

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope everyone had a pleasant weekend and enjoyed the sunshine. Please see below an update on a number of matters:

### Restart and Recovery

Falkirk Council Children's Services is currently considering the high-level elements of the plan for the return of more pupils to school in August. In Braes High School we are working on plans in line with our three key priorities for our restart and recovery; ensuring the physical safety of our pupils, focusing on the emotional wellbeing of our young people and all in the school community, and of course learning and teaching. An initial discussion took place with our Pupil Council last week, who as always were full of helpful, sensible and innovative suggestions. Over the next few weeks there will be a school newsletter dedicated to the work of our Pupil Council and the significant influence this group has on our school's decision-making and direction.

### Leadership qualifications

A growing feature of the senior pupil experience in recent sessions has been the growth of our SQA Leadership qualification. This is usually at Level 6 in the Scottish Qualifications Framework, broadly equivalent to Higher level. We aim to extend this further in the new session for our senior pupils, recognising that our young people demonstrate significant leadership in many different ways, and how important it is to recognise their achievements in general. Mrs Menzies has been leading this in our school, and will provide further communication shortly.

### Supporting our pupils' learning

There is no doubt that pupils are doing an impressive job in keeping their learning going in these most unusual circumstances. Equally, it is clear that parents/carers are doing a tremendous job in supporting their young people in their learning. We are absolutely clear that families are facing many different situations at present, and therefore our position remains that pupils do what they can, when they can.

Over the last few weeks, Faculty Heads and Pastoral Heads have been keeping an eye on how pupils are progressing, mindful of the different circumstances our pupils and families are in, and have been making contact with pupils to offer support where any difficulties have been encountered. To assist with this and provide further support to families, we have introduced a system to streamline contact with home in relation to learning.

For our pupils in S3-6, Faculty Heads will continue to make direct contact with pupils and families should there be a need identified for additional support to access learning. For pupils in S2, we will make contact with parents by email should it seem further support might be required for pupils to access their learning in certain subjects. It cannot be stressed enough, that the purpose of such contact is to offer support only, and absolutely not to be critical or questioning of how families are tackling these unprecedented times. As a parent myself, I know first-hand the complexities and pressures of juggling our own work and responsibilities, while caring for and supporting our children during this tumultuous period. We are grateful for the way in which Braes families have responded to the current situation.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone