

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your ongoing support of your young people and the school. Please see an update on a number of matters below:

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. It closes on Friday 17th March :

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

As part of this consultation, Education Scotland are visiting a number of local schools to gather views on the proposed change from parents/carers, pupils and staff. This will take place on the morning of Thursday 30th March. The schedule for this morning of consultation is still in development. However if you would like to be involved in meeting with the representative from Education Scotland, please email me at iain.livingstone@falkirk.gov.uk.

Support for families

We are keen to support Braes families in being able to access any financial supports that are available. We would encourage Braes families to check the link below to find out more about access to Free School Meals and Clothing Grants. We would also be happy to speak with any Braes family who wishes further information about this. Please contact your young person's Pastoral Head in the first instance :

[Free School Meals and School Clothing Grants | Falkirk Council](#)

Parent Council

A productive meeting of the Parent Council took place last week, with presentations from Braes pupils and staff on how the school is consulting on priorities for our next Improvement Plan, and a presentation from Fraser McIlvar of S1 sharing pupil views on the proposed change to home to school transport. Also discussed was the creation of a new short guide to National Qualifications and the Senior Phase, which is attached to this message and linked below. The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place on Tuesday 9th May in school, at 7pm. Please email Chairperson Kenneth MacKinnon for further information at braeshigh.parentcouncil@gmail.com.

<https://www.braeshigh.com/curriculum/national-qualification>

A guide to assessment in the broad, general education (S1-3) may also be of interest to Braes families. This is also linked below.

<https://www.braeshigh.com/faculties2/bge-faculty-assessment-guide>

Friends at Braes

Likewise, a positive meeting of Friends at Braes, our parent-led fundraising group took place this week, with engaging presentations from pupils on behalf of the Gymnastics Club. The next meeting of Friends at Braes takes place on Monday 24th April in school at 6.30pm. Please contact Chairperson Susan MacKinnon for further information at friendsatbraeshigh@gmail.com.

Hayward Review of Qualifications and Assessment

As you may be aware, the Scottish Government has asked Professor Hayward of the University of Glasgow to carry out an independent review of qualifications and assessment in schools. Previously, our Parent Council, Pupil Council and other pupil groups have contributed to the earlier stages of this consultation. The consultation is now entering its final phase, where following further consultation, a series of recommendations will be made to the Scottish Government. Further information about the proposed changes can be seen in the links below. The full Interim Report is linked below, while the Briefing Paper gives a succinct outline of what is proposed. Further materials developed by parent/carer organisations Connect and the National Parent Forum of Scotland are also linked, which give further clarification.

Interim Report

[Interim report Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessments | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

Briefing Paper

[Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[The Hayward Review: Reforming Qualifications and Assessments :: Connect](#)

NPFS

<https://mailchi.mp/npfs/national-parent-forum-newsletter?e=88e80b558f>

Anyone who wants to make a response to what is proposed can do so via the link below:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/phasethree/>

Again, our pupils will be engaging in discussion about these proposals and making a collective response.

Duke of Edinburgh Visit

It was pleasing to see Braes pupils being represented at the Duke of Edinburgh's first official engagement this week, meeting with him at Holyrood Palace, and discussing a range of issues including mental health supports, community engagement and outdoor learning. Well done to Iona Lang, Lawson McNaughton and Felix Tory who represented themselves and the school so well. Further information can be gained from the news story below:

<https://news.stv.tv/east-central/prince-edward-meets-award-participants-at-holyroodhouse-for-first-time-since-becoming-duke-of-edinburgh>

School Improvement Plan – consultation with parents/carers

Over the years, the voice of parents/carers has helped influence and support a wide range of ongoing developments in Braes High School. These would include approaches to reporting and tracking of pupil progress, how parents' evenings are organised, how our curriculum is structured and how we can all celebrate the success and achievements of our young people. Looking ahead to next session, we are keen to have the views of parents/carers again guiding the identification of school development priorities. We would therefore invite you to take a few moments to complete the survey below. Many thanks for your support with this. The survey is open until Monday 27th March 2023.

Braes HS Survey March 2023

Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal

Our pupil-led Rights Respecting Schools group prepared a successful bake sale to raise funds for the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal, and there will be further such events in the coming weeks. There will also be a non-uniform day to raise funds for this appeal on the last day of this term, Friday 31st March 2023. There is an opportunity for families to contribute to this fundraising appeal in advance through the Ipay system. Alternatively funds can be donated directly to EC via the link below:

[Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal 2023 | Donate Now | DEC](#)

As we move into the final weeks of this term, we have a number of events taking place with our Pupil Dance Showcase taking place at 7pm on Wednesday 22nd March at 7pm, the Higher Media Oscars Evening on Thursday 23rd March, and the return of the annual "Play, Pie and Pick-me-Up" drama event on Thursday 30th March. Events like these, combined with the many extra curricular clubs, and supported study sessions on offer for pupils approaching SQA examinations, means there are many opportunities for our young people to 'be part of it' at Braes, which is great to see.

Yours sincerely,

Iain Livingstone