SPERRIN INTEGRATED COLLEGE MAGHERAFELT

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Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to you with a further update regarding the Covid-19 testing programme which is being led by the Department for Health and Social Care, the NI Department of Health and the Department of Education (NI). The programme aims to provide asymptomatic testing in schools, including Sperrin College for staff and has now been opened to pupils from all year groups (Year 8 – 14).

1. **CONSENT FOR LATERAL FLOW COVID-19 TESTING**
   To enable us to comply with our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation, we are required to obtain express consent for your child's personal information for participation in the testing programme.
   Taking part in testing is voluntary. There is no expectation or obligation to participate. However, should you want to be part of the testing programme, I have included a consent form which must be returned to the school upon your child's first day back. You can also withdraw your consent at any time. You can do this by writing to the Principal.
   If you are a parent of a child in Year 12 -14 and gave consent in the previous academic year, you must do so again.

2. **A GUIDE TO LATERAL FLOW TESTING INFORMATION**
   Prior to giving your consent, all parents/guardians are asked to fully read the leaflet provided. This leaflet and additional information are available on the school website with a link on how to complete the test. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly and I will endeavour to answer your query. This can be done by contacting the school office by telephone 028 7963 4177 or e-mail info@sperrin.magherafeltni.sch.uk .

3. **NEXT STEPS**
   If you chose to opt into the testing programme, please complete the consent form and return to the school upon your child's first day back. The school will then provide a familiarisation session for pupils on how to use the test kits.

4. **TEST KIT DISTRIBUTION AND TESTING DAYS**
   Test kits will be issued to all those who have given consent after a consent form has been submitted.
- Each box of tests contains 7 test kits.
- Sperrin College pupils and staff will test at home on **Wednesday** evening and **Sunday** evenings. This is important as you are required to leave at least 3 days between tests.

5. **REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES - RESULTS**
- If the test is Positive, you and your household must self-isolate and your child **does not** attend school. You must book a P.C.R Test (available at Covid-19 test centres).
- You will be required to inform the school (during term time), using the Covid-19 reporting form available on the school website.
- If the P.C.R Test is also positive your must continue to self-isolate for 10 days and inform the school (during term time).
- The school will follow-up with you to identify any close contacts for Track and Trace purposes.
- If the test is Negative, you can continue as normal. You **do not** need to inform us if a negative test result.
- If the test is **Void**, do another test, if that too is **Void** - report this to the school using the Covid-19 test reporting form on the school website. The school will report this to the NHS as the batch may be faulty.

6. **IF YOU FORGET TO DO THE TEST ON SUNDAY OR WEDNESDAY**
   - If you forget to complete the test on Sunday or Wednesday, please inform the school that you have missed a test day.
   - Complete the test on the next session.

7. **TEST PROGRAMME PHASE**

   - The testing programme will commence in August until further notice. Please note that I will communicate with parents if there are any changes regarding the test programme.

I would ask you to carefully consider inclusion in this programme as it's key aim is to identify asymptomatic individuals and mitigate against the spread of Covid-19 within our school and wider community.

Once again, I thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

B A Heron
Principal
B.Ed. (Hons)PQH(NI)M.Ed.