

8th April 2022

Dear Parent / Guardian

As we approach Easter, I want to thank you once again for the support you have given the school over the few past months. This has been a most difficult term as the impact of Covid-19 continues to pose challenges for all within the school and wider community. Given that it has been almost a year since we returned to face-to face teaching, it is my hope that our pre-COVID standards and work practices return to our normal high standards as we enter term three. Despite these issues our school community continues to thrive, and I am delighted that our pupils have achieved some wonderful outcomes this term especially in charity work, sport, and external competitions some of which I have detailed below.

UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

I want to thank and acknowledge your support and huge generosity in our recent sponsored run in aid of the Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine. The final total raised was **£6070.68**. This is testament to your wonderful generosity and support.

AUTISM NI FUNDRAISING APPEAL

The Year 8 pupils were also involved in fundraising in March and raised **£759** for Autism NI. The pupils were getting their steps counted as part of the fundraising appeal. Thank you to all the parents and families who supported this very worthy cause.

CHILDREN WITH CANCER FUND

The Sixth form pupils also organised a bun sale and raised **£594** for Children with Cancer.

SPORTING SUCCESS

Our pupils have achieved some very significant sporting successes during this term with The U14 Rugby Team reaching the final of the High School Shield. The boys played exceptionally well against a very strong Ballyclare side. Our girls also missed out on a semi-final place in the Erne and Foyle Gaelic Tournament, but have showed themselves to be a very strong team with future successes being highly likely. I want to pay tribute to these pupils and their coaches for all the hard work this season.

UK MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

The school are very pleased to announce the winners of the UK Mathematics Challenge which are as follows:

Ben McLernon - Gold in the Intermediate Maths Challenge

Ben is through to the Pink Kangaroo (Association Kangourou sans Frontieres) This is a very prestigious competition and entrants are by invitation only. Very well done to Ben.

Erin Greer - Bronze in the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

Euan Brown - Bronze in the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

WORLD MATHS DAY 2022 CHALLENGE

Year 10 Pupils took part in the World Maths Day Challenge on Wednesday 23rd March. Competing online with thousands of pupils from across the world. The winners in each class are as follows:

10S Jake Lagan

10M Tiernan Floyd

10T Martin Shek

10G Arden Goldridge

Top performing pupil in the year group - Luca O'Neill.

CAPITAL BUILD ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

We are delighted to be included in the DENI's March 2022 announcement that Sperrin College is included in the list of 28 schools to benefit from the Major Capital Works Investment Programme. I will keep parents updated on developments.

ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT

Miss McKeown has secured another grant for £9,500 for environmental work within the school. This grant will be spent on enhancement of the school grounds and for our Eco-Schools work.

POTENTIAL TRAVEL DISRUPTION: TRANSLINK FROM 25TH APRIL 2022

We have received notification from the Education Authority that there is potential travel disruption regarding Translink for one week beginning 25th April 2022.

It is my understanding that Translink are continuing to engage with Trade Unions to avert the action, however, if it does proceed it would result in all Translink bus services being withdrawn from Monday 25th April to Sunday 1st May and Friday 6th May (one day).

Schools have been advised to communicate with parents, informing them to follow Translink's social media and website and if the action proceeds the following advice applies:

Pupils who use any Translink bus service for any element of their journey are likely to be impacted and parents are therefore advised to make other transport arrangements for these dates.

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS: THE SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Sperrin College will be 20 years old in September 2022 and we plan to mark this important milestone with a new school production. Auditions for the lead roles and chorus will take place on Thursday 28th April. New Year 8 pupils (Enrolled in September 2022) will also be provided with an opportunity to audition, after they are offered a place). This is exciting news, and we are all very much looking forward to what will be a wonderful experience for all. The production is scheduled for the last week of October 2022.

SCHOOL OVERSEAS TRIPS

Parents are advised that pupils will only be permitted to attend an overseas school trip if their child meets the criteria as set out in the Educational Visits Policy. The policy is available on the school website. The recently advertised Ski trip is very significantly oversubscribed and we are currently seeking another opportunity for pupils to travel to France in 2023. I will provide more details in term three.

ATTENDANCE, PUNCTUALITY, AND UNIFORM STANDARDS

There has been a significant improvement in these areas over the course of term two. However, there remains a small number of pupils who still need to improve. 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, on time and in-line with the stated uniform policy. Unfortunately, pupils that continue to not follow school policy will be subject to sanctions.

EXAMINATION PREPARATION

Easter School is compulsory for all Year 11-14 pupils. All pupils have been issued with an Easter School Timetable. Teachers have prepared intensive revision sessions in all subject areas in readiness for the Summer Series of Examinations. Whilst we encourage pupils to take some time over the Easter period to rest, the formal examinations series will start in early May (with some examinations having already taken place) therefore it is essential that the Easter break is used for revision and examination preparation. Teachers have posted a wealth of excellent revision materials on Google classroom for revision purposes. In addition, our school website has further information regarding examinations for parent and pupils.

EXAMINATION RESULTS RELEASE: GCSE MODULAR EXAMINATIONS THURSDAY 14TH APRIL 2022

GCSE modular examination results for Year 12 Double Award Chemistry, Biology and Physics, Year 12 Single Award Physics in addition to Year 11 Single Award Biology will be released via email and post on Thursday 14th April 2022.

JUNIOR EXAMINATIONS: ADVANCED NOTICE

The junior examinations Year 8-10 will take place on week commencing 6th June 2022.

TERM THREE DATES

All pupils will return to school for the Summer Term on Monday 25th April: Week 2

Monday	2 nd May 2022	Bank Holiday: School Closed
Tuesday	3 rd May 2022	Staff Development Day 4: No pupils in school
Wednesday	1 st June 2022	Staff Development Day 5: No pupils in school
Thursday	2 nd June 2022	Bank Holiday: School Closed
Friday	3 rd June 2022	Public Holiday <i>Queens Jubilee</i> : School Closed
Thursday	30 th June 2022	12 noon finish

I want to wish you all a peaceful and restful Easter break and look forward to term three commencing on Monday 25th April 2022.

Yours sincerely



B A Heron

Principal

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