



Quality education
for all in a
challenging,
supportive and
safe environment

Monday 27 April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you for your support in helping our students make the transition into this highly unusual new term. I also appreciate the messages of support and constructive comments about how we are setting work, assessing work, teaching lessons and connecting with your son/daughter at present.

As always, this weekly communication aims to keep you up to date with any relevant recent developments:

Summer 2020 Examination cancellation

Early Entrants – Year 10

As discussed in last week's communication, Ofqual's consultation regarding grading students in Years 10 and below ends at 11.45pm on Wednesday 29 April. Please consider making a contribution to ensure your voice is heard.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-seeks-views-on-gcse-and-a-level-grading-proposals-for-2020>

Student learning

The Government has made several announcements over the last week. Whilst I would always ask that you see the school as the primary resource for directing your son/daughter's learning activities and the place you would come to when seeking any associated support, the resources outlined below may well be of use in the process of engaging and motivating the students at this time:

Home-Learning Helpline:

A government-backed parent helpline was launched on Friday by a coalition of academy trusts and parenting groups, for all home learning issues. The StarLine helpline is available six days a week during lockdown and is manned by teachers and education and parenting experts who will give confidential advice. It will cover all areas of the curriculum across all phases of education. Parents will be able to seek advice on school work, child behaviour, daily routine or any aspect of home learning. The contact number is: 0330 3139162

Online education resources:

The Oak National Academy is an online classroom and resource hub created by teachers, for teachers and students. It will provide 180 video lessons each week, across a broad range of subjects from maths to art to languages, for every year group from Reception through to Year 10. Teachers can use these resources to complement their own lesson planning and remote teaching until schools fully re-open. Every lesson will be free to use for every teacher and every student.

For more information visit: <https://www.thenational.academy/>



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In addition, the BBC has also launched its own education package across TV and online providing daily lessons for home schooling in Maths and English for every year group, as well as regular lessons in Science, History, Geography and more.

For more information visit: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Government initiatives:

Finally, the Government has announced a number of other initiatives:

- the Government will provide 4G routers to make sure disadvantaged secondary school pupils and care leavers can access the internet – where those families do not already have mobile or broadband internet in the household;
- the country's major telecommunications providers will also make it easier for families to access selected educational resources by temporarily exempting these sites from data charges;
- the Government will make funding worth £1.6 million available immediately for the NSPCC to expand and promote its national helpline for adults. Expanding the NSPCC Helpline will mean many more adults know how and where to raise concerns and seek advice or support about the safety and wellbeing of any children they are worried about;
- disadvantaged children across England are set to receive laptops and tablets as part of a push to make remote education accessible for pupils staying at home during the coronavirus outbreak. Devices can be ordered for children in the most vital stages of their education, those who receive support from a social worker and caregivers.

Although we have already distributed a number of generously donated laptops to those families who have requested them, we shall also be seeking to obtain laptops for those who may need them through this initiative.

Countywide & Local support

I have been asked again to make you aware of Here2Help that can provide additional support at the present time, particularly for families with children with SEND or those who are feeling vulnerable in any way. They can be found at: <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/Here2Help>

The types of additional support available to people through Here2Help is as follows and the aim is to prevent families/households getting to crisis points:

- Food and Supplies - Unable to obtain food and supplies (including specific food and supplies)
- Health and Medication - Help with collecting medicine and prescriptions
- Commitments - Including childcare, pets and transport
- Connectivity and Entertainment - Internet access; Ideas for entertaining children
- Mental Health and Wellbeing - Social isolation and loneliness; Keeping active

School telephone network upgrade

We have been informed that an urgent phone system upgrade needs to take place by the end of April, rather than the end of July as we were expecting. The upgrade will take a significant amount of time as it also includes moving the system between servers. The work will take place this week on **Wednesday 29th April**; whilst the system is upgraded, you will not be able to make calls to the school or receive calls from us through the school number.

Plans are being put in place for those students who are in school on Wednesday and the staff supervising them using one of our school trip mobile phones as an emergency contact point. This number will be published on the website and the parents of students in school will be issued with this directly on the day.

Finally, I hope you and your son/daughter are finding our weekly Student Bulletin helpful. A reminder please that if you or they have any helpful examples, ideas or things you have done that could be included in a future issue of the Student Bulletin, please email: studentbulletin@pershore.worcs.sch.uk

I hope you and your families remain safe and well.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PH', written in a cursive style.

Phil Hanson
Headteacher