



## **NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE**

### **Friday 19 June 2020**

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#### **Message from Mrs Rodger**

This week, parents and carers received a letter from Lesley Brown, East Lothian's Chief Operating Officer (Education), giving information on how the authority and schools are planning for the return to schools in August. All schools have now submitted their plans to the local authority and have been asked to share information with parents and carers on Monday. I very much look forward to giving you as much detail as we can at this time, bearing in mind that the situation will be ever-changing regarding easing of lockdown restrictions over the summer.

#### **HMI Report**

I am delighted that – at last – we know the publication date of HMI's report on North Berwick High School: Tuesday 23 June. The report is published on the Education Scotland website and is in two parts: a two-page letter outlining the school's strengths and areas for improvement as identified by the Inspection Team, as well as their gradings for the four Quality Indicators; a 22-page report, the Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF). I am really looking forward to all members of our school community being able to read the full report, and to see how impressed the Inspection Team were with our school – no surprise to us, but it is lovely to have this acknowledgement. We will send pupils, parents and carers a link to both documents on Tuesday.

#### **Rights Respecting Schools**

During the inspection week in March, NBHS were informed by UNICEF that we had successfully achieved the first stage of the Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA), their bronze award. This means that North Berwick High School is now recognised as **rights committed**. The RRSA supports schools across the UK to embed children's right into their ethos and culture. The award is based upon principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation.

It is our intention to work together as a school and with the wider community towards achieving the silver award, which is **rights aware**. We know that many of our new S1 pupils will have experience of the RRSA award at their primary schools; we look forward to hearing their ideas and working with them as we put the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child at the heart of the school's practice. We hope to grow our Rights Respecting group: more information will follow after the summer for those who are interested. We would also welcome parental and community involvement.

The UN Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC) is a powerful tool as it recognises that children have the right to be treated with dignity and fairness, to be protected, to develop to their full potential and to participate. Given the impact of coronavirus on children and young people, we want to try and place children's rights at the heart of their return to NBHS.

Here are just some examples of the 54 articles that we know will play an important part in this planning process. Article 12 is about respect for the views of a child and we want to hear pupils' worries, priorities, hopes and fears. Article 24 is about health and health services and this is where we take into account mental health and emotional supports, as well as rules on social distancing and hand-washing. Articles 28 and 29 are about the right to an education and the goals of

education; engagement and fulfilment of our pupils' potential is at the heart of these rights, especially with home learning. Finally, given the reports of the unlawful killing of George Floyd and the protests that followed, this has led many of us to reflect on our own communities and how we could and should be doing more. Article 2, the right to non-discrimination, applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

We hope that, as we work towards the silver award, pupils will be even more familiar with their rights and be proactive in school and beyond to facilitate changes that will benefit themselves and others.

We would like to thank the PTA who have generously supported Rights Respecting Schools at North Berwick High School. Some of the money has been used for external staff training on the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools bronze and silver awards. The additional funds will enable us to purchase new resources, as well as being used for activities arranged and delivered by our pupils. We have also been working closely with Kate Allen from Scotdec, who delivered a free training event on rights and global citizenship. We hope this partnership will continue as we work towards the silver award.

Verity Munro, Support for Learning Teacher

### **Health & Wellbeing Challenges**

Pupils and staff have been taking on some wellbeing challenges in the last couple of weeks and we hope to produce a collage and video of our attempts. Challenges range from attempting a 5k to writing a poem about lock down so hopefully there is something for everyone. This is entirely voluntary and pupils have been informed about how to submit any evidence. Some of the pictures, video clips and positive statements received so far are fantastic. There is still time to send something in and we will produce our video and collage for the last day of term to celebrate.

Any pictures, positive statements, work produced or video clips can be uploaded onto the Health & Wellbeing Challenges classroom, which every pupil has been invited to, by Thursday 25 June.

### **PTA News**

The winners in the May prize draw are Frances Hill (first prize: £50) and Samantha Fitzpatrick (second prize: £25). Congratulations to both! Thank you to everyone who already supports this valuable fundraiser. If you'd like to sign up please contact [ptanbhs@gmail.com](mailto: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!

### **DYW Summer Opportunities**

Parents/carers in Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian and young people aged 16 and over are invited to find out more about Developing the Young Workforce's summer opportunities.

The Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) team delivers Scotland's youth employment strategy and works with industry partners to better prepare young people for the world of work. Now more than ever it's vital that we work together to give young people the best chance of success for their futures. Over the summer, young people will be able to tap into a range of virtual activities and employability experiences that will enhance their understanding of the world of work and help them get industry ready. There are activities and resources suitable for young people of all ages from primary pupils to college students.

To find out how you can access these exciting industry offers sign up below to receive our exclusive summer bulletins. <https://edinburghchamber.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=e15cd706530053679e4f89cd4&id=e6e08113c6>



### Careers Information

We are Mick Burns and Jennifer Jones and we provide career support from Skills Development Scotland to pupils at North Berwick High School. We hope you and your family are keeping safe and well during this pandemic.

During this time, like pupils, Career Advisers are unable to attend school, but we continue working from home, for us this is likely to be until at least October.

With this in mind Skills Development Scotland still want to support pupils to develop their Career Management Skills to help them make career decisions that are right for them, as they move through school and eventually leave.

We may be contacting your young person in the senior part of the school between now and October (including the summer holiday) to discuss their plans for the year ahead although you or your young person can also contact us at a time that suits you by calling our local Musselburgh office on 0131 665 3120. Alternatively, you can contact us directly as follows:

Thank you for your time and we look forward to working with your young person in the year ahead,

**Mick Burns** Careers Adviser

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**Jennifer Jones** Careers Adviser

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**INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE UK**

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2020/06/15/internship-experience-uk/>

**Capital Theatres – Behind the Scenes**

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2020/06/15/capital-theatres-behind-the-scenes/>

**Apprentice Wind Turbine Technician**

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2020/06/18/apprentice-wind-turbine-technician/>

### 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)