



30 January 2026

Dear parents and carers,

### **Site safety: travelling to and from school**

With the recent cold and wet weather, we have seen an increase in cars coming onto the school site at the beginning and the end of the day. Can I please therefore remind you that we are unable to allow cars to freely enter or exit our carpark between 8.25am and 8.45am in the morning, or between 3.00pm and 3.30pm in the afternoon.

School pick-up is becoming particularly difficult, as there is no room to accommodate parents waiting in parked cars in our turning circle. We often have to move buses and minibuses to and fro in order to fit them into our limited space. When there are vehicles waiting or manoeuvring in the turning circle, this becomes difficult and increasingly dangerous. At the same time, we have hundreds of children walking to their transport or leaving the site on a very narrow pavement. Ultimately, the more vehicles there are on the site, the harder it is to keep our children safe.

In most schools now, coaches park outside of the school site, and the school gates remain closed during the school day. Whilst our location means that we must allow our coaches on site and our gates open, please treat the site as being inaccessible at these key times, and help us keep children safe.

Even with the increase in traffic on the school site, I know that the large majority of you are helping us already by avoiding driving on to the school site. I want to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your help in keeping children safe.

### **Parent voice survey results**

Thank you to those of you who completed the parent voice survey last term. As was the case last year, it was wonderful to see such positive feedback, especially when compared to the national average. The question with the most positive response rate was 'my child feels safe' (97%), closely followed by, 'there is a good range of subjects' and 'my child can take part in clubs and activities' (both at 95%).

The question with the biggest gap between our responses and the national average was, as it was last year, 'my child has not been bullied' (26 percentage points above the national average) followed by 'I would recommend this school' (16 percentage points above the national average, at 94%).

As always, we will look at the survey and keep looking for ways to get better. However, I did want to take this opportunity to celebrate these results, which reflect everybody in the community working together for the sake of our children.

## **Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Policy**

Our next opportunity to gather your views is in reference to our Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Policy.

We review and update our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy on a regular basis, and our RSE curriculum (as part of the wider Personal, Social, Health, Economic - PSHE curriculum) is constantly evolving. There are significant developments in the statutory RSE (and Health) curriculum scheduled for September 2026, so this seems like an appropriate moment to consult with parents and carers on the RSE policy and wider curriculum. The draft RSE 2026 policy is now available in the policies section of our website, along with the existing policy:

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/about-us/policies/>

The appendix contains the statutory RSE curriculum requirements for the academic year 2026/27 (from September 2026). The current RSE / PSHE curriculum for each year group is available on our website: <https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/curriculum/termly-curriculum-plans-by-subject/>. These evolve on a weekly basis, for example, Year Leaders deliver PSHE workshops to their year groups, the topics changing according to local and national safeguarding priorities as well as the needs of the particular cohort of students. Many of the statutory RSE curriculum requirements for September 2026 have already been included in our current curriculum, as will many of the others before September.

To respond to the consultation, please use the linked form below. The deadline for comments is 9am on Monday 23 February 2026. Your response could be as brief, or detailed as you like.

### **Relationship and Sex Education Policy: 2026 Parental Consultation – Fill in form**

Finally, I wanted to remind parents and carers of their statutory right to withdraw their child from parts of the RSE curriculum. Please see section 9.1 of the draft RSE Policy for further details, or contact Anthony Bees, PSHE Faculty Leader, at [anthony.bees@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:anthony.bees@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk) (or through school reception).

## **Young Musician's Bursary 2026**

The Hereford Police Choir are currently seeking applications for their Young Musician's Bursary 2026. If your child is interested in a career in music, they may want to consider applying for the bursary. Further details are set out in the linked poster:

<https://www.jmhs.hereford.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Choir-bursary-scaled.png>

## **Launching ..... Ledbury Youth Spaces**

Ledbury Community Hub is launching Ledbury Youth Spaces to provide Ledbury's young people, aged up to 24, with educational and youth activities, a safe space, and support to develop skills for employment in Herefordshire. They are inviting parents and carers to a launch event at 4pm on Sunday 1 February at the Ledbury Community Hub, 8 New Street, HR8 2DX. This will be an opportunity to find out about the project, ask questions and get involved. If you can't attend, further information is available from Nic Sims, 07449 252121 or [nic@ledburycommunityhub.org.uk](mailto:nic@ledburycommunityhub.org.uk), [www.ledburyyouthspaces.co.uk](http://www.ledburyyouthspaces.co.uk).

## **STEM trip to Williams Racing Formula 1**

Earlier this week our Year 9 students enjoyed an exciting and inspiring STEM Experience Day at the Williams Racing Formula 1 headquarters, organised by our Vocational Faculty, giving them a unique insight into how science, technology, engineering and maths are used in a real-world, high-performance environment. During the visit, students took part in a range of hands-on activities designed to showcase the wide variety of careers involved in Formula 1. They learned how subjects studied in school link directly to cutting-edge engineering, data analysis, design, and problem-solving within a global motorsport team. One of the standout moments for many students was the Esports simulator lounge, where students experienced the technology behind virtual racing and got an insight into how data, reaction time and precision all play a crucial role both on and off the track. Many students left feeling inspired to pursue STEM subjects further and gained a clearer understanding of the exciting career opportunities available within engineering and technology-based industries.

Yours sincerely,

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

John Holmes  
Headteacher