

30<sup>th</sup> June 2022

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 year.

As we plan ahead for August, I am looking forward to the new term and the start of our twentieth anniversary celebrations which will include our school show, The Little Mermaid staged on 23<sup>rd</sup> October-25<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

### 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 7th 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.

### Progress Tests in English and Mathematics Scores

Your son/daughter's summer report includes Standard Age Scores (SAS) for Progress Tests in English and Mathematics completed during summer examination week. These tests provide data for the English and Mathematics departments about the strengths and areas for development of individual pupils and groups. PTE year-on-year provides a reliable test of pupils' attainment in the core English skills: phonics, reading, spelling, grammar, punctuation and comprehension while PTM shows progress in skills with number, algebra, handling data and shape, space and measure.

PTE and PTM are standardised tests and the scores show how a pupil is performing against the national average of 100. The table below can be used as reference when interpreting the SAS for your son/daughter.

| Standard Age Score (SAS) | Description   |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| 127 and above            | Very High     |
| 112-126                  | Above Average |
| 89-111                   | Average       |
| 74-88                    | Below Average |
| 73 and below             | Very Low      |

### Banding Changes, name changes for band groups and mixed ability form groups

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 2022 will receive an additional communication. If you do not receive a letter, your child's banded group remains unchanged. Banded groups however, will be coded differently on your child's time table from September. G-Will still indicate placement in the Grammar band, with all other banded groups coded using a new letter code A. (representing academic bands) The new coded ability bands are detailed below. All form classes will also be reconfigured into mix-ability groups, reverting to our pre-COVID model. Therefore, all pupils may have a new form teacher and form class from September 2022.

## Banded Group Name

Form Class: Mixed Ability Groups

| Original Class Banding Code | Revised Class Banding Code   |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| G                           | G-Grammar Band (No change)   |
| T                           | A1                           |
| M                           | A2 /A3                       |
| S                           | A4                           |
| P                           | P-Practical Band (No change) |

## GCSE Options Year 10 ONLY

A final copy of pupils GCSE Subject offer will be sent to parents in early August. If there are any outstanding issues, parents are asked to contact school from week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> August when any remaining matters can be addressed prior to the new term.

## Year 11 GCSE Modular Results

Results for modular examinations will be available for collection on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022** from 9.30 at the school office. A copy of the results will also be sent via written communication to all parents and pupils.

## 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.

## Parent teacher Meetings

Following feedback from parents in our recent survey, the school will operate a hybrid model for parent teacher meetings in the new academic year. This will mean that some Parent teacher meetings will be held face to face and others will be conducted using the communication platform Schoolcloud. The August parental communication will detail the parent/teacher meeting dates and the meeting model used. (Face-to-Face or Schoolcloud)

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

Parents are required to apply online at [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk) to ascertain eligibility for financial help for their children's uniform , transport and school meals. Parents are strongly advised to do this as soon as possible and not leave it until August as this may result in the delay with processing applications.

## Uniform Exchange and Recycling Scheme

I have also enclosed a letter to make you aware of a new initiative being run by the College this summer. Conscious of our commitment to the environment and the importance of recycling and considering the current cost of living crisis we are launching a Uniform Recycling Scheme. Details of the scheme are enclosed in the letter. I would really encourage everyone to get involved in this worthwhile scheme.

## Parent Pay and School Charges

Payment for practical activities can be made from 1<sup>ST</sup> August 2022. (Home Economics | Design and Technology) Parents are advised to pay the school fees before **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August**, using the Parent Pay account. Fees and school charges have not increased from last year.

## Communication Summer 2022

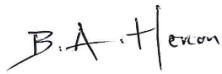
Parents are advised that teaching staff will return after the summer break on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022 and will therefore not be available over the summer to respond to communication until this date.

## Fond Farewell

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June, the school bid a fond farewell to our founding teacher and Senior leader Mrs Amanda Monaghan, who is taking up a post in the Education Authority. I want to pay a special tribute to Mrs Monaghan for her tireless work in the establishment and development of the school. We wish her every success in her new role.

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



B A Heron

Principal

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