

30th June 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we draw to the end of another unprecedented academic year, I want to thank you as parents for working tirelessly to support your child and the school with the many and varied challenges facing us throughout the Pandemic.

As we plan ahead for August, I am looking forward to a fresh start in the new term. Whilst we have not yet been issued with guidance from the Department of Education and The Public Health Agency, it is clear that the measures currently in place to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19 are likely to be maintained. Therefore, pupils will still be required to adhere to our Health and Safety Measures and Covid-19 secure hygiene protocols. I will write again in August, providing parents and pupils with the detail of the procedures.

Academic Report

An academic report for years 8-11 is available on the Parent App. If you would like a paper copy, please request this via the school office no later than Thursday 8th July. I would ask that you take time to discuss the areas of strength and success as well as areas for improvement with your child.

Banding Changes: Year 8 into 9 ONLY

Sperrin College uses a data informed process to place pupils within the most appropriate ability band. The Banding Team have met and have analysed performance data. Only pupils who are moving ability bands from September 2021 will receive an additional communication with their report. If you do not receive a letter, your child's banded group remains unchanged.

GCSE Options: Year 10 ONLY

Year 10 pupils have an attached copy of their GCSE Subject courses which will start in September 2021.

Year 11 Pupils: Advanced Notice of GCSE Examinations in Term 1 2021

Parents and pupils are advised to be aware that English, Mathematics and Science GCSE examinations are scheduled for late November/early December 2021.

Year 11 Pupils: School Tie

Parents of pupils going into Year 11 should be aware that we are launching a new KS4 Tie. This is available to purchase from our official uniform suppliers, Sportique and Cuddy's, Magherafelt.

Restart Dates and School Calendar

I have enclosed a copy of the school calendar for the incoming academic year, which includes restart and induction sessions for every year group. Please note that this calendar is provisional and may be subject to change.

School Transport | Free School Meals | School Uniform | Physical Education Clothing Allowance

Parents are required to apply online at www.eani.org.uk to ascertain eligibility for financial help for their children.

School Uniform Changes

I wrote to all parents at the start of June to raise awareness of some modifications to our uniform. The letter detailing the changes is available on the school website www.sperrincollege.com however, I want to clearly express that we have no expectation that parents/guardians purchase new items of uniform, if existing items are still in good repair. We are keenly aware of the cost of purchasing uniforms, therefore it is our intention to phase in our modified uniform over the next 2 years, beginning with our new Year 8 intake. The new uniform is, of course, available to all pupils of any year group should you wish to purchase it during the summer months.

Parent Pay and School Charges from August 2021

It is our intention to run practical activities in the new school term (Home Economics | Design and Technology) therefore, we will be collecting the practical subject fee in August 2021. Parents are advised to pay the school fees before Monday 23rd August, using the Parent Pay account. I will provide an overview of school fees in the August communication.

Once again, I want to thank you for all your help and support across the academic year and wish you and your family a restful, safe and peaceful summer.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B.A. Heron". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line through the middle of the name.

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

Principal