



Perschore High School

Monday 8th June 2020

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



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Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you and your family have had a good first week of the new half term. Please find below the latest updates relevant to our current situation, which includes:

- *Wider opening of educational settings*
- *Remote Learning Provision for this half term*
- *Year 9 Non-core (options) subjects*
- *Hampton Centre and Base opening*
- *Annual Reviews*
- *Careers Bulletin (Year 11)*
- *University Applications and using the UCAS Apply system (Year 12)*
- *'Wellbeing and Safeguarding Triangle'*
- *Pastoral Mentoring support*
- *Foodbank vouchers*
- *Puffin Festival of Big Dreams*

Latest Government Guidance

Wider opening of educational settings

As the Prime Minister announced on 28th May, from next Monday (week commencing 15th June), secondary schools have been asked to offer face-to-face support for Year 10 and Year 12 pupils, as they are due to take key examinations next year. This will supplement their remote education, which will still remain the predominant mode of education during this term for these pupils. This wider opening will run alongside the full time provision we are offering to the children of critical workers and vulnerable children.

The Government's assessment, based on the latest scientific and medical advice, is that they need to continue to control the numbers attending school to reduce the risk of increasing transmission. We therefore need to ensure that only a quarter of pupils collectively in Year 10 and Year 12 are in school at any one time. This is in addition to vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers in other year groups, who should also attend full-time.

Students in eligible year groups are strongly encouraged to attend (where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household), so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits of attending.

For Year 10, we shall be offering every student one morning per week (8.50am to 1.20pm) of four lessons (English, Maths & two Science lessons) for the first two weeks. This will be reviewed after two weeks to ascertain whether it is possible to introduce Option subjects, or continue with core subjects for the remainder of the term. For Year 12, we shall be offering every student two full mornings of lessons (8.50am to 1.20pm) for each of their subjects from next Monday until the end of term. School transport will be rearranged to support these times however, there may be some students who have to stay in school until their bus, shared with another school, arrives at 3.30pm (at this stage we anticipate that this will apply to PS08, PS10, PS19 and PS20).

Given the lengthy information required to outline our plans for reopening and hopefully reassure students and parents/carers regarding the process, separate letters will be sent out as soon as possible to Year 10 and Year 12 students and parents/carers. These will be available on the school website, in line with all the school's communications, should parents/carers in other year groups wish to view these.

Supporting student home learning

Remote Learning Provision for this half term

As I mentioned last week, thank you to all parents/carers who responded to the survey contained in my letter of 26th May; your evaluation of our provision and suggestions on how aspects might be improved have been much appreciated. In summary, the vast majority of students and parents/carers are very appreciative of my colleagues' efforts in setting work, providing feedback and delivering live (or recorded) online learning opportunities. The modifications to our offer aim to support students further in managing their workload, whilst focusing on providing as consistent a diet of useful feedback and online learning opportunities as possible by teachers given the demands on their time.

Our current provision, outlined initially to students and parents/carers in the 'Independent Learning Guidance' of 20th March, reinforced and updated in my communication to parents/carers of 20th April and to students through the Student Bulletin (Issue 5 - 'Keep learning!' section) of 27th April, remains in place for this half term. From today, my colleagues and I will pay particular attention to:

- Referencing all work set on our epraise achievement and rewards platform
- Balancing the work set in reasonable proportion to the virtual lessons offered
- Using the 'essential' and 'desirable' labels more specifically within individual lesson content to help with prioritise more important work
- Clearly identifying on epraise work that should be submitted for assessment purposes
- Providing an estimated timeframe for completing the work set and avoid next day deadlines
- Making available on epraise a timetable for intended live Teams lessons for a particular week
- Trying to make greater use of short pre-recorded video 'teaching' clips

Year 9 Non-core (options) subjects

In addition, for Year 9 students, colleagues will start to set work in non-core (option) subjects, with students configured in new groups, as per their choices for Year 10 study. The current timetable for Year 9 non-core (option) subjects has therefore now ended and Year 10 options begin from today. Any virtual lessons in these subjects will take place between 1.20-2.05pm or 3.30-4.15pm; individual options subjects will always take place on the same day of the week. All students should assume their choices are those they submitted when requested as part of the Options process in February. Where this could not be the case, Mr Howell will already have been in communication with the student to discuss any changes to the initial request. Students who wish to confirm any changes to their choices should contact Mr Howell (jh@persshore.worcs.sch.uk)

I would like to pay tribute to all my colleagues for all of their professionalism in supporting our students' home learning and changing their usual way of working so adeptly in sometimes very challenging circumstances. I am confident, but not complacent, that we giving our best for the students but please do get in touch should there be areas in which we could improve. Thank you as always for your efforts as parents/carers in supporting our students whilst juggling so many other demands at present. Please be aware that the demand on staff to deliver face to face sessions in school, will limit their ability to offer remote, face to face, opportunities for students unable to attend school. We will try our hardest to operate the two systems in parallel but staff will, necessarily, have to prioritise in school teaching over remote learning provision.

