



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 5 March 2021

Phased Return to school for all pupils, beginning Monday 15 March

As you will be aware, the First Minister made an announcement on Tuesday in the Scottish Parliament about the phased return of all secondary pupils to school buildings from Monday 15 March. We had expected all Senior Phase pupils to be returning on a phased basis from that day and had already given some thought as to how we could best make that work. However, we had not expected S1 – S3 pupils to be included; in the previous week's announcement the FM indicated that BGE pupils would not return to school buildings until after the Easter break. Since this week's announcement, then, we have been working hard at both school and authority level to plan the return for those 14 days of school before the Easter holiday. We will get details out to pupils and parents as soon as we can next week on which pupils will be in school when. You will appreciate that this is a very complex task, as there are a number of issues which we must take into account. As well as having all pupils back in the building at some point over the 14 days, we will continue to run the hub, provide remote learning and facilitate practical subject work.

We are awaiting detailed guidance from the Scottish Government and we understand this will be published by the SG on Monday next week. Schools have a legal obligation to follow this SG guidance. In the meantime, Education Scotland has published its own guidance document which we are taking account of as we plan. It is based on the FM's announcement and includes the following Key Considerations:

- *Maximise the number of children and young people who are receiving in-school learning (within operational considerations in each school and in line with clinical and scientific advice) while remote learning continues for others.*
- *Give priority for lessons to learners who are taking National Qualifications. This will ensure that learning continues towards their qualifications under the 2021 Alternative Certification Model.*
- *Where possible, ensure all learners in secondary schools receive some in-school education each week, for example to help schools continue to connect with learners, support their health and wellbeing and support the transition back to full time schooling.*
- *Maintain provision for key worker children and vulnerable learners.*
- *Maintain 2m physical distancing between learners, between adults, and between adults and learners who are not from the same household.*

Our priority will, of course, be the health and safety of everyone in the building and there must be overall compliance with the mitigations: 2m physical distancing; wearing of face coverings by all pupils and staff (except for those who are exempt for medical reasons); adequate ventilation.

In order to maintain 2m physical distancing, the number of young people in school at any one time will be limited. It is likely that Monday to Thursday will be divided up into two blocks of 3-hours, with one 3-hour block on Friday. Pupils will be in for one 3-hour block at a time so will not be in school over lunchtime. We are working with the ELC Transport team to facilitate this.

We cannot emphasise enough how much we are looking forward to having all our young people back in the school building!

Parent Council Meeting – Tuesday 16 March

Please note that the date of the next Parent Council meeting has been changed from 9 March to Tuesday 16 March at 7.00 pm. This is because of a clash with a meeting of the East Lothian Association of Parent Councils. If you wish to attend the meeting, please email the communications inbox and you will be sent a link to the Google Meet. All parents and carers are very welcome to attend. Topics on the agenda include: pastoral support for pupils on return to school; Senior Phase assessment; school expansion.

School Expansion

We are pleased to inform you that work will be commencing on the school expansion in the coming weeks. Site mobilisation is planned to begin on Monday 8 March and this initial phase is expected to last 4 weeks. We will be communicating regularly with updates on expansion works.

Midlothian Young People's Advice Service Online Drop-in

MYPAS is pleased to offer our FREE Digital Drop-in Information and Advice Service which will run Monday to Friday between 3:30pm and 5:30pm.

Our Drop-in sessions are available for young people, aged 12-21 within the Midlothian and East Lothian areas. You will be able to live chat online with a highly experienced MYPAS worker for information and advice on any issues which are having an impact on your health and wellbeing. Young people use our Drop-in for lots of different reasons.

You can chat to us about:

- **Substance use**
- **Relationships**
- **Physical health**
- **Emotional wellbeing**
- **Worries, stress or anxiety**
- **Sexuality and gender**

To access our information and advice drop-in please go to our website at www.mypas.co.uk. A chat box will pop up from 3:30-5:30pm where you will be able to chat online to a MYPAS worker.

This service is completely **CONFIDENTIAL** and what you discuss with us will stay within MYPAS. You do not have to give us your contact details to access our service.

However, if we are concerned about your safety, we will try to talk to you and get some further information so that we can support you and make sure you are safe. **We cannot force you to provide any details and the choice to do this will always be yours.** If you do decide to provide us with your contact details, we will only disclose this information if we feel that you might harm yourself, or that you or someone else is in immediate danger. This could include contacting emergency services who can attend to you immediately. We would always chat through this process with you as it is important that you understand why we may be concerned enough about you that we feel further action is necessary.

If you do find yourself really struggling or feel unable to cope, there are free and confidential crisis services which can help you with this:

- **Samaritans – 116123**
- **ChildLine – 08001111**
- **You can also call the NHS on 111 if you need urgent help with your mental health and you can call 999 if someone is in danger or you are not safe.**

Climbing for Leuchie

We received this lovely message from Mark Bevan, Chief Executive Officer of Leuchie House:

I just wanted to let you know that 2 of your students, along with their family joined in a fundraiser for Leuchie with around 15 other families to walk North Berwick Law 47 times in the month of February. This equates to climbing the height of Everest! The students are Hayden and Lilliana Way. Great effort and raised over £3000!

Huge well done to Hayden and Lilliana – that's a really impressive achievement!

Careers

Mick Burns Careers Adviser

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Twitter: MickBurns2

- **Scottish Apprenticeship Week - 3 March 2021**

Next week is SAW and you can find some local information [here](#)

Vacancy updates include construction, engineering, oil and gas engineering along with finance and related work at: edubuzz.org/careers

- **Edinburgh College courses are now taking applications**

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

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

- Another useful site if you are looking for local vacancies is edubuzz.org/midandeastvacancies as well as www.apprenticeship.scot
- We have put together a short presentation in The Apprenticeship Family here that you may find useful, particularly at subject choice time.
- St James Quarter Recruitment Event:
<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/03/02/st-james-quarter-recruitment-event/>
- Law virtual work experience opportunity:
<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/02/25/s4-6-law-work-experience/>
- S4 Medic Insight event
<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/03/03/medic-insight-event/>
- Richardson & Starling Apprenticeship Programme 2021
JOINERS | TECHNICIANS | PLASTERERS
<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/02/23/richardson-starling-apprenticeship-programme-2021/>

S4-6 Virtual Work Experience Opportunity (Law)

Browne Jacobson are a top 50 law firm with offices in England and revenues of £50million. These two days in the Easter Holidays are going to provide students with a really great insight into how a law firm works and makes money, the different departments they have, and an opportunity to talk with lots of different solicitors.

Law Virtual Work Experience:

- Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th April, 9am - 4pm each day
- Partner welcome talk
- An insight to law, their different departments and areas of work (including non law routes)
- Breakout rooms with solicitors in talking about different areas of law
- Workshops & interactive sessions
- Open to all Y11, S4, Y12 / S5, Y13 / S6 & Y14 students

Application Link: <https://www.research.net/r/Law-WEX>

Future Asset – DYW Sessions

We are very excited to invite you to join us at our four live workshops in March with DYW Live, in partnership with Education Scotland and E-Sgoil. After introducing investment and why it matters to us all, professionals from investment firms in Scotland will give talks on three sectors: Oil, Healthcare and Fast Fashion. We'll look at the pros and cons, and some issues in each of these sectors, and then give students the opportunity to raise points, ask questions, consider the facts and ultimately vote on whether they would advise investing in that area or not.

This is a great opportunity for students to engage directly with professionals and discuss issues around the economy, sustainability, ethics and business. They will see how these issues interact and how making decisions is never as straightforward as they may think!

- 11 March, 1pm: Big Oil: Invest or Divest? The changing world of energy production. Would you invest in Royal Dutch Shell and BP to fund them through their transition to generating energy in a low carbon world or would you disinvest given their continued production from 'dirty' sources? Investment, business strategy, economics, environmental impact and sustainability. With Lynne Lamont, Brewin Dolphin
- 18 March, 1pm: Healthy Finances? Scientific research and new technology are rapidly changing how we deliver healthcare and treat disease. Pfizer, Astra Zeneca and Moderna are companies in the news with COVID 19 vaccines, but do they or other Healthcare firms make a good investment? With Luran Halpin, Edinburgh Partners
- 25 March, 1pm: Outmoded: Is investing in Fast Fashion sustainable? Boohoo and ASOS are in the news, making a profit from inexpensive clothes. But is fast fashion really sustainable both environmentally and as a business model? With Carolyn Bell, Aegon Asset Management

Interested? Email Mrs Fox – hfox@edubuzz.org

You need to be able to access your Glow account to take part. Check you can access it (you received an email from Mr Frew in June with your log in details), if not let Mrs Fox know.

COVID-19 Positive Cases

Although the majority of our young people are not in the school building, 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 or practical lessons 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 should email us at the address below, or contact your child's guidance teacher directly. This email inbox will be monitored every school day during the closure of the school building; it will also be checked occasionally over weekends. During the school day, there are not always staff available in the building to take phone calls so please email, or leave a phone message which will be picked up as soon as possible. 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

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| Monday 15 March | Pupils from all year groups begin returning to the school building, on a phased basis (details to follow next week) |
| Tuesday 16 March | Parent Council meeting |
| Thursday 1 April | School closes for Easter break |
| Tuesday 20 April | School reopens, with all pupils back in the school building (dependent upon confirmation from Scottish Government) |