

Parent Update – Friday 28 June 2019

Happy Holidays!

Wishing all of our pupils and their families a very happy and relaxing holiday. Pupils return on Wednesday 14 August. We look forward to seeing them then!

Summary of 2020 Curriculum Structure, with Feedback from Information Evening

Having consulted with pupils, parents and teachers, and having looked outward at the curriculum structures of a range of successful schools, we have now agreed the S1 to S6 structure for our new curriculum from June 2020. This is just the beginning of our work on curriculum, as it simply lays out the number of 50 minute periods allocated to each area of the curriculum in each year. We will work during school session 2019-20 on planning to deliver the curriculum in 50 minute periods.

Parents and carers attended an information evening earlier on 30 May, at which we talked through the proposals for the new senior-phase (S4 to S6) curriculum structure, and sought feedback. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the small number of concerns expressed will help us to ensure we manage the change effectively. Feedback regarding the East Lothian Common School Day was more mixed, but again we will reflect on the concerns in order to mitigate any possible issues. We greatly appreciate the support of the parents and carers who were able to attend.

Attached to this email is a summary of the new structure from S1 to S6, along with a collation of feedback from the information evening and our responses.

School Dress Code

Thank you to all parents, carers, pupils and staff who responded to our recent dress code survey. Taking account of the feedback given by respondents, we are making one immediate change to the dress code: as well as black trousers or skirts, pupils may now choose to wear smart black jeans (not ripped or faded). All other items on the dress code remain the same at present, as indicated on the school website. Further suggestions made by respondents will be discussed with the Pupil Council at the start of the new session.

We really appreciate the support of our parents in ensuring that pupils follow the school dress code.

Post SQA Exam Results Service

Please refer to the policy documents available on our website [here](#) for detailed information about the processes in place for post-results service.

Please note that any non-priority* marking review queries must be raised with the school by emailing communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk in the first instance, from Friday 16 August.

*Priority reviews are only when the candidate requires a result to secure a conditional place at college or university.

Additional In-Service Days for Session 2019-20

As part of the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers' pay negotiations, agreement was reached that two additional in-service days would be granted during schools session 2019/20. Following discussion with the Primary Head Teacher Executive, Secondary Head Teachers, Professional Associations and also with SEIC local authority representatives, it has been agreed that the two additional dates will be as follows:

The first additional day will be **Monday 21 October 2019**. This date is already in our East Lothian calendar as a local in-service day so this will be moved to **Tuesday 22 October 2019**, thereby resulting in two consecutive In-service days. The second additional day will be **Tuesday 7 January 2020**.

Please note an amended school session dates calendar will be issued in due course to reflect these additional days. This will also be posted on the Council website.

Date for the Diary – NBHS Careers Evening, Wednesday 25 September

Our annual Careers Evening returns on 25 September, from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Last year we hosted 32 different organisations with more than 300 people attending over the course of the evening. We hope to make this event bigger again and hope you can join us for a very worthwhile event.

Professional Chef Visit



Senior pupils taking our new NPA Professional Cookery course spent a fascinating morning this week with professional Chef Caroline Lamont from Leith's Cookery School. During the morning, pupils watched a demonstration of some of the skills they will be expected to master during the course such as Choux Pastry, Shortcrust Pastry, Crème Anglaise and

Cinnamon Beignets. They then set to work baking under Caroline's expert guidance - Shortbread with Chocolate Mousse and Raspberry Coulis! It was an extremely enjoyable morning and the pupils learnt lots of tips and tricks to help them on their journey into the world of food.

Library Books

If you discover any library books lurking forgotten on shelves or under beds, these can be returned to any East Lothian public library during the holiday.

East Lothian Works Adult Learning Opportunities

East Lothian Works and Edinburgh College offer a range of introductory courses which will start in August this year. Have a look at the leaflet attached to this email for more information.

Hosting Request – can you help?

We have had a request for a host family from the Bolivian family of a former pupil. Silvana is a 17 year-old girl who attends a German-speaking school in La Paz, Bolivia. She would like to come to North Berwick High School and stay with a host family from September until December in order to improve her English. Her native languages are Spanish and German.

We have had some wonderful experiences, both past and present, with visiting pupils and it is evident that the benefits of such a visit are not one-sided - hosting pupils in school and at home can lead to lasting friendships and provide a window to cultures and countries beyond our shores.

Should you wish to signal an interest in hosting Silvana, or if you would like to ask any questions, please contact me and I will put you in touch with her.

Many thanks and have a wonderful summer,

Suzanne Ritchie
PT Modern Languages

Netball Success

Huge congratulations to the U15 Netball team, who got the bronze cup in the World Schools' Netball Cup, which was held at Loughborough University last weekend. 22 teams from around the world entered the U15 category and the NBHS girls wasted no time putting their mark in the competition, emerging unbeaten winners of their group, beating St Mary's College, Clifton College, Wellington College, Framlingham College and Cheadle Hulme School. They then went on to win their quarter final



against Jersey College for Girls, before losing in the semi-final to eventual winners The Grammar School at Leeds. However the girls lost none of their spirit and determination and came back to win the bronze medal play-off with Sevenoaks School. Well done girls, we are very proud of you!

U15 squad: Savannah Harper, Keira Maynard, Lois Turnbull, Grace Tremlett, Sophie Hetherington, Katie Lennox, Elizabeth Austin, Isobel Adams, Issy Ashall and Ellen Maslen.

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