A wonderful Year 11 Prom which took place last Friday at Ledbury Rugby Club

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### 1. House Competitions by Miss Adams, Head of Year 8

This term we saw students compete in the House Bake Off on Tuesday 18 June. We had 28 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 in the Food Technology room taking part and 20 Victoria sponges to judge. All students had a wonderful time and were competitive until the final minute. There were so many cakes that were fluffy, light and tasted wonderful, so we had to include a joint fourth place as well. Our winner was Charlie from Year 8, followed by Bella (Year 9), Sophie (Year 7) and then Thalia (Year 9) and Aurora (Year 7). Well done to all the entrants! To finish the year, we will see the staff take part in their House Rounders, Tug of War and Bake Off.

On the last day of term, we will be presenting 12 trophies in the end of term celebration assembly. They will include our original House Cup, Sports Day and House Sports Cups, Attendance and Behaviour Cups and the House Point Cup. We are also introducing five new cups which relate to the House Point categories of respect, resilience, excellence, integrity and community alongside a new Staff House Cup for events that take place during the year.

## 2. Year 10 Exams and preparations for GCSEs by Miss Phillips, Head of Year 10

Between the Monday 10 June and Friday 21 June, Year 10 students completed End of Year 10 exams. Most of these took place in classrooms, but for core subjects (English, maths and science), these took place in the Sports Hall. These exams have provided students with a valuable opportunity to demonstrate their hard work, whilst simultaneously providing them with an experience of formal exam settings.

The feedback that I have received from exam invigilators is extremely positive, and students have conducted themselves around the school maturely. I have noticed that the vast majority of students were revising during the break between exams, and they have been real role models for students in younger year groups. I have been immensely proud of Year 10, who have showed great resilience throughout these exams.

The next steps for Year 10 are to continue with this positive momentum for the remainder of Year 10 (with high attendance, effort and behaviour in all lessons). This will set students up for a positive Year 11 where they will be able to hit the ground running and achieve outcomes that they can be proud of in the Summer of 2025.

## 3. Year 11 Sixth Form Transition Day and Year 10 Sixth Form Taster Day by Mrs Laidler, Head of Sixth Form

### Transition Day

On Tuesday 25 June, 53 Year 11 students were welcomed into the Study Room, given their own personalised timetables with preferred subjects and directed to the current Year 12 tutor groups as they began a typical 'Day in the Life of JM6'.

During the course of the day, members of our Sixth Form Student Leadership team attended lessons with them to help out and add value to their learning experience. The Year 11 students enjoyed lessons, playing pool at break times, not wearing uniform and having their lunch up in the Sixth Form together. They were all also given some insight into study skills and techniques in readiness for next year.

We have uploaded to our website summer [Transition Work for all subjects](#) as well as some useful materials on study skills methods and resources.

Students now need to **accept their offer** of subjects through the on-line application form. If anyone would like to discuss a change of subjects then please contact Mrs Laidler ([iana.laidler@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:iana.laidler@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk)). Please ensure the offer is accepted, even if different next steps are being considered, so that when students get their results in August a formal enrolment email can be sent. It is at this point they will make their commitment to studying with us.

***We offer a quality education with excellent support and pastoral care in a small nurturing environment, where students develop as individuals within a strong community.***

We look forward to welcoming them all in September to begin the next stage of their education.

### Taster Day

The energy in the Sixth Form on Thursday 27 June ramped up a level as 108 Year 10 students, excitedly joined us for a JM6 Taster Day. This followed on from the very successful [subject carousel day](#) our Sixth Form Student Leadership team held a couple of weeks ago.

Our current JM6 students studied from home for the day, revising for their Grade Predictor exams, while we focussed all our attention on giving Year 10 students a typical sixth form day as possible. They experienced high quality lessons throughout the day and relaxed in our facilities making good use of the pool table and kitchen during their breaks.

Every student had their own personalised timetable for the day, and when asked by Mr Evans on the crossing as school ended, whether they had had a good day, all smiled and said 'yes, it's been good' or 'I loved it!' He asked which subjects they had enjoyed, many said all of them, the rest picked out specific subjects they had particularly enjoyed and explained why. Every subject received several mentions!

We hope they shared their enthusiasm and experiences when they got home. More details will follow in the Autumn term when they begin to consider which subjects they wish to study. If anyone would like to visit the sixth form or ask any questions then please contact Mrs Laidler ([lane.laidler@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:lane.laidler@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk)) .

#### **4. Sixth Form News by Mrs Laidler, Head of Sixth Form**

We have come to the end of another eventful and happy year in the Sixth Form.

Year 13s finished their last A Level on 21 June and strode out of the sixth form block energised and happy, excited and (in some cases) with a little trepidation, many tinged with a smattering of sadness. They had all coped so well and in the main were positive about their exams. Congratulations Year 13 for all your hard work over the last two years and for all the incredible fundraising for charity that you have led - Remember [The Ledder Run!](#)

Some will be heading into full time work, a good number into some high-profile apprenticeships and others will be looking forward to seeing if they are accepted into their preferred universities. The majority of them will have attended (by the time you read this) the JM6 Formal at The Abbey Hotel in Malvern, alongside most of Year 12, and were really looking forward to celebrating their time at John Masefield with their friends. They have been a fabulous group of students to work with and we will miss them!

