



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 7th January 2022

Message from HT

Happy 2022 to all in the NBHS Community

I confessed to some pupils earlier this week that my festive break consisted of sleeping and eating my own bodyweight in cheese. It was such a welcome break for us all and it's fair to say that this term has not started in the way I so very much wished it would.

You will be aware that updated Covid guidance was published on the afternoon of Wednesday 5th January, following a parliamentary briefing. Key to the First Minister's changes is new self-isolation guidance. We have put a FAQ from NHS Inform which you may find useful onto the school website here: [Self-Isolation-Changes.pdf \(edubuzz.org\)](#)
Key points from this are also summarised later in this update.

I am proud of the positivity and resilience shown by staff and pupils in the face of rather uncertain times. This week, I've been covering classes and it has been such a pleasure to work with the young people in this capacity – they are a credit to us all. Our Business Managers, Mrs Edwards and Mrs Barker, have been absolute superstars this week, working tirelessly to ensure classes are staffed and the school runs effectively. Huge thanks to them both, and to all our support staff and invigilators, without whom we would simply be lost.

Mrs Moore

S4-S6 Remote Learning

It is with a heavy heart indeed that S4-6 parents/carers and pupils were notified yesterday of a move to remote learning for our seniors from Friday 7th January- Friday 21st January inclusive, which takes into account the Block 2 prelim diet. No decision of this nature is taken lightly but it is the case that the evolving situation related to Covid means that we are facing some significant challenges related to staffing levels at present.

We both appreciate and ask for parental understanding and support of this arrangement during what is proving to be a very challenging time for schools. I hope this solution will give more certainty to our pupils and families over the next fortnight and school remains open. Staff are, as always, committed to supporting our Seniors with their ongoing remote learning and revision via Google Classroom.

Should any young person be unwell or need to self-isolate during the prelim block, please don't worry. When they are able to return to school, pupils should see their teacher to arrange to sit the assessment(s) they have missed.

Block 2 Prelim Diet

Block 2 of our Senior Phase prelim diet will therefore run as planned on 10th January-24th January. (There are 2 papers on Friday 7th January, and pupils are aware if this applies to them.)

Wishing all seniors the very best of luck! Do your best – that's all we can ask.

In line with NBHS usual prelim procedures, please could young people come to prelims in dress code. This supports our community ethos and makes pupils easily identifiable when they are in the building.

College Courses

Pupils who attend college courses have been contacted separately. These will continue as before with most running on-line. Pupils who are still attending college in person should come to school at lunchtime on Tuesdays and Thursdays for transport to college.

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.

Kind regards
Mr Jones

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 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.

Library Books

As we begin a new year and a new term, it would be very much appreciated if all pupils could have a search for any overdue school library books. We would also ask parents and carers to gently remind your young people that those books they borrow from the school library need to be returned, so that other young people within our community can read and enjoy the books too.

At present there are nearly **500 books** out on loan to pupils, which are at least a month past their due date. In many cases, these books were borrowed for reading over the first lockdown in April 2020, and contain a large number of popular titles.

Pupils are not charged overdue fines for items, and books can be returned to the school or to any local East Lothian public library branch. Find the opening times for your public library here: https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210562/libraries/11907/locations_and_opening_hours

Miss Wilson

School Librarian

S6 Employability

Employability talk Monday 10 January 2022 4pm

We are now in 2022 and you leave school in just a few months! For those of you not applying to University it is important to start thinking about applying for jobs, apprenticeships or college. To do this you need to know where to look. This talk will show you the relevant websites for all kinds of job vacancies and apprenticeships and give you information on what you need to be doing right now!! I can answer any questions you have and let you know how to keep in contact the careers team so we can support you in your search.

It's not a long talk, just 30 minutes of your time is all it takes.

Wendy Malcolm Trainee Careers Adviser

Careers

Mick Burns Careers Adviser

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Mobile: 07887 831454

Twitter: MickBurns2

Blog: www.edubuzz.org/careers

Employability talk Monday 10 January 2022 4pm

If you are leaving school this year and looking for employment, training or apprenticeship vacancies please join us online via the Google Meet link in your S6 Google Classroom. If you are in S4 or S5 then please request the link from Mr Burgess cburgess@edubuzz.org This session will introduce you to main websites you need to use to find suitable vacancies and will last about 20 to 30mins. Summer vacancies are advertised now so please come along and future sessions will include CV, applications and interview preparation.

S2 Careers Talks

With S2 option choice approaching we are delivering our careers talks to all S2 classes next week. The talk will be posted on the careers blog and form part of the PSE programme that will include accessing career resources for pupils and parents online at www.myworldofwork.co.uk

RETTIE vacancies

If you want to be part of an ever-changing industry, playing a key role in shaping our future, whilst delivering the best possible service for our customers, then please have a look at our current vacancies. We commit to supporting opportunities to learn, grow and develop. Our values-led culture, and approach to inclusion and diversity, means we can all make a real difference together. More details [here](#)

Apprenticeship and vacancies for Edinburgh and Lothians are [updated weekly by our SDS Edinburgh colleagues at: www.facebook.com/SDSEdinburgh](#)

Portrait Artist of the Year 2021

If you follow this little gem of a programme you will know that the winner's commission was to paint a portrait of musician, Nicola Benedetti. Well, a few years ago I managed to secure an interview with her while she was staying in Aberlady. I hope you find time to have a listen [here](#) and this podcast and transcript is aimed at all young people not just those interested in musical careers. By the way,

Nicola had been rehearsing all day and still found time (10:30pm!) to talk about her career journey and influences!

Tarmac Dunbar vacancies [here](#)

BBC Careers

Ready to launch your career at the BBC? Whether you are a graduate, school leaver or looking for the opportunity to change your career, our new talent schemes could kick start your passion into a job that you love.

Details [here](#)

Parents Presentation

You can access our presentation issued recently which covers (very quickly!) what we do at NBHS and links to our resources [here](#)

S4-6 and considering college as an option? The college preparation talks were delivered this week and you can view the presentation [here](#) if you have any questions please email: mick.burns@sds.co.uk as soon as possible.

Edinburgh College January start courses [here](#)

We're Podcasting again!

I have added 2 podcasts from the Modern Languages Dept.

Find out about German Teaching Assistant Lisa's journey and how languages will feature in her future plans [here](#)

After a long absence I am adding to our bank of interviews and this [one](#) features working and studying in languages/business/teaching

AMEY, Morrisons, Leonardo, Form3, Atkins, Morrisons and Actelligent are all offering Graduate Apprenticeships to school leavers. Degree level study and up to £20,500 salary, more information at www.apprenticeship.scot

[We have delivered two S5 careers talks to the whole year and you can view the content here You will find the survey an interesting snapshot of their future plans!](#)

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

BAE Systems apprenticeship recruitment [here](#)

Covid Mitigations

The latest update to schools guidance from the Scottish Government came on **Wednesday 5th 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 (6th January)

As well as the information on the school website (link in HT message above), please find a shortened summary of the latest NHS Inform advice on self-isolation below:

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

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

- S2 Virtual Parents' Evening – **Wednesday 12th January**
- S3 Virtual Parents' Evening – **Monday 17th January**
- Next Parent Council meeting **Wednesday 26th January**