

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the First Minister's announcement this afternoon, the email issued to parents/carers this morning has been amended, to take account of the changed self-isolation advice, which comes into effect from Saturday 11th December 2021. As the situation is fluid just now, we will endeavour to keep parents/carers updated as and when the situation develops.

Amended email

As our young people continue to impress in their attitude and efforts in school, we are keeping a close watch on developments relating to COVID-19. Our key aim throughout this time has been to ensure that everyone in our school community is as safe as possible. Given that the new variant Omicron is in the Forth Valley area, it is crucial we continue with these efforts. I would therefore ask that you discuss with your young person(s) the importance of wearing a face covering when in indoor areas in the school, and on school transport. Please also encourage your young people to collect Lateral Flow testing kits from the school reception at any time, and take these tests at least twice weekly. Lateral Flow test results, positive or negative, should be recorded using the link below:

[Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result)

We anticipate we will shortly receive guidance regarding contact tracing and self-isolation in schools, because there are different procedures in place for the different variants. In summary:

- **if a member of your household tests positive for Covid, then all members of the household should book PCR tests and self-isolate for 10 days, (even if they are fully-vaccinated and even if the PCR test is negative).**
- **if you are identified as a close contact of someone who you do not live with (non-household contact) you isolate pending a PCR result. If the result is negative, then they can return to their work/school if they are symptom free.**

We want all our young people and their families to enjoy the holidays when they come, and therefore will be continuing to promote these messages to pupils in school too. The support of parents/carers throughout this time has been appreciated.

As we approach the end of term, there are a number of activities taking place to ensure our young people enjoy this time in school. The Christmas Cup, our festive interhouse competition is in planning, with information issued to pupils shortly. This will be on Monday 20th December, with a non-uniform day (House colours encouraged) also taking place on this date. Pupils will be asked to make a suggested donation of £1 to school funds, either through collections during period 1, or via lpay. Normal uniform will be worn on the last day of term, Tuesday 21st December 2021, with school formally closing at 1.30pm.

Our Music department have been posting on Twitter and YouTube a series of musical performances from our young people to help get you into the festive spirit, and also to showcase the fantastic musical talent of our young people. . By visiting Twitter online (@BraesMusic) and the Music Department YouTube channels (www.youtube.com/fcbraeshigh), you will be able to see these videos of some of our groups and solo performers with musical pieces for your enjoyment. As part of this, we will also have an online concert on Wednesday the 15th of December at 7pm, on both the Music Department and the School YouTube channels, which will collect together the recordings (and maybe a few bonus items) for you to sit back, relax and enjoy.

As previously communicated, to play our part in the local community, as noted previously, the school is promoting and collecting donations to Braes Storehouse Foodbank. If any parent/carers wishes to donate any long life food items, toiletries or cleaning products it would be greatly appreciated. Such items can be handed in to the school office or to any of the collection points mentioned in pupils' House Teams pages, up until **Friday 17th December**.

Similarly, Braes pupils are putting together care packages to support homeless people, collecting essential items such as water bottles and other personal care products, to donate these to homeless charities as appropriate, such

as Cyrenians, Shelter or Social Bite. If any parent/carer wishes to donate to this project, the school Ipay system has been set up to allow this, with a clearly marked payment option. The pupils will use any funds donated to buy appropriate items. Similarly, should any parents/carer wish to donate any personal care product, these can also be handed in to the school office.

The last day of term is **Tuesday 21st December**. School transport will arrive to collect pupils at 12.30pm. School closes formally at **1.00pm** on that day.

Many thanks for your ongoing support of your young people and the school. I hope all Braes families are keeping and coping well just now.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone