

Dear Parent/Carer,

Learning and Teaching

I hope everyone had a pleasant weekend and that Braes families are doing as well as possible just now. As we move into February, it is clear our young people are doing their best to keep their learning progress going. As a parent myself, I appreciate the challenges in supporting your young person(s) in remote learning, whilst dealing with the many other responsibilities you will be paying attention to. Our goal at present is clear; recognising that although things are very different and challenging just now for young people, to support them in this period through engaging learning and teaching, strong pastoral care, and an emphasis on their health and wellbeing.

We recognise that life is far from 'normal' for our pupils just now, and by structuring the learning, and keeping the personal link between young people and their teachers, we can do our best to maintain as much of a 'normality' as possible. We also know that while our parents/carers are keen to support their young people in their learning, they too, have many other responsibilities and duties at present. Therefore we will maintain the structured approach with a heavy emphasis on the interaction between teachers and pupils. We will also continue to engage with pupils as to what is working best in remote learning.

Nevertheless, we appreciate that nothing about this is easy, for pupils, for families, for colleagues. We will continue to support your young people, mindful of the challenges they face, but resolute in our commitment to maximising our young people's potential. They deserve nothing less.

SQA

Parents/carers of Senior Phase pupils will have been receiving communications from Kevin Smith (Depute Headteacher), outlining how the school has been engaging with pupils to inform how we shape the next few weeks and months for S4-6 pupils. Whatever circumstances unfold, our teachers will give our young people every support and opportunity to demonstrate their attainment. In recent years, the performance of Braes pupils in SQA courses has shown a very positive trend. This is due primarily to the strong partnership between pupils, teachers, and parents/carers in Braes High School. Braes staff know their pupils well, have a strong track record in ensuring positive outcomes for young people and are committed to doing their best for pupils. These qualities, the diligence of our young people, and that partnership between home and school, will serve us all well as we work together to ensure our pupils achieve the grades they deserve.

Communication

Even more than usual in these times, we know parents/carers are keen to be aware of ongoing school matters. As a reminder, Braes High School has a number of communication channels. Any communications parents/carers need to have directly will be issued via email. Our school website (www.braeshigh.com) has lots of information about the school while our School App can be downloaded from your App store by searching 'School App' and then selecting Braes High School. In addition, our Twitter feed can be found by searching Braes High School Twitter. There are also multiple Twitter feeds from our departments and other areas of the school.

Contact email addresses

Please see some useful email contacts below should you wish to discuss any aspect of your young person's education:

Faculty Heads

Mathematics – Mrs Simpson (leanne.simpson@falkirk.gov.uk) or Mrs Haggon (claire.haggon@falkirk.gov.uk)

English and Media – Mr Rooney (mark.rooney@falkirk.gov.uk)

Science – Mr McLean (john.mclean@falkirk.gov.uk)

Humanities – Ms Malcolm (fiona.malcolm@falkirk.gov.uk)

Creative Arts – Mr Morris (brian.morris@falkirk.gov.uk)

Health – Mr Yeates (darren.yeates@falkirk.gov.uk)

Modern Languages – Mrs Dunn (susan.dunn@falkirk.gov.uk)

Technology – Mr Vosser (ian.vosser@falkirk.gov.uk)

For more general enquiries about your young person(s) please use the Pastoral Head email addresses below.

Pastoral Heads

Campsie - Ms Jones (formerly Dempsey) linda.jones@falkirk.gov.uk / Mr Deane kevin.deane@falkirk.gov.uk

Lomond - Mr Burns michael.burns@falkirk.gov.uk / Mrs White janine.white@falkirk.gov.uk

Ochil - Mr Burnett george.burnett@falkirk.gov.uk / Mrs McIntyre diane.mcintyre@falkirk.gov.uk

Pentland - Mrs Eckles laura.eckles@falkirk.gov.uk / Miss King lynsey.king@falkirk.gov.uk

Pupil Support – Mrs White janine.white@falkirk.gov.uk

Senior Management Team

DHT Campsie – Miss Wilkinson julie.wilkinson@falkirk.gov.uk

DHT Lomond – Mrs Shaw jillian.shaw@falkirk.gov.uk

DHT Ochil – Mr Smith kevin.smith@falkirk.gov.uk

DHT Pentland – Ms Cotter marjorie.cotter@falkirk.gov.uk

HT – Mr Livingstone iain.livingstone@falkirk.gov.uk

To conclude, I hope everyone stays safe, and we look forward to another week's remote learning with our pupils.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone