

Newbattle High School
Newbattle Community Campus
Newbattle Way
Easthouses
Dalkeith
EH22 4SX
Telephone 0131 561 6700
Email newbattle.hs@midlothian.gov.uk
Website www.newbattle.org.uk

**Education, Communities
and Economy**

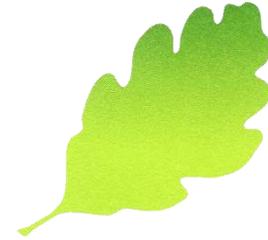


Midlothian

Headteacher
Mr G McMillan

07 August 2020

School Return – August 2020



I hope that you and your family are well and that you have enjoyed the summer break. Newbattle Senior Leadership Team have been working hard at the changing advice in preparation for our return. Please find more detail of our welcomed school return and read through this carefully. It would be very useful to discuss the content of the attached guide with your child so that we all have a full understanding of what our own responsibility for return is. We have tried to condense it as much as possible into our attached “Back to school booklet”.

I am sure that you will appreciate that guidance may change, as could our plans, to ensure a better experience in line with changing Government advice. We will communicate any changes via Groupcall, website, twitter and through our student body as normal. Our phased return has our students and staff wellbeing at the centre of our plan. Midlothian Council will continue sending information too and is on their website.

Collective and Individual Responsibility

Newbattle High School is proud of our student’s positive behaviours and actions before lock down. As a community we must work together to make this return happen successfully. We all have an individual and collective responsibility for keeping each other safe.

Every student is responsible for the return of our school, both in school and within our community, so it is vital that they act and behave in line with all of our previous and new guidance. We all want the school return to be safe and get our lives back to as close to normal as possible. Our actions include when we are in our community. We will work with parents/carers, but ultimately we can not have any student compromise the safe school return.

Timetable and Curriculum

Newbattle are running our timetable as normal with no subjects currently removed. More information will be given on this and certain subject areas. We have where possible reduced class sizes, recruited fully in departments, recruited extra support staff, made arrangements for other partners (e.g Y2K) to help with transition and planned classroom arrangements carefully. A reminder that our return plan is as follows:

- **Monday 10th August - Staff In-service Day – no students**
- **Tuesday 11th August - Staff In-service Day – no students**
- **Wednesday 12th August - All S1 and all Moorfoot House students only**
- **Thursday 13th August - All S1 and all Pentland House students only**
- **Friday 14th August - all S1 and all Lammermuir House students only**

Re-coursing will be available for senior students this week.

- **From Monday 17th August, all students will be back in school full time.**

Guidance

Newbattle High School has followed all Scottish Government, Health, union guidance etc. Our plans have been consulted with stakeholders through June to August. Midlothian Council has also supported all schools by providing guidance to Head Teachers.

Whilst we will endeavour to reduce the risk to students and staff of spreading and contracting Covid-19 as much as possible the effectiveness of the measures we are putting in place are entirely dependent on all members of our school community following the guidelines.

The current advice from the Scottish Government remains consistent that the best way to prevent the spread of the virus is to:

- Wash hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds and avoid touching face
- Practise good respiratory hygiene – coughing/sneezing into crook of elbow and binning tissues
- Adhere to 2m social distancing where possible.

Whilst scientists continue to explore how children are/are not affected by the virus, our approach to keeping everyone as safe as possible in the building is to assume we all have the same risk. We have staff and students with underlying health conditions who will be in school and therefore there is an even greater need for pupils and staff to strictly follow these guidelines:

- Wash hands immediately before leaving the house
- If walking to school with friends stay 2m apart
- Do not go to shops on the way to school
- If travelling by public transport follow Government Guidelines regarding masks and hand sanitiser
- Arrive at school at the allocated time, no earlier or later
- Sanitise hands on entering the building Keep left in corridors and stairs and walk in single file, 2m apart
- Maintain 2m social distance from all staff at all times
- Maintain 2m social distance from other pupils where possible
- Outdoor jackets stored in locker or school bag
- Bring own equipment for writing/jotters provided etc.
- No school bags on tables or chairs
- Practise good hygiene – respiratory and hand washing – washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, coughing/sneezing into crook of elbow and binning tissues.
- Avoid touching face.
- Wipe down desk before and after use.
- If using toilet maintain 2m social distancing whilst using and wash hands.
- Return to class immediately
- Avoid touching surfaces/objects/handles unnecessarily – classroom doors will remain open at all times
- Demonstrate positive behaviour and follow all instructions to minimise need to be removed from class
- Alert a member of staff immediately if feeling unwell and suspect they have developed symptoms of Covid-19
- Stay at home if displaying symptoms or are isolating due to a member of household displaying symptoms as per Government Guidelines
- Organise a test immediately if displaying symptoms as per Government Guidelines
- Leave school and return home straight away at the end of day – wash hands immediately on returning home. Students cannot remain on school grounds.
- To keep uniform as clean as possible change clothes straight away once home and regularly wash clothes
- Pupils should bring water bottles filled from home as water fountains will not be available – please note only water is allowed in classrooms (with the exception of science labs in which no water bottles are permitted)

We appreciate this is a very large amount of information to share in one go, however we feel it is important to keep you up to date as and when we have information available. There may of course be changes to the advice we are given and we will react accordingly.

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back next week! We have missed our school and are very much looking forward to welcoming all of our students back safely where we will see our values in action once more as a community. #AIMHIGHER.

Newbattle Senior Leadership Team

