

Parent Update – Friday 15 November 2019

VE Day – 75th Anniversary Celebrations, Friday 8 May 2020

The UK Government has approved a change to the date of next year's early May bank holiday from Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May 2020 to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

8th May 1945 was the day that peace was declared in Europe after nearly six years of war and the 75th anniversary on 8 May 2020 represents an important milestone in the history of the UK. National celebrations of VE Day 75 are being led by the Pageantmaster with three days of commemorations planned throughout the UK from Friday 8th May to Sunday 10th May 2020.

East Lothian Council does not have a universal fixed holiday in May so there is no opportunity to move any existing May holiday for all council staff. Schools are in a different position as the Education Service has already published term times for East Lothian Schools for 2019/20 showing a range of holidays including Monday 4th May 2020.

The Council is committed to marking the occasion and considered a range of options to do so at Full Council, 29th October 2019. A copy of the report can be accessed via the following link: https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/16435/east_lothian_council

Following discussion and consideration the Council took a decision to approve Option E being to recognise Friday 8 May 2020 as an **additional one-off leave day**. In agreeing this option it was requested that Parents/Carers be consulted on their views regarding an additional day's school closure on Friday 8th May 2020. Permission will have to be sought from Scottish Government for exceptional closure of schools on this day. The school calendar will also have to be adjusted accordingly if approval is granted. This additional school closure day will not impact on any young person sitting national qualifications in our schools, 4 May 2020.

The purpose of the curriculum is to enable a child or young person to develop as a responsible citizen and gain an understanding of the attributes and capabilities of a responsible citizen. Curriculum for Excellence, Social Studies, Experiences and Outcomes set out the knowledge and skills that can be developed through having an understanding of our history and the people, places and events that have influenced our local and national heritage. The additional school closure day provides an opportunity for families, children and young people to participate, if they wish to do so, in local and national VE Day 75 celebrations bringing life to learning and learning to life.

In line with our statutory duties, the Education Service is seeking your views on the proposed additional closure day prior to submitting an application to do so to the Scottish Government. Can you please complete the questionnaire to indicate your views on this matter, the closing date being 6th December 2019. The questionnaire is available on the Council's Consultation Hub and can be accessed via the following link:

<https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/education/1bb59148/>

NBHS Double Success at East Lothian Battle of the Bands

We are absolutely delighted that after coming first and second respectively in the North Berwick High School Battle of the Bands, S1 band Semi-Squared and S4 band The Shoegazers went on to further glory at the East Lothian Battle of the Bands this week.



Huge congratulations to The Shoegazers, (Jason Lovell, Fraser McCarter, Sam Cowan and Luke Smith) who won first prize, winning £200 of music vouchers and a further £200 of vouchers for the school. Semi-Squared (Jamie Cowan, Evan Gilhooley and Archie O'Brien) also made a big impact, winning the Potentials prize. Well done to both talented bands for this well-deserved, fantastic result!

NBHS Christmas Concert Helpers & Raffle Donations

The PTA would love to have some adult helpers assisting at the Christmas Concerts, on 9th and 10th December. If you are able to support us setting up and overseeing the events, please email the PTA on ptanbhs@gmail.com. It is a lovely event, and you'll really enjoy it! In addition, we're looking for luxury donations to the hampers which are raffled on both nights. If you would be generous enough to donate wine, pickles, nice chocolates or anything else you'd imagine being delighted to receive, we'd be hugely grateful. Thank you!

Book Week Scotland

This year's Book Week Scotland is from the 18 – 24 November. To celebrate, the library is holding a Big Book Quiz for pupils on Monday 18 November at lunchtime, starting at 1.10pm, so pupils should bring their lunch. We are also running a Folded Book Art session on Thursday 21 November at lunchtime, starting at 1.15pm - all welcome to come along and join in!

Prelims

Prelims this session will start on Wednesday 8 January and finish on Wednesday 22 January. A full prelims timetable will be published in early December.

Investment 2020 Careers in Investment Management Insight Event - CANCELLED

We are sorry to report that this event, which was to have been held on Friday 6 December, has been cancelled by the organisers. We will keep you up to date with any future similar events which may be of interest to our Senior Phase pupils.

Parent Council Meeting – Wednesday 20 November

The next Parent Council meeting is on Wednesday 20 November, from 7.00 pm in the Support for Learning classroom. All parents and carers are most welcome.

Judo Success for Griffyn



Many congratulations to S1 pupil Griffyn Williams, who has won this year's overall Grand Prix trophy for his age and weight category across all the Judo Scotland Grand Prix Championships – there are four Grand Prix events held throughout the year. Griffyn was recently presented with his trophy at the Scottish National Closed Judo Championship, where he also won a silver medal. Well done Griffyn for his fantastic achievement, and for all the hard work and effort he puts in, which includes travelling to Kelso, Tranent, Ratho and Glasgow to train two or three times a week with his club Sportif Judo.

Great Month for Badminton Ace

Congratulations also to S3 pupil Finlay Jack, who continues to go from strength to strength in badminton. Finlay has had a particularly successful November, winning the Highland Under 15 boys' singles at the start of the month and then winning the Yonex East of Scotland Under 15 boys' singles the following week, which is his biggest achievement to date. Well done Finlay, another superb achievement!



We always welcome hearing about the achievements of all our pupils and would love to include more. Please forward anything which you would like the school to consider including in this update to communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk

Forth 1 Mission Christmas

NBHS has also 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.

Food Bank Christmas Collection



Pupils from 1F and 1C2 are helping to arrange a Christmas collection for the East Lothian Food Bank. If you are able, the pupils would be very grateful for donations of canned foods and packets of store cupboard goods, to ensure that those in need have a Christmas meal this year. Please find below a list of the goods that the food bank is always in need of. We have been asked, if possible, to include some Christmas themed items which can be added to the 'Jingle Bag Christmas Dinner', for instance tinned meat, tinned potatoes, tinned vegetables, Christmas pudding and custard (no brandy sauce). The food bank would also be very grateful to receive children's selection boxes. If you would like to make a donation of any of these or the following items, pupils can hand them in to Mrs Hudson in English room 5, by Tuesday 10 December.

A typical food parcel includes:

Cereal; soup; pasta; rice; tinned tomatoes; jars of pasta sauce; lentils; beans and pulses; tinned meat; tinned vegetables; tea and coffee; tinned fruit; biscuits; UHT milk; long-life fruit juice.

Non-food items food bags include:

Toiletries – deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, hand wipes.

Household items – laundry liquid detergent, laundry powder, washing up liquid.

Feminine products – sanitary towels and tampons.

Baby supplies – nappies, baby wipes and baby food.

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 March 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