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CIRCULAR 2021-22 TL066

To: Parents/Guardians of all enrolled students
Cc: Bursar

April 2022

Post Easter Break Information

With the College finishing tomorrow for the Easter break it is important to pass on the information below relating to when we return on Monday 25th April. This information has been sent through to all schools by the Education Authority and Department of Education.

Transport strike

The Education Authority (EA) has been notified by Translink that their bus drivers who are members of the Unite and GMB trade unions have voted to take industrial action in relation to a pay offer from Translink.

Translink are continuing to engage with Trade Unions to avert the action, however, if it does proceed it would result in **all** Translink bus services being withdrawn from Monday 25th April to Sunday 1st May and Friday 6th May (one day).

Pupils who use any Translink bus service for any element of their journey are likely to be impacted and parents should make other transport arrangements for these dates.

This includes pupils who connect with Translink buses using an EA yellow bus. As EA cannot guarantee pupils could complete their journey to and from school, even if the EA yellow bus is running, parents should make alternative arrangements for the whole of their child's journey.

Parents should follow Translink's social media channels and website over the coming weeks and start to plan now for their alternative transport arrangements.

Translink train services will not be affected by the industrial action.

We also encourage parents to check the EA website for regular updates and details of any planned disruption at: www.eani.org.uk/industrialactionupdates and also EA social media channels.

Updated COVID 19 guidance

When we return after the Easter break there will be two main changes to guidance issued to schools by the Department of Education:

1. After schools return from the Easter break it will no longer be recommended in guidance that post-primary pupils should wear a face covering in corridors and communal areas
2. The withdrawal of the lateral flow testing programme in mainstream schools, from the Easter break

Stephen Taylor
Principal

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