



Headteacher: John Holmes MA(Cantab) MTeach EdD

Deputy Headteachers: Chloe Limbrick BSc, Adem Osbourn MChem

9 May 2025

Dear parents and carers,

It is hard to believe that we are already half way through this short half term. Our Year 13s and Year 11s are embarking on their examinations and I am sure you will join me in wishing them the very best of luck.

This has meant that the rest of our students have experienced some changes to break and lunch as we have moved them away from the areas that examinations are taking place. They have responded as maturely and sensibly as ever, and it has been great to see them enjoying the field and our grass bank in the sun. Lovely though this is, please do talk to your children and make sure that, if they are in the sun at break and lunch time, they are using sunscreen: the NHS recommends at least SPF30.

Now that we have opened up more indoor spaces, children do have places where they can come away from the sun. I said, in my last message, that we felt able to do this because we trust our children to look after our communal spaces respectfully. We were absolutely right to do so and I will be thanking them all in assemblies for being so sensible.

Ledder Run

Our Sixth Formers completed the second annual Ledder Run this week, completing a 14.2km course over the Malvern Hills. Those that took a wrong turn had a somewhat longer run! This feat seems staggering to me, but really positive that most of our students participated.

They were motivated, no doubt, by the thought of supporting their chosen charity, the Survivors Trust. If you would like to contribute to their efforts, please use this link: https://www.justgiving.com/page/the-john-masefield-high-school-and-sixth-form-centre-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=016. Our Sixth Form Student Leadership Team have been incredible advocates for charity and community this year, and I am very grateful to them. They, and the rest of the Sixth Formers, have set up events, like the Ledder Run, that will continue for many years to come, bringing people together and raising money for good causes. Our Year 13s should be very proud of this legacy.

Mental Health Awareness Week

Next week is mental health awareness week, and the theme this year is '**community**'. I've copied the Mental Health Foundation's tips for getting involved in your community to the end of this message, as this good advice is well worth sharing.

Next week I will talk to students about how we try to provide opportunities for many of these in school: for making it fun, getting outdoors, finding like-minded people, showing kindness and appreciation, and giving it back. I am proud of the clubs we run, and the opportunities to support charities and the local community: please do encourage your children to join in as much as possible – I truly believe these are an important part of a happy childhood.

Uniform

Many of you will already know that Clubsport in Ledbury is closing at the end of this month. We have worked in partnership with Steve Onions and his team for many years, and would like to wish Steve every happiness in his retirement.

Clubsport will continue selling and supplying JMHS uniform through their Hereford store – Unit 4, All Saints Court, Hereford, HR4 0BA. Uniform can be purchased directly from the store or through their online platform <https://club-sports.shop/collections/john-masefield-high-school>. Uniform can also be purchased from local supplier, Your Name on It, by clicking this link <http://www.yournameonitshop.co.uk/jmhs.html>. We also have a supply of good quality second hand uniform, including a limited supply of PE uniform. Please contact Mrs Chadney at val.chadney@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk for more details.

The School Uniform List is posted to the school website, <https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/parents-information/school-uniform/>.

Parent view survey

Thank you, again, for completing the parent view survey. I am pleased to be able to say that the proportion of positive responses is at or above the national average for secondary schools for all categories. The biggest gap between us and the national average was the proportion of you reporting that your child has not been bullied (21 percentage points above national average), whilst the highest rate of agreement was the proportion of you saying there were a good range of clubs and activities in our school (96%). My personal favourite, though, was the proportion of you agreeing that your child is happy at this school: 89%, ten percentage points above the national average. You may have seen in the local press recently that according to the Ofsted survey itself we had the fourth highest response to this question in Herefordshire. This result would make us joint-second.

We will never be complacent and we will always look for ways that we can keep getting better. I would be remiss, though, if I did not celebrate these outcomes, which reflect everybody in our community working together for the sake of our children.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



John Holmes
Headteacher



From book club to art class, Swifties to gamers, volunteer groups to shooting hoops – community is good for our mental health. They help us to belong, feel supported, and have purpose.

Here are ten ways to get involved with your community and boost your mental health.





5. SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION

Sharing a compliment or showing appreciation can strengthen your relationships.



6. CONNECT ONLINE

Find others who share similar experiences or interests online. Remember, healthy online communities should make you feel safe and valued.



7. GIVE BACK

Helping others is a great way to build community and give you purpose.



8. CARE FOR YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Increase your sense of belonging by getting involved in your local community.



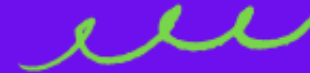
9. WELCOME OTHERS

Make new people joining your community feel welcome and included.



10. FIND PEER SUPPORT IF YOU'RE STRUGGLING

Connect with others going through similar experiences through peer support groups.



TOGETHER
FOR **GOOD** MENTAL HEALTH

Learn more about community and mental health.

[MENTALHEALTH.ORG.UK/MHAW](https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/mhau) #THISISMYCOMMUNITY