



Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your continued support this year.

### Happy New Year

2021 has already started in a very strange way. Newbattle operated as a Hub and delivered the opportunity for learning well during last Spring's lockdown. We plan on doing the same now for our community.

### Communication

We will continue to communicate to you through Groupcall email/text, facebook, twitter and our website. We will send you information timely and as appropriate when we have it. If situations or announcements move quickly we will gather the facts first for example from the UK government, Scottish Government, Midlothian, Education Scotland, SQA etc before rushing to send something. That way you are not dealing with daily communications (sometimes multiple) from our school.

### Hub

We are open as a Hub to only those who are Key Worker Category 1 or 2 status. This must include your partner (if you have one) delivering essential frontline services of impact. Other childcare available must be arranged and utilised first since the Hub is only critical childcare. We must limit human interaction as described by the government.

Hub arrangements in school are as follows if given a place:

- if your place is not required for any reason (other critical childcare available, work changed etc) then let us know immediately
- pupils will follow the enhanced hygiene procedures e.g. wear a surgical mask at all times in the building, hand sanitise etc
- pupils will stay in the building/school playground supervised by staff from 8:30am-3:30pm (1pm on a Friday)
- pupils will social distance at all times
- pupils will be given a space and computer to complete their online learning
- Lunch will be provided

There is no direct teaching in the Hub and pupils will be expected to complete the online learning with supervision like at home.

### Devices

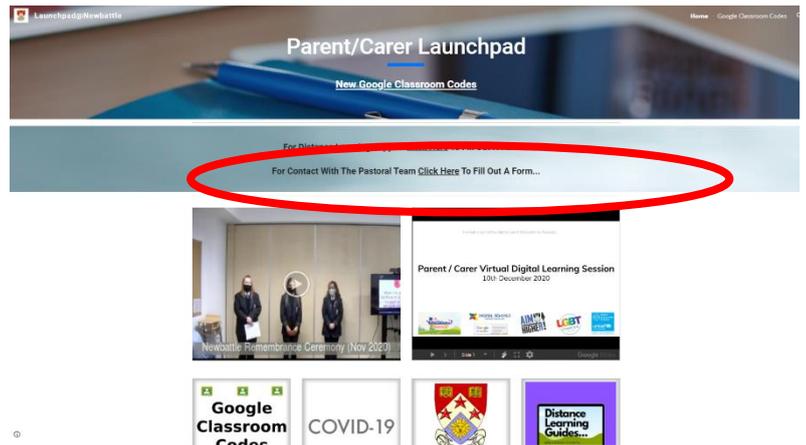
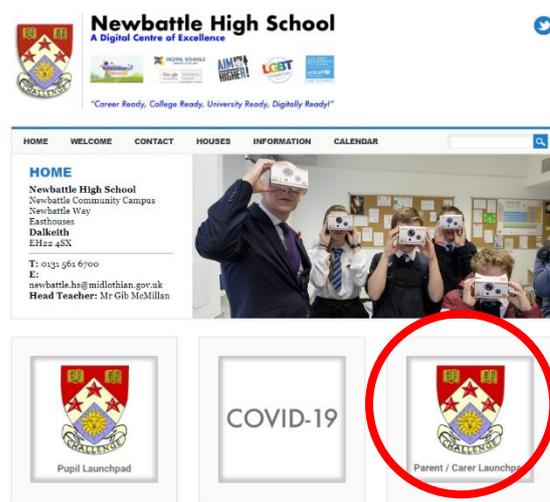
Newbattle staff have worked hard to ensure all learners who require a device for learning have one. We continue to offer devices to those needing one. You can apply for one by emailing [newbattle.hs@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:newbattle.hs@midlothian.gov.uk) or [digital.learning@mgfl.net](mailto:digital.learning@mgfl.net).

### SQA

We are currently awaiting further guidance from the SQA regarding N5, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications, however staff are continuing to gather evidence for all SQA while we are working remotely. Formal assessments that were scheduled for January are currently paused and we will provide an update on when these will take place once we have been provided with more information. We are continuing to ensure that assessment material is meeting the required standard by working remotely with other staff across the Authority during planned moderation events.

## WellBeing Support

Student supports continue. If any student wishes to speak to someone in school from their House team, then please make contact via the google classroom. Parent/carers can also do this via the contact form on our website in the parent/carer Launchpad.



and we can provide a list of other agencies/partners who can also help at this stressful time.

## School Support

With only core Hub staff allowed in the building, school can be contacted through our email [newbattle.hs@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:newbattle.hs@midlothian.gov.uk) or [attendance.newbattle@mgfl.net](mailto:attendance.newbattle@mgfl.net).

We understand the pressures and strains remote learning can produce so please use any school support necessary. Pastoral team members are still here to speak to any student wishing to do so.

Thank you for your kind words emailed and patience in this situation. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back as soon as we possibly can.

Newbattle Senior Leadership Team  
#AIMHIGHER

## Attendance

A number of studies have provided evidence of a link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement. Consider the following;

100% attendance	0 days missed	Excellent	Gives you child the best chance of success and gets them off to a flying start
95% attendance	9 days of Absence 1 week and 4 days of learning missed	Satisfactory	
90% attendance	19 days of Absence 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed	Poor	Less chance of success. Makes it harder to progress
85% attendance	27 days of Absence 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed <b>Almost half a term missed</b>	Very poor	Serious implications on learning and progress
80% attendance	36 days of Absence 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed <b>Half a term missed</b>	Unacceptable	
75% attendance	45 days of Absence 9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed Half a term missed <b>Almost a whole term missed</b>	Unacceptable	

If your child has 90% attendance they will have the equivalent of;

- ½ a day off per week
- 19 days off per year
- 247 days off over their school career of 13 academic years. This is equivalent to over 1 year of lost education!

This year we are keeping a closer eye on attendance and timekeeping through our Principal Teachers Monitoring & Tracking, assemblies etc which aims to continue to improve attendance. Please support your child to make the best progress with their learning by discussing these facts with them. If you have concerns about your child's attendance at school contact your child's Pupil Support Leader in the first instance.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Newbattle Leadership Team