

Dear Parent/Carer,

Obviously we have encountered some colder weather in the past few days, and I would praise our young people for their diligence and resilience this week. Please see updates on a number of matters below:

International Women's Day

Well done to our pupil-led Equalities Group for their work in promoting International Women's Day this week. Funds were raised for Women's Aid with pupils and staff marking the occasion by wearing purple, displaying posters of women they have found inspiring and incorporating this theme into lessons.

Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal

Our pupil-led Rights Respecting Schools group prepared a successful bake sale to raise funds for the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal, and there will be further such events in the coming weeks. There will also be a non-uniform day to raise funds for this appeal on the last day of this term, Friday 31st March 2023. There is an opportunity for families to contribute to this fundraising appeal in advance through the Ipay system. Alternatively funds can be donated directly to EC via the link below:

[Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal 2023 | Donate Now | DEC](#)

Support for families

We are keen to support Braes families in being able to access any financial supports that are available. We would encourage Braes families to check the link below to find out more about access to Free School Meals and Clothing Grants. We would also be happy to speak with any Braes family who wishes further information about this. Please contact your young person's Pastoral Head in the first instance:

[Free School Meals and School Clothing Grants | Falkirk Council](#)

Parking/Driving

The vast majority of Braes parents/carers drive respectfully when in and around the school. However we have recently received some concerns from local residents close to the school, noting that access to driveways has been obstructed, and inappropriate parking taking place elsewhere around the school's surrounding streets. We would respectfully ask that all parents/carers ensure that when collecting young people from school, this is done in a safe and appropriate manner. Similarly, we are supportive of the Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone Community Council's campaign to ensure safe road speeds are followed on the road heading towards Shieldhill from the school. While again we know that Braes parents/carers will drive in a safe manner on this road, we want to acknowledge and publicise this issue to our wider community.

Supported Study

A plethora of supported study opportunities are on offer for senior phase pupils each week. These have been communicated to pupils and parents/carers, with regular reminders for our young people across the week. It was great to see so many senior pupils in attendance at the Maths/English Study Weekend Camp last week, and also working late into Monday evening at the Modern Languages Pizza and Study Evening. We would ask parents/carers to continue to encourage our senior phase pupils to take advantage of these additional supports, in order that our pupils can fulfil their potential in the forthcoming examinations. Please also look out for communications from Ms Cotter regarding Easter School.

Home to School Transport consultation

As previously communicated, Falkirk Council is currently consulting on a proposed change to eligibility for home to school transport. This will be of interest to Braes families. The consultation can be accessed via the link below:

[Consultation on a Proposal to Change the Distance Criteria for Home to Schools Transport - Falkirk Council - Citizen Space](#)

Friends at Braes

The next meeting of Friends at Braes, our parent-led fundraising group take place on Monday 13th March, at 6.30pm. If you would like to come along, or to find out more, please email Chairperson Susan MacKinnon at friendsatbraeshigh@gmail.com.

Many thanks for your ongoing support of the school.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone