

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been encouraging again this week to see our young people continue to progress well in their lessons and take advantage of the many extra-curricular opportunities on offer. I would always encourage our pupils to get involved in these and 'be part of it' here at Braes, as participation helps build friendships, a sense of achievement and belonging, as well as being fun too. A variety of musical groups are now in operation too and details of these are available from the Music department.

I would also encourage pupils in S1-3 to participate in working towards the Braes Award. The Braes Award, or BrAW, as it more commonly known, is a long standing programme which recognises the achievements and development of our young people out with their timetabled lessons. It has four elements, incorporating themes of success, contribution, wellbeing and international awareness, and pupils can submit their achievements either to their Pastoral Head, or through the 'Best Foot Forward' class if in S1, via OneNote. Pupils have details of how to do this and if they are unsure, they can speak with their Pastoral Head for further support. It has been great to see our younger pupils bring forward their achievements out with the classroom and for these to be recognised through the various badges, and for some, achievement of the full Braes Award.

Our pupils' safety is of course our highest priority. Parents/carers may have noted the announcements from the Scottish Government this week which noted the continuation of COVID-19 mitigations currently in school, such as the wearing of face coverings. Falkirk Council Children's Services will be issuing a letter from the National Clinical Director advising of this. Similarly, we are appreciative of parents/carers' efforts in ensuring young people bring a face covering to school with them. We do however continue to require to issue a sizeable number of face coverings each day and it would be helpful if we could reduce this number significantly, by all young people ensuring they are appropriately ready for school in this manner.

Also on the subject of safety, we are grateful to the vast majority of parents/carers that use the designated drop-off area at the front of the school. Please continue to do this, and refrain from using the bus bay area as a drop off zone. Please also continue to use disabled parking bays appropriately.

Please remember the many ways you can keep up with the latest Braes High School development. In addition to our regular newsletters, the school website contains useful information about the school and can be accessed via the link below. Similarly, our whole school Twitter feed, and those of many departments across the school, also highlight the many achievements of our young people and school developments. Should any parent/carer have a query please either call the school on 01324 719551 or by email at [braeshighschool@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:braeshighschool@falkirk.gov.uk). We would ask parents/carers not to make direct contact queries via Twitter as Twitter feeds are not overseen continually.

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[\(2\) Braes High School \(@BraesHigh\) / Twitter](#)

In the meantime, I wish all Braes families well and look forward to seeing our young people continue to progress and fulfil their potential.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone