



Perschore High School

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



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Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well given our current circumstances.

Firstly, I wanted to say thank you for all the time and effort you have put into working with our students during the first week of lockdown. All the teachers have been busy facilitating lessons and setting work and trying to make remote learning work as smoothly as possible. The school closure notification gave such little notice to all colleagues and we appreciate your forbearance whilst we have organised our processes and procedures this week. This is clearly not a situation that any of us would wish for at present but we all recognise the importance of everyone following the national guidance to help prevent the spread of the virus.

My intention during this lockdown will be to send a weekly communication to parents/carers by way of update and notification of any relevant changes; obviously should a more imminent communication need to be sent for any reason then it will be either to everyone or to the parents/carers of particular cohorts.

Please find below updates most pertinent at the present time, which include:

- *Supporting Remote Learning*
- *IT access*
- *Wednesday 13th January – potential disruption to usual offer*
- *Keeping your child safe online*
- *Lateral Flow Testing*
- *Learning support within online lessons*
- *Risk assessments for young people with education, health and care plans (EHCP)*
- *Assistive technology information*
- *Online interventions*
- *Perschore High School Learning Support and Inclusion – Padlet*
- *Student Support*
- *Student Bulletin*
- *Cancellation of A' Level, AS Level and GCSE Examinations*

Remote Education

Supporting Remote Learning

The Government's message is that it is safer to be at home if possible and we are currently providing remote education for all students, apart from vulnerable students and children of Critical Workers (please see definition [here](#)) who are unable to stay at home and may come into school to access their lessons, as per my communication of Saturday 2nd January.

Thank you to the very large number of students, from Year 8 right through to Year 13, who have been engaging with their online lessons during this first week. Just to remind you of our expectations during this current lockdown:

- Students should be ready to register at **8.50 a.m.** with their Tutor Via Teams, **every morning**, even if they do not have a lesson or a Timetable study (Sixth Form) lesson during Period 1. Failure to register generates an automatic email to

parents/carers; please ignore this if you have been in recent communication with a relevant colleague regarding the non-attendance

- Students should follow their timetable and access **all** online lessons offered, as arranged by their subject teachers. Lesson registers are taken in every online lesson
- For all students, and particularly Sixth Form students, they should use their non-contact periods appropriately, fully review subject notes, complete other work and continue to revise. All work set, including assessments, should be completed to the best of a student's ability; these outcomes will be valuable in a variety of ways, particularly providing evidence for final grades in Year 11 and Year 13 and predicted grades in Year 12
- Participation is expected throughout a live Teams lesson. Students are expected to participate at specific points throughout the lesson; should a student not be able to access their microphone for some reason, they must respond in the chat/message
- In order for colleagues to facilitate a smooth online lesson, students are expected to:
 - Have the camera switched on with an appropriate natural or electronic background
 - Have their microphone muted unless when making individual contributions
 - Indicate they wish to make a contribution either by putting their 'electronic' hand up or making a contribution in the chat/message function
 - Follow the instructions and guidance of the teacher at all times
- Whilst overall online lesson behaviour has been excellent during the first week, any student acting inappropriately in any way will be given one warning and subsequently removed from the lesson if this warning is not followed. All incidents will be reported to Heads of House and parents/carers contacted if deemed appropriate.

IT access

Whilst the Government's message is that it is safer to be at home if possible some parents/carers may need support with technology; this could include laptops and broadband/4G access, subject to DfE availability. We have been very grateful for the response to our request for any old laptops or tablets that are surplus to requirements and gathering dust. I am grateful to my IT Support colleagues who have been reconfiguring the ones received, with 38 devices sent to those students who needed them in the last few days. Please let me know of any further donations, or requests for support, via office@pershore.worcs.sch.uk

Wednesday 13th January 2021 – potential online disruption

Please be aware of some potential disruption to our online provision on Wednesday 13th January; apologies for this.

Firstly, there will be disruption to the school IT network during the day due to an upgrade to our broadband; this upgrade is crucial given the extent of our online provision and cannot be scheduled at another time. Students working from home will be minimally affected, however, access within school will be significantly disrupted and therefore **we are not able to open to our vulnerable and Critical Worker children on Wednesday 13th January** – apologies for this inconvenience.

Secondly, there may be some reduction in the face-to-face online provision on Wednesday by colleagues involved in the Year 11 Parents' Evening; this will affect students in all year groups. Given that Year 11 Parents' Evening runs from after school into the evening, it is not appropriate to expect colleagues to teach, in most cases, five one-hour lessons, followed by a two and a half hour period of Parents' Evening appointments. Therefore, for some classes lessons may go ahead as normal, whereas for other classes the teacher may start the lesson, take a register and set some work to be completed, which does not require further teacher input.

Keeping your child safe online

Given the amount of online support home learning relies upon, I thought it would be helpful to remind you of the support available to help keep your child safe online.

Below are some useful links for parents and carers:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> - advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA)

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> – advice from the NSPCC

<https://www.internetmatters.org/> - a not-for-profit organisation working with a wide range of well-known partners

<https://parentinfo.org/> - a collaboration between the NCA / Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP) and Parent Zone

A safe online environment is extremely important and parents/carers are encouraged to set age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices and use internet filters to block malicious websites. These are usually free, but often need to be turned on. All communications with school should only be through the school's email, Microsoft Teams or other approved social media platforms.

Lateral Flow Testing

I would like to thank all of the colleagues involved in setting up the Gym this week as a suitable area to conduct Lateral Flow Testing for staff.

We shall start this process on Monday for the vulnerable students and children of Critical Workers who are in school.

Separate information has been sent to parents/carers regarding consent, the procedure and the data we are required to process.

[Consent Form Link for students under 16](#)

[Consent Form Link for students over 16](#)



SEND Support and Guidance

Learning support within online lessons

It has been fantastic to see so many of our students rising to the challenge and attending their online lessons. Our team of Learning Support Practitioners will continue to support remotely where possible, this may be via e-mail, the chat function or using breakout rooms in MS Teams. Both Mr Campbell (Director of Learning Support) and Miss Patrick (Inclusion Manager) will be contactable throughout the day via telephone and e-mail.

Risk assessments for young people with education, health and care plans (EHCP)

Following the partial closure from March 2020, schools were asked to consider the needs of all children and young people with an education, health and care plan and to carry out a risk assessment. It is my intention to revise these over the next few days to ensure that we can identify any additional support our young people with education, health and care plans require. It is important that parents and carers are involved in this process and to make this possible, a member of the Inclusion team will contact you to discuss this over the coming week.

Assistive technology information

Microsoft have built a whole host of assistive technology tools into their office 365 productivity suite. Microsoft have knowledgebase articles on how to use the different accessibility features in their app, such as:

- Online screen readers
- Speech recognition
- Showing verbs, nouns and adjectives in different colours

- Office Lens to transform text on a printed page into digital content to read aloud.

Further information can be found here: [Microsoft Office Accessibility - Microsoft Accessibility](#)

Online interventions

To ensure that young people receive the support they need during this period of lockdown, we will be continuing to deliver, where possible, our interventions via our online learning platforms. Further information will be coming out in the next week.

Pershore High School Learning Support and Inclusion – Padlet

We have developed our own Padlet site, which will contain all of our SEND and support materials. You can download the app or you can simply access it through your web browser on a computer, tablet or phone.

To visit our Padlet: <https://bit.ly/2Xk6qGP>

If you need any further support, please contact Mr Campbell.

Student Welfare

Student Support

As we begin another period of lockdown it is worth reminding parents/carers of services available to students should they wish to access some additional support and want someone to talk to. These organisations are here to help.

Firstly, we are here at school. If students are worried or concerned then please encourage them to contact their Tutor/House Team/Safeguarding Team *during school hours* and we can help or signpost them to the right place (remember colleagues are often teaching so you may not get an immediate reply):

armstrongcentre@persshore.worcs.sch.uk

kingsleycentre@persshore.worcs.sch.uk

magellancentre@persshore.worcs.sch.uk

sixthformcentre@persshore.worcs.sch.uk

safeguarding@persshore.worcs.sch.uk

Secondly, there are other Organisations and websites including:

HERE2HELP - [Here2Help Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | Worcestershire County Council](#)

KOOTH – www.kooth.com (support, information and counselling)

NSPCC – www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/ OR 0808 800 5000

MIND – www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-children-and-young-people/ (information on mental health)

YOUNG MINDS – <https://youngminds.org.uk>

NHS SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ON BEREAVEMENT - [Bereavement and young people - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

CHILDLINE – call 0800 1111

SAMARITANS – call 116123 Email jo@samaritans.org

Student Bulletin

During the last school closure we produced a 'Student Bulletin' as a way of supporting students through the period of lockdown and celebrating student achievements. Our current online provision is more extensive than during the first lockdown, so the same number of additional activities are not required through the Bulletin. The Student Bulletin will be published on the first Monday of each two-week timetable cycle the first issue this term will be on Monday 18th January. Any ideas or suggestions should be sent to studentbulletin@persshore.worcs.sch.uk

Examinations 2021

Cancellation of A' Level, AS Level and GCSE Examinations

Firstly, thank you for how you and your son(s)/daughter(s) have responded to the latest lockdown situation. This is particularly the case in light of the Secretary of State's announcement this week cancelling this summer's A' Level, AS Level and GCSE examinations, and our subsequent decision to cancel the Cambridge National and Cambridge Technical Level 3 examinations which were due to take place next week.

Secondly, Ofqual, the government agency who regulate qualifications, examinations and assessments in England are currently in the process of determining how grades will be awarded to students this year. I would like to reassure you that, as last year, our decisions regarding student grades will be robust, fair and objective in all cases and in line with all Ofqual requirements. As soon as we know more information about the process, I will obviously let you know. Suffice to say, all students should complete any remaining assessments and tasks to the best of their ability in the coming weeks, as they are likely to be part of the evidence base used when determining a final grade.

Can I thank you once again for your efforts in helping our students to prevent the spread of the virus, by adhering to the lockdown guidance and staying at home, along with your support as they continue with their education from home.

Thank you also for your ongoing messages of support and suggestions on our provision over the last week, both are much appreciated.

With best wishes



Phil Hanson
Headteacher