



# Perschore High School

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

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you are well. In this final communication of the term, I would like to look ahead to September and how things will look when we return.

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

- *Preparing for September 2020*
- *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*
- *First week of term*
- *Results Days provision*
- *Remote Learning provision evaluation*
- *Student Bulletin*
- *Careers Bulletin*
- *Staff changes for September 2020*

## **Autumn Term 2020**

### *Preparing for September 2020*

Thank you to those of you who attended our 'Preparing for September 2020' online meeting for students and parents/carers on Wednesday.

The recording of the meeting can be accessed here: <https://youtu.be/ruKicMfKWcl>

The associated PPT presentation can be found at:

<http://www.perschore.worcs.sch.uk/media/3177/preparing-for-september-2020-presentation-wednesday-15th-july-2020.pdf>

Whilst these give substantive detail in regard to September and the context behind decisions taken, below are the key points in relation to our return:

### Teaching:

- Grouping students together in Year Group pods with a fixed base for lessons not requiring specialist facilities
- Staff maintaining a 2 metre distance from students; students socially distancing from each other where possible
- Students returning to a 'Moving on' curriculum focusing on a fresh start; students will follow their usual timetable
- MAB students to attend mainstream lessons as often as possible complemented by year based Base provision
- Students should be fully equipped as there is no sharing or lending of equipment; this should include a personalised, transparent water bottle and own bottle of hand sanitiser

### Tutoring:

- 7 Mixed House and Year Group (Y12 & Y13) Tutor Groups in the Sixth Form
- 9 Tutor Groups in each of Years 8-11 with 3 for each House; students from the same Vertical Tutor Group will be kept together in Year based Tutor Groups



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Headteacher

**Andrew Nockton**  
Deputy  
Headteacher

**Zoe Budding**  
**Jason Howell**  
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**Station Road**  
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School day structure:

- Usual school start and finish times
- Staggered break and lunchtimes with designated Year Group areas

Transport to/from school:

- Students are encouraged to cycle or walk to school where possible
- Cars will only be allowed on site in the North Car Park
- Upon arrival, students make their way to their outdoor Year Group area or supervised indoor space
- At the end of the day, departure will be controlled by the staggering of Year Groups and/or buses

Uniform:

- Full school uniform is required on non-PE days and does not need to be washed more frequently than usual
- Students must wear PE kit to school on the days they have PE; PE outer wear (PHS branded or plain navy, grey or black) to be worn over the PE kit

The school is controlling the spread of the virus through:

- Requesting parents/carers ensure students do not come to school if they exhibit symptoms of the virus
- Sending home students who exhibit symptoms of the virus when in school from when government guidance must be followed
- Emphasis on robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- Avoiding large gatherings of students
- Minimal movement around the school
- Avoiding contact between the groups
- Enhanced cleaning regime including for the biometric finger reader

#### *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*

Whilst we have formulated plans in most aspects, parents/carers raised some pertinent questions during the online meeting. The responses below are for those issues raised which are most time-sensitive, or clarify aspects discussed. All other aspects that we are still working on will be addressed in a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document published on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020, ahead of the start of term.

When will students know their tutor groups, teaching groups and timetables?

*Once term begins, students in Years 9-13 will be notified when their Tutor allocation and timetable are available on epraise, prior to their first day in school. Students in Year 8 will be notified of their teaching groups and timetable during their first Tutor Group period on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.*

Will students' classes and teachers change from last year?

*In Key Stage 4, teachers and classes will stay the same from Year 10 going into Year 11, except where members of staff have left. In KS3, Teaching groups going from Year 8 into Year 9 will stay broadly the same, with a few student changes based upon Year 8 assessment outcomes, although staff teaching these groups will be largely different. Students will be notified of these at the start of term.*

Why are only Year 8 students receiving a school report now?

*All other year groups have received their full, written school reports throughout the year.*

Do you expect school uniform to be washed each evening as this may be impractical for some parents?

*No, we will not expect this. The government guidance no longer advises that uniform is washed more frequently than usual.*

Does the outerwear worn on PE days need to be the school branded tracksuit/leggings/hoodie?

*It would be preferable to have school outer wear, however, we are aware that they are optional in our uniform list and do not want to contribute to financial difficulty, so have specified plain navy, grey or black for those students who do not have these. Branded items are acceptable as long as the logos are discreet and the items are as plain as possible.*

I am presuming that with regard to PE, students would bring in their football boots to change into?

*Yes please. They can be brought in school bags. Wrapping football boots in a carrier bag would be sensible to keep other items clean.*

Given that shielding ends on 1st August, that gives some only 4 weeks to purchase full uniform and footwear.

Given that shops are limited and the school shop is by appointment only, what do we do if we cannot purchase full uniform in this time?

*If you have a problem purchasing the full uniform, please contact your child's Head of House.*

Are the students able to wear coats to school if they are being encouraged to spend more time outside?

*Students are able to bring coats to school but they should be left in their tutor rooms during lesson times or stored in bags.*

Will you still be serving breakfast?

*Students will be able to access breakfast and take it to their allocated outdoor Year Group area.*

Will hot lunches still be available?

*Hot lunches will be available from the Dining Room servery.*

Will students be allowed to sit at lunchtime?

*The Dining Room and Hall will be standing only at break time but students will be able to sit down with hot lunches. There will be enough time to clean the Dining Room between groups at lunchtime but there will not be time for this at breaktime.*

Will the ParentPay finger system still be running?

*Yes, the biometric finger reader system will still be used. The biometric finger reader will be sanitised between users.*

Can children wear masks when they return?

*Should a student wish to wear they are able to do so, however, mask-wearing protocols must be followed; these will be included in our August communication. The government guidance states that students do not need to wear masks in school. Masks are required on public buses, however, and may be required on some school buses.*

How can you assure that our children will be safe and what happens if you do have a confirmed case?

*Please be reassured that we are doing everything to minimise of spreading the virus within school as far as possible, by closely following all government guidance. If we have a confirmed case, we will follow the advice given by the local Health Protection Team, Worcestershire Local Outbreak Response Team (LORT).*

If we choose not to send our children as we do not feel it is safe, will we be sanctioned?

*Government guidance states that shielding ends on 1<sup>st</sup> August, so almost all children will be able to return to school. If you have further concerns over safety, you should contact the school and discuss it with us.*

Please can new external students to 6th Form please have a Site Plan showing the proposed Hubs?

*The PHS Site Plan can be found at: <http://www.pershore.worcs.sch.uk/media/3138/week-2-phs-site-map.pdf>*

As a new external student to the 6th Form, would it be possible to get access to School Newsletters?

*All current and previous school communication are accessible from the school website homepage:*

[www.pershore.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.pershore.worcs.sch.uk)

Can Sixth Formers with a pass still drive to school and park?

*As normal, Sixth Form students with a permit will be able to park in the North Car Park (by the station).*

What is the dress code for Sixth Form please?

*The dress code for Sixth Form is 'smart business wear'. Further information will be provided upon confirmation of a Sixth Form place.*

Can Sixth Formers still leave early, when they finish lessons?

*Students will be able to leave the school site once their lessons have been completed for the day.*

As a new Yr12 student, what is the protocol for confirming a place at the school when receiving GCSE results?

*On GCSE Results day, we shall ask internal applicants to confirm their place and subjects for Sixth Form. External applicants are asked to contact [SixthFormCentre@pershire.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:SixthFormCentre@pershire.worcs.sch.uk) with a copy of their Results Statement and a confirmation of chosen subjects. If any Sixth Form applicant would benefit from a discussion, staff will be available in school on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August from 9.00am to 3.00pm on both days for face-to-face or telephone conversations (01386 552471 Ext 204 / 220 / 221).*

Will there be secure facilities available if there is a large increase in the number of cycles coming to school?

*We are currently refurbishing the existing bicycle store and looking to expand our capacity to store bicycles.*

Will students be able to access their lockers?

*As Mr Hanson outlined in the Parent/Carer communication of 15<sup>th</sup> June, lockers have been removed and replaced with new under-cover seating areas for use at breaks and lunchtimes.*

My child is due to go on the Vietnam tour, I am concerned that due to the significant financial commitment made and the ongoing uncertainty that a decision albeit likely to disappoint students be made so less penalties are paid to the company if this decision is delayed.

*We understand your concern. All parents and students who have committed to trips will be updated as soon as we have information in the autumn term.*

Will parents be able to see the Risk Assessments completed by the school?

*Yes, the risk assessment, as currently, will be published on the website.*

What will be the arrangement for the use of toilets?

*The Year 8 and Year 9 teaching spaces have their own designated toilets. Year 10 will use the Main Corridor toilets and Year 11 the PE toilets. Sixth Form students will use the toilets in the Sixth Form Centre.*

Is there any news yet about whether public exams will be delayed in 2021?

*Ofqual's consultation into the summer 2021 examination series closed on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July dates of the summer public exams have not yet been published. When they are we will inform parents and students.*

### *First week of term*

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  |

### **Results Days**

#### *Results Days provision*

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. GCSE results statements are issued on the Results Day itself, whilst GCSE certificates are available later in the autumn term.

I can confirm at this point that GCSE English Literature results for Year 10 students will be emailed on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August. This is to reduce the number of students required in school on that day.

### **Remote Learning Provision**

#### *Evaluation survey*

Your responses to the survey evaluating our remote learning provision at the end of May were very helpful. I would therefore be grateful if you could complete the survey below evaluating our most recent provision with associated improvements based upon your feedback. The link required is:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3miwMbYDbUWVSnFB8YRFBfsrXvAOJYdCiBhOEZd0F69UMTZKNzjDWUpCRjlaSzI0NIFEUktGUFBWRC4u>

I am also asking the students complete a similar survey through the Student Bulletin published on Monday. Should another phase of remote learning be required in the autumn term, your feedback will help to shape our provision.

### **Student Bulletin**

#### *The Final Issue*

Our final Issue of the Student Bulletin will be published on Monday, at the start of the holiday, 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. It will also include a version of the information above, in relation to opening fully in September, and what this will mean for the students.

### **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 Event Management as well as details of what is meant by employability skills, along with further information Worcestershire County Council's Pre-Apprenticeship Programme. My thanks to Mrs Beeton, our Head of Careers, for producing these weekly Careers Bulletins whilst the school has been closed.

### **Staffing update**

#### *Staff changes for September 2020*

I would like to say goodbye and a huge 'thank you' to the following staff who are leaving us today:

Mr David Ball (Technology Technician)

Miss Alexandra Hubbard (History & Deputy Head of Kingsley House)

Mrs Pauline Lawton (Science Technician)  
Miss Charlotte Lee (Science maternity cover)  
Mrs Sandy Poulton (Technology and Designated Safeguarding Lead)  
Mrs Caroline Tarring (Raising Standards Leader – KS4 Foundation)

In September, we look forward to welcoming:

Mr Tom Oakley (Chemistry & Deputy Head of Kingsley House)  
Miss Bethany Patrick (Inclusion Manager)  
Miss Kaye Swann (Learning Support Practitioner)  
Mrs Mariza Lazarus (Learning Support Practitioner)  
Mr Jamie Wilson (Learning Support Practitioner)  
Miss Jess Arrowsmith (Learning Support Practitioner)

In addition, Mrs Sam Clarke has changed role from Science teacher to Science technician. I can confirm that we are fully staffed for September.

It has been an extremely challenging time for the whole school community in differing ways since 23<sup>rd</sup> March and I would like to pay tribute to the students and staff for adapting so well to their new circumstances. In addition, I would like to thank you for your support, feedback and kind messages over the last four months.

I do hope you and your families are able to stay safe and well during the summer. My staff and I look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September, with Year 8, Year 11 and Year 12 having joined using during the previous week.

Yours faithfully,



Phil Hanson  
Headteacher