

## **Parent Update – Friday 5 April 2019**

### **April Dates for the Diary**

Tuesday 23 April	School opens
Tuesday 23 April	S3 Dalguise Trip Parents' Information Evening
Wednesday 24 April	HPV injections
Tuesday 25 April	SQA exams start; study leave starts
Tuesday 30 April	Parent School Partnership meeting

### **Authority Review Report**

As you know, NBHS welcomed an authority review team to the school this term, from 5 – 7 March. The team were focusing on the Broad General Education, S1 to S3, and you can find the Record of Visit on website or by copy and pasting the following link into your browser: <https://www.edubuzz.org/northberwickhigh/2019/04/05/authority-review-5-7-march-2019-record-of-visit/>. We are delighted that the review team were hugely impressed by our confident, articulate young people; the ethos in the school; the commitment of staff; and the positive relationships across our whole school community. We really shone in those respects! The team also recognised the work that we are currently doing as we 'Aim Higher' – both as a school and as individual members of the school community. We look forward to continuing our work on the areas for development as part of our school improvement planning for next session.

### **Pupil Drivers**

If your child drives a car to school, please can you have a serious conversation with them about driving safely. I know our S6s have only a short time left in school, but we have had more complaints about dangerous driving in the school car park and we are hugely concerned about the situation. It seems the message about safety is still not getting through to some of our young drivers, despite various talks to the year group and conversations with individual pupils and, sometimes, their parents. We would appreciate parental support with this very important issue, for current and future drivers. Thank you.

### **School Library Opening – Exam Time**

During the course of this year's study leave, to support pupils as in previous years, the school library will be introducing extended opening hours to allow access to a quiet supportive study space, with past papers and study guides to borrow and use. The extended opening hours are:

**Monday to Thursday:** 8.15am to 5.15pm

**Friday:** 8.15am to 2.15pm

It is recommended to avoid the library from 1-1.45pm, when the junior years have lunch, as it does become very busy and loud. Pupils are reminded that if they are coming in to school to study, they must wear appropriate school uniform and adhere to the normal rules of the school and library space.

In addition, the public libraries at North Berwick, Gullane and Longniddry all have space suitable for both independent and group study. Opening times may vary, more details can be found at the following address: [https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/directory/10059/east\\_lothian\\_libraries](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/directory/10059/east_lothian_libraries)

### **Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award**

Congratulations to all pupils who have successfully completed Duke of Edinburgh's bronze award. The following pupils have received their awards: Hannah Acton, Madeleine Armstrong, Elizabeth Austin, Alice Budd, Catriona Clark, Savannah Harper, Jamie Higgs, Katie Johnston, Daniel Key, Lucy Lucas, Angus Mather, Finlay McClure, Flynn Petrie, Jess Rae, Lucy Smith and Felix Watts.

Can all pupils who were involved in the expeditions to Dunbar and the Pentlands please check to see if they still have any equipment. There are a number of items still unaccounted for and unfortunately the school will be charged the cost of replacing these items. Please do have a look because even small parts can necessitate us needing to replace the entire item.

### **Percussion Instruction**

Our percussion instructor, Dave Swanson, retires at the end of this term and we thank him for all his hard work with our pupils over the last 20+ years. Dave will be sorely missed! We hope to have a new percussion instructor in place early next term.

### **HPV Injections**

A reminder that our S1 and S2 girls (and some catch-ups) will be receiving their HPV injection on Wednesday 24 April.

### **National 5 and Higher English Revision and Exam Advice**

The English department has collated some useful advice to help pupils who are sitting their National 5 or Higher exam this year. This has been distributed to the pupils and can also be viewed on the school website or by copy and pasting the following link into your browser: <https://www.edubuzz.org/northberwickhigh/2019/03/29/national-5-and-higher-english-revision-and-exam-advice/>

### **Volunteering Opportunity for Pupils**

Would any pupils like to help marshal at this year's North Berwick Novice Triathlon? It will be held on Sunday 12 May and volunteers would be required from 8-11am. Pupils should speak to Mr Mumford if interested.

### **Dalguise Trip Parents' Information Evening**

There will be a parents and carers' information evening at the school on Tuesday 23 April, from 7-8pm, for those S3 pupils going to Dalguise during activities week.

### **Hockey Staffing**

As you may be aware, Claire Parry (Active Schools Coordinator) and Sophie Lovett (PE teacher) will be on maternity leave during the next academic session. Claire will be off until Christmas and Sophie will be off for the full year. We are delighted for them both and wish them well. We will replace

them on a temporary basis but it does leave our extra-curricular hockey without two dedicated coaches. We will cover where we can with teaching staff and current volunteers but for hockey to continue as usual, we require a number of volunteers to help coach and manage our girls' teams. If you are able to help us maintain training sessions and fixtures, please get in touch: [amacdonald@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:amacdonald@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk)

## **Health & Wellbeing Faculty Update**

We are planning some exciting events for the summer term and would like to make you aware of them in advance and invite you to support or join in where possible:

1. **Wellbeing challenge** – A parent of one of our S3 pupils has been in to speak with us about a wellbeing challenge he is undertaking since suffering Post-Concussion Syndrome. His challenge links to the 5 aspects of wellbeing (give, connect, be active, keep learning, take notice) and we'd like to raise the profile of these within our school and invite the wider school community to embark on their own challenge. We will make all pupils aware of this at the start of the summer term. Please copy and paste the following link into your browser for more information: [www.40days.org.uk](http://www.40days.org.uk)

2. **Activities week** – 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May. Wellbeing activities will be on offer for S1 and S2 pupils throughout the week and the Health and Wellbeing department have created links with the community who are able to provide taster sessions; trial periods and coaching sessions. During this week, pupils will participate in wellbeing activities as well as the traditional sports day where competition for their respective house continues. S3 pupils will be on the Highland trip or staying with us for activities and the aspects of wellbeing will be at the forefront of their sessions. Senior pupils will be on study leave but can easily sign up for a challenge that may help create a balance in their studies.

3. **Sports Award Evening** – We are not entirely sure of the format yet and are discussing a plan for June. We'd like to celebrate sporting success (curricular, extra-curricular and wider achievement) so the school community recognises the efforts and achievements of our pupils and volunteers. There have been so many success stories this year and it would be amazing to celebrate them on a large scale. We are seeking sponsored prizes for this event so if you are able to help, please get in touch: [amacdonald@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:amacdonald@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk)

4. **Community Ceilidh** – Friday 28th June. Save the date! Instead of having a whole school ceilidh with just our pupils, we would love to share this wonderful occasion with the wider community - parents, carers, volunteers etc. We are used to running this type of event and think we can share success stories from wellbeing challenges between dances and continue raising money for the school and our charities.

**We wish all our pupils and their families happy, restful holidays. We look forward to seeing our pupils again on Tuesday 23 April.**

**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](mailto:communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk)**