



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 11 December 2020

National Qualifications update

As you will of course be aware, Deputy First Minister John Swinney announced on Tuesday that the 2021 Higher and Advanced Higher external exams are now cancelled. Understandably, pupils and their parents/carers will be experiencing a range of emotions at this news. Mrs Rodger and Mr McCallum held a special virtual assembly with S5 and S6 pupils on Wednesday afternoon to acknowledge the emotional impact of this news, but also to reassure them that one of our biggest priorities this session is to ensure that all pupils pursuing National Qualifications secure the outcomes that their efforts deserve.

Our intention had been to produce, before the Christmas holiday, an informative presentation for parents and carers about the changes to the National Qualifications this session. As you will understand, Tuesday's news means we are having to look again at our strategic plans for the assessment of National Qualifications; because of this, we will look to provide this presentation in January instead.

In the short time that is left of this term, senior leaders are working closely with faculty leaders to build a strategic and detailed programme of National Qualification assessments which will be shared with pupils and their parents in January.

Advanced Higher/Higher Prelims

Advanced Higher and Higher Prelims will still take place in January. In a typical year, prelims have a threefold purpose: by design, they help pupils prepare for the physical experience of sitting final exams; they capture evidence of pupils' attainment; they are used as a formative tool to guide pupils and their teachers about the knowledge and skills gaps that need to be addressed. Despite the final external exams not occurring this year, we feel that the Higher and Advanced Higher prelims should still take place, given the latter two of these purposes. Although the term 'prelim' is effectively obsolete given that they no longer precede a final exam, we are still referring to them as such given the fact that the prelim timetable was shared with pupils and parents/carers before this week's announcement. Furthermore, for pragmatic reasons it makes sense still to run the prelim diet, given the fact that the operational reality of running a diet of prelims takes considerable preparation which starts weeks before the actual diet is scheduled.

National 5 quality assurance model

This week, the National Qualifications 2021 Group also announced information about the quality assurance model that will be used for National 5 courses in 2020–21. SQA has released separate pupil and parent/carer communications about how this will operate, which you can find at the following links:

Pupils: [Delivering your National 5 results in 2021 - a message for learners - SQA](#)

Parents: [News about National 5 results in 2020-21 – a message for parents and carers - SQA](#)

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 14 December	
Subject and Level	Comments
Administration and IT National 5	Theory unit - open book
Biology Higher	End of Unit 1 assessment
Chemistry National 5	Unit 2 Assessment
Computing Science Higher	Computer Systems
Drama Higher	Performance Analysis Essay
Drama Higher	Practical Prelims (all week)
Drama National 5	Written paper
Drama National 5	Practical assessments (Mon, Wed)
English Higher	Critical Essay
English National 5	Critical Essay
Human Biology Higher	Unit 1 Assessment
Modern Studies Advanced Higher	Dissertation chapter 2 draft due by end of the week.
Physics National 5	Electricity Assessment
Psychology National 5	Sleep and Dreams timed questions
Health and Food Technology National 5	Unit 2 Assessment - Food Product Development
Health and Food Technology Higher	Unit 2 Assessment - Food Product Development
Modern Studies National 5	Crime And Law unit assessment

Jingle Bag Appeal at NBHS

We are delighted to announce that this year's Jingle Bag appeal has been a great success, culminating in 48 bags being donated to the East Lothian Foodbank today. We can't thank everyone enough for their efforts. In these really difficult times, it's heart warming to see the thought and kindness shown by the North Berwick High School Community.

A huge well done to the Charities Committee and Mrs Casson for making this happen.



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

This Christmas countdown is on.... don't worry about delivery times from far afield when you can shop at our Festive Fair and receive your gifts easily!

[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

NBHS PTA Monthly Prize Draw

The winners in the October prize draw are Mary Guckian (first prize: £50) and Morven McLelland (second prize: £25) and the winners in the November prize draw are Cath Amis (first prize: £50) and Silvia Feria (second prize: £25). Congratulations to all! Thank you to everyone who already supports this valuable fundraiser. If you'd like to sign up please contact ptanbhs@gmail.com. For an annual sub of just £18 your name gets entered into 12 monthly draws, with £75 of prize money each month!

S3 Virtual Parents' Evening

The S3 parents' night is not until Thursday 21 January, but S3 pupils will be setting up their virtual appointment rooms next week. S3 pupils will be making actual appointments with teachers on a paper appointment sheet as usual in the new year, at which time we will be issuing full details of the virtual parents' evening process to all S3 parents. In other words, pupils are undertaking a preparatory technical task next week, but otherwise there is nothing for anyone to do until the new year.

Message from North Berwick Community Council

Not long ago, we were out on our doorsteps every Thursday evening, raising the roof for the NHS. On December 19th at 4pm, let's get back on our doorsteps for a town-wide Christmas carol sing-along with Abbey Gospel Choir! The Choir will lead the carols virtually and you can access the link via

the Abbey Gospel Choir or North Berwick Community Council facebook pages. Alternatively, you can access directly via www.nbresilience.com

Song List: Jingle bells, Rudolf the red nose reindeer, White Christmas, Winter Wonderland, We wish you a merry Christmas, Let it snow,.

Please share this information and help to spread Christmas cheer!

On behalf of North Berwick Community Council, have a lovely Christmas.

North Berwick Santa Run

Another community message that we have been asked to share:

We are organising the North Berwick Santa Run and thought it might be of interest to your pupils and families. Here is a link to information about the race and race entries.

https://www.entrycentral.com/festival/1317?fbclid=IwAR2mzvd1nnDHZXUXvsIBcVQju-Ugl_5NINY-7KKQaB1PDjS0SnerE47CBro

Piping for the Community

In our Update a couple of weeks ago, we suggested that families might join the virtual switch on of the North Berwick Christmas lights. If you did so, you will have seen and heard S5 pupil Thomas Hart, who was delighted to have been given the honour of being the piper for the switch on. Thomas is a member of the junior pipe band in the town and did a great job entertaining the virtual audience for this lovely community event. Well done, Thomas!

East Lothian Housing News

We have been asked to share the following information with our school community:

ELC's housing team have developed new housing in Cockenzie specifically for people who have served in the armed forces, with some designed for people with mobility issues. Further information can be found by following this link:

[Our properties - Veterans Housing Scotland \(vhscot.org.uk\)](http://vhscot.org.uk)

In addition please note there is also information about services for the Armed Forces Community available on the ELC website.

Careers

Mick Burns Careers Adviser

Email: mick.burns@sds.co.uk

Mobile: 07887 831454

We would like to give you some information and links to resources that we have been delivering this term and as always, feel free to contact us at the addresses above.

Please note that to date we are working remotely so all individual and group sessions are by phone or Google Meet.

Careers talks

We always try to post these online so you can access what we are delivering in school and this term we have completed the following:

[S1](#) introduction to us and our services

[S3](#) Getting ready to make subject choices. In addition to this all S3 students have been offered a one to one interview

[S5](#) Identifying your strengths

[S6](#) Post school options

In addition to these we have delivered Google Meet sessions on Medicine, Dentistry, Performing Arts, Law and Nursing and participated in Financial Services presentations as well. We also delivered a 6 week block of talks to all of S6 on [employability](#) skills. On 8 December we will offer a pre-college application session for anyone interested from S4 to S6.

Other

My colleague Jennifer Jones will leave us in the next couple of weeks to take up a secondment within our organisation. I know she has enjoyed her time at North Berwick (who wouldn't!) and I wish her all the best with her new post.

Links to most of our resources and talks can be found at: [edubuzz.org/careers](https://www.edubuzz.org/careers)

www.myworldofwork.co.uk

Medicine Event for S1 to S3

Join us for an evening of presentations from consultant doctors, GPs, medical students, and more to learn about what it's like to be a doctor and how you can get there. This evening is intended for any pupil in S1-S3 at a Scottish state school who is thinking about becoming a doctor, is interested in science, or who has a passion for looking after others. We also welcome parents of any budding doctors! The talks will be packed with information but we will also have an open text chat that pupils (and parents) can use to ask questions and chat directly to doctors and medical students. As work experience is difficult to find at the moment this session is sure to provide a valuable opportunity for pupils to explore the possibilities that being a doctor can offer them!

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2020/12/01/s1-s3-introduction-to-medicine/>

EDF Torness Apprenticeships

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2020/11/29/engineering-maintenance-apprenticeship-2021-torness/>

NHS Healthcare Careers Virtual Work Experience Programme S3 to S5

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2020/12/09/nhs-healthcare-careers-virtual-work-experience-programme/>

Graduate destinations information

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2020/12/09/what-do-graduates-do-2020-21/>

University of Glasgow Software Engineering Graduate Apprenticeship (GA) BSc degree

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2020/12/09/university-of-glasgow-software-engineering-graduate-apprenticeship-ga-bsc-degree/>

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
Wednesday 13 January	S2 virtual parents' evening
Thursday 21 January	S3 virtual parents' evening