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Deputy Headteachers: Chloe Limbrick BSc, Adem Osbourn MChem

11 April 2025

Dear parents and carers,

This afternoon we brought everybody in the school together for our end of term assembly. This was the first time this year we've been together as a whole school (we were in two halves for the Christmas concert), and what a joy it was. In between fantastic entertainment from the JMHS Senior Rock band, and enthusiastic entertainment from the staff band I spoke to students about our community. Every day I see students demonstrating conscientiousness in and out of lessons, I see them behaving cooperatively, and I see them behaving considerately. Their excellent behaviour is what makes our community special and I thanked them for this.

Extra-curricular activities

This excellent behaviour was very much on display yesterday when our Year 10 historians travelled to Ludlow Castle: several members of the public took the time to tell our teachers how impressed they were with our young people and the politeness they showed, making sure people were able to get past them on the narrow staircases. Back at school, our house sport competitions have run smoothly and it has been great to see so many children getting involved. Our sixth formers and student council met with Ellie Chowns, our local MP, on Wednesday and represented us with maturity and thoughtfulness. The councillors have talked about wanting to have more clubs on offer and to run more trips, and these are both ambitions I share. Please ask your child to talk to their student council representative if they have activities they'd like to be doing at school, and please look at the available activities with them to make sure they're taking advantage of the opportunities already on offer.

Sports fixtures

I've said before that I have been unable to talk about all of the fixtures that take place in our school. If I tell you that our PE team have squeezed in 65 fixtures in 64 school days, I am sure you will understand why. As well as this, we have attended a fitness festival, a dance competition and ran a trip to a dance exhibition. That is a monumental effort from our PE team, all of whom run training sessions as well as these fixtures, and I am deeply grateful to them.

We have seen five students selected to represent the best in Herefordshire on a football tour to Holland, we have one student selected for a trial with Bristol City academy, our dancers finished 7th in their first ever dance competition, our Year 10 handball team finished 3rd in their National Championship Regional Qualifier, seven students qualified for the County Cross Country Championships, our Year 11 basketball team were crowned County Champions for a 2nd year running and represented Herefordshire in the National Championships, our Year 10 netball team won their county competition, as well as our Year 11, Year 9 girls and Year 10/11 girls football teams all making it through to the semi-final of the County Cups.

I am very pleased that so many of our children take up these opportunities, and grateful to them for the community spirit that they demonstrate throughout their time on our teams.

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Break and lunch time

One of the requests that has already come from students has been for more access to indoor spaces. In today's assembly I talked to them about how pleased I am that, as a community, our young people look after our shared spaces respectfully, and I was therefore very pleased to be able to tell them that we're happy to facilitate this.

For those that want to be outside we are hoping to open our field up shortly after Easter though, as always, we need to keep one eye on the weather to make sure that it will be dry enough to be safely used.

We will talk to the children to provide them with more details about this after the break, and we will continue to make sure there is a supervised space for members of each year group to play with their peers at break and lunch time.

Parent view survey

As well as listening to the young people in our community, it is very important that we listen to our families. Thank you to those of you who have completed the parent view survey. We very much appreciate your feedback. We will extend the survey until Sunday 27 April so that you have more time to share your view. It will take one or two minutes, and can be found at this link:

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

Lockdown drill

Our first lockdown drill ran smoothly on Monday morning. The students behaved sensibly and exactly as requested. As a result, the site was eerily quiet within moments of the alarm sounding. We will now run regular lockdown drills, alongside fire drills. As with fire drills, now that students know what to do, we will not give any advance notice.

Staffing updates

We have welcomed Mrs Newnes back from maternity leave this week. She is returning as Assistant Headteacher and our SENDCO. Mr Osbourn, Deputy Headteacher, who has also been our SENDCO since January will handover to Mrs Newnes ensuring a smooth transition. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Osbourn for his work leading our SEND team and supporting our students over the last few months.

We have one goodbye this term: Mr Henderson, our ICT Manager will be leaving us after nearly 20 years. Mr Henderson has worked tirelessly, often in the background, to make sure the school runs smoothly and, indeed, has set up most of our network systems. His thoughtfulness and thoroughness were crucial to our efforts to support children throughout the lockdown through remote learning. Although his work is often behind the scenes, many of our children will know him thanks to his proactive presence around the school site, his work as a first aider, and his volunteering of his time on school trips. I am very grateful for everything Mr Henderson has done for us. We are fortunate to have Mr Morgan, our ICT technician, able to step up into the role of ICT manager, and he will be well supported by Mr Smith, who is joining our team as ICT technician.

Happy holidays

I hope you and your children enjoy the next two weeks, and we look forward to seeing the children back here, well rested, on Monday 28 April.

Yours sincerely,



John Holmes
Headteacher