SEND Support and Guidance

Hampton Centre and Base opening

We are working hard to start opening the Hampton Centre and the Base to some of our students once a week. Currently, we have only been able to offer this to students with an EHCP in Years 8 – 10 and we continue to await further guidance from the government. We are really looking forward to seeing our students and we have planned some activities focusing on social communication and interaction. For those attending, I would ask you to go through social distancing rules with your children, as this will support us further in keeping both our staff and other students safe.

Annual Reviews

We are also continuing with our Annual Review schedule. In line with the SEND Code of Practice, relevant parents/carers will be provided with a date and all relevant documentation at least two weeks before the review. We will be continuing to follow government guidelines and all Annual Reviews this term will be conducted via Microsoft Teams.

Post-16 and Post-18 progression route support

Careers Bulletin (Year 11)

This week's 'Careers Bulletin' has been made available to Year 11 students via Epraise and the Shared Area on the school network. There is a spotlight on Paramedics, information on careers in the Royal Air Force and further information on progression route support, including how to find out more about going to University.

University Applications and using the UCAS Apply system (Year 12)

I would like to draw your attention to an opportunity for our Year 12 students taking place on Wednesday 10th June between 2.45pm & 4.00pm on Microsoft Teams. Students need to accept the invitation they should have received by email and send questions to Mr Howell (jh@pershore.worcs.sch.uk) before the event.

Here to help

Wellbeing and Safeguarding Triangle

The Covid-19 lockdown has been a challenge and we would like to remind you that options for support, covering a range of areas, can be found by clicking on the different sections of the 'Wellbeing and Safeguarding Triangle' under the 'Parents' tab of the website – the link is:

<http://www.pershore.worcs.sch.uk/parents/wellbeing-safeguarding/>. Please do not hesitate to contact House Teams, Mrs Budding or Mrs Poulton for further help, if needed.

Pastoral Mentoring support

In more normal times, we support our students in a number of ways, one of which is through 'Drop In' appointments with our Pastoral Mentor, Mrs Ambrose. She provides a listening ear for students to chat through their worries. We are aware that the school closure has been difficult for some of our students and we are now pleased to be able to offer the Drop In appointments with Mrs Ambrose on a Tuesday; these could be online through Microsoft Teams, or face to face in school (children would be welcome to attend for these appointments, if not already in school). If you feel that your child would benefit from, and like to have, this support, please email Mrs Poulton (sp@pershore.worcs.sch.uk) and she will make contact with you to arrange an appointment time.

Foodbank vouchers

Please do not hesitate to contact us if these would be helpful, we can provide physical vouchers or electronic vouchers. If you would like to access these, please contact either your House Team, Mrs Budding (zb@pershore.worcs.sch.uk) or Mrs Poulton (sp@pershore.worcs.sch.uk) and we can arrange for these vouchers to be sent to you.

Student Bulletin

Puffin Festival of Big Dreams

After this year's cancellations and disappointments, there is one festival that is still going ahead, so if you are looking for something exciting and stimulating to kick start summer, look no further than the Puffin Festival of Big Dreams! This has been billed as, 'A seven-day online festival in partnership with Waterstones from 8 - 14 June for families to celebrate the power of imagination and Puffin's 80th birthday; you can watch on Puffin Facebook and YouTube channels.' Activities include creative writing, quizzes and a virtual tour of the Wimpy Kid studio with Jeff Kinney himself for our younger students. There is so much on offer that there is bound to be something for everyone.

This is just one example of a contribution within our weekly Student Bulletin, with the intention being to provide students (and their families on some occasions) with an engaging activity, or relevant support, beyond the formal school curriculum. As parents/carers, if you have any ideas for contributions that could be included in a future issue, please email: studentbulletin@pershore.worcs.sch.uk

As always, thank you for your messages of support; it is also lovely to hear examples of how well our students are getting on during these unprecedented times.

Yours faithfully,



Phil Hanson