



NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Friday 16th December 2022

Message from HT

More ceilidh music flooded the school this week with dance practices full steam ahead and the S2 dance on Tuesday, the S1 dance on Wednesday and the S5/6 dance on Thursday. These were utterly fantastic events and it was amazing to experience the community coming together for such joyful occasions. Pupil participation and behaviour was exemplary. Just a massive thank you to the PE department and to all staff who have supervised and organised the dances.

Panto rehearsals also full steam ahead and this year's production of Cinderella will take place to each year group on Tuesday 20th December, finishing the term in style. I'm the Narrator this year – I'm really looking forward to it, not least as I get to read my part rather than have to learn it off by heart.

A reminder that school closes at 3:25pm on Tuesday 20th December and reopens to all on **Wednesday 4th January**. May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy, healthy festive season.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Best wishes

Mrs Moore

Staffing Update

This term, we say goodbye to our longstanding HE Auxiliary Mrs Janice Finney. A stalwart of NBHS events, the Health and Food department, and all things hospitality, we wish her a happy and healthy retirement and thank her for all she has contributed to our school and community over the years. We look forward to continuing to work with Mrs Ann Seddon, our part-time HE Auxiliary, who is increasing her hours as Mrs Finney's replacement.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Heidi Bower, Science Technician, with huge thanks for all she has done for the Science faculty during her time at NBHS. We wish her well in her new job and recruitment is underway.

Woolly Jumper Day

Our annual jumper day will take place on **Monday 19 Dec**. Students and staff are invited to wear a woolly jumper (Christmassy or not) to school and make a donation to our school charities. We are also collecting preloved Christmas jumpers so if you have any Christmas jumpers you no longer wear or need, please hand them in to the school office by Wednesday 14 Dec and we'll distribute them to pupils who want them.

Tutor Time Attendance

A reminder that **all pupils including S6 are required to attend school from 8:30am each morning to attend their tutor group**. Tutor Time is a key way to disseminate information, including when our in-person assemblies take place in the hall – these events are a hugely important part of our school ethos and our connectivity as a community.

Staff and pupils at NBHS continue to work together to consider ways to improve punctuality – watch this space!

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS 	
MINUTES LATE	IMPACT ON ATTENDANCE IN A YEAR
5 MINUTES A DAY	3.4 DAYS 98.4% ATTENDANCE
10 MINUTES A DAY	6.9 DAYS 97.6% ATTENDANCE
15 MINUTES A DAY	10.3 DAYS 94.6% ATTENDANCE
20 MINUTES A DAY	13.8 DAYS 92.9% ATTENDANCE
30 MINUTES A DAY	20.7 DAYS 89.2% ATTENDANCE

Volunteering with School Duke of Edinburgh

Duke of Edinburgh is a wonderful programme, and we always have more S3 pupils wishing to take part than we have spaces available. The parent council have expressed interest in recruiting parent helpers, to allow us to increase the number of spaces we can offer. This would be amazing. This link gives an overview of the different roles within the team of adults delivering Duke of Edinburgh. <https://www.dofe.org/run/volunteerroles/>. In addition we may require minibus drivers, qualified with MIDAS or equivalent. If you are at all interested in offering some time to help us to broaden our D of E offer, please contact the parent council at parentcouncil@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk. We will run an information evening shortly for potential volunteers, where we can go into more detail about the support we need, and the ways in which we can support volunteers to gain the qualifications they may require

Young people gain a huge amount from Duke of Edinburgh, and I personally find it very rewarding to be part of helping that to happen. I do hope some of you may have time to commit to helping us to expand our offer.

Robert Jones

Depute Headteacher.

Scottish Seabird Centre Free Exhibition

At the Scottish Seabird Centre, discover a fun, new interactive exhibition about one of Scotland's rarest birds. Help Secret Agent Corncrake discover why the noisy yet secretive corncrakes are disappearing from Scotland.

This interactive exhibition has been masterminded by RSPB Scotland as part of the Corncrake Calling project with support of the National Heritage Lottery Fund. It was co-designed with students from Lochgelly High School, The Glasgow Academy, Berwickshire High School, Castlehead High School, St. Joseph's Academy & Banff Academy. Supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Corncrake Calling is a new four-year project to save these small brown tawny members of the rail family.

The exhibition is open from 10am daily until 20 January, last entry is 3pm.

NBHS Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is up and running on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 0750-0820. We're trialling a new location – at the back of the assembly hall at the school entrance! It's a drop in, so come any time before 0820.

All welcome.

Any questions, please contact Miss Parry in P.E. - cparry@elcschool.org.uk



NBHS Playing fields

Unfortunately our playing fields are still being used regularly for dog walking and we have had to delay recent hockey and rugby kick off times whilst coaches and referees do their best to clear the dog waste left behind. We almost had to postpone a fixture because of the state of one of the pitches. We use these pitches for curricular and extra curricular sessions and would appreciate everyone's support in treating them like our classrooms.

Signs have been put up and there are more to come but your support in this will be appreciated.

Bus Turning Circle/Law PS Staff Car Park Access

Please could we respectfully remind parents that they should not use the bus turning circle or the Law PS staff car park as a drop off point for students. Thank you so much.

PTA Meeting

The next PTA Meeting is on Tuesday 10th January 7pm at school, come along and join us. We're also looking for a new Chair so if you are keen to take over the role or find out more, please come along to the next meeting.

If you can't make it to this meeting and would like to find out more about the role of Chair, please email us at ptanbhs@gmail.com.

Careers

Mick Burns Careers Adviser

Email: mick.burns@sds.co.uk

Mobile: 07887 831454

Twitter: MickBurns2

Blog: www.edubuzz.org/careers

This session I will try to update using the careers blog above and highlight relevant information, resources and events.

SDS Staffing

A very warm welcome to our new Careers Adviser, Dearbhla Gallagher, who joined us on Monday 28 November. Dearbhla will cover Monday and Thursdays while I cover Tuesdays and Wednesdays. A big thank you to our colleague Emma Veitch who stays as our designated Work Coach but has help cover a lot of our school work this term.

Applying for College 2023

We delivered the talk in school on Monday 21 November and you can view the session [here](#) and you can still fill in the Google Form if you missed the session.

What do graduates do? You can view and download the 2023 report [here](#)

AML Compliance Assistant (Modern Apprentice) [here](#)

Updated apprenticeships and vacancies [here](#)

Fenton Barns recruitment [here](#)

Scot JCB Limited vacancy Haddington [here](#)

SAAS funding sessions for parents and carers [here](#)

Podcast

It is always great to meet up with and hear from former students and how their journey has developed since leaving school. I really enjoyed hearing Matthew's [story](#) and would suggest it's worth a viewing as it covers quite a bit of ground and water!

Christmas recruitment opportunities [here](#)

Allied Health Professions Careers [here](#) and we have paper copies in the school library – thanks to Alison for delivering these!

Christmas Vacancies/Jobs 2022 [here](#)

The **S4 careers talks** have been delivered this week and you can view and download our newsletter [here](#)

Some feedback from our **S4 2022 careers talk** [here](#) – well I did ask the questions!

Attendance Mailbox

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

Senior Phase Prelim Block 2 6th-19th January

PTA Meeting Tuesday 10th January at 7pm in school

S2 Virtual Parents' Evening – Wednesday 11th January*

*Subject to change if further industrial action is announced

S3 Virtual Parents' Evening – Thursday 26th January

Future NBHS Parent Council meetings –

- Monday 16th January
- Wednesday 8th March
- Thursday 25 May

All 7-8:30pm in school.