



John Devine M.A. (Hons); M.Ed; SQH
Headteacher

Breadalbane Academy
ABERFELDY PH15 2DU
Tel 01887 822300 • Fax 01887 820464
Email breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk
Website www.breadalbane.pkc.sch.uk

26 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Return to School Update

As we reach the end of the first full week of the new term, I thought it would be useful to provide some updates for you. It has been great to see our young people back in school - back in uniform and ready to learn, so thank you very much for your support with this. We are very much hoping that this session will be closer to normal than the previous two years, though as I will come on to later, we do need to remain vigilant with regard to COVID for a while yet.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a welcome to our new pupils in nursery, P1 and S1, and all others who joined us for the first time last week. We hope that everyone is already feeling more confident about being here and developing the sense of belonging that will be so critical to both their happiness here and future success.

For some of these young people though, such transitions may still be proving challenging, and there will also others for whom return after such a long break will be difficult. We hope that young people will communicate such feelings to us - and we believe are good at picking them up even when they do not - but we always welcome contact from parents where there is a concern. Emails to the address at the bottom of this letter will be forwarded to relevant members of staff, but please feel free also to phone if you prefer.

Campus Reopening

Live Active Leisure and Culture Perth & Kinross have resumed their normal opening hours. Whilst there are still some restrictions in place, it is good to see these facilities back in use and our function as a community campus revived. We have procedures in place to minimise contact between campus users and pupils and are reviewing these on an ongoing basis, with a view to mitigating risks as far as possible. To ensure pupil safety, access to teaching areas is once again controlled and secondary pupils were issued with swipe cards last week. We would appreciate your support in reinforcing with your young person the need to carry these.



Revised Risk Assessment

Our risk assessment has now been updated to reflect the most recent government guidance which I shared with you in my letter of 12 August. The risk assessment will be available on our website from early next week.

Tayside Contracts

We are pleased to inform you that the new menus for Tayside Contracts start this Monday, 30 August. These also see a return to a more normal service with a wider range of options and will be sent out to you as soon as we receive them. We would encourage all school lunch payments to be made via ParentPay.

COVID mitigations

As you will be aware from recent media reports, the number of recorded cases of coronavirus in Scotland is currently increasing, particularly in younger age groups, and we have had to make you aware today of a confirmed case in our own secondary. Details of case numbers and trends are available on the public health dashboard which is available here [COVID-19 Daily Dashboard | Tableau Public](#). Staff and pupil safety remains our key priority and we would ask once again for your support in reinforcing the following messages:

- Hygiene and infection control measures are vital to minimise risk. Pupils should thoroughly sanitise their hands on arrival at school and when moving between classrooms.
- Face coverings should be worn by secondary pupils (unless exempt) at all times other than when dining.
- Pupils should observe 2m physical distancing from staff.
- Windows and doors will be open to maximise fresh air. As the autumn approaches, warmer clothing may be required.
- Secondary pupils are encouraged to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme. Early identification of positive cases is vital to maintaining a safe environment for all. Tests can be collected from the school office and consent can be given online via this link - [Online Consent Form](#)

Whilst compliance with COVID mitigations is generally still good, we are aware that the restrictions in school are different to those in the wider community, which is causing some confusion and unfortunately some complacency among pupils.

We would also like to remind parents that face-coverings should be worn when dropping off and collecting pupils from school and we would encourage the observation of 2m physical distancing.

Vaccination

Schools have been asked by the Scottish Government to encourage senior pupils to get the COVID vaccination and a number of pupils have already taken up this offer. This vaccination is being offered through local vaccination centres and drop-in clinics and **not through the school**. This is a personal decision which you should discuss with your young person – arrangements for the vaccination programme can be viewed online [NHS Tayside \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#).

Annual Flu Immunisation Programme

We will be issuing consent forms in the coming weeks for the annual flu immunisation programme which this year has been extended to include secondary pupils – the dates for this will be Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 October. This will follow our normal procedures with parental consent being

requested in advance. If you have any concerns regarding this immunisation, you should discuss them with your GP. Full details of the procedures for consent will be included within the letter from NHS Tayside however it is important to note that secondary pupils can self-consent for the flu vaccine. It is therefore vital that you discuss this with your young person.

As I have advised previously, it is essential that everyone works together to ensure that the school provides a safe environment for every member of our school community. This can only be achieved if we all take on the responsibilities that are required of us and I would therefore ask that you discuss all of this information with your child/young person.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any of these matters, please contact us via the school email address – breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk

Once again, may I thank parents and carers for their support in making the start of session a successful one. I know I can depend on your support throughout the remainder of the session in getting the best possible learning experiences for our young people.

Yours faithfully

John Devine
Headteacher

