



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 14 May 2021

Message from Mrs Rodger, Head Teacher

This has been a very busy week in school, particularly for staff and senior pupils. My diary has been filled with cover lessons every day, mostly to enable class teachers to invigilate or to support pupils in SQA assessments. This session, because of the COVID-19 restrictions, school leaders have not been able to just drop in on lessons as we normally would; it's often a pleasure, then, for me to cover classes. I've particularly enjoyed the opportunity to do a bit of English teaching with junior classes. I have to admit to feeling a wee bit deflated when no-one in the S4 class took up my offer of help with their National 5 revision: the pupils were all so confident in what they were doing that they didn't need me. Of course, that's as it should be, but I would have loved the opportunity to wax lyrical about Norman MacCaig's poetry or the analysis of literary techniques.

Being in so many lessons in faculties across the school, I never fail to be impressed by the appetite for learning shown by the majority of our pupils. They need little encouragement to get their books out and get started on the tasks set by their teacher. I see lots of creativity, from imaginative writing in English to problem-solving in science. Pupils are also very supportive of each other's learning and are quick to offer help to a fellow pupil who might be struggling with a tricky concept. I love overhearing those teaching and learning conversations between pupils. Our school values of curiosity and diligence are in evidence in classrooms every day.

The other thing that has stood out for me this week is the excellent support provided to pupils in class by our pupil support assistants. They know our young people so well and know exactly how best to encourage them to focus on the task, to tackle any challenge, and to produce work that gives them a real sense of achievement. For the pupils the PSAs work with, this support is invaluable.

Face Coverings in School

As you will be aware, from Monday 17 May most of Scotland is moving down to Level 2 of COVID-19 restrictions. Regarding face coverings, the guidance remains that all staff and pupils in Scottish secondary schools must continue to wear face coverings (unless exempt). The First Minister has requested further information on this. Until such time as the Scottish Government guidance changes, we will continue to wear face coverings in school as a mitigation measure.

Parking Outside School

A reminder to parents and carers: please do not park in the disabled bays or on the double yellow lines at the front of the school when dropping off or picking up your child. These spaces are used by taxis and vehicles for our more vulnerable young people and for those with mobility issues. It is essential that these spaces are left clear for that purpose. If you are driving your child to school, please drop them off at a distance from the school building and let them walk from there.

Schools Asymptomatic Testing Programme - Update from Scottish Government 07.05.2021

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

1. Testing continues to play an important role, in and out of schools/settings, in our fight against COVID-19. Staff should continue to test themselves and report results, and are asked to encourage young people in secondary schools to do likewise. Testing and self-isolating can help limit the likelihood of the virus getting into schools/settings, and help mitigate the impacts if/when it does. Vaccinated staff and pupils should continue to test in line with NHS advice.

2. Please ensure that all test results, whether positive, negative or void, are reported using the digital portal or telephone service (119). Reporting test results can be done from mobiles, online or by phone, and should be completed straightaway. Reporting not only supports contact tracing in the event of a positive case, but assists our collective understanding of rates of infection in communities and schools/settings across the country. If we only record positive results, the level of COVID-19 cases in schools/communities may look worse than they really are. Health professionals can use the information provided by the testing programme to spot patterns and outbreaks more quickly and accurately, and ensure better targeting of responsive and preventative action, helping reduce the risk of future lockdowns.

3. Please ensure that, if you have a positive LFD result, you self-isolate immediately, report it and book a confirmatory PCR test. Self-isolation is vital to help limit the potential spread of the virus in your school/setting and wider community. Taking a PCR test is really important - PCR tests are more accurate than LFD tests, and can help identify whether your positive result is incorrect (a false positive). If the PCR test is negative, in most cases you and your contacts will be able to end self-isolation subject to further advice from Test and Protect.

There is support available to households who have to self-isolate and who need help. This includes: the [Self-Isolation Support Grant](#) which provides £500 to those who earn less than the real living wage and have to self-isolate. Practical support is also available, including food or essential medicine deliveries, through the local self-isolation assistance service. You can either contact your local authority directly or contact the Coronavirus National Assistance helpline – available at 0800 111 4000, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, to find out more.

Schools are maintaining their remote learning offers for students who have to self-isolate, to ensure as little disruption to their learning as possible. Schools can also make full use of the flexibility permitted by the Alternative Certification Model.

4. Please report any faulty test kits, to help us ensure the testing programme remains safe and effective. Individual users can do so by calling 119 or by using the MHRA Yellow Card reporting system if there have been adverse incidents as a result of problems with test kits. Schools and local authorities can do so by calling the **NSS Helpline** on **0800 028 2816** or emailing **nss.Covid19TestingSupport@nhs.scot**.

5. There is now guidance available in a range of different formats. These include:

- (i) Information aimed at secondary school pupils, developed with Young Scot;
- (ii) a How To Test video with BSL and subtitles; and
- (iii) Instructions for Use in languages other than English.

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 entrances to school, and place it in the box

- Ask a member of staff at the office

New Covid-19 Test Centre for East Lothian Residents

A new Covid-19 testing centre aimed at identifying positive cases among people showing no symptoms of the virus will open in Musselburgh on Friday, 30 April. Please click link for more info [here](#)

Careers

Mick Burns Careers Adviser

Email: mick.burns@sds.co.uk

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- Current Modern Apprenticeships in Edinburgh and Lothians [here](#)
- BFI Film Academy Young Programmers [here](#)
- Wheatley Group Modern Apprenticeships [here](#)
- Lawscot Foundation bursary package 2021 [here](#)
- Seasonal Leisure Assistants - North Berwick [here](#)
- Had-Fab East Lothian Engineering vacancies - [here](#)
- **Online Summer Schools** – Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland’s exciting programme of online summer schools, featuring a range of courses designed to keep you learning and creating at home, will run throughout July and August 2021. Details [here](#)
- **Online Resources from Future Asset**
We are really excited to tell you about the new online resources available from Future Asset to inform and educate your students about a career in investment management and to help put learning into context. Resources can be accessed [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/>

Parents Coming Into the School Building

Please note that the following COVID-19 mitigation measure remains in place during this time: parents and carers cannot come into the school building. Unfortunately, this means that if your child forgets something, you cannot drop the item off at school for them.

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

COVID-19 Positive Cases

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 please inform the local authority by emailing the details to the address below. 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/documents/2020/06/Coronavirus_COVID-19_getting_tested_in_Scotland_-_gov.scot.pdf)

covidinschools@eastlothian.gov.uk

Attendance Mailbox

Separate from the East Lothian COVID-19 email address mentioned above, we would like to remind you that NBHS has a dedicated email address for all attendance matters. There is no need to phone the school – just send an email to the attendance address below, giving the detail of absence, appointments etc. **Please be sure to include the reason for your child being absent from school;** we need this information to ensure that all absences are recorded correctly. We recommend that you add this email address to your contacts so this it is quick and easy for you to access:

attendance@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk

NBHS Communications

Just a reminder that if you wish to contact school you should email us at the communications email address below, or contact your child's guidance teacher directly. If your child is absent from school, please contact the dedicated absence line

communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

Monday 24 May	school closed (staff inservice day)
Tuesday 25 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)
Wednesday 9 June	PTA meeting
Friday 25 June	school closes for summer holiday at 12.15 pm