



**NBHS WEEKLY UPDATE**  
**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

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**Message from HT**

It's great to be back!

I had a wonderful break, spending time with family and eating a lot of cheese – I did have the most rotten cold for the first week and a half but am fully recovered and ready for what this term will bring.

Prelim Block 2 starts today and runs until 19<sup>th</sup> January. We wish our seniors well and ask them to remember that this is a great opportunity for them to demonstrate their learning to the best of their ability. As per the letter from ELC at the end of term, we expect 2 days of industrial action to take place on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January. Prelims will go ahead** on these two days, although school is closed. This includes the canteen. Our team of invigilators are not impacted by national strike action and therefore, on 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, we ask pupils to arrive in school 15 minutes before their prelim and leave when complete. All other prelims will run during school time as per Block 1. Please note that school transport will not operate on these dates but public transport is unaffected. Learners should consider this in their planning.

Similarly, please note there is a change of date for S2 Virtual Parents' Evening from 11<sup>th</sup> to **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January**. Pupils will receive information about how to set up their appointments with their teachers in the usual way – having done this in S1, they will be familiar with the process.

We're also delighted to offer our NBHS Course Choice Information Evening in person this year – this will take place on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January** in the main hall. Current S3 parents and carers are warmly invited to attend from 6-7pm to find out about transition to the Senior Phase; current S4/5 parents and carers should attend from 7-8pm.

Wishing all in the NBHS community a positive start to the new term.

Mrs Moore

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### **Yarrow Cookery Classes**

Yarrow Cookery are running 4 and a half weeks of kids and teen classes this year from Dirleton Kirk Hall, please see their website for more details.

<https://www.yarrowcookery.com/kids-students-classes>

### **NBHS Netball – Scottish Schools' Cup Update**

It's been a very busy 3 months for all of our NBHS Netball Squads. We entered S1, S2, S3 and an Open team into the Scottish Cup and have been competing in the group stages of the competition - arranging and playing 16 games in 6 weeks!

We have seen a super display of netball across the board with every one of the teams working hard for every win - I am, as always, such a proud coach of all the teams - it's not always the wins that see the greatest development - the attitude and team spirit from all of the girls is admirable.

The S1s won 2 games lost 1 and drew 1 but with their superb goal difference it sees them continue to the regional section of the Plate competition. - for a brand new team this lot are ones to watch.

The S2s also had a great run winning all their games convincingly then losing by only 1 goal to Portobello in a nail biting finish which meant coming a strong 2<sup>nd</sup> in their pool - they continue alongside the S1s to compete in the regional section of the plate.

The S3s also won all their games with ease, until they came up against a strong James Gillespies side who took them a bit by surprise and the win to top the table, so the S3s placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in their group which sees them continue to the regional section of plate competition as well.

The Open team, a mix of experienced and inexperienced players ranging between S4-S6, have had a great run, enjoying every moment on court. They didn't manage a win so don't continue in the competition, however their commitment spirit and team work is to be commended and they should be very proud of how they have competed as a team. I hope they enjoyed the journey as much as I enjoyed coaching them.

Personally, I would like to say congratulations to all the girls in the all the teams, each and every one of them are a pleasure to coach – I would also like to say a HUGE thank you to Miss Parry who drives the mini bus to every game and organises every match for us – we could not enter the competition at all if it was not for her support. I also extend my thanks and make a special mention to Martha Blacklock (S4) and Miss Anderson for helping out at training and umpiring for the teams whenever we need it – Thank you. School Netball has given so many girls the opportunity to participate in a competitive team sport. Training is open to all and allows many girls their first experience of competitive sport.

Keep an eye out for the weekly updates of the cup progress going forward!

Weekly training starts again for everyone on Tuesday 17th January - open to all so come and join in.

If anyone would like to get involved in the school netball going forward please do get in touch we are always looking for volunteers who would be interested in joining the coaching or management team - its such a great way to give back and there is no experience necessary at all :- ) we cannot run this fabulous sporting opportunity for so many girls without fabulous volunteers so come and join us 😊.

Sally Hetherington.

S1 - Madison Smith, Isla Lennox, Anna Gries, Leyla Hogg, Isla Buchan (c) Freya Buchanan (VC) Caitlin Buntin, Ellie Cunningham, Rosie Tandy, Isla Burns, Freya Bevan ,Mhari Fisher.

S2 - Millie Lindsey (VC), Daisy Bowdler, Katie Lucas (c) , May Kirkland, Isobel Kirkland, Ruby Coates, Rosie Boot, Marianne Hill, Mia Scott, Holly Joseph.

S3- Anna Mackenzie, Rosie Weir, Ellina Dickie, Lilliana Way, Rose O'Rourke, Julia Cathcart, Rosie Buchanan, Tamzin Ralph (c) Francesca Watts, Eleanor Stirling (VC)

Open - Emma Younger, Maisie Ferguson (c) , Jaiden Smith, Issy Ashall, Francesca Wise, Amelia Muir, Hannah Harley (VC) Martha Blacklock, Murrin Sinclair, Holly Maslen, Eva Cowley, Isla Anderson, Lili Taylor, Jena Elliot

### **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](mailto:ptanbhs@gmail.com).

### **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](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**

Senior Phase Prelim Block 2 6<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> January

PTA Meeting Tuesday 10th January at 7pm in school

S2 Virtual Parents' Evening – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January\*

\*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Course Choice Information Evening in main hall, NBHS - Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January  
Current S3 parents/carers 6-7pm; Current S4/5 parents/carers 7-8pm

S3 Virtual Parents' Evening – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January

Future NBHS Parent Council meetings –

- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March
- Thursday 25 May

All 7-8:30pm in school.