

Parent Update – Friday 6 December 2019

Christmas Events

The run-up to the Christmas holiday is always a special time in any school. There are currently lots of rehearsals and practices taking place for our two concerts, four dances and four S6 panto performances - all the while, of course, ensuring that our core purpose of learning is not disrupted. There is no doubt that staff go above and beyond at this time of year to ensure our pupils have a wonderful experience and I am very grateful to them for doing so. Not so pleasant at this time of year, though, are the various bugs and viruses* doing the rounds. Please note that if your child is absent from school on the day of their school dance, they should not attend the dance in the evening. I look forward to a wonderful festive season at NBHS.

Lauren Rodger, Head Teacher

* NHS Lothian has issued norovirus advice to all schools, with guidelines for how to reduce the likelihood of infection spreading. Pupils affected by vomiting and / or diarrhoea should not come back into school until they have been symptom free for at least 48 hours.

Course Choice Straw Poll

Pupils in S2, S3, S4 and S5 have today received a straw poll sheet asking them to identify likely course choices for next year. This is an administrative exercise which helps the early planning stages of next session's timetable and pupils should not be concerned that they are being asked to make their final choices. Course choice booklets with detailed information about the subjects and the choicing process will be made available to pupils just before the Christmas holidays and pupils will be making their actual choices next term. Please reassure your child(ren) that the straw poll does not in any way commit them to the subjects they choose – they are very welcome to change their mind on any or all of their subjects once they have had a chance to learn more about the courses over the holidays.

It is very important that the straw polls are completed as soon as possible – pupils should hand them in on Monday if possible and no later than Wednesday 11 December.

NBHS Charities – East Lothian Foodbank Jingles Bags Appeal



This year, the NBHS Charities Committee have chosen to support the East Lothian Foodbank Jingle Bags appeal. Not everyone looks forward to Christmas and it can be a hard time of year for those who are struggling to feed themselves and their families. The East Lothian Foodbank Jingle Bags contain everything needed to celebrate Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. The charities committee has asked each register class to gather together the ingredients for one or even two Christmas dinners. The register classes have been shown the list of items needed and there will be pupils from each class to oversee the collection, to ensure that each item is accounted for. The Charities Committee and East Lothian Foodbank would be very grateful if you are able to support this appeal.

School Crossing Guide

We have been informed that unfortunately, due to staff absence, there will be no crossing guide at the Law Road/Grange Road junction for the two weeks until the Christmas holiday. East Lothian Council has issued the following advice for pupils who normally use the crossing:

Pupils who walk up the hill on Law Road to join Grange Road, should walk along Grange Road and cross at the zebra crossing to access the High School.

Pupils who normally walk through the gap in the wall from the Wishart Avenue area and cross with Ted, should walk along Wishart Avenue and cross with School Crossing Guide Colin Cunningham who stands at the junction of Law Road / Lochbridge Road.

Pupils who get off the bus at the stop just before the junction of Grange Road should either get off the bus further up the hill or cut through the opening in the wall walk along Wishart Avenue and cross with Colin.

Pupils who walk along Grange Road from McNair Avenue and beyond should cross at the zebra crossing on Grange Road to access the High School.

Cera Running for Team GB!

Huge congratulations to S6 pupil Cera Gemmell, who is one of six athletes to have been selected to represent Great Britain in the European Women's U20 Cross Country Championships, which is being held in Lisbon this weekend. Cera is the youngest member of the team and is absolutely delighted to have received her first international call-up. What an achievement – good luck Cera!

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

Dates for your Diary

Parents' Evening Dates 2019-20

- 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

- 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