



## **NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE**

### **Friday 22 May 2020**

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#### **Letter to Parents and Carers from Lesley Brown, Chief Operating Officer (Education)**

Dear Parent / Carer,

Following the announcement by the First Minister yesterday about the phased reopening of schools, we know that you will have lots of questions about when and how our children and young people will return to schools across East Lothian.

In her statement, the First Minister reported that teachers and other staff will return to schools during June to prepare classrooms for the new term and a different model of learning. It was announced that schools will reopen from 11 August, however, to allow appropriate physical distancing, children would return to a blended model of part-time in-school and part-time at-home learning. I would highlight that 11 August is earlier than our planned date of 19 August for pupils to return to school after the summer holidays.

In East Lothian, our Education Service is considering the implications of this announcement and has already started to plan for the reopening of schools and early learning and childcare settings in August as outlined by the First Minister. We are reflecting on the yesterday's announcement and are awaiting guidance from the National Education Recovery Group next week which will help us determine and confirm more specific details of the arrangements which will be shared with you as soon as we can.

It was also announced that, where possible, there would be transition support for children going into primary 1 or moving from primary 7 to secondary school. In East Lothian, our schools already provide a range of transition opportunities and these have continued during the lockdown period with many schools providing distance creative and innovative transition activities. In the coming weeks, we will also consider those children who may benefit from further transition support.

During June and over the summer, we will continue to provide emergency childcare provision for the children of key workers and we will be in contact with parents and carers about the arrangements for this in due course.

I would like to thank all parents, carers, children and young people for their patience and understanding as we work through a very complex situation. I know this has been a difficult and uncertain time and we are committed to sharing further information with you as soon as we can.

Kind regards,

Lesley

**Lesley R. Brown | Chief Operating Officer (Education) – Education & Children's Services |**  
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### **New Timetable**

We are pleased to report that the move to the new timetable has gone smoothly. Thank you to parents and carers for quickly letting us know if their child has had difficulty accessing Google Classrooms because of IT issues; hopefully, these have now been resolved. Beyond the IT issues, there are still some pupils who have not enrolled in all of their Google Classrooms. This is a matter of concern to teachers as all pupils should, by now, be engaging with school work in all of their new courses, as set by their new teachers. We are keeping a record of pupils who are not doing so and next week we will contact you to let you know if there is still a concern about your child not being in all their assigned classes. We would appreciate support from parents and carers on this – with school and home working together, we can best support our young people with their learning. A tiny number of our pupils are still resolving issues with course choices. Please note that we will not be looking at any other coursing changes for pupils until we return after the summer. This is the position across all six secondary schools in East Lothian.

### **Jotters**

We have had a couple of queries from parents this week about the provision of new jotters, as their children have finished the ones they have been using in some subjects. We are looking into how we might be able to provide these, bearing in mind that access to the school building is extremely limited at present. In the meantime, pupils should not worry if they have run out of space in their jotter: teachers are content for pupils to complete work on loose leaf paper, ensuring that notes for each subject are kept separate.

### **HMI Report on NBHS**

This week, I received the draft Summary of Inspection Findings and the parental letter from HMI, following our full inspection in February. I have since met with Nick Trussler, our Quality Improvement Officer, to discuss the report. Mr Trussler has now passed on our feedback to HMI. I hope it will not be too much longer, then, until we see the publication of the two documents. The Senior Leadership Team are very much looking forward to sharing the report with our whole school community. The letter is sent to all parents and carers and the Summary of Inspection Findings is published on the school website. Both documents, as well as the responses to the HMI pre-inspection questionnaires, are also published on the Education Scotland website. Mrs Rodger

### **Resources for Home Learning**

Education Scotland is providing a weekly resource, Scotland Learns, for parents and carers. Below is more detail and a link:

*Here you will find a range of ideas and suggestions of activities to help parents, carers and practitioners support learning at home. The activities are aimed at a variety of ages and we will be adding new activities each week. The year groups next to the activities are a general guide only. Our weekly newsletters for parents and carers and for practitioners also have additional ideas, hints and tips, and links to other useful resources.*

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/>

### **TeenCovidLife – Edinburgh University Study for Young People**

You may like to draw the following survey to your child's attention. It is designed to give young people the opportunity to share their thoughts on the current situation.

*The [British Science Association](#) released survey results recently. It revealed that almost 9 out of 10 young people don't think scientists are talking to them about COVID-19. We want to change this. We're really interested in hearing from you! Our TeenCovidLife survey is designed with 12-17 year olds in mind. We'll ask about how lockdown is affecting your school and home life. We also want to know how you feel about lockdown and how it's impacted you. If you're interested, click the link below to join TeenCovidLife now:*

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/generation-scotland/covidlife-volunteers/teencovidlife>

### **East Lothian Instrumental Music Service**

A new team manager for this service has recently taken up post, following the retiral of Peter Antonelli. You will find a letter to parents and carers from Mr Jonathan Gawn at the end of this update.

### **Careers Information**

The SDS Careers Advisers continue to proactively contact pupils to offer ongoing support via phone, Skype or online. Updates and vacancy information are posted at [edubuzz.org/careers](http://edubuzz.org/careers) and Twitter [mickburns2](https://twitter.com/mickburns2). Any school leaver from S4 to S6 who needs help can call the local centre on 0131 665 3120, or contact the NBHS Careers Advisers directly at:

**Mick Burns** Careers Adviser

Email: [mick.burns@sds.co.uk](mailto:mick.burns@sds.co.uk)

Mobile: 07887 831454

**Jennifer Jones** Careers Adviser

Email: [jennifer.jones@sds.co.uk](mailto:jennifer.jones@sds.co.uk)

Mobile: 07887 831389

Scottish Power Graduate vacancies [here](#)

Edinburgh University Science Online update [here](#) S5 to note

Find free online courses. Here is the [link](#)

EY Programmes for S5/6 students [here](#)

Summer online work experience in architecture [here](#)

Edinburgh College updates [here](#)

Graduate Apprenticeship Software Engineering [here](#)

You can view the S2 Careers Talk [here](#)

### **Communication**

Just a reminder that if you wish to contact school you can email us at the address below, or contact your child's guidance teacher directly.

[communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk)

*Dear Parent/Carer,*

*I have just started as the Team Manager for the Instrumental Music Service (IMS) and wanted to use this opportunity to introduce myself. I am honoured to be joining this superb team and delighted to be able to give you some more information to reassure you of the direction the IMS will take over the coming weeks and months.*

*Since the lockdown began and the schools closed, our instrumental music instructors have made every possible effort to provide the best pupil experience via Google Classrooms. With instrumental music lessons being a very unique experience for each pupil, this transition has taken a huge amount of initiative and resourcefulness from instructors. I wish to thank you for your support while we have developed these digital resources and established ourselves on these new platforms.*

*We are now in a position to confirm no charges will be made for our Service from the 23rd March until the summer break. We will make adjustments accordingly and action any refunds for overpayment as promptly as possible. I would advise all those with an outstanding balance before the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, this is now due for payment and we would kindly request the balance is paid before the end of June. We fully appreciate with COVID-19 people's circumstances may have changed but please make contact with the IMS Team to discuss any issues with payment before this time.*

*We are constantly looking for ways to develop and improve our service, to ensure continuity of lessons and musical experiences for pupils. Over the last number of weeks we have encouraged pupils to submit audio and video material for lessons. Many instructors have been inviting pupils to participate in online initiatives such as the Benedetti Sessions and the MPEG's Over the Rainbow Project. These have been fantastic opportunities for the pupils to participate in National Projects and engage with pupils across Scotland during a time of isolation.*

*We are delighted to announce that from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May we will be able to offer live video lessons via Google Meets as part of our service. Our current Google Classrooms Service will also continue for those who have unsuitable broadband or digital devices for video lessons.*

*To compliment these live lessons we will also be hosting a number of digital projects to provide our pupils with ensemble opportunities during the lockdown. I have heard great reports from the last Showcase Concert and am delighted to announce that we will have our first Digital Showcase Concert in September. The highlight of this Showcase Experience will be a digital collaboration with Royal Air Force Music Services. This will afford pupils the opportunity to work and perform with professional musicians from the flagship ensemble within our Armed Forces. Slightly closer to home, pupils will also have the chance to join their instructors participating in the inaugural performance by the Pupil's and Instructor's Orchestra. Please see [our video](#) for a preview of what these digital projects will look like.*

*While the lockdown forced us to quickly move onto Google Classrooms, we hope you will see from the planned content this is very much a proactive move now to launch our full Digital Service. I strongly believe with our video lessons and unique ensemble initiatives we will be at the forefront of Digital Music Service Delivery nationally. We will quality assure this service between now and the summer break and with the return to schools for all remaining uncertain at this time, will continue this remote service in the next academic year to ensure continuity for our pupils.*

*We will soon be asking for reregistration for next year so please encourage your children to try our new Digital Lessons in the coming weeks. We are very excited to let you experience the full benefits that live online music tuition can offer as we adapt to this new way of living and embrace new technologies.*

*I wish to thank you once again for your support and urge you to encourage your child to take part in the superb range of musical opportunities now once again on offer.*

*As always we will monitor the IMS mailbox remotely and will respond to any queries as soon as possible.*

*Kind regards*

**Jonathan Gawn, Team Manager - Instrumental Music Service**