

Dear Parent/Carer,

Many thanks for your ongoing support of the school, and of your young people in ensuring that we continue to adopt a sensible and cautious approach to COVID-19. You may have noted that schools locally and nationally have been hit with significant levels of COVID-related absence, causing disruption to learning for young people. Braes is no exception to this issue of course, and we will continue to plan to ensure we can maintain our level of provision for all pupils. Please see an update on a number of matters below:

Scottish Government COVID-19 procedures/Term Dates

The Scottish Government has published the latest version of COVID-19 guidance for schools. We will take this, Falkirk Council's local guidance, and of course the current high prevalence of COVID-19 nationally, into account when planning our procedures for next session. These will be communicated before the new term begins. As a reminder, this term finishes on Friday 1st April at 2.50pm, with pupils returning to school on Tuesday 19th April 2022. Please also remember that there have been changes to holiday dates for the summer term. These can be summarised as follows:

- Monday 2nd May changes from being a holiday to being a normal school day.
- Thursday 2nd June and Friday 3rd June change from being normal school days to both dates being holidays.

Anti-Racism Assemblies

This week has seen our pupils from the Rights Respecting Schools Group marking the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Discrimination, with presentations to House Assemblies. In the presentations there has been a clear message that racism will not be tolerated in the Braes High School community and an emphasis on the role of everyone playing their part in standing up to racism. The attentive and respectful attitude of the House Groups has been appreciated and notable.

Sporting Successes

Our girls' football team continue to have a successful season, winning their way through to the semi-finals of the league cup competition. We look forward to seeing the team continue to develop and perform well in the coming years. Braes Rugby also continues to grow with increasing numbers of pupils participating, leading to strong performances in local and regional competitions. I would urge all Braes pupils to take advantage of the many sporting and non-sporting extra-curricular activities on offer, to be part of it at Braes.

Musical talent

We also look forward next week to the first Annual Schools Concert to be held at Falkirk Town Hall in a while. Several Braes pupils are taking part in this concert, which showcase the many musical talents of young people across Falkirk schools. We wish all our performers well for the shows.

Parental Engagement & Family Learning

The role of parents/carers in supporting the education of young people is of course crucial, and very much appreciated. However, as a parent myself, I appreciate this is not without its challenges. To support parents/carers further, we continue to produce a series of online supports for families.

These can accessed via our school YouTube channel, lined below, and also on the Braes Family Learning Twitter feed, also linked below.

[Braes High - YouTube](#)

[\(11\) Braes HS Family Learning \(@BraesHSFamilies\) / Twitter](#)

We hope all Braes families are keeping well and look forward to a successful remainder of term.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone