

THE EMMBROOK WAVE

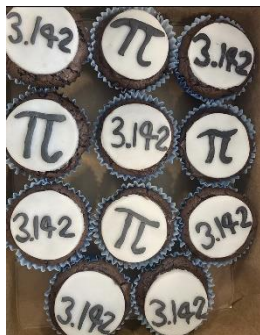


A closer look at Emmbrook and its History!

A warm welcome from Lewis...



Hi Everyone!
I'm **Lewis** and I am the Deputy Head Student attached to Wellbeing. I hope you're all well, and have had a great Half Term!



Firstly, I'd like to say a quick well done to all of year 13 for completing their last set of mocks before the real exams in the summer! And to everyone else

who has been completing exams of course!

Recently, we held the first ever annual, Sixth Form football match as a wellbeing event. We welcomed Year 12 Vs Year 13 to participate in an 11a-side match, which finished 2-3 to Year 13 after 60 minutes. It was a great match, with a great atmosphere, with teachers and members of the Lower School coming to watch as well as many students from the Sixth Form. It wouldn't have been able to take place without the commitment from the **PE department, Mrs Dick** for being the designated first aider on site, **Mr**



Edwards for running the line, **Brooky's Business Club** for setting up stalls and for everyone in attendance on the day. There are many photos



on the Instagram and Facebook courtesy of **Mr Johnson.**

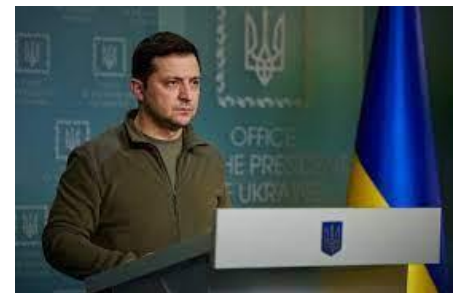
Hopefully we can set up some more wellbeing events in the build up to exams.

This leads onto my message to **Year 11's:** this

has been a crazy time past few years none of us could have expected. At the end of the day, you can only do your best, which is a very cliché meaning but the point still stands.

Please reach out to anyone who can support, everyone knows you have your subject teacher's, **Mr Tichband** is always there and finally us as Sixth Form we're also there to support in any way we can!

Furthermore, reflecting on the last Half Term on 3rd March we had **World Book Day!** We all know reading is very important for keeping the mind busy and remaining at ease.



Whether it's reading, exercise, mediation, socialising,

stressful times and each and every day.

Hope you all



something else or a combination of things, I hope you can find a way to look after your wellbeing during exams,

have a restful break great rest of the year!

Lewis Jones, Y13 Deputy Head Student and Wellbeing Lead



Sally Coyne and her *mountain* of a mission to end Meningitis

Hi everyone!
Tomorrow is yet another fundraising event, this will include a Non-Uniform Day (to pay £1 on Scopay), and a bake sale in

the hall at first break.
The money raised from this event will go towards MRF and you all should have had a video played in form time this week by Sally Coyne to

explain why this cause is so great. Meningitis is an infectious disease that can affect anyone of any age and can often lead to deafness, blindness, brain damage and so many more long-

term effects. MRF "brings together people and expertise to defeat meningitis and septicemia wherever it exists". This is a really good cause so please remember to pay £1 for non-

uniform and bring some cash (ranging 50p to £1.50) for the bake sale.

Hannah, Y13 Deputy Head Student and

Fundraising Lead



In this Edition...

- We take a magnifying glass to **Emmbrook** and its History throughout this edition
- There's everything you need to know about the crisis in **Ukraine**
- A celebration of **International Women's Day**
- **Sally Coyne's Meningitis** campaign supported by our Fundraising Lead, **Hannah**
- **Ramadan** has begun!
- Articles and teacher interviews from the **Wave Journalist Team**
- **Autism Awareness Month** has begun!
- Another appearance from **The Punctuation Show**
- Updates from the **Head, The House Team** and **Lewis** from the **Y13 Leadership Team**
- So much more!

Editors: **Daniel Robson** (Y13 Student Editor) and **Mrs S. Bisset-Garside** (Student Development Coordinator)

Deputy Editors: **Kenisha, Fatma** and **Gabby** (Year 10) and special thanks to **Eve** (Year 12) for her support this Half Term.

No copyright infringement is intended.

Welcome

Hello reader!

Thank you for checking out the 4th Edition of *The Emmbrook Wave*. This Half Term, **The Wave Journalist Team** have been focussed on a theme of Emmbrook and its history and have produced some truly exceptional articles for you to read. We've had the usual puzzles, movie reviews, and manga and art pieces. Many also had fun interviewing teacher around the school from the **Canteen** staff, subject teachers and **Mr McSweeney**.

We also felt it was essential to talk **International Women's day** and about the

Humanitarian Crisis ongoing throughout Ukraine, not only because Emmbrook's flag shares Ukraine's **blue** and **yellow** colours, but because as one big family we must as a school educate ourselves about and support those in need, no matter what.

As someone with Asperger's Syndrome myself it is an absolute pleasure to be responsible for communicating the Half Term's events; be sure to check out everything we covered on **Autism Awareness Month** and why

understanding that not everyone is the same is so important all year around.

We are always welcoming new members! Apply now (all years 7-13) to be part of next Half Term's exciting plans.

Application Form to become a Student Wave Journalist:

<https://forms.office.com/r/vuJcR8wTff>

You can always contact The Wave at thewave@emmbrook.org

WE NEED MORE PEOPLE



Let us know what you think:

<https://forms.office.com/r/iTNtCx5rL5>

Daniel Robson, Year 13 Student Wave Editor

Ramadan has begun!



Ramadan Mubarak!

The blessed month of Ramadan is here and Muslims all over the world will be fasting from dawn to sunset. Ramadan is the 9th month in the Islamic calendar but the exact date of Ramadan changes every year as it follows the lunar calendar.

Ramadan is a time where the Qu'ran was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammed (saw). During the month Muslims do not eat or drink during daylight hours. This year, it is approximately 5am-7.45pm. At dawn, the final meal before the fast begins is called Suhoor, that is usually right before dawn, it is important to try and eat

something that will keep you hydrated and give you energy for the day ahead. When the fast is broken in the evening, this meal is called Iftar. Muslims pray that their fasts are genuine and accepted by Allah (God).

Ramadan is also a time for good deeds, giving to charity, reading the Qur'an and improving prayer habits. Fasting in Ramadan is one of the five pillars

of Islam, as it teaches Muslims to practice self-discipline, sacrifice and empathy for those who are less fortunate, also

encouraging acts of generosity and being kind to others.

The end of Ramadan is based on the sighting of the Eid crescent moon and is a huge celebration called **Eid Al-Fitr**



(1st-2nd May). Mosque's around the world hold special Eid prayers and serve food. The day is often spent with family and friends, eating delicious food, wearing new clothes and gifts too.

The Emmbrook wish you all Ramadan Mubarak!

Farah (Year 12) and Mrs Kisubi (Diversity and Inclusion Lead)

The Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine

Effect of war on Ukraine, Russia and UK:

You will have heard about the Russian conflict in Ukraine on social media or the news. We wanted to reflect on the effects on both sides.

In Ukraine, early data suggests that 90% of the Ukrainian population might be facing poverty as a result of the war. It is estimated 50% of businesses are shut down. Infrastructure, buildings, roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, and other physical assets worth at least \$100 billion has been destroyed. Many Ukrainian civilians also volunteered to fight in

the war, the Ukrainian government started training the civilians to defend their country. There was also an explosion that occurred at a Ukrainian Theatre where 300 civilians were killed.

In Russia, information is limited nevertheless citizens have protested against the war, despite intimidation and threats from the authorities. Many Russians do not want the war and they continue to protest every day. Russia and the United Kingdom have minimal direct commercial ties.

Trade between our two countries is minor in comparison to their respective economies, and Russia is not well linked into the global financial system. However recent events and sanctions imposed by the UK and its allies in response – could have a considerable influence on the UK economy.

Russia provides less than 5% of the UK's gas, with the rest coming from the North Sea and Norway, as well as liquefied natural gas from Qatar and the United States. However, because the rest of Europe is



increasingly reliant on Russian gas, which passes through Ukraine, if its pipelines are cut off, other nations may be forced to scramble for gas, potentially affecting UK supply. As a result of Russia's invasion, UK gas prices increased by more than 30%, while

oil prices surpassed \$100 per barrel for the first time since 2014. Despite the fact that the UK does not buy much oil and gas directly from Russia, it is bound by this pricing.

Fatma (Year 10)

Teacher's thoughts on Ukrainian Crisis:

We have interviewed some teachers about the crisis in Ukraine.

Mrs. Joseph (one of our amazing Math's teachers):
"Extremely traumatic."

Mr. Kalatzis, a computer science teacher, stated:

"It is a humanitarian crisis."

The Year 7 leader and language teacher
Mrs. Hodgson

explained her thoughts:

"It is against human rights and a war crime."

Another teacher said:
"It's terrible, scary and extremely upsetting"

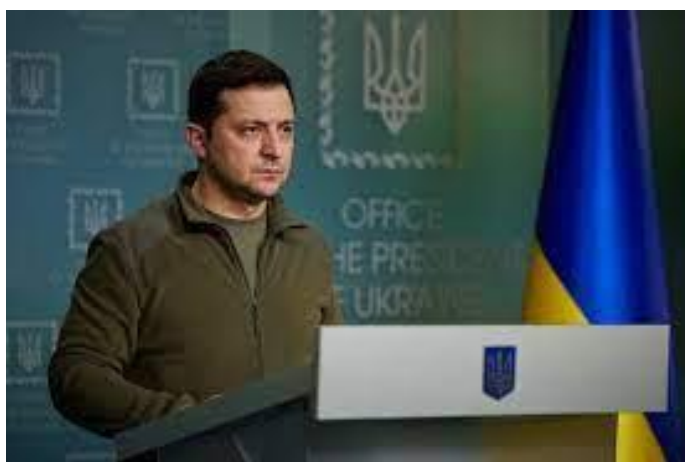
As a School Community/Family we strongly support Ukraine in this time of dire need and humanitarian crisis

Interviewed and Written by:



[humanitarian support to the people of Ukraine](#) [British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal](#)

Everything you need to know about... Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy:



A comedy TV actor, the voice of Paddington Bear in Ukrainian, and now the President of Ukraine. One man has become a symbol of Ukrainian resistance against the Russian invasion, and a globally celebrated figure: Volodymyr Zelenskyy. But who is

he, and why is he so well-known? Zelenskyy was born to Russian speaking Jewish parents in 1978 in what was then Soviet Ukraine. He became well known as an actor and comedian, started his own production company (Kvartal 95) but was most well

known for playing the part of a teacher turned president in the popular TV series (Servant of the People). His company later created a political party of the same name, and Zelenskyy ran for President, with an anti-corruption stance. He was elected President with 73% of the vote. He worked on attempting to end Donbas war with Russian backed separatists, but tensions increased after Russian forces began massing around Ukraine. On February 24th, Russia announced its 'special military

operation' and proceeded to invade Ukraine. There has been fierce Ukrainian resistance, encouraged by their leader. Alongside other Ukrainians, such as the Mayor of Kyiv and his brother, with his courage and persistence, Zelenskyy has garnered the world's admiration. Despite evacuate the attacked Capital City of Kyiv, he refused, saying "The fight is here; I need ammunition, not a ride". He has survived multiple assassination attempts, remaining in Kyiv, supporting and encouraging his

people; continuing to secure foreign support and visiting injured soldiers. His fiery speeches, both on social media and to Governments around the World, have led to comparisons with the British wartime leader Winston Churchill, infamous for his radio broadcasts to the British people during WW2. Zelenskyy has and will continue to inspire the world with his determination and heroism!

By Arthur (Year 8)

An International celebration of Women

On Tuesday 8th March 2022, we as a School celebrated **International Women's day** to recognize and commemorate the achievements and progression women have made and are continuing to make.

From the **Suffrage movement** allowing women to vote, minimizing the gender pay gap significantly, to modern women in positions of

power. Many women have made countless sacrifices to enable us to live in a Society where we feel valued and respected in our gender.

International Women's Day is the time to remember these women and all they fought for, to make their lives and their descendants lives infinitely better.

It has been a lengthy battle for equal rights, one which is by no means finished.

But progression has clearly been made, as seen in the increase of women in positions of power, there is

one woman I would like to draw your attention to:

Zarah Sultana.

Born in 1993 in the West Midlands and brought up in Birmingham, whilst she was growing up in a "predominantly Asian, Pakistani and Muslim" community.

Zarah attended the **University of Birmingham** where she began to get actively involved in politics regarding Palestine, free education, and anti-racism. In late 2019, Zarah was selected as the Labour candidate for Coventry South, and in December

of that year was elected to Parliament.

All at the age of 27!

As of 2019: over **65%** of MPs were men, around **90%** were white, the average age was 51, **93%** were straight, **29%** went to a private school and of the 650 seats in parliament only 18 were held by Muslims.

Zarah Sultana is a woman who challenges so many of these norms and stereotypes, she is a modern woman in power, and she is fighting for her community and so many other critical issues

including trans rights, migrant rights, free school meals and the climate crisis.

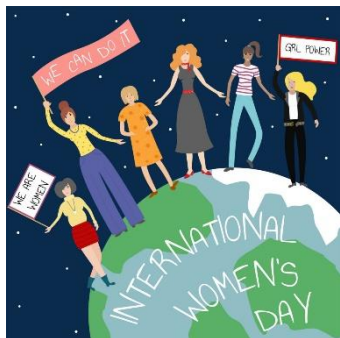
But women in politics are not the only women we should be celebrating. Recently, we had **Mother's Day** on the 27th of March 2022. Mothers are arguably criminally underappreciated. They are one of the most inexhaustible sources of love in the world. They give birth to us, raise us, and teach us so much about living and surviving.

However, mothers come in



all shapes and sizes. Whether you see a mother in a friend, grandparent or simply just someone close to you, make sure they know you appreciate them and that you love them, not just on International Women's Day or Mother's Day, but **every day.**

By Eve, Year 12



Mrs Kisubi's International Women's Day Scavenger Hunt winners:

Congratulations are in order! Well done to the winners:

Year 7: Scarlett, Emily, Angelina, Olivia, Olivia, Anayah

Autism Awareness this April



This month is **Autism Awareness Month**, this is to help spread awareness which is needed for people with autism.

People with autism usually

experience challenges with social skills and interacting with other people, but each person can experience different difficulties. From just getting a haircut, anger management, dealing with

change, eating particular foods, the need for a routine, spatial awareness, many factors of mainstream school and many more different things.

We can help by fundraising, campaigning and considering these factors that they experience daily. Some useful charities and campaigns in the UK are:

The national Autistic society
<https://www.autism.org.uk/>

Autism alliance
<https://www.autism-alliance.org.uk/>

and **Child Autism UK**
<https://www.childautism.org.uk/>

The other thing you can do to help is educate



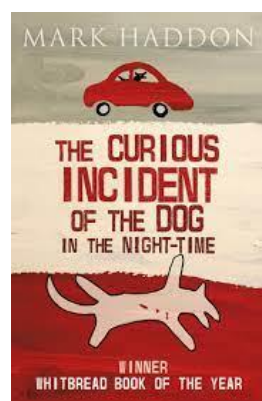
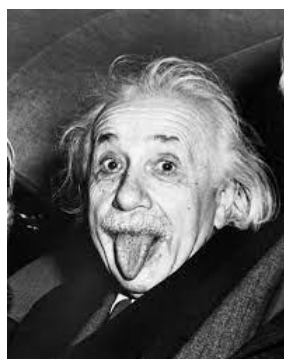
yourself on what Autism is and how it can affect different people.

Autism affects one in one hundred people and there is around 700,000 diagnosed Autistic children

and adults in the UK.

By Ollie, Year 9

Role models and significant figures with Autism:



So what we do to support the ASD community?

To find out a bit about what you can do to support those with ASD and similar conditions and disabilities, we asked a representative from national charity **KIDS** about what they do and how we could support them:



1. What does your organisation do to support young people?

Our Kids service specifically supports disabled young people across Bracknell and Wokingham. We run a playscheme service within Bracknell that allows young people who would otherwise struggle to access 'mainstream' activity clubs or camps in order for them to play, socialise and develop their skills and be adequately supported to do so. There are also weekends away which can be accessed to allow respite time away and exciting activities for young people that otherwise have limited opportunity to go away from their families as other children may do.

Giving disabled children a brighter future

Our short breaks service delivers respite support within the community or family homes in both Bracknell and Wokingham. This allows parents/carers to spend time with siblings of our disabled young people and gives young people opportunities to access the world around them. Our adult's provision under this service gives access to 18-25's to gain independence skills, make friends, access the community and also supports with their transition into adulthood and the changes that come with this, such as moving into supported housing.

2. What are the types of medical conditions that we support?

As a service, we promote inclusivity

and will aim to support young people where we can, even if they have very complex needs. Each

child is assessed for our services to identify their needs and what we could do to support them. We have supported young people with the following for example:

- ASD
- Cerebral Palsy
- Rare genetic conditions
- ADHD
- Mental health difficulties
- Life-limiting illnesses
- Learning difficulties
- Down Syndrome
- Epilepsy
- Promote multiple learning difficulties (PMLD)
- Mobility issues

3. Are any ways for students, staff or parents at Emmbrook to support/ get involved with the activities we run?

Ted Talks on Autism Spectrum Disorder in girls:

<https://youtu.be/QY2ctCuTWPw>

<https://youtu.be/Tbes1mm2VgM>

We always welcome volunteers to support with our service delivery and they could definitely get in touch if they were interested in doing this. We also have sessional roles available for over 18's if anyone wanted to consider paid work for us in their free-time. We could always use more staff available as this is a huge barrier to us taking on further packages of support. The demand for support in Wokingham in particular is growing and we would love to further develop our Wokingham Sitting Service. We unfortunately have to turn families away due to the demand being too high to keep up with and we hate having to do this!

We also always welcome donations of any resources that our young people could benefit from at our independence room or play scheme.

4. What would be your main message to our

pupils about how they can celebrate/ support autism awareness month?

I would like to pass the message on that is so very important to view a person with autism as an individual, not just someone with a disability. They have their own likes, dislikes, skills and challenges just like the rest of us. Whilst people can be diagnosed with ASD, no two cases are ever the same. Get involved with actively learning more about ASD and how it can impact on someone's life.

Visit KIDS's website for more information on their organisation and you can get involved:

<https://www.kids.org.uk>

The Punctuation Show has returned!

Following the success of his performance with **Year 7** last November, **Barrie McDermid** returned with his **Punctuation Show** to educate

and entertain **Year 8**. Here are some comments from those who attended:

"Today we were lucky enough to attend Barrie's

Punctuation Show. It was fantastic! I enjoyed the brackets part which was very entertaining. What I expect I will remember the most is when

he picked a legend and asked him a question. When he got it right, everyone started to cheer
Sami, Year 8

We really enjoyed all the

songs and the sketches. I will remember the brackets and the semicolon song the most!
Harry, Year 8

"I really enjoyed the part where

we had to drumroll and I loved hearing people scream. What I expect I'll remember the most is when Zoraez got cheered on by

the whole audience!"
Charlotte, Year 8

It also provided an opportunity for **Year 5** pupils from **Emmbrook Junior School** to come across and watch. This was a great chance for them to see what

a secondary school looks like!

Once again, we are grateful to the PTA for enabling this event to take place with their generous funding. It was a great way to end the Half Term!

Mr King, MFL teacher

<https://www.thepunctuationshow.com/>



Getting to know the teachers at Emmbrook... By Isabella, Marcus, Summer and Lacey (Year 7)

We thought it would be a great idea to ask some of the staff how they felt about teaching at The Emmbrook:

Mr Edwards:

Mr Edwards has been at The Emmbrook School for 3 years. He previously knew **Mr Tichband** and claims that he is the funniest teacher in the school! He decided to join Emmbrook as it has a fantastic family feeling. Mr Edwards says that he makes new memories each day with his students and looks forward to the exciting future!



Mr Crane:

When we talked to **Mr Crane**, he told us he liked becoming a part of the

Emmbrook family. We learnt that Sir has only been here for two years, one of which he was training. Also, two days before he started at The Emmbrook his daughter was born. He already knew **Mrs Bishop** who teaches Maths here and felt excited to start. Before becoming a teacher, we found out that Mr Crane was a Graphic Designer. "Finally, who is the funniest DT/Art teacher?" we asked, he then replied with "Apart from myself, **Miss Ridgers** is 100% the funniest".

Miss Matthews:

When we talked to **Miss Matthews**, she told us she has worked here for 8 years and when she joined the

school, she did not know anyone because she trained in **Cardiff**. She said she wishes she could control the weather she said, "I wish I could control the weather so it can rain at night and be sunny from 8-4". She says the funniest PE teacher is **Mr Tichband** because of the funny things he does.

Mrs Joseph:

When we talked to **Mrs Joseph** she said that she had worked here for 3 years and when she started it felt like a family because everyone accepted her for being part of a different culture and being from a different Country. She said the funniest maths teacher is **Miss Cairns**. One thing she would change about the School is all the extra bits

teachers have to do apart from teaching!

Mrs Gale

Our **new librarian**, she told us about the fantastic new library that is coming soon! She told us about the eight hundred new books, the new library software and the future clubs and competitions. For those of you that like books and leadership roles, volunteers will be needed to help keep the new and improved library in order. A new App is being created for the Library and will give the students the responsibility to keep a record of the books you take out and when you must bring them back, which is two weeks from when took them out!

Mr Johnson: a peek into the past... By Kenisha (Year 10)

Economics and Business teacher, **Mr Johnson**, attended **The Emmbrook School** as a student, leaving in 2001.

Now he answers some questions on how the school has changed throughout his time here. Mr. Johnson recalls the rules being very similar although he doesn't remember having

equipment checks during form time! He says a tremendous change was the increased use of technology - "there was only one laptop in use when I left".

Apart from some difference in the classrooms, most of the staff had remained the same as well as the ethos of the school.

He says his favorite teacher

was **Mr Burrows** who used to be a postal worker taught him Business and Economics. The reason for this being he, "told us lots of funny stories". Those who have been taught by Mr. Johnson might say he took after his old teacher. "The students - they are the best part of the school, I get surprised every day by how great they are and how

much work they put in.", he says, "Those cookies are good as well."

Although the most heart-warming story might just be of him and his wife (pictured above as students).

When he was in **Year 13** of **Sixth Form**, he started talking to a girl in **Year 12**; a few years later he proposed at the same spot.



Now he says, "I get to look at the spot where we first spoke and got engaged every day".

How adorable is that!

Interviewed and written by:

Kenisha, Year 10

What is there to know about Mr McSweeney?

Mr McSweeney is coming up on his third year of being head teacher. He was in 2019, during the May half term, but he's been at **Emmbrook** for far longer – 17 years teaching here!

'I've always wanted to be a teacher,' he said, when asked whether he's ever had another career. He explained that he'd always loved his subject, Business and Economics, and teaching was the only profession he'd really consider.

Mr McSweeney says his favourite part of being Head Teacher is the people he gets to work with, the sense of community and family created within the school, and the space there is here to be

individual. *'You don't always get that at other schools,'* he said.

Many long-standing teachers still work at school, several having come here as students. He says they have helped to preserve the feel of The Emmbrook, which can be very different from the character of other schools – a contrast particularly felt by students who have joined partway through.

In his 17 years of being at Emmbrook, he's seen many changes, including new buildings added (English and Maths blocks), and the school's standards fluctuate. He believes that, right now, we're improving, and he plans to keep

this up by keeping aims within the school more consistent.

He found it difficult to name a single fondest memory of working at school, having lived through so many highlights. He did say, however, that amongst his favourite moments are the **Sixth Form Fundraising weeks**, the last days of terms, the final Year 11 assemblies, **Results Days**, and **Sports Days**.

He's excited about the prospects of developing the school site further over the next few years, with plans to create a dining room to couple with the canteen we currently have. He's aiming to bring the standards of the building up to

that of the English and Maths blocks. While he did mention it was too early for any concrete plans, he did say conversations have started about where to put it.

When asked about his journey to becoming Head Teacher, Mr McSweeney admitted he'd never actually intended to become one. After becoming Acting Head in 2018, however, and gaining some experience of the job, he discovered he loved it, and applied for the permanent position.

He said trusting the process and a bit of luck, coupled with hard work, is the best way to go in life if you are unsure of what you want to do when you're

older, based on his story of how he became head.

His message

to those students who have no idea of what they want to do when they leave school is:

'As a rule, always try to keep doors open and do those things that will help you open doors you don't even know exist yet.'

He mentions extra-curricular and in-school activities are always good for developing skills, or even just for finding things that interest you.

'Keep trying, work hard, and have good relationships with those around you,' he says. *'You can never*



know in the future who you may need help from and who may need yours.'

As a final comment, he added:

'Go for it. Even if you don't know what destination you want to end up at, seize the opportunities when you have them.'

Interviewed and written by:

Gabriela, Year 10

Get to know your House Captains...

Hi Jupiter,

Lauren and I wanted to become House Captains because we wanted to get involved with the lower school and produce enjoyable events that everyone can participate in too! My favourite event so far was the orienteering event, it was such a fun challenge and there were so many entries! Lauren's favourite event so far was the Valentine's Day Origami Competition because she was very excited to share this one! To anyone in the Lower School thinking of becoming a House Captain in the future we would say go for it, it is such a great

opportunity for all your creative ideas to be shared and produce amazing competitions for the school, as well as showing leadership and teamwork skills. Summer is just around the corner so get ready for the BEST Competitions to come...

Kayla and Lauren

Hi, Harry and Charlie here, your Mercury House Captains. Charlie: I wanted to be a House Captain as it would be a great opportunity to get into the sport and other activities at Emmbrook. It provided me with the chance to be a role model and leader for

the younger years in the school.

Harry: I wanted to get involved with the House System as it sounded like a really fun role, like Charlie said, it would allow us to get involved with the lower school and be role models for them. We think that's a key aspect of being a part of the Emmbrook Family. Probably our favourite moment of the year has been seeing everyone having a go at the competitions and how competitive Mercury have been. For people thinking about being a House Captain we would say go for it as it's such a good way to gain responsibility, confidence and to

have fun. We're looking forward to all that comes in the future and to see Mercury on top!

Hey everyone, Saturn here! It's all things Emmbrook themed this time round, and we wanted to share our experiences as Captains of Saturn! We wanted these incredibly important roles so we could connect to the School and be as involved in competitions and events as possible. The legacy was one we wanted to continue and develop over our time to the best of our ability. We've had many fantastic moments this year already, but a

favourite one of ours has to be when we judged your '12 Days of Christmas' spin-offs! They were all so inventive and we loved to see the hard work and creativity you put in. We all got a good laugh at the particularly funny ones! We know anyone who takes on the role next year will do an amazing job and to anyone thinking of applying: it can be a hard job, but it is so incredibly rewarding. It brings you closer to the younger years, especially with these new house ambassadors. You get to see achievement in sport, art, and so many other fields that showcase the unique

skills and talents we have across the school. Speaking of talent, we've got loads of exciting competitions coming up, just waiting for you to show off what you can do, so make sure to listen out for them! Congratulations on all your achievements this term, remember to relax and unwind over the holidays, ready to smash the new term

when we all come back! Thanks everyone.
Eve Watson, Paige Hopkins, Miracle Uwannah, Saturn

Being a Captain has been and continues to be a rewarding experience with being able to work with the lower school House Ambassadors on events like the 'Love is Love' Art Competition and how the bake

sales have allowed us to give so much to charities due to the kind generosity of everyone. Being House Captains has allowed us to be able to help the House Ambassadors', visions come to life and embrace the comforting feeling of community that the Emmbrook brings. We love to see you all getting involved and the passion you have

for the School and your Houses. Seeing the talent, skill, and enthusiasm each and every one of you brings to events that we create for all the School to enjoy is so fulfilling and what makes this position so gratifying. We hope you continue to find your passion and enjoyment in these events and pride for your School and House.

Congratulations to all of you raking in those points, we are so proud of each and every one of you and how hard you have been working over this last Half Term and look forward to seeing what you all can do over the next term as you continue to amaze us!
Kai and Bobby, Venus

Staff comments about teaching at Emmbrook...

What is the best thing about teaching at The Emmbrook?

EVERYONE: "The Students"

"Amazing Staff and students", **Mrs Bisset-Garside**

"Working with young people when they put

full effort in and achieve something new", **Mr Maskell**

"To have the opportunity to be with different age stages and backgrounds. I learn more than I teach!", **Ms Duarte**

"The supportive community"

"The people that I work with are like my second family"

"Teaching children a brand new subject and

watching their progress", **Mrs Hodgson**

"The freedom to teach change my teaching to suit the students", **Ms Ridgers**


"Getting to know the students - they are hilarious!" **Miss Matthews**

"The collegial atmosphere within my department"

How would you describe and rate your first day at The Emmbrook:

3. How would you rate your first day at Emmbrook out of 5 (a teacher- or student if applicable)?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

13

Responses



4.62 Average Rating

"Nervous but exciting at the same time", **Mrs Bisset-Garside**

"A whirlwind of excitement, meeting new people and new students", **Mr Johnson**

"It was 31 years ago so very difficult to remember. We had lots of meetings in the Main Hall and then I spent time with my Department and my Year team. I was a

Year 10 tutor" **Mrs Hodgson**

"I remember the MFL teachers made me feel very welcome. Was an INSET day so no students straight away!" **Mrs Gelder**

"Scary - it took me ages to learn my way around and to learn people's names. Everyone was very welcoming and lots of other teachers were in the same boat." **Miss Matthews**

"Very Positive & Happy. The staff are very friendly and welcoming. We have a great Team here at Emmbrook" **Ms New**

What has been your favourite memory of teaching here?

"The China trips are a real highlight" **Mr Johnson**

"Every single day with little achievements. specially when I see a

change in someone's lives" **Ms Duarte**

"There have been so many memories it is hard to pick one. A 6th Form History class

playing a trick on their teacher in their last week almost causing him to faint was funny. a former Head teacher sitting on a exam desk which collapsed in the

Year 11 leavers assembly was hilarious" **Mrs Hodgson**

"The day trips to France and going on the

German Exchange with Mr King" **Mrs Gelder**

"Sports day! The games, tug of war, ice cream van, everything!!!" **Miss Matthews**

What has been the biggest change you've noticed in your time at Emmbrook?

"The facilities - Maths block, English block, astro! It all looks amazing" **Miss Matthews**

"Loss of the vertical house system - it was fantastic to see multiple

year groups working together!" **Mr Johnson**

"The view out of my classroom - now see the amazing new 3G pitch - don't miss the lorries when they were building it, though" **Mrs Gelder**

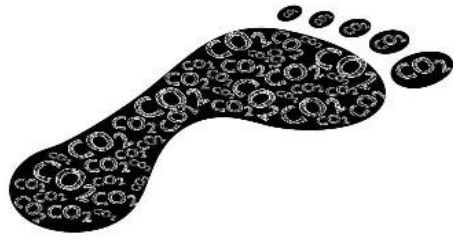
"Inclusion and diverse culture in students" **Ms Joseph**

"Technology. When i first came here we had to draw/write out own worksheets and we printed them off on a

banda machine with carbon copying paper that smelt like lemons. We always ended up with purple dye on our hands and clothes!" **Mrs Hodgson**

"Positive change in behaviour and attitude towards learning" **Ms Dolamore**

Let's Talk Climate, By Tom Year 8



On Saturday 26th March 2022, I attended the first 'Let's Talk Climate' local community action group, at **St Marys Junior School** in Shinfield. This first certified net-zero School in the Borough.

At the beginning of the year, Wokingham launched 'Let's Talk Climate'; a project designed to unite the community around the climate emergency

and to give people a say in influencing how Wokingham and its residents face the Climate change challenge.

I was one of four representatives from across Wokingham, as part of the 12-19 age group, joining with two students from **St Crispin's** and one College student. The aim of the group is to look at

Wokingham's Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP)

and suggest ways



Wokingham could drive this forward. We were asked to form recommendations for the Council to adopt into its Climate Emergency Action Plan and help bring the Borough closer its target of Carbon Neutral by 2030. All of our recommendations will be put to an E-Panel of Wokingham Borough residents via an online survey for ranking, based on importance, urgency and difficulty.

<https://www.byc.org.uk/campaigns/climate-change>

It was through my engagement with **the British Youth Council's Make Your Mark vote** (the largest youth consultation), that I was invited to take part in this local community project to face the challenges at local level for

Wokingham Borough when tackling climate change.

I have been invited to attend a total of three sessions, on three consecutive Saturdays. I am hoping the next two sessions will bring us closer to achieving the ultimate goal of Wokingham being a **carbon Neutral Borough by 2030!**

Did you know?

-Up against all local authorities, 325 in total, **Wokingham was awarded eighth place for its Climate Emergency Action Plan** by Climate Emergency UK.

-See all results at www.councilclimatescorecards.uk

-A Climate Emergency Action Plan includes how well plans in place would affect the impact of climate change locally.

Executive member, for Wokingham resident services, **Councillor**



Gregor Murray said, "*To have our Climate Emergency Action Plan rated in the top ten in the country is a great achievement. And we are putting the plan in action with tree planting, and solar panel investment among other things. We want to hear more from residents on our Let's Talk Climate process.*"

To keep up to date with 'Let's Talk Climate', visit <https://engage.wokingham.gov.uk>

Tom, Year 8

An update on the ongoing tree planting here at Emmbrook:



We're all very excited that the trees we are planning to plant here at **The Emmbrook School** have arrived and have

started to be planted by student volunteers, **The Environment Group** and **The Site Team**.

We have around 100 which are of a variety of species that were recently delivered to us by **The Woodland Trust** for **The Plant a Tree for the Platinum Jubilee program**.

As mentioned in the previous article, **Wokingham Borough Council** has a project to plant

250,000 trees across the Borough, and we have been keen to get involved, especially through our **Environment Prefect Group**.

Mr McSweeney and our **Prefect Team** have been excellent at choosing several planting locations around the school site. There are several plans for planting,

including the possibility where each Tutor Group 'adopts' a tree or two, and we hope as many students will actively support this project by working alongside our amazingly supportive Site Team.

*If you would like to get involved – please see **Mrs Bisset-***

Garside or a member of the **Environment Group** for more information.

Arthur Year 8



The Emmbrook Canteen: By Chloe, Keira and Lauren Year 7



Chloe, Keira and Lauren have been busy interviewing **Sean, the Head Chef of Emmbrook's**

Canteen and here's what they found: The Canteen has five members of staff: **Sean,**

Cathy, Charlene, Annette, Angela as well as **Sixth Formers** work at the tills **(Year 12 talk to Sean if you're**



Innovate

interested)

- Their best sellers are the chocolate chip cookies and the chicken strips and wedges meal.

- Their company **'Innovate'** updates their menu yearly based on what is trending and what they can afford.

- There are plans being discussed about a new dining room at Emmbrook and when this happens they want to serve main meals on plates and expand their serving area.

- **Sean** (Head Chef) has worked at Emmbrook's

canteen for 1 year and 2 weeks and he describes his job as very rewarding working with young people. He has found it a different experience from working in a restaurant which has meant he can spend more time with his own family, as well as **The Emmbrook Family.**

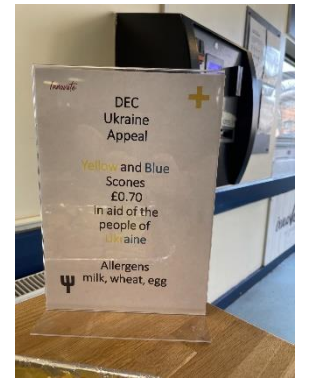
- He says that prices are determined by how many people use the canteen and also the cost of ingredients. They've found that chicken products

have one up by 25% in just the last few months.

There are 5 staff working in the canteen the main chef is Sean and he's been working there for just over a year. The fresh food is delivered daily to the Canteen for the chefs to start their daily shift and prepare their food and tables for the students.

We also found out about the canteen was that they sell tickets to buy Christmas dinners at Christmas.

They recently sold **blue** and **yellow** scones to support the Ukraine appeal.



Chloe, Keira and Lauren

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=a4Uutqvw6UqQB5J93Imfpe--v7XxhLtAqIGGfNItoi1URjVLWEq0SURLUUpQMU5EMTVVWVZIWIRLSi4u>

Elena's Anti-Bullying Workshop

At the start of this half-term, the Anti-Bullying Team carried out an Anti-Bullying Workshop for Year 7. I would like to thank the students from Sixth Form and

Year 11 who helped me with this. We went around each Year 7 tutor group and carried out a survey with a series of questions to discuss different

forms of bullying: Cyberbullying, Sexism, Racism and Discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community. We had great discussions

around bullying, what the different forms of bullying were, their impact and how these different forms of bullying can be tackled. It was lovely to see so

many students engaging in the activities and expressing their opinions on the different topics. The objective for this Anti-Bullying Workshop was to develop

empathy, social awareness and learn about the support available in school.

Elena, Year 13 Anti-Bullying Lead

The works of Paul Cezanne, by Grace Year 7



Paul Cezanne's skilled use of light and dark is on full display in his work titled **The Basket of Apples.**

The artwork was painted in **1895**, this work offers a view of a table that is full of apples that have spilled out of a basket in an almost unreal manner.

Multiple art critics and enthusiasts have noted that the work seems to be purposefully unbalanced as the bottle tilts to the viewer's left while the fruits appear to be near falling from

the table's surface.

Cezanne famously painted scenes that were unbalanced as a means to force the viewer to consider new perspectives of space and composition.

This painting is also one of Cezanne's most rare as it bears his signature—a trait that he did not afford most of his works.

Additionally, I have asked Mr. Crane about his personal likings to specific pieces and artists.

Jean-Michel Basquiat, a favourite artist of his...



Icarus by Henri Matisse, a favourite painting of his...

Grace, Year 7

Brooky's Bizarre Article, By Elliot Year 7

What is JoJo: All-Star Battle R?

So, remember that manga I talked about last time? Well, it's getting a new game soon named JoJo's Bizarre Adventure: All Star Battle R, a remaster of the original All Star Battle fighting game. And, as it hasn't come out yet,

I'll get you up to speed.

What we know:

Like JOJOLANDS before, we know little about it. We only know its name and its changes: ten more characters will be added to its original 40 (or 41 if you count the DLC character Bao from one of Araki's other works). We even know that Tooru (one

of the villains from part 8) will be DLC! We also know two characters from part 5 (Trish Una and Prosciutto) joining the fight along with other characters being able to aid payers in battle. Anyways let's get to predictions!

What there could be next:

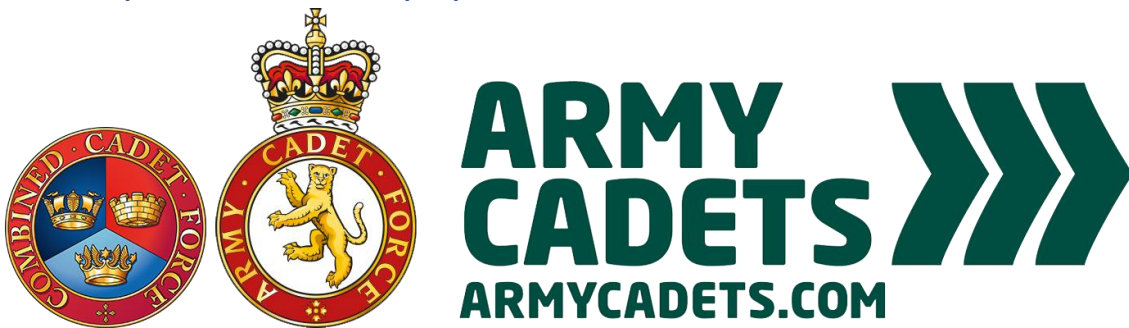
Many have got to predicting characters that will be in the game. Quite a lot of people believe F.F (a character from part 6) will appear in the game as a new level connected to the character will be added. And this is just one of the multiple theories. Once again, a lot of people are saying the exact same thing. JoJo fans think alike, I guess.

For more information on the original game and the topic itself, go to JoJo's Bizarre Encyclopedia:

[https://jojowiki.com/JoJo%27s Bizarre Adventure](https://jojowiki.com/JoJo%27s%20Bizarre%20Adventure)

By Elliot, Year 7

The Army Cadet Force, By Syed Izam-Ali



Have you ever heard about the Army Cadet Force? There are many things to explore!

First, A statement from Cadet OV, from 17Plt Whitley ACF

"There are many courses in the ACF, but here are my personal favourites, in no particular order:
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award: you can do your DofE easily and cheap, because many of the everyday things you do in

Cadets count towards it. For example, doing the monthly PT (physical training) already gets you 25% of the way there!

Fieldcraft:

Fieldcraft is like camping, but an opportunity almost exclusively for Army Cadets. At first, you will be applying camo face paint on your face and moving stealthily in the field, but eventually you'll progress to patrolling areas at night and mock ambushing

other units. It's really good fun!

Adventurous Training:

Adventurous Training is said in the name. You'll get to go to many places for relatively cheap prices. For example, you can go to Germany for a week to do Canyoneering, white water rafting and mountaineering all for £100. You can also go to Canada, Norway, Austria Spain and more!
First Aid:
You can become a St

John's Ambulance qualified first aider, which looks very good on your CV.

Additionally, my fellow Cadet said: "you also get to go on weekends, which is basically you spend a weekend doing things like shooting or like what my fellow Cadet said: Fieldcraft! Being an Army Cadet is awesome if you want to have an Army Career; or if you want to have a good CV. Even if you don't like the

Army; you will LOVE it. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity and I am sure you don't want to miss that!"

The local Detachments near the **Wokingham/Winnersh/Woodley/Arborfield** area are:

11Plt Arborfield (C Company, REME)

6Plt Woodley (C Company, REME)

If anyone lives in **Reading**, your local

detachments are:

8Plt Reading (C Company, REME)

17Plt Whitley (B Company, The Rifles)

If you are into **music** AND the Army Cadets, **The Band Detachment** is at **Brock Barracks on Oxford Road in Reading**. See the local County ACF's website here: [Berkshire ACF](#)

By Syed Izam-Ali



SING 2: A GORGEOUS MUSICAL JOURNEY

Sing 2 is spectacular! The animation is superb as some the heads of the animals and backgrounds look

very realistic! The basic plot is: Mr Moon lies to a musical producer that an old retired musician will return to perform in his show and now must persuade the musician to

return to performing otherwise who knows what will happen to the unlucky Koala. There are a LOT of licensed songs in this movie and the final show at the end is phenomenal! However, there is one problem. The movie is over-crowded. There are a LOT of sub-plots in this film and that means that most of them feel half-baked and aren't given a decent ending. Apart



from that, Sing 2 is amazing!

THE ADAM PROJECT: A MODERN BACK TO THE FUTURE?

The Adam Project is a time

travel film only available on Netflix. It has a lot of big names in it such as Ryan Reynolds and Mark Ruffalo. The basic plot is: A man called Adam goes back in time to save

his wife and stop time travel from ever existing but accidentally meets his younger self! The movie is REALLY funny and gave me lots of laughs and on-top of that, the movie has excellent CGI! The only problem with the film is that the villain is quite boring compared to the rest of the cast, but aside from that, this movie is hilarious and epic.



By Dev, Year 7

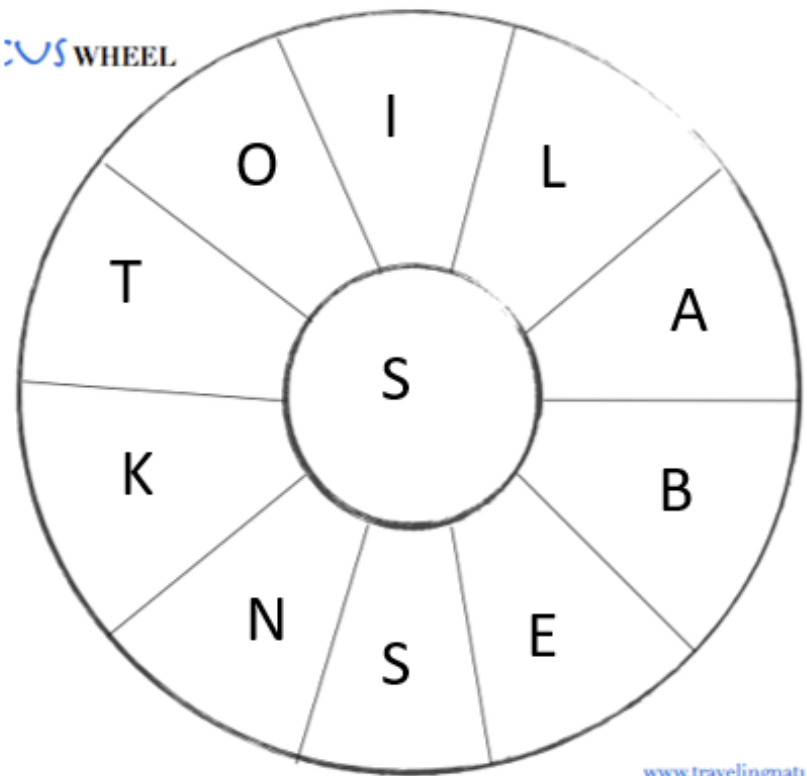
Puzzle Corner, By Tom Year 8

Word Wheel Puzzle

Try to make as many words as you can using the letters (once) in the wheel. However, you must include the letter in the middle in every word you make!



WHEEL



www.travelinmat

Can you solve this conundrum?

T R B I P L A N E

(Hint – Looks good to go through the press)

House Point updates and messages:

Jupiter are on top with 12206 Points! Well done Jupiter!

- 1st Jupiter: 12206**
- 2nd Saturn: 12072**
- 3rd Venus: 11666**
- 4th Mercury: 11528**

Here are some messages from the runners up for this Half Term:

Saturn has had a phenomenal term! All the best champions rise from the ashes - we got off to a rocky start with orienteering, finishing last (but not least!), but from there the only way has been up. Saturn then dominated the podiums in several competitions, including those for LGBTQ+ History month and Valentine's Day, leading us to be in 1st place for points by half term! Jupiter was hot on our tails with only five points between us, but since then, we have increased the lead

over Jupiter by over 300 points, which shows how hard you've all worked as a team. I've been so proud of all your achievements, now keep up the hard work and competitions to bring home the House Cup!! **Miss Donovan**

Venus have been closing the gap since February half term achieving 31,560 house points keeping us juuuust in 3rd place (but only 983 house points behind 1st place)! Orienteering was our strongest success this half term with three

out of the top four places coming our way, but students showing off their artistic streak have done equally well getting honourable mentions in the Valentines origami competition and the soon to be released history diorama. Codebreaking is the final competition worth mentioning with Venus getting second place in all categories! With sports, arts, and maths under our belts we're looking good for the final term's possibilities in competitions like binary numbers and a

geographical diorama. **Mr McGrath**

Wow, what a talented bunch you are Mercury House! Congratulations to all our competition winners (and entrants) and an especially huge thank you to our fabulous house captains, Harry and Charlie. We have had so many amazing competitions already but my favourite has to be the Halloween Bake Off; the results were stunning, they tasted amazing and even better, we raised £130 for the Wokingham food bank.

Entering a house competition is a great way to boost your points, you get 10 points just for entering and they are really fun to do. If you want to go on the end of year trip but are a bit short on points, just go for it, we have lots of exciting offerings coming up next term, so enter them all and we will see you on that trip!

If you don't want Miss Matthews to beat us, get entering and let's see our points soar!



Head Teacher's Address:

The weeks either side of the **Easter holiday** are always some of the most frenetic of the school year, as teachers work closely with students in **Years 11 and 13** to prepare them for their impending summer exams.

For students, what they do over the coming weeks will have the potential to shape the rest of their lives; the better the qualifications they can secure, the more and choices they will have and, therefore, opportunities that they can seize.

For teachers, this time of year requires a delicate balancing act, keeping a strong focus on preparing their exam classes while also ensuring that students in other years receive the support they need and deserve.

For those students about to sit their exams these efforts will all be worthwhile, preparation is the key to success and it will all be worth it once that final exam is sat!

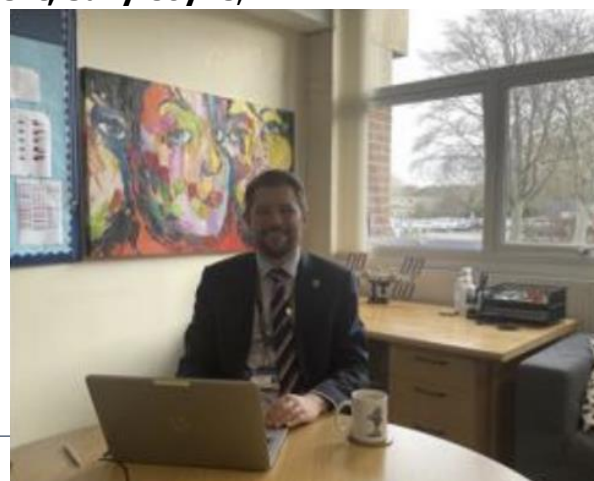
This time of year presents challenges for parents too. Every student is different and you will know your child better than anyone, so there is no single piece of advice that works for all. For many, helping your child to plan and dedicate sufficient time to revision and preparation

will be so important. At the other end, there will be some students who will be pressing themselves so hard that it could become counterproductive. Those students will benefit from balancing their time so that they are not overloaded; stress, anxiety and exhaustion are not conducive to learning. I trust that any parent who would benefit from our support at this time would contact us – the great strength of **The Emmbrook** is that we work together as a **community!**

Alongside all of this activity, school life continues. Today our **Sixth Form Leadership Team**, led by **Hannah Tomkinson (Year 13 DHS for Fundraising)**, are leading fund-raising efforts for the **Meningitis Research Foundation**. This charity was selected after a **former student, Sally Coyne**, contacted us to enlist our support for this cause. We are happy to work with Sally to support such a worthy charity because meningitis can be such a cruel illness.

I know that many of our students will

be looking forward to **Easter** or **Ramadan** over the coming weeks. I hope that everyone is able to enjoy a chance to recharge over the holidays.





Family

We support each other in everything that we do.

Ambition

We are determined to achieve excellence.

Integrity

We are always honest and do the right thing.

Respect

We treat everyone and everything with care.



The
Emmbrook
 School

