

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope everyone is keeping and coping as well as possible.

Please see below an update on current matters:

Scottish Government announcement

As parent/carers will be aware, the First Minister announced last Thursday a plan for more pupils to return to school from August. Further guidance on this is expected to be with schools in the coming days and weeks. Our initial planning will be based on three key principles; ensuring our school environment is as safe as possible, the emotional wellbeing of those in our school community, and learning and teaching. Several workstreams have been identified to take forward our planning for what is of course a significant logistical exercise, but one that is absolutely crucial in ensuring our young people are protected as far as possible, while allowing them to continue their education with time in school. We are very much looking forward to seeing our young people back in Braes, and we will of course be continuing to liaise with our Parent Council as part of this. Parent Council Chairpersons across the authority will be invited to meet with representatives from Falkirk Council Children's Services this week, and Mrs McCallum, our Parent Council Chairperson, will be in touch with you directly in relation to this.

S6 Graduation

Taking stock of the current situation, we have taken the decision to hold a 'virtual' S6 Graduation for our senior pupils. Initial feedback from parents/carers and senior pupils indicates a preference to mark this event this side of the summer. Therefore, Mr Ironside is leading preparations for an online event, most likely to be held on the evening of Monday 22nd June, broadcast on our YouTube channel. S6 Awards which would have been presented in normal circumstances at the Senior Prizegiving will form part of this event. Mr Ironside will communicate further in relation to this event in due course.

Junior Awards Ceremony

Mr Gilmour will shortly be in touch regarding plans to hold a similarly 'virtual' event to mark of Junior Awards Ceremony. This is scheduled for Thursday 18th June, and again is planned to be broadcast on the school's YouTube channel in the evening.

Supporting the engagement of our pupils in remote learning

We are keen to continue evolving our procedures in supporting young people in engaging with their learning. As previously noted, our position remains constant in that we understand the many challenges our pupils and families face at this time, and we definitely do not want to create any undue pressure for families. However we are also aware that parents/carers, and our young people, are keen to maintain learning progress, despite the current situation. To support this, Faculty Heads and Pastoral Heads will continue to make contact with pupils and families in S4-6 directly where it is felt that some support is required to enhance the engagement of a young person in their learning. To further support parents/carers, we will also now look to make email contact when it seems a young person in S2 or S3 is finding difficulty in engaging with their learning. I would stress however that the purpose of this

communication is entirely supportive, and designed only to help our young people engage with their studies as best they can. Where a family's circumstances are such that engagement with learning has not been possible, or appropriate, this will of course be respected.

Many thanks for your ongoing support of the school and we look forward to seeing our pupils in school when the time is right.

Iain Livingstone