

Staff Headlines

26th February 2021

We hope you managed to take some time to rest and enjoy a well-earned half term break. Whilst many things are still changing in our workplaces and in schools, in the coming weeks we will continue to prioritise facilitating and supporting Education through Covid as new decisions are made.

Together we will continue to work to improve our services and to work to ensure a safe and successful environment for all. Thank you all for your ongoing support and dedication to support the education and wellbeing of all our children and young people.

Northern Ireland Executive Regulations Update

The lockdown restrictions currently in place to help reduce the spread of coronavirus and to help manage the pressures on our health and social care system, have been extended until 1st April 2021.

A review of these restrictions is due to take place on 18th March 2021.

Further information can be found on the NI Direct website [here](#).

Phased return of pupils to start in March

Pre-school, nursery and primary school pupils in P1 to P3 will return to full-time face-to-face teaching from 8th March 2021.

Education Minister Peter Weir also said that students in years 12 to 14, who will be awarded qualifications this summer will return to full-time face-to-face teaching with effect from 22nd March 2021.

To enable the return of years 12 to 14, remote learning will resume for pre-school/nursery children and pupils in P1 to 3 for the week beginning 22nd March until the start of the Easter holidays.

Pre-school, nursery and primary school pupils in P1 to P3 will then return to full-time face-to-face teaching after the Easter holidays along with years 12-14.

In relation to the provision of youth services, the Minister said he would bring a further paper to the Executive soon to provide clarity to the service.

Department of Education officials will engage with practitioners and unions over the next week to discuss and prepare for the phased return. You can read full details of this announcement from the Department of Education [here](#).

PHASED RETURN OF PUPILS TO START IN MARCH



COVID-19 NI EXECUTIVE RESTRICTIONS AND GUIDELINES



The following measures will be in place until 1 April 2021 (reviewed on 18 March 2021)

 Stay at home, protect the health service and save lives	 Work from home unless unable to do so	 Only leave your home for essential reasons	 No mixing of households in private dwellings or gardens	 One bubble can be formed with one other household	 No overnight stays away from your home
 Outdoor gatherings limited to 10 people from a maximum of 2 households*	 Outdoor exercise with own household or with one person from another household	 Exercise in your local area	 Minimise the time you spend outside your home	 Phased return to face-to-face teaching from 8 March. Special schools open	 Childcare open
 All tourism accommodation closed	 All hospitality closed	 Takeaway services open until 11pm	 Off sales closed at 8pm	 Non-essential retail closed. Click and collect for baby equipment; clothing; footwear and electrical goods*	 Outdoor and indoor visitor attractions closed
 Public parks and outdoor play areas open	 Gyms, swimming pools, indoor sport and exercise facilities closed	 Close contact services closed	 Places of worship online services	 Weddings and civil partnerships limited to 25 people. Receptions not allowed	 Funerals limited to 25 people

Exemptions may apply. Get up-to-date advice at: nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus

*From 8 March

WE ALL MUST DO IT TO GET THROUGH IT



Employee Survey (for corporate staff only)

Many of us have had to change our ways of working due to COVID-19. It is important that we continue to prioritise our health and wellbeing and to learn from each other to improve our ways of working in the future.

We have designed a short survey to capture your views to help shape how we can continue to best support staff at this time.

If you would like to take part, you can access the survey by [clicking here](#).

Step Up to Spring: 30 Day Step Challenge

Step-Up to Spring! Time to come out of winter hibernation, SHAKE-IT-OFF and get a SKIP back in your STEP.

To help us re-energise and get motivated for the day ahead, our Health and Wellbeing Team are excited to announce 'Step Up to Spring', a 30 Day Re-Energise Step Challenge to help boost our energy levels and improve our long-term wellbeing.

Learn more here: [30 Day Re-Energise STEP Challenge](#)

Our challenge begins on 1st March 2021 and lasts for 30 days. The challenge is to see how many steps it takes to circumnavigate the globe. You will be provided with new destinations each week.

Gather your teams of three people and register your team name, list of team members and email addresses for all with: ryancunningham5@hotmail.com

When it's finally time to dust off your suitcase and start travelling again you'll be in tip-top shape! Good Luck! Happy travelling!

Post-Primary Admissions - Bulk emails & website usage

The Post-Primary admissions process takes place online for the first time this year. It opens on Monday 1st March at 12 noon.

We are expecting a large volume of people to visit our website and for traffic to be at its busiest in the initial few days and we would encourage staff to consider this and only visit the website when necessary.

To maximise server capacity we would ask that any corporate Services who are planning to issue any bulk emails on Monday, to please check with IT first or consider sending the emails on a different date.

Also, for any EA staff that will be applying for a post-primary place we ask that you please DO NOT use your EA email address when making your application as the system will not allow you to do so.

Thank you all for your co-operation.



ONE WEEK TO GO
Post-Primary Admissions
will take place online this year
The Online Portal will open on
1 March 2021

Reminder - Safeguarding & Child Protection Training, Level 3

(The below information is relevant to corporate staff only. This does not apply to Youth Services who partake in a separate training programme)

Level 3 Safeguarding and Child Protection Training is now available for relevant staff. Line managers should identify which staff members need to attend this training. Staff involved in child protection processes, including child protection case conferences should attend. Line managers who will take the lead in managing allegations relating to staff should also attend.

You must have completed Level 1 and Level 2 before completing this training. Remember, Child Protection is everyone's responsibility.

Please [click here](#) to book a place.

We want to
hear from you

If you have any news or stories that you would like to be considered for inclusion in an upcoming edition of Staff Headlines, email comms@eani.org.uk

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