

## Parent Update – Friday 1 November 2019

### German Exchange



At the end of September, 14 of our S4 and S5 pupils visited our partner school in Diedorf, Bavaria, about an hour north-west of Munich. It was a joy to see how well the German and Scottish pupils got on with

each other! We visited Neuschwanstein Castle and even made it to the world-famous Oktoberfest. One pupil commented: "Living with a German family for the week has changed my perspective on languages and has made me want to learn German for the new experiences and culture rather than just to pass the exam." Exchanges are such a valuable way to bring language learning alive and it was a pleasure for Miss Ritchie and Miss Wilson to watch our pupils grow and adapt to the challenges and rewards of taking part in an exchange.

### Danish Visit

Earlier this term, we welcomed pupils from a Danish school who were visiting Scotland for four days. Pupils from Udefrskolen explored Edinburgh and came to North Berwick High School for a morning to participate in a walking rally with some of our S3 pupils. Getting pupils together like this to share ideas and talk is wonderful and the Scottish and Danish pupils both got a lot out of the experience. For the Danish pupils, in particular, this provided the opportunity to use their English language skills in a real-life setting. In return, they fed us some very interesting sweets. Unlike our pleasure at receiving our Danish guests, it must be said that the sweets met with a somewhat mixed reception!



### Spanish Exchange

Continuing with our international theme, several of our Senior Phase pupils recently visited Badajoz in Spain on their exchange trip. Pupils had a packed itinerary, giving them the opportunity to practice their Spanish and experience a different culture, returning with many happy memories of the trip. The pupils have summarised the trip in their own words:

*We all had to meet at the airport at 7am. We checked in our bags and had a look around the airport shops. When we got off the plane in Spain, we had to get on a bus. The bus journey lasted about four hours. We stopped along the way to get slushies to drink because it was very hot. We met our Spanish exchange partners and their families at the school in Badajoz. (Cara)*

*On our first day in Badajoz we had a pool party at the house of one of our exchange partners. We had a massive lunch with lots of different Spanish foods and cake for dessert. Fue muy bien y la comida era deliciosa. (Sophie)*

*On Monday morning we went to our Spanish exchange partners' high school for the first time. When we got there, we tried Churros and chocolate. They were really delicious but quite filling. Once you finished your Churros, you could drink the chocolate. It was amazing! (Shona)*

*We did traditional Spanish dancing in PE which was not what we were expecting but super fun and tiring!!! (Poppy)*

*During our school day in Badajoz we made badges. This was very fun because we were able to make badges for our friends and family at home. We could make ones that said 'I love Badajoz' or just have our own personalised one with our name on it. (Sara)*

*One day, we went with our Spanish partners to a beautiful city called Cáceres. We took a bus from the school in the morning, and then when we got there, we chilled out in the centre of the town for a while before we explored the old part of the city. We also went to a museum which was really fun and interesting. (Bethan)*

*On another day, we all went to Mérida with Juan Antonio, the history teacher. We got to explore the historical town. We went to the Roman theatre and amphitheatre. It was incredible to learn about Roman life. We also visited some museums. We all had a great time and it was an experience we will always remember. Overall, it was a great day. ¡Fue muy bien! ☺ (Isla)*

*On the bus to the airport to go home, we talked about the past week and the fun things we had done like the pool party at Paula's or the funny memories we wanted to share with friends and family back home. We were also listening and singing to music. The flight home was really chilled with only a little bit of turbulence. It was a fun trip! Everyone had a good time and we miss them so much! ☺ (Millie)*

### **Nuffield Research Placement Scheme**

The Nuffield Research Placement Scheme is aimed at the current 5th year pupils who will be sitting their Highers in 2020 and who are studying any Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Maths (STEM) and Social Science/Humanities subjects at that level. The placements help increase confidence and improve key skills including practical, communication, report-writing and presentation skills. Placements also provide pupils with excellent experiences and skills to include on CVs and personal statements. By working with professional scientists and engineers in a real-life environment, the pupils gain an invaluable insight into a wide variety of careers.

The Nuffield Foundation are aiming to widen access, focusing on economic and social deprivation, and have found that pupils who come from lower income families, or whose parents have not attended higher education, benefit most from the scheme. In light of this the scheme is now only open to these pupils. This means that charitable funding is targeted where it will have the greatest benefit.

If your son or daughter would like to apply, please check the following eligibility criteria carefully:

**To be eligible to apply for a Nuffield Research Placement, pupils must:**

- Be over 16 years old
- Be in full-time state-funded education in the UK
- Have at least 5 National 5 grade B or above, including maths, a science subject and English (or another humanities subject)
- Be studying one or more Higher in science, technology, engineering, economics, geography, psychology, computing, statistics or maths
- Be able to spend several weeks (4-6) of their summer holiday working on a research project.

**Pupils must also meet at least ONE of the following bursary criteria:**

- Come from a family with a combined household income of below £30,000 a year
- Be entitled to free schools meals, either now or at any time in the last six years
- Be living, or have lived in, local authority care.

**Summary of the process:**

- Pupils apply by completing an online application which can be accessed on the Nuffield Research Placement webpage at <https://www.nuffieldresearchplacements.org/> The application has various sections - personal details, education, personal statement, teacher reference, parent consent, bursary application.
- When registering, pupils insert an email address of the teacher who is to provide them with a reference. The system automatically initiates an email to that teacher to allow them to add reference.
- After the closing date (February 25th 2020) applications will be scored, matched to placement projects available/suitable (where possible) and the appropriate applications will be forwarded to various supervisors for their consideration.
- If a pupil and/or teacher has contact details of anyone in local industries/organisations who could offer a placement project, they can include the details on their application.
- If successfully matched and accepted to a project by the supervisor, the pupil is then offered the project.
- Placements normally take place at the end of June, July or early August. The pupil will normally be working Mon-Fri (9am-5pm) for 4, 5 or 6 weeks. Pupils should therefore be aware that this is quite a big commitment.
- **All pupils will receive reasonable travel costs to and from their placement. Pupils who are eligible for bursary will receive an additional £100 per week of placement.**
- Successful pupils are required to submit a report at the end of their placement and are also invited to display their work in poster format at a celebration event in Edinburgh, taking place at the end of August / early September.

PLEASE note - there are a limited number of placements available and as such an application does NOT guarantee a Nuffield placement.

**Careers Update**

A reminder to everyone looking for vacancies or apprenticeships: our careers advisor Mick Burns posts several opportunities at [edubuzz.org/careers](http://edubuzz.org/careers) and he also suggests searching [edubuzz.org/midandeastvacancies](http://edubuzz.org/midandeastvacancies) and [apprenticeships.scot](http://apprenticeships.scot) . Pupils should also keep an eye on the school information screens for up to date vacancies and careers-related events.

## S5 and S6 Pupils: Investment 20/20 Careers in Investment Management Insight Event

Is your son or daughter interested in a career in business?

Investment 20/20 are pleased to invite current S5/6 students to upcoming event.

**Date:** Friday 6 December 2019

**Time:** 10:00-13:30

**Venue:** Lloyds Banking Group, Scottish Headquarters, The Mound, Edinburgh, EH1 1YZ

**Transport:** Train (pupils will travel together as a group without a teacher chaperone)

**Cost:** £12.20 return train ticket

On the day pupils will:

- Meet people working in investment management.
- Hear from employers who will be recruiting school leavers to start in October 2020.
- Gain an insight into different career options ranging from marketing and HR, technology to legal, finance to fund operations, and hear that there are pathways for everyone in the sector.
- Be given top tips on how to position themselves as a great candidate during the recruitment process.
- Learn about the Investment 20/20 trainee positions.

Spaces are limited, so pupils should go to see Mrs Fox as soon as possible to register their interest.

## Opportunity for School Leaver

We have been contacted by Whitelaw Wells, who are looking to recruit a full time account assistant, to do to do cloud book-keeping, VAT returns and simple sole trader accounts. If you have a son or daughter who has left school but not gone on to college or university and who would be interested in this opportunity, please contact the school by emailing communications.

## Halloween Havoc

This week in school we have been celebrating Halloween - with a many of our register classes designing their own devilishly spooky doors! The Home Economics department entered into the spirit of things with lots of Halloween baking, pupils also tried their hands at carving Jack-o-Lanterns and taking part in a ghoulish Halloween taste challenge, including some of our pupils bravely trying a selection of edible insects!



### **Lothian Disability Sport Badminton Festival**

Congratulations to S1 pupils Rebecca O'Connor and Zoe Thornton, S2 pupils Sky Brown, Chantelle Brown and Angie Pugh and S3 pupil Charley Alcock, who all successfully participated in the Lothian Disability Sport Badminton Festival this Thursday at Meadowmill Sports Centre. There were over 130 pupils from all over the Lothians participating and the girls had a great time learning new skills and meeting other young people.

### **Maths Revision**

A reminder that there is a Higher maths revision class which runs on Mondays after school with Mr Cox and also a National 5 revision class which runs on Thursdays after school with Mr Foulkes.

### **Design & Technology Trip to the Harry Potter Studios**

All payments for this trip should have been completed by Thursday 31 October. If you still have any payments outstanding it would be much appreciated if these could be made as soon as possible.

### **Snow-sports Trip 2021**

All our S1 pupils have been given a letter about the 2021 NBHS snow-sports trip. There is an information evening for parents on Thursday 12 November, from 7pm in the school hall.

### **Forth 1 Mission Christmas**

NBHS has registered to take part in this year's Forth 1 Mission Christmas appeal, which aims to provide Christmas gifts for impoverished children in Scotland. NBHS will have a drop off point for donations in the foyer outside reception – if you would like to donate, gifts can be suitable for any age from 0-18. Forth 1 asks that donations should be new and unwrapped. Thank you.

### **Dates for your Diary**

#### **Parents' Evening Dates 2019-20**

- S1 Tuesday 19 November 2019
- S2 Wednesday 15 January 2020
- S3 Thursday 6 February 2020
- S4 Wednesday 19 February 2020
- S5/6 Thursday 27 February 2020

#### **Parent Council Meetings**

*all at 7.00 pm in Support for Learning classroom*

Wednesday 20 November 2019

Tuesday 21 January 2020

Tuesday 3 March 2020

Tuesday 28 April 2020

Tuesday 2 June 2020

**Concerts**

Monday 9 December 2019

Tuesday 10 December 2019

Tuesday 31 April 2020

**Christmas Dances**

S1 Monday 16 December

S2 Wednesday 11 December

S3/S4 Tuesday 17 December

S5/S6 Thursday 12 December

**Should you have any queries about anything covered in this update, or any general enquiries, please contact the School at: [communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk)**