



**GUIDANCE FOR
PARENTS AND PUPILS**

**REMOTE LEARNING
TERM 2**

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2021



SPERRIN
INTEGRATED COLLEGE
MAGHERAFELT



"I can't see a way through,"
said the boy
"Can you see your next step?"

"Yes"
"Just take that," said
the horse

PURSuing EXCELLENCE TOGETHER
ONE STEP AT A TIME



SPERRIN
INTEGRATED COLLEGE
MAGHERAFELT

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The start of Term 2 is different than we had hoped and plans have changed on an almost daily basis since the end of December. I am writing to you to confirm arrangements for the coming weeks.

REMOTE LEARNING

Remote learning will begin for **ALL pupils, Year 8 - Year 14 on Thursday 7th January**. Pupils should engage with learning activities via Google Classroom. They should follow their timetable, beginning on **Thursday Week 1**. Staff will be monitoring pupil engagement online and follow up should be expected.

Further details regarding remote learning can be found later in this document, in the section entitled '**Making the Most of Remote Learning**'.

A NEW VENTURE - GOOGLE MEET

Pupil well-being is our top priority and we feel that they should have a good start to each day. Therefore, on a trial basis, we are implementing a '**check-in**' with pupils at 9:00 each morning. Pupils will connect with their Learning Tutor and the rest of their registration group through video call via a platform called '**Google Meet**'. KS3 pupils will find a link for this in their English Google Classrooms. Years 11-14 will have access to this via their Pastoral Google Classrooms.

PLEASE NOTE - Only Year 11-14 students will engage with Google Meet during this week. We will inform you when Year 8, 9 and 10 should begin to engage.

We wish to emphasise that this is new to all of us and that **we anticipate teething problems and technical difficulties**, but please work with us.

A guide to **protocols and rules for using Google Meet** can be found at the end of this document, please ensure that you and your child are familiar with this. A video on how to use Google Meet will also be available on our website and social media shortly.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Please refer to our website for technical guidance. If you have difficulties that you are unable to resolve yourself, please phone the school office between 9am and 4pm. Outside of these hours, please complete the appropriate technical support form on our website and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Direct payments are being made to families entitled to free school meals. No service is being provided in school.

EXAMINATIONS

This afternoon the NI Executive announced that all GCSE and A Level Examinations have been cancelled, including modules scheduled for next week. Please be aware that at this stage BTEC exams are still due to take place.

I understand the mixed emotions that this announcement brings. Indeed, questions about how grades will be awarded are to the forefront of all our minds. We are still waiting for complete clarity from the NI Executive and from Exam Boards. While we wait, we will take one step at a time. The first step, for all students who were due to sit exams this year is to keep engaging with online learning. The work you have done to date and the work that you will do over the coming weeks and months will form the basis of your future grade.

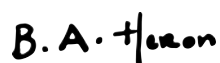
Year 12 students who were due to engage in revision sessions should now revert to following their normal timetable.

In this difficult time of lock down please get in touch either via email or through the school office if you need help with remote learning.

Please also follow our website and social media platforms as we share resources and information that may be of use to you.

We are keenly aware of the challenges that parents and pupils face in remote learning. Please be assured that we are understanding of your circumstances. **Do the best that you can and we can ask no more.**

Best wishes,



B A Heron
Principal

MAKING THE MOST OF REMOTE LEARNING

Follow your timetable, beginning with Thursday Week 1, to help you structure which subject to do and when

Begin work from 9:15

Do the work for the subjects as they appear each day **on your timetable**

Look for a Topic under Classwork called January 2021

Spend no longer than 45 minutes working on individual subjects, submit the work and then move to the next period on your timetable

Due dates will be in line with **the day you have each subject**

Teachers will record on SIMs when work is not submitted and follow up will occur

If you have difficulty completing all the work in the recommended time frame, submit the work and send the teacher a message to let them know you tried your best

Make sure to take your normal break and lunchtime and also take some exercise each day

Do your best - that's all we can ask

MAKING THE MOST OF REMOTE LEARNING

Follow your timetable, beginning with Thursday Week 1, to help you structure which subject to do and when

Begin work from 9:15

Watch out for posts regarding the possibility of live Google Meets lessons (these may take place during the normal timetabled lessons)

At KS5, **use study periods to catch up on any work** or revise over notes

Do the work for the subjects as they appear each day on your timetable

Spend **at least** the time allocated for that subject, that day (this may be a double)

Be aware that, at KS4 and KS5, there may also be homework set

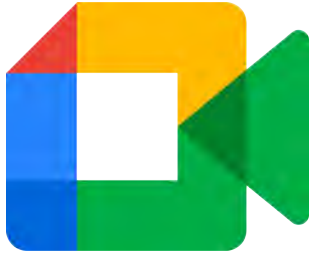
Meet the due dates set by your teacher

Teachers will record on SIMs when work is not submitted and **follow up will occur**

If you have genuine difficulty completing all the work for the due date set, communicate with your teacher to let him/her know.

Make sure to take your normal break and lunchtime and also take some exercise each day

Do your best!



GUIDANCE AND PROTOCOL IN USING GOOGLE MEET

Teachers may choose to use 'Google Meet' for live lessons with some classes. In line with our Remote Learning policy, parents and students should adhere to the following:

- Pupils should be mindful of their own privacy and that of their family. It is important to consider what is visible in the background from your family home. It is advised that pupils find a suitable location in the household which ensures privacy is maintained.
- In order to protect the privacy of other students, and the teacher, pupils should ensure that the lesson is **only** visible and audible to themselves. It is recommended that earphones are used. No other members of the family should be able to see or hear the lesson.
- For privacy reasons, pupils are not permitted to take screenshots or recordings of the lessons. Any breach of this will be taken very seriously.
- Pupils should wear suitable clothing.
- For Safe Guarding purposes Google Meet is not considered an appropriate forum for parents to communicate with teachers.
- Pupils should follow normal behavioural expectations in terms of the formality with which they communicate with their peer and teachers. In the same way as it is policy in school, pupils should not be text messaging or using their phone during the lesson. Pupils should behave online in the same way they are expected to behave in class.
- Unfortunately any deviation from these rules will result in the teacher ending the lesson for all students.