



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 27 November 2020

HMI Report – Practice Worth Sharing More Widely

You might remember that in our HMI report, published in June this year, two examples of good practice were identified that the inspectors judged were worthy of sharing more widely. We were really delighted about that as not all HMI reports identify even one example of good practice in a school, let alone two. Here is a reminder of what HMI said about those two examples of practice:

Practice worth sharing more widely

- *The developing range of well-informed and innovative approaches to learning, teaching and assessment, which are supporting young people at all stages to take responsibility for their own learning and progress to improve their attainment.*
- *The positive impact that the wide range of professional learning activities have had on the quality of leadership for learning at all levels in the school. In particular, the focus on critical engagement with professional reading and a programme of action research has empowered all teachers to develop their practice to meet their unique individual professional needs as well as the needs of the learner.*

These examples of “practice worth sharing more widely” are now being shared across the nation, via the Education Scotland website and practitioners’ newsletter. Our text has been turned into two sketchnotes, and we were also asked to write a further post on our Recovery Update. We’re very pleased with the sketchnotes, which even feature our iconic Bass Rock. Links are below, and I really hope that you enjoy perusing them.



[0343_North_Berwick.pdf](#)



[0343_North_Berwick_blog.pdf](#)



[0343_North_Berwick_recovery.pdf](#)

Parents’ Evenings

Our first Virtual Parents’ Evening was held on 19 November for S1 pupils and their parents. Very big thanks to the NBHS staff for their preparations in making the evening run smoothly. We received lots of positive feedback from parents and carers – thank you for taking the time to respond to the evaluation request. Feedback on the very small amount of technical issues are being acted upon in preparation for the S4 Virtual Parents’ Evening on Tuesday 1 December.

Higher and Advanced Higher Prelims - January 2021

Pupils being presented for Higher and Advanced Higher were given the 2021 Prelim Timetable on Thursday. Parents of S5 and S6 pupils were also emailed the timetable yesterday, along with the accompanying prelim guidelines. In the event of any change to the Christmas holiday and start of term dates, as is speculated in the media today, we will adjust the prelim timetable if necessary.

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.

w/b 30 November	
Subject and Level	Comments
Administration and IT National 5	Spreadsheet N4 unit Task
Biology Advanced Higher	Unit 1 assessments
Drama Higher	Textual analysis Essay
French Advanced Higher	Reading and Translation Paper
German National 5	Reading paper and Listening paper
German Advanced Higher	Listening and Discursive Writing paper
Graphic Communication Higher	Practise Assignment in class (2 weeks)
Music Higher & Advanced Higher	Practical assessments
Physics Higher	Particles Assessment
Psychology National 5	Conformity timed questions
Psychology Higher	Conformity & Obedience - End of Unit Test
Spanish Higher	Reading paper, Listening paper and Writing Paper
Mathematics Higher	One paper
Economics Higher	Economics of the Market Assessment
Business Management National 5	Operations Unit Assessment

COVID-19 Regulations – School Drop Off for Pupils

We would like to remind parents that due to the current circumstances you cannot drop off anything at the school office for pupils. If you need to get anything to your child we suggest you arrange to meet them at break time or lunch time.

Thank you for your understanding.

North Berwick High School PTA Festive Fair Open 16 Nov-24 Dec

This Black Friday Stay at Home & Shop Local!

[Click here to enter our Festive Fair](#)

Find bespoke artwork, wonderful food and drink items, beauty & pampering gifts, unique children's gifts, candles, Christmas decorations, handmade wreaths, homeware and so much more.....

Don't miss this great opportunity to do your Christmas shopping from the comfort of your own home and support our local businesses.

Please share this invitation with friends and family

Humanities

The humanities faculty were delighted to take part in a Q&A session with social commentator, author and Scottish rapper Darren McGarvey, aka Loki, (his rap name) this week via a Google Meet.

Darren provided a wealth of insight into a wide range of social issues that our Higher Modern Studies students are currently studying. We examine Social Inequality as part of the Higher course and the interview with Darren provided us with a great opportunity to better understand this highly emotive topic.



Darren made a six part BBC series, “**Darren McGarvey's Scotland, an alternative tour of Scotland**” addressing key social issues that exist across Scotland.

The link to his programme is here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00087lh/episodes/guide>

Darren is also the author of an award-winning book, Poverty Safari.

Some questions that were posed by students included:

- What do you think the government should be doing to tackle inequalities in Scotland?
- How do you think coronavirus has impacted the level of inequality and what will happen in the next 10 years?
- When you filmed the Darren McGarvey’s Scotland documentary series, which incident/ encounter impacted you the most?



On reflection the students found the whole experience very interesting;

“It gave me a new perspective on important issues that are so often overlooked.”

“He is very interesting and an example of someone who has challenged poverty in his personal and professional life.”

“I liked the car park metaphor used to describe how the economy is run.”

“I appreciated the chance to get his views on inequalities in Scotland”

On behalf of the humanities faculty and the Higher Modern Studies students we would like to thank Darren for his welcomed insight and the time he gave us this week.

On Our Wave Length

The initiative *On Our Wave Length* gave some of our pupils the opportunity to lead their own research, working with North Berwick Youth Project. The young people explored the impacts of global warming at local level and worked to make change in their community to battle plastics in our ocean and coastline. Through interviews with professionals from Greenpeace, the Marine Conservation Society and the Scottish Seabird Centre, they built a wealth of knowledge which informed their decision-making for their project. Their film was showcased as part of the Scottish Storytelling Centre Scot Story Fest webinars, one of five projects from across Scotland. Hear about what the team developed in this short film from YouthLink Scotland:

<https://youtu.be/kgD9KtEtPjE>

Raspberry PI Foundation Free Coding Resources for Young People

As a charity, our educational mission is to put the power of computing into the hands of young people all over the world, and this year that’s been more important than ever.

To support young people, teachers, and parents we have created a **free [Learn at Home](#) initiative**. This includes **200+ online step-by-step coding projects** for children age 6 and above, including projects focused on wellbeing and protecting the planet. Our team of educators host weekly live streams where young people learn about getting creative with technology. We're also running an exciting space challenge, **[Astro Pi Mission Zero](#)** in partnership with the European Space Agency, which gives under-15s the opportunity to send a message to the International Space Station!

North Berwick Community Council Virtual Switching on of the Christmas Lights

Be sure to join us for this lovely online event! This will include musical highlights from previous NBHS Christmas concerts and our very own piper Thomas Hart. Here is more information about the event from the Courier:

<https://www.eastlothiancourier.com/news/18859693.north-berwick-get-festive-glow-christmas-light-switch-event-go-virtual/>

Charlie Hits the Headlines!

We were delighted to see Charlie Kay, S2 pupil, featuring on STV news this Wednesday. Charlie was helping to promote the 10 year anniversary of riding therapy at Muirfield. He was an absolute star and we were hugely proud of him. The Muirfield Riding Therapy item was not included in the bulletin in all STV areas. We are hoping to get a link to the item that we can share with you.

Dress Code

Often in the Weekly Update there is an item about school dress, asking for parental support in encouraging our pupils to follow the Dress Code. I am aware that this may seem like a trivial issue to some, particularly considering the current pandemic situation. However, I am of the belief that the Dress Code is an important aspect of our school ethos and of pupils identifying themselves as part of our inclusive school community. I also believe that, on the whole, young people welcome clear boundaries on this aspect of school life, as with all others. Therefore, we maintain high expectations around Dress Code. Our wish is for pupils to take responsibility for this aspect of school life themselves, rather than us having to contact parents about it.

At the beginning of the session, we were more lenient about Dress Code as we were aware of issues sourcing Dress Code items. Unfortunately, we are now at a stage where a sizeable minority of pupils are not adhering to the Dress Code, and we are now contacting parents directly via email to enlist their support when a pupil persistently fails to adhere to the Dress Code. We very much appreciate your support with this.

Please be assured that if your child does not currently have an item of Dress Code and you will be unable to source it for a while, we will be understanding and will not pursue it with your child – just let us know by emailing the Communications mailbox. There is financial support for school clothing available from the local authority and you can find information here: https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210557/schools_and_learning/11899/free_school_meals_and_clothing_grants/2.

As stated in previous Weekly Updates, we recommend your child wears a plain black jumper to school as rooms are kept ventilated with open windows and doors. If the temperature is low in a room, pupils can also keep their coats on.

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



