



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 9 October 2020

SQA Changes to National Courses 2020-2021

With John Swinney's (DFM) statement to the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday, we now have confirmation about changes to the assessment of National Courses in session 2020 - 2021:

- Higher and Advanced Higher examinations in 2021 will go ahead as planned, starting from 13 May, slightly later than originally scheduled; this will remain under review as the year progresses. In certain subjects the completion of externally assessed coursework will also still be required.
- There will be no external assessment of National 5 courses in session 2020 – 2021, either by exam or coursework. SQA are putting in place an alternative certification model for National 5 that is based on teacher estimates.
- Removal of some previously mandatory course content for some National Course subjects.

We fully understand that these changes will generate some questions amongst our pupils and parents; to reassure you, we are acting on the implications of this announcement immediately and will provide further communication to parents shortly after the October holiday on our strategic plans.

The Senior Leadership Team held a special assembly today to speak to senior pupils about Wednesday's announcement.

For full details of the changes to National Courses (National 5, Higher, Advanced Higher) on a subject by subject basis, please refer to the following document:

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/outcomes-national-consultation-2021.pdf

PTA MEETING - Wednesday 14th October, 7pm

Interested in helping to raise vital funds for the school and sharing your fundraising ideas? Then we warmly welcome you to the Online PTA Meeting on 14th October to find out more. All new and existing parents and carers are very welcome.

We will be using Google Meet so if you'd like to attend, please email us at ptanbhs@gmail.com and we'll send you a link.

We look forward to seeing you

NBHS PTA

NBHS PTA Monthly Prize Draw

The winners in the August prize draw are Caroline Hitchen (first prize: £50) and Laura Hay (second prize: £25) and the winners in the September prize draw are Karen Gray (first prize: £50) and Leisha

Wemyss (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!

MUSIC NEWS - East Lothian Instrumental Music Service

Our Instrumental Music Service has been involved in an exciting collaboration with RAF musicians. This was premiered last night on Facebook and can be watched using the link below. It has been a great opportunity for our young musicians and we hope that everyone watching this uplifting performance enjoys their hard work, dedication and talent. Well done to all our NBHS pupils who took part!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/376946749091416/posts/3276394309146631/?d=n>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ELCouncil/status/1313501261757644800?s=20>

School Playing Fields – Issue with Dogs

I am very sorry to say that we are still having a serious issue with members of the public walking their dogs on the school grounds and allowing them to foul the area. There have been numerous occasions when pupils and staff have suffered the very unpleasant consequences of this when they have been out on the playing fields during PE lessons. Dog walking has even disrupted lessons, when owners have let their dogs run onto pitches where pupils are playing. These playing fields are our classrooms and our outdoor learning facilities; they are not dog-walking areas.

We are currently working with East Lothian Council's Active Business Unit Manager and the Access Officer on this matter. My hope is that we can have a ban on dogs on the school playing fields; I think this is the only way that we can avoid the problem. North Berwick is blessed with many wonderful open spaces, so it is difficult to understand why anyone feels the need to use the school playing fields to walk their dog and, indeed, how anyone can think that is appropriate. We discussed this matter at our Parent Council meeting on Tuesday this week, and we would be very grateful for any support that parents can give us. For example, if you are a member of local social media groups, you might reinforce the message that a school playing field is not a place to walk a dog.

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 Communications

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

Aim Higher

Curiosity

Diligence



Kindness

Belonging