



16<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

To: All Secondary Parents/Carers

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family have had a wonderful Christmas break, and are feeling rested and ready for an exciting, successful and happy 2020.

### **3-18 Information**

#### **Values Survey**

As you may be aware from our recent newsletter, over the last two terms we have held workshops with our pupils to gather their views on what our vision, values and aims should be. We looked at how we want to interact with each other, how we want to feel when we are at school and how our values underpin this. As mentioned in the newsletter, we have created a survey to gather your views on what our values should be and how we should embed them into the life of the school. I would be very grateful if you could take 10 minutes to complete the survey. The survey will remain open until the Friday the 31<sup>st</sup> of January.

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

#### **Staffing**

I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Julie Johnson will be joining the school as Principal Teacher of ASN and Pupil Support. Mrs Johnson joins us from the Anderson High School, where she is a Music teacher. Previously, Mrs Johnson was Principal Teacher of Pupil Support at Mid Yell Junior High School. We look forward to her starting on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you all for your patience and understanding during what has been an unsettled time for the ASN department.

#### **Attendance**

As you may be aware, supporting improved attendance is an action on our School Improvement Plan. Evidence shows that low levels of school attendance have a negative impact on attainment, peer relationships, emotional and behavioural development and can lead to poorer employment opportunities.

The table below shows the impact of attendance in terms of days, periods, courses and years of schooling missed.

<b>Attendance as a %</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>50%</b>
Days missed per week	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5
Periods missed per week	0	3.3	6.6	9.9	13.2	16.5
Periods missed per year	0	132	264	396	528	660
Approximate amount of certificate courses missed in a year	0	1	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5
Years of schooling missed from P1-S6	0	1.3	2.6	3.9	5.2	6.5

We now look at pupil attendance in primary and secondary (not early years as attendance is optional) every 6 weeks to identify any concerns, trends or issues regarding a pupil's attendance. If we notice a concern, we will contact you to make you aware of your child's attendance and to let you know what support is available for them. We then hope to see an improvement. If a pupil's attendance is still causing concern by the next monitoring period we will invite you and your child to a support meeting to look at what can be done to support them getting into school.

### **Team Improvement Visit**

From the 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February we will be hosting staff from Children's Services and Education Scotland for a Team Improvement Visit. Team Improvement Visits are happening across schools in Shetland. They aim to support schools in their self-evaluation and in identifying the next steps on their improvement journey. As part of the visit, the team will be meeting with pupil, parent and partner agency focus groups. Please let me know if you are keen to be involved in a focus group. We look forward to working collaboratively with the team to continue moving the school forward.

### **Wearing of Jewellery**

We recently received advice from Children's Services that "the wearing of jewellery when pupils are taking part in PE is prohibited. This includes jewellery that has been taped over as there is still the potential to cause injury to both the wearer and other pupils." We would politely ask that for their safety, and that of other pupils, your child should follow this advice. Thank you for your support.

### **Asbestos**

As may be aware, there was a recent article in the Shetland Times stating that both the primary and secondary buildings contain asbestos. I can confirm that there is no crocidolite/blue asbestos in the building, there is however chrysotile/white asbestos. Building Service's and Children's Services are confident that we have sound asbestos management systems in place.

### **Parent Council**

The next Parent Council Meeting takes place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January at 6pm in the primary building.

### **Secondary Information**

#### **Study sessions/Homework clubs**

At the request of pupils, a general secondary homework club has been setup. This will start next Monday and will take place daily in Room 8A. There are also a number of subject specific after school study clubs that we would encourage pupils to attend:

<b>Level/Course (teacher)</b>	<b>Day and time</b>
S4 N5 Mathematics (Mrs Morrison)	Monday 3:40-4:40
N5 Geography (Ms Mackney-Mills)	Monday 3:40-4:40
N5 and Higher Business Management (Ms Gregory)	Monday 3:40-4:40
Higher Chemistry (Mr Evans)	Monday 3:40-4:40
N5 Chemistry (Mr Evans)	Tuesday 3:40-4:40
N5 German (Mrs Wood)	Tuesday 3:40-4:40
S5/6 N5 and Higher Mathematics (Mrs Batty)	Alternate Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:40-4:40
Higher English (Mrs Watt)	Wednesday 3:40-4:40
N5 English (Ms Storey) <b>starting after prelims</b>	Wednesday 3:40-4:40
Higher Geography (Ms Mackney-Mills)	Wednesday 3:40-4:40
N5 and Higher Administration (Ms Gregory)	Friday 2:00-3:00
Higher PE (Ms Copeland)	Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 3:40-4:40
N5 PE (Mrs Hibbert)	Tuesday & Wednesday 3:40-4:40

There may also be study sessions for Physics and Engineering Science, which will probably take place over lunch break. Teachers may have to rearrange or postpone study sessions due to other commitments. Please contact us if your child would like to attend a study session or the homework club but transport is an issue.

### **Prelims**

Prelims for S4-S6 pupils will run from the 20<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> of January. Pupils are expected to come to school during this time. There is no study leave for prelims.

#### **S4/5 Pupils**

- If pupils are not sitting a prelim, they should attend the timetabled study class.

#### **S6 Pupils**

- If pupils are not sitting a prelim, they may have independent study either in the Red Area or timetabled study class.

Kind regards,

Logan Nicolson  
Head Teacher  
Brae High School