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Dear Parent/Carer

We look forward to welcoming our secondary pupils tomorrow

I would like to wish all our existing pupils a successful return to school tomorrow. Despite some disappointing weather, I hope families have been able to make the best of the summer.

A very warm welcome, too, to our new S1. We are excited to meet again with our newest year group and will be stressing to them the importance of setting off the way they intend to go on in terms of their attitude towards school. Breadalbane Academy will support them to be the best they can over the coming years, but they need to work with staff from the outset to make this a reality.

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 want every young person 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 remind 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. 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:

Attendance

I would like to flag up to both parents and pupils at this early stage the critical importance of good attendance. For some year groups last year, our attendance fell significantly below the 90% minimum that we would expect of every year group. Every school day missed is a missed opportunity to learn so I would urge



pupils always to make the effort to come to school unless there is some compelling reason why they cannot. I would also request that parents do not take holidays during the school term.

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

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

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

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.

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

Yours faithfully

John Devine
Headteacher