



## **NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE**

### **Friday 15 January 2021**

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#### **School Improvement Plan Priorities**

Last term, following discussion with staff and Parent Council members, we decided to strip back the strategic actions on our SIP in the light of the ongoing COVID-19 situation. It was agreed that we would focus on three priorities in particular, and these remain our focus during lockdown:

- learning and teaching – particularly digital learning and meeting learners' needs;
- health, safety and wellbeing – of pupils and staff;
- SQA/Senior Phase assessment.

Throughout the session, we will continue to keep you updated on the school's actions around these priorities. They will also be on the agenda at Parent Council meetings.

#### **Remote Learning**

We hope you have managed to look over our Remote Learning paper (sent out with last week's Update and on our website, under NBHS & COVID-19 tab). This provides a detailed overview of our approach. Staff are trying to provide a blend of Google Classroom instruction/activities, pre-recorded videos and purposeful Google Meets. An evaluation of Remote Learning at NBHS will be sent out to parents to complete at the start of next week. We are continually refining our approach based on pupil and parent feedback. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring our pupils are progressing in their learning; we appreciate the challenges parents face in encouraging their child/children to stay motivated and engaged.

#### **SQA News**

The SQA issued an update on Wednesday 13 January and you can find the information by following the links below. We are closely analysing all updates from SQA and there are meetings taking place at both school and local authority level to discuss any implications. We will keep parents, pupils and carers informed about Senior Phase assessment, including prelims, as soon as there is any further news. Until the revised SQA Key Dates are confirmed, we are not in a position to provide pupils and parents with details of our Assessment Calendar for the remainder of the session. This is something that we know is a priority and we are ready to get this out as quickly as possible when these key dates come from SQA. As we communicated in our Remote Learning paper sent out to parents last week, prelims are not going to take place before the February holiday. Pupils are working on further course content remotely and, as was conveyed in the Remote Learning paper, this knowledge will be part of course assessments that will take place after February.

We are also awaiting next Tuesday's update from the Scottish Government on school building closure which will, inevitably, have an impact on our plans for Senior Phase assessment.

SQA update for parents and carers:

[Update on National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses 2020-21: a message for parents and carers - SQA](#)

SQA update for pupils:

[Update on National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses 2020-21: A message for learners - SQA](#)

### **Course Choicing Process for Session 2021 - 2022**

Our course choice process for pupils in S2 – S5 will be starting shortly. Please look out for an individual year group email with more detailed information on how this will work, along with key dates. The course choice booklets will be live on the school website later today. Guidance staff are also scheduling google meet sessions with each year group next week to discuss this in more detail with pupils, at their usual PSE lesson times. Mick Burns, our Careers Advisor, will be attending the S2 session to give some general advice to pupils. Please encourage your child to attend these sessions next week wherever possible.

### **Parents' Evenings**

S2 parents' evening – This was held on Wednesday evening this week and it seemed to go very smoothly for most participants. Thank you to all the parents who have been in touch to share their thoughts on how it went; your feedback is very important, both suggestions for improvement and thanks. I am sharing your many messages of thanks with teachers, who are very appreciative of the positive feedback.

S3 parents' evening – This will be held on Thursday 21 January. We are progressing with the making of appointments, and most pupils have now made six. The google sheet has certainly creaked under the load, particularly in the minutes immediately after it goes live, but we are getting there. On Monday we will publish a summary sheet showing the appointments pupils have made, so you can be ready for the parents' evening on Thursday. As with the S2 event, there are some teachers who will have difficulty accessing virtual appointments from home. If that is the case, your child's teacher will provide a brief written report on your child's progress in the relevant subject.

### **NBHS Hub During Lockdown Period**

We have now finalised places in our children's hub and we have been delighted to welcome a small number of pupils to our provision at NBHS. Pupils have been working hard on their assigned Google Classroom work and we have been very impressed with their efforts. We are also very grateful to staff for volunteering to help support the hub.

### **COVID-19 Positive Cases**

Although the majority of our young people are not in the school building and, hence, the school would not be involved in contact tracing in the event of a positive case, we would appreciate it if you would inform the authority if your child tests positive for COVID-19. Please email the details to [covidinschools@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:covidinschools@eastlothian.gov.uk). If you have no access to email then please call East Lothian Council on 01875 613 921. If your child is attending the school hub during lockdown, please do not send them if they have any COVID-19 symptoms; instead, please ensure that they self-isolate and book a test.

### **PTA Meeting Wednesday 20 January**

Interested in helping to raise vital funds for the school and sharing your fundraising ideas? Then we warmly welcome you to the Online PTA Meeting on Wednesday 20 January at 7pm to find out more. All new and existing parents and carers are very welcome.

We will be using Google Meet so if you'd like to attend, please email us in advance at [ptanbhs@gmail.com](mailto:ptanbhs@gmail.com) and we will send you a link to join the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you.

### **Live Streaming Theatre Productions**

Below is a link to musicals and plays you can stream online. It is updated daily and has many popular and recent productions.

[https://www.filmedonstage.com/news/76-free-musicals-and-plays-you-can-now-stream-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak-updating-daily?fbclid=IwAR3B5z5iNgXd3cjczDdgovjKfw8Rzj5tqBZnpyXGlrUf-B5X7\\_SmrTr1y80](https://www.filmedonstage.com/news/76-free-musicals-and-plays-you-can-now-stream-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak-updating-daily?fbclid=IwAR3B5z5iNgXd3cjczDdgovjKfw8Rzj5tqBZnpyXGlrUf-B5X7_SmrTr1y80)

### **Instrumental Music Service**

A message from Jonathan Gawn, Team Manager of the Instrumental Music Service:

The Instrumental Music Service will continue to deliver lessons during this period of remote learning. For the majority of pupils, lessons will be delivered virtually to their homes during school hours. Instructors will also be in touch with individual schools, regarding provision of lessons for the children of key workers and vulnerable children. If virtual in school lessons are not possible during school hours, instructors will then explore the options for provision of lessons at home on a case by case basis.

