



Pershire 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
Pershire
Worcs
WR10 2BX

Tel 01386 552471

www.pershire.worcs.sch.uk
office@pershire.worcs.sch.uk

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Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you are well. Firstly, I must thank you for your considerable support over what has been another challenging year for our students and everyone who works to support them. The term has not ended in the way we had hoped, with another move to remote learning, however once again, the students have shown resilience in how quickly they have adapted to yet another change to teaching and learning arrangements.

In this final communication of the term, I would like to look ahead to September and how things will look when we return. We welcome for the first time to a whole school communication the parents/carers of our incoming Year 7 and Year 8 students for September. We are excited about your son/daughter becoming part of our school community, and to seeing many of them at our Summer School that begins tomorrow.

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

- *End of Year Reports*
- *Summer 2021 Examination Results*
- *2021-22 Term Dates & Professional Development Days*
- *Start of Term Covid Testing Arrangements*
- *Start of Term General Arrangements*
- *Staff changes for September 2021*
- *SEND Advice and Guidance*
- *Careers Bulletins*
- *Holiday Help and Support*

End of Year Reports

End of Year Reports for all year groups have been sent home in recent days. All students are commended for how they have coped during this academic year as we have moved between in school and remote learning at different times of the year. Students should be proud of what they have achieved and take note of the advice given by teachers in their reports, as they move to the next phase of their education in September.

Summer 2021 Examination Results

The only days the school will be open for students during the summer holiday will be the Results Days planned for A' Level (Tuesday 10th August) & GCSE (Thursday 12th August) students and associated support clinics (Wednesday 11th August and Friday 13th August respectively). Information in this regard is being sent separately to the parents/carers of students in Years 10-13 outlining the Results Day arrangements, Grading process, Appeals policy and availability of Sarah Beeton, our Head of Careers and IAG. For further information about Summer 2021 Examinations, please visit [Examinations and Revision | Pershire High School](#)

Results statements are issued on the Results Day itself, whilst certificates are available later in the autumn term. Year 10 GCSE English Literature results can be collected by students on Thursday 12th August from 11.00am to 12.30pm but they will also be emailed home should this not be convenient.

2021-22 Term Dates & Professional Development Days

Please find below the key dates for the year and a staggered start for all year groups to allow lateral flow testing to take place. Further information is found in the next section.

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Thursday 2 September 2021	Staff Training Day	Closed to students
Friday 3 September 2021	Staff Training Day	Closed to students
Monday 6 September 2021	Covid Testing Programme begins (Year 7, Year 8 & Year 12 today)	See separate schedule No School Transport
Tuesday 7 September 2021	Year 7, Year 8 & Year 12 return	
Wednesday 8 September 2021	Year 11 & Year 13 return	
Friday 10 September 2021	Year 10 return	
Monday 13 September 2021	Year 9 return	
Friday 22 October 2021	Staff Training Day	Closed to students
25 - 29 October 2021	HALF TERM	HALF TERM
20 December 2021 - 3 January 2022	CHRISTMAS BREAK	
Tuesday 4 January 2022	Staff Training Day	Closed to students
Wednesday 5 January 2022	School Returns - All Year Groups	
21 - 25 February 2022	HALF TERM	HALF TERM
Friday 25 March 2022	Staff Training Day	Closed to students
11 - 22 April 2022	EASTER BREAK	EASTER BREAK
Monday 25 April 2022	School Returns - All Year Groups	
30 May - 3 June 2022	HALF TERM	HALF TERM
Friday 22 July 2022	Queen's Jubilee Day	Additional Bank Holiday
Monday 25 July 2022	SUMMER BREAK – 1.20pm	SUMMER BREAK

Start of Term Covid Testing Arrangements

The government has recently requested that all secondary school students take new style coronavirus (Covid-19) lateral flow tests as they return in the new term, provided they/their parents have given consent. The government have allowed a staggered start in the first week of school to accommodate this.

Online consent forms must be completed by Thursday 2nd September in order to have been processed prior to testing. All students who consent need to be tested twice; each test must be three to five days apart.

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

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

The first test for all students will take place during a visit to school solely for that purpose. It is not advisable to have students in school until the results are confirmed, therefore it is not possible for students to be in school, as normal, for this first test; they must therefore go home following their test.

Time of First Test: Parents/carers will receive an email at least two days before the date of the first test indicating a time within the students are invited to school for their test. We are aware this may cause some inconvenience and are grateful for the effort you will make in ensuring the testing takes place. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 must not attend the school site.

Location: Technology Atrium or Art Gallery (access to both from the Bus Bay pathway)

Queuing: Students will queue under the Bus Bay Shelter using the markings to ensure the required social distancing. Students should wait to be called by a member of staff. Hand sanitisation will also be required using the sanitisation stations provided.

Drop off / Parking: Cars should only enter the site and use the North Car Park, closest to the Station and AstroTurf pavilion. No parents/carers must park, or drop off, in the Bus Bay or front of school car park, as they will be in use during the day.

End of test: Students should return directly to their waiting parent/carer, or make their own way home. Students and parents must observe the Government guidelines in place at the time of the test. Students will be provided with instructions on how to register their test – this is a legal requirement of the testing programme.

Given our capacity to undertake these tests safely, term will start as follows for our various year groups:

Year 13:

Tuesday 7th September: Visit school for first Covid-19 test only. Students must not use school transport; specific appointment times will be emailed to parents
Students with resit examinations on this day will be tested early in the day and can remain provided a negative result is returned

Wednesday 8th September: First full day in school

Friday 10th September: Second Covid-19 in school test

Year 12:

Monday 6th September: Visit school for first Covid-19 test only. Students must not use school transport; specific appointment times will be emailed to parents

Tuesday 7th September: First full day in school

Thursday 9th September: Second Covid-19 in school test

Year 11:

Tuesday 7th September: Visit school for first Covid-19 test only. Students must not use school transport; specific appointment times will be emailed to parents

Wednesday 8th September: First full day in school

Friday 10th September: Second Covid-19 in school test

Year 10:

Thursday 9th September: Visit school for first Covid-19 test only. Students must not use school transport; specific appointment times will be emailed to parents

Friday 10th September: First full day in school

Monday 13th September: Second Covid-19 in school test

Year 9:

Friday 10th September: Visit school for first Covid-19 test only. Students must not use school transport; specific appointment times will be emailed to parents
Monday 13th September: First full day in school
Tuesday 14th September: Second Covid-19 in school test

Year 8:

Monday 6th September: Visit school for first Covid-19 test only. Students must not use school transport; specific appointment times will be emailed to parents
Tuesday 7th September: First full day in school
Thursday 9th September: Second Covid-19 in school test

Year 7:

Monday 6th September: Visit school for first Covid-19 test only. Students must not use school transport; specific appointment times will be emailed to parents
Tuesday 7th September: First full day in school
Thursday 9th September: Second Covid-19 in school test

After completing two supervised tests in school, students will be provided with new style rapid flow test kits to use twice weekly at home; ideally, students should complete these on Sundays/Mondays and Wednesdays/Thursdays. Students cannot test at home if they have not previously tested twice in school under the supervision of trained operatives.

Students within 90 days of a confirmed case of COVID-19 may take part in rapid flow testing but if their result is positive they must self-isolate in the same way that others must. Students who have been vaccinated should still be tested, as they may be asymptomatic carriers.

Given the testing will take place across 7 school days for all students, this is quite a logistical undertaking. Any parents/carers who would be willing to volunteer and train as test operatives, and administer the tests for any period of time, should email office@persshore.worcs.sch.uk. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to start our testing arrangements sooner. Our Professional Development Days (2nd and 3rd September) include pre-booked, externally provided, training required by all staff before term starts, some of whom will administer the testing. In addition, given we had already published that term would be starting on Monday 6th September, it would not be fair on parents/carers to expect students to attend school before this, as plans could already have been made, to include relevant periods of self-isolation if returning from abroad.

Message from Public Health

Attached to this letter is a Thank You message from Public Health in Worcestershire. I would like to echo their thanks to parents/carers and students for all of the efforts you have put in to keep everyone safe. Your actions have really made a difference. There are still rising cases across the County and so your support is as important as ever. The latest information for parents/carers can be found at https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20769/coronavirus_covid-19

Start of Term General Arrangements

As per government guidelines at the current time, we are aiming to return to more much normal procedures and routines in September, which are summarised below:

Teaching:

- Lessons will take place in subject departments with students moving around school freely following their timetable; there will be no Year Group pods as a base for lessons

Tutoring:

- Vertical Tutoring will be reinstated with students from Years 8-11 in the 15 Tutor Groups in each House; our 90 Year 7 students will be members of 7 Tutor Groups within each House

Tutor groups, teaching groups and timetables notification:

- Students in Years 9-13 will receive an email to their school email account prior to their return notifying them of their Tutor group and Tutor Base; students will receive their timetable in the first Tutor period. Students in Year 7 and Year 8 will be notified of their Tutor Group, teaching groups and timetable during their first Tutor Group period on Tuesday 7th September. Students should be equipped as per the Equipment List for their first day and do not need to bring any specialist equipment, such as their PE kit
- In Key Stages 4 & 5, teachers and classes will largely stay the same from Year 10 going into Year 11 and Year 12 into Year 13, 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

School day structure:

- Usual school start (8.50am) and finish (3.30pm) times; there will be no staggered break and lunchtimes

Transport to/from school:

- Students are encouraged to cycle or walk to school where possible
- Students using school transport will arrive/leave from the Bus Bay and must go directly in school upon arrival; we will update you in September with the recommendations for Covid-safe school travel should these be required. Bus passes are required for permission to travel
- Cars will only be allowed on site in the North Car Park for drop off/collection

