

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been great to see our pupils settling well into the new session. Visits to lesson indicate that our young people are making progress in their learning, while standards of school uniform have been very impressive. I would thank parents/carers for your ongoing support of your young person(s) and the school. Please see an update on a number of matters below:

Photographs

The rearranged date for school photographs is Friday 25th August. A school photograph company will be in school to take photographs of pupils in S1, S3, S5 and S6. 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.

Parent/Carer groups

Our Parent Council plays a significant role in our school's ongoing development. The date of the Annual General Meeting of the Parent Council will take place during the week beginning Monday 4th September, with the final date being confirmed shortly. 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.

Staying hydrated during lessons

I would thank parents/carers for supporting pupils in bringing water bottles for use with the water fountains in school. Later this term will be stopping the issue of single use cups. Pupils can drink water in class and should fill bottles during interval and lunch breaks.

Fundraising for FDAMH

On Saturday, a group of Braes staff are climbing Ben Nevis to raise funds for Falkirk's Mental health association, FDAMH. FDAMH is a valued partner of the school and works well with young people, adults and families to support wellbeing. We wish our colleagues all the best in this. Anyone who would like to contribute to the fundraising can do so via the link below :

[Kayleigh Graham is fundraising for FDAMH \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/KayleighGraham)

Canavan Scholarship

Our congratulations go to former Braes pupils, Sophie Wood and Lawson McNaughton, both of whom received Canavan Scholarship Awards in recognition of their service to their school and wider community. Further details can be gained from the Falkirk Herald article below.

[Dennis Canavan Scholarship: Braes High former pupil Sophie Wood takes 2023 award \(falkirkherald.co.uk\)](https://www.falkirkherald.co.uk)

Extra Curricular Activities

I am grateful to Braes colleagues for the many extra curricular activities on offer for our young people. I would strongly encourage our pupils to get involved in this part of school life, as it helps make new friends, build relationships, develop new skills as well as helping with confidence and self-esteem. These can be accessed via our school website using the link below :

[Clubs and Activities | Braes High School | Braes High School | Secondary School Falkirk | Falkirk Education](#)

September holiday

Please note that the school is closed to pupils on Monday 11th September for the September holiday.

Skills Development Scotland – webinar for parents/carers

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) are holding a free webinar for parents/carers and others on Scottish Apprenticeships and Additional Support Needs. The webinar will have information about the help in place to assist apprentices with additional support needs. Please see the information from SDS below :

[Scottish Apprenticeships and Additional Support Needs Tickets, Thu 7 Sep 2023 at 18:30 | Eventbrite](#)

I wish all Braes families well and look forward to seeing our young people continue to progress in the coming weeks and months.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone