



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 22 January 2021

As you will all be aware, on Tuesday this week the First Minister announced that school buildings will not reopen for all young people until mid-February at the earliest. For East Lothian schools, that means remote learning and in-school critical childcare will continue as it is at present at least until we break for the February half-term on Friday 5 February. We do not yet know what the situation will be when school restarts on Tuesday 16 February. The Scottish Government will be reviewing the situation on Tuesday 2 February, taking into account the latest data on COVID-19 community transmission and number of hospital admissions. We await further information then on the situation for the reopening of school buildings. Please be assured that we will keep pupils and parents updated, should there be any other relevant information in the meantime.

S3 Parents' Evening and Course Choicing

The parents' evening on Thursday night seems to have gone very well, with very positive feedback from teachers and parents. We are absolutely delighted to be able to say this, given how unsure we were about the way forward when it became clear a few weeks ago that pupils were not going to be in school to make appointments. We must congratulate our S3 pupils for coping so well with the challenge of making appointments online in an unfamiliar system.

S3 course choice Google Meet interviews start on Monday, continuing throughout the next few weeks. Some of these scheduled appointments with Guidance staff will potentially take place during other Google Meet classes that have been scheduled. Pupils should attend their course choice interview at the appropriate time, then log back into the subject Google Meet. All pupil course choice appointments are being posted in their individual PSE Google Classrooms: pupils should check this classroom on Monday and be sure to take a note of the time of the Google Meet with their Guidance teacher.

Remote Learning - Responding to Feedback in the Parent Survey

The design of the Google Meet calendar has changed in response to parent feedback. This calendar is for parents to see, on a teacher by teacher basis, what Google Meets are planned in the coming week. Due to the significant variation in class combinations, it is not feasible to create weekly Google Meet overviews for every tutor group/practical set in S1 and S2, or for pupils in S3 to S6. Pupils are informed directly about any scheduled Google Meet that involves them; they can use their Google Calendar to record when these are happening.

Attached to this newsletter is an [editable school timetable](#), which pupils may find helpful when they are organising their work across the week.

A reminder that recommended [additional resources](#) for remote learning can be found at the back of the Remote Learning paper which was issued with the Weekly Update on 8 January. This paper is also on the school website.

Remote Learning - Education Scotland's National Overview of Practice

You may have seen in the press over the last couple of weeks mention of John Swinney's plan to "support the quality and effectiveness of the delivery of remote learning" in Scotland during this lockdown period. To enable this, HMI are carrying out a programme of 'national overviews', seeking to identify:

- i) what's working well in the delivery of remote learning;
- ii) what the challenges are;
- iii) where further support is required.

Last week, HMI's focus was on local authorities' guidance and planning for remote learning. From this week, HMI's focus is on schools: they are selecting schools across Scotland to discuss these topics with senior leaders. Two schools in East Lothian were selected, one primary and one secondary; NBHS was the secondary. On Tuesday this week, Mr McCallum and Mrs Rodger had a virtual meeting with an HMI inspector. We were asked to address the three topics above and we gave a very open and honest account of our experience here at NBHS. It was lovely to be able to share so many positive aspects of what's working well, as well as have the opportunity to outline some of the challenges and what we are doing to address them.

The national overview of practice report will be published on the Education Scotland website. Education Scotland are also seeking views from pupils, parents and carers on remote learning. The deadline for completion of the survey is Monday 25 January – not much time, but a good opportunity to have your voice heard at a national level.

Parents and carers' survey can be found here: [Microsoft Forms \(bit.ly\)](#)

Pupils' survey can be found here: [Microsoft Forms \(bit.ly\)](#)

Parent Council Meeting

A message from Niall Bradley, chair of our Parent Council:

The next meeting will take place online at 7-pm on Tuesday 26th January. The usual agenda will be set aside with a focus on the response to the ongoing school closure, support for online learning and exams and assessments.

