

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope all Braes families are doing well at present. Please see an update on a number of matters below:

#### House Assemblies

House groups met last week in very attentive assemblies, listening to fellow pupils speak about the impact of vaping, both in terms of health and anti-social behaviour. Parents/carers will no doubt be aware of national coverage of the issue of vaping among some young people across the country, and how vapes are seemingly marketed. Our approach in Braes is to ensure our young people are well educated about the risks of vaping, and to this end our Pupil Council have helped inform revised learning materials in Personal and Social Education classes. There is of course zero tolerance of vaping in and around the school, with appropriate action taken should this occur. We are grateful for parents/carers' support in advising young people on this issue and ensuring that vapes are not brought to school.

#### Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal

Our pupil Rights Respecting Schools group met last week to discuss fundraising for the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal. In the coming weeks there will be a bake sale, the sale of cards produced by the young people and a non-uniform day on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Monies raised will go to the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal. There is a facility for parents/carers to donate to the DEC appeal via our school Ipay system. Alternatively, the link to the DEC Appeal for direct donations is noted below:

[Home | Disasters Emergency Committee \(dec.org.uk\)](https://dec.org.uk)

#### Parent Council

The next meeting of our Parent Council takes place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Further details regarding the meeting will be issued shortly.

#### Home to School Transport consultation

As previously communicated, Falkirk Council is currently consulting on a proposed change to eligibility for home to school transport. This will be of interest to Braes families. The consultation can be accessed via the link below:

[Consultation on a Proposal to Change the Distance Criteria for Home to Schools Transport - Falkirk Council - Citizen Space](#)

#### Friends at Braes

The next meeting of Friends at Braes, our parent-led fundraising group takes place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm in the conference room. All parents/carers are welcome to come along to this meeting to discuss plans for fundraising activities in support of our young people. Please contact Chairperson Susan MacKinnon by email at [friendsatbraeshigh@gmail.com](mailto:friendsatbraeshigh@gmail.com) for more information.

### Recycling PE kit

The Braes Cost of the School Day group are working with our associated primary schools to support the recycling of PE kit for young people aged 4 years and over. Boxes for the collection of any items people may wish to donate are located at our school office and in the PE departments. These will then be redistributed accordingly to our associated primary schools. Many thanks for any support with this.

### Falkirk Community Sports Hub

The new Braes Community Sports Hub will hold an inaugural event on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March between 10am and 12 noon. This a free event and gives pupils and families the opportunity to come along and meet local sports clubs and have a go at various sports. Please bring footwear suitable for use in the indoor halls.

### Parking around school

While the overwhelming majority of parents/carers drive and park in a sensible fashion when in and around the school, we have received concerns recently from local residents about inappropriate parking close to the school. We would ask that all parents/carers continue to park in a sensible way when waiting for young people at the end of the day.

### Industrial Action

As you may be aware, the EIS teachers' union announced this week that the next planned days of strike action for Falkirk Council secondaries are Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. We will keep parents/carers updated on this situation.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the school.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone