

5th April 2023

Dear Parent / Guardian

As we close for Easter, I want to thank you once again for the support you have given the school over what has been an extremely busy term. Term three will start on **Monday 17th April, Week 2** and I want to provide you with some dates and events which I hope will help you plan ahead. I have also detailed below some issues that require parental awareness.

YEAR 11 REPORTS

The Year 11 reports have been issued via the Parent App. Parents are advised to read the report carefully and discuss the performance outcomes with their child which will support planning for revision during the Easter period. All Year 11 pupils will sit external GCSE modules in the summer series of examinations; therefore, pupils must ensure they complete a comprehensive revision programme over the Easter period.

YEARS 11-14 EASTER REVISION AND EXAMINATION PREPARATION

Whilst it is important that pupils take some well-earned rest over the Easter period, it is vital that a significant part of the Easter break is used for revision purposes. Time spent now on revision and completion of past papers will pay dividends in August on results day. Effective planning and examination preparation also helps reduce stress level. Teachers have posted a wealth of excellent revision materials on Google classroom for revision purposes. In addition, our school website has information regarding examination policies for parent and pupil reference.

Pupils should endeavour to eat well, take daily exercise (including keeping up with club/team activities) and maintain normal sleep routines. These simple techniques will support positive health and well-being during this stressful time. Parents are advised to speak to school staff if their child requires any additional help or support during the examination phase.

STUDY LEAVE - SENIOR SCHOOL

- **Years 12-14** study leave dates will be published in term three.
- **Year 11** pupils will be given *one week* of home study leave on, **Week beginning Monday 15th May 2023- Friday 19th May 2023 (inclusive)**. This week has the highest number of scheduled Year 11 modular examinations. Pupils will be required to return to school on Monday 22nd May.

JUNIOR SCHOOL INTERNAL EXAMINATIONS - ADVANCE PARENTAL NOTICE

The junior school examinations will take place on Week beginning 5th June 2023.

ADVANCED NOTICE - INDUSTRIAL ACTION AND SCHOOL CLOSURE ON WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL 2023.

All schools across Northern Ireland have received notification from the Teaching Unions that there is potential industrial action by the teaching unions on Wednesday 26th April 2023. I am advising parents of the likelihood of disruption to lessons; however I will provide more specific details after the Easter break.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

As you are aware there is a very strong link between high levels of school attendance and successful academic outcomes. Parents are asked to ensure their child attends school every day and arrive to school on time at 8.50am. Parents are asked not to book holidays during term time.

UNIFORM STANDARDS

Parents should note that piercings of any kind are not permitted in Years 8-12. Hair colourants are also not permitted. Please ensure that your child is presented to school in full uniform, in-line with the stated uniform policy. Unfortunately, for pupils that continue to breach school uniform policy, sanctions will apply.

COMMUNICATION AND BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Parents should be aware of and adhere to, the protocols regarding communication channels within the College. All teachers have full timetables with substantial teaching commitments, therefore if a parent needs to address an issue regarding their child, it is important that telephone contact is made with their child's form teacher or Year Head in the first instance. Teachers will endeavour to contact parents as soon

as possible. If you need to speak to a member of staff in person, please make an appointment in advance as teachers cannot leave classes unattended.

Parents are also advised that the school operates a positive behaviour policy. Acceptance of your child's place at Sperrin College means that pupils adhere to the discipline policy and procedures which includes adherence of sanctions if applied.

LOCAL SHOPS | ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS

Sperrin College pupils are **NOT** permitted in either Lidl or Home Bargains in the morning (prior to school) or in the evening (immediately after school). Pupils need to take extreme care when crossing the Pound Road and the main Castledawson Road when travelling to and from school. We have received a number of alerts from parents, teachers and members of the public regarding poor hazard awareness by a number of junior school pupils. I would ask that road safety and hazard awareness is addressed at home with your child.

COLOUR RUN | FUNDRAISING EVENT - FRIDAY 21ST APRIL

Our pupil leaders have been planning and organising a variety of activities and events throughout the school year to promote wellbeing and anti-bullying. On Friday 21st April the whole school will take part in a colour run. The run is an important part of our 20th anniversary celebrations and is also last major event connected to our Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing and Diana Award Anti-Bullying campaigns for this year.

Another important reason that we are taking part in a colour run is for fundraising purposes. We hope to be able to raise enough money to help convert one of the large storage areas in the sports hall into a gym which will improve the facilities available to all pupils during PE and have a positive impact on wellbeing.



Every pupil has received a named and numbered sponsorship form and we would encourage pupils to use the Easter holiday to seek out sponsors. All monies collected should be returned to Learning Tutors along with sponsorship forms on Wednesday 19th April.

Participation in the event costs £6 and this should be paid via ParentPay. Full details regarding the colour run are included on the sponsorship form. It is a non-uniform day. Pupils should wear suitable clothes and are advised to bring sunglasses and a white t-shirt. No changing facilities will be available.

Normal classes will operate around the event and pupils should pack their bags accordingly.

TERM THREE DATES - ALL PUPILS WILL RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR THE SUMMER TERM ON MONDAY 17TH APRIL: WEEK 2

Monday	1 st May 2023	Bank Holiday: School Closed
Monday	8 th May 2023	Extra Bank Holiday Coronation
Friday	26 th May 2023	SDD5: No pupils in school
Monday	29 th May 2023	Bank Holiday School Closed
Wednesday-Friday	*28 th June - 30 th June 2023	*End of Term Phased end for Years 8-11

I want to wish you all a peaceful and restful Easter break and look forward to term three commencing.

Yours sincerely

B A Heron

Principal

B.Ed. (Hons)PQH(NI)M.Ed.