

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we move into the final weeks of this term, I would thank all parents/carers for your ongoing support of your young people and the school. The term concludes on Friday 31st March, with school finishing at 2.50pm on that date. The new term begins on Monday 17th April. Other forthcoming dates to note are:

Friday 28th April – in service day (school closed to pupils)

Monday 1st May – public holiday

Monday 8 May – public holiday

Please see an update on a number of other matters below:

Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal

As a reminder, our pupil-led Rights Respecting Schools group have been preparing bake sales to raise funds for the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal, and 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 DEC via the link below:

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

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](#)

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](#)

Home to School Transport consultation

As previously communicated, Falkirk Council has recently been consulting on a proposed change to eligibility for home to school transport. This will be of interest to Braes families. The consultation is now closed. However there is another chance for Braes parents/carers to give their views on Thursday 30th March, when a representative of Education Scotland will visit the school to gather views on the proposed change from parents/carers, pupils and staff. If you would like to be involved in meeting with the representative from Education Scotland, please email me at ian.livingstone@falkirk.gov.uk.

Being hydrated for learning

We are of course keen that our young people are maximising their time in lessons, and also to reduce the number of disposable cups being issued for pupils to get a drink of water from the water fountains. Pupils are being advised that they should be using intervals and lunchtimes to fill water bottles, which can be taken into class to ensure pupils can remain hydrated for learning during lessons.

Many thanks again for your support and we look forward to a bus and positive finish to this term.

Yours faithfully,

Iain Livingstone