

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope all Braes families have had a pleasant summer, and we look forward to seeing our young people back in school on Wednesday 16th August. The staff at Braes are proud of the efforts of our young people in the 2023 SQA examinations, and we also look forward to continuing to support our pupils as they progress throughout session 2023/24. Please see an update on a number of matters below:

Photographs

A school photograph company will be in school to take photographs of pupils in S1, S3, S5 and S6 on Friday 18th August. Once each pupil has had their photograph taken, they will be issued with a note to take home with details about how to order the picture, should parents/carers wish to do so. There is no obligation to purchase the photograph.

Ramp access at zebra crossing

Over the summer a ramp has been installed at the zebra crossing at the front of the school to improve accessibility. Although it has raised kerbs on either side, we would ask that drivers do not stop over this ramp when dropping off and picking up from this part of the school.

Communications from school

To find out more about the school, or to keep up with latest developments, please visit our school website www.braeshigh.com, or download our School App, by going to your App store, typing in School App and then select Braes High School. In addition, there are multiple active Twitter feeds from departments and the main school feed @braeshigh. Please remember this can be accessed simply by internet searching Braes High School Twitter, rather than being logged in to Twitter. An electronic newsletter showcasing the many talents and achievements of our young people will also be issued regularly throughout the session.

Parent/Carer groups

Our Parent Council plays a significant role in our school's ongoing development. The Annual General Meeting of the Parent Council takes place on the evening of Monday 4th September at 7pm. If you would like to be part of this discussion please email braeshigh.parentcouncil@gmail.com. We are fortunate to also have a second parent group, Friends at Braes, our parent-led fundraising group. The Annual General Meeting of Friends at Braes takes place on Monday 28th August at 6.30pm. For further details of the meeting please email friendsatbraeshigh@gmail.com.

Uniform

Braes High School pupils are well known for their high standards of school uniform. As a reminder, school uniform consists of a school blazer, school shirt, school tie, school skirt, trousers, or leggings (black and unbranded). Pupils can also choose to wear a school jumper or cardigan if they wish to do so. Jogging trousers, tracksuit tops, hoodies and jeans are not part of the school uniform and should not be worn to school.

Friends at Braes run a well-supported and used uniform recycling facility. There is a uniform rack at the school reception where parents/carers and pupils are welcome to access the available uniform. Donations of pre-loved uniform can also be handed into reception. For further information please

contact either your young person's Pastoral Head, or email Friends at Braes at friendsatbraeshigh@gmail.com.

Staying hydrated during lessons

There are a number of water fountains in the school for use by pupils. We would ask young people to bring a reusable water bottle to school as we move to phase out the issue of single use cups. Pupils can drink water in class and should fill bottles during interval and lunch breaks.

Staffing changes

We welcome Dr Eilidh Wilkie to Braes as our new Faculty Head of Science. Dr Wilkie comes with a breadth of experience across the curriculum and we look forward to working with her. David Ironside, Depute Headteacher for Ochil House, has moved to a seconded position with Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative. For the duration of Mr Ironside's secondment, Darren Yeates will act as Depute Headteacher for Ochil House, and Ruth Kelly will take on the role of Faculty Head of Pupil Support.

Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities

Each session, Braes pupils enjoy the various clubs and activities that staff run for young people. These are being collated at present and will be circulated to pupils and parents/carers in the next couple of weeks.

To conclude, I would wish all our young people the very best for the session ahead. We will be starting the year with assemblies celebrating the many achievements and contributions of our young people last session, and setting standards and expectations for the year ahead. Many thanks for your ongoing support of your young people and the school as parents/carers.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone