



## NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

### Friday 28th January 2022

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#### Message from HT

I have written before about my aspirations for our school and my pride in NBHS as a place of learning and belonging.

I ask for your support in ensuring all pupils demonstrate their readiness to learn as much as possible:

- Arrive on time for the start of tutor time at 8:30am, and for each lesson throughout the day
- Be appropriately dressed in the agreed NBHS dress code, including a school tie ([Dress-Code-Nov-2020-for-Website.pdf \(edubuzz.org\)](#))
- Bring all equipment needed for the day ahead

A huge thank you to the vast majority of our young people who demonstrate this on a daily basis – it is important that these are expectations for **all pupils**.

On the rare occasion a young person arrives at school with a set of circumstances which puts their engagement in learning at risk, we seek to provide support. I know how challenging the past 2 years have been for us all, and I fervently share our collective wish to provide a rounded, enjoyable school experience, where the community can come together without restriction.

Thank you  
Mrs Moore

#### National Youth Orchestras of Scotland

Performing Opportunities with the National Youth Orchestras of Scotland - click on link below:

[https://www.nyos.co.uk/classical/training-ensembles/?utm\\_source=schools&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=te\\_rec2022](https://www.nyos.co.uk/classical/training-ensembles/?utm_source=schools&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=te_rec2022)

#### SQA update

We received communication from SQA on 11<sup>th</sup> January which informed us that it remains the clear intention for the 2022 SQA exams to take place in April-June.

SQA have prepared a blog post for parents with further information: [Supporting learners as Covid disruption continues – a message for parents and carers - Qualifications 2022 \(sqa.org.uk\)](#)

NBHS will continue to keep you informed to the very best of our ability.

## **Student Success**

Huge congratulations to Marcia Callander, Keira Maynard and Bethan Ryan who have made it to the finals of the Growing Future Asset Investment Competition.

They are 1 of 4 teams in the 16-18 year group to make it to the final stage. On 1 March 2022 they will compete with teams from Lochaber High School, St Columba's High School and Wellington School. Champions will receive £200 worth of vouchers of students' choice for each team member and £1,000 to their school, runners-up £100 and £500 respectively.

The competition was fierce this year with 62 team entering!!! So the team's diligence has paid off!

Thanks to their industry mentor Amanda Whitecross from Martin Currie for supporting the team in their work.

For more information visit <https://www.futureasset.org.uk/>

## **Harry Potter Book Night Quiz**

After a brief hiatus, it's back! The Harry Potter Book Night Quiz is returning to NBHS Library.

So, if you know how to summon the Knight Bus, are an expert at dragon identification or just love all things Wizarding World, this is the quiz for you! Due to restrictions, there will be two quizzes, one for BGE and one for Senior Phase.

S4-6 Quiz: Wednesday 2nd February, lunchtime in the library

S1-3 Quiz: Thursday 3rd February, lunchtime in the library

Spaces are limited: please book your team a space with Miss Wilson before the day of the quiz. Maximum of five members per team, and team names must be related to the Wizarding World in some way. Prizes to be won! All welcome

## **Senior Phase Information Evening**

These videos and presentations are now live and can be accessed on the school website at this link: <https://www.edubuzz.org/northberwickhigh/2021/12/02/senior-phase-virtual-information-evening/> These will remain online for you to watch at a time that suits you.

Mr Jones

## **E-Comms Pilot Evaluation**

Parents and carers will be aware that we have been trialling electronic notifications for late coming, homework, dress code, behaviour which impacts learning and we have been sending praise notifications home for young people demonstrating our school values. This pilot took place from October-December, and the evaluation closed on 14th January. Many thanks to all parents, staff and pupils who completed the evaluations.

Feedback from parents and carers (86 responses in total) was as follows:

- 73.2% of parents/carers found the praise notifications useful

- 66% parents find the homework notifications useful
- The wording of some notifications (late and hw) could be further improved but electronic communication well-received overall

Staff are in favour of keeping the system going and we feel the benefits of the notifications outweigh the limitations. Pupils (61 responses overall) are positive about the praise notifications but perhaps less enthusiastic about school letting parents know if they have defaulted on homework!

We will continue to refine wording to ensure our notifications have the maximum positive impact on learning. We would like to continue to explore how else we can use our Groupcall system to communicate positively and proactively with our community.

### **Absent Pupils Accessing Learning**

We appreciate there is a need to ensure provision for learning is in place for young people self-isolating or awaiting PCR test results. As Google Classroom (GC) has been set up for every class, key powerpoints or topic overviews are being routinely posted in class spaces. Assignments and home learning are also often posted for young people to access. Pupils can give parents/carers permission to access Guardian Summaries.

**Please encourage your young person to check their Google Classrooms in the first instance.** We're keen to encourage pupils to do this, if they are able to, including if a parent/carer receives a homework notification.

It is not currently possible to post coverage of every individual lesson online – pupils are very welcome to see their teacher upon their return should they require additional support.

Wherever possible, and if there is a concern, parents should contact [communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk) so that their query can be forwarded to the appropriate member of the extended leadership team.

As with everything at the moment, please know we are doing our absolute best to meet needs within the context we must currently operate.

Nationally, there are supplementary online learning offers available to all pupils as follows:

The E-Sgoil online offer for Senior Phase learners can be accessed on GLOW and instructions for this are on our own school website: <https://www.edubuzz.org/northberwickhigh/wp-content/blogs.dir/894/files/2020/10/GLOW-e-Sgoil-User-Guide-2020.pdf>

- For BGE learners, there are resources on West-OS, also accessed through GLOW – the app will appear on the pupils' launch pad
- The National E-Learning Offer (NELO) can be accessed here: <https://education.gov.scot/nelo/>. This includes Learning Spaces for courses which can be accessed here: <https://www.thinglink.com/card/1421866155961745410>
- SCHOLAR resources for seniors can be found here: <https://scholar.hw.ac.uk/>

Please encourage young people who are well enough to do so, when isolating or awaiting PCR test results, to check these additional sources of support for their learning. They have been well-received by pupils and cover a large number of topics, themes and subjects.

## Online learning resource

An overview the various online learning resources that support pupils' home learning can be found on the school website: **'Learning at NBHS' main menu; 'Online learning resources' sub menu**. The presentation includes detail of Glow, e-Sgoil, West-OS and Scholar resources.

## Volunteering Opportunity – Archerfield Walled Garden Junior Parkrun

A junior Parkrun is only 2km long and is for children and young people from the age of 4-14 years. It's a run/race that takes part every Sunday morning at 9:30am. It is completely free but relies on volunteers. We need lots of volunteers every week and wanted to invite students at North Berwick High School.

We see this as a great opportunity to take part in an event within the community. Please see link for more information on the benefits of volunteering. [Volunteering at parkrun makes you happy! | Sixmilewater parkrun](#)

Roles include:

- Lead the 'warm up' before the run.
- marshal
- time keeper
- hand out tokens
- token scanner

Our very first Junior Parkrun will be on Sunday 6th March, but we do have a trial run (invitation to runners only) on 20th February. Volunteers are being rostered for these and every Sunday thereafter. I really hope students from North Berwick High School can become regular volunteers to this fantastic community event.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me [pennylaurie-pile@live.co.uk](mailto:pennylaurie-pile@live.co.uk) or ring on 07795623776.

Many thanks.

Penny Laurie-Pile

Event Director

## Covid Mitigations

The latest update to schools guidance from the Scottish Government came on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**. This update reiterates that:

- Secondary pupils are encouraged to take a Lateral Flow test regularly – tests are being distributed more efficiently in school now, in accordance with the updated guidance; any young person is still able to request test kits at reception if that's easier for them.
- Face coverings remain a vital Covid mitigation. All young people and staff are encouraged to bring them from home and must wear them appropriately, unless exempt. (We are finding
- an increasing number of young people are expecting to pick up a mask at reception on a daily basis!)

- Hand hygiene remains important – sanitiser is readily available in school.
- Distancing remains in place for pupils-teachers and adult-adult. For us at NBHS, something that really helps create smooth movement around school is our one way system – staff have been asked to remind pupils regularly to adhere to this.
- Ventilation is important too – I realise some rooms are chilly at the moment and pupils and staff are more than welcome to dress warmly to compensate for this. We are able to monitor classroom temperatures to ensure no room is unreasonably cold.



### Key Changes to Self-Isolation Guidance summary (6<sup>th</sup> January)

**Positive cases** are advised to self-isolate for 10 days. However, if the individual returns two consecutive negative LFD tests taken at least 24 hours apart with the first test no earlier than day 6 they may end isolation before the end of the 10 day period if they have no fever.

**Close contacts** who are fully vaccinated, having received 3 doses of the vaccination (plus 14 days) or are aged under 18 years and 4 months, can take daily LFD tests for 7 days instead of isolation - provided the tests are negative and they remains without symptoms. If someone has not received 3 doses of the vaccination, they will need to book a PCR test and even if this is a negative result, they will need to isolate for 10 days.

**Advice on confirmatory PCR tests** where people test positive on a lateral flow device (LFD) test they are now not advised to get a PCR test to confirm infection but to follow isolation advice as it applies to them as a positive case – there is an exception for people who may be eligible for the Self-Isolation Support Grant who are advised to take a PCR test to ensure they can confirm their infection to be potentially eligible for financial support.

### **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.

We also continue to adhere to national and local advice regarding any school excursions, events and activities.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk)

### **Dates for your Diary**

- Mid-term break Monday 14<sup>th</sup>- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February
- Staff only inservice day Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February – **pupils return Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**
- S5/6 Virtual Parents' Evening – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February