

Newbattle High School Headteacher Update

Week Ending 1st October



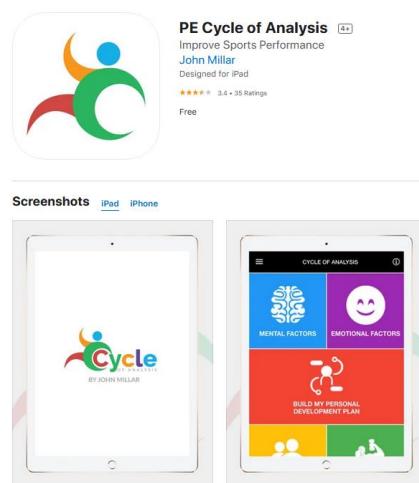
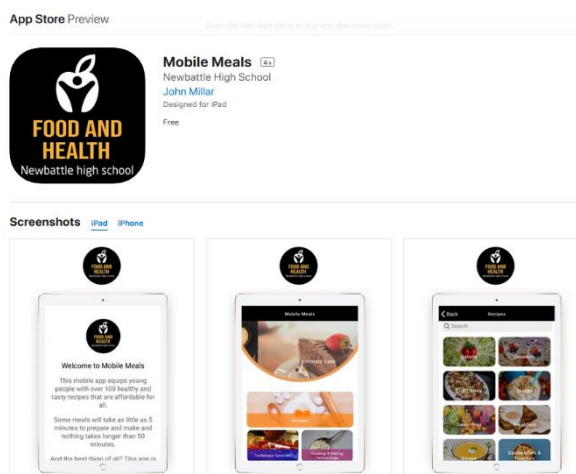
Sports Captains/Young Ambassadors

Congratulations to our two brilliant Sports Captains, Lucy and Ellie. They are great role models for our school.



New Food and Health App

A huge well done to Mr Millar (PT HWB) for creating a new food and health app "mobile meals". It is brilliant with lots of good ideas for quick and easy meals as well as other tips and learning. It is available on apple store and Google Play. <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/mobile-meals/id1578857466>. Mr Millar has already written the Higher PE revision book for Scottish schools to use and also created the PE Cycle of Analysis app used widely across Scottish schools (<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/pe-cycle-of-analysis/id1523272492>).



School Meals

The school is continuing to work closely with the council around when the opening of our schools meals will restart. The council have said that there is to be an Scottish Government updated COVID guidance coming out before our October break where they will be considering meals.

S1 Out At Break/Lunch from 26th October

Thank you to all of the S1 for their trust and support on this. As a school we look to keep S1 in school until after Christmas at break and lunch. There are a number of reasons for this including for their safety. Staff supervision continues to be in school and onsite. We appreciate the difficulties in sending them to school with a packed lunch. We have decided to allow S1 out at break and lunch to the shops starting from 26th October. This allows them to buy their snack/lunch which may help you. It may also allow them to get a hot meal.

We will monitor this carefully and will call you if they start being late or miss learning. Please speak to you young person about this in advance and thank you for your support on it.

Free School Meal and Clothing Grant

Please find the link to the update on free school meals and clothing grants with application forms. https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/855/school_meals/117/free_school_meals_and_clothing_grants/3

Bus Information From Midlothian School Transport Department

Please remind your young person that all bus travel requires them to present their travel pass for morning and afternoon journeys. Pupils can only travel on the bus if they have a travel pass. Drivers are following the correct procedures. Newbattle always has staff on hand at the end of the day to hand out temporary bus passes, but this should only happen when pupils have genuinely forgotten. We will contact you if pupils repeatedly do not have their bus pass so that we can help. Replacement bus passes cost £10. The form can be collected by your young person at the school reception.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Exam Timetable

The SQA have now published their exam timetable for April/May 2022, it can be found on their website or using the following link: [2022 Exam Timetable \(sqa.org.uk\)](https://www.sqa.org.uk/exam-timetable)

To note, exams start early this year and Newbattle's first exam is on Wednesday 27th April 2022. That's the third day back after our Easter holidays.

Formal Assessments

The Scottish Government announced on 18 August that SQA exams will take place – if safe to do so – in Spring 2022. Recognising the continued disruption to learning and teaching this year, SQA has kept most of the modifications made to course assessments (exams and coursework) in session 2020-21. This means that, in most courses, learners will do less assessment than in a 'normal' year with exams, and more time will be available to focus on learning and teaching.

Nevertheless, in order to provide robust feedback on pupil progress, short, end of unit assessments will take place at regular intervals throughout the session. There will also be two timetabled Formal Assessment diets to provide examination practice and ensure that the assessment burden is reduced for pupils. These will be timetabled for double periods during December and February. Some subjects may choose to conduct their Formal Assessments at a time which is more appropriate for the course coverage out-with these two assessment diets.

In the event of final examinations being cancelled in 2022, this evidence will be used to determine provisional results for pupils. Your child's teachers will keep you informed of assessment plans for their subjects and a Formal Assessment Calendar will be published next week.

Study Support

Throughout the session Study Support Masterclasses are provided after school and throughout holiday periods. Your child should ask their teacher directly about this. There is also a national on-line offer of study support from E-Sgoil. Please use the link below to register:

<https://e-sgoil.com/study-support/>

Tutoring Opportunities

We are currently coordinating offers from Queen Margaret University and two private companies for academic tutoring for senior phase pupils who are preparing for National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications. Your child will receive more information from class teachers regarding this over the next few weeks.

S1 Parent/Carer Settling In Meeting, Tuesday 5th October

The booking system for S1 parents / carers is now open and communication about this has been sent out. The booking system closes on 4th October at 10am. No further bookings can be made after this point.

This is an early **settling in** conversation with homeroom teachers to give an overview of how pupils are progressing generally.

The meeting coincides with a BGE tracking report from subject teachers, and will be followed up with another parents meeting later in the school year.

If anyone has not received the information and link to the booking system please contact the school office.

Charity Week for Cancer Awareness

The school will be running various fundraising events across the week 11th October-15th October. There will be no disruption to learning and teaching or to the timetable. Any small donation will be thankfully received, but only where you can.

Fundraising events will range from:

- All week -
 - Hand in contributions to our office.
 - Loose change days where everyone can hand in their spare change to the office
 - Staff and senior prefects are planning other events

- Tuesday 12th October - Rock band will play the school out. There will be loose change buckets where donations can be made.
- Tuesday 12th October - HE dept are running a MacMillan Coffee Morning
- Wednesday 13th October - HE are running a staff bake off
- Friday 15th October - Full school dress down day. Bring £1 and wear blue (the colour which links our two cancer charities)

The money raised will be split equally between **Teenage Cancer Trust** and **Prostate Scotland**.

Teenage Cancer Trust (<https://www.teenagecancertrust.org/>)

Schools see the brilliant work Teenage Cancer Trust does on a yearly basis within their communities. Unfortunately this is more common across schools than is possibly realised.

Prostate Scotland (<https://www.prostatescotland.org.uk>)

Colin Taylor is the previous Headteacher to me and was here for over 17yrs as well as having acted as Head of Education. He is a very well respected and regarded member of our community. Colin continues to undergo treatment and we wish him and his family well.

I'm sure our school and community will support these fully, where we can, to help these good causes.

School Photographs

If you have already ordered your school photographs, these will be delivered to the school after the October break in one batch.

Cut-off date to hand Photograph order into the school office

Monday 4th October

Cut-off date to order School Photographs online

Tuesday 5th October

Please order now to avoid additional costs which are incurred for late orders after these dates.