



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 29th October 2021

Message from HT

During the October break, I spent a wonderful week in the Lake District with my family, recharging my batteries. It's been great, though, to reconnect with staff and young people this week.

We spent our inservice day considering how best to improve our communications both in school and with parents, and are keen to move towards using electronic communication (text/email) as much as possible.

You will receive a letter shortly outlining our proposed changes, which we will trial from now until the end of term, and ask for your feedback. Thank you in advance for your support with this. Our Science faculty are going to be our pilot faculty for a new homework and praise notification system.

We also engaged in professional learning for our LGBTQ Charter, a nationally recognised award for schools who undertake training and review their practice and resources to ensure they are as inclusive as they can be. At the end of our inservice day, we attended an online conference with Nicola McDowell, our Head of Education.

Have a great weekend!
Mrs Moore

A message from the Eco Committee

The eco committee has decided to participate in terracycling. This is where you are able to recycle previously non recyclable items such as pens and markers. We plan to set up a box in each classroom to collect these materials. To make these boxes we need lots of shoeboxes, if you have any spare and are willing to donate then please hand them in to Mrs Prete in CDT 5. To find out more information about terracycling head to https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/about-terracycle/free_recycling_programs

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE? WHAT SMALL BUT IMPORTANT THINGS ARE YOU DOING TO HELP? WHAT DO YOU THINK GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD SHOULD DO?

Join Sustaining North Berwick to share your thoughts on COP26 and climate change. Don't forget your banners! Sunday, 31st October 2pm-4pm West Beach, below Elcho Green Bring a picnic and all the family! Speaker: Dr Eurig Scandrett, lecturer at Queen Margaret University and former head of community action at Friends of the Earth Scotland **BECAUSE EVERY VOICE COUNTS**

The Eco Committee

PTA Festive Fair Website: Stall Holder Invitation

The PTA Festive Fair Website is returning this year to make Christmas shopping with local crafters and small businesses easy from the comfort of your home.

The online shopping fair will open in mid November and run through to Christmas. Watch this space for a link to the Fair in the coming weeks.

This is a fantastic opportunity for local crafters to showcase their products to the local community and beyond.

If you are (or know of) a small business or crafter who are interested in taking a stall please email ptanbhs@gmail.com. There is a small fee to participate and all income will go directly to the PTA to support initiatives in the school.

SQA update – Prelim examinations

This year's Senior Phase prelim diet will be in two blocks. Block 1 will run from **Thursday 2nd – Weds 8th December**; Block 2 will run from **Monday 10th – Friday 21st January, 2022**.

Our decision has been informed by our wish to preserve the integrity of papers by affording all candidates an opportunity to sit the paper at the same time, by our desire to support the wellbeing of our young people and staff, and our obligation to continue to adhere to Covid mitigations.

By spreading the diet over two blocks, we feel this will reduce the pressure on our pupils who will find they have gaps between prelims, much as they will in the final exam diet, rather than an intense two week experience with multiple prelims in a day. We hope you will find this supportive.

We appreciate that some of our young people may prefer a more flexible approach to their study and preparation for these blocks. We are currently considering how this may operate in practice and will provide further information when we are able to.

By **Friday 12th November**, full details of the subjects and components being assessed in Block 1 and Block 2 will be communicated to pupils and parents.

Careers

Mick Burns Careers Adviser

Email: mick.burns@sds.co.uk

Mobile: 07887 831454

Twitter: MickBurns2

Blog: www.edubuzz.org/careers

A couple of events for parents/carers on STEM careers [here](#) and for everyone interested in Rural careers [here](#)

Apprenticeship and vacancies for Edinburgh and Lothians [here](#)

[We have delivered our S4 careers talks this week and you can view the content here](#)

[Leith School of Art Open Days here](#)

Are you a future Engineer? Find out about activities next week and beyond [here](#)

Graduate Apprenticeship (work and study for a degree) vacancies in Engineering and Business at www.apprenticeship.scot

Charities update

The total amount raised by the Charities Committee Dress Down Day on Friday 15th October was £686.81! Fantastic!

The Poppy Appeal – we are going to be selling poppies around the school in the next couple of weeks for Remembrance Day. Your support of this would be appreciated.

Covid Mitigations

It continues to be **vital** important that all pupils follow the one way system, wear face coverings (unless exempt) and ensure good hand hygiene. Please use the information in the Warn and Inform letter as your guide to current protocols.

The expected National update on Covid school guidance has now clarified that there will be **no changes to current mitigations at present**.

Asymptomatic Testing

With children back at school it's important to be aware of the latest guidance to help everyone stay safe.

For the latest information, visit:

[gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested)

Testing can help reduce the risks of an outbreak. Pupils should test themselves twice a week, reporting the results online even if they are negative or void.

You may find the Parent Club webpage on testing useful: [COVID-19 testing for staff and pupils | Parent Club](#)..

The things we do for our friends

1. Take a lateral flow test twice a week
2. Report your results (negative, positive or void)
3. Check the latest COVID-19 guidance

 [young.scot/school](https://www.young.scot/school)
Reduce the risk and keep Scotland on track

   Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Parents coming into 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 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
- Ask a member of staff at the office

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

- Next Parent Council meeting is **Wednesday 24th November**