



Pershore High School

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



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Sunday, 27 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your support in the return to school of all students since the start of September. School is very different under the current circumstances but our students have responded well to the new and different challenges our COVID Security measures bring them.

There is much advice, some of it conflicting, regarding what to do in the event that children develop COVID-19 symptoms and as a parent I know that making the right decision about whether your child should attend school can be difficult. Included with this email are two documents from Worcestershire Children First. The first is their 'quick guide for parents/carers' on what to do in specific circumstances and the second is a school illness flow chart they have produced, both of which I hope you will find useful. I have also been asked to share a letter with you from NHS Track and Trace and this is also attached to this email.

If you are reporting a student absent please use studentabsence@persore.worcs.sch.uk or telephone the school and follow the instructions. Please be aware that we are not medically trained and can't advise on whether it is appropriate for your son/daughter to attend. If you think that your son/daughter is exhibiting symptoms of Coronavirus they should not attend school and you should arrange a test as outlined in the guidance included with this letter. Further advice can be sought from NHS 111, your GP or using www.nhs.uk/coronavirus. If your child has to self-isolate we will provide work which reflects the content being covered in school. Whilst self-isolating please update our studentabsence@ email or phone line every three days to keep us up to date with your situation.

Positive COVID Test Results:

We have set up a new emergency email address covid@persore.worcs.sch.uk which we ask you to use **in the event that your son/daughter tests positive for Coronavirus.** The email account will be monitored, as far as possible, out of school hours and the information you provide will enable us to respond as quickly as possible and begin contact tracing within school in order to minimise the risk of transmission to others. Please do not use this email address for any other communication.

Face Coverings:

Advice from public health remains that wearing face coverings whilst in school potentially poses a greater risk of transmission than not due to the amount of time students will spend putting them on, adjusting them and taking them off again which means touching their faces. However, all the work we are doing in school to keep bubbles of students separate in case we have a positive case in a year group is undone on school buses if students do not wear face coverings for travel. We are concerned that many students are not following the recommendation that they should be worn – we will be addressing this at the end of the day as students leave school and would appreciate you reinforcing the importance with your son/daughter and encourage them to do so on their journey to school. For tracing contacts it is also essential that students sit in their designated seat as advised by the LA Transport division at the start of the year.

Cold Weather:

Last week we experienced unseasonably cold weather and we are, wherever possible, trying to keep rooms well ventilated with open doors and windows. We encourage students to wear layers under their school uniform in an attempt to stay warm but realise that this might not be enough. Whilst our preference is for students to wear a school jumper under their blazer, from Tuesday 29th September students are encouraged to bring additional outer layers that can be worn with their blazer. These may be worn only in classrooms, whilst sitting still, when given permission by the class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support of the measures we are taking to keep our school community safe.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PH' with a flourish.

Phil Hanson
Headteacher