

\*via email\*

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Stakeholder

I am writing to update you about developments that are underway at Pershore College, both in terms of the physical college estate and the future direction of the College.

As you are well aware, Pershore College is recognised nationally and regionally as a centre of excellence for horticulture and has a long-standing reputation in this area. There is, however, much more to Pershore College than just our horticulture expertise. In recent years the curriculum on offer has expanded to include the very popular animal welfare and veterinary nursing provision, supported learning courses and the new football academy in partnership with Leamington FC starting in September.

Pershore College is now entering another phase of development. In 2016 we developed our now successful agri-tech centre and in continued support of the region we are working with the Worcestershire LEP, and other stakeholders, to further expand our role in supporting Worcestershire's growers and agri-businesses. At the same time Pershore College will also expand its further and higher education courses into the area of human health from September 2021.

These changes confirm Pershore College's position as the college within the region whose focus is on Care: care for plants and landscapes, care for animals and now care for human health - through health care, sports and the inclusive nature of supported learning provision. There is also a great link between a number of these subjects and our Link Nurseries in Powick, which specialises in horticultural therapy and benefits from the ability to source both plants and specialist resources from Pershore. I am pleased to report that since we announced the introduction of this provision at Pershore, applications for full-time health courses and the new football academy have been very positive.

We will be investing in some estate developments over the summer months, in readiness for welcoming additional students in September. This includes the creation of classroom and office space in Avonbank, the original college building, for the benefit of our supported learning students. Classrooms for health and counselling students are also being created in the main building and the Agri-tech centre. In addition to these changes, we are carrying out digitisation improvements in our motor vehicle workshops, to prepare for a greater level of computer-based delivery, future-proofing our provision and ensuring our learners have the technology they need when gaining skills for work.

Pershore College's Agri-tech Research Centre continues to go from strength to strength, working with emerging technologies for managing sustainable food supplies into the future, and we continue to work with the LEP and local councils to promote the skills and resources available in the Centre for the benefit of Worcestershire agri-businesses. We are also

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exploring some potentially beneficial employer partnerships currently which may well add to Pershore existing horticultural heritage.

I look forward to your continued support as we embark on these exciting developments at Pershore College, where our focus is 'Care, Growth and Excellence'.

We will be issuing a press release about these developments within the next week, to keep the local community informed about the changes underway. We will be using the below logo as part of the messaging around Pershore College;



**PERSHORE  
COLLEGE**

*Care | Growth | Excellence*

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Stay safe. Best wishes



Angela Joyce  
CEO WCG