

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we move towards the end of the sixth week of remote learning, it is important to note the strong work ethic and diligence our young people are demonstrating in responding to the challenge of learning at home. While we would much rather be able to have our young people learning in school, it is clear from discussions with staff, that our pupils are making good progress with their courses. It was good to see our pupils taking part in the Health and Wellbeing event last Thursday, which also provided a positive focus for our ongoing Interhouse Activities, which continue to spark the competitive streak in both our young people and staff.

Moving forward, parents/carers will no doubt be aware of the announcements this week regarding the return of small groups of young people into secondary schools on certain days to complete practical learning activities that can only be done in school. This begins on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. The letter from David Mackay, Head of Education, giving general arrangements for this return is also on our website. We look forward to seeing these young people in school and when plans are clearer on when other pupils are able to return to school, we will be able to give detailed information on how senior phase pupils will progress towards their final assessments and the setting of provisional grades. At present, the focus for pupils in S4-6 is very much on learning and teaching, moving through course content and developing the skills, abilities and knowledge necessary to do well. Kevin Smith, Depute Headteacher, will communicate with pupils and parents/carers early next week in relation to recent SQA updates. We are clear that senior pupils must be given every opportunity to be fully prepared and ready for any forthcoming assessments, and when there is clarity on the return to school we will ensure pupils and parents/carers are well briefed on the timing of assessments across their courses.

Finally, as well as noting the efforts of our pupils in progressing their learning, we are clear that parents/carers are playing a significant role in supporting their young people in so many ways at this time. That support is greatly appreciated by the staff of Braes High School, and is reflective of the strong community ethos of our school. I hope everyone is keeping and coping as well as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone