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JD/SR



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Dear Parent/Carer

We look forward to welcoming our pupils tomorrow

I would like to wish all our existing pupils a successful return to school tomorrow. I hope that they feel refreshed after a long summer of good weather and are ready to get back to learning from the word 'go'.

A very warm welcome, too, to our new S1. I hope that the induction activities last session will make this transition an easier one for all involved. I would urge all S1 pupils to think from the outset about what they would like to achieve during their journey through secondary. We are here to help you fulfil your aspirations.

Finally, welcome to our S5 pupils from Pitlochry High School who joined us towards the end of last session. There are not many schools left in Scotland that have a transition at this point in a young person's school career, but there is no question that our school is always enriched by this annual injection of talent into our senior school.

Whether your child is new or returning, I would emphasise how significant it is that the first word in our school values statement is 'belonging'. No young person will thrive in a school community unless they believe that they belong to the school and the school belongs to them. We will try to support our pupils - through our curriculum offer and wider achievement opportunities - to do the very best they can. We want everyone to feel that they belong at Breadalbane and to believe that for each of them there will be many opportunities to achieve.

I would also want to say to parents that our school belongs to you too. Please do not hesitate to get in touch, whether to raise a query or express a view. On the subject of queries, below is a link to our updated school handbook, which provides detailed information that should be of use, particularly to parents of new pupils.

Our Handbook - Breadalbane Academy

I know that you would also be very welcome to provide feedback to the Parent Council on matters relating to the school, and to attend Parent Council meetings, which will be advertised for this session in due course.



May I also take this opportunity to draw some key points to your attention:

School Uniform

A reminder that our secondary school uniform includes the following items:

- Plain black footwear (including plain black training shoes)
- Black trousers (including plain black denims), black skirt or black leggings
- White shirt or blouse
- School tie (red for S5, available from the school office)
- Plain black jumper or cardigan

Please note that further to consultation with the Pupil Council in recent sessions, we widened our dress code to include black denims and plain black training shoes. We agreed with the pupils that these items can offer more comfort whilst still looking smart. Since last session, we have also allowed leggings for the same reasons.

Some of the items deemed not to meet our school uniform requirements include:

- Hoodies
- Coloured trainers
- Coloured jumpers
- Jumpers with prominent branding

We believe uniform supports the development of school identity and can also reduce bullying behaviour. Parents also tell us that the pursuit of fashion can put an unhelpful pressure on our young people on school mornings in a way that uniform does not. We are very aware, however, that these are difficult times for many households and I would reiterate our invitation to contact guidance staff should you be experiencing any difficulty providing uniform. They will be able to provide sensitive support for any parents who require this. You will find their contact details [here](#) on the school website.

Make sure your child shares a problem

We would hope that the return to school tomorrow is a positive experience for all our children, but inevitably some will find it harder than others, or problems may arise as the term goes on. The only word that appears twice in our values statement is 'happy'. This is no accident: the most important thing for us is that our young people are happy to be here. We will be urging the pupils themselves to share worries with staff, but I would also urge parents to get in touch with their child's guidance teacher if there is anything at all that is giving them cause for concern. We are here to help.

Punctuality and Attendance

We will be having a further focus this session on punctuality and attendance. We would appreciate your support in ensuring your child arrives at school in the morning in good time and attends school every day unless there are very good reasons why they cannot. Our school is in line with the Perth and Kinross average for attendance which is currently below 90%. This means that on average, our pupils miss one day a fortnight. There is no doubt that the more that young people attend school, the more chance they will have of success, so I

would urge parents to support the school in maximising attendance this session from the outset.

We look forward to working in partnership with you and your child over the coming session.

Yours faithfully

John Devine
Headteacher