



Dear Parent/Carer,

My name is Pete Whitehouse and I am one of the Assistant Heads at The Emmbrook School. My main responsibilities include the assessment, recording and reporting of student progress.

Let me start by saying that I have thoroughly enjoyed the return to school. The past 18 months have seen unprecedented disruption to school life. Having students back full time in school has brought with it a welcome sense of normality.

Year 10 is an incredibly important academic year. The first year of Key Stage 4. The step up from Key Stage 3 to GCSE is a big one and the expectation is that students will hit the ground running. Students should now be confident they are on the right courses and be 100% committed to doing the best they can. They should be engaging with their learning both in and out of the classroom as well as taking advantage of any other opportunities that come their way.

There are some key aspects to school life which will be fundamental in ensuring that this year is as successful as it can be.

Attendance is crucial. Being in school, being in tutor time as well as lessons means that work will be up to date and key information received. Attendance demonstrates commitment and resilience and is crucial in underpinning academic success.

Punctuality is also very important. Being in the correct place at the correct time also demonstrates commitment as well as organizational skills, both essential for success.

Clearly, if a student is ill, they must stay at home and get better. Work will always be available for them to complete/catch up once they are fit and well again.

This school year will be characterized by study time (lessons and homework) and various assessment windows. The assessment windows are designed to serve a number of purposes:

- 1) Allow students and teachers to gauge an accurate snap shot of current performance
- 2) Allow for focused analysis as to what is going well and what needs further development
- 3) Develops the students exam and assessment skills ready for 'the real thing'
- 4) Allows subject areas to predict grades

In order for you to understand the assessment window for this year group, I have included the key dates in the table below.

Month	Dates	Assessment name	Results available
Sept	4th Oct	Settling in grade	Late October
March	14th March	In class assessments	Early April
June	27th June	End of year exams - formal – led by exams team	Mid July

All the preparation needed for the assessment windows will be set via Show My HomeWork and resourced via MS TEAMS. I will be writing to you before each assessment window to outline the key features, timings, support etc.

If you have any questions around the assessment schedule for this academic year, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

I wish your child all the very best of luck as they embark on the next exciting step in their educational journey.

Yours faithfully,

P Whitehouse (Assistant Headteacher)