

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope all Braes families are doing well just now. Please see an update on a number of matters below:

### Uniform

I would thank all parents/carers for your ongoing support of your young person(s) in wearing appropriate school uniform. As a reminder school uniform consists of a school shirt, school tie, school blazer, school trousers/skirt/plain black leggings and school jumper/cardigan. As we are into the warmer months young people may choose to wear plain black shorts. We have a well-stocked Uniform Recycling Service, either available at reception or by contacting Friends at Braes at [friendsatbraeshigh@gmail.com](mailto:friendsatbraeshigh@gmail.com).

### Friends at Braes

A very productive meeting of Friends at Braes, our parent-led fundraising group, took place this week with staff, pupils and parents/carers working well together to provide funding for a range of pupil activities and clubs. The next meeting takes place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm. Any parent/carers who would like to be involved is welcome to come along, or to email [friendsatbraeshigh@gmail.com](mailto:friendsatbraeshigh@gmail.com).

### Parent Council

The next meeting of our Parent Council takes place next week on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in the school library. If you would like to come along please come to the school reception before 7pm or email [braeshigh.parentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:braeshigh.parentcouncil@gmail.com). Discussion will focus on pupil achievements in Literacy and Numeracy, and what our young people move into on leaving school.

### STEM Recognition

We were pleased to hear this week that the work of young people, staff, parents/carers and our wider community in promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) activities and learning has been recognised by being shortlisted for the UK Times Educational Supplement Awards (TES). For this award TES have shortlisted 'STEM at Braes' due to the school's

*"successful and comprehensive approach to STEM education, strongly emphasising pupil leadership, equity and real-world application. Success is demonstrated through high learner engagement and uptake in diverse STEM pathways, strong attainment rates exceeding national averages and a 98% progression rate into positive destinations. The school has received external recognition, including Digital Schools Awards and success in national competitions.*

*A key differentiator is the profound focus on pupil voice, with Junior and Senior STEM Leaders actively shaping and delivering learning. These young leaders run workshops, lead primary school transition projects, engage in international collaborations and mentor peers, creating a unique peer-led educational model.*

*The program actively addresses equity and inclusion, implementing targeted initiatives like "Girls into STEM" and the "Onwards and Upwards" pupil equity programme to break down barriers for underrepresented groups, particularly girls and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. This is supported by showcasing diverse role models and ensuring accessible, hands-on learning experiences.*

*Underpinned by the school's ethos, to build respect and earn success, and coordinated by a STEM Strategic Leadership Group, the initiative collaborates closely with primary schools and external partners. This holistic approach has enhanced learning quality, boosted attainment and aspiration as well as cultivated an inclusive environment where learners feel empowered and actively lead their STEM community".*

We are very proud of the efforts all in achieving this recognition, and in particular the way in which our pupils lead in this area.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone

