

Dear Parent/Carer

Update on plans for return to school

I am writing to provide you with a further update regarding our plans to reopen Braes High School for our young people and in connection with the recent communication from the Director of Children's Services, which you should have received today (which is also available [here](#)).

The Director refers to the statement made in the Scottish Parliament on 23 June 2020 by the Deputy First Minister regarding the intention to conditionally open schools on a full-time basis in August, if COVID-19 Infection rates are at a level that is sufficiently low enough.

We very much hope that we will be able to welcome back all of our pupils on Wednesday 12 August 2020 if the above condition is met and is confirmed by the Scottish Government. Please note that this will not quite be 'business as usual' and with the support of the local authority we will have further plans, procedures and routines in place to ensure that we can operate as safely as possible in accordance with the appropriate national guidance available to us. We will share these with you in due course.

Should we be unable to return full-time in August, the Director of Children's Services has previously (on 10 June 2020) outlined the plans for Falkirk's 'blended learning' approach. Based on previous guidance our staff have been working extremely hard over the last few weeks to develop a range of extensive plans and I would like to reassure you that these are ready as a contingency for implementation should the scientific evidence at the time require us to do so. I could not have asked for more from all staff of Braes High School and throughout this unprecedented period they have ensured that the school has continued to offer as high quality a service as possible.

As soon as we receive final confirmation from the Scottish Government and Falkirk Council Children's Services on the position (an anticipated full-time return or a blended learning approach) then we will communicate this to you (even if this is within the summer holiday).

We are very much looking forward to seeing our young people, and of course our new S1 pupils, back in school. We know that the current situation has been challenging for all, and the maturity and positivity of our pupils throughout this time has been inspirational and encouraging. I would also thank all parents/carers for their unstinting support of their young people, while dealing with the different demands placed on families in this time.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone