

Dear Parent/Carer,

Given the current circumstances, all of us are of course working to ensure 'normal' business and activity can continue within the current restrictions. Usually at this time of the session Braes High School would be holding parents' evenings for different year groups as part of our reporting and tracking calendar. Obviously parents' evenings in their usual sense cannot take place.

Consequently, staff in Braes High School have been working in partnership with colleagues from other Falkirk Council secondary schools to introduce a new, remote approach to parents' evenings, using an online system. It is envisaged that this system will allow parents/carers to book slots with teachers as they normally would, engage with teachers through video calls, and have guaranteed times for these discussions. The system would of course have appropriate privacy protections inbuilt.

Our plan had been to have this system in place to allow us to proceed with the initial reporting and tracking calendar, and to this end, Braes staff had engaged in research of the system, training exercises, and 'mock' parent's evenings to trial the system. Initial discussion took place with our Parent Council, with parents/carers volunteering to help trial the system further. Schools received direction today that this system can now be purchased and implemented, which means we can now engage with parents/carers as to how the system will operate in practice. We will now link with the Parent Council to take this forward.

This means that we require to amend our current reporting and tracking calendar for the next few months. The revised schedule is noted on the attached document, and the main changes are summarised below:

- S5/6 Parents' evening scheduled for Wednesday 18th November, will be replaced with a tracking report which will be sent out on Friday 20th November. The tracking report in the calendar for Friday February 12th will become a full report with written comments from teachers regarding strengths and next steps. The Parent's night on Tuesday 2nd March will go ahead as planned using the new online system.
- S4 Parents' evening on Wednesday 2nd December will be replaced with a full report with written comments on strengths and next steps. The Parents' night on Wednesday 17th February will run using the online system.

I would emphasise to parents/carers that our team of Faculty Heads and our Pastoral Team already engage directly with many parents/carers in relation to our young people's learning, and if you have a specific query regarding your young person, you can, as always contact the school directly.

I would thank parents/carers for their ongoing support of their young people and the school in these times. Parents/carers of senior phase pupils should look out for further details next week from Mr Smith of how we will manage the 'prelim' situation this session, and the many supports that are on offer to guide pupils through this year.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone