



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 28 August 2020

Behaviour in the Local Community

We have been hugely disappointed this week to receive calls from members of the public complaining about the behaviour of NBHS pupils in North Berwick town centre at lunchtimes. They report that some of our pupils are standing close together in large groups with no attempt to physically distance; these groups are blocking the pavement, forcing members of the public to step out onto the road to pass them. This is absolutely unacceptable behaviour from our young people. There is little evidence of our school values of Kindness and Belonging being put into action by our pupils on these occasions. In assemblies this week, we emphasised to pupils the importance of being aware of the impact they are having on people around them, and of being respectful and courteous to others at all times. It is concerning, too, that some of our pupils are flouting the guidelines for Phase 3 of the Scottish Government's recovery road map. All pupils were sent a reminder of these guidelines yesterday via their edubuzz email. Parents and carers can find that information via the Scottish Government website, or via this link to the Young Scot information that was sent directly to pupils:

<https://young.scot/get-informed/national/what-phase-are-we-in-and-what-does-it-mean>

We would really appreciate it if parents could talk about this at home, ensuring that all our young people behave appropriately in our local community.

Face Coverings

All parents and carers received a letter yesterday from Lesley Brown, Head of Education and Children's Services, regarding the wearing of face coverings in schools from Monday 31 August. This follows the announcement by the Scottish Government earlier this week. The guidance states that everyone aged 12 and above should wear a face covering in all communal areas of the school - such as corridors, toilets and PE changing rooms - unless they are exempt. In NBHS, this includes the dining hall and social area, except while a pupil is eating or drinking. Generally, face coverings do not have to be worn in classrooms, though staff and pupils can choose to wear one in class if they wish. There may be some occasions in classrooms where teachers ask pupils to wear a face covering because physical distancing cannot be maintained, for example in a CDT workshop or while a teacher is demonstrating in art or science. Face coverings should be worn by individuals using the Library, as in public libraries. A reminder, too, that face coverings must also be worn on school transport.

There are exemptions to the wearing of face coverings for health or disability reasons. If this applies to your child, please contact Mrs Neri, our DHT Pupil Support, who will support this. Her email address is: lneri@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk.

Thank you to parents, carers and pupils for supporting us with the measures put in place to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all in our school and the wider community. By doing so, we are all playing our part in ensuring that North Berwick High School remains free from COVID-19; it is hugely reassuring to know that we are working together to achieve this.

Thank you

Still on the subject of face coverings, we would like to thank the North Berwick COVID Emergency Resilience Team for donating 300 linen face coverings to the school. Thank you, too, to Laura Hill, mother of S2 pupil Alex, who donated face coverings in NBHS red and black stripes. We very much appreciate these donations; as you can see from the photo below, our pupil support staff are already making very good use of the NBHS masks!



Use of Astro Pitch at Lunchtimes

We were surprised to see an article in yesterday's Courier about the use of our astro pitch at lunchtimes. One parent and a small number of pupils had asked Mr Macdonald, our faculty leader of health & wellbeing, about this matter and he had responded to them. It is not as straightforward as it might seem to make the astro pitch available to pupils at lunchtimes – there are a number of issues and practicalities that we have to consider first. Last year, we opened the astro pitch for pupils to use at lunchtime for the first time and, unfortunately, this raised some problems and we had to close it again. We are currently looking at how we might overcome those problems so that small groups of pupils might be able to use the astro pitch at lunchtimes. Points under consideration include the following:

- The astro pitch is a specialist surface, and is one of our classrooms – albeit an outside one. It must be kept well maintained, therefore only trainers can be worn on the surface when moving around in a sporting setting, otherwise the surface can be damaged and the warranty invalidated. Pupils using the astro pitch at lunchtime would have to bring a change of footwear.
- In PE lessons, pupils wear sports-specific clothing and then change back into school dress code before going on to lessons. There is currently not an opportunity for pupils to change at lunchtime, which they would have to do for a game of football, for instance. The PE staff are looking at how they might accommodate the use of changing facilities at least on some days of the week. S6 volunteers are happy to assist with this.
- Litter was a big problem when the astro pitch was opened at lunchtimes last year. There cannot be anything dropped on the surface of the pitch. Again, S6 pupils volunteering to supervise could help to ensure that no food or drink packaging is taken onto the astro pitch.
- Supervision of the astro pitch at lunchtimes by staff is a challenge as most staff are on minimum non-contact time already. As we saw last year when we opened the astro pitch, pupils need to be supervised. We are delighted that some of our S6 pupils have volunteered to help on a rota basis.

ELC Appointment

You may have noticed in an item above that Lesley Brown's job title has changed. Formerly Chief Operating Officer (Education), Lesley has been appointed to the role of Head of Education and Children's Services at East Lothian Council. We are delighted for Lesley and look forward to working with her in her new role.

ELC Communication

Below are links to information provided by East Lothian's Corporate Communications team. The Frequently Asked Questions for Parents (back to school) will be updated so it is worth keeping an eye on.

<https://twitter.com/ELCouncil/status/1293151012522467328?s=20>

<https://www.facebook.com/EastLothianCouncil/photos/a.379256328860458/3108871735898890/?type=3>

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210557/schools_and_learning/12534/back_to_school_2020/4

NBHS 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. **We will always respond, so if you have any issue of concern we would appreciate it if you would come to us in the first instance, rather than commenting via social media.** Thank you. communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk