



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 30 October 2020

Message from the Head Teacher

It's lovely to have our pupils back in school after the October break. I hope that all our families have had an enjoyable, relaxing holiday. Some of you may have been lucky enough to get away for a few days, enjoying Scotland in the autumn sunshine – and sometimes in the rain and the wind. No midgies, at least. What has been particularly pleasing since our return is that the vast majority of our pupils are wearing their face coverings without the need for any reminder from staff. We do have a supply of reusable, washable masks and we are happy to issue those to any pupils who require them; pupils should ask at the school office.

In my letter to parents on 15 October following a positive COVID-19 case, I expressed my sincere hope that we would not have any further cases in our school community. As you know, unfortunately we have had further cases since the start of the October break, resulting in some pupils and staff having to self-isolate. As before, I am grateful to the Health Protection Team at NHS Lothian and to staff at East Lothian Council for their guidance, advice and support. I am also extremely grateful that none of those testing positive has been seriously ill, but it has been an unpleasant and traumatic experience for some, and for their families.

What is clear from my conversations with the HPT and ELC is that it would appear the transmissions have occurred outwith school. While I am pleased that our mitigation measures in school have been effective, with cases in the wider community now affecting members of our school community it is clear that there is no room for complacency. New guidelines for education have come out from the Scottish Government today and we will be ensuring that we adhere to those. Lesley Brown, Head of Education and Children's Services, is writing to all East Lothian parents about what the new guidelines entail for our schools and you will receive that letter shortly.

A matter of concern is that it seems many of our pupils outside school are not adhering to the Scottish Government guidelines on meeting in groups, on physical distancing, and on wearing of face coverings. Not doing so enables COVID-19 to spread. I fear that we will have more positive cases in school as a result of house parties and gatherings in places like the Lodge Grounds in North Berwick. These activities have to stop. The HPT have asked me to make a plea to parents and carers: please ensure that your children are following the Scottish Government guidelines to the letter, and do not allow them to meet in groups against the guidelines. From Monday 2 November, East Lothian is at Protection Level 3 and we are aware that the rate of infections in the county has been rising. It is no exaggeration to say that our behaviour over the next few weeks has the potential to enable East Lothian to reduce to level 2, and to keep our schools open; every one of us in our school community must take personal responsibility to do all that we can to keep ourselves and others safe.

Hallowe'en Advice

The Deputy First Minister has given the following advice on safe and enjoyable Hallowe'en celebrations: *Families and children are being urged to avoid guising this Halloween to minimise the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19)...the move is necessary to ensure people stay within the current restrictions on indoor and outdoor gatherings.* The message for our pupils is very clear: they

must not be out in the community in groups this Saturday evening for Hallowe'en. We have been concerned to hear that a small number of NBHS pupils may have been making plans for Hallowe'en which would result in damage, disruption and, perhaps, distress in our local community. We trust that they will think better of this. The Police are aware and will be on patrol. Please can parents ensure that their children are enjoying safe and happy celebrations at home with family, and are not involved in anti-social behaviour in our community.

Free School Meal Service

For those receiving free school meals, the East Lothian facilities team will [deliver free school meals to the homes of pupils who are isolating](#). Please call or email Lara Neri on 01620 894661, lneri@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk if this applies to you. Parents/carers with a child who is isolating should not visit the school building to pick these up. Thank you.

Guardian Summaries

If you are not already associated as a Google Classroom Guardian, please remind your child to complete the survey in their Google Classroom 'Home Class' in order to give permission for Guardian Summaries to be activated. This is a great way for parents to get an overview of tasks and assignments that are being set for pupils within their Google Classrooms.

Summary of the Changes to National Qualifications 2020-2021

Parents of S4, S5 and S6 pupils have been emailed an overview document of the modifications to the National Qualifications this year: *National 3 and National 4 unit assessments and freestanding units at SCQF levels 5, 6 and 7*. Higher and Advanced Higher courses set out by subject in individual tables. This document can be accessed in the SQA 2020-2021 menu on the school website.

Assessment Calendar Senior Phase

A 'National Course Assessment Calendar' can be accessed on the school website from Monday in the SQA 2020-21 menu on the website. This will provide, on a week to week basis, details of National Qualification assessment tasks that are being conducted across all subjects up to the Christmas holiday. As this is a 'live' calendar, there will likely be updates as the weeks proceed. Full details of Senior Phase prelims will be communicated by mid-November; we are still awaiting further guidance from SQA in relation to the assessment of National 5 courses before proceeding with preparations for Senior Phase prelims.

National 5 English Course Profile

Please see attached letter from Mr Maxwell, Faculty Leader of Literacy.

Return of forms

All pupils were issued with 3 forms before the October break:

- PC1 form
- Pupil update form
- Emergency closure form

If you are still to return these, can you please do so as soon as possible via tutor teachers.

NBHS PTA Virtual Festive Fair

We are delighted to announce the PTA will be organising a Virtual Festive Fair (flyer attached) from the 16th November to 24th December 2020. We 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 locally and on Facebook [NBHS PTA](#) and Twitter [@NbhsPta](#) for more information in the coming weeks. This is a great opportunity to support local business and do your Christmas shopping in the comfort of your own home! Please remember to diarise the 16th November for when the website will go live.

If you are a local business and would like to participate, please apply for a stall (only £15 per stall) by clicking on the link in the attached flyer to access the application form or email ptanbhs@gmail.com. We will be promoting the event in the weekly update to parents, and on Facebook, Twitter and community boards.

East Lothian Consultation

ELC is seeking feedback on the following draft policies:

- *Included, Engaged & Involved: Inclusion, Equality and Accessibility for All* - the authority's [new inclusion policy](#)
- *Respect for All: Promoting Positive and Respectful Relationships in All our Schools* – the refreshed [anti-bullying policy](#).

It would be very helpful if you, and your child, could review these policies and provide feedback.

S6 Pupils Driving their own Car to School

Despite the backlog with driving tests due to the COVID-19 situation, a number of our S6 pupils have passed their test and we are delighted for them. Some are coming to school in their own cars, which is fine as long as they drive very, very slowly in the school park. Any S6 pupil bringing their own car to school must be aware that they cannot provide a lift to friends, as noted in the Scottish Government rules on Transport in Protection Level 3 areas of Scotland:

- *Active travel (walk, run, cycle, wheel) where possible*
- *Avoid car sharing with people outside extended household wherever possible*
- *Avoid non-essential use of public transport*
- *face coverings are compulsory on public transport*

Secondary School Golf Order of Merit Winter 9 Hole Events

Winter 9 hole dates	Venue
Fri 6 th Nov 2020	Haddington GC
Fri 13 th Nov 2020	Gifford GC
Fri 29 th Jan 2021	TBC
Fri 12 th Feb 2021	TBC
Fri 26 th Feb 2021	TBC
Fri 12 th March 2021	TBC

Tee times: 1330 - 1415

Format: Stableford

Price: Free of charge

Closing date for entries: Friday one week prior

Criteria: Open to players that attend Secondary School in East Lothian and have an official handicap

To enter email kgreen@eastlothian.gov.uk

Forthcoming 2021 Secondary School Golf Order of Merit 18 hole events

Secondary School Order of Merit 2

Venue: Gullane No2

Date: Fri 19th March 2021

Closing date for entries: Fri 12th March 2021

Secondary School Order of Merit Event 3

Venue: Royal Musselburgh GC

Date: Fri 26th March 2021

Closing date for entries: Fri 19th March 2021

Secondary School Order of Merit Event 4

Venue: TBC

Date: Fri 30th April 2021

Closing date for entries: Fri 23rd April 2021

Format: Stableford

Price: Free of charge

Criteria: Open to players that attend Secondary School in East Lothian and have an official handicap

To enter email kgreen@eastlothian.gov.uk

Procedure for Pupil Displaying COVID-19 Symptoms

Just a short reminder that any pupil showing COVID-19 symptoms must not attend school. Please inform school, as directed in the Attendance Mailbox item below. You can book a test online at www.nhsinform.scot or by telephoning 0800 028 2816. Only if this test is negative should the pupil return to school. If pupils have the common cold, they should still attend school if they feel well enough to do so. An updated [frequently asked questions about Covid-19](#) for parents/carers has been produced by the NHS and is well worth reading.

If your child is absent from school, whether for COVID-19 or another reason, work will be available to access on Google Classroom and also through: [E-sgoil](#) (Glow user name and password required); [Scholar UK](#) (S4-S6); [SQA \(past papers\)](#); [SQA \(subject content to work through topics\)](#); and [BBC Bitesize](#).

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

