



Perschore High School

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



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

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Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you and your family have had a good half term break. As we enter the final half term of the year, for the vast majority of students and as per the Government guidance, we are continuing with home learning supported by the school.

Please find below the latest updates relevant to our current situation, which includes:

- *Social distancing guidance for young people*
- *Autumn 2020 exam series consultation*
- *Support for dyslexic and reluctant readers*
- *Parent and Student Feedback on School Closure Remote Learning Provision*
- *Phased reopening of schools*
- *Individual Child Trust Fund account recovery information*
- *Appeal for old or unused laptops & digital devices*

Latest Government Guidance:

Social distancing guidance for young people

During half term, the Cabinet Office published guidance for young people in England on social distancing that explains the new measures that will help young people stay safe as rules on being outside, or at school or work, change. Amongst other topics, the guidance covers visiting public places, meetings in groups, going to work, and going to other people's houses. It also includes advice for young carers and information on how to access health and care services.

I would encourage you to ensure your son/daughter is familiar with the information presented through the link below and to persuade them of the need to adhere to the current guidelines for the benefit of everyone:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stay-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-guidance-for-young-people/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-guidance-for-young-people>

Autumn 2020 exam series consultation

A reminder that Ofqual's consultation 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, ends next Monday (8th June) if you would like to contribute.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-an-additional-gcse-as-and-a-level-exam-series-in-autumn-2020>

SEND Support and Guidance

Support for dyslexic and reluctant readers

Barrington Stoke are well known for their 20 years' experience in publishing engaging fiction for dyslexic and reluctant readers. Many younger readers will recognise their hallmarks of dyslexia-friendly fonts and use of coloured paper. To support parents through such a daunting time, Barrington Stoke have recently produced a booklet entitled 'Homeschooling Help for Lockdown'. This includes advice, input from authors, details of helpful websites, and details about Barrington Stoke titles. I hope you will find some of the content in the link below useful:

https://www.coventry.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/32744/home_learning_support_for_dyslexic_children.pdf

Supporting student home learning

Parent and Student Feedback on School Closure Remote Learning Provision

Thank you to all parents/carers who responded to the survey contained in last week's letter; your evaluation of our provision and suggestions on how aspects might be improved have been much appreciated. We start this term confident in the knowledge that our current provision of setting work, giving feedback and delivering online learning is working well, although as we would expect when requesting an honest review, there are some areas that require some modifications to ensure we are working effectively for as many students as possible.

We had received enough responses on Friday morning, and thank you given my initial request was only made on Tuesday, to analyse in our scheduled Leadership Team meeting and begin to consider our response. As parent/carer responses are still being received, this response will be finalised in conjunction with staff early this week. I would therefore request that if you still wish to contribute, you do so by the end of tomorrow (Tuesday 2nd June) using the link below. Next week's communications will confirm our approach for the remaining weeks of the school year.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3miwMbYDbUWVSnFB8YRFBfsrXvAOJYdCiBhOEZd0F69UNDNVQ1ZMMVhTOVRBM0g1UEtJUjIGRjJQOS4u>

Phased reopening of schools

As final half term of the year gets underway today, we continue with home learning for the vast majority of students, although as per the Government's current guidance, we are also looking at some face-to-face contact with Years 10 and 12 from Monday 15th June. This will supplement the remote education of Year 10 and Year 12 students, as it is the Government's clear expectations that remote education will continue to be the predominant form of education delivery for these year groups. Although our planning for some contact has begun, we are awaiting some confirmations from the Department of Education and School Transport at Worcestershire County Council to ensure we are complying with both the ethos and letter of their expectations in our plans.

Therefore, I am not able to share any further information with you in this regard at this time; please be assured that as soon as it is appropriate to do so our plan will be shared. Needless to say, at the heart of this is our obligation to control the virus and protect everyone who is on the school site, students and staff. We are also considering what will be the most valuable experience for the students, given what we are able to offer, in the context of schools being able to have a quarter of the Year 10 and Year 12 cohort in school at any one time.

Alongside this, as per the government guidance, we are continuing to provide full-time provision for vulnerable students and children of critical workers in all year groups (including year 10 and year 12) and to use best endeavours to support all other students remaining at home, making use of the available remote education support.

Community Support

Individual Child Trust Fund account recovery information

I shall be sending a letter to students in Year 11 and above sent from Gavin Oldham OBE, General Synod lay member in the Oxford Diocese & Chair of Trustees, The Share Foundation, to Rt. Revd. John Inge, Bishop of Worcester last week.

Mr Oldham was a long-standing lay member of the General Synod, and for 18 years as a Church Commissioner, a member of its Assets Committee. He has requested my help in getting an important message to 16-17 year-olds (born after 1 September 2002) in the Diocese of Worcester. Based on the last CofE census, he estimates there are 19,232 young people of this age in our diocese.

His letter references the point that almost all of these young people will have an individual Child Trust Fund account, typically worth over £1,000. The young people are allowed to take control of their account from age 16, and to access their funds from age 18 (the oldest will reach this age on 1 September). However, he notes, one third of these accounts, although being safely administered with account providers, are lost to their young owners and their families, as 'Addressee Gone Away': an estimated 6,411 in our diocese alone.

Mr Oldham established a registered charity in 2005, The Share Foundation, which runs the Department for Education's Child Trust Fund and Junior ISA schemes for looked-after young people throughout the UK. The Share Foundation has worked closely with HM Revenue & Customs to set up a recovery process by which all young people can find their account; an explanation of the process can be found at: www.sharefound.org/ctf. There are no fees or charges applied at any stage to the young people or their accounts and the service is voluntary; one of the major account providers, RBS, is helping to cover costs. The required link to engage with the process can be found at: www.sharefound.org/missingmoney and the accompanying registration page link can be found at: <https://findCTF.sharefound.org>

This course of action could materially benefit the young people affected, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, where the rate of lost connection is greatest. The money in their Child Trust Fund accounts, plus other support services available, could make a real difference for their start to adult life.

Bridging the 'Digital Divide'

Appeal for old or unused laptops & digital devices

As our school closure moves into its ninth week (excluding holidays), I would like to repeat my 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.

Last week's appeal has again resulted in a very positive response from members of the school community and beyond, for which a number of parents/carers, students and I are very grateful, but more devices are still required. If you are able to help, 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.

Yours faithfully,



Phil Hanson
Headteacher