



16 July 2025

Dear parents and carers,

Many of you will know that this week's sports day was a new format, with more events and more participation to create a day that the entire school could enjoy together. It was an absolute delight. Tutors loved spending the day with their groups, working together and supporting one another. I was delighted to see how positive the students were. Not many schools have spontaneous dancing led by English and language teachers: I'm lucky to be in one of them.

I would like to thank the PE team, and all of the staff who supported them, for organising such an incredible event.

We are now, of course, into the last week of term. The students have coped very well with the hot weather and, no doubt, with some tiredness in the weeks since I wrote to you. They have been very welcoming to next year's Year 7, who joined us for a taster day, and 150 visitors from Year 5, who visited us last week to experience our school. Thank you to them, and especially to the prefects and other helpers who were such fantastic guides.

We are now looking forward to some more opportunities to celebrate with our students in the next few days.

Staffing update

As always, at the end of the year, we say good bye to some valued colleagues. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Mrs Laidler, Mrs Jarvis, Mr Kenvyn, Mrs Neville, Miss Parry, Mr Sims, Mr Soper, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Teague and Miss Tizzard the very best, and in thanking them for their contributions to the school.

I would particularly like to mention Mrs Teague, who has stayed with us this year just to make sure that the Year 13 students had continuity into their final year, Mrs Taylor who has been with us for 17 years and who continues to work tirelessly to support students – making sure she was available whenever needed to support Year 11s in the run up to their GCSEs, and Mrs Laidler who has been with us for 22 years. Mrs Laidler is well known and well respected in the community as an excellent teacher and faculty leader of maths. More recently, she has taken on the role of Head of Sixth Form and has worked with her typical diligence and thoughtfulness, guiding students through their A-level studies. I know how grateful they have been for her care and support, and the growing numbers in the Sixth Form, this year are a testament to Mrs Laidler's efforts. Thank you.

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Next year we are joined by:

- Miss Attenborough, teacher of DT and Art
- Miss Baker, teacher of Art and Photography
- Ms Davies, afternoon receptionist
- Miss French, teacher of English
- Mrs Locke, teacher of English
- Miss Killeen, teacher of PE
- Mrs Mack, teacher of English and Computing, and Year Leader for next year's Year 10

We also have some internal changes:

- Mrs Barker will be our Training Manager, supporting trainee and recently qualified teachers
- Mrs Bowen will be our Assistant Faculty Leader for the Vocational Department, including taking on the role of Subject Leader for Computing
- Miss Drew will be Year Leader for next year's Year 7
- Miss Mortimore-Price will be our Subject Leader for Music
- Miss Phillips will be our new Head of Sixth Form
- Mrs Woolley will be the Faculty Leader for Art and Design

We have been extremely fortunate to be able to recruit such strong candidates, whether new to the school or new to their roles, and I am excited for the year ahead.

Donations for textiles room

Mrs Woolley is very grateful for all of the donations to help with setting up the textiles room to support the introduction of textiles from September 2025 to all students in Key Stage 3. More donations would be very welcome; if you have any fabric scraps, buttons, ribbons, threads or anything else you feel would enable us to set up our recycling aspect of our projects, please drop any donations at Reception. If you are unsure whether what you have would be suitable, please email Mrs Woolley, Faculty Leader for Art & Design, at bethan.woolley@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk.

Co-op Local Community Fund: Support our library

Our library was lucky enough to be selected for this year's Co-op local community fund. This is a great opportunity for the library to receive extra funding, but we need your help too. The library will get a minimum amount, which is great, but if members of the Co-op follow this link

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/91246> and choose the JMHS Library as their chosen cause, and it remains their cause for the whole year, we could get even more. You can also choose the library as your chosen cause via the Co-op loyalty app, select Wallet, then scroll down for 'Rewards for your local community'. Once you've chosen the library as your community cause, you just shop as normal. You will continue to get points to spend for yourself, and you will also be helping the library too. Thank you for your support.

Friends of JMHS: Raising funds with Easyfundraising

Easyfundraising is partnered with over 8,000 brands who can donate part of what you spend to Friends of John Masfield High School including Tesco, Argos, John Lewis, Temu, Booking.com and M&S. It does not cost you any extra as the cost is covered by the brand. Brands pay a commission when you start your shop from the easyfundraising website or app and this then becomes donations.

All you need to do is:

1. Go to https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fjmhs/?utm_campaign=raise-more and join for free and select 'Friends of John Masefield High School' as your cause.
2. Every time you shop online, you can:
 - a. Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk, log in and start shopping
 - b. Install the [Donation Reminder](#) browser extension which lets you know automatically when you shop if a donation is available.
 - c. Download the 'easyfundraising' app
3. After you have checked out, the brand will donate to Friends of John Masefield High School at no extra cost to you.

There are no catches or hidden charges and Friends of John Masefield High School will be really grateful for your donations. Thank you for your support.

Ledbury Carnival 2025

This year's theme for the carnival is 'Wonders of the World' and starts at midday on Monday 25 August. More information is available at www.ledbury-carnival.co.uk and on the attached poster.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Holmes', with a stylized, wavy line extending from the end.

John Holmes
Headteacher