



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 16 October 2020

Break-time Arrangements from 27 October 2020

	10:20	10:35	11:10	11:25
S1	Break canteen		Period 3	
S2	Break social area		Period 3	
S3	Break hall		Period 3	
S4	Period 3			Break hall
S5	Period 3			Break canteen
S6	Period 3			Break canteen

In order to improve physical distancing, we are staggering breaks, as shown above. These timings apply from Monday to Friday. This arrangement provides pupils with plenty of space to sit at break-time, but we are relying on pupils to behave maturely. In particular:

- Pupils must stick to their own year group zones
- Pupils must stay seated in their zones
- Pupils who are not zoned in the canteen should only enter the canteen by the designated doors (by HE) and should leave immediately after making purchases, by the corridor to science

All of the above rules are in place to maximise physical distancing, and to avoid contact between year-groups.

Prizewinners 2019 - 2020

It was a real pleasure this week to present awards to a large number of pupils in S5 and S6, in honour of their academic achievements in session 2019 – 2020. Sadly, we have been unable to hold our normal prizegiving ceremonies this autumn but we were keen to recognise and celebrate pupils' achievements. Prizes were awarded in four categories:

- individual subject prize for the highest mark in each subject at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher levels;
- certificate of merit for overall achievement in National 5s and Highers;
- special achievement award for the pupil who teachers feel achieved beyond expectations in a subject, through exceptional effort and dedication to study

- S6 special award for the S6 pupil who has shown outstanding commitment or service in a particular area.

A short video presentation is being compiled of the prizewinners with their certificates and this will be shared with pupils, parents and carers after the holiday. We also have a celebratory programme of prizewinners, which is attached. The staff of NBHS are delighted for our pupils, and are hugely proud of their achievements.

Dress Code and Keeping Warm

If you are buying any items of school clothing over the October break for your child, please ensure that they are in accordance with the school dress code. As mentioned in a previous update, school dress has slipped with some pupils this half-term. Following the October break, we will be following up any dress code issues with parents and carers, asking for your support in ensuring that our pupils all follow the dress code, an important part of our school ethos.

We would recommend pupils wear a plain black jersey (not any other colour, and no logo or pattern) over their shirt and school tie. While the heating will be on throughout the building, the temperature in classrooms may be cooler than normal with rooms being kept well-ventilated as a COVID-19 mitigation measure. The plain black jersey will help pupils to keep warm in ventilated classrooms. If any room is particularly cold, pupils will be allowed to keep outdoor jackets on.

Expansion

Senior leaders and faculty leaders have been working closely with FES, the contractor for our expansion project, and building work should be starting in the next few weeks. Work will begin on the three-storey teaching block at the back corner of the school, as well as on a wide range of upgrades within the existing building. We will be providing more details of the work over the next few weeks.

Lord Lieutenant's Cadet

We are delighted that Fergus McClintock, an S6 pupil, has been appointed to the role of Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for East Lothian. Fergus is a Cadet Sergeant in the 132 North Berwick Squadron of the Air Training Corps, having been a member of the Squadron for four years. Fergus also is also a piper and instructor in the ATC Pipes and Drums and is now Cadet Pipe Major. Congratulations to Fergus on his new role!

Firework Safety

The Scottish SPCA have asked us to share with you information and a flyer (link below) regarding firework safety.

Linked in with the Scottish Government Fireworks Action Plan we are leading a multi-agency project that aims to raise awareness to young people in schools around keeping safe when it comes to the use of fireworks and bonfire night. Partners include Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, NHS, Scottish Burned Children's Club, ROSPA, BVA, Scottish Community Safety Network and Fearless.org run by Crimestoppers.

<file:///C:/Users/nbrodgl/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/B2EZQH4U/FireworkSafety%20Flyer1.pdf>

Holidays Abroad – Quarantine Requirement

If your child is going on holiday abroad to a non-exempt country during the October break, please could you inform the school via the attendance mailbox and ensure that your child completes the full 14-day quarantine, as laid down in Scottish Government rules. Up to date information can be found via the following link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders/pages/exemptions/>

Message from Mrs Rodger

It's an over-used phrase these days, but this really is a time like no other. As I said in my letter to parents and carers yesterday, I am very grateful – and immensely proud – of how our school community has risen to the challenges that we have faced since returning to school in August. Amidst all the health and safety measures in place, relationships have remained strong; learning and teaching has continued to flourish; love, care and kindness are displayed in abundance. But now pupils and staff alike are tired and ready for a break from work and study. My sincerest wish is that everyone in our school community enjoys a relaxing holiday and is able to recharge batteries, returning to school feeling refreshed, optimistic and ready for the next half-term, whatever challenges it may bring.

I would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to those parents and carers who have sent us the loveliest messages of thanks. I can't tell you how much those messages have lifted my spirits in recent days, and staff are hugely appreciative, too. However hard things get, I am grateful every day to be part of the wonderful NBHS community.

Happy holiday, everyone! We look forward to welcoming pupils back at 830 am on Tuesday 27 October.

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

