



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 4 December 2020

A Message from the Head Teacher

Last night while I was watching *Masterchef: The Professionals*, my phone pinged. I resisted the temptation to read the message right away, but when the programme was over I found a whatsapp message from Mr Macdonald, our head of PE. He was sharing with me a video filmed at the S5/S6 Christmas dance last year, with two of our pipers, Fergus McClintock and Jack Rigby, playing along with the band. The sound was amazing, and it immediately transported me back to the Hall on that evening last December. The camera then panned round to the dance floor, which was full of joyful young people wheeling each other round the Hall in a lively *Strip the Willow*, having an absolute ball.

I have always loved Christmas at NBHS, right back to my time as a pupil here. We didn't have the fun of an S6 panto in the 1970s, but we did have Christmas dances in almost exactly the same format as they are now. I loved all my dances, from S1 to S6. We didn't have a concert, but we did have a staff senior choir which rehearsed for weeks beforehand, performed on stage and led the school in a singalong, just as we do now. I can still remember the nerves and the excitement of standing on the stage with my teachers waiting to begin our performance, and then the rising joy as we began to sing. I feel so privileged that, as a member of staff, I have been able to experience those feelings again in more recent years, joining our senior pupils in the choir under the direction of our wonderful music teachers. Even if I don't always reach some of the high notes, I have always felt warmly welcomed as a member of the choir.

As I watched and listened to that brief video last night, I was taken aback at the strong emotions which came over me – sheer happiness at my memories of NBHS Christmases past, both in the 1970s and more recently; but sadness, too, at the thought of our young people this year not being able to experience the joy of these traditional Christmas events. I realised, too, that until now I have been careful to avoid any thoughts of the concerts and the dances as it's just too painful to think of the next two weeks in school without them. In a way, perhaps, that sums up much of our experience throughout 2020.

Despite all this, though, there will be fun and happiness in NBHS at Christmas. There are many activities happening in school over the next two and a half weeks to keep up the Christmas spirit. Indeed, it's already beginning to feel a lot like Christmas, with decorations appearing in the Dining Hall and the tree in the foyer, beautifully decorated by S6 pupils. It's lovely to hear lots of laughter around the school, too. Here are just some of the things happening in school for Christmas:

- ♥ S6s decorating 'their' tables in the Dining Hall; S1 pupils will judge which are the best
- ♥ S6 panto, being held virtually this year
- ♥ Christmas lunch in the Dining Hall on Wednesday 16 December, with a special early sitting for S6 pupils
- ♥ House talent show
- ♥ Staff Masked Singers (unlikely to be a talent show)
- ♥ Christmas displays

- ♥ Candy canes for sale and Christmas raffle, organised by retail class
- ♥ Baking and decorating Christmas cakes in home economics
- ♥ Staff Christmas quiz, set by Mr Cox
- ♥ Christmas jumper day
- ♥ House teams Christmas videos

We are certainly going to enjoy ourselves at NBHS in the run up to Christmas!

Christmas Holiday Dates

You will probably have seen speculation in the media over the last week that there may be a change to the Christmas holiday dates in Scottish schools. Yesterday, the Deputy First Minister announced that there would be no change. This means that we finish at 3.25 pm on Tuesday 22 December and start back after the holiday at 8.30 am on Wednesday 6 January 2021.

Sponsored Sleep Out

This Saturday night, a group of 56 pupils are taking part in a (social distanced!) 'sponsored sleep out' in their gardens to raise money for Social Bite. The event has been organised by the Charities Committee, since Social Bite is their chosen national charity this year. Any donations you're able to contribute would be hugely appreciated by the committee. The JustGiving donation page can be accessed on [justgiving.com/fundraising/charitiescommittee](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charitiescommittee), where all money will go directly to the charity.

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

This Christmas shop from the comfort of your home at a SMALL LOCAL business and support a BIG DREAM

[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.

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 7 December	
Subject and Level	Comments
Accounting NPA	Limited Companies Accounts and Manufacturing Accounts Assessment
Administration and IT National 5	Spreadsheet N5 Closed Book Assessment
Applications of Mathematics National 5	

Computing Science National 5	Database Design and Development
Drama National 5	Practical assessments (all week)
French National 5	Reading paper and Listening paper
Geography National 5	Physical Environments (30 marks - 50 mins)
Mathematics National 5	Two Papers Calc and Non Calc on two separate days
German Higher	Reading and Discursive Writing Paper
Music National 5	Instrumental Music listening assessment/music literacy
Spanish National 5	Reading prelim. Exam conditions. Dictionary allowed.
Spanish National 5	Listening prelim. Exam conditions. No dictionary allowed.
Spanish Advanced Higher	Reading and Translation prelim. Exam conditions. Dictionary allowed.
Spanish Advanced Higher	Listening prelim. Exam conditions. Dictionary allowed.
Spanish Advanced Higher	Writing prelim (discursive essay). Exam conditions. Dictionary allowed.
Physical Education Higher	Timed Test 2. Exam conditions during double period

Applying for College 2021

Any S4 to S6 student who plans to apply for a college course from next summer should email Mr Burgess at cburgess@edubuzz.org as soon as possible.

We have a talk covering applications and resources on Tuesday 8 December at 12:15pm and need to send you the details as soon as possible.

Rights Respecting School

The S1 Rights Respecting School Ambassadors (Elsje Van Schalkwyk, Julianne Metzner, Jason Sparrow, Charlotte Murray and Cecile O'Sullivan) have been working with Miss Wilson (librarian) to create a new display to highlight the inclusive nature of books for teenagers and young adults. They are keen to make rights awareness a bigger part of school life and have designed an eye-catching colourful board in the Library, packed with information about children's rights and books that connect with this. They have also included a suggestions and comments box for anyone to share their ideas with the Rights Respecting School group and the Library.



Julianne Metzner, Charlotte Murray, Jason Sparrow, Cecile O'Sullivan, Elsje Van Schalkwyk

Scotland is incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into domestic law. Incorporation means that public authorities must act in a way that is aligned with children's rights. It means courts can decide if legislation is compatible with children's rights and it also means that the Scottish Government can change laws to ensure they are consistent with the Convention on the Rights of a Child. All S1 pupils have also started looking at the Rights of the Child in their tutor time with support from their tutor group teachers. Rights are covered already in lots of curricular areas as pupils move up through the school; however, as North Berwick High School works towards achieving the Silver (Rights Committed) Award, it was felt it was important to build on the knowledge that the pupils have developed from Primary School and make the Rights explicit. The five ambassadors have been working hard to support their peers and there are plans for an inter-tutor group competition based around rights in the New Year.

The S6 Charities Committee are determined to help families in our community this year with their Christmas appeal and the ambassadors have been supporting them with this. Article 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child says that every child has the right to nutritious food, but for some in East Lothian, this isn't always possible. Pupils have been asked to make a contribution to the East Lothian Foodbank and the Charities Committee will be delivering bags next week. Please help them make a child's Christmas Dinner really special this year.

The list of food items required is as follows: tinned chicken or turkey; potatoes (tinned or packet mash); tinned vegetables such as carrots, sweetcorn and peas; packet gravy; packet bread sauce; stuffing (packet or box); Christmas pudding; custard; mince pies; biscuits; chocolates/selection pack; Christmas savoury snacks.

Mrs Munro

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

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 22 December, 3.25 pm	School closes for Christmas break
Wednesday 6 January, 8.30 am	School reopens
Friday 8 January	Higher and Advanced Higher prelims begin
Wednesday 14 January	S2 virtual parents' evening
Thursday 21 January	S3 virtual parents' evening
Tuesday 26 January	Parent Council meeting



