

NEWSLETTER

September 2009

Examination Results 2009

Sixth Form

This year our students achieved the highest percentage of A grades ever at 31% which is well above national average, and 77% achieved A - C grades which again is well above national average. On average students achieve an A and 2 Bs compared with 3 Cs seven years ago. The overall pass rate was 99% and the 'average student point score' of 340 UCAS points was once again an improvement being higher than 2008 when the students achieved an average of 327 points having risen from 246 over the last seven years. Nearly 29% of all students gained over 400 UCAS points. These stunning results demonstrate the success of the vision established by the Governors and Senior Leadership Team and the school's achievements as a high performing specialist school.

Year 11 GCSE

99% of candidates achieved five or more grade A* - G grades, and 84% achieved at least five A* - C grades. This result improves upon the 72% of students who achieved five or more *A - C grades in 2008 and also exceeds the target for the students (based upon them achieving the same progress as similar students in the top 25% of similar schools) by 5%. The number of students achieving five A* to C grades including English and Maths was 60%, which represents a significant improvement on the figure of 54% in 2008, and exceeds our previous highest result of 57% in 2007.

Analysis of the figures shows that students at John Masefield achieve to a consistently high standard, and the range of subjects offered and the choice of appropriate means of assessment to suit the students' aptitudes allows all students to succeed at a high level. Andy Evans, Headteacher, congratulated students on working so hard and achieving so well. He said "Many students in this year group worked really hard and made considerable improvements during Year 11. They are an interesting, creative and intelligent group of young people who have great potential to thrive and succeed. Alongside last week's announcement of record A Level results, these results represent a strong achievement for the students and our school"

Early Closure on Thursday 8 October

In order to prepare for our annual Open Evening we shall be ending the school day at 1.15pm on Thursday 8 October. Lunch will not be available, however all pupils entitled to free school meals can collect a sandwich at brunchtime provided they have reserved this in advance from the Catering Manager, Mrs Hill. All school buses will depart at 1.30. If your son/daughter needs to remain in school until 3.15pm please telephone reception and let us know and provision will be made for them to be supervised until 3.15pm.

Open Evening (6pm-8.30pm) is primarily intended for Year 6 pupils and their parents who will be choosing their secondary school place for September 2010. It is also an opportunity for current parents to visit the school and have a look around at some of the recent changes that have taken place and I would invite you to do so. If you wish to bring your son/daughter with you they will be most welcome but we do not wish unaccompanied children to be on site. The only exceptions to this are students who will be helping with Open Evening. Students who are not assisting as guides or helpers and are not with their parents will be asked to leave the site and you will be contacted to come and collect them.

Changes to Update and Newsletter

In our efforts to improve the information provided to parents we shall be making some changes to both of these documents. Update will now be issued on a half-termly basis and will celebrate success, contain a Friends of JMHS section and provide a wider picture of life at JMHS. The Newsletter will focus on providing essential calendar dates and information about forthcoming events along with a 'What's On section which has proved very popular with parents. Our School Calendar is attached and you may find it useful to keep this somewhere safe as we will be providing further dates for the Calendar throughout the year. If you wish to be added to the email circulation list for these documents and our press releases, please do make sure we have your email address.

Student Services

We are delighted to unveil our new Student Services Centre. This flagship initiative is the first to be established in the County and sets a new standard for inclusive and supportive secondary education. The SSC brings together all essential services for students, including pastoral and academic support, careers guidance and will also offer specialist services to ensure that we meet the requirements of every child at our school. This is part of our continued commitment to the Every Child Matters agenda. Our students and staff are already seeing the benefit of the new Centre and though it is in its early stages of development we are certain that the impact will be considerable in enhancing the existing outstanding practices at the school.

Sixth Form News

Eighty eight new students joined our sixth form and are already enjoying a number of exciting initiatives. A variety of new courses are available, one of which is the Btec National Award in Art and Design (Photography) which enables students to gain an understanding of 2D and 3D visual language alongside the development of critical and conceptual thinking in the context of photography. Students have a brand new computer suite and specialist equipment in order to develop their studio photography and there will be opportunities for visits to museums and galleries. Our new enrichment programme has started and a full programme is attached for your information.