Year 12 students are in the middle of their Grade Predictor Exams - a great way of experiencing and preparing for their external exams next year. Feedback will be given so that students can plug any gaps in their knowledge in order to make a strong start in September. These predicted grades will be used by universities and colleges, as part of the admissions process, to help them understand an applicant's potential. They will also be used in applications/references for apprenticeships.

In addition to working hard this year, our Year 12s have had successful trips to Birmingham and Worcester University and a [Taster Day at Aston](#) University; [some overseas visits](#); a trip to [The Hive](#) for history research; a great week of [Work Experience](#) and so much more.

We have watched them mature and grow and it has been lovely. We also have a great new Sixth Form Student Leadership Team waiting in the wings to kick start 2024/25. Here's to another great year ahead!

#### **5. End of Year Reports for Year 7 – Year 10 by Mr Hammond, Assistant Headteacher**

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. As you will be aware, 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 most meaningful. In addition to your child's own average test result in each subject, the 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 also grades your child's Care and Concentration, and Quality of Homework in the report. Please note that the Year 10 report will contain an End of Year 10 grade (based on the recent tests) rather than a test percentage. Additionally, for students in Year 10, an early End of Year 11 projected grade in each subject will be provided.

Our view is that a combination of 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, as last year, 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.

Year 7 to Year 9 Reports will be available on MCAS in the week of 8 July. The Year 10 reports will be available around 16 July. We will email to let you know when they have become available.

## **6. Arrangements for the End of Term**

The final day of this academic year is Friday 19 July. On this day students will attend their first two lessons and then after break, go to a whole school celebration assembly, where we will enjoy some excellent performances and announce the winners of the House Cups. Students will leave between 12:30pm and 12:45pm with buses departing at 1pm. Please could parents picking up students by car arrive after 1:05pm, when all buses will have departed.

## **7. Sports Day: Tuesday 16 July by Mr Morgan, Head of PE**

This year's Sports Day will take place on Tuesday 16 July when students in Year 7 to Year 10 will have the opportunity to compete in an event for their form group which is assigned to one our four houses. In order to avoid overcrowding in the changing rooms and a loss of competition time, students should come to school in their full JMHS PE uniform. Please also ensure your child has appropriate protection from the sun and enough water to keep them hydrated if the weather is hot.

The timings for Sports Day are as follows:

- Period 2 - Year 7
- Period 3 - Year 8
- Period 4 - Year 10
- Period 5 - Year 9

All other lessons on that day remain the same and your child should be prepared for those lessons with the appropriate books and equipment.

## **8. Arts Summer Showcase: Thursday 18 July**

### **Summer Art and Design Showcase by Miss Parry, Head of Art**

Step into the realm of creativity at our Summer Art and Design Showcase, where the gallery shines with our students' outstanding achievements. This free event begins at 5:00 PM - 7:00pm in the Art block. Marvel at a diverse collection of artworks, from intricate paintings and striking sculptures to innovative digital designs. Each piece is a testament to the exceptional talent and dedication found here at JMHS, showcasing a wide range of styles and techniques that our students have mastered in Years 7-11.

As you admire the art, delight in the delicious canapés prepared by our Year 9 Food Technology students, adding a culinary touch to the evening's festivities. This event is a wonderful celebration of the creative endeavours and accomplishments of our students.

### Summer Concert

From 7pm the now annual Performing Arts' Summer Concert will begin. This is a fantastic event which celebrates the creative endeavours and achievements of so many students. Tickets are now available and can be booked at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/herefordshire/john-masefield-high-school> .

## 9. Key Dates

### Key dates for July & August

- Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Year 12 Grade predictor exams & study leave
- Mon 8<sup>th</sup> & Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Year 10 Geography Fieldwork
- Tue 9<sup>th</sup> Year 12 UCAS preparation p1-p3
- by Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Year 7 – 9 Reports available on MCAS
- Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Endeavour Awards Presentations
- Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Year 12 grade collection session
- Tue 16<sup>th</sup> Sports Day
- Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Year 12 Away day
- Thur 18<sup>th</sup> 17:00 onwards Art & Design Exhibition, followed by Summer Concert at 19:00
- by Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Year 10 Reports available on MCAS
- Thur 15<sup>th</sup> Aug A level Results Day
- Thur 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug GCSE Results Day

### 2024/25 Term Dates

Autumn Term: Wed 4 Sept – Fri 20 Dec **Note: Year 7 and Year 12 start on Wed 4 Sept and Years 8-11 & Year 13 start on Thur 5 Sept**

Half Term: Mon 28 Oct – Fri 1 Nov

Spring Term: Tue 7 Jan – Fri 11 Apr

Half Term: Mon 17 Feb – Fri 21 Feb

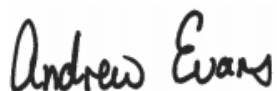
Summer Term: Mon 28 Apr – Fri 18 Jul

Half Term: Mon 26 May – Fri 30 May

### And finally .....

Some of you may know that I suffered a facial and eye injury playing cricket against Ledbury Cricket Club at half term. Fortunately, due to excellent treatment from NHS staff, I was able to return to school immediately after half term albeit with several fractures and a battered and bruised face! I would like to thank all students and staff for their kindness, checking I am OK and asking about my recovery. It is great to be part of such a caring community.

With my very best wishes



**Andrew Evans**  
Headteacher