



JOHN MADEJSKI ACADEMY

15th January 2025

Dear JMA families

I am writing to inform you of some changes we have made to the timetable to best use and allocate the resources we currently have at JMA. Too many students, for too long, at this school, have been taught by temporary cover teachers. It isn't right, and it isn't in line with the vision for our school. We are delighted to be working with you, the local community, to begin to improve this. We have already had high interest in several adverts we placed from the 1st January; we are a trust that attracts high quality candidates.

Our aims in rewriting aspects of the timetable have been as follows:

1. All students deserve the best possible education we can provide in each lesson.
2. Tutors have changed in order to ensure that teachers teach in their classrooms and children are afforded the opportunity to move between lessons.
3. We believe that all students have the right to time with an expert teacher. We care very deeply about the quality of our staff and we have been delighted to appoint two new members of the teaching staff, one in science and one in English, who have started this term.

As a result of these principles we have made the following significant changes.

At Key Stage 3:

- We are temporarily suspending Modern Foreign Languages MFL teaching for Year 7 students, and reducing the number of lessons in languages for Year 8 students from two lessons to one per week. This is a temporary measure until we recruit a quality languages teacher: we are committed to providing excellent languages lessons for our students as soon as we are able. The schools with GLT have very strong languages results and JMA will be no different.
- In place of languages, students in Year 7 and 8 will complete Sparx Maths lessons. Sparx Maths is an excellent online programme, which will enable students to practise maths, independently, that is adapted to their level and provides them with immediate feedback. These lessons will be supervised by staff.
- Year 9 languages will be taught in a larger group with our Deputy Head, Chris Smith, who is an expert and experienced teacher of French and Spanish.
- One English lesson per week in KS3 will be online using a programme specifically targeted to develop reading. These lessons will be supervised by staff.

Mr Jonathan Heap, Headteacher

John Madejski Academy, 125 Hartland Rd, Reading RG2 8AF
T: + 44 (0)118 937 0200 | E : Contact@johnmadejskiacademy.co.uk | W: www.johnmadejskiacademy.co.uk

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At Key Stage 4:

- Some Year 10 and 11 groups have been combined to create bigger classes but with an expert, specialist, teacher leading. Education research consistently shows that class size has less effect on student achievement than having the very best possible member of staff leading the group.

Tutor Time Reading Programme (TTRP):

As per the parent booklet that was sent out in December, we love reading in our schools. We commit lots of time to this in our Tutor Time Reading Programme.

The texts that students will be reading have been selected from a canon of texts that are used across all our GLT schools and we are very excited to begin reading them with students this week. Year 11 students will continue lessons in Maths and English in the mornings.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate the fact that our top priority is our promise to you that lessons at JMA will be disruption free. Every student has the right to learn in a silent, safe and calm environment. This, more than anything else, will ensure your children make the best possible progress while they are with us. Students have had induction in tutor groups so that they know exactly what to expect and what is expected of them.

Emily Davey



Senior School Leader
Greenshaw Learning Trust

Mr Jonathan Heap, Headteacher

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