

Parent Update – Friday 26 April 2019

April Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 30 April

Parent School Partnership meeting

S3 SNSA – Scottish National Standardised Assessments

Pupils at North Berwick High School have undertaken standardised assessments for many years. This year S3 pupils will be taking the new Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSAs), as are all S3 pupils in Scottish schools. Our S3 pupils will complete the assessments next week.

This new system of has been introduced by the Scottish Government. Pupils will complete three assessments, in reading, writing and numeracy. The assessments are completed online and the results will be used to help teachers plan the next steps in learning for each child in order to help them make the best possible progress, and also to highlight any areas which may require some further support or intervention.

Pupils do not have to revise or prepare for these assessments. They are designed to be used as part of normal learning and teaching and the information they provide will be used in the same way as other assessment information, which arises from day to day classes/lessons. Pupils will complete a short practice assessment first, to get used to the system. The assessments do not have a time limit attached to them; however, the majority of children will complete the assessment in no more than 45 minutes. If anyone requires more time, then this will be accounted for. The assessments are also designed to be appropriate for use with all children, including those who require additional support.

Further information for parents/carers can be viewed by copy and pasting the following link into your browser: <https://standardisedassessment.gov.scot/parents-and-carers/>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Lauren Rodger

PSP Meeting – Tuesday 30 April at 7.00 pm

The next PSP (Parent School Partnership) meeting will be held next Tuesday, 30 April at 7.00 pm in the school. The agenda for the meeting can be viewed on the school website.

German Exchange

During the last week of the second term, we welcomed our German exchange partners to North Berwick High School. Fourteen pupils (seven boys and seven girls) travelled to Scotland from Schmuttertal Gymnasium in Diedorf (ca. 1 hour from Munich in Bavaria). They were very warmly met! During the week, we visited Glasgow and Edinburgh. More locally, the whole S3 German class went with our guests on a trip to Torness power station. The German group also visited Seacliff Beach, Tantallon Castle and Glenkinchie Distillery.

The Scottish and German pupils all got along very well and there were even some tears on departure! We can't wait to make our return visit in September and Miss Ritchie will be booking the flights for this soon.

Exchange trips are a wonderful way to experience a different way of life and to broaden your horizons in a very personal way. They also offer a fantastic opportunity to deepen languages skills, cultural understanding and to grow as a person. Thank you to everyone who participated in this first part of the exchange - whether you were hosting or making the effort to be part of the events.

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

S6 and Other Leavers - Library Books

All pupils not returning to school after study leave should please ensure that any outstanding library books are returned as soon as possible. Pupils can check with our librarian Ms Wilson if they are unsure about whether they have any books on loan.

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/>

Thinkuknow – Staying Safe on Digital Media

Thinkuknow is an education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline and offers advice for staying safe on phones, tablets and computers. Thinkuknow has resources available accessible from early years, through to senior phase and advice for parents. www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Young Scot Card / Historic Places and Buildings Offer

For the second year running, Historic Houses, Historic Environment Scotland and the National Trust for Scotland are offering holders of a Young Scot card the opportunity to visit many of Scotland's most iconic historic building and places for a nominal fee of £1.

Further information on this offer can be found in the letter attached to this email.

Changemakers of East Lothian – Call for Volunteers

The Changemakers of East Lothian programme improves the wellbeing and resilience of local young people between the ages of 12 and 25 by delivering regular youth groups and workshops for these young people, their families and professionals.

CHANGEMAKERS ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO:

- Are keen to make positive social change for young people and their families within their community
- Want to learn new skills and put them into action

HOW TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER:

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer you can apply by filling in an online form, which can be accessed by copy and pasting the following link into your browser:
<https://form.jotformeu.com/91054294658363>

Successful candidates will complete the **Changemaker Course** – an intensive training programme running over 3 weekends. Volunteers will develop skills in promoting and building resilience, effective group work and communication, and also how to create their own community projects and put them into action!

Volunteers will learn the Changemaker methodology and receive support to deliver a range of services in East Lothian. After completion of the training course and 20 hours of practical experience volunteers will receive a certificate.

The training will take place in the Musselburgh East Community Learning Centre from 9am – 5pm on the following dates:

- Part I – June 7-8, 2019
- Part II – June 15-16, 2019
- Part III – August 24-25, 2019

The deadline for applications is Sunday 26 May.

Details about the programme and the training course can be found on the Changemakers website: www.positiverealities.org/volunteering-in-el.html

The Royal Blind School Parent & Carers Training Sessions

The Royal Blind School are delivering two sessions for parents and carers:

Cerebral Vision Impairment (CVI) Awareness Event

Thursday 16 May, 1.00 – 3.00 pm at the Town House in Haddington

Independent Living Skills for Vision Impaired Learners

Tuesday 4 June, 6.00 – 7.30 pm at John Muir House, Haddington

Further details about both events can be found by visiting the school website or by copy and pasting the following link into your browser:

<https://www.edubuzz.org/northberwickhigh/2019/04/01/events-presented-by-the-royal-blind-school/>

Police Scotland Letter to Parents and Carers

We have attached a Police Scotland letter to parents and carers outlining the dangers of young people being used as money mules for fraudsters to this email.

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