

23rd September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Having reached the end of the induction phase of the new term, I want to thank you for your support in getting the year off to a relatively smooth start. As we move forward into the Autumn there are several issues I would like to highlight for your attention.

CONTRACT TRACING IN SCHOOLS

You will be aware that the Minister of Education has recently announced that when a positive case of COVID-19 is identified within a school community the Public Health Agency has responsibility for contract tracing and advice on self-isolation. However, we would ask parents to ensure they **continue to inform the school** if their child has tested positive with COVID-19. This can be done by filling in the online form (outside of school hours) or by simply telephoning the school.

TEACHING AND LEARNING PARENTAL GUIDANCE: COVID-19 RELATED ISSUES

To ensure continuity in Teaching and Learning (if a pupil tests positive for COVID-19 or must self-isolate) the school have developed a guide for parents on the expectations of work during an isolation period. Every subject area has new codes for Google classroom which have been distributed to all pupils. If a pupil experiences any difficulty logging into Google classroom from home or requires ICT support, parents are advised to contact the school as soon as possible and we will endeavour to resolve the matter.

LATERAL FLOW TEST KITS: REPLENISHMENT OF TESTING KITS

Lateral Flow Device testing has been offered to all staff and all pupils in Years 8 - 14 and those already in the testing programme will receive a new set of tests over the course of this week. All pupils are encouraged to take a LFD test twice per week to minimise the risk of spread of infection. Anyone who has not signed up for the testing programme can still do so. The explanatory LFD materials are available on the school website and a consent form can be requested by contacting the school office. The consent form should be returned to the school after which pupils will be issued with the testing kits. All the information on how to conduct the test is available on the school website: <http://www.sperrincollege.com/lateral-flow-testing.html>

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Over the past 5 years Sperrin College has been on a journey of growth, moving from a school population of 500 pupils to our current enrolment status of almost 600 pupils in September 2021. I want to thank all parents for supporting the development of our school in this the 40th anniversary

year of integrated education in Northern Ireland. Sperrin College will celebrate its 20-year anniversary in 2022, with planning already underway to mark this important event. To ensure the continued development and growth of the school and in response to the increase in enrolment numbers, the Board of Governors have appointed two additional members of the Senior Leadership Team.

The Senior Leadership Team are -

Principal: Mrs Heron *and* **Vice Principal:** Mrs Chambers

Senior Teacher: Mrs Monaghan *Head of Teaching and Learning*

Senior Teacher: Mr Small *Head of Assessment and Data*

New Senior Teacher: Mr Alexander *Head of Enrichment and Ethos*

New Senior Teacher: Miss McKenna *Head of Learning Support*

SPERRIN COLLEGE 'EXTRA' LAUNCH

Staff have been planning for the relaunch of extra-curricular activities which will commence over the coming weeks. Pupils will have the opportunity to engage with a variety of exciting opportunities outside the classroom, including Girls Netball, Gardening Club, Eco Club, Ignite (Scripture Union), Minecraft Club, Lego Club, Boys Rugby, Gaelic Football, Amnesty International Club, Debating Society and much, much more. Full details of extra-curricular activities will be shared with pupils in school and published on our website soon. Parents are asked to encourage their children to get involved and fully participate in life at Sperrin beyond the classroom.



PARENT TEACHER MEETING USING 'SCHOOLCLOUD' TECHNOLOGY

The school have invested in an online platform to hold Parent Teacher Consultations this year. The first of these virtual Parent Teacher Consultations will be held on **Thursday 30th September 2021** for Year 12 and Year 14 pupils. Parents are advised to book an online appointment on <https://sperrincollege.schoolcloud.co.uk> as soon as possible. Pupils are also required to attend the online meeting. **All other pupils are not required in school on the 30th September 2021.**

Advanced Notice for Parent Teacher Meetings: Pupils are NOT required in school on these dates.

YEAR 11: Friday 22nd October 2021 (AM)

YEARS 8 AND 9: 11th February 2021 Year 8 (AM) Year 9 (PM)

YEARS 10 AND 13: 16th March 2022 Year 10 (AM) Year 13 (PM)

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY: FRIDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2021

The first Staff development day of the year will be held on Friday 1st October 2021. Pupils are not required to attend school.

SCHOOL FORMAL

The school formal has been rescheduled for Thursday 21st October 2021 at Tullyglass House Hotel.

HALF-TERM HOLIDAYS: REMINDER

The half-term Holidays are scheduled for Monday 25th October -Friday 29th October (Inclusive).

CAR PARKING & PUPIL DROP OFF

Parents/Guardians are reminded that pupils should be dropped off and collected in the carpark on the school avenue. Parents/Guardians should not use the roundabout or layby at the front of the school building as this is for buses only and any additional traffic in this area leads to congestion.

UNIFORM STANDARDS

All pupils are expected to adhere to the high standards of uniform presentation as set out in the school policy. This includes specific rules regarding jewellery and coats. Please note that jewellery is not permitted at KS3 or 4. Coats should only be worn during cold or wet weather and should be plain black or navy and worn on the outside of the school blazer. No other additional items of clothing are permitted to be worn.

SCHOOL FEES AND USE OF PARENTPAY

As the school is working towards a 'cashless community', parents are advised to sign up to ParentPay. If you have not already done so, please ensure your fees for practical subjects are paid in full by the end of September.

If you require any additional information advice or support on any matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 7963 4177 or info@sperrin.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk.

Yours Sincerely,



B A Heron

Principal



PARENTAL COMMUNICATION

INFORMATION ON PROVISION OF SCHOOLWORK AT HOME

PUPILS OFF SCHOOL FOR NON-COVID REASONS (E.G FAMILY HOLIDAY/CELEBRATION OR OTHER NON-COVID RELATED ILLNESS)

- Work will not be provided unless under circumstances where the Head of Year deems it necessary. Pupils are responsible for Catch-up on return to school as per normal attendance policy.

PUPILS IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE COMMUNITY CONTACT (OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL) BY THE PHA AND TOLD TO STAY OFF AND GET TEST (1-2 DAYS)

- Pupils should access all their subject/class codes for google classroom in their year group pastoral classroom.
- Pupils should go to the 'Contingency Work' section in each subject's Google Classroom and work through the generic work there.
- Pupils should submit work to be reviewed by their teachers.

PUPIL OFF SCHOOL FOR 10 DAYS + FOR COVID RELATED REASONS BUT ARE UNWELL

- There is no expectation for pupils to complete work on google classroom until they are well enough to do so. Parents should advise the school via email to the info account of their child's ability to complete schoolwork

PUPIL OFF SCHOOL FOR 10 DAYS + FOR COVID RELATED REASONS (AND WELL ENOUGH TO DO WORK)

- KS3 Pupils will engage with contingency work on google classroom and should access the codes via their year group pastoral classroom. Each subject will have a folder of work that is labelled 'Contingency' work.
- KS4 pupils will have bespoke work set linked to what is being done in class - Google Meets to be used if deemed suitable. Teachers will communicate with pupils their expectations via the message facility on google classroom.
- KS5- will have bespoke work set linked to what is being done in class. In most cases KS5 pupils will be invited to attend their lessons via Google Meets. KS5 pupils should activate their google meets camera as per their timetabled class or by agreement with their teacher.