

27 September 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Now that we have reached the end of the induction phase of the new term, I want to thank parents for their support in ensuring a smooth start to the New Academic Year.

I am delighted to welcome 133 new Year 8 pupils to the Sperrin College Community, moving the school enrolment to almost 700 pupils. I want to thank parents for their unwavering support which has enabled the school growth. This development is linked to the outstanding academic outcomes achieved by Year 12 and Year 14 pupils at GCSE and A Level. At GCSE we saw an outstanding 99.1% 5 A* - C pass rate, with 85% 5 A*-C including English and Mathematics. At A Level there was more success with 87% of students receiving 3 A*-C grades. We were thrilled to be able to acknowledge that success at our recent Prize Event.

Looking forward to the New Academic Year, I want to inform parents of some changes to staffing. Mr Nigel Small has been appointed as a second Vice Principal joining Mrs Chambers. Mrs Kellie-Marie Martin has left Sperrin College as she has been appointed as Vice Principal in Oakgrove Integrated College. We wish her every success in her new role. Due to this, there have been some changes in the Year Head Team. Please note the following:

1. **Head of Year 8:** Miss N Kelly
2. **Head of Year 9:** Miss L McCloskey
3. **Head of Year 10:** Miss E Flanagan
4. **Head of Year 11:** Mrs L Cummings
5. **Head of Year 12:** Mr S Elliott
6. **Head of Sixth Form:** Mrs R McBride

The school also welcomes two new permanent members of the teaching team. In the English Department, Mrs Hyndman and in Technology & Design and Engineering, Mr Diamond. We want to wish them every success in their career at Sperrin.

YEAR 8 PARENTS ONLY

As part of the induction process Year 8 parents will be invited to an online meeting with their child's Learning Tutor from week beginning 2 October 2023. This will provide an opportunity for parents of Year 8 pupils to discuss any issues that may have arisen over the induction period. Year 8 parents will be sent a separate letter regarding dates, login details and booking information.

WEBINARS – TEACHING & LEARNING AND STUDY SKILLS

Parents will shortly be able to view two webinars regarding Teaching & Learning and Study Skills. These will be launched via Parent App and can be viewed at a time convenient to parents.

SPERRIN COLLEGE 'EXTRA' LAUNCH

Our extracurricular programme was launched with pupils last week. Pupils will have the opportunity to engage with a variety of exciting activities outside the classroom, including Netball, Gardening Club, Ignite (Scripture Union), Boys Rugby, Gaelic Football, Debating Society, Baking Club, Drama Club and much, much more. Full details of our extracurricular activities are below. Parents are asked to encourage their children to get involved and fully participate in life at Sperrin beyond the classroom.



TERM 1



2023

MONDAY

LIBRARY QUIET TIME
Junior & Senior Lunch

GARDENING CLUB
Teacher: Mrs Mulholland
Who: Year 9
Where: Greenhouse
When: Junior Lunch
Numbers Limited

CODING CLUB
Teacher: Mrs Cummings
Who: KS3
Where: Mrs Cummings Room
When: Junior Lunch
Sign Up Required

FRENCH CLUB
Teacher: Mrs Carron
Who: KS3
Where: Languages Dept
When: Junior Lunch

SENIOR ART CLUB
Teacher: JMcC, SD, JA
Who: KS4 & 5
Where: Art Dept
When: Senior Lunch
Sign Up Only

U16 GIRLS GAELIC FOOTBALL
Teacher: Miss Murray
Who: KS3 & KS4 Girls
Where: Pitch
When: After School

TUESDAY

LIBRARY QUIET TIME
Junior & Senior Lunch

CAMOGIE
Teacher: Mr Elliott & Mrs McBride
Who: KS3 Girls
Where: Pitch
When: Junior Lunch

ABP ANGUS YOUTH CHALLENGE
Teacher: Mrs Mulholland
Who: KS4
Where: 4-5
When: Senior Lunch
Sign Up Required

