



# Pershore High School

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



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Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you are well. Whilst we are still working hard for all students to ensure a smooth end to the academic year through our mixture of in school and remote learning provision, our attentions are turning to the start of the next academic year in September and beyond. This week's communication looks to capture what I hope are the most relevant topics for you at this point in time as the end of term approaches. I do hope you will be able to join me for next week's online school community meeting, which will provide more information in this regard, the details of which are outlined more fully below.

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

- *End of term and summer holiday arrangements*
- *The full opening of school in September 2020*
- *First week of term*
- *Autumn Exam Series 2020 Consultation Outcomes*
- *Summer Exam Series 2021 Consultation*
- *Letter from Worcestershire Children First to parent/carers of young people with SEND*
- *Pershore Additional Needs Support Group*
- *Student Bulletin – Planning for the final Issue*
- *Careers Bulletin (Year 11 & Year 13 focus)*
- *Pershore Youth Centre*
- *Community Cupboard*
- *The Prime Minister's address to school leavers*
- *Pershore High School Year 11 Leavers' Assembly – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2pm*

## **End of term arrangements**

### *End of term and summer holiday arrangements*

The last day the school will be open for all students, including Key Worker and vulnerable students, will be Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July, in line with published government guidance. The only days the school will be open for students during the summer holiday will be the Results Days planned for A' Level (Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August) & GCSE (Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August) students and possible associated support clinics. Information in this regard will be confirmed in August once the full context of the days are known.

## **Autumn Term 2020**

### *The full opening of school in September 2020*

You will probably be aware that the Government issued guidance last Thursday for the full opening of schools in September. Since Thursday, we have been working hard to construct our plans and I held a meeting with colleagues last night to share our initial approaches and elicit their feedback and ideas. As a result of the guidance, there will be a number of changes to our normal ways of working required for September and we need to outline these to students and parents/carers. We all understand that many of you, and your sons/daughters, may be anxious about their returning to a fully opened school in September. Therefore, we shall be holding a '**Preparing for September 2020**' online meeting for all students and parents/carers on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 6.15pm.

A link to this meeting will be sent by email by next Tuesday to all known contact email addresses of parents/carers and students, so apologies if you receive multiple copies of the invitation. Depending upon the device you are using, you may need to download the free Microsoft Teams App in advance. Some devices will allow you to access the meeting through your web browser. All students have a Microsoft 365 account login and will be familiar with Microsoft Teams, having used it for their lessons during lockdown, if this is easier.

Although the meeting starts at 6.15pm, if you join after this time whilst it is still in progress, you should be able to join the meeting from the start. The meeting will be recorded and made available to parents/carers to view subsequently for those unable to make the live stream of the meeting. All meeting attendees, other than those presenting, will be unable to make a verbal contribution during the meeting. You will be able to post questions through the 'Q&A' facility, though you will appreciate given the expected number of attendees we will not be able to address these substantively during the meeting. We shall ensure these are addressed by September, either through appropriate actions or through communicating our responses to the issues raised.

### *First week of term*

We have spent time as a Leadership Team and Staff determining the start of term arrangements. We appreciate that next year's Year 9 and Year 10 will have already been out of school substantively since March, with little opportunity for in school face-to-face contact with staff, but have decided to prioritise incoming Year 8, Year 11 and Year 12 during the first week for the following reasons. Year 8 students have missed out on their entire face-to-face Transition process during the summer term so clearly need some time to meet the staff, acquaint themselves with the site and begin to learn our procedures. As parents/carers who will have been through this I am sure you will understand its importance. Year 11 students are part way through courses that lead to public examinations next year and we have only been able to facilitate time in school for their core subjects (English; Maths; Science) and not their options subjects during this term. Year 12 students will engage in some induction activities in preparation for their A' Level studies, particularly pertinent to students joining us who are new to the school, as they embark upon a different chapter in their Pershore High School careers. In addition, despite all the efforts the staff will undertake during their summer holiday, we will require the two PDDs at the start of term to ensure we are fully prepared for our new ways of working. Therefore, the start of term will be as follows:

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September:	Professional Development Day (Closed to students)
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September:	Professional Development Day (Closed to students)
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September:	New Year 8 only
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September:	New Year 8 / Year 11 (focus on Options subjects) / Year 12 (Induction activities)
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September:	Whole school returns

### **Latest Government Examinations Guidance**

#### *Autumn Exam Series 2020 Consultation Outcomes*

Following Ofqual's recent consultation they confirmed last week that students will be able to appeal their results – through their school or college – if they believe the process undertaken was not followed correctly in their case; and as centres we can appeal if we believe something systemic has gone wrong in relation to our results. Ofqual has also confirmed that any student unable to receive a calculated result, and others who would like to improve their grades, will have an opportunity to take the full suite of GCSE, AS and A level exams in the autumn. The Board decided to implement the majority of the proposals they set out in their consultation document. In summary, these decisions mean that for the autumn term:

- exam boards must make exams available in all GCSE, AS and A level subjects in the additional autumn series and we are therefore varying our normal rules that allow exams only to be held in May and June
- exam boards must base results on students' performance in exams alone and not on any non-exam assessment, with the exception of art and design qualifications
- exam boards must issue replacement certificates for the summer results if students request this
- the exam boards must adopt the normal arrangements for reviews of marking and appeals

Full details of the outcome from Ofqual's consultation including the feedback they received can be found at:

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

### *Summer Exam Series 2021 Consultation*

As previously promised, Ofqual have launched a consultation on proposed changes to the assessment of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2021. In summary,

- Ofqual's proposals look to modify the assessment requirements for some GCSEs, AS and A levels in response to the disruption to education caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- Ofqual are seeking views on whether and, if so how, the exam and assessment arrangements for each GCSE, AS and A level should be adapted for students taking the qualifications in summer 2021.
- Ofqual are proposing changes to the exam and assessment requirements that would free up more teaching time to support recovery and, in limited cases, sample of less of the subject content in next year's exams

This consultation will be open for two weeks starting on 2 July 2020 and ending on 16 July 2020. As a school we have responded from both a global perspective in relation to the general principles and with individual subject responses, pertinent to both the GCSE, AS & A' Level proposals. Should you wish, you are able to respond to this consultation by completing an online response at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2021>

### **SEND Support and Guidance**

#### *Letter from Worcestershire Children First to parent/carers of young people with SEND*

A letter to parent/carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities has been added to the SEND Local Offer webpages. The letter describes the ongoing work in Worcestershire to make educational provision for those children with Educational Health and Care Plans and those receiving SEND support.

[http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20780/coronavirus\\_covid-19\\_send\\_local\\_offer](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20780/coronavirus_covid-19_send_local_offer)

#### *Pershore Additional Needs Support Group*

The support group is planning two virtual meet-ups to help address any concerns parents may have around SEN children returning to school in September. The meetings will take place on:

- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 16:30 – 18:00
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 19:00 – 20:30

To confirm attendance, please email – [debbie.lamont@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:debbie.lamont@actionforchildren.org.uk)

Apologies for the short notice in relation to today's meeting.

## **Student Bulletin**

### *Planning for the final Issue*

Our final Issue of the Student Bulletin next week will focus on providing students with the details of activities to sustain them during the holiday and relevant information for support they might need whilst the school is closed to all students. We shall also give an indication of our plans for opening fully in September and what this will mean for the students. The Student Bulletin will be published at the end of the week, rather than on Monday as usual, in order to follow on from the whole school community event taking place on Wednesday.

## **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 Social Workers as well as details of how 'empathy' is an essential employability skill and further information from other Worcestershire post-16 providers. In addition, there is information about 'The Experience' programme from Speakers for Schools which has some fantastic virtual work experience opportunities that students may like to apply for in the areas of innovative science & technology solutions and construction & business management. Students will need to apply as soon as possible given the imminent deadlines, likely demand and many of the placements starting next week or the week after.

## **Community Support**

### *Pershore Youth Centre*

We have been advised by the Pershore Youth Centre that they are beginning direct work again with young people; they are doing 1:1s and small group work, outside when possible and all socially distanced. For students who live in Pershore and the locality, they can make contact by phone to organise to visit staff if they wish. Both Brad and Jordie are working whom students might know. Students should contact Brad on 01386 554713 or 07875 138 539 or email

[bradley@pershoreriversidecentre.org.uk](mailto:bradley@pershoreriversidecentre.org.uk)

### *Community Cupboard*

Many of you will be familiar with the sterling work of one of our parents, Jane Keen-Smith, who has set up a community cupboard in Farleigh Road in Pershore. Jane has been in touch to ask me to let parents know that Food Vouchers for Pershore Food Bank are available should anyone requiring this additional support like to get in touch.

## **Prime Minister Boris Johnson to address all school leavers**

On Friday 10 July at 10am, the Prime Minister will be giving an address to all school leavers which will be broadcast on Facebook and YouTube. A recording of the address will be available to view on both platforms.

## **Year 11 Leavers' Assembly**

We are holding a virtual Leavers' Assembly at 2pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July (not to be overshadowed by the Prime Minister earlier in the day!) An invitation has been sent to every Year 11 via their school email address.

Yours faithfully,



Phil Hanson  
Headteacher