25 October 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

We are rapidly reaching the end of the first half of a very busy term and I want to write to update you on some important events this week and for the second part of term.

**Assessment; Pupil Progress and Achievement**

All pupils have now completed Assessment Point One (AP1). In the next part of term all pupils will self-reflect on their performance and set targets for the next assessment point.

Pupils will have assessment marks recorded in their learning logs. Parents are encouraged to discuss these grades with their child and promote high aspiration, high achievement and a strong work ethic as we enter the new term.

**Christmas Examinations and Mocks (Internal)**

Examinations for Years 8 -11 will take place in school on 29 November, 30November and 1 December 2017. Pupils will be provided with Revision Booklets which include Revision and a study guide.

**Year 10 –GCSE Options Process**

Examinations will take place on the same dates outlined above, however, the assessments for Year 10 will be conducted more formally in the Assembly Hall. Parents need to be fully aware of the importance of planning and pupils need thorough revision and preparation as the results will inform the Key Stage Four GCSE Options Process. Pupils are encouraged to start revision as early as possible and work hard to achieve successful outcomes.

**Year 12 Examinations - External GCSE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Examination** | **Dates** |
| Double Award Science (resits): | Wednesday 8November - Biology at 9:15  Thursday 9 November - Chemistry at 9:15  Friday 10 November - Physics at 9:15 |
| Single Award Science | Friday 10 November - Physics at 9:15 |
| Learning for Life and work | Friday 5 January - Personal Development |
| Mathematics | Monday 8 January Tier 2  Wednesday 10 January Tier 5 &6 |

A Mathematics booster day will take place on Friday 5 January – More details later

**Welcome Service Thursday 26 October 7pm**

On Thursday 26 October we are inviting all parents and families of Year 8 pupils to the Year 8 Welcome Service. This service marks the end of Induction and celebrates the work completed by our new Year 8 pupils. We are always trying to improve our pupil induction programme, therefore on the night parents will be asked to complete an Induction Questionnaire.

**Non-Uniform Day – Friday 27 October 2017**

There will be a Non-Uniform Day for all pupils on Friday 27 October 2017. The cost is £1. We are also holding a Disco for Year 8 and 9 in the School Assembly Hall during periods 6 & 7. The entrance fee is an additional £1.

**Health, Fitness and Physical Education**

All pupils at Sperrin are expected to fully engage in Physical Education class and pupils are encouraged to take part in the diverse and numerous extra-curricular sporting teams. Full P.E. kits are required for all lessons and sanctions will apply for pupils who wear non-uniform items.

Parents are asked to ensure P.E. staff are informed of any injuries/concussion their child may have, before P.E. lessons or sporting fixtures. I have enclosed a copy of the Concussion Advisory Leaflet from DENI for your information and encourage all parents and pupils to read and keep for reference.

**Nut product Free School**

As with all schools, pupils are NOT permitted to bring nuts or nut product to school as we have a number of pupils who suffer from severe nut allergies.

**Uniform Standards**

As the weather gets colder it is important that all pupils are reminded of the uniform standards.

* School Jumper – is a compulsory item of uniform and must be worn by all pupils. (No pupils should be wearing ‘Hoodies’ especially not to and from school).
* School scarves ONLY
* Undergarments should be white (no logos)

**Communication**

The school values the contribution of parents and seeks to keep open channels of communication, however, parents should be aware that all teachers, including Heads of Year have full teaching timetables. Year Heads and teachers will endeavour to respond to parents in a timely manner. Meetings can be prearranged on request by contacting the school office.

**Car Parking**

You will be aware that our school site at certain times in the afternoon (3:15-3:40) is very congested with cars taxis and buses. We have endeavoured to ease this situation by requesting that Sixth Form pupils do not park their cars in the turning circle on the drive way. This is for pupil safety. Last May I submitted a Minor Works application to DENI requesting modifications to the Avenue and Car Parking. The request has been accepted, however, it is unclear (due to school budgets and cut backs) when this work is likely to start. In the meantime, all users are asked to:

* Reduce driving speed to 5mph on the school Avenue.
* Sixth Formers are asked not to park at the turning circle. (Parking is available on Station Road – this is in line with our neighbouring school).
* Take extreme care when driving between 3:15 and 3:40pm especially when pupils are exiting from the school building. After half term, visibility will be reduced due to the time change, so extra care is needed in the winter months.

**School Fees Reminder**

Thank you to all parents/guardians who have made this payment. Those who have not made payment will be invoiced in November. The changes are:

* **School Pupil Fund**

Pupil Fund contribution **£30** for one child and **£40** per family if you have more than one child at the school

**Practical subjects**

**At Key Stage 3 (Years 8, 9 and 10)** **practical subjects cost is** **£30 per child**. Please note Ingredients and materials cannot be purchased without this contribution.

* **At Key Stage 4 (Years 11 and 12) practical subject cost per subject is £30**.

Please send in your cheques or cash to the school office payable to Sperrin integrated College

**Holiday and Term Time Dates.**

**Halloween Holidays:** Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November (inclusive).

**School opens** for all pupils on Monday 6 November 2017.

**Christmas Holidays**: Wednesday 20 December 12 noon finish

Thursday 21 December 2017 - Friday 5th January 2018 (Exams: Year 12 Maths only) in school

Monday 8 January 2018 – All pupils.

**Open Night**: Wednesday 24 January 2018 – School closes at 12noon for all pupils

**Parent /Teacher/pupil Meetings**: Pupils are to attend with their parent and school uniform to be worn by pupils.

**Thursday 25 January 2018**  - 09:00—11:00 **Year 8** - 11:30—13:00 **Year 11**

**Friday 26 January 2018** - 09:00 -11:00 **Year 9** - 11:30- 13:00 **Year 10**

**Friday 9 February 2018** - 09:00-11:00 **Year 12** - 11:30-13:00 **Year 13 & 14**

**No formal lessons take place on these dates. Pupils attend the meeting with their parents and go home after they take place.**

**February 2018 Half Term Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February (inclusive)**

**The Pearson Teaching Awards # Britain Classroom Hero’s.**

On Sunday Evening 29 November at 6:00pm on BBC 2 the Pearson Teaching Awards will be televised. As you are aware Miss McCloskey was nominated for Outstanding New Teacher of the Year. She has won a Silver Award, one of only four teachers in the UK. It was a star studded event held in Canary Warf in London. It has really put Sperrin College on the map for outstanding practice in Teaching and Learning across the UK and we are hugely proud of her achievements.

I hope you all have a restful half term, thank you for your continued support and I will see all pupils on Monday 6 November.

Yours sincerely

B A Heron

Principal