We anticipate many parents will have questions to ask and want to attend. To try to ensure that as many people as possible get answers to their questions, the PC chair has asked that questions are submitted in advance. Please go to [slido.com](#) and use the code #13059 to submit a question or vote for a question that has already been asked. We will prioritise the questions based on the number of votes and start with the most popular.

To attend the meeting contact the School office via communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk to receive the meeting link.

Humanities faculty: Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 27 January

HMD is commemorated annually on 27 January, to coincide with the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and death camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Each year, we remember those who became victims of the Nazis and their collaborators, and consider the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust, remembering the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution, and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.

BGE students commemorate

S1 – S3, HMD commemorations will involve listening to an award winning short story, 'The Question', by Tom Palmer.

The story is divided into five chapters and each chapter will be narrated and recorded for S1-S3 to listen to directly from the school website or from the BGE humanities google classrooms.

Starting on Monday 25 January there will be one chapter recording posted each day, with the final chapter and full transcript posted on Friday 29 January.

By listening and discussing at home you will be actively commemorating HMD.

'The Question', by Tom Palmer. **This is targeted towards S1 – S3 pupils**, narrated by:

Monday 25 January – Chapter 1 Mrs Brownlee

Tuesday 26 January – Chapter 2 Miss Anderson

Wednesday 27 January – Chapter 3 Miss Wilson

Thursday 28 January – Chapter 4 Mairi Johnston, S6 pupil

Friday 29 January – Chapter 5 Mr McCallum



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

Senior Phase students commemorate

S4 –S6 students can participate in the UK Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 commemorations by getting involved in some of these actions:

- Join in the live ceremony, hosted by The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust by registering in advance at www.hmd.org.uk. The ceremony will last from 7-8pm on Wednesday 27th January.
- Read about the survivors' testimonies available on the www.hmd.org.uk website.
- Find out more about the recent genocides in Rwanda, Cambodia and Darfur: www.hmd.org.uk
- Senior historians will be familiar with the controversial figure of Pastor Martin Niemoller from their National studies, he wrote, "First they came". Find out more about him at: <https://www.hmd.org.uk/resource/pastor-martin-niemoller-hmd-2021/>



HMD THEME 2021: "BE THE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS"

Dramatic Opportunity

Ms McGarrol has shared this opportunity with our S3-S6 drama pupils but there may be other pupils who would be interested. It is an opportunity from the Scottish theatre company Stellar Quines as part of International Women's Day on 8 March 2021. Click the link below to find out more:

<https://www.stellarquines.com/2021/01/19/how-to-change-the-world-a-creative-opportunity-for-young-women/>

New Core PE Live Fitness Sessions

The NBHS PE Dept have introduced live home learning fitness sessions this week for all core PE pupils to join in with. This is a great opportunity to have a break in the home learning day, exercise and promote positive wellbeing. There will be a weekly Google Meet link sent out on Core PE Google Classrooms for all to join:

- 1) Miss Cutt on a Tuesday at 11:10-11:25 for Circuits.
- 2) Mr McKerracher on a Thursday at 11:10-11:25 for Tabatas.

It would be great to see as many of you there as possible!

Careers

Careers Talks - We always try to post these online so you can access what we are delivering in school and to date we have completed the following:

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

[S2](#) Decision making and option choice resources

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

[S5](#) Identifying your strengths

[S6](#) Post school options

Other

I have posted several vacancies recently at edubuzz.org/careers so please visit if you are considering employment, apprenticeships or training from June 2021.

I have delivered a preparation for college talk on 20 January and you can view this [here](#)

Mick Burns Careers Adviser

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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. 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.

COVID-19 – Financial Issues

The following link provides information to parents and carers on 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

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

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 26 January

Friday 5 February

Monday 15 February

Tuesday 16 February

Parent Council meeting at 7.00 pm

School closes for February break at 12.15 pm

Staff inservice day

School reopens for pupils (may continue to be remotely)