

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been good to see our pupils settling well into the new term. In particular it has been encouraging to see pupils already taking advantage of the many extra-curricular activities available. These have been emailed out earlier this week, and we expect the list to be added to as the term progresses, particularly when we are able to move to one lunch break. An updated list of non-sporting activities is attached, which now includes an extra club on Fridays, a pupil-led group which again is heartening to see. Please see an update on a number of matters below:

S4 & S6 photographs

Last week saw pupils in S1, S2, S3 and S5 having their photographs taken. Pupils in S4 and S6 will have the opportunity to have their photograph taken when the company visits again on Tuesday 26th October 2021.

Parking

Thanks go to parents/carers for their support in driving and parking sensibly when in and around the school grounds. Please remember to use disabled parking bays appropriately and avoid parking on raised kerb areas. The drop-off area at the front of the school should be used.

COVID-19 procedures

Along with colleagues from Falkirk Council Children's Services, we continue to take note of Scottish Government guidance regarding COVID-19 mitigations in schools. We continue to be pleased with our young people's mature response and attitude to following these procedures. We are also keen, as previously intimated, to ensure the flow of the pupil day feels a little more 'normal' for pupils. We are not yet in a position to move to having the one, longer, lunch break and interval for young people in all year groups. We will however keep this under review as Scottish Government guidance emerges. Our young people have shown their ability to follow the corridor and one way system well. To aid quick and flowing movement in corridors, all pupils will move from one class to the next on the bell, together. This will help prevent congestion around classroom doorways, mean quicker movement between lessons for pupils and significantly increase teaching time for pupils in S1-3. This system will of course be kept under review.

The vast majority of our pupils bring a face covering to school each day. Although we will always ensure young people who do not have a face covering are issued with one, it would be helpful if we could reduce the numbers issued each day. The support of parents/carers in reminding young people about this before they come to school is appreciated.

As soon as we are able to move to the one lunchtime and interval, we will communicate this to pupils and parents/carers.

To conclude, I would thank Braes parents/carers for their continued support of your young people and the school, as we continue to prioritise safety and ensuring our pupils learn in a positive school environment.

Iain