



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 25 September 2020

John Muir Award Group

This week the John Muir Award Group took part in the Great British Beach Clean Week and collected the rubbish listed below in just one hour. All pupils worked extremely hard and were a real credit to the school.

55 pieces of plastic, 14 plastic bags, 4 drinks bottles, 25 crisp and sweet wrappers, 14 pieces of paper/napkins, 5 pieces of wood, 8 glass, 11 ceramic, 7 cloth/string/rope, 16 cigarette ends.



COVID-19 Information

You will likely have seen in the local press that four East Lothian secondary schools have now had positive COVID-19 test results for members of their school community. These schools have been working closely with both the Public Health Team and East Lothian's Co-ordinating Group in managing each situation, focusing on the health, safety and wellbeing of all. Communication with all members of the school community is also a priority in these cases and, should we find ourselves in that situation, you will be kept well-informed. Our greatest hope, of course, is that no-one in the NBHS community develops COVID-19: we continue to do all that we can to minimise that risk. We would appreciate it if parents and carers could take every opportunity to reinforce with their children the vital importance of following all rules and guidance to the letter, in order to keep us all safe. What is clear is that **physical distancing is particularly important**. Should your child test positive, the Public Health Team will ask them who they have been in close contact with over the previous 48 hours. The NHS define a 'close contact' as someone who has:

- had face-to-face contact with the positive case within 1 metre, for any length of time;
- been within 1 metre of the positive case for one minute or longer, without face-to-face contact;
- been within 1 – 2 metres of the positive for 15 cumulative minutes or more over the 48 hours prior to the positive case first experiencing symptoms or testing positive.

In assemblies this week, we have been emphasising to pupils the importance of physical distancing and sharing with them new Scottish Government guidance specific to secondary school age pupils:

A maximum of six 12-17 year olds can meet outdoors, with no household limit.

Physical distancing is still required.

We fully appreciate how challenging this is for our young people but we will keep reinforcing the message. We are grateful for the support of parents and carers in doing the same.

Keeping Warm

Just a reminder that we recommend pupils wear a plain black jersey to school. The school heating is switched on now that the weather has turned colder, but we are keeping classrooms well-ventilated as one of the COVID-19 mitigation measures. Wearing a jersey over their school shirt and tie will

keep pupils warm. Outdoor coats and hooded sweatshirts should not be worn in the classroom and would only be allowed if there was a short-term problem with the temperature in a room.

On a related note, could we please ask parents and carers once again to ensure that our young people are wearing correct dress code, in particular school shirt and tie and plain black footwear. Thank you for your support with this important aspect of school ethos.

Support for Digital Learning

The Scottish Government recently announced funding of £30 million to local authorities, enabling them to provide digital devices and/or the internet to school pupils who may require support to access digital learning from home. We have used the Scottish Government guidance to identify young people at North Berwick High School who fit the criteria to be offered a device. We will shortly be writing home to parents/carers of those young people whom we have identified and devices will be available to hand out to pupils in October and at the end of November. These devices will be Chromebooks, as these support the Google platform used by East Lothian Council (ELC) schools. Pupils will be able to use these devices to access both in-school and home learning. Pupils may be asked to hand back their Chromebook periodically for software updates, and to ensure that they are working effectively.

The device is assigned to the pupil, provided for learning purposes, but it remains the property of ELC and when the young person leaves school they will be asked to return the Chromebook to North Berwick High School. During the period of loan, pupils will be expected to look after their device and to use it according to East Lothian's ICT User Guidelines.

Tutor Time Programme

After consultation with pupils and staff, and exploration of effective tutor time programmes in other schools, we are now launching our programme from Monday morning. The video below explains the programme. Please ensure that pupils are arriving at school in good time every morning, as activities will start at 8.30 am sharp.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQQTda2zSBM>

National 5 Business Management Textbook (Leckie & Leckie) – URGENT RECALL by Publisher

If your child still has their National 5 Business Management textbook at home, please can you ensure that they return it to school as soon as possible. These books have been recalled by our supplier because of an issue with a reference contained in the text and we must return them. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Parental Involvement

Over the last two weeks, we have had two AGMs: the Parent Council and the Parent Teacher Association. All of us at NBHS are hugely grateful for the work of both the PC and the PTA, with parents and carers willingly giving up their time to support the work of the school and the education of our young people. Our particular thanks go to the Chairs: Niall Bradley of the PC and Julie Cetingoz of the PTA. They do a power of work for the school. If you were unable to attend the AGMs but you would like to find out more about either group, just email school on the Communications email address and we will forward it to the relevant person. We look forward to working with more of our parents on these groups soon!

IMPORTANT UPDATE ON SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS - New Attendance Mailbox

We have now set up a new email address for all attendance matters. This should make it easier for parents and carers as there is no longer any need to phone the school – just send us an email to the Attendance address with the detail of absence, appointments etc. We recommend that you add this email address to your contacts so that it is quick and easy for you to access.

attendance@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk

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.

communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk