



# Perschore High School

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



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Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you are well. This week sees the addition of a two-week cycle of face-to-face meetings for students with their Tutor. Colleagues are very much looking forward to seeing all students, particularly those who have as yet been unable to come into school since our closure in March. These meetings should take place ideally within school but can be through using Microsoft Teams should this not be possible. Please can you ensure your child brings with them the completed 'Pastoral Conversation Record' form, something to lean on and a pen, so that both parties can get the most out of the meeting.

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

- *Guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing*
- *Advice to parents and carers on keeping children safe from abuse and harm*
- *Maintaining Student engagement*
- *A' Level (Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August) & GCSE (Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August) Results Days*
- *Year 11 Yearbook / Year 11 Prom*
- *Year 9 Options / Science pathway*
- *Year 8 End of Year Report*
- *Free webinar for parents – Assistive Technology and the Dyslexic Learner*
- *Resources from the Children's Commissioner*
- *SEND Transition back to school*
- *EHCP Transition Activities*
- *Student Bulletin: The 'IT & Computing' Issue*
- *Careers Bulletin (Year 11 & Year 13 focus) / Careers Worcs Webinars / In school Careers appointments*

## **Latest Government Guidance**

*Guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing*

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June Public Health England updated guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing to reflect the latest social distancing measures. The guidance provides advice to help adults with caring responsibilities look after the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, including those with additional needs and disabilities, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This guidance has been updated in line with the changing situation: *'Support safe ways for children and young people to connect with their friends. They can meet outdoors (in private gardens or other private outdoor spaces) in groups of up to 6 provided they keep 2 metres (3 steps) apart from people outside of their household.'*

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

### *Advice to parents and carers on keeping children safe from abuse and harm*

The Government also published new guidance that brings together sources of information about the main risks children may be particularly vulnerable to during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and signposts to help and support available. The essential measures to control coronavirus can potentially increase risks to children and this can cause concern for parents and carers. This guide includes information on the support providers who can help you have effective conversations with your son/daughter, especially if you are concerned for their safety.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm/advice-to-parents-and-carers-on-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm>

### **Supporting Remote Learning**

#### *Maintaining Student engagement*

Following such a long period of substantive school closure, we can all appreciate that some students might be finding motivation challenging in continuing with their studies. I asked all teaching colleagues to complete an 'Engagement Survey' again last week for all students to give a sense of where we might still be needing to target our support. This information has been passed on to Tutors ahead of their upcoming meetings with tutees. I must say we are very pleased with the large numbers of students who are still giving their best at this time of the term, given such a long period of remote learning.

Quite often students might require some variety to reignite their engagement. As much as colleagues aim to do this through our provision, it is worth reminding you of the BBC Bitesize Daily offering. This week is Science Week and also Creative Week for Secondary students. Shakespeare Fortnight continues this week with lots of Shakespeare related content online and in the Bitesize Daily TV programmes on the BBC iPlayer and on the Red Button. As always the BBC have schedules for the next three weeks of online lessons available now - schedules for w/c June 29th, w/c July 6th and w/c July 13th are available [here](#). To help with forward planning, the BBC are continuing to publish previews of their online lessons a few days ahead, more when possible.

### **GCSE & A' Level Results Days**

Parents/Carers should be aware that our intention is to hold an in-school Results Day as planned for A' Level (Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August) & GCSE (Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August) results. It may be that Year 11 students have to attend in small groups at allocated times through the day in order to keep everyone safe whilst being able to come into school. Should an in-school day not be possible or if students are unable to attend, we have the facility to email the results directly to the students. We will update you with arrangements for these days in August once it is clear how we are able to organise these days taking into account the social distancing guidance at that time.

### **Year 11**

#### *Year 11 Yearbook*

Just a reminder that the Yearbook will be closing for entries to students on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 5.00pm. Students will not be able to make any changes to their profiles after this time. Should students still want to purchase a Yearbook they will need to email Miss Thrower [dat@pershore.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:dat@pershore.worcs.sch.uk) as soon as possible, so that she can get our Finance team to open the option up to you on ParentPay for 48 hours. Students should remember to ensure comments and photos are suitable; they don't want to be disappointed to find a blank space where it has had to be removed. We are aware that not all Year 11 students might be checking their school emails, so any reminders from students to their friends via social media would be really helpful. Further details on the collection of the Yearbook will follow in due course.

#### *Year 11 Prom*

We are very aware that Friday would have been the Year 11 Prom and the significant disappointment its cancellation has provided to Year 11 students, alongside all the other end of year milestones that have not taken place as planned. The Leadership and House Teams are continuing to monitor the situation to see what

might be possible in this regard, given the work of the Prom Committee in planning and raising finances for the evening. We do not believe it is prudent to make a substantive decision at this stage, until post lockdown guidance becomes firmer. When our options become clearer, we shall consult with students to ascertain their views on the most appropriate way forward and try to reach an appropriate consensus. In order to be able to keep in touch with all Year 11 students, once school email accounts become disabled for those students leaving, students should send their personal email if they wish us to keep them informed to: [data@pershore.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:data@pershore.worcs.sch.uk). In the meantime, I hope as many Year 11 students as possible will attend the virtual Year 11 Leavers' Assembly next week; students will be sent a Microsoft Teams invite via email in due course.

## **Year 9**

### *Options choices*

Confirmation of Year 9 option choices for Key Stage 4 will be shared with parents/carers prior to the end of term; students have already been put into these option groups since half term in most subjects and should have been working on introductory course material. In the autumn term, all students will continue to follow the same Science course until decisions are made at half term regarding which students will follow the separate Science pathway.

## **Year 8**

### *End of Year Report*

As the only year group not to have received a full school report to date this year, this will be issued by the end of term. This report will take the form of a summary of the Tutor conversation and progress data from the spring term, prior to school closure.

## **SEND Support and Guidance**

### *Free webinar for parents – Assistive Technology and the Dyslexic Learner - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 7:30 – 8:30pm*

Trying to choose the right technology to support your child's education can be challenging. To offer some support and guidance, the British Dyslexia Association has teamed up with Myles Pilling to host a free webinar for parents. This session aims to take you through some of the options for assistive technology, inspire parents and demonstrate ways to motivate dyslexic children when learning at home.

<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/events/free-webinar-for-parents-online-teaching-learning-how-to-teach-a-child-with-dyslexia-as-a-parent>

### *Resources from the Children's Commissioner*

The Children's Commissioner has brought together a page on their website to link all of the resources that they have found during the COVID-19 outbreak.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/coronavirus/resources/>

### *SEND Transition back to school*

Although there is not a clear picture yet as to how schools will look in September, we do know that we are here for all students during this difficult time and we know that the return to school is going to cause a lot of anxiety and worry. We are going to have to adapt and get used to a 'new normal', where our children have not seen each other for long periods of time, may be nervous being around each other, may worry about coming into school and how the 'new normal' will affect them and how they will cope in the unknown setting. As an SEND team, my colleagues are here to support your child. Every student is going to come back to school with different needs and worries. We have resources that can help and support. We will be flexible and we will support you and them as best as we possibly can.

### *EHCP Transition Activities*

Some of our students with an EHCP have been coming in for one morning a week to give them an opportunity for some social interaction and communication intervention. We think that this has been successful so far and the students have responded extremely well. We contacted all EHCP parents offering this provision in May, however would like to provide that offer again for the final few weeks of term. If you have changed your mind,

and would like to send your child in, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Campbell at [dc@pershore.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:dc@pershore.worcs.sch.uk) . We look forward to seeing our students on Tuesday (Year 8) or Thursday (Year 9/Year 10) from 9am – 11am.

### **Student Bulletin**

#### *The 'IT & Computing' Issue*

This week's 'Student Bulletin' celebrates the achievement of two of our students, Alex Tarling and James Harvey, who have both been successful entrants in national competitions where their involvement was inspired by their love of all things IT and computing. Very well done indeed to both Alex and James. I hope the 'Student Bulletin' remains a source of interest to the students. As always, any ideas or suggestions should be sent to [studentbulletin@pershore.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:studentbulletin@pershore.worcs.sch.uk) for the remaining two Issues of the school year.

### **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 Digital Marketeers as well as details of how STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) graduates are some of the most sought after by employers and how to succeed in these areas, how 'creativity' is an essential employability skill and further information from other Worcestershire post-16 providers.

#### *Careers Worcs Webinars*

Year 11 and Year 13 students have been sent a flyer from 'Careers Worcs' advertising a number of weekly 'Next Steps' webinars. The webinars will explain how to apply for apprenticeships, traineeships, college courses and university during the Covid-19 outbreak. Vacancies and opportunities across Worcestershire will also be showcased and there will be the opportunity to ask any questions students may have and get instant answers. The webinars take place on Wednesday 1st July at 2.00pm, Tuesday 7th July at 11.00am and Thursday 16th July at 3.00pm. In order to book onto a session, please visit [www.skills4worcestershire.co.uk](http://www.skills4worcestershire.co.uk).

#### *In school Careers appointments*

A reminder that all Year 11 and 13 students are able to book an in-school appointments on Mondays and Wednesdays with our Head of Careers, Mrs Beeton, before the end of term. Please email her on [sab@pershore.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:sab@pershore.worcs.sch.uk) to make an appointment.

Yours faithfully,



Phil Hanson