

Dear Parent/Carer,

The views of parents/carers are really important to our school and really help school improvement planning and policy changes. Each session and throughout the year, the school is fortunate to gain a parental perspective from our Parent Council and wider parent forum in many ways. One example would be the long-standing involvement of parents/carers, along with our young people, in helping set the ongoing improvement priorities for the school. In recent sessions, our Parent Council have helped support the school in developments such as:

- our revised anti-bullying policy
- reviewing course choice information from S2 to S3
- the timing of the S1 Parents' Evening
- developing a new tracking system
- raising awareness of extra-curricular activities on offer
- extending leadership opportunities into the junior years
- reviewing the curriculum structure
- introducing more vocational and alternative accreditation

As we look to session 2020/21, we know that it will be so different for pupils in many ways. However, what has to remain constant is our commitment to ensuring that Braes High School continues to develop in a positive and aspirational manner. Inevitably, a great deal of our planning for next session will be about establishing a functioning and pupil-friendly school environment, taking into account the public health situation. However, our partnership with our Parent Council has also allowed several priorities to emerge for inclusion in future improvement planning. A discussion took place with Parent Council representatives this week to consider the results of the questionnaires submitted by parents/carers in March, and also other self-evaluation data we have as school. These priorities include:

- working to ensure parents/carers and pupils are **informed of their ongoing impact** on school planning, priorities and decision making
- reviewing and refining our approach to **home learning**
- supporting parents/carers to develop an understanding of how our **young people are assessed**, particularly in the broad, general education (S1-3)
- publicising and refining our provision of opportunities for parents/carers and pupils to **learn together**
- refining our approach to how young people are encouraged to **be kind** to one another, and to **look out** for one another

- reviewing with pupils how they feel the school supports them to be **healthy**
- refining our approaches to the **celebration of our pupils' success** in its many forms

You may recall that in March we asked parents/carers to complete questionnaires to help us identify such priorities. A helpful response from parents/carers allowed us to distil these key messages for inclusion in our ongoing improvement planning.

In the coming weeks and over the summer period, we will continue to develop our planning for the year ahead, both in terms of the August restart outlined by the Scottish Government last week, and also for the ongoing growth of Braes High School in general. We are grateful for the input of parents/carers as part of this process.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone