

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I hope everyone is doing as well as possible just now. As you may be aware, Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services, issued a letter and online update yesterday. This can be accessed via the web link below:

<https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/covid19/school-return.aspx>

As previously communicated, planning for this has been ongoing in Braes High School, and we are finalising our plan for how we ensure the best possible educational experience, in what will of course under current distancing measures, be a school with reduced pupil capacity. In doing so, our planning is governed by three key principles:

- Ensuring our school environment is as physically safe as possible
- Focus on emotional wellbeing
- Learning and teaching

Whilst I know that everyone is really keen to be back in school, there is no doubt that things will look and feel different for us all. For everyone in our community, these last few months have of course been challenging, emotional and uncertain. As we come together in our school building again, our school motto, 'Build Respect and Earn Success – be part of it!' will never have been more important. Our school might look and feel different but our values will remain the same. Personally, I am really looking forward to seeing us together as a school community again, and to communicating more detailed information about our new set-up and structure early next week. As a parent myself, I recognise many of the queries that we will have around the return of our young people to school. Our plan has been designed from the perspective of a young person's journey through a school day and will seek to offer as detailed guidance as possible on issues such as:

- How we will support new S1 pupil in making the transition to secondary school
- How we will support our existing pupils in getting used to the new set-up and structure of the school day
- How the pupil day will look in terms of timings and changeovers
- How learning and teaching will look in school
- How our remote and online learning will evolve from the current provision
- How we can arrange as little movement as possible between rooms for pupils
- How we plan a staged return of year groups to school
- Our new one way system
- Pupil access, exit and movement around school
- Interval and lunch arrangements
- How we promote physical distancing and good hygiene
- Access to toilets
- School uniform
- Use of water dispensers
- How pupils access resources
- Fire evacuation arrangements
- The Scottish Government Test and Protect programme
- Use of the lift
- Ongoing provision of pastoral care
- Arrangements for school reception
- Pupil drop-off arrangements

- What happens in inclement weather
- Timetable schedules for pupils

Many thanks for your ongoing support and for the way in which your young people have adapted to the current trying circumstances. Our staff are really looking forward to seeing our pupils back in Braes in the new session.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone