



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 23 April 2021

Message from Mrs Rodger, Head Teacher

It really is a huge pleasure to see all our pupils back in school this week, and I know that every member of staff feels the same. That's not to say we are back to normal – far from it – but pupils are once again in lessons with all their classmates, receiving face to face teaching from their subject teachers. At our virtual whole-school assembly on Tuesday, I reminded pupils of our high expectations in all aspects of school life, including punctuality and dress code. I also emphasised the importance of our school values: curiosity and diligence in learning, and kindness and belonging in our relationships and behaviours in our school community, and in the wider, local community. As always, I appreciate the support of parents and carers in reinforcing with their children our high expectations and our values.

I am really looking forward to the term ahead, perhaps because I'm very aware it's my last at NBHS. (I'm certainly not counting down the days just yet, though.) In particular, I'm looking forward to watching our young people flourish in our school community, progress in their learning and experience success. They have a wonderful team of staff at NBHS to support and guide them in this.

Staffing Update

This week, we have welcomed two new members of staff to the school. Ms Ferrier joins us in the English faculty as a supply teacher; we are currently going through the recruitment process for a permanent English teacher to replace Mrs Hudson. In the drama department, we welcome Mrs Perez Serna, who is covering Mrs Tant's classes during her maternity leave. Also joining the school this week are students: Miss Campbell in art; Miss Newberry in biology and Mr Wood in music. It is always a pleasure to have new staff in school, bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm. We hope they all settle quickly and enjoy their time at NBHS.

Next Friday, we lose a long-serving member of staff when our audio-visual technician, Mr Brignall, retires. Though he works across the school, Mr Brignall has been a stalwart in the performing arts faculty in particular over the years. His sound and lighting skills have certainly enhanced many concerts, shows and prizegiving ceremonies. We thank him for his service to the school over the years and wish him a very happy retirement. Also leaving us next week is our school counsellor, Sue Spence. Sue has supported many of our young people in her twenty five years at NBHS: though she is only in school one day a week, Sue packs a lot into that time and has undoubtedly had a positive impact on the mental health and wellbeing of those young people she has worked with. Sue will be missed, particularly by her colleagues in the guidance team, and we wish her well for the future.

SQA Alternative Certification Model (ACM)

As you are aware, National Qualification assessments for Senior Phase pupils are taking place in school over the next six weeks. Senior Phase pupils and their parents and carers have been issued with detailed information on how these ACM assessments will operate and all these resources are also available on the school website under the 'SQA 2021-2021' tab:

- Assessment Calendars for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher assessments;
- Provisional Results Rationale document;
- Video presentation from Mr McCallum, with an introduction from Mrs Rodger;
- NBHS Alternative Certification Model Verification Policy.

Attendance

Senior pupils are in timetabled lessons throughout the assessment period; there is no study leave in East Lothian secondary schools so attendance in school is compulsory. If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please notify school via the absence line as normal: 01620 894 716.

Pupils should be aware that attendance at scheduled assessments is mandatory. There will, of course, be valid reasons for pupils missing assessments due to ill-health or personal circumstances. As always, parents should contact the school (number above) if their child will be absent from school and will consequently miss one of their planned assessments. Pupils who have missed an assessment due to ill-health or personal circumstances will have the opportunity to sit it when they return to school following their absence. Please note, non-urgent appointments should not be arranged at a time when a scheduled assessment is due to take place.

Ongoing Feedback

During the 6-week assessment period, NBHS teachers will be in continuous dialogue with their pupils about their learning and their progress. This on-going feedback, where appropriate, will also help pupils in subsequent assessments. There will be variations across subjects regarding how and when feedback on assessment performance can be communicated to pupils. This is because there are differences in the assessment models adopted in each subject regarding, for example: the number of assessments, their sequence, and the different course components being assessed.

Where possible, pupils will be informed of their performance in individual assessments through a percentage and grade.

All assessment evidence will be subject to robust quality assurance processes (see below) before provisional grades are finalised. It is important for pupils and parents to note, then, that assessment grades may change as a result of these quality assurance processes.

Assessment Weightings

It is important, too, that pupils are aware of the weighting carried by each individual assessment within a subject. You will find details of the weightings for every subject in the Provisional Results Rationale document. This document outlines how an overall grade within each subject will be calculated. Pupils should make sure that they are familiar with the assessment weightings in all their subjects. Their teachers will talk to them about these weightings, too.

Quality Assurance and Issue of Provisional Grades

As described in the video presentation sent to Senior Phase pupils, the quality assurance processes are extremely thorough, featuring SQA sampling procedures as well as school and local authority moderation processes. The assessment period at NBHS ends on Wednesday 2 June. In the two weeks following this, moderation and verification procedures will continue. The final stages of the quality assurance process, involving ELC Quality Improvement Officers and the school's senior leaders, will be concluded by Friday 18 June. Pupils will then be informed of their provisional grades in the week beginning Monday 21 June.

NB This important Weekly Update item is also being sent to all Senior Phase pupils via their edubuzz email address.

Parent Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parent Council is on Wednesday 28 April at 7.00 pm. All parents and carers are welcome to attend. Please contact the communications email address if you would like a link for the virtual meeting.

Transport

East Lothian Transport have updated their web page with the latest information for pupils using school transport. You can find it here:

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210557/schools_and_learning/12038/home_to_school_transport

School Expansion

Work on the school expansion has been halted during the period when senior pupils are sitting National Qualification assessments, in order to avoid any disruption due to the noise of building works. The tunnel from the front of the school to the courtyard has also been put on hold until work restarts. Plans for the overall work schedule continue to move on apace, however, and senior school staff are attending weekly meetings with ELC and FES staff.

Harbour Safety

Attached to this Update is a leaflet giving safety advice on swimming, diving and jumping in the North Berwick Harbour Area. We have been asked to share this with our school community by North Berwick Harbour Trust Association, and we are very happy to do so. Enjoy our wonderful coastline, but keep yourself safe when doing so.

Careers

Mick Burns Careers Adviser

Email: mick.burns@sds.co.uk

Mobile: 07887 831454

Twitter: MickBurns2

- Some recent East Lothian vacancies for joinery and administration [here](#)
- **Early Years Practitioner Edinburgh- Modern Apprentice** [here](#)
- **Visitor Experience Assistant** – Modern Apprenticeship – 3 POSTS – 17585
Contract: Fixed Term – 18 months'
Salary: £18,733 pro rata per annum, equates to £17,720.41 per annum
Apply [here](#)
- **BBC Production Apprenticeship Fast Track Scotland**
Closing date 29 April 2021
On this scheme you will get 18 months mix of study- with a SCQF 7 apprenticeship qualification- and learning on the job. You will be based in Glasgow, however there may be opportunities throughout the apprenticeship to visit other BBC Scotland sites.
Apply [here](#)
- **Apprenticeship Family**
We have put together a short presentation in The Apprenticeship Family [here](#) that you may find useful, particularly at subject choice time.
- **Edinburgh College applications**
I have posted a preparation for college talk with additional resources which can viewed [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

- **Scotland's Rural College applications**

<https://ww1.sruc.ac.uk/>

- **Scottish Seabird Centre - Marine Careers**

Ever wondered what sort of jobs there are that involve working with the ocean?

The good news is there is a huge variety of work out there for all types of people from all sorts of different backgrounds.

<https://www.edubuzz.org/careers/2021/03/24/scottish-seabird-centre-marine-careers/>

COVID-19 Lateral Flow Test Replacements

If a pupil requires a replacement lateral flow test kit they can obtain it in one of the following ways:

- E-mail your request to admin@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk
- Complete a green form which can be found at the entrances to school
- Ask a member of staff at the office

COVID-19 Positive Cases

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 please inform the local authority by emailing the details to: covidinschools@eastlothian.gov.uk. If you have no access to email then call East Lothian Council on 01875 613 921. **Please do not send your child to school if they have any COVID-19 symptoms;** rather, keep your child isolated at home and book a test for them. Details on how to book a test can be found via this link: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): getting tested in Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultation-collections/covid-19/getting-tested-in-scotland/)

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.

communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 28 April	Parent Council meeting
Monday 3 May	school closed (May Day holiday)
Monday 25 May	school closed (staff inservice day)
Tuesday 26 May	school closed (staff working on SQA Alternative Certification Model)
Tuesday 1 June	Parent Council meeting
Monday 7 June	school closed (staff working on SQA Alternative Certification Model)
Friday 25 June	school closes for summer holiday at 12.15 pm