



21 March 2025

Dear parents and carers,

In my last message I promised that I was sharing only the abridged version of our notices and that is still the case. I've tried to limit myself to key messages and haven't spoken in detail about our Robotics Club entering, and coming third, in the regional competition this week (well done, Mr Kenvyn and team). I haven't written separate entries about the dance trips this half term, taking every child in Year 7 to a local book shop, or the Sixth Form visit to the Regional Skills show. I won't mention the amazing work from the Year 11s in their food exams and business pitches, or the visits from guests to talk about 'Chelsea's Story and 'Everyone's Invited' as an important part of our PSHE curriculum. Sadly, I can't talk about each of the many, many fixtures our PE team have taken students to this term.

I know young people don't tell their parents everything about what they do at school but I hope that, when they talk to you, you are able to get a flavour of the range of activities in and out of lessons here at JMHS. It's a delight to share these activities with the children, and to see and hear from them about how much they enjoy them.

Gala Night

One event I have to mention is our Gala night, tonight, where children from all year groups will showcase their wonderful skills in music and dance. Having snuck into the rehearsals on Wednesday, I can confirm that everyone going is in for a real treat. I've talked to our performers before about how impressed I am by all of the hard work and practice they have put in so that such skilful performances seem effortless. What really impressed me during the rehearsal was the care and support they showed one another. There was an incredible sense of community and I would strongly encourage everybody to look at ways of joining this welcoming and caring performing arts community as more opportunities to audition become available.

Punctuality

For every lesson, on average, 833 out of 842 students are on time. The 99% punctuality rate is brilliant, but we are all too aware that this means that there are still some students missing out on their learning, and their late arrival disrupts the learning of the students who are on time. With bell sounds across the school, and plenty of time to get from one end of the site to the other between lessons, there is no reason for anybody to be late. To further improve punctuality, we are updating our approach to late arrivals to school and lessons. Previously, students received an after-school detention after three late marks (S1 lates) in a week. Moving forward, students will now receive an after-school detention if they are late twice in one week. Please continue to encourage your child to be punctual: as well as being beneficial for their learning, this is an essential life skill. Thank you for your continued support.

Student Council

Our first Student Council meeting will be on Thursday 27 March. I loved reading the self-nominations, which we received from around 10% of our students. It was brilliant to see how many wanted to be involved and how caring, passionate and articulate they were, although of course, I don't get to decide who is elected.

Councillors will sit on one of four committees (Well-being and Inclusion; Events, Fundraising and Rewards; Academic and Learning; Eco and School Improvement) and will represent the views of their tutor group. This is an exciting moment for us and I am looking forward to working together with the council to make our school even better. I am also looking forward to welcoming our local MP, Ellie Chowns, who has kindly offered to meet with the council for their second meeting. They will have to manage with me and Mrs Limbrick for their first.

We are very grateful to our head students, in particular Tom, for getting the council up and running. I am also grateful to Elsie, Emily and Hannah for their excellent work with Ledbury Are You Listening, which began the conversation about a council. I remember being exceptionally impressed with their presentation to a small crowd on a Saturday morning in October just under six months ago. I hope they are proud to see the change they have prompted.

Parent Survey

Whilst I am looking forward to hearing the views of students, I know it is also very important that we hear from our parents. So far this year we've asked specific questions about the format of parents' evening and about epraise and Bromcom, and I've been grateful for your feedback at all points.

Following the latest survey, I am now able to confirm that all parents' evenings will be face-to-face as this was the overwhelmingly popular option in the original survey, and in the feedback from those who had experienced both types of parents' evening.

I now would like to invite you complete a more general survey, shaped by Ofsted's national parent view poll. This will give you a chance to feedback on all areas of the school and help inform our planning for the future. The survey will be open for two weeks until Friday 4 April.

<https://forms.office.com/e/4NVBT3n7Ay>

DRM 476 (Hereford) Service

Thank you to those parents who have kept us informed about the issues with the DRM 476 service. We are sorry that problems with unreliability, particularly lateness, and communication have continued to persist despite our attempts to resolve this with DRM. Following escalation of our concerns to Herefordshire School Transport and the Public Transport team, we understand that a revised timetable has been prepared to come into effect following the Easter holidays. The aim of this timetable is to ensure the 476 service works effectively, including running reliably and on time to JMHS. When we receive the new timetable, we will communicate this to our school community.

Yours sincerely,



John Holmes
Headteacher