I am delighted to now be able to share our performance of Thriller that was released on New Year's Day. This has already been watched 21,000 times and if you could share this on your school social media this would be a superb way to further showcase the talents of our young people. Thanks once again for your ongoing support of the work of the IMS in your schools.

YouTube link to Thriller – [Click Here](#)

### **COVID-19 – Financial Issues**

We have been asked to forward this link to parents and carers to make them aware of the advice and support available for anyone experiencing financial hardship due to COVID.

[https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/30092/financial\\_support\\_during\\_covid-19](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/30092/financial_support_during_covid-19)

### **Hats off to Fin!**

If you read the *Courier* regularly, you will be familiar with *Tim's Tales*, the weekly column from storyteller Tim Porteous. But this week's column was a bit different as the tale was told not by Tim, but by Fin McIlwriath, an S3 pupil at NBHS. As Tim says of Fin's short story, *The Button Hat*, "It's a wonderful, heartfelt tale, well-written and engaging."

### **Parliamentary Praise**

You will remember last term we shared the exciting news that Miss Ritchie, our faculty leader of modern languages, had received the German Teacher of the Year Award from the German Embassy. We are delighted that Miss Ritchie's achievement has now been acknowledged in the UK Parliament, as our local MP, Kenny MacAskill, issued an Early Day Motion in recognition of her achievements. The motion "acknowledges the Embassy's recognition of her outstanding dedication and tireless support of the teaching of the German language; notes her desire to give her pupils a sense of

wonder in the teaching of languages; and echoes Deputy Head of Culture and Education at the German Embassy Dr Susanne Frane's recognition of Miss Ritchie's impressive commitment inside and outside of [her] classroom every day." Huge congratulations again to Miss Ritchie – we're all so proud of you!

### **NBHS Daily Mile 2021**

With everyone spending an increasing amount of time indoors and in front of screens, we're looking to challenge you to get outside and be active, by completing a daily mile. You can walk, jog or run - it's up to you.

If you would like to, you can submit your time, and see if you can make an improvement. If you'd rather just get out and be active and not bother about your time, then go for it! The time isn't important; what really matters is that you're getting out in the fresh air and getting some exercise. Also, feel free to keep going for as long as you like, it doesn't have to be just a mile.

We'll have a top 5 each week of the fastest times, and the biggest improvements in times. To record your time, click here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXNKsy9M8MRfa0bna0Ve7geRO13FcQRpRzh14SCeh1SW67BQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXNKsy9M8MRfa0bna0Ve7geRO13FcQRpRzh14SCeh1SW67BQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

You don't have to record every time, but you can if you like.

Attached to this Update you will find some routes that are 1 mile long in each town in our catchment area, if you're looking for some ideas.

### **North Berwick Community Befriending Initiative**

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

An opportunity has arisen for someone to join North Berwick Coastal Connected Communities charity as a Befriender Co-Ordinator on an initial short-term contract. The attached job description gives some information about the new role with this worthy project and how to apply. If you are interested in applying, I'm sure they would be delighted to hear from you. If not, please feel free to forward this to anyone you think may be interested and note that the deadline for applications is January 22nd. [nbccc befriender co-ordinator role description.pdf](#)

Thanks for your help!

### **Update from Skills Development Scotland**

As schools across Scotland are closed to the majority of pupils, Skills Development Scotland careers advisers will continue to provide careers information and advice by phone and digitally. Our advisers will contact pupils who were scheduled to have a face-to-face appointments to make alternative arrangements.

#### Subject Choices

If your child is choosing their subjects, their school careers adviser will be providing support over the coming weeks to help them think about their choices, including a one-to-one conversation. There's also the opportunity for you – as a parent or carer – to join the conversation and discuss where their options might take them in the future. As current government guidelines don't permit these conversations to take place in person, we'll seek to make alternative arrangements by phone or video conference.

You'll also find lots of helpful tools and information to help with subject choices, on the careers service website, My World of Work. Visit:

[www.myworldofwork.co.uk/subjectchoices](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/subjectchoices)

Please be aware that career information and advice is available online for anyone who needs it at: [My World of Work](#).

You can also contact your local centre (see below) to speak to an adviser or call the SDS helpline on 0800 917 8000.  
[your local centre](#)

### **Work Experience/Apprenticeship Opportunity**

We have been asked to share a message from Dan Miller, Chief Executive of Young Professionals:

We have secured a fantastic opportunity with EY for students who are looking for a summer work experience or a possible apprenticeship in Accounting, Business & Finance. **This event is specifically for Scottish students in S5 & S6. Webinar Details:**

- Wednesday 20th January, 4pm - 5pm
- Opportunities to secure **paid work experience with EY this summer**
- Keynote talk from a partner along with some engaging / interactive workshops
- Information on all **apprenticeship and graduate opportunities**
- Recruitment process hints and tips
- Open to all S5 & S6 students
- Parents are encouraged to join the session

**Registration Link:** <https://www.research.net/r/EY-Scotland>

### **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. This email inbox will be monitored every day during the closure of the school building. There are not always staff available in the building to take phone calls. Please note that, should a member of school staff phone you, it will likely be from a withheld number.

[communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk)

### **Dates for your Diary**

Thursday 21 January	S3 virtual parents' evening
Wednesday 20 January	PTA meeting
Tuesday 26 January	Parent Council meeting
Monday 1 February	School building to reopen (subject to review)
Friday 5 February	School closes for February break at 12.15 pm
Monday 15 February	Staff inservice day
Tuesday 16 February	School reopens for pupils