

# Newbattle High School

## Headteacher Update



Week Ending 3rd September 2021

It has been another brilliant week where students are settling into their classes. Lessons are well planned and students are focussed.

### Congratulations to our Senior Prefect Team

School Captains		
Beth Aitken (P)	Eilidh Taylor (L)	Ryan O'Connor (M)

Vice Captains				
Mackenzie Crease (P)	Iona Westaby (M)	Heather Ferguson (L)	Eilidh Hamilton (L)	Kaitlyn Frew (P)

House Captains		
Moorfoot	Pentland	Lammermuir
Arran Tulloch	Dylan Tierney	Cian Dickson
Rebecca Fotheringham	Erin Westaby	Jamie Fleming

This week we held our first meeting with our wonderful Senior Prefects. They are an absolute credit to our school and community. We discussed how they can “leave their legacy”. They will have a team planning morning and are invited to most staff meetings to make sure their voices are heard. Please find our senior prefect team here:



They were rated on applications, video presentation (during lockdown) and then interview performance. We also considered their personality and skills for each role. They bring super personal qualities, strong personalities and a

huge number of achievements. Among them are five students who received straight A's at Higher. Adding their achievements together is very impressive...

Captains/Depute Captains:

- 30 Highers (27 at grade A)
- 35 National 5s (30 at grade A)

Full Team:

- 52 Highers (42 at grade A)
- 63 National 5s (42 at grade A)

Senior Prefects will help us in Working Groups, School Improvement, events and also at Inservice days. They will also be using How Good Is Ours Part 2 to help evaluate our school. They have already been a fantastic help with the school photographs and the handing out of bus passes this week.

### School Dux

We are delighted to announce that this year we have three S6 students who have been awarded School Dux. Beth Aitken, Erin Westaby and Iona Westaby were all successful in achieving straight A band 1's in all five of their Higher subjects last session, as well as completing three other additional qualifications each. We are very proud of their achievements and wish them all the best in S6. Well done!



### Attendance

Thank you very much for your support on keeping attendance high. Well done to 1.9 who have the highest attendance in the school at 98.38% together! 6L were close behind.

What we have learned over the last 2 school sessions is that high attendance in class/google classrooms equals much better achievements. Some interesting facts about attendance can be seen at the end of this for example:

- 85% attendance is like missing half a term!

Even with 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!**

We ask that your young person "know their number" for attendance and it is discussed in HomeRoom.

### **S1 Stay on School Site at Break and Lunch**

S1 are to stay on school grounds during break and lunch. We have spoken to S1 classes about this in HomeRoom, PSE class etc.

### **New Staff**

We have worked hard at making sure Newbattle has more than normal staff recognising that this will help our students coming out of 2 lockdowns. We are delighted to have appointed brilliant staff and you can see who is new to Newbattle on the attached document.

### **Flu Vaccinations**

Flu vaccinations for pupils and staff will take place on 12 October 2021. Consent forms have been handed out to pupils this week. If your child did not receive this in class due to absence it will be posted out to the home address, or spares can be collected from the school office upon their return. Completed forms should be returned to pupil reception as soon as possible and no later than **10th September 2021** so the vaccines can be ordered in by the NHS. No consent on the day will be allowed.

### **S2 Parent / Carer Meetings**

The booking system for S2 parents / carers is now open and communication about this was sent out on Tuesday.

This is an early **settling in** conversation in response to us being unable to meet with S1 parents/carers meeting at the scheduled time last year and through parental/carers consultation.

Subject teachers will not have seen classes very often yet and so the short 3 - 4 minute meeting on Thursday (9th) is to update parents / carers on progress so far and any specific highlights or next steps going forward.

This meeting will be followed up as usual with tracking reports and another parents meeting later in the year. If anyone has not received the information and link to the booking system please contact the school office.

### **Parent Council**

A Reminder that our first Parent Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday 15th September, virtually on zoom. Anyone wishing to attend, please email the school mailbox with your name, along with your child's name and homeroom class.

### **Lateral Flow Testing**

With rising numbers of Covid across the country, we would urge all pupils to continue to test twice weekly at home. Pupils have been advised that testing should take place on Sunday evening/Monday morning and Wednesday evening/Thursday morning.

Consent forms and testing kits can be obtained from the Sport & Leisure desk at any time the building is open.

### **Attendance Research**

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	
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			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	
80% attendance	36 days of Absence 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed <b>Half a term missed</b>	Unacceptable	Serious implications on learning and progress

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	
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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, virtual assemblies etc which aims to continue to improve attendance and lateness. 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.