



## NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

### Friday 4 September 2020

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#### A Message from the Head Teacher

Since school opened to pupils on 12 August, it seems that each week there is some new guidance for us to take account of in order to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of the young people and staff in school. This week, that guidance included the obligatory wearing of face coverings in communal areas of Scottish schools for all pupils aged 12 and above, unless they have a medical exemption. I have to admit that as I stood in the foyer welcoming pupils to school on Monday morning, it felt very strange – and somewhat dystopian – to see our young people wearing face masks. However, as the week has gone on we have become used to it, just as we have in shops and on public transport. I am hugely impressed with the way our young people have accepted the need for this and are wearing their face coverings as a matter of course – with just the occasional need of a reminder. Can you please ensure that, if possible, your child brings their own face covering to school; while we can supply a mask if necessary, we do not have unlimited supplies.



Despite the measures in place to minimise COVID-19 transmission, we have all settled into school life again. On a personal note, the best thing for me is the interaction with colleagues and our wonderful young people. That is far from normal as we still have to hold staff meetings and assemblies virtually, but there are many other opportunities for face to face conversations, banter, encouragement and support. And even with face coverings it's possible to see smiles, through the eyes. It makes me grateful every day to be working in such a happy school.

#### Opportunities for Parental Involvement

Whilst we are not able to have adult visitors in school at present, there are still opportunities for parents and carers to be involved in the life and work of the school. We have a very active Parent Council and Parent Teacher Association, and we would welcome new members to either – or both – groups. If you would like to find out more, there are two meetings coming up in September. Just send an email to receive a link to the relevant Google Meet:

- \* Thursday 17 September, 7.00 pm      Parent Council meeting  
([communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk))
- \* Wednesday 23 September, 7.00 pm      Parent Teacher Association AGM  
([ptanbhs@gmail.com](mailto:ptanbhs@gmail.com))

### **When a Pupil Displays COVID-19 Symptoms**

As you know, any child showing symptoms at home should not be sent into school. Along with all other Scottish schools, we are taking a zero-tolerance approach to COVID-19 symptoms in school. We have already shared with you the procedure for dealing with young people who begin to exhibit symptoms while at school. The pupil will be taken quickly from the classroom to somewhere they can safely isolate until they are collected to return home. The rest of the class and staff will also leave the classroom area so that fogging can take place before lessons resume. Affected areas will be available to use after 15 minutes.

Such cases are likely to be rare and it is important that we all remember this is a highly-precautionary measure to keep everyone in our school buildings safe. As it becomes more familiar to our young people, it will become an accepted and routine part of school life. We encourage everyone to remain calm and responsible throughout and to avoid speculation. We are very proud of how our young people have adapted to the new routines in school and are grateful for your continued support with our activities.

### **Transport**

We are glad to report that the issues with transport along the coast seem to have been largely resolved. The key points for pupils to remember are:

- Gullane pupils must get on the 125/X5 buses in the morning if they are at the bus stop when the buses come past. If they choose to wait for a later bus we cannot guarantee space for them.
- Gullane pupils going home should generally get on the 125/127 at the turning circle or the 124 at the leisure centre stop. The 126 is for Aberlady pupils.
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Please do contact school (preferably by email) if your children experience any problems with the buses. Transport have informed us that all services will run three minutes earlier in the mornings from 13 September. We will issue revised timetables when we have them.

### **Behaviour in the Community**

In last week's update, I asked parents and carers to reinforce the message to their children about the importance of being courteous and respectful when out and about in the community, especially at lunchtime when there tends to be large groups of our pupils going to and from North Berwick High Street. We had also spoken to pupils about this in assemblies. I am pleased to say that the majority of our pupils do seem to be heeding this message and their behaviour in the town is exemplary. However, there is still a small number of pupils who need to get the message. I received an email from ELC's Service Manager for Roads about our pupils vandalising bollards on Law Road, and I have received three further complaints this week about the same matter from members of the public. Because we don't know the individual pupils involved in this act of vandalism, we cannot address it directly with them. If we do find out, we will be contacting parents as it is absolutely not acceptable.

### **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. Thank you.

[communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk)