

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you and your family are keeping safe and have enjoyed a restful break over the summer period. I am very much looking forward to seeing all pupils return to school over the next few weeks, however, as we draw closer to the start of new academic year, I want to highlight several matters to ensure a smooth and safe transition to school life.

### **COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

The Health and Safety of everyone within our school community is paramount and we ask that pupils and parents adhere strictly to the following procedures.

### **COVID-19 SYMPTOMS**

Parents are required to monitor their child's health and keep them at home if they are unwell. Any pupil who becomes symptomatic at school will be sent home and parents will be asked to get a PCR test. Siblings who reside in the same household will also be sent home. Subject to PHA advice, pupils will be permitted to return to school only when a negative result is reported. The most up-to-date advice on COVID-19 symptoms can be found on the PHA website: <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net>

Pupils are required to practice good respiratory hygiene by following the '*catch it, kill it, bin it*' approach.

Please take note of the recent letter from the Minister of Education (found on our website) with respect to the above.

### **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

Social distancing remains a key feature to mitigate the risks of virus transmission. Social distancing between pupils has been relaxed but remains in place between adults at 2 metres and as far as possible between pupils. In addition, the school will continue to operate designated entry and exit points and Year Group recreational zoning at break and lunch time. These are as follows:

### **PUPIL ENTRY AND EXIT POINTS**

- Staff Carpark side: KS3 ONLY
- Assembly Hall side: KS4 and Sixth Form

### **STAGGERED EXIT TIMES:**

- KS3: 3.20pm
- KS4 and Sixth Form: 3.25pm

### **HAND-HYGIENE AND ENHANCED CLEANING**

On arrival to school all pupils are required to wash their hands and are encouraged to frequently handwash throughout the school day. High-touch surfaces such as desks will be cleaned throughout the day.

### **FACE-COVERINGS**

It is recommended that all post-primary pupils wear a face-covering at all times when inside our school buildings, including classrooms, corridors, and confined communal spaces such as the toilet areas. The Northern Ireland Executive has agreed that this issue will apply until 8<sup>th</sup> October. It is mandatory for all post-primary school age pupils to wear a face covering on public transport. If a pupil has a reasonable exemption from wearing face covering, the Face Covering Exemption Form **MUST** be completed by a parent **before Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**.

<http://www.sperrincollege.com/medical-exemption-form.html>

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Educational settings are no longer required to operate a system of formal protective bubbles, however, there is a need for schools to continue to support effective contact tracing, therefore strict seating plans will be in place for all classes within our school. Practical subject delivery in specialist rooms will resume. In several weeks, pupils will be informed of the sport and extra-curricular activities open to them in term one.

## **GOOGLE CLASSROOM**

The use of google classroom will remain a significant teaching tool within the College. Every pupil will be registered into their subject Google Classrooms during the first two weeks. Pupils will be required to use the platform to submit homework and other assignments as required. The continued use and familiarisation of Google Classroom will enable a smooth transition to remote learning if a pupil or cohort is required to self-isolate.

## **EQUIPMENT AND STATIONERY**

All pupils must bring their own stationery (pens, pencils, ruler, eraser, glue stick and calculator etc) as there will be no sharing of equipment permitted. A comprehensive list of equipment and stationery needed is available on our website.

## **LATERAL FLOW DEVICE TESTING (LFD)**

Lateral Flow Device testing will be offered to all staff and all pupils in Years 8 - 14 from September 2021. All pupils are encouraged to take an LFD test twice per week to minimise the risk of spread of infection. Please refer to the associated LFD materials and complete the consent form included. The consent form should be returned upon your child's first day of 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 FEES USING PARENT PAY & PARENT COMMUNICATION**

Parents are asked to use 'ParentPay' to pay for school meals, the practical subject fees, and the pupil fund. The charges are as follows:

### **Practical subject charges:**

*KS3 HE*: £15

*KS3 T&D*: £15

*KS3 Art Pack*: £4

*KS4 HE* (if applicable): £20

KS4 T&D (if applicable): £20

### School Fees Reminder

If you have not already paid, fees are as follows -

£30 per pupil or £40 per family

The school has been working to create a paperless communication system. All parents are advised to sign-up to the Parent App. Information and guides relating to the Parent App and Parent Pay can be found on:

<http://www.sperrincollege.com/parents.html>

### SCHOOL RULES AND REGULATIONS

All pupils are expected to adhere to the school Code of Conduct including the Uniform Policy. Parents and pupils are asked to ensure that full school uniform is worn in line with the school policy. The details of which are available on our website.

### VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL - INCLUDING PARENTAL MEETINGS

Only essential visitors with prior appointments will be permitted into the school building. Parents and other visitors should telephone the school and speak to the relevant member of staff. Parents are advised that all our staff have teaching timetables and will endeavour to respond as soon as practically possible.

### REMINDER OF PUPIL RETURN DATES:

- Tuesday 31st August - Year 8 ONLY (9am-2pm)
- Wednesday 1st September - Year 13 ONLY (9am-2pm)
- Thursday 2nd September - Year 12 ONLY (full day)
- Friday 3rd September - Year 8 & Year 13 @ The Jungle. Year 11 in school (full day)
  
- **Monday 6th September - ALL YEAR GROUPS** return to school.

It is my hope that we will be able to make a great start to this new academic year as we approach the teaching and learning for our young people with 'cautious optimism'. At Sperrin College our school community has always worked well together and supported each other, and I know this will continue in the new term.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 7963 4177 or [info@sperrin.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@sperrin.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk).

Yours Sincerely,



B A Heron

Principal