Improved Dining Facilities

Year 11 and Sixth Form students are enjoying their upgraded dining area. A new kitchen, new flooring and furniture have improved the area tremendously and students are delighted with the extended menu now available at brunch and lunch times.

Year 7 students

We have been delighted with the start that Year 7 students have made. The demands of starting at secondary school are considerable, coping with many different issues including being very well organised with equipment, finding their way around and adjusting to a larger environment with so many different subjects and teachers. We are extremely pleased with how Year 7 students are coping so far. They are working hard in lessons, looking smart and well organised and being very polite.

Year 7 parents will shortly receive notification of the Year 7 Information Evening to be held on Wednesday 4 November between 6.30pm and 8.00pm where we hope to share information that will help you support your son or daughter in making the most of their first year at our school. There will also be the chance for parents to ask questions and to meet in an informal environment with form tutors and house leaders. Information will be available on the curriculum, homework, extra curricular events, special educational needs provision, gifted and talented opportunities, Boreatton Park Trip, and our Student Services Centre. May we draw new parents' attention to our website, www.jmonline.org.uk. This contains lots of useful information and is also the primary source of information should we need to close school due to inclement weather.

Inclement Weather

Please note our procedures for inclement weather and other emergencies which may necessitate the school closing.

If we need to close the school - Information will be given to BBC Hereford and Worcester (94.7 FM), Wyvern FM (97.6 FM) and displayed on the school's website (www.jmonline.org.uk). We believe that every lesson counts and will endeavour to keep school open unless we believe that students or staff would face significant risks.

If the school is open then closed during the school day - Information will be given to BBC Hereford and Worcester, Wyvern FM and displayed on our school's website. We will also email all parents who have supplied their email address. School buses will be brought in early and students should make their way home as normal. If any students cannot go home they will be looked after at JMHS until they can be collected by parents.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Evans
Headteacher

JMHS SCHOOL CALENDAR - AUTUMN TERM 2009

Weeks	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 7-11 Sept	<i>First day of Term</i>				
Week 2 14-18 Sept					
Week 3 21-25 Sept			<i>Btec Y10 Business Trip</i>		<i>6th Form Study Skills day Y11 Trip to Paris</i>
Week 4 28-2 Oct			<i>Btec Y11 Business Trip</i>		
Week 5 5-9 Oct		<i>HPV vaccinations</i>		<i>School closes at 1.15pm Open Evening</i>	<i>Open Morning</i>
Week 6 12-16 Oct			<i>Btec Y11 Business Trip</i>	<i>Y10 Progress Checks to parents</i>	
Week 7 19-23 Oct			<i>Careers Fair Y10 Info Evening</i>	<i>6th Form French Exchange Y11 Progress Checks to parents</i>	<i>Challenge / Mentoring Day</i>
<i>Half Term Monday 26-Friday 30 October</i>					
Week 8 2-6 Nov	<i>Dance Showcase</i>	<i>HPV vaccinations</i>	<i>Y7 Info Evening</i>	<i>Senior Maths Challenge Y8 Progress Checks to parents</i>	<i>Music Live Trip</i>
Week 9 9-13 Nov			<i>Y11 Parents Evening</i>	<i>Y9 Progress Checks to parents</i>	
Week 10 16-20 Nov		<i>6th Form Open Evening</i>			<i>Non Uniform Day Y7 Boreatton Park trip</i>
Week 11 23-27 Nov			<i>Presentation Evening</i>	<i>Challenge / Mentoring Day</i>	<i>KS4 Trip to Germany</i>
Week 12 30-4 Dec				<i>6th Form Parents Evening</i>	
Week 13 7-11 Dec					
Week 14 14-18 Dec			<i>Christmas Lunch</i>	<i>Y7 Progress Checks to parents Carol Service 6.30pm</i>	<i>Last day of term</i>

JMHS SCHOOL CALENDAR - SPRING TERM 2009

Weeks	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 15 4-8 Jan	<i>First day of term</i>				
Week 16 11-15 Jan			<i>Y10 Parents Evening</i>		
Week 17 18-22 Jan			<i>Y11 6th Form Taster Day</i>	<i>Talent Show</i>	
Week 18 25-29 Jan			<i>Y9 Options Evening</i>		
Week 19 1-5 Feb				<i>School Production 'Bugsy Malone'</i>	
				<i>Intermediate Maths Challenge</i>	<i>Y11 Reports to parents</i>
Week 20 8-12 Feb		<i>Challenge / Mentoring Day</i>		<i>Y8 Progress Checks to parents</i>	<i>Non Uniform Day</i>
<i>Half Term Monday 15 February - Friday 19 February</i>					
Week 21 22-26 Feb			<i>Y8 Parents Evening</i>		
Week 22 1-5 Mar				<i>Y9 Progress checks to parents</i>	
Week 23 8-12 Mar	<i>Battle of the Bands</i>		<i>Y9 Parents Evening</i>	<i>Y7 Progress checks to parents</i>	<i>UCAS HE Fair</i>
Week 24 15-19 Mar	<i>Pyramid Prom</i>				<i>Non Uniform Day</i>
Week 25 22-26 Mar	<i>Challenge / Mentoring Day</i>			<i>Training afternoon school closes at 1.15pm</i>	
Week 26 29-1Apr		<i>Y11 Information Evening</i>	<i>Y10 Reports to parents</i>	<i>Last day of term</i>	<i>Ski Trip departs</i>

JMHS SCHOOL CALENDAR - SUMMER TERM 2009

Weeks	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 27 19-23 Apr	<i>First day of term</i>	<i>HPV vaccinations</i>			
Week 28 26-30 Apr				<i>Junior Maths Challenge</i>	<i>Normandy trip departs</i>
Week 29 3-7 May	<i>School closed Bank Holiday</i>		<i>Y7 Parents Evening</i>		
Week 30 10-14 May	<i>X Factor Competition</i>			<i>Y8 Reports to parents</i>	
Week 31 17-21 May				<i>Year 5 Day</i>	
Week 32 24-28 May				<i>Y9 Reports to parents</i>	<i>Non Uniform day Humanities trip departs</i>
<i>HALF TERM Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June</i>					
Week 33 7-12 June	<i>Arts Festival Week</i>				
	<i>Dance Showcase</i>		<i>Open Air Concert</i>		
Week 34 14-18 June				<i>Y10 Progress check to parents</i>	<i>Training afternoon school closes at 1.15pm</i>
Week 35 21-25 June			<i>Year 6 Evening</i>	<i>Year 6 Day</i>	
Week 36 28-2 July	<i>Y10 6th Form Taster Day</i>	<i>Sports Day</i>			
Week 37 5-9 July	<i>Work Experience Week</i>				
				<i>Y7 Reports to parents</i>	<i>Training Day school closed</i>
Week 38 12-16 July					
Week 39 19-20 July		<i>Last day of term</i>			

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2009/10

AUTUMN TERM 2009

Term Starts	Monday 7 September 2009	
Half Term	Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October 2009	
Term Ends	Friday 18 December 2009	70 days

SPRING TERM 2010

Term Starts	Monday 4 January 2010	
Half Term	Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February 2010	
Term Ends	Thursday 1 April 2010	59 days

SUMMER TERM 2010

Term Starts	Monday 19 April 2009	
Half Term	Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2010	
Term Ends	Tuesday 20 July 2010	61 days

Total: 190 days

Good Friday	2 April 2010
Easter Monday	5 April 2010
May Day	3 May 2010

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2010/2011

AUTUMN TERM 2010

Term Starts	Monday 6 September 2010	
Half Term	Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October 2010	
Term Ends	Friday 17 December 2010	70 days

SPRING TERM 2011

Term Starts	Wednesday 5 January 2011	
Half Term	Monday 21 February – Friday 25 February 2011	
Term Ends	Thursday 14 April 2011	67 days

SUMMER TERM 2011

Term Starts	Wednesday 4 May 2011	
Half Term	Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June 2011	
Term Ends	Friday 22 July 2011	53 days

Total: 190 days

Good Friday	22 April 2011
Easter Monday	25 April 2011
May Day	2 May 2011

What's On at JMHS

Autumn Term 2009

Day	Activity	Times	Location	Age/ year groups	Staff in Charge
Monday	Debating club	1.15pm–1.45pm	HU3	Y7 - 13	Mr Durham
	String Ensemble	1.20 pm-1.50pm	158	Y7-10	Mrs Bedford-Davies
	Hockey (Mixed)	3.15pm-4.30pm	Astroturf	Y7 - 13	PE Staff
	Rugby	3.15pm-4.30pm	School Fields	Y7 - 13	PE Staff
	Basketball	3.15pm-4.30pm	Sports Hall	Y10 -13	PE Staff
	School production rehearsals	3.15pm–4.30pm	Room 158		Miss Ballantine
	'Try Italian' club	3.20pm–4.20pm	Room 35	Y7 - 13	Mrs Whitton
	Green fingers	3.30pm–4.30pm	Room 15	Y7 - 13	Mrs Black
	GCSE Spanish	3.30pm–5.30pm	Room 126	Y10	Mrs Berganza
	*Digital Photography (Improvers)	6.30pm-8.30pm	School premises	All	Ms McCulloch
	*Tai Chi	7.00pm–8.00pm	School Premises	All	Ms McCulloch
Tuesday	Weight training	1.15pm-1.45pm		Y10 - 13	PE Staff
	Trampolining	3.15pm-4.30pm	Sports Hall	Y7 - 13	PE Staff
	GCSE Triple Science	3.30pm–4.30pm	Science Classes	Y10 -11	Mrs Bayley
	Badminton & Squash	3.15pm-4.30pm	Sports Hall	Y7 - 9	PE Staff
Wednesday	Book Club	1.15pm–1.45pm	Room 226	Y8	Dr Lewis
	Choir	1.15pm–1.45pm	Room 158	Y7 - 13	Mr Bull
	Music Theory	1.20-1.50pm	Room 159	Y7-13	Mr Soar
	Hockey League	3.15 Onwards	Astro turf	See fixtures	PE Staff
	Gymnastics club	3.15pm–4.30pm	Sports Hall	Y7 - 13	PE Staff
	Badminton & Squash	3.15pm–4.30pm	Sports Hall	Y10 – 13	PE Staff
	School production rehearsals	3.15pm–4.30pm (start date tbc)	Room 158		Miss Ballantine
	Dance	3.30pm-4.30pm	Room D2	KS3	Miss Hinton
	Sixth form enrichment	See attached sheet	Various	Sixth form	Mr Jones
	Steel Pans Band	6.00pm–7.00pm (starts 23 rd Sept)	Room D2	Under 16	Ms Howes
	*Digital photography (Advanced)	6.30pm-8.30pm	School premises	All	Ms McCulloch
	*An Introduction to Beaded jewellery	6.30pm–8.30pm	Glazydayz (next to Ledbury train station)	All	Ms McCulloch
	*Decorative Ceramic Techniques	6.30pm–8.30pm	Glazydayz	All	Ms McCulloch
	*Botanical Illustration	6.30pm–8.30pm	School premises	All	Ms McCulloch
	Robo Fun	7.00pm–8.30pm	DT room 9	10+	Mr Henderson
Steel Pans Band (full)	7.00pm–8.00pm	Room D2	16+	Ms McCulloch	

Thursday	PE Gifted and Talented group	1.15pm–2.10pm	Sports Hall	Y7 & 8	Mr Paton
	Junior Brass Ensemble	1.20pm-1.50pm	Room 158	Y7 - 9	Mr Soar
	STEMNET (by application)	3.15pm–5.00pm	Room 106	Y7 - 9	Mr Baker
	Netball practice (Girls)	3.15pm–4.30pm	Sports Hall	Y7 -13	PE Staff
	Cookery club (day may change)	3.15pm–4.30pm	Cookery Room	Y7 - 13	Ms Kitonga
	Orchestra	3.15pm–4.30pm	158	Y7 - 13	Mr Bull
	Drama (extra rehearsal time for coursework)	3.15pm -4.00pm	Room D2	All	Miss Ballantine
	GCSE Spanish	3.30pm–5.30pm	Room 126	Y11	Mrs Berganza
	Youth Theatre	Starts at 6.00pm	Market Theatre, Ledbury	Y7-13	Ms McCulloch
Friday	Keyboard Club	1.20pm-1.50pm (starts in October)	Room 158	Y7	Mr Bull
	Girls football	3.15pm–4.30pm	Astroturf	All	Hereford United Jamie Edwards

*These courses are also open to adults and a charge is payable. Please contact our Community Arts Co-ordinator, Ms McCulloch, for further information.

The Library is open daily from 8.30am – 8.50am, during Brunch and Lunch and also 3.15pm – 4.30pm Monday - Thursday for students to complete homework and/or coursework requiring computers supervised by a member of staff.

Robofun

Robofun is a course in which you can construct a robot using Lego Mindstorms components (based on Lego Techniks, but cooler) and then program it using Mindstorms NXT software, a graphical programming environment that lets you develop sophisticated code for your robot using easy to understand graphical building blocks.

No programming experience is required as full instruction is provided. Two people work on each robot, so the course is ideal for parent and child to work together. We will be creating a simple robot to start with and getting it to do some basic tasks and once we have got the hang of it then we can get to grips with some more challenging projects.

The course is an ideal way to investigate Lego Mindstorms, maybe before purchasing it yourself, or just for the fun of seeing your creation obey your every command.

STEMNET

STEMNET is a government initiative whereby we were selected to receive funding to put on an after school club in the area of science, maths, technology and engineering. The brief is to wow them with what we do, such that it provokes an interest in related careers. The pupils are then tracked throughout their life, to see if they go into STEM careers. Some of the activities we include are Lego robots, building hovercraft/catapults, formula 1 racing, crazy chemistry, making podcasts...

SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME 2009/10

I am pleased to announce that an exciting new initiative has been planned and will commence in September for Sixth Form students. On Wednesday P5 no lessons have been timetabled to allow Sixth Form students the flexibility to take part in enrichment activities. This is part of our drive to increase healthy lifestyles and offer more opportunities for 16-19 year olds. This is a unique programme for a range of interests which we hope will appeal to young adults.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Cost per session</i>	<i>Max. No of students</i>	<i>Total Cost for 5 weeks</i>
Body balance (Halo) with qualified instructor	1 hour	JMHS Theatre	£2 per session	12 x Y12 8 x Y13	£10
Outdoor pursuits with Hereford Youth Service: including transport. Sailing, kayaking, raft-building and mountain biking leading to qualifications in sailing and kayaking	2-3 hours	Bodenham Lake Castle Green, Hereford Forest of Dean	£7 per session	8 x Y12 6 x Y13	£35
Golf at Dymock Grange 1 hour lesson 9 holes on new course Transport	3 hours	Dymock Grange Golf Club	£4 per session	16	£20
Music Matters: workshops with the 'Anomalies'	1 hour	JMHS	Free	-	
Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme		JMHS & offsite	Free	20	
Team sport (indoor / outdoor games) + football	1 hour	JMHS	Free	-	
Film focus: including Sixth Form magazine, membership of film club and Amnesty International	1 hour	JMHS	Free	-	
Creative cooking	1 hour	JMHS	Free	10	

- NB:
- Please sign up for **one** activity only
 - Places are limited and are offered on a first-come-first-served basis
 - Sessions will run for five week blocks commencing on **Wednesday 16 September 2009**
 - **Payment is required in advance for 5 week blocks and cheques should be made payable to "JMHS"**
 - If you are unable to attend a session, no refund will be offered
 - If for any reason the outdoor pursuits cannot run due to inclement weather, you can either have a credit on your account or receive a refund at the end of the 5 week block

In addition to the above activities, team sports with fixtures will be available on a Wednesday afternoon for the following sports throughout the year: Football; Rugby; Basketball; Cricket; mixed Hockey; Netball; Rounders. There will also be inter-house competitions at the end of each half term. Badminton, Squash and Weight training facilities will be available during the school day.

**JOHN MASEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
MABEL'S FURLONG, LEDBURY
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We have the following vacancy to complement our existing high quality team of support staff in our Student Services Centre. Full details of this post and an application form can be downloaded from www.jmonline.org.uk and are also available by emailing admin@jmonline.org.uk.

HOUSE SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Required to join our friendly pastoral team who liaise with parents on a daily basis, provide administrative support to House Leaders and tutors, and are the first point of contact for students.
Hours: 37 per week, 8.30am – 4.30pm Mon – Thurs, 8.30am – 4.00 pm Friday, term time plus 10 days to be worked after school or in the holidays, pay scale HC3, current salary £12,163 per annum

Closing date: 12 noon, Monday 5 October
Interview dates: Monday 12 October

All vacancies that involve working with vulnerable adults and/or children will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure at Enhanced Level.