

NEWSLETTER

February 2010

Parent/Carer Spring 2010 Survey

We have attached a brief survey and the first 13 questions are identical to the survey Ofsted use with schools. We are not due to be inspected this year but we do strongly value parents' opinions and the information from this survey will be useful in helping us to improve. We have added two further questions at the end of the survey giving you the opportunity to make comments. If you do put your child's name and year group on the form it would be helpful to us in making improvements, however, we understand that some parents would wish to complete this anonymously which is absolutely fine. Please return the questionnaire by Friday 26 February via your child's form tutor or direct to Jane Morton, Headteacher's PA at jane.morton@jmonline.org.uk or c/o John Masefield High School, Mabel's Furlong, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2HF. Fax 01531 631433. The questionnaire is also available on our website. Thank you in advance of your support with this matter.

Food Hygiene Award

Students from the BTEC Hospitality group recently sat their level 2 Food Hygiene Award and nineteen passed. This is a great achievement and is an industry standard minimum qualification for adults working in the hospitality industry. Congratulations go to: Dawn Barlow, Jade Brown, Rebecca Brown, May-Leigh Clayton, Jake Cooper, Victoria Crowe, Romy Donnelly, Harry Evans, George Green, Rosanna Homer, Calum Loni, George Sabri, Richard Shakesheff, Alice Topham, George Uren, Zoe Whatmore, Bradley Stokes, Rose Wilesmith, Georgie Rainey.

Sixth Form Fundraising

The Duke of Edinburgh group sold home made mince pies and mulled wine at the Christmas Carol concert last term to raise money for the Lily of the Valley Orphanage in South Africa. The proceeds, combined with the collection monies donated by St Michaels Church, totalled £323.31.

Healthy Schools Update

Issue 3 of the Healthy Schools Newsletter is now available on our website. It contains lots of ideas for packed lunches together with Change4Life events that are happening locally.

JMHS School Uniform

As part of our continuous drive for excellence at JMHS I am writing to remind all parents/carers/ students of some key aspects of our uniform policy.

- **Facial piercings such as nose and tongue studs are not permitted. If a student has such a piercing the hole must be filled with a clear spacer that cannot be seen.**
- **Black shoes must be worn to school. Trainers and boots are not acceptable.**
- **Students must wear either their school fleece or sweatshirt to school.**
- **The length of a girl's skirt must be no shorter than three inches above the knee.**
- **Hats, gloves, scarves and coats must not be worn in lessons.**

With effect from Monday 22 February we will expect all students at JMHS to comply with the above rules. If any parent feels they need longer to purchase new items they are asked to contact Student Services and appropriate arrangements will be made.

Students who do not comply with the uniform code will be loaned spare uniform and shoes to assist them in the interim period before they obtain their own.

Home Access – Computers for Students in Years 3 to 9

Home Access is a government drive which will help low-income families to get access to a computer and the internet to get online at home. If you are a low income family in receipt of certain benefits you could qualify for a grant to buy a computer and/or a minimum of one years' internet access. The programme is aimed at those that need it most and targets families that do not have access to a computer or the internet at home.

Eligibility is based on the following:

Are you a parent or guardian responsible for and living with a child:

- who is in school Years 3 to 9
- who attends a state-maintained school in England full time
- who has not already had a computer from a Home Access Grant or similar programme

Do you receive at least one of the following?

- Free school meals for your child
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income support
- Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and an income of less than £16,040
- Guaranteed Pension Credit (not Savings Credit)
- Income-based Employment Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you think you qualify for a Home Access grant please call the Home Access Grant Helpline on 0333 200 1004 to get an application form.

News from the Sixth Form

Despite the recent adverse weather, all Sixth Formers were able to attend their January exams as planned. Results will be available on 11 March and support and advice will be given as required.

37 UCAS applications were processed on-time to a variety of higher education institutions. Students are now attending interviews, preparing portfolios and awaiting decisions on their applications.

Again the weather hampered the original Y11 Taster Day which was postponed due to snow on Wednesday 20 January. The day was rearranged for Monday 1 February and ran very smoothly with over 90 students experiencing life as a sixth former. Mr Jones, Head of Sixth Form, is following up this day by holding second round interviews from Tuesday 2 February - Thursday 4 February to discuss students' options.

On Tuesday 23 February two evening presentations have been arranged for students and their parents as follows:

- Y12 - 6.30pm in the Theatre - UCAS (how to apply to university) and what you should be doing to prepare your application for September 2010
- Y13 - 6.30pm in the Sixth Form Centre - Student Finance for any students going to university - how to apply. This will be presented by Jane Brinsford who is highly experienced and knowledgeable on this complex subject.

The trip to London in July has been revised and is now a one day trip shopping in Oxford Street, dining at Planet Hollywood and seeing a West End show on Monday 19 July. This is an icebreaking trip for Y11 students returning to the Sixth Form in September and existing Sixth Form students. Numbers are limited to 52. Letters have been circulated via Form Tutors and advertised on the website and intranet.

The trip to South Africa for 2011 has been successfully launched with a presentation by Mr Baker to interested students before Christmas. A deposit letter and details of the itinerary are now available from Mr Baker in Room 106.

Live and Learn

Sian McCarthy (B11a) represented the school recently at a Youth Seminar held at the Council Chambers in Hereford. Sian was identified as a student on the Live and Learn programme as a good ambassador and role model for other students. Sian had to talk about the positive impact Live and Learn has had on her. Sian did extremely well and said she enjoyed the experience very much and would like to do it again given the opportunity. Live and Learn is Herefordshire's School Engagement programme for 14-16 year olds which allows young people to spend time on work placements and receive tuition with training providers, whilst following the compulsory elements of the National Curriculum. The Live and Learn project enables over 150 young people to spend a day a week in practical sessions run by a range of local organisations.

Could parents please note the following changes to the events calendar circulated in September 2009.

	<u>Current Date</u>	<u>New Date</u>
Challenge Day	Monday 22 March	Wednesday 30 June
Year 7 Mentoring day	Monday 22 March	Wednesday 30 June
Y11 Information Evening	Tuesday 30 March	Wednesday 28 April
Y10 6 th form taster day	Monday 28 June	Wednesday 30 June
Sports Day	Wed 30 June	Thursday 1 July
Reserve sports day	Thursday 1 July	Tuesday 13 July

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a restful and happy half term.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Evans
Headteacher

Cleaning staff required at JMHS
£6.75 per hour

2-3 hours between 3.30 – 6.30

Contact Jenny Johnson at Churchill Contract Services on 07837 398034

JMHS is committed to the protection and safety of its pupils and therefore all candidates will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure at Enhanced Level.



John Masefield High School and Sixth Form Centre

Parent/Carer Survey - Spring 2010

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. The answers you give will help us to identify those areas in need of improvement to make our school even better.

Child's name:*		Year Group:*		*optional
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		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	My child enjoys school				
2	The school keeps my child safe				
3	The school informs me about my child's progress				
4	My child is making enough progress at this school				
5	The teaching is good at this school				
6	The school helps me to support my child's learning				
7	The school helps my child have a healthy lifestyle				
8	The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future (for example, changing year group, changing school, and for children who are finishing school, entering further or higher education, or entering employment)				
9	The school meets my child's particular needs				
10	The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour				
11	The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns				
12	The school is led and managed effectively				
13	Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school				
14	Please comment below on any aspect of school life (eg particular subjects, enrichment opportunities, student help from a teacher, support, non-teaching staff) that you or your son/daughter have been particularly pleased with this year.				
15	Please comment below on any aspect of school life that you feel could be improved.				