

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope all Braes families are doing well just now and would repeat earlier thanks to parent/carers for their ongoing support of young people as they make their way through this summer term. Our pupils are making good progress in their learning, and in particular, our senior phase pupils are demonstrating a very positive approach to their studies and assessments, in what is a very different time for them. Please see an update on a number of matters below:

COVID-19 procedures

COVID-19 procedures continue to be well heeded by our pupils. We are grateful to parents/carers for their support in ensuring that a 'safety-first' approach is taken, firstly by ensuring that no-one comes into school if someone in their household has COVID-19 symptoms, and secondly by bringing a face covering to school. Although we will always ensure that any young person who does not have a face covering will be provided with one, and I would ask that parents/carers continue to check that their young people have a covering to bring to school.

Lunchtimes

Now that we are able to resume such activities, we are looking forward to a community litter pick today. Although I will always defend our young people from unwarranted criticism, there is no doubt we need to play our part in keeping the local community tidy and it has been encouraging to see so many of our pupils being keen to be involved in this. A number of our young people visit Tesco at lunchtimes, particularly S1 pupils, and the vast majority of pupils conduct themselves in exemplary fashion. However, we would be grateful for parents/carers' support in reminding young people that if they do venture into the local community at lunchtime, the same standards and expectations we have in school should be observed during lunch breaks. We will continue to promote this with pupils and patrol those areas when we can. However the bulk of our lunchtime supervision has to be within the school grounds for obvious reasons, and therefore your support in this matter is appreciated.

When a young person is unwell

On occasion, a young person can feel unwell during the pupil day. We are reminding pupils that should this be the case, the procedure is to speak with a member of staff, who will arrange for the pupil to be seen by our medical attendant, who will make contact with home. We know young people in this position may also text/call their parents when feeling unwell. This is of course fine, but we would ask that if arrangements are being made for a young person to leave school to go home, that there is liaison with the school beforehand.

Looking ahead to next session, we will of course be taking into account Scottish Government guidance as it emerges over the summer, to plan our school's arrangements for session 2021/22. While the priority will obviously be safety for our school community, we will be looking to see how we can ensure the flow of the school day is a little more 'normal' for our pupils, in line with national guidance. In the meantime, we look forward to continuing this productive term and to seeing our pupils progress further in the coming weeks.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone