



Head's Up!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are well and I hope your child has had an enjoyable start to the new academic year. As mentioned previously, a huge number of changes have been put in place to ensure our staff and students are safe and actively learning. We are incredibly proud of the way our students have adapted so quickly to the 'new norm.' Lessons and behaviour are to the same high standards as always, with a calm and purposeful atmosphere throughout the school. It has been a joy to see all our students engaged again in their learning and to see the impact of our new curriculum plans, interleaving and retrieval practice. The response and support from everyone has been fantastic!

Join Us!

We have added our virtual open event to the 'Join Us' page on our new website. If you need reminding what a special school JMS is then do take a look. It is packed full of student voice and experience, faculty visits and photos, which all show what an amazing community we have and the opportunities that are on offer. You may be looking at secondary schools now or have friends or family who are looking. Please make them aware of the 'Join Us' page and we will be happy to talk to prospective parents and carers if they have questions. We will be adding our Virtual Sixth Form Event and Parent Information Evenings (PIE) soon.

Year 11 Period 6

These have been incredibly successful and well attended. The sessions will continue to run as follows:

Tuesday - English, **Wednesday** - Science, **Thursday** - Maths, **Friday** - History, PE and Psychology. Most of the options subjects not listed will be offering extra provision at alternative times during the school day or shorter blocks of after school provision throughout the year.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We are now in a position to offer extra-curricular clubs and activities. Some have started already. These include Mandarin, Jazz band, Schools Clean Air Monitoring Project, Design Plus and the Locked Room Mystery Group. Tutors have shared the enrichment offer with their tutees. Please do encourage your child to attend.

Parent Information Evenings (PIE)

Normally at this time of year we would be holding our PIE evenings for each year group. Unfortunately, these are unable to take place face to face and in school. We will however be making a video recording and uploading them to the Year Group pages on our website. Directors of Faculty will share useful information specific to each year group, including our remote learning policy. We will let you know when these have been uploaded.

Parents' Evenings

Due to the current situation we will not be able to hold Parents' Evenings in school. However, we understand the importance of communication between school and home about your child's progress so we have been looking at suitable alternatives. We are trialling an online parents evening platform called SchoolCloud. This will start next week with our New Tutors' Evening on Thursday 15th October. This platform enables parents and carers to book a 5 minute video appointment with teachers.

Wellbeing

Your child's wellbeing is of paramount importance to us. As such, we have developed a wellbeing survey which covers various areas of school life and lifestyle, with the view to all students completing it in the run up to half term. Our

pastoral teams will be able to use the information and data from the survey to intervene and support those students who need it.

We also have a comprehensive wellbeing curriculum at the school, mainly delivered through Character Education lessons and tutor times. This year we will also be using and discussing with students the five ways to wellbeing. These are Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Give and Keep Learning. If you are interested in finding out more please click on the link below.

<https://www.mind.org.uk/workplace/mental-health-at-work/taking-care-of-yourself/five-ways-to-wellbeing/>

Attendance

These are difficult times and we appreciate it is harder for some than others. We have worked with a number of organisations and have consulted with PHE, DfE and the Local Authority to make the school as safe as possible. Attendance at school is key to academic progress and wellbeing. We know that children in our care do well, are happy and feel safe.

Clearly, if your child is too unwell to attend school they should remain at home until they are better and the school attendance team should be notified.

If you are concerned about any Covid 19 related symptoms then please use the guidance below to help:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a test as soon as possible and stay at home until you get the result. You must also notify the school immediately.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal;

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

And Finally

On Tuesday we welcome our new interns from Oxford University. We have six in total across Maths, Geography, English, Physics, History and Biology. We have a strong relationship with the Education Department at Oxford and we are very privileged to have such a strong uptake and involvement in the development of the next generation of teachers. We look forward to meeting and working with them.

I am pleased to announce we are currently advertising for a leader of Diversity, Equality and Inclusion at the school and I am delighted to inform you we have appointed Mr Smart and Miss Evans to lead our Super Curricula and Symposium provision to raise aspirations, stretch and challenge our students.

Best wishes

Adrian Rees
Head of School
