

Prepare to Pass @Braes



Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been good to see our young people making progress in their senior phase courses as we begin this new session. Although our school values achievement of young people in every sense, there is no doubt of the importance of ensuring pupils are well supported when studying for National Qualifications in S4-6. For some time, Braes pupils have attained and achieved at a very high level in these qualifications. Our message to our current senior phase learners in assemblies so far this session, has been that there is no reason that they cannot emulate those achievements from previous years and that we have high confidence in their ability to fulfil their potential.

In line with that message, we have enclosed an outline of supports currently available for our young people to further enhance their study. We would encourage pupils to take advantage of these many additional sessions and to build these into their weekly schedule. In addition, we have arranged motivational sessions for focussed pupils in S4 and S5, beginning in September to help those pupils maximise their potential. There will also be information videos for parents/carers, in order that you feel supported in guiding your young person's study.

We understand the pressures that can build on young people as they progress through their National Qualifications. Therefore, we are keen that pupils understand early, the rigour, aspiration and perseverance they will need for success.

A key message we would emphasise to both pupils and parents/carers at this stage would be the need to persevere with courses right throughout the year. The expectation we have of young people is that they complete the course they have begun.

The attached information brings together the supports we have on offer and I would encourage parents/carers to speak with your young people about these.

Many thanks for your ongoing support of your young person and the school.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone

Helping your child prepare for exams

It is important that young people are supported at home and school to prepare them well for prelim exams and other internal assessments as well as external SQA exams. The type of support required may depend upon the way the course is assessed, for example, assignments; case study; practical activity; performance; portfolio; project; question paper/test. Regular attendance throughout the year will help to ensure that young people keep up with course work and any home learning which has been set to consolidate classwork. If they do fall behind, through illness perhaps, do speak to the school about any support which can help them catch up. Talking to your child to reassure and encourage them and taking an interest in what they are doing will help them get through what can be a stressful time and will help them to do their best.

What support is on offer in school?

➤ RAP Workshops (Rigour, Aspiration & Perseverance)

We are running RAP workshops for focussed groups of S4/5/6 pupils beginning in September and running at specific times throughout the year. Staff and pupils will lead these workshops to help prepare our young people for the year ahead.



➤ Supported Study

An extensive programme of supported study classes across a range of subjects has been running since August. Staff have been running classes at the end of the school day and this information has been shared with young people in class and at assemblies. If pupils are in need of extra support they should speak to their class teacher in the first instance. **See attached timetable below...**

➤ Study Cafes

We will continue to run our Study Cafes on a Monday evening, from 3-4pm in the school library. This provides a quiet place for young people from all year groups to complete homework, study or get support from our Braes Brains, pupil mentors. As this is end on to the school day, refreshments and snacks are provided at the start.

➤ Braes Brains – Peer Tutoring

Our Braes Brains Peer Tutors offers one-to-one support with coursework and homework tasks as well as tips, tricks and advice to help with studying. All our Braes Brains have been recommended by subject teachers having achieved success in SQA qualifications and demonstrated a positive work ethic in their subjects. Pupils can request one to one support sessions from a *Braes Brains* by speaking to their class teacher, Pastoral Head or Ms Taylor in the Drama Department.

➤ Mentoring

As we approach more formal assessment times, we are planning to offer a mentoring programme to give pupils one-to-one support from subject specialist staff. Mentoring time would be planned and would provide targeted support for individuals.

➤ **Easter School**

We hope to offer or usual, intensive subject specific exam preparation in the lead up to the SQA exam diet and will provide more information nearer the time. At present, the proposed dates for Easter School are **Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th April, 2025**. There will be three sessions running each day and pupils will be asked to sign up to sessions in advance so that staff can plan for the groups attending

Session 1 : 0855 – 1035 Session 2 : 1050 – 1230 Session 3 : 1315 – 1455

➤ **Stress Workshops**

Our Pastoral team work closely with pupils and are aware some find it very stressful in the lead up to exams. We will be running workshops to help pupils develop strategies to minimise their stress/anxiety levels in the lead up to the exam diet.

➤ **Online Supports**

<https://e-sgoil.co/study-support> Pupils can register for real time Study Support webinars beginning on 6th Sept 2021. These sessions are available to all students across Scotland and cover a wide range of subjects.

<https://scholar.hw.ac.uk> Scholar is invaluable support for Nat 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses across the curriculum. Pupils have a password to access these courses.

<https://sway.office.com/WQQXR1zgOWpqB4rS?ref=Link> Nat 5 Chemistry support for pupils.

Monday				
SUBJECT	LEVEL	TEACHER	DELIVERY	TIME
Art & Design	N4/N5/H	Mrs Corsie, Mrs Macleod Mr Bennett	Room 307/306/303	Lunch
French / German	H	Mrs Murray	In person - 210	Lunch
Biology	All Levels	Miss Mackie	In person - 219	8.00 - 8.50
Tuesday				
SUBJECT	LEVEL	TEACHER	DELIVERY	TIME
History	N5	Mrs Cowper	In person - 324	4.00-5.00
Chemistry	N5/H	Mrs Wardlaw	In person - 201	3.40-4.30
Chemistry	AH	Mrs Kinloch	In person - 221	TBD
Biology	All Levels	Dr Wilkie	In person - 202	3.40-4.40
Physics	All Levels	Mr McLean	In person - 203	3.40 – 4.30
PE (Aesth)	Higher	Mrs Yeates	TBC	3.45 – 4.45
PE	Higher	Mr Smith/Mrs Bear/Mrs Ferguson	TBC	3.45 – 4.45
Health and Food Tech		All staff	In person - 105	3.40 -4.40
Art & Design	N4/N5/H	Mrs Corsie/ Mr Bennett/ Mrs Macleod	Room 307/306/303	Lunch
Wednesday				
SUBJECT	LEVEL	TEACHER	DELIVERY	TIME
History	H/N5	Mrs Cowper	In person - 324	3.00-4.00
History	H/N5	Miss Graham	In person - 326	3.00-4.00
RMPS	H	Dr Wilson-McCaw	In person - 218	3.00-4.00
RMPS	H	Mrs Menzies	In person 207	
Geography	H	Ms Rafiq	In person - 301	Lunch
Geography	N5	Mr Bell	In person - 302	Lunch
Modern Studies	H	Mrs Cowper	In person - 324	3.00-4.00
Biology	N5/H/AH	Miss McQuade	In person - 221	2.50 – 3.40
Music	H/AH	Mrs Clarke	In person – 121	3.00-4.00
English	N4/N5/H	Various	In person – 113	3.00-4.00
Art & Design Drop in	N4/N5/H	Mrs Corsie/ Mr Bennett	Room 307/306	Lunch
Spanish	N5/H	Mr Young/ Miss McDonald	In person - 213	After School
Thursday				
SUBJECT	LEVEL	TEACHER	DELIVERY	TIME
Drama	N5	Ms Taylor	Drama Room	Lunch
Art & Design Drop in	N4/N5/H	Mrs Corsie, Mrs Macleod	306/307	Lunch
Physics	N5/H/AH	Mrs Sneddon	In person – 206	3.30-4.30
Modern Studies	N5	Mr Watt/ Miss Eve	In person – 323	3.45-4.45
Modern Studies	H	Mrs Cowper	In person – 324	3.45-4.45
RMPS	N5	Dr Wilson-McCaw	In person - 218	3.45-4.45
Biology	All Levels	Miss Robinson	In person - 220	8.00 – 8.50
French/German	H	Mrs Murray	In person – 210	Lunch
Music Technology	N4/N5/H	Mr Morris	In person – 2 nd floor ICT suite	3.45-4.30
Music	N5	Mr Lynch	103	3.40 - 4.30
Music Drop in	N5	Mrs Sinclair-Cain	In person - 122	Lunch
Art & Design	N4/N5/H	Mrs Macleod	Room 303	3.45 – 4.45
History	N5/H	Mrs Cowper	324	3.40 - 4.30
History	N5/H	Miss Graham	326	3.40 - 4.30

Friday				
SUBJECT	LEVEL	TEACHER	DELIVERY	TIME
Art & Design	N4/N5/H	Mrs Corsie/Mrs Macleod	Room 307/303	Lunch
Music	N5	Mr Lynch	103	3.00 – 4.00

There are specific separate Maths and Humanities Supported Study Sessions which pupils have been informed about and can be accessed through their teaching staff.