

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we approach half term, I want to update you on several important pieces of information.

PUPIL SUCCESS

Many congratulations to our various Netball teams on their fantastic performances during the past half term. Our Year 8 team have been especially successful and find themselves at the top of their league having been undefeated.

Congratulations also go to our U16 Gaelic Football squad, who made it to the U16 Bernageeha Cup Semi Final last week. Unfortunately, the match didn't go our way, but we are enormously proud of the boys and all that they have achieved.

We are always delighted to share in and celebrate the success of our pupils. Please feel free to share any news, or information regarding individual pupil success.

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Sperrin College will be closed to pupils from 13th February to 17th February inclusive.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent Teacher meetings will take place on Monday 20th February for Year 12, 13 & 14. **No other pupils are permitted to be in school.** Parents are invited to attend in person with their son/daughter in full school uniform. Please ensure that you have booked an appointment with your child's subject teachers via our SchoolCloud booking system.

- Year 12 PTM - 9:00am-12 noon
- Sixth Form PTM - 12:45pm-3:25pm

STRIKE ACTION

You will be aware from media reports that the teaching unions, NASUWT, INTO and UTU have announced their intention to call on their members to participate in strike action on Tuesday 21st February 2023. The unions have confirmed that action will take place from 12 midnight until 12 noon.

Parents/Guardians need to be aware of the following arrangements:

Sperrin College will be closed until 12 noon on Tuesday 21st February. A full risk assessment has been conducted and parents are advised that no pupil should be in school before 12 noon as supervision facilities will not be available, nor should any pupil travel to Magherafelt at the start of the normal school day to await school opening, as this would be unsafe to do so.

Transport - Bus operators have advised that it is not feasible to redesign the full school transport network (inclusive of Translink, and private operators) to bring children to school for 12 noon. Parents/Guardians are advised to anticipate

difficulties with transport and should therefore make alternative arrangements. Normal school bus services will operate at 3:25pm.

If you have any further queries regarding transport provision, please contact:

EA Transport Unit - 028 9598 5959

The school day will commence at 12 noon, all pupils in attendance should go to their form room for registration at this time. The normal timetable will resume at 12:07pm. Lunch time and all associated arrangements including free school meals will be unaffected.

ADMISSIONS

We are delighted that approximately 1000 people attended our Open Event on 18th & 19th January. The EA Admissions Portal is now open for Year 8 applications and will close on 23rd February. The Portal can be accessed via the link below:

www.eani.org.uk/admissions

We are pleased to let you know that DENI has authorised an increase in our admissions number from 100 to 120 from September 2023. This is a clear sign of confidence in the continued growth and success of Sperrin College.

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMINATIONS

Year 11 students will undertake a series of mock examinations from 14th - 22nd March. Students will attend normal classes in between examinations. A timetable for the examinations will be sent separately. It is important that Year 11 students take time to fully prepare themselves in advance of the mocks.

GROUNDS WORK

Please be advised that resurfacing work will shortly commence on the school avenue. We hope that any disruption to traffic will be minimal.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of the Sperrin College community a safe and restful half term break.

B Heron
Principal