



# Perschore High School

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

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you are well. It was great to begin to reopen the school to Year 10 and Year 12 students last week. The attendance levels were very high each day and the students conducted themselves superbly all week. The only thing to reinforce with your son/daughter is the need to wear layers. With such a focus on keeping the windows open to improve airflow and ventilation, it can get either a little cold or hot depending upon the weather. We are planning to continue with this cycle of weekly lessons at present. I shall inform you of the outcomes of any review of this provision in light of changing Government guidance.

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

- *Wider reopening of school – Year 8 and Year 9*
- *Worcestershire digital library*
- *Credo Research – non-fiction library*
- *‘Student Bulletin’ - The ‘Competition’ Issue*
- *School trip update - Berlin 2020 / Spain 2021 / Vietnam 2021 / New York 2022*
- *Careers Bulletin (Year 11 & Year 13 focus)*
- *New English Block*
- *National Book Tokens competition – School Library*

### Latest Government Guidance

*Wider reopening of school – Year 8 and Year 9*

The latest government guidance issued last week with regard to a wider reopening of school states:

*‘We are unable to welcome back more children to secondary school at this time, beyond the face-to-face support schools can now offer year 10 and 12 pupils, and provision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. We are not asking secondary schools with capacity to invite further year groups to return this term.*

*We know that secondary schools are keen to invite pupils in other year groups in for a face-to-face meeting before the end of this term, where it would be beneficial. As long as this happens in line with this and wider protective measures guidance, and guidance on the numbers of pupils permitted on-site at any one time, we would encourage this where possible. This time can be used to check-in on pupils, and ensure they are supported before a return to school from September or moving into employment or the next stage of education.’*

I am meeting with staff after school today to discuss the possible options in this regard for our Year 8 and Year 9 students, balancing as always what is in the best interests of the students, alongside following the public health guidance currently issued by the Government. I shall inform you of the outcome of these discussions and any changes to Government policy affecting what we are able to offer in next week’s communication.



Working in partnership  
with



**Phil Hanson**  
Headteacher

**Andrew Nockton**  
Deputy  
Headteacher

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## **SEND Support and Guidance**

### *Worcestershire digital library*

Worcestershire digital library offers a number of resources for supporting learning both at home and at school. Library membership is free and enables access to exclusive digital content including online events and activities, e reference tools to support home learning and a digital library which is bigger and better than ever before; offering thousands of e books, e audio titles and e-magazines to suit all ages and interests. Joining is easy, just visit the Digital Library Hub:

[http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20783/digital\\_library\\_hub](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20783/digital_library_hub)

In addition the Library is also providing a range of online events and activities which can be accessed at:

[http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20785/events\\_and\\_activities](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20785/events_and_activities)

### *Credo Research*

An online non-fiction library available at the touch of a button! The ideal e-resource to support home-learning for students of all ages. A gateway to a wide range of trusted reference and research sources including 1300+ encyclopaedias and non-fiction titles, 500,000 images, 1900+ videos and animations. Use your library membership details to login:

<https://search.credoreference.com/auth/libcard?institutionId=7757>

Watch an online tutorial specifically aimed at parents supporting students at home during school closures:

<https://credoreference.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360045337693-Home-Schooling-with-Credo-Reference>

Whilst the resources above are not specifically aimed at SEND students, having reviewed the content these are a range of free resources that we believe will appeal to many of our SEND students.

## **Student Bulletin**

### *The 'Competition' Issue*

This week's 'Student Bulletin' celebrates the achievement of two of our students, Jodie Williams and Henrietta Wood, who have both been successful entrants in separate competitions where their involvement was inspired by their participation in the History department's 'Battlefields' trip in October 2019. Very well done indeed to both Jodie and Hen. This week's 'Student Bulletin', as always, provides a number of national competitions that students are encouraged to consider entering. For those students interested, the History department's next Battlefields trip is scheduled for October 2021 for current Year 8 and Year 9 students.

## **School trip update**

### *Berlin 2020 / Spain 2021 / Vietnam 2021 / New York 2022*

This leads me on to an update on our various planned overseas trips. At present, progress with the History department's Berlin trip and PE department's Sports Tour to Spain have been put on hold pending updated Government travel guidance. The Geography department's trip to Vietnam and Sixth Form trip to New York are proceeding as planned at present. Trip leaders will notify parents/carers of students who have signed up accordingly to keep them up to date with any information relating to these planned trips.

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

### *Careers Bulletin (Year 11 & Year 13 focus)*

This week's 'Careers Bulletin' has been made available to all students via ePraise and the Shared Area on the school network. There is a spotlight on Biomedical Scientists as well as details of the Cheltenham Science Festival, an event celebrating International Women in Engineering day tomorrow, a new digital resource to help young people with careers research, an employability checklist developed by the National Literacy Trust and further information from other Worcestershire post-16 providers.

## **School site developments**

### *New English Block*

You will note from the pictures below that our planned new English block is on track for completion in September. It is located between the Sports Hall and Science Block, connecting directly through to the latter on both floors. This is a very exciting development for the school; providing modern teaching facilities in an 8 classroom block, together with more unisex toilets, a small group intervention space and a brand new library.



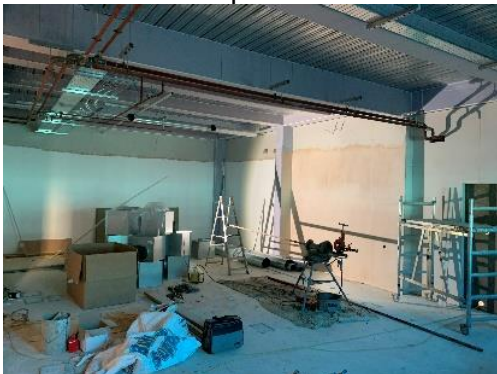
View from Sports Hall side



View from Science Block side



Corridor



The Library



Toilet facilities



Small group space

### *National Book Tokens competition*

With the Library being relocated to our new English block it would be very fortuitous were we to win the National Book Tokens competition to win £5,000 worth of National Book Tokens to refresh the Library's stock of books. It just involves filling in a very brief entry form. If you could find the time to do so please and enter 'Pershore High School' for consistency in the 'Your Chosen School' field, we would be much appreciative. We all know the importance of a good school library and not just for learning. Studies show that reading for pleasure doesn't just give children an advantage academically; it can improve their wellbeing, too. If your entry is picked, you will also get £100 of National Book Tokens to spend on yourself. Please visit: <https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools>

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Phil Hanson'.

Phil Hanson