Equipment:

- Students should be fully equipped for their return; this will be checked by Tutors on their first day back. Basic equipment can be purchased from Pershore Kitchen, when items run out

Uniform:

- Full school uniform is required at all times; please check the school website for further information
- Please ensure enough time is given for hair styles to be appropriate for the new school term
- Students are only allowed one plain stud per ear; any other visible piercings must be removed before returning to school

Catering:

- The 'Persshore Kitchen' will be open for students at break and lunchtime. Please make sure that your son/daughter's ParentPay account is topped up in advance of their return. A new lunchtime facility for students, the 'Atrium Café', will be available at lunchtime from Monday 13th September

Controlling the spread of the virus:

- Depending upon the national and local situation in September, there may be some continuing measures in place to help control the spread of the virus. These will be confirmed at the start of term.

Other Key Start of Term Dates:

- Monday 13th September: School Photographs - Years 7-9
- Thursday 16th September: New Parents' Welcome Evening (Year 7 & Year 8) – 6pm
- Friday 17th September: Y8/Y9 HPV Vaccinations
- Thursday 23rd September: School Photographs - Years 10 – 13 & Early Closure (1.20pm) for Open Evening

Staff changes for September 2021

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

Marie Anderson – Teacher of Maths

Jane Burnham – Head of Compliant Materials
Adam Hill – Business Manager (left end of May)
Steph Manifold – Head of Geography
George Scott – Teacher of Physics

In September, we look forward to welcoming:

Shannon Baker – Teacher of Maths
Catrin Beattie – Teacher of English
Freddie Burrage – Teacher of Geography
Charlotte Laisney – Teacher of MFL
Bethany Lewis – Teacher of Food and Textiles
Jared Lewis – Teacher of Physics and A Level Physics Lead
Elizabeth Shermer – Teacher of Science
Caroline Tarring – Assistant Headteacher
James Treasure-Evans – Teacher of Geography
Paul Williams – Teacher of Technology
Helen Windridge – Teacher of Maths

In addition, the following colleagues are undertaking a change of role from September:

Adam Kilgallon – Acting Head of Geography
Amy Knight – House Team Deputy (assisting all Houses)
Holly Wright - Head of Compliant Materials

I can confirm that we have a full complement of teaching staff for September, having expanded our number of teachers in preparation for welcoming a Year 7 cohort to the school for the first time in just under 50 years.

SEND Advice and Guidance

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back but are aware that additional support may be needed to prepare for the return to face-to-face teaching after an extended break. In the lead up to the new term, we will share a variety of resources on our [SEND Padlet](#) including social stories and reflection sheets. Where appropriate we will also contact families directly should this be necessary.

Careers Bulletins

My thanks to Mrs Beeton, our Head of Careers, for producing weekly Careers Bulletins for most year groups during this school year. The latest 'Careers Bulletins' have been made available to students via their email and are available on the school website; I would encourage all students to routinely investigate the information and opportunities offered. A number of students have gained valuable experience within the context of the last year and should be commended for their proactive approach to preparing themselves for the future.

The latest Key Stage Three Choices Booklet from the WCC Skills and Investment Team can be found on the skills4worcestershire website at <https://online.flipbuilder.com/iqah/qhij/>

GCSEPod

Our End of Year Usage Report for GCSEPod captures our experiences of a more blended approach to learning, through both online and offline approaches, during the year. Between 1st September 2020 and 12th July 2021, students and staff have watched 37,426 Pods. We have a host of additional data about general usage but one of the most pleasing figures is the one for '*number of questions answered correctly on second attempt*' (as well as the first attempt!), which shows student applying the 5Rs in their learning.

GCSEPod are running 'Summer Pod' from 26th July over the course of three weeks. Student and parents/carers are invited to participate in engaging and interactive webinars, and gain access to

interviews with subject specialists, resources, task sheets, podcasts and more. Register and find out more at www.gcsepod.com/summerpod, after which you will receive an email with all the details of each event and how to attend.

Holiday Help and Support

Mrs Budding, our Designated Safeguarding Lead, emailed all students on Monday with numbers and websites for relevant organisations should they need a little help or support over the holidays. A fuller list of support agencies is available on our school website at [Wellbeing & Safeguarding | Pershore High School](#). If you scroll down to the bottom of the page, and click on the third level up on the support triangle 'Outside Agency support – if we can't help', this will take you to a page of outside agencies that support a number of different issues.

Please note that should students struggle to access free sanitary products over the holiday, we have given some to the local Community Cupboard; students can also email the Student Hub (studenthub@pershore.worcs.sch.uk) to organise for some to be collected from the school reception.

I do hope you and your families are able to stay safe and well during the summer. All at Pershore High School look forward to welcoming students back from Monday 6th September.

Best wishes,



Phil Hanson
Headteacher