



22 May 2026

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a busy half term, with public examinations seeming to start earlier each year. The students involved in these have been superb, and it is wonderful to see them entering and leaving their examinations with a real sense of positivity. We are all sure that their hard work will pay dividends.

Alongside these exams, the Ledder Run, the first hike of the Duke of Edinburgh award, trips to Ludlow Castle and Parliament and our spectacular Gala Night have provided wonderful experiences for so many of our students. I am grateful to the colleagues who work so hard to provide so many different opportunities, and to the children who participate with such enthusiasm to support our community.

Mobile phones

It has been just under two months since I wrote to you with details of our no-phone policy, and so I wanted to remind you of the details. The Government now requires school to be mobile phone-free environments. This means that students' mobile phones must be turned off and stored in their bags before entering the school site. Phones should remain stored away throughout the school day and until students have left the site at the end of the day. Students with smart watches must also disconnect these from their mobile phones before entering school. The only exception will be two marked and supervised zones in the bus park, where students may use their phones to contact home or access bus tickets. The students have responded to this change very well, and this policy has helped to support a calm, focused and positive learning environment for all of them. We greatly appreciate your continued support with this at home.

Attendance

Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting improved attendance at JMHS over the last two years. Whilst we have made excellent progress, we are still some way from pre-COVID levels and it remains a high priority for the school. Hopefully, with longer days and potentially warmer weather we will see improved attendance for all students over the summer term. Can I take the opportunity to remind you that planned absences from school, including holidays, are only authorised in exceptional circumstances and should be requested as far in advance as possible. As always, please get in touch if child needs help in overcoming barriers to high attendance.

Start of Term - September 2026

On the theme of attendance, I thought it would be useful to identify key dates for the start of the new school year in September. Staff will return for INSET days on Tuesday 1 September and Wednesday 2 September. Students in Year 7 and 12 will return for an induction day on Thursday 3 September and all students are in school from Friday 4 September. It is important that all students return to school on the correct date to make a positive start to the new school year.

Family Fun Day – Saturday 6 June

Ledbury Community Hub are hosting a Family Fun Day from 11:30am to 2:00pm on Saturday 6 June on the Ledbury recreation ground. It's a completely free event for everyone with lots going on including:

Viking and Martial Arts demonstration	Penalty Shootout
Wellie Wangling	Clay workshops
Circus skills	BBQ
Arts and crafts	Video game development

The attached poster has more details.

JMHS Fundraising activities

Thank you for supporting our recent fundraising activities. We raised a fantastic £800 for Comic Relief on our non-uniform day. Our Sixth Formers ran and walked the Ledder Run also raising £800 for Midlands Air Ambulance.

Cannondale Malverns Classic – Mountain Bike Festival, Eastnor Deer Park

The Cannondale Malverns Classic will again be taking place at Eastnor Deer Park from 20 August to 23 August. There is lots going on every day from racing and live music to family fun and entertainment. The attached poster has more information along with their website, <https://malvernsclassic.com/>. We have received a donation of four day tickets for Saturday 22 August and you will have the opportunity to win these at the raffle at our Summer Concert and Exhibition on Thursday 16 July.

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back after half term for a busy and exciting final seven weeks of the year. Our Year 7s will all be going to the Three Counties Show and our Year 10s will all participate in the 'Three Colleges Day' in Hereford. We have three international trips, our whole school sports day and our summer concert to look forward to, as well as welcoming the Year 6s who are joining our community next year.

In the meantime, it is wonderful that the sun has returned just in time for the bank holiday and our half term. I hope you all have wonderful plans for the next week.

Yours sincerely,



John Holmes