

Dear Braes pupil,

Firstly, a huge well done and thank you to you for the way in which Braes pupils have conducted themselves so far this session. We are very proud of the way in which you have tackled the challenges and expectations on us all at this time.

As you are probably aware, the Scottish Government have announced that you will be starting your new term from Monday 11th January 2021. From that date, until Monday 1st February 2021 at least, learning will take place remotely. Please see below an outline of how this will operate. You will also find a separate document which provides more detail about Blended Learning and what you and your young person(s) can expect from this week.

At present, learning will take place remotely until 1st February 2021. As a school we have been preparing for such an eventuality and our staff are working hard to ensure you will be well supported during this week.

We would ask that, throughout this week, you fully engage with classes online **as per your usual school timetable**. It is important that pupils aim to virtually “attend” subjects as per your timetable as this is when staff will be on hand to offer support. As a minimum, pupils in S1-3 will receive at least one live interaction per week in each of their subjects, and pupils in S4-S6 will receive two live interactions in each of their courses, although you may well find you experience more. Individual faculties will communicate with pupils through your Microsoft Teams accounts what periods in the week they will be live, but these will be at the same times you would normally attend these subjects.

As a Braes pupil, the expectations are for you to:

- **actively participate** in all planned home learning activities
- access your learning and resources through **Microsoft Teams**
- **engage** with any **live interaction** scheduled by your teachers
- **submit completed work** to your teachers for marking and feedback
- **respond and act upon teacher feedback** to ensure continued progress

The timings of your lessons are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Period 1 | 9.00am – 9.50am |
| Period 2 | 9.50am – 10.40am |
| Interval | 10.40am – 10.55am |
| Period 3 | 10.55am – 11.45am |
| Period 4 | 11.45am – 12.35pm |
| Lunch | 12.35pm – 1.10pm |
| Period 5 | 1.10pm – 2.00pm |
| Period 6 | 2.00pm – 2.50pm |
| Period 7 | 2.50pm – 3.40pm |

Pastoral and Pupil Support

You will have weekly check-ins with your Pastoral Head in your timetabled PSE lessons. You can contact your Pastoral Head or Pupil Support Key Teacher through the chat function on Microsoft Teams.

School Transport

School buses will run as normal during the period of pupils learning at home, to cater for pupils attending Hub Childcare.

SQA Prelims (for S4-6 pupils)

The SQA prelim diet was due to start on Monday 18th January. Given the further announcement on the 4th of January this will mean the prelims will not start as planned on the 18th. We will continue to consult with staff, pupils and parents throughout next week before issuing a provisional plan for moving forward with regards to SQA and Prelims. As a result the timeline issued in the last communication before the Christmas break will be adapted accordingly and re-issued once more details are known. As you will appreciate, this is a fluid situation and we will respond to further updates from the Scottish Government and SQA. We have been planning for a wide range of eventualities and will use the information from our consultations to move forward in a way that supports all Braes pupils. Please remember, that while prelims are an important form of quality evidence gathering it is not the only method we use to gather evidence on your attainment performance.

What is now more important than ever is ensuring you are engaging with all of your classes via online platforms. It is also vital all work issued is completed on time and submitted to staff. If you have any issues or concerns you must contact your teacher as soon as possible.

Finally, we want you all to know as Braes pupils, we look forward to seeing you all in person when we are able in the new year, and participating well in your online learning.

The staff of Braes High School.