



# Perschore High School

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



**Phil Hanson**  
Headteacher

**Andrew Nockton**  
Deputy  
Headteacher

**Zoe Budding**  
**Jason Howell**  
Assistant  
Headteachers

**Karen Bevan**  
Finance and  
Business Director

**Station Road**  
**Perschore**  
**Worcs**  
**WR10 2BX**

Tel 01386 552471

www.perschore.worcs.sch.uk  
office@perschore.worcs.sch.uk

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well as we begin the half term break. Although the Student Bulletin was published yesterday to students as planned, apologies for the delay in publishing my communication.

In part, this has been due to it being such a busy week recruiting new members of staff. We have successfully recruited an Assistant Headteacher - Data & Standards (Caroline Tarring) starting in September and several new colleagues starting after half term: Receptionist (Kacey Crack); Student Support Officer (Claire Owen) and two Technology Technicians (Sara Bennett – Food & Paul Williams – Resistant Materials). We welcome them all and look forward to working with them. After half term, we shall be interviewing for the following: teachers of English, Maths and Science and Head of Philosophy and Ethics. Further appointments will also be required before the end of the academic year.

The primary reasons for the number of appointments are school expansion, with our first cohort of ninety Year 7 students arriving in September, a recent restructure of our administrative team and two colleagues taking maternity leave. In addition, two colleagues, Emma Hall and Caroline Bassett, have been appointed to posts in other schools; we thank them for all they have given to the school and wish them well in their new roles.

You may also have heard the exciting news that we have been selected as one of only fifty schools in the country for a major refurbishment or rebuilding project in order to bring our facilities up to 21<sup>st</sup> Century standards. I am, as yet, unsure exactly what this will mean for our school community and I am meeting representatives from the DfE in the holiday and immediately afterwards to begin planning. I look forward to updating you more about this when I know more myself.

The full list of updates within this week's communication, include:

- *Mental Health Support Teams in School Service*
- *Remote learning provision and screen time*
- *Increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support disadvantaged children*
- *Perschore Riverside Youth Centre*
- ***Educational Psychology home schooling advice***
- *'Read&Write' Software – Access from home*
- *Resources for internet Safety for parents of pupils with SEND*
- *Open letter to children and young people with SEND*
- *SEND survey - Herefordshire and Worcestershire SENDIASS*
- *Careers Advice and Guidance*
- *Net First 4 Sport CIC – February Half Term Coaching 2021*
- *Student Bulletin – Issue 3*

## **Student Welfare**

### *Mental Health Support Teams in School Service*

We have been extremely lucky to have been chosen as a local pilot school for the Mental Health Support Teams in School service. This means that for the rest of the year we have the services of Abbi Sheen, a trainee Education Mental Health Practitioner. Abbi has introduced herself to the students in Issue 3 of the Student Bulletin. We are grateful for the work she will be undertaking in supporting our students with their mental health.

### *Remote learning provision and screen time*

We are very grateful for the 367 responses received from our 'Remote Learning Provision Consultation' and the time taken to complete these. In overview, the school's provision is rated on average 4/5 (4.02). This is a pleasing reflection of the commitment and hard work of teaching and learning support colleagues over the last half term; it also indicates there are some further improvements we can still make for everyone's mental and physical health. In addition, I would like to thank those colleagues supporting the in-school students, and support staff whose substantial work goes on behind the scenes.

As mentioned in the survey, we are not looking to change our current offer significantly and will look to introduce any changes to our provision during the next half term. For examination classes, the outcomes from the Ofqual consultation on examination grading, due by the end of the month are important; the extent to which the existing curriculum in each subject will need to be fully completed, will need to be taken into account. In addition, information about school reopening next half term, and therefore the projected length of our remote learning provision, should also be clearer in the near future.

The top three options chosen by parents/carers and students to help reduce the amount of screen time in our provision were: firstly, to reduce the homework offer, secondly, to take occasional afternoons off timetable and thirdly, for colleagues to vary the duration of screen time required across a sequence of lessons. These outcomes, along with the many useful comments on these and other options, are being considered for implementation within the context outlined above. As the survey has now closed, please continue to send any feedback you may have to our [lockdownfeedback@pershore.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:lockdownfeedback@pershore.worcs.sch.uk) email.

### *Increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support disadvantaged children*

Through the Government scheme, we are able to request mobile data increases for disadvantaged children and young people in years 8 to 11 who are not able to attend school and the following criteria are met:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Parents, carers, children and young people cannot apply directly for laptops, tablets or internet access. All requests must be made through school ([office@pershore.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@pershore.worcs.sch.uk)) for help accessing remote education. The scheme temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. Students with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit: BT Mobile; EE; Lycamobile; O2; Sky Mobile; SMARTY; Tesco Mobile; Three; Virgin Mobile & Vodafone. It is anticipated, other providers will join the scheme at a later stage. If you, or any other students you know, would benefit from this scheme, please get in touch.

### *Pershore Riverside Youth Centre*

I would like to draw your attention to an offer from Bradley Pryce at the Pershore Riverside Youth Centre, recently shared on the Facebook Pershore Noticeboard: *'Is your child struggling to school from home?' PRYC is offering facilities in our new 'Community Room' which has full strength (safeguarding appropriate) Wifi, is away from the distractions of home, has the support for learning from Youth Workers and is free of charge. The PRYC remains open following NYA Covid Safety Procedures to*

support young people and families as usual.’ If you are interested in this offer, please message Bradley through the Pershore Noticeboard, or email him at: [Bradley@pershoreriversidecentre.org.uk](mailto:Bradley@pershoreriversidecentre.org.uk)

## **SEND Advice and Guidance**

### **Educational Psychology home schooling advice**

The Educational Psychology team have produced a [video](#) containing practical advice for parents supporting children with home schooling. The advice is particularly useful where the child may have additional learning needs. The advice provides ways to support children with learning at home and covers reading, writing and maths techniques plus ways to support their emotional health and wellbeing.

### **‘Read&Write’ Software – Access from home**

[Read&Write](#) lets everyone read, write and express themselves more confidently and independently. The easy-to-use toolbar makes documents, files and web pages more accessible. Read&Write is a big confidence booster for anyone who needs a little support with their reading and writing, at school. Students have free access to the software using their school login credentials.

### **Resources for internet Safety for parents of pupils with SEND**

Connecting and sharing online can be a lifeline for children with additional needs. It allows them to stay connected with friends and family and express themselves in ways they may not be able to in the real world. However, with the benefits, there are also potential risks due to the nature of interactions online. There are two useful websites – [‘internet matters’](#) and [‘safer internet’](#) – which both provide additional information on internet safety for parents of pupils with SEND.

### **Open letter to children and young people with SEND**

Vicky Ford MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families has written an [open letter](#) to all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), their parents/carers and families, and others who support them regarding the national lockdown.

### **SEND survey**

Herefordshire and Worcestershire SENDIASS are conducting a [survey](#) to capture the views of families of children and young people with SEND in lockdown. The information gathered will form a report to help services, including the local authorities, better understand the support that is needed. Please do not include any identifying information; the responses are intended to be anonymous.

Please remember that our Inclusion Team are always available and here to help. If you need any support then please contact Mr Campbell or Miss Patrick. We also continue to update our [SEND Padlet](#)

## **Looking forward**

### **Careers Advice and Guidance**

Mrs Beeton, our Head of Careers and IAG, emails a weekly Careers Bulletin to all students. As the students will have some additional time this week, please encourage them to look at the information and engage with it appropriately. This week is ‘National Apprenticeship Week’.

### **Net First 4 Sport CIC – February Half Term Coaching 2021**

We are always trying to encourage our students to engage in physical exercise and Net First is a Community Interest Company using profits to reinvest, subsidise and sponsor netball workshops and teams within Worcester. They are offering a half term Zoom workshop between Monday 15th Feb - Friday 19th Feb 2021 for school years 6-11 (ages 11-16) by running 30 minute live zoom sessions at 2pm Mon to Friday + a bonus Physio lead session at 6.30pm Wednesday. Experienced Net First and Guest Coaches will host the sessions and the cost is £30 for all 5 days. Please register [here](#).

### **Student Bulletin – Issue 3**

Issue 3 of the Student Bulletin encourages students to try to do at least one activity per day from any of the ‘Five Ways to Wellbeing’ sections (Be physically active / Notice / Keep learning / Connect with

other people / Give to others) or one from each every day if they can? The Bulletin gives a range of activities to choose from - referencing the fact half term includes Valentine's Day and Shrove Tuesday, whilst February is LGBTQ+ History month. Students should remember to balance their use of screen and non-screen time for their mental and physical health whilst enjoying a well-deserved break. Any feedback or suggestions for future Issues should be sent to: [studentbulletin@pershire.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:studentbulletin@pershire.worcs.sch.uk).

Thank you once again for your efforts in helping our students through the last half term and remind you of the need for them to help prevent the spread of the virus, by adhering to the lockdown guidance and staying at home. I hope you all manage to have a break during half term.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PH', written in a cursive style.

Phil Hanson  
Headteacher