



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 6 November 2020

Message from the Head Teacher

One of the privileges and pleasures of any secondary teacher's job is watching our pupils grow and flourish, from the time they arrive at NBHS in S1 as 11-year old children to the time they reach their final year of school as young adults. Every year, our S6 pupils are eager to give something back to school, and the 2020 - 2021 cohort are no exception. Here are just some of the activities our S6s have been involved in already this session:

- A number of S6 pupils have been trained in peer mentoring and have been introduced to their S1 – S3 mentees this week.
- Our Head Team is planning a series of transition videos to begin welcoming our P7 pupils to NBHS.
- House Captains are keen to engage more with junior registration classes and are planning some fun ways to get to know our younger pupils.
- The Charities Committee have already raised a fantastic amount - almost £700 - by organising a dress down day. They are busy making further plans for fundraising and fun, despite the current restrictions. There will be a Jingle Bag appeal for the East Lothian foodbank which the whole school can take part in, and some intrepid committee members are planning a sponsored sleep out in their gardens in aid of The Social Bite, one of our chosen charities this session. Let's hope it's a mild winter night!
- Members of the Eco Committee have produced a video to be shown to all year groups in assemblies over the next two weeks. It's a powerful message, taking us from a wide global perspective to a narrower focus on what each of us can do personally, now, to make a positive difference to our environment.
- All Head Pupils across the six East Lothian secondary schools met this week to think about some of the ways they can be creative and proactive in their roles under the current circumstances.
- Knowing that we are unable to hold our well-loved Christmas events, such as concerts and dances, the S6s are coming up with other ideas to bring happiness, fun and laughter to our school community in December. I'm sure they will succeed!

I am so proud of these wonderful young people.

Scottish Qualifications Authority News

Early in October, DFM John Swinney announced that Higher and Advanced Higher exams are scheduled to go ahead as planned this academic session; the exam diet will run from Monday 10 May until Friday 4 June 2021. The DFM intends to review this in February 2021 and to plan contingencies if necessary, should Public Health Scotland advice and the COVID-19 situation at that time deem it necessary that H and AH exams can no longer go ahead. As you know, in that announcement the DFM also stated that there would be no external examinations for National 5 courses. Following a discussion this week between the Head of Education and Children's Services and the six secondary Head Teachers, it has been agreed that there will be no prelim exams for National 5 pupils in East Lothian schools this session. A prelim is a 'preliminary' exam in preparation

for the final SQA exam and, given that there are not going to be exams for National 5 in 2021, a prelim is not appropriate. Higher and Advanced Higher prelims will take place in January 2021, as planned.

On Monday this week, the SQA began publishing information on the instruments of assessment for every subject at every level. This is currently being rolled out for all subjects and we should have the complete picture by Friday 18 November.

In order to submit estimate grades to the SQA in spring 2021, teachers will gather a robust body of evidence that best demonstrates pupils' attainment in their subjects. For National 5 courses, the formal, SQA-produced assessments coming out to schools this month will cover all assessable components of those courses. Teachers will be sharing details with pupils and our ongoing National Course Assessment Calendar (see below) will give an overview of assessments. The assessment and estimating process will be subject to rigorous quality assurance and moderation at school, local authority and national levels.

Link to SQA exam timetable for Highers and Advanced Higher in May/June 2021:

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/exam-timetable-2021.pdf

National Qualifications Course Assessment Calendar

Below is the calendar of planned assessments for next week for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses. Pupils have been aware of these dates for some time and, hopefully, have been diligent in preparing well for their assessments.

National Course Assessments	
w/b 9 November	
Subject and Level	Comments
Business Management National 5	Marketing Unit assessment
Chemistry Advanced Higher	Tracking assessment on Unit 4 and first 3 key areas of Unit 3
Economics Higher	Economics of the Market assessment
English Higher	RUAE assessment
English National 5	RUAE assessment
History Advanced Higher	Dissertation work
History Higher	Timed source question
Modern Studies Advanced Higher	First draft of chapter 1 dissertation due in by end of week
Modern Studies Higher	Timed source question
Psychology National 5	Sleep and Dreams end of unit test

Dress Code

School dress is an important feature of the ethos of our school: it helps to set a positive tone and to promote the idea of wearing dress which is appropriate for a place of work. We are delighted that so many pupils choose to identify with our school by proudly wearing their school clothing; however, staff have noticed that the Dress Code standards of quite a number of pupils have slipped recently. If there is an issue with a pupil following the Dress Code, we will contact parents and carers. Your support is crucial to the success of this aspect of life at NBHS and we would very much appreciate it if you would reinforce to your child the message about adhering to our Dress Code.

