



# Perschore High School

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

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you and your family are safe and well as we approach half term at the end of the week. Please note that the school will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020, but will be open for the children of key workers for the rest of the half term holiday. Thank you again for your considerable efforts in supporting your son/daughter's home learning since Easter.

Please find below the latest updates relevant to our current situation.

## Department of Education - Support for parents

Following on from the Prime Minister's announcement last week, from 1<sup>st</sup> June at the earliest, Secondary schools have been asked to provide some face-to-face support for students in Year 10 and Year 12 prior to the summer holiday, as they are due to take public examinations next year; the Government do not expect these students to return on a full-time basis at this stage.

The Government are currently working with education sector representatives to develop models of how this could operate and these will be published along with further guidance for secondary schools in due course. I have in fact attended a meeting this morning with the County Council as part of the process of formulating our local response to the current national guidance.

Since Easter, our use of Microsoft Teams to deliver some online learning opportunities has provided face-to-face support, albeit virtual, to support our students' learning and reduce their social isolation from the school community perspective; this has not been common to all schools. We are currently working to see if we can create a provision that will reassure students, parents, carers and school staff that any form of return to school will be as safe as possible.

The Department for Education understand this is a challenging time for parents and carers and that you may have questions about your children potentially returning to school. They have developed the following guidance and resources for parents and carers to support you at this time, accessible by following the links:

- [Q&A](#) which answers key questions parents may have
- [Guidance for parents on phased reopening of education settings](#)
- [Guidance for parents on supporting learning at home](#) for early years and primary age children (secondary school guidance to follow)
- List of [online resources](#) to support children's development



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## **Mental Health Awareness week**

This week is Mental Health Awareness week and the theme of the week is kindness. Supporting students' mental health and wellbeing has been the focus of our communications since school closed to the majority of students in March. This week's Student Bulletin continues this theme and gives more information about the week's activities; I would encourage you to make your son/daughter aware of the information and, if possible, use it as a source of conversation about mental health and wellbeing. In addition to the various support options offered in the Student Bulletin, the Department for Education have provided guidance for parents and carers on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

## **SEND Support and Guidance**

As the Coronavirus is the cause of much anxiety and concern for young people and families at present, below is a reminder of some of the resources designed to help young people cope with such stress and uncertainty at this time.

- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) have pooled together helpful resources for young people and carers to support mental health and wellbeing (downloads; websites; Apps; books & videos) <https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/>
- The Council for Disabled Children are posting weekly frequent asked questions, which may be beneficial during this time too.  
<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/help-resources/resources/frequently-asked-questions>
- Starline – The new national helpline for parents: 0330 313 9162  
A free telephone helpline offering home learning advice directly from qualified teachers and parenting and education experts  
<https://www.starline.org.uk/>

## **Post-16 and Post-18 progression route support**

Success at Schools have compiled an excellent Careers eBook for parents and carers to complete with their son/daughter which includes information on choosing a career, as well as looking at post 16 and post 18 options.

Just click below or copy and paste the link into your browser to view:

<https://successatschool.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2c038531b25876a2c7c9cf8b1&id=25197a873e&e=6578fdbb84>

### *Year 11*

This week's 'Careers Bulletin' has been made available to students via Epraise and the Shared Area on the school network. There is a spotlight on Engineering, an insight into global Insurance industry and specific information on progression route support for Year 11 students, some of which I have included below.

### **Heart of Worcestershire (HOW) College - Worcester:**

HOW College are offering a range of virtual talks via Zoom where members of the departments will go through a quick presentation on the courses they have to offer and be available to answer questions. The focus of the talks are Travel & Tourism; Computing & Digital Media; Special Educational Needs; Access to Higher Education; Admissions & Careers; Business; Sports & Public Services and Art & Design. For those interested, all you need to do is simply register for the event via their website:

<https://www.howcollege.ac.uk/about/virtual-open-events/>

### **WCG group of Colleges:**

WCG is a group of colleges that, combined, make up one of the largest further and higher education colleges in the country and includes Pershore College, Evesham College and Malvern Hills College. Parents, carers and students can learn more about the seven colleges across south Warwickshire and Worcestershire that make up WCG at: <https://wcg.ac.uk/page/92/colleges>

You can visit their online hub and access a wide range of information, advice and guidance including:

- College welcome videos at each site
- Panoramic photos and 360° videos of our workshops / studios / classrooms

- Links to all of their subject areas
- Course search facility with the ability to apply online
- Information on careers advice, learning support and inclusion, transport, financial support and more

WCG are holding virtual open events for their Worcestershire Colleges on Wednesday 17 June. For information on how to join a virtual open event visit: <https://wcg.ac.uk/openevent>

### Year 13

The Deputy CEO of the Student Loans Company, David Wallace, is advising students thinking about going to university for the first time this autumn to complete their funding applications online as soon as possible. New students are being asked to submit their applications before 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020. The deadline for returning student applications, in case this is also relevant, is 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Applications for student finance can be made here:

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

### **Support student home learning**

Thank you to those of you who participated in the '*How to help your child study effectively without becoming the enemy*' webinar last Tuesday run by Elevate; feedback received about the event has been very positive. For those of you who were unable to catch it but are still interested in viewing the content, this can be accessed at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jykJVqdrvs&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jykJVqdrvs&feature=emb_title)

Due to the unprecedented demand and the subsequent need to change the server supporting the webinar, it did not begin on time. In the recording, the presenter appears for the first time four minutes in and the introduction to the session presenter and Elevate as an organisation about five minutes in; the formal presentation begins around eleven minutes in and lasts for around fifty-five minutes.

### **Pershore Infrastructure Improvement Scheme – Pinvin Junction**

I have been given an update about the works on the Pinvin Junction element of the Pershore Infrastructure Improvement Scheme. Work is currently suspended on site due to the impact of Covid-19. Further to recent guidance from Transport Minister, Baroness Vere, regarding the resumption of Highway maintenance and improvement schemes, work will resume in the next few weeks.

I have been made aware of a road closure in the area at the end of this week, needed for major utility diversions. Openreach and Seven Trent Water require the closure of Terrace Road between the Junction of the A4104/A44 for 100m of Terrace Road towards the Railway Station, from Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> until Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May. As with the other closures, diversions will be in place during this closure and advanced-notice signage will be deployed on site. Residents living in Terrace Road will be able to access the road and park as usual during the closure period. Pedestrian routes will also be maintained keeping pedestrians at a safe distance from the workforce.

Please note that the work programme may be subject to change and residents may be asked to park on the other side of the road during some of the days. You can find out more about the scheme and keep up to date with progress by visiting the County Council website at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/pershore](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/pershore). Should you have any further queries about the scheme, please contact [majorprojects@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:majorprojects@worcestershire.gov.uk).

I hope you and your families remain safe and well; communications next week to both parents, carers and students will be published on Tuesday following the Bank holiday weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Phil Hanson  
Headteacher