



Pershire High School

PHS Parent / Carer Communication

Friday 3rd October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been lovely to see this week how wonderfully some of our students of all ages have worked with younger students who attend some of our feeder primary schools, both here at PHS and during visits to the primary schools themselves to support their events. As always, they have been superb ambassadors for the school.

This week's updates include:

Upcoming events/reminders:

Reading Assessments: Over the next couple of weeks, all year 7, 8 and 9 students will be completing reading assessments in school. There is no preparation required and nothing for students to worry about, but it is important that students arrive to their IT lessons on time and focus fully on the assessment, so that we can get an accurate measure of their current reading skills. The information gained is used by teachers to help adapt their teaching to the reading strengths, or needs, of students and is not used beyond that purpose.

End of half term: A reminder that the last day for students this half term is Thursday 23rd October; Friday 24th October is a Professional Development Day for staff, with no students required in school.

Other information:

Arbor Assignments and Parent Portal: Thank you for your patience whilst we adapt to the use of Arbor at Pershire High School. Please make sure that you have signed up to the parent portal (please check your previous emails)

so that you can access information about your child. We have received several enquiries regarding assignments (homework) and concerns that assignments are “overdue” when they have been completed. When the assignment is set, a teacher can choose to allow a submit button for that assignment or not – this means some assignments will have a submit button and some will not. They may choose not to have a submit button as the assignment might be work that needs to be physically handed in or completed on another platform e.g. Sparx. In this case the teacher will check that the assignment is complete and change the status to “submitted”. If you/your child is concerned they have “overdue” assignments, but they have been completed they should speak to their teacher to check and have the status amended.

Grand Prize Draw update: The Grand Prize Draw pot is growing; thank you if you have already donated. Click on the link that was sent to see more and to work out if your company, or employer, might be able to contribute and support their community and social responsibilities. Alternatively, scan the QR code provided to get to the same place.

Safeguarding concern: There is a safeguarding concern that we need your support with. It has been brought to our attention that there is a county wide WhatsApp group called ‘World Record Breakers’. The link is shared to students in the WhatsApp group and when the link is opened, students can view sexually explicit images. The police are aware of this group and are working to remove and shut it down. It is important that children are aware of the law in relation to explicit image sharing. Any nude or semi-nude images of children under the age of eighteen is considered as child pornography. It is against the law to generate, publish or share these images with others. Please ensure that your child is aware of this. If they receive an image, this is not their fault. However, they do need to ensure that this is reported to an adult, either in school or at home. If school becomes aware of explicit image sharing, we are required to report this to the police, which can result in phones being removed and retained for the course of the investigation.

There is a wide range of information available to you as parents/carers, regarding online safety. We would like to recommend the following as positive sources of information to both you and your child(ren).

- [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)
- [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Keep Children Safe Online: Information, Advice, Support - Internet Matters](#)
- [Parents and carers | CEOP Education \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](#)

If you need help and support in setting up parental controls, here is a link to step-by-step guide which walks you through the instructions for a range of different devices:

- [Parental Controls on Smartphones & Other Devices - Internet Matters](#)

Lastly, please encourage your child to have some time away from their devices every day. Whilst there are some benefits to being online, the negative impact of the excessive use of electronic devices on emotional well-being, sleep patterns and mood is considerable. This guide may help you to have conversations with your young person on how to balance their screen time more effectively: [Internet-matters-ScreenTimeGuide-KeyStage4-V2.pdf \(internetmatters.org\)](#) If you have any questions or concerns relating to online safety, please contact your child/children's House Team in the first instance.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Best wishes,

Andrew Nockton

Head of School