KS3 RUGBY
Teacher: Mr Shaw
Who: KS3 Boys
Where: Pitch
When: Tuesday After School

KS4 & 5 BOYS GAELIC FOOTBALL
Teacher: Mr Lynn
Who: KS4 Boys
Where: Pitch
When: After School

NETBALL KS3
Teacher: Miss Wilson
Who: KS3 Girls
Where: Sports Hall
When: After School

POLITICS IN ACTION
Teacher: Miss Dempster
Who: KS4 & 5
Where: Miss Dempster's Room
When: After School 3:40-5pm

WEDNESDAY

LIBRARY QUIET TIME
Junior & Senior Lunch

DRAMA CLUB
Teacher: Mrs McCloskey & Mrs Hyndman
Who: Year 8
Where: Drama Studio
When: Junior Lunch Week 2
SIGN UP REQUIRED

CREATIVE WRITING
Teacher: Miss Kelly
Who: KS3
Where: Room 4-4
When: Junior Lunch Week 1

INKTOBER
Teacher: Miss McCarter
Who: Year 10
Where: Room 2-1
When: Junior Lunch - October

ENGINEERING CLUB
Teacher: Mr Shaw
Who: KS4
Where: TGD
When: Senior Lunch
SIGN UP REQUIRED

NETBALL KS4
Teacher: Miss Wilson
Who: KS4 Girls
Where: Sports Hall
When: Senior Lunch

GREENPOWER CAR CLUB
Teacher: Mr Shaw
Who: KS3 & 4
Where: TGD
When: After School
SIGN UP REQUIRED

THURSDAY

LIBRARY QUIET TIME
Junior Lunch Only

SENIOR ART CLUB
Teacher: JMcC, SD, JA
Who: KS4 & 5
Where: Room 2-1
When: Senior Lunch
Sign Up Only

SENIOR DEBATING SOCIETY
Teacher: Miss Dempster
Who: KS4/5
Where: Room 4-6
When: 1:05pm

KS4 BADMINTON
Teacher: Mrs Wilson
Who: KS4
Where: Sports Hall
When: Senior Lunch
Sign Up Only

KS4 RUGBY
Teacher: Mr Lynn
Who: KS4 Boys
Where: Pitch
When: After School

KS3 BOYS GAELIC FOOTBALL
Teacher: Mr Lynn
Who: KS3 Boys
Where: Pitch
When: After School

GREAT SPERRIN BAKING CLUB
Teacher: Mrs Walls
Who: KS3
Where: HE
When: After School
SIGN UP REQUIRED

FRIDAY

LIBRARY QUIET TIME
Junior Lunch Only

GAMES CLUB
Teacher: Mrs Hyndman
Who: Year 8
Where: 4-3
When: Junior Lunch Week 1

IGNITE (SCRIPTURE UNION)
Teacher: AG, JP, CF, JA
Who: KS3
Where: Art Dept
When: Junior Lunch - Starting October

KNIT & NATTER
Teacher: Mrs Mulholland
Who: KS4 & 5
Where: Room 4-5
When: Senior Lunch



STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY - FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2023

The first staff development day of the year will be held on Friday 29 September 2023. Pupils are not required to attend school.

SCHOOL FORMAL

The school formal has been scheduled for Thursday 28 September 2023 at The Manor House Hotel Kilrea.

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION

I have attached information from the Department of Education with regards to RSE. I encourage all parents to read this carefully.

http://www.sperrincollege.com/uploads/5/3/6/6/53668309/rse_information_for_parents_september_2023.pdf

HALF-TERM HOLIDAYS - REMINDER

The half-term Holidays are scheduled for Monday 30 October - Friday 3 November (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, make-up, hair colourants 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 (including 'hoodie' type clothing).

HOUSE BADGES AND SCHOOL BEANIES

House badges and school beanies are available to purchase via ParentPay and can be collected from the school office.

SCHOOL FEES AND USE OF PARENTPAY

Sperrin College is a 'cashless community', and parents are required 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 1 October 2023.

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,

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 letter 'H'.

B A Heron

Principal

B.Ed (Hons) PQH (NI) M.Ed. AOEA