

Parent Update – Thursday 12 September 2019

Staffing

Last week, we said goodbye to geography teacher Mr Ferriman, who is taking up a principal teacher post at Royal High School. We are delighted that he has gained this promoted post but he will certainly be missed at NBHS. We thank Mr Ferriman for all that he has done for the pupils of NBHS, both in the classroom and beyond, and we wish him every success at his new school.

School Values and Praise Postcards

As you know, we refreshed our school values last session and we now take every opportunity to embed the values of CURIOSITY, DILIGENCE, KINDNESS and BELONGING in the everyday life of the school. We are very keen to recognise those times when pupils uphold our values. To that end, we are introducing Praise Postcards which staff will issue when they see a pupil going 'above and beyond' in their actions. Pupils also gain a point for their House when they receive a Praise Postcard. The postcards, which replace our positive referral system, were designed by one of last year's S6 pupils, Copeland Reid, as part of his Advanced Higher graphic communication project. We see so many examples of pupils upholding our values and staff are really looking forward to celebrating this with pupils in such a lovely way. Look out for your child bringing home their own Praise Postcard soon!

Parking

We respectfully ask parents not to stop on the double yellow lines at the front of the school. This area is reserved for taxis and other vehicles transporting young people who need easy access to the building (or for pupils who are bringing a large musical instrument to school). If you are bringing your child to school by car, please drop them off in a convenient spot at a distance from the school and allow them to walk the rest of the way. If it is raining, pupils can keep dry by wearing a waterproof jacket or using an umbrella. Please note, also, that disabled spaces are reserved for vehicles with a blue badge. Our car park has a one way system.

Dress Code

We are delighted that the vast majority of our pupils follow the school dress code every day. The senior leadership team recently carried out a 'dress code sweep', visiting every class in the school, and it was a pleasure to see almost everyone following the dress code. Any pupil not doing so was spoken to and parents were contacted. We would really appreciate the support of parents and carers in ensuring that all our pupils follow the dress code. If you are purchasing any new items of clothing over the September weekend or in the near future, please do make sure that they adhere to the dress code. Please note in particular:

- footwear is plain black;
- jerseys or cardigans, worn over the shirt and tie, are plain black (not grey or any colour other than black, not patterned, not with a logo);
- skirts are plain black and of an acceptable length for school (unfortunately, some skirts are so short as to be indecent);
- pupils may wear an outdoor coat (or hooded sweatshirt in place of a coat) but this must be removed in lesson time.

Rolling Monday

Please note that Wednesday 18 September is a rolling Monday so pupils should bring equipment for their Monday timetable on that day.

NBHS Careers Evening - Wednesday 25 September

We are really looking forward to our annual Careers Evening, which this year will be on 25 September, from 6:30pm-8:30pm. We have secured representation from a variety of organisations, including Lloyds Bank, Anderson Strathern, JM Architects, Seabird Centre, Mercat Tours, Macdonald Hotels and many more. Last year, we had more than 300 people attending over the course of the evening – this year we want to make this event even bigger and we really hope you that can join us for a very worthwhile evening.

Higher Economics

Earlier this week, our Higher Economics pupils were involved in a session with a representative from EY. They were informed of the different pathways into working for the organisation; given information on potential job roles and work experience opportunities. Applications for EY apprenticeship schemes usually open in September and are filled on a first come first served basis. Interested students should check the EY website regularly.

Supported Buses Consultation

East Lothian Council is looking for your views on supported bus routes in East Lothian. Our new consultation invites comments on services as well as ideas about new/different services. Have your say: <https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/policy-partnerships/supported-bus-routes-consultation/>

Debating Club

We would like to invite our pupils to participate in a rewarding activity that will enhance their communication skills for life. We are setting up a debating club where students will be trained in public speaking, grace under pressure and critical thinking. Debating can offer young people several advantages, such as:

- practice in developing sound and logical arguments;
- an opportunity to practice speaking in front of an audience and thinking on their feet;
- showing initiative and leadership;
- expanding minds and increasing understanding of multiple sides of important issues;
- honing research skills in preparation for debates.

The club will meet on Tuesday lunchtimes in the library. All year groups are welcome.

S1 East Links Trips

Our S1s have been enjoying their class trips to East Links, in spite of the changeable weather. For those S1 classes yet to have their trip, a reminder for pupils to bring a waterproof jacket with them and ideally a change of clothes, in case they spend time at the water cannons!

PTA AGM – Thursday 26 September

The PTA will be holding their AGM on Thursday 26 September, 6.45pm for a 7pm start, in the High School conference room. All are welcome, including anyone who would like to become a committee member. Not all committee members have roles, however there is one vacancy at the moment, the role of “communications co-ordinator”. If you are interested in that role, or just want to help out, please get in touch with the PTA either by emailing ptanbhs@gmail.com or by messaging us via the Facebook page, NBHSPTA. Full support will be provided by a really fabulous team. We look forward to seeing some new faces at the AGM, and would be delighted to welcome any new S1 parents too.

Local Charity Thanks The Shoegazers



Melanie from Beach Wheelchairs visited NBHS this week to present a certificate of thanks to the members of The Shoegazers, a band made up of S4 pupils - pictured left to right Jason Lovell, Sam Cowan, Luke Smith and Fraser McCarter - who took Fringe By the Sea by storm this summer. The boys collected money for Beach Wheelchairs at the gig and raised a fantastic £260! The

Shoegazers will be playing at the rescheduled North Berwick Raft Race this coming Saturday and at Steampunk Café on the evening of Friday 1 November.

Golf Update

The 2019 East Lothian Junior Golf League session came to a close earlier this month, with a number of NBHS players finishing well in the orders of merit and team positions. Congratulations to S3 pupil Harry Bent, who came overall 2nd in the scratch order of merit and will now go on to represent East Lothian in a match against South Carolina in the Watson Cup, at Royal Burgess and Muirfield next year. S2 pupil Harry Dunkinson placed overall second in the handicap order of merit, while S2 pupil Jack Collingswood won the U14 handicap prize. S1 pupil Grace Crawford and S2 pupils Jack Collingswood, Harry Dunkinson and Ben Churn were part of the West Links team which placed second overall. This team will now go on to represent East Lothian at the Scottish Junior Team Championships, which will be held at Kilmarnock later this month.

Meanwhile at the opening event of the Secondary School Golf Order of Merit, S4 pupil Valdemar Hundebøll opened his defence of the Scratch Championship with a win at Craigiellaw. Several NBHS pupils played, and strong performances ensured that NBHS has started the season leading the team competition.

S1 Football

The S1 football team are in action against Preston Lodge on Friday, 27 September on the 4G astro at Recreation Park. Kick-off is 2pm. All welcome to come along to support NBHS!

Enjoy the long weekend! School returns on Tuesday 17 September.

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