

NEWSLETTER

December 2009

Headteacher's PA of the Year Awards

Congratulations go to Ms Jane Morton who has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to JMHS. Jane was nominated for this national award for the superb work she does on a day to day basis. Jane's work is outstanding in every area, her colleagues appreciate her willingness to put her hand to any task or new challenge, however busy she is. Jane is loyal, hardworking, dedicated and considerate and is a great asset and ambassador for the school.

Investors in People

We have been successful in our application for redesignation as an Investors in People organisation for a further three years. As part of this process a selection of staff were interviewed over two days and the operation of the whole school was examined. Some of the comments within the report included: 'The staff, governors and parents are continually seeking ways of improving standards and the school environment for the children' and 'The positive attitude and commitment of all people interviewed is clearly one of the strengths of the school that is underpinned with effective leadership and good governance'.

Senior Maths Challenge

Congratulations to twenty six students from Years 11, 12 and 13 who took part in the UK Senior Maths Challenge on 5 November. This event is aimed at students who undertake an A level Maths course. The problems the students tackle challenge the students to think and are memorable and enjoyable. Certificates are awarded to the top 40% of students nationally. The students performed well, with six students achieving Bronze and Ruth Nicoll (Y11) and Rebecca McPherson (Y13) achieving Silver.

Ledbury Town Remembrance Service

As part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award, Guy Osborn & Emma Brown sold Poppies at JMHS raising a total of £125.90 for The Royal British Legion; they also attended the Remembrance service on Sunday 8 November, along with other students, to lay wreaths on behalf of the staff and students at JMHS.

Car Park

May we remind all parents and visitors to JMHS to follow any instructions given to them by members of staff wearing fluorescent jackets. Our priorities at the beginning and end of the school day are students on foot, coaches then cars. Parents collecting students are reminded that they are prohibited from entering the car park until 3.30pm when all the coaches have departed and the area is much less congested. Your support in helping to make our car park a safer place is very much appreciated.

Last Day of Term

On the final day of term there will be special celebrations for all of our students as it is very important that all of us can celebrate Christmas and the end of a successful term together. Students will attend a House Celebration Assembly where awards are presented for students achieving 50, 100 and 200 House Points. The majority of students will also attend a Carol Service at our local church where students in our orchestra and choir are performing pieces they have been rehearsing for the past few months. We are hoping to make alternative provision for students in our school who, on grounds of conscience, would prefer not to attend the whole school Carol Service. If students wish to do this we have asked them to write a short note addressed to the Headteacher, explaining their reason, countersigned by a parent or carer.

Carol Service

We warmly invite you to attend our Carol Service on Thursday 17 December
Please note that this event will now start at 7pm, not 6.30 as stated in the previous newsletter.

Term ends at 12.45 on Friday 18 December 2009

Telephone Calls

We have received a complaint from a local resident whose telephone number is very similar to ours. She asks that we remind parents to dial carefully so she is not inconvenienced.

Governing Body Information

Following the recent request for nominations for one Parent Governor vacancy, I am pleased to inform you that Frances Innes has been duly re-elected unopposed for a further three year term.

Eco Schools Update

John Masefield has signed up to the 10:10 initiative, committing to reduce the school's carbon emissions by 10% in 2010. More information on 10:10 can be found at www.1010uk.org. If anyone would like to get involved in supporting JMHS to achieve this ambitious target or to find out more about it, please contact Donald Henderson, EcoSchool Co-ordinator (ecoteam@jmonline.org.uk or 01531 648479).

Sixth Form News

The Sixth Form Open Evening was held recently and was well attended and it was pleasing to welcome students from JMHS as well as students from other schools. Year 11 students have attended interviews with the Head of Sixth Form during the first week of December to discuss their options and pathways. This process will be followed after Christmas with the Year 11 Taster Day on Wednesday 20 January where students can experience lessons and become a sixth former for the day. Letters will be sent out early in the New Year to invite students for this day.

Year 12 students have had a presentation on work-shadowing, which runs between 5-9 July 2010. Students are expected to find their own placements and in previous years these have been varied and include the House of Commons, The English Cricket Board and BBC Radio Wales.

Year 13 Students are busy applying for their university courses through UCAS and early applicants for Oxbridge and Medicine have had two 'mock' interviews with Mr Evans and members of the Rotary Club. We are grateful for their kind support in helping to prepare our students for their formal interviews in early December.

Sixth Form students are busy planning their Christmas Dinner and Dance which will be held on Thursday 10 December at The Chase Hotel, Ross on Wye. The students organise this event themselves and it is their opportunity to don their formal attire.

A teambuilding trip to London for Year 11 students planning to return to the Sixth Form in September and existing sixth form students has been planned for 18 - 20 July 2010 and will be a mix of culture and leisure. Further information is available from Mr Jones or Mrs Arlott.

Herefordshire Council Public Consultation

Herefordshire Council has begun public consultation on their proposed admission arrangements for the 2011/2012 academic year. Further information is available from their website www.herefordshire.gov.uk.

South Africa Trip 2011

In order to establish international links and to develop a global dimension in curriculum provision at JMHS we intend setting up a 'Global Gateway' and linking with Itirele High School in South Africa. As part of this educational partnership we should like to take approximately twenty-five sixth form students to South Africa to take part in charity work and cultural experiences, with social time on safari and at the beach. This trip is likely to cost in the region of £1,900 and letters and detailed information will be available in the New Year from Mr Baker.

Spring Term

Term commences on Monday 4 January 2010.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Evans
Headteacher