



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 29 May 2020

Staffing News

Today, we say goodbye to Mr Fowles, who has been with us on supply in the PE department. We are very grateful for all that he has done for our young people in his time at NBHS, and for rising so admirably to the challenge of delivering PE remotely. We wish you well for the future, Mr Fowles! On Monday, we welcome Mrs Loudon back to the music department after her maternity leave. It will be lovely to have her on the staff team again.

SQA Estimates

Today is the deadline for submitting National Qualifications estimates to the Scottish Qualifications Authority and the NBHS data is now with the SQA. The SQA will moderate and analyse estimates before producing final grades, delivered to pupils on Tuesday 4 August. There is no doubt that the estimate process this year has been extremely challenging for our teaching staff. For the first time, estimates included refined bands and ranking; this involved teachers in many hours of looking over work again, as well as lots of discussion and debate in subject teams. The senior leadership team has held quality assurance meetings with each faculty leader and we, in turn, have had a quality assurance meeting with education staff at the centre. The process has been extremely robust and rigorous. Individual pupils have been at the forefront of our thinking at all times: our priority throughout this process has been to ensure that our young people have their academic achievements recognised as they deserve. As head teacher, I have been hugely impressed by the work of our teaching staff and I would like to publicly thank them all. I also want to say a special thank you to our SQA co-ordinator, Mr McCallum. There is no doubt that you have all gone above and beyond this year, and I look forward to us all sharing our pupils' pride in their achievements, come August.

Planning for the Re-opening of School Buildings

Last week's update included a letter from Lesley Brown, East Lothian's Chief Operating Officer (Education), on the phased re-opening of schools. We received further guidance from the Scottish Government yesterday (available on the Scottish Government website) which we are currently digesting. Head teachers are meeting with education staff at the centre, as well as with their own school teams, to plan the way forward for June and August. We have no specific details on how this will look at the moment, but both the authority and the school will keep parents updated.

Dear School

Last Saturday morning, I was scrolling through Facebook as I waited for the kettle to boil for a pot of tea. But the tea had to wait. Unexpectedly, I found myself in tears as I watched a short video which had popped up on my newsfeed. The video was called *Dear School* and was produced by young people in the Drama Mill theatre group, many of whom are NBHS pupils. Seeing these wonderful young people sharing their thoughts about school in such a creative, optimistic, reflective and funny way really moved me. And, boy, did it remind me how much I am missing our pupils and our school. I haven't been able to share the link here but I recommend you have a search for it online. Thank you, *Dear School* stars, for sharing such lovely messages – you had a big impact on your heidie this week!

Update on Planned Expansion of North Berwick High School

As you know, Scotland continues to be in lockdown as a result of COVID-19 and our school buildings remain closed. In addition, there has been a significant impact on all businesses and specifically the construction industry, where contractors have been unable to operate. As a result, the planned works at North Berwick High School will have to be re-programmed and unfortunately, given the current uncertainties, it is not possible to predict when the works will begin. We will keep you updated once this situation changes and we are clearer on the timeframe for construction work to begin.

Mental Health Line

The Mental Health Line service is for people aged 18 and over (including people over 65). People who are feeling anxious, depressed or have other worries about their mental health can call the line between 09.00 and 16.00 Monday to Friday. An experienced worker will take their details and make an appointment for them to speak to a specialist mental health practitioner, who will ring them back at a mutually convenient time within the following 36 hours. The practitioner will assess the person over the phone, and provide help and support and sometimes a referral on to other services.



Careers Information

Skills Development Scotland want you to know that you will be able to continue to contact the Careers Adviser for support, via telephone, Skype or online. Please be reassured that SDS Careers Advisers will continue to proactively contact pupils to offer them ongoing support. They also update information and post vacancy information at edubuzz.org/careers and Twitter [mickburns2](https://twitter.com/mickburns2). Any school leaver from S4 to S6 who needs help can contact our Careers Advisers by calling the local centre on 0131 665 3120, or contacting the NBHS Careers Advisers directly at:

Mick Burns Careers Adviser
Email: mick.burns@sds.co.uk
Mobile: 07887 831454

Jennifer Jones Careers Adviser
Email: jennifer.jones@sds.co.uk
Mobile: 07887 831389

We will update and put online any work we do with year groups from now until the end of June. School work and employability links are posted regularly at www.edubuzz.org/careers and you access a range of vacancy information from the links on the left hand side of the site.

As always, please email us if you have any questions and I will update this post on 12 June 2020.

School leaver webinar - Tuesday 2 June 2020

More details at: <https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2020/05/28/school-leavers-webinar/>

Career Ready Skills Festival

Career Ready are excited to launch the Career Ready Skills Festival, an eight-week-long series of online careers and skills development activities hosted by our generous network of employer volunteers, featuring a range of online sessions from skills & industry insights to perfecting a job application. <https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2020/05/28/career-ready-skills-festival/>

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