Our Dress Code is very simple, with only ties and senior blazers being specific to the school. All other items can be purchased at any clothing outlet. If you are purchasing any new items of clothing in the near future, please do make sure that they adhere to the Dress Code. In particular, please ensure your child wears plain black footwear, and note that we expect skirts to be of an appropriate length for school. All pupils should wear a shirt and tie. As a reminder, you can find the Dress Code attached to this Update, together with some images of our pupils following the Code.

If you have any issue with sourcing an item for your child, please let us know. East Lothian Council can provide financial support for the provision of school clothing. Further information on this can be found at:

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210557/schools_and_learning/11899/free_school_meals_and_clothing_grants/2

Remembrance Day 2020

North Berwick High School will be remembering members of the armed forces who have lost their lives serving their country on Wednesday 11 November. This week, Rev Neil Dougall delivered a lovely virtual assembly to all year groups: Neil compared living through wartime with our current experience living through a pandemic, and he also spoke about empathy. On Remembrance day itself, staff and pupils will be participating in another thought-provoking assembly and will honour a minute's silence at 11 am for those who have fallen.

Instead of a traditional poppy attached to clothing, the Learning Support Team have a new way to wear a poppy as sign of respect for Remembrance Day in 2020. These masks were bought from the Haddington community mask tree to raise funds for the Royal British legion.

'They gave us their tomorrows so we could have our today...Lest We Forget'



Social Media - TikTok

There was a very interesting documentary by Panorama on Monday 2 November which can be watched again on BBC iPlayer. It is all about the social media platform, TikTok. It gives details on safety and how certain content is shared, based on data collected from the user. With so many of our young people having a TikTok account it is definitely worth a watch.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000p3p9/panorama-is-tiktok-safe>

NBHS PTA Virtual Festive Fair: 16 November - 24 December

Your Christmas Shopping Taken Care Of

Don't miss this great opportunity to support local business and do your Christmas shopping in the comfort of your own home! The PTA are creating and marketing a web page that will promote small local producers and businesses. With one click you will be able to browse the wide range of wonderful products our local businesses have to offer. Look out for updates and opening information on Facebook [NBHS PTA](#) and Twitter [@NbhsPta](#)

Fair Spaces Still Available For Local Businesses

Spaces are filling up on the PTA Virtual Festive Fair website. If you are a small local business and would like to reserve a spot to promote your business and showcase your products please apply for a stall now (only £15 per stall) by clicking on the link in the attached flyer or by emailing ptanbhs@gmail.com. We will be promoting the event in the weekly update to parents, and on Facebook, Twitter and community boards.

Aprons in Home Economics Lessons

We would like to remind parents/carers that an apron is necessary in the Home Economics department. The plastic ones we have are not suitable for cleaning purposes, in regulation with COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. We ask that all pupils supply their own apron, which can then be taken home and washed after each practical lesson. We have a limited stock of cotton aprons for any pupil that may forget; however, these have to be laundered after each use.

Mini-Whiteboards

On Monday and Tuesday mornings, all pupils are being issued with a mini whiteboard pack:

These will allow pupils to show their work to teachers more easily when teachers have to be at least 2 metres away from them.

They also allow a teacher to ask every pupil in the class to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding from a distance.

Compare the following two snippets of teacher behaviour, when a teaching is seeking to activate pupils' memories of something previously taught:

1. Teacher asks "who can remember some reasons why the Americans were reluctant to join in World War 2?" They then take answers from pupils who put their hands up.

2. Teacher says "without lifting up your whiteboard, write down at least one reason why the Americans were reluctant to join in World War 2". Teacher pauses, then says "okay now show me" and all pupils lift up their whiteboards.

Option 1 simply lets the teacher know if some of the pupils remember. It also gives the rest of the class a verbal reminder, but they have had no obligation to actively retrieve the memory themselves.



Option 2 obliges every pupil to seek to retrieve the memory, and gives the teacher a rapid assessment of the state of all pupils' knowledge.

We trust you can all see that option 2 is vastly more effective.

Mr Cox and his class kindly agreed to be videoed using the whiteboards in this way. A brief clip of this will be available next week. **We are asking parents to please make sure pupils keep their whiteboard packs in their school bags, and to please keep pupils stocked with dry-wipe pens, as the ones we are giving them will eventually run out.**

Attendance Mailbox

We have a specific email address for all attendance matters. There is no 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

If your child's absence is COVID-19 related, please also email the communications inbox as it is monitored over the weekend. Thank you.

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

