



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

26th May 2020



Phil Hanson
Headteacher

Andrew Nockton
Deputy
Headteacher

Zoe Budding
Jason Howell
Assistant
Headteachers

Karen Bevan
Finance and
Business Director

Station Road
Perschore
Worcs
WR10 2BX

Tel 01386 552471

www.perschore.worcs.sch.uk
office@perschore.worcs.sch.uk

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you and your family have had a good Bank holiday weekend. Thank you once again for guiding your son/daughter through their home learning over the last half term and I hope you are all able to enjoy some down time over the coming week.

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

Examinations 2020 update

Standardising Centre Assessment Grades

In light of the feedback Ofqual received on the proposed standardisation model for School (Centre) Assessed Grades, they have now confirmed the decision to adopt the aims set out in the model below:

Step 1 - School considers and submits centre assessment grade and rank order information to Examination Board between 1st and 12th June 2020. I shall be signing off the grades awarded by my colleagues on Friday ready for submission to the Examination Boards from Monday. I am grateful to my colleagues for what has been a very professional, fair and robust process as they have carefully considered the evidence for every grade awarded.

Step 2 - Examination Boards standardise grades using statistical model developed with Ofqual. For each subject, the Examination Board will use Statistical standardisation to answer the question: 'What results might the school or college be most likely to achieve given the following?' making reference to the following:

- previous national results in the subject
- the prior attainment of its students this year compared to previous years
- the school or college results in recent years

Appealing calculated grades

Ofqual have confirmed that the normal appeal process, when exams and marking have taken place, are unable to happen this year as there are no exam scripts to review or mark. However, they have:

- confirmed that a student who had evidence of bias or discrimination would be able to raise this with their school. An Examination Board could investigate such evidence as indicating malpractice
- decided that, as now, schools must have a procedure which allows students to request that a review is conducted of the centre's decision not to appeal to an exam board
- confirmed that appeals should be allowed where a school believes it has made an error when submitting its information; or similarly, if the school believes an Examination Board made a mistake when calculating, assigning or communicating a grade.

Autumn 2020 exam series

Ofqual have also announced a consultation today into the proposals for an autumn exam series, which will provide an opportunity for students unable to receive a calculated grade, and others who would like the opportunity to improve their grade, to take an exam. This is an opportunity for you to input into this important consultation and express your views on the proposal. The deadline to respond is 8 June 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-an-additional-gcse-as-and-a-level-exam->

SEND Support and Guidance

Please find attached a letter for parents/carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs (such as autism and learning disabilities) from Children and Young Peoples Services at Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust. They are aware that many students will be finding the school closures difficult or may become distressed when it is time to return. The letter sets out the different services that are available to offer support and advice about this.

Post-16 and Post-18 progression route support

This week's 'Careers Bulletin' has been made available to students via Epraise and the Shared Area on the school network. For Year 11 students, there is a spotlight on Architects and further information on progression route support. For Years 11-13 there is also a substantive section from the University of Bristol and their virtual resources page, to either enrich learning or aid the transition for the next phase of education or training. Over the coming weeks they will add additional subject specific tasters and lectures, as well as information on themes such as the university application process and student life. Their pre-recorded academic and student support sessions will also be supplemented with live engagement opportunities that delve further into detail and offer students the chance to ask questions.

Supporting student home learning

Parent and Student Feedback on School Closure Remote Learning Provision

We would appreciate you completing a survey about our remote learning provision since school closure, the results of which will be used in our planning for the next half term. Please complete this with your son/daughter, as much of the information regarding work set, online sessions held and feedback provided will have gone directly to them and you may not be fully aware of it all. In the optional free text boxes, please include further explanations of your opinions and/or suggest improvements or ideas that you would like to have considered. Thank you for your time in completing the survey. If you are able to complete it by 8.00am on Friday (29th May), the outcomes will be used initially at our Leadership Team meeting taking place that morning. Returns received after this will still be read and the content considered.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3miwMbyDbUWVSnFB8YRFBfrXvAQJYdCiBhOEZd0F69UNDNVQ1ZMMVhTOVRBM0g1UEtUjIGRiJQOS4u>

Phased reopening of schools

There has obviously been much in the news recently about the phased reopening of schools. The Prime Minister indicated on Sunday that Secondary school students in Year 10 and 12 will receive 'some contact' from 15th June at the earliest. We will send another survey regarding returning to school to parents of students in Years 10 and 12 once we have developed our plans, developed in light of DfE advice received yesterday.

Year 9 English Literature resources

The English department have made available to students the texts they are studying now and from September to prepare for their Literature GCSE in May 2021. There is information on how to obtain all the required texts on the school network student shared area in the 'Emergency Closure Lesson Resources/Year 9 Emergency Closure Lessons/English' folder. It is possible to purchase from a wide range of available study guides but there are plenty of free resources online.

Bridging the 'Digital Divide'

As our school closure moves into its eighth week (excluding holidays), I would like to once again appeal to any parents/carers who might be able to donate any old or unused laptops, or other suitable digital device, for use by those students who do not have such a facility and therefore find it hardest to access many of the remote learning opportunities provided at this time. My original appeal as the school first closed resulted in a very positive response from members of the school community and beyond, for which a number of parents/carers, students and I were very grateful. If you are able to help in this occasion, please can you email office@pershore.worcs.sch.uk or drop the device off at the school reception between 9.00am – 3.30pm, Monday to Friday. Thank you in anticipation for your support.

I hope you and your families remain safe and well. Over the next fortnight we will be working on plans to welcome back restricted numbers of Year 10 and 12 students from 15th June and our communications next week for parents, carers and students will outline our intended provision for continued remote learning for the next half term through to the summer holiday, whilst we develop our plans for gradual reopening to more students.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PH', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Phil Hanson
Headteacher