

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware, the Scottish Government published updated guidance for schools on Tuesday 1st February 2022. This guidance indicated that schools can end staggered timetable arrangements.

Throughout the COVID-19 situation, ensuring the physical safety and wellbeing of all in the school community has of course been, and will continue to be, our key priority. We are also conscious that a return to a more `normal' and naturally flowing pupil day is something that will be beneficial for our young people.

Following the Scottish Government guidance in our return to one morning interval, and one lunch break, brings many opportunities and advantages for our pupils. As well as ensuring our young people can see themselves as one school community, not separated depending on year groups, this move will allow more consistent access to lunchtime extra-curricular activities, more natural timings for lunch, and less disruption to lessons as we have fewer changeovers. In particular, pupils in S1-3 will no longer have an interrupted period 2 lesson.

We are also aware that our senior pupils have a long history in Braes of taking on leadership roles, mentoring and supporting their younger counterparts. Although we have found creative ways of still ensuring this could happen, there is no doubt that the shift to one set of break times will bolster this role and support further.

Therefore, from Wednesday 16th February, the following timetable arrangement will be in place:

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| Warning Bell | 8.52am |
| Period 1 | 8.55am to 9.45am |
| Period 2 | 9.45am to 10.35am |
| Interval | 10.35am to 10.50am |
| Period 3 | 10.50am to 11.40am |
| Period 4 | 11.40am to 12.30pm |
| Lunch | 12.30pm – 1.10pm |
| Period 5 | 1.10pm – 2.00pm |
| Period 6 | 2.00pm – 2.50pm |
| Period 7 (Tue/Thu only) | 2.50pm – 3.40pm |

Although this is a return to school day timings similar to those used previously, it is still a change for our young people. We will therefore ensure that staff are on hand to support and guide pupils during their interval and lunch break, focusing on good hygiene, the wiping down of surfaces and other relevant in-school mitigations. There will also be communications with pupils directly, to ensure they are aware of the changed timings.

We look forward to seeing the new set of timings in operation to ensure our pupils are able to enjoy a more normally flowing school day, whilst still maintaining our COVID-19 mitigations.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone