



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 12 June 2020

Changes to School Session Dates for 2020 - 2021

As a result of the recent Scottish Government announcement on the August re-opening of schools in Scotland, the session dates for East Lothian schools have changed. The changes essentially amount to starting a week earlier in August and finishing a week earlier in June 2021 than was originally planned.

Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 August 2020
Wednesday 12 August 2020
Friday 25 June 2021

inservice days for staff
pupils return (on a phased basis)
school closes for the 2020-2021 session

Message from Mrs Rodger

Having said hello to our Hub pupils in real life yesterday, and joining some of our old and new S6 pupils in online meetings today, I realise that I am missing our young people hugely. So much of education is about relationships, and this way of working remotely is tough: it's not what any of us envisaged when we became teachers. The importance of face to face meetings cannot be underestimated and all our teachers are looking at how they can link up with pupils more often through Google Meet or Screen Castify. That human interaction is vitally important. (Though note the warning message about Google Meet in item below.)

This week, I have again found myself thinking of what should have been, particularly for our senior pupils. Many of our modern studies pupils should have been learning about US politics on a visit to New York and Washington this week, while a group of adventurers should have been setting off today for a visit to Malawi, the warm heart of Africa and a country dear to our hearts. Tomorrow night, our S6 leavers and many of the staff should have been enjoying a wonderful evening together at the George Hotel in Edinburgh at the Leavers' Dance. There is, undoubtedly, huge disappointment at missing out on these opportunities. However, over the last three months I have been constantly inspired and uplifted by the amazing spirit, the positive outlook and the resilience of our school community; I know that our S6 pupils will take these qualities with them as they move on from NBHS.

This week has seen some of our staff return to the school building for the first time since Friday 20 March. It was lovely to see familiar faces – albeit at a distance – and I have enjoyed being back in the building, catching up with colleagues. Most of our work continues to be carried out remotely, however. For the leadership team, our current focus is very much on planning the re-opening of the school building in August and we are working closely with our colleagues across East Lothian Council to plan every aspect of this, including: the capacity of the school building to accommodate pupils at 2m physical distance; the model for which pupils will be in school when, based on capacity; blended learning (remote and face to face in school); risk assessment; hygiene measures; transport. I am very aware that parents and carers will be keen to know when their children will be in the school building, so that they can make arrangements for work patterns and child care. Pupils, too, will be desperate to know what shape their school days/weeks will take when they come back in August. As

soon as we have more detail we will share it with you, and certainly before the end of this term. Please be assured that we are doing our best to devise a model which, first and foremost, takes into account the safety of our pupils and staff, while also ensuring that all year groups have face to face teaching alongside their home learning (blended learning).

There is no doubt that there are many challenges ahead, but I know our school community will rise to those challenges.

Return to School – A Nurturing Approach

Our return to school after the summer break will be different from any previous year, therefore our approach will be different too. All schools in East Lothian will be prioritising nurture – reconnecting with our learners and our colleagues – as we return in August to a blend of in-school and home-based learning. The Educational Psychology Service has created a video for parents to explain East Lothian's approach, which captures well our priority: the wellbeing of our pupils and staff.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbM0fC3ZldE&feature=youtu.be>

Parental Survey on the Re-opening of East Lothian Schools

This week, all parents and carers will have received an invitation from Lesley Brown, East Lothian's Chief Operating Officer (Education), to share your views on how we can ensure we get it right as we re-open our schools. The school and the authority would be most grateful if you could complete this short survey regarding your child's return to school in August by **4pm on Monday 15 June 2020**.

Paper copies are available from our school by request. The link is as follows:

<http://links.edubuzz.org/erg-parents-pupil-return>

NBHS Hub

This week marked the opening of our Hub at the High School, for emergency childcare for key workers and vulnerable children. We have had a very successful transition from the original Hub at Law Primary School. The pupils involved in the NBHS Hub have had an excellent start, adapting well to their new Hub classroom. We are very grateful to all the staff involved in setting up and running our Hub.

Senior Pupil Head Team

Following a rigorous selection process, we are delighted to announce the names of our new Head Team:

Jennifer Price - Head Pupil
Lucy Smith - Head Pupil
Angus Mather - Depute Head Pupil
Itske Hooftman - Depute Head Pupil
Savannah Harper - Depute Head Pupil

Congratulations to our new Head Team and a huge thank you to everyone who applied. It was a pleasure to watch each candidate's pledge video and see what wonderful young adults our pupils have turned out to be: self-assured yet humble, confident, creative, caring. We are very proud of each and every one of you. We were also delighted to have members of this year's Head Team on the interview panel. They have been an absolutely super team, and we wish them all well as they move on from North Berwick High School. We are definitely going to miss them! We now look forward to working with our new Head Team when we return to school after the summer break.

Parent Council

On Tuesday evening this week, we held an online Parent Council meeting. There was a good attendance – once we all eventually managed to get the technology to work. The main agenda item was *Arrangements for Session 2020-2021*, and topics discussed included: communication; NBHS Hub; pastoral support for pupils; P7 transition; remote learning; preparation of school building and transport for August opening; return of pupils/curriculum model; SQA results August 2020/SQA examinations 2021. Minutes of the meeting will be put in the Parent Council section of the website once ratified. We are very lucky at NBHS to have such a supportive body of parents and carers and we would like to say a particular thanks to both the Parent Council and PTA for all their time and commitment throughout the year.

Use of Google Meet - Warning

We have been asked by David Gilmour, East Lothian's Learning Technologist, to share this important information with you regarding Google Meet:

We have had a report today of a parent incurring a £70 bill for joining a child's class Google Meet by phone. We have Google Meet set so that it does not offer a dial-in number and PIN within Meet itself, but for some reason Calendar does not seem to respect that. It is providing US dial-in numbers and PINS. As you would expect, the dial-in number being provided via Calendar entries is clearly labelled "(US)", and includes a US country code. Nevertheless, this parent has called it, raising the possibility that others, perhaps unfamiliar with international call protocols and costs, will do so.

Online Safety

We are conscious that online learning will continue into the future and that young people will be spending more time on social media apps/chat rooms; therefore, safety online is paramount. Parents, carers and pupils may find the following links useful to help support online safety. The main source of advice is the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#). Parents can also sign up for [National Online Safety](#). A very informative and helpful resource for pupils, parents and carers is: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

Free School Meals and Clothing Grants

We are aware that some parents/carers' circumstances may have changed as a result of Covid-19 and this may mean you are now eligible for Free School Meals and/or a Clothing Grant. If you think this may apply to you, please visit the [Free School Meals and Clothing Grants](#) area of the East Lothian Council website for further information and the relevant forms. If you need help completing these forms there is support available on the website or alternatively please contact your child's guidance teacher, who should also be able to help you via a telephone call/email.

PTA News

The winners in the March prize draw are Diane Wright (first prize: £50) and Emma Hood (second prize: £25) and in the April prize draw Jeremy Edwards (first prize: £50) and Robert Jones (second prize: £25). Congratulations to all! Thank you to everyone who already supports this valuable fundraiser. If you'd like to sign up please contact ptanbhs@gmail.com. For an annual sub of just £18 your name gets entered into 12 monthly draws, with £75 of prize money each month!

School Dress Code

When we return in August, our usual Dress Code policy will still apply. You can find the Dress Code on the school website. However, we recognise the need to be flexible in our approach to dress code, given the challenges many families currently face. We hope, though, that our pupils will feel proud and happy to put on their school clothes once more when they return to school in August.

Safer Active Travel

You will find below a link on social media to consultation material regarding safer active travel proposals near NBHS and Law Primary School:

<https://twitter.com/ELCouncil/status/1271378728984199168>

<https://www.facebook.com/EastLothianCouncil/photos/pb.376946749091416.-2207520000../2943907299062002/?type=3&theater>

Keep Scotland Beautiful Online Courses

Keep Scotland Beautiful have asked to share the following message with you:

We are offering new [online learning courses](#) throughout June and July for students and their families. These are all free and are varying lengths so there is something suitable for everyone. All the courses are listed below and [families can register here](#). We also have some [new Eco-Schools at Home activities](#) for pupils to do either at home or in the classroom. We've added activities on energy, water, wildlife, dandelions and more.

TCS DIGITAL EXPLORERS

Live and interactive from June 29th – July 3rd 2020

Or access the modules and complete on your own timetable from June 29th 2020.

Aligned to the Curriculum for Excellence, this free programme offers students the opportunity to explore the realms of the digital tech industry.

Digital Explorers is moving online to continue with its work of inspiring and motivating young people to take an interest in STEM careers and in the digital sector. No prior preparation is required, and the programme is designed to give students an insight into digital and tech careers. Not just for students with their eye on a coding career, this three-part event will look to challenge stereotypes and change the way students think about tech careers.

The programme will run as a series of five interactive one-day events during the summer holidays from Monday 29th June – Friday 3rd July and will be uploaded as separate modules to be accessed at a student's individual pace. On completion of the programme students will leave with an insight into a breadth of tech careers, understand the essential skills required for the sector and will graduate as Challenger level Industrial Cadets.

- S1-S3: Students will look at app design, technology inventions and how these have changed the world. The students will complete the session feeling "I could do that; it could be me!"
- S4-S6: Students will explore tech start-ups and the impact they have had; they will think about digital tech careers and how digital technology infiltrates all sectors.
- All students: A discussion panel with a range of professionals in the tech sector, followed by a Q&A.

What next: register the number of students you would like to complete the programme by 12th June using the link below. All further details will be sent week commencing 15th June.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tcs-digital-explorer-registration-tickets-107218756186>

For further information, please contact: Emma Ryden - e.ryden@etrust.org.uk - **0161 513 1568**

Virtual Work Experience Week Beginning 22 June 2020

Any students who secured a place, congratulations. Now can you please do 2 things:

1. Please let Mrs Fox or Mr Frew know asap (hfox@edubuzz.org; sfrew@edubuzz.org).
2. Contact your teachers. One of us will email them to let them know but it's important that you do too, so you can catch up on any work missed etc. Thanks and well done!

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

S6 Careers Talk

The S6 careers talk has been delivered online this year and you can view it

here: <https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2020/05/26/nbhs-s6-careers-talk-june-2020/>

The link has a really useful book of resources/newsletter that we have put together to help all students plan for life after school. Can you please make sure they have completed the questionnaire!

Medical Schools virtual open days at:

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2020/06/03/med-school-virtual-open-days-2020/>

University of Glasgow online activity for prospective students

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2020/06/03/university-of-glasgow/>

Search current Modern and Graduate Level Apprenticeships at:

www.apprenticeship.scot

Trainee Accountant Apprenticeship

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2020/06/10/trainee-accountant-apprenticeship-mazars/>

Opportunities with RBS

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2020/06/08/rbs-opportunities/>

Apprentice Cabinet Maker/Fitter

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2020/06/06/apprentice-cabinet-maker-fitter/>

Edinburgh College

Part-time course information:

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2020/06/10/edinburgh-college-update-8/>

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