

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am pleased to see our young people in the senior phase taking advantage of the many supports for additional study, and working well with teachers to ensure they are prepared for their forthcoming prelim examinations and assessments. We wish our pupils well in these over the next few weeks. Similarly our young people in S1-3 are at an important phase of the education, making further progress through the broad, general education and thinking about their next steps in learning. We look forward to a busy last few weeks of term. Please see a number of updates below :

#### Retirements

Morag McKenzie, our long-standing colleague in the school office, will retire from Braes at the end of term. Morag has been an exceptional servant to Braes, and will be known to many of our young people for her kindness towards and support of them. Similarly, colleagues will be sad to see Morag leave due to her support over so many years. However we all wish Morag well in her retirement and are very grateful for her contribution to Braes.

Elena Farini-Hudson, our similarly long-standing Senior Technician, is also retiring at the end of the term. Elena has been a pivotal figure in our Technician team, and the Science faculty in particular. Young people will know Elena from her important role in ensuring their learning in Science is well supported, while staff across the school have always appreciated Elena's positive commitment to our school. Elena will also be missed, and we wish her well in retirement.

#### Winter Plan

At this time of year, schools across Falkirk review their Winter Plan, thinking about how we respond to times of extreme weather to minimise any impact on our service. Should this plan come into operation at any point we will of course ensure parents/carers and young people are kept well informed about any changes to normal arrangements. This will be mainly through the Groupcall messaging system and the school website.

#### Festive Events

There are a number of events planned in the run-up to the end of term. These include the 'Festive-Up your Uniform Day' on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December. This will be a normal working day for pupils, who should still wear their normal uniform. However they are welcome to make their uniform a little more festive, either with Christmas Jumpers, tinsel etc. We would ask that young people, if they are able, bring in items for our Braes Pantry on this day. These will be redistributed to Braes families and young people in need. Any items for the Braes Pantry can be handed in at reception. Longer-lasting foods and/or toiletries would be very much appreciated as donations. Many thanks for any support you can offer for this.

Other events include :

Christmas Concert – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm

Christmas Cup for S1-3 pupils – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December during the school day

Christmas Ceilidh for S4-6 pupils – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm

Staff Panto – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December during the school day

School closes for the holidays at 12.30pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. School buses will arrive to collect pupils at 12.30pm.

I hope all Braes families are doing well just now and we look forward to seeing our young people enjoying a positive and productive remainder of term.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone

