

# Newbattle High School

## Headteacher Update



**Week Ending 15th October**

Thank you very much to all families for your support in return to school this half term. Students have been brilliant! They have been helpful, considerate and really focussed on learning.

### **After October Holidays**

Students return on Tuesday 26th October. It appears that there may be some changes coming after the holidays. If the draft guidance is confirmed by the Scottish Government then we will communicate the changes to you in advance. This may include the bubbles, masks and the opening of the BiteSite.

When things open, then it will be really important to maintain our high standards of school uniform so that we can distinguish between community users and students.

### **Charity Week for Cancer Awareness**

A massive well done to our Senior Prefect for organising a fantastic charity awareness week. We are so proud of the organisation, but also the generosity shown by our communities.

There is still time to donate to our fantastic charity event, using the following 'Go Fund Me' link:

### **[Newbattle HS Charity Week Fundraiser](#)**

**At the last check the page was sitting at £650 not including the funds raised in school! This is amazing!**

**We also have a lot of cash in the office to count from events over the week, so the grand total will be shared after the October break.**

Some photos from this week:





The Rock Band were fantastic playing the whole school out on Monday afternoon.

Tuesday, the Senior Prefects delivered staff with cake boxes from our Home Economics department in a MacMillan Coffee Morning theme.

Wednesday saw our Girls take on the staff in a football match that the pupils won 7-3.....Ouch! Well done Girls! This was also congratulated on by Arsenal Ladies professional football player Jen Beattie (<https://twitter.com/NewbattlePE/status/1448645180291108871>) ! We also had a staff bake off in our Home Economics department.

Friday was our bring £1 and wear blue day - Our prefects were in the BiteSite at break time collecting any donations.

It's been action packed and we've loved every minute!

Previous Head Teacher Colin Taylor also donated a substantial amount to our fundraising - thank you to Colin.

The support has been fantastic - we thank you all very much.

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

#### **Letter from Fiona Robertson - Reopening of School Dining Halls**

Attached is a letter from the Director of Education, Fiona Robertson. The letters mentions that following the October break, planning will commence for school dining halls to reopen.

While we are all eagerly awaiting our BiteSite reopening, there is a lot of planning to do before this can happen. Please look out for further information on dates for this following the October break.

## Flu Vaccinations

The NHS Vaccination team joined us on Tuesday providing vaccines for the whole school and staff. If your child missed their vaccine and you consented, you should have been contacted via email.

Wash ups are being done in the following locations every Saturday throughout October:

- Musselburgh Primary Care Centre
- New Sick Kids Hospital
- East Lothian Community Hospital

Please call 0131 446 4082 to book an appointment.

## Digital Devices

We are delighted to announce that Newbattle S1 pupils will receive their Chromebooks on Thursday 28th October as part of Midlothian's ambitious Equipped for Learning plan. An email has been sent out to parent/carers in relation to the Chromebook devices supplied to all pupils at Newbattle High School as part of Midlothian Council's Equipped for Learning programme.

Parent/carers of S2-S6 pupils will also be required to complete an acknowledgement form as we move to a new system. Information and the form a

### Equipped for Learning Information

<https://bit.ly/efl-parentcarer>

### Parental Acknowledgement Form (must be completed before device deployment).

<https://bit.ly/efl-acceptance>

## Formal Assessments

Please find attached the formal assessment calendar for our senior phase pupils.

This session there will be two timetabled Formal Assessment diets to provide opportunities for pupils to gain examination practice in preparation for the SQA examinations in May 2022 and to generate robust evidence of academic progress. These will be timetabled for double periods during November/December 2021, with a further assessment diet in February/March 2022.

In order for your child to plan ahead and prepare for the first diet of Formal Assessments we have published the November/December assessment calendar below.

Please remember that some subjects will conduct their Formal Assessments at a time which is more appropriate for their course coverage out-with these two assessment diets. More detail of these dates will be provided after the October break.

## Tracking Reports - Information Video

Tracking reports were issued to all pupil last week, to support parents/carers in fully understanding the tracking system an online information session took place in late September. We have made a copy of this session which can be accessed via the Youtube link: <https://youtu.be/e8upEc2ari0> (You may need to copy and paste this link into a new browser). This 20 minute video covers the levels pupils work at in secondary school, our approach to tracking and what to do if you need help in supporting your child's learning.

Please enjoy the half term holiday and we look forward to seeing our students again on Tuesday 26th October.