

Parent Update – Friday 10 May 2019

May Dates for the Diary

Monday 13 – Friday 17 May	S1-3 Activities Week
Thursday 23 May	Curriculum Structure Information Evening
Thursday 30 May	S6 Information Evening

Curriculum Structure Information Evening, Thursday 23 May, 7pm at Law Primary School

Earlier this session, all parents and carers received a letter from Fiona Robertson, Head of Education, explaining that all East Lothian secondary schools will be moving to a common school day. North Berwick High School intends to make the move to these common timings for school days in June 2020. For us, this means a move from 27 hour-long lessons to 32 50-minute lessons each week.

This change of school day gives us an opportunity to look afresh at all aspects of our curriculum structure. We have looked outward at the curriculum structures of other high-performing schools and have consulted with teachers, pupils and the Parent School Partnership. We have also taken account of the fact that National courses no longer include three formal unit assessments, thus reducing the assessment burden for pupils.

We now have a proposed plan for the new curriculum structure - a plan which we believe will work very well in the new structure. We propose to move from six subjects in S4 to seven, and from ten subjects in S3 to nine. With 50 minute periods, S4 pupils will still have four lessons per week for each subject, and S3 pupils will now have three lessons per week for each subject rather than the current two. We would like to share our new curriculum structure with parents at an information evening on Thursday 23 May at 7.00 pm. Law Primary have generously offered to host the evening, as our school hall is occupied with exam desks.

The information evening will give us an opportunity to share the proposals in detail and to hear your thoughts, so that together we can ensure this change is managed as smoothly as possible for our children and young people.

S6 Information Evening for Parents of Pupils Currently in S5

We will be holding an S6 information evening for parents of pupils currently in S5 and moving into S6 in June, on **Thursday 30 May from 6:30 – 7:30 pm**. This will be an opportunity to hear about the structure of the S6 timetable; other opportunities available to S6 pupils; the preparation that we do with our pupils for life beyond school and our expectations of our new S6 pupils. We look forward to seeing you there.

Careers Update

School Leavers

Leavers can continue to use the careers services now and in the future as necessary. They can either email our Careers Advisor Mick Burns at mick.burns@sds.co.uk visit the My World of Work website at: www.myworldofwork.co.uk

Vacancy updates will be posted at edubuzz.org/careers and via Twitter (Mick Burns2). The blog also has links to other useful sites such as apprenticeship.scot and midandeastvacancies.

S2 Careers Talk

The S2s recently attended a careers talk and started working on their individual profiles, which have been printed and emailed to everyone who attended. The talk can be viewed on our Careers blog [here](#) and the (very interesting!) class response can be found [here](#).

Education Scotland Review

Education Scotland recently carried out a review of Skills Development Scotland - East Lothian Services, which has now been published. The report can be viewed [here](#) and we were delighted with the recognition of the work being carried out by all staff across departments in the school.

Our careers advisors work with every year group and where possible, the year group sessions are posted online. Please feel free to contact Mick Burns if you have any questions, comments or feel you can contribute to our employability programmes.

Urgent! S6 and Other Leavers - Library Books

An urgent reminder to all pupils not returning to school after study leave, to 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.

School Library – Dates Unavailable for Study

Unfortunately, due to unavoidable circumstances, the library will not be available to use as a study space on Tuesday 14 or Wednesday 15 May.

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

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