

Parent Update – Friday 8 February 2019

Dress Code: a message to parents in preparation for returning after the February holiday

There is little doubt that a school is judged by the local community on the extent to which its pupils identify with their school through their conduct, through their involvement in school life and also through their dress. We are delighted that our pupils choose to identify with their school by proudly wearing their school clothing. The support of parents is crucial to the continuation of this aspect of life at North Berwick High School.

School dress is an important feature of the ethos of the school: it helps to set a tone and to promote the idea of dress appropriate for a place of work. In terms of equality dress code provides a level playing field for all pupils and from the point of security, our dress code also allows visitors/strangers in the school to be immediately identified.

Whilst the majority of our pupils are adhering to the school's dress code, we have noticed that over the last term a number of pupils, particularly in the senior school, are not. Specifically, a number of pupils are not wearing a shirt and tie, choosing to wear only a black top/cardigan. This is not adhering to the dress code.

Here is a summary of what we expect all pupils to adhere to in relation to dress code:

- White or black collared shirt/blouse
- School tie
- Smart black full-length trousers (no jeans or leggings) **or**
- Smart black skirt (of a reasonable length for school)
- Plain black v-neck sweater (no logo)
- Plain black footwear
- S4-S6 school blazer

Please note also:

- Any pupil who has Physical Education period 1 should always arrive at school in dress code and then get changed for PE at the start of the lesson
- All outside jackets/garments should be removed in class

Dress code checks will be conducted the first week back after the February holiday. S1 and S2 spot checks have already been conducted and we are delighted with the standard of dress code that these year groups are displaying.

We have a plentiful supply of school ties available to purchase at the school office for £3.50.

We very much appreciate your support with this,

Mrs Rodger

Parental Engagement Strategy Survey

East Lothian Council are seeking to evaluate the impact of the 2017 parental engagement strategy. This is being done by means of a survey which can be accessed on our school website or by copy and pasting this link to your browser:

<https://edubuzz.limequery.org/index.php/482392/lang-en>.

The strategy document can be read either on the school website or by copy and pasting this link to your browser:

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/12712/parental_engagement_strategy.

If you have any difficulties accessing either of these links, please contact us at communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk and we will forward the links to you directly.

Feedback from this evaluation will be extremely helpful to the school, so it would be much appreciated if you could take the time to complete the survey.

As the survey results will be collated on a school basis, if you have children at different schools a separate survey will need to be carried out for each school, however if you have more than one child at the same school, only one survey will be necessary.

S1 ICT – Internet Safety

This term our S1 students have been working on an Internet Safety unit in ICT. The aims of the unit are to: ensure students are considering their safety when using resources and communicating online; to learn about what happens to information they may share online and to ensure that our students share information responsibly.

Students have engaged in a number of classroom discussions surrounding the benefits and the risks of the internet. Alongside this they have considered an example of a social media profile, in order to identify what is positive about the profile and what is potentially unsafe. We felt it was also imperative to make students aware of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) branch of the Police Service, where individuals can report concerns over any inappropriate communication online (see www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/).

The highlight of the unit for both the pupils and the Business Education and Computing Faculty is the competition, where students work on creating a resource around the theme "Together for a Better Internet" - this year's entries so far have included cakes, music videos and an animation. It is great to see our pupils embracing their creative side whilst committing to ensuring their own safety and the safety of others whilst using the internet. The competition is heating up - watch this space for the announcement of our winners!

HPV Vaccination Forms

If you have not already done so, please ensure that these forms are returned when school restarts on Tuesday 19 February.

Senior Phase Reports

Prelim tracking reports have been handed out to our senior phase (S4, S5 & S6) pupils.

East Lothian Showcase – tickets now available

Tickets for the East Lothian Showcase on Monday 11 March are now available from the Brunton Theatre. Call 0131 665 2240 for further details.

DYW Jobs Roadshow

We have a number of places available to senior pupils who wish to attend this year's DYW Jobs Roadshow on Wednesday 6 March at the Corn Exchange in Edinburgh. Pupils will have the opportunities to meet employers advertising live jobs, apprenticeships and intern opportunities across a variety of industries. We have arranged for free travel to and from this event. Pupils who would like to attend should complete this survey by following this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/juxFKC18vCJpINTN2> If you have any difficulties accessing this link, please contact us at communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk and we will forward the link to you directly.

Senior Phase Learner Pathways Evening – Monday 25 February

Our Senior Phase Learner Pathways evening is taking place on Monday 25 February at 6.30 pm in the assembly hall. This is particularly aimed at parents and carers of S3 pupils - who have not been through the senior phase course choosing process before - but parents and carers of all the senior phase year groups are welcome. We will give more details about the event next week.

Excelsior Comic Awards

After the February break, the library will be running the Excelsior Comic Awards, with the first meeting at lunchtime on the Thursday 28 February. This is the first time that the awards are being run at NBHS and it is open to all year groups.

Happy Holidays!

We wish all our pupils and their parents a happy and restful February break. School resumes for pupils on Tuesday 19 February.

Should you have any queries about anything covered in this email, or any general enquiries, please contact the School at: communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk