

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been lovely to see our young people back in school this week. Standards of behaviour, effort and uniform have been very high, as would be expected at Braes, and we look forward to this continuing in the weeks and months to come. It has also been good to see the vast majority wearing the school blazer, part of our school uniform. The safety of all in our community is of the utmost importance and it has been encouraging to see our pupils continue to adhere to the COVID-19 procedures such as face coverings and hand hygiene. We will continue to work with Scottish Government guidance as it develops in the coming weeks and adapt our school's set-up accordingly. As previously noted, we are keen that the flow of our pupil day can be a little more 'normal' and conducive to our school's positive and inclusive ethos. While we will retain our separate intervals and lunchtimes for just now we will look to amend these as the session progresses. We are currently engaging with our Pupil Council as to how best to work towards this.

As a reminder, anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should immediately self-isolate and book a PCR test. The rest of the household should also isolate too. The best precaution we have of avoiding contact tracing within our school is to ensure no-one with COVID-19 symptoms comes into the school. Participation in the Lateral Flow Device testing programme is also helpful in keeping our community safe, and pupils are encouraged to take these tests twice per week. To be clear, taking these tests is not compulsory, just advised. The attached letter, privacy notice and user guide give further information.

I would also thank parents/carers for their support in ensuring that sensible, safe driving takes place in and around our school. Please remember that the drop-off area at the front of the school should be used for dropping off pupils in the morning and not the bus bay area. Please also avoid parking on any raised kerb areas at the end of the day when waiting to collect pupils.

A big part of school life at Braes is being involved in extra-curricular activities. I would encourage all our young people to get as involved in possible in this side of the school as a great way of building friendships and wellbeing. The sporting activities on offer are attached, while other types of activities will be issued to pupils and families next week.

Finally, a reminder of our two supportive and positive parent/carer groups; our Parent Council and Friends at Braes. Our Parent Council supports the school in policy development, discussion on a variety of educational issues and also liaises well with our Pupil Council. The Annual General Meeting of the Parent Council takes place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm, online via Zoom. Further details of this event will be issued in the coming weeks. Our Parent Council Chairperson is Mrs Heather McManus, who can be contacted via email at [braeshigh.parentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:braeshigh.parentcouncil@gmail.com).

We are also well supported by Friends at Braes, our parent-led fundraising organisation, which also offers practical support to in-school events. Friends at Braes have made significant contributions for our pupils over the years, with a well-run uniform recycling service also part of the support offered. Further information can be gained from Chairperson Mrs Leah Curry via email at [friendsatbraeshigh@gmail.com](mailto:friendsatbraeshigh@gmail.com). The Friends at Braes Annual General Meeting takes place on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 6.30pm, online via Zoom, and further information will be issued in relation to this meeting.

I wish all Braes families well and look forward to a very productive and positive session ahead.

Yours faithfully,  
Iain Livingstone