



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Headteacher's Weekly Update

It was with great sadness that we shared in the news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II yesterday. Her incredible dedication to this nation is a shining example to us all of the power of duty, compassion and integrity. Our thoughts are with her family and all who are grieving.

We marked this historic day with a special form time where all students reflected on the life and reign of the Queen. We will, over time, create a suitable memorial here at the school. We have invited all students to contribute to an online book of condolence which we will then collate into a physical book. Students can contribute using this [link](#).

We have used all of the display screens around the school to honour the memory of the Queen and I have been touched by stories shared with me by colleagues who have seen our students responding spontaneously with kind words for Her Majesty, religious gestures and even renditions of the national anthem.

Alongside the developments of the last 36 hours, the start of term has been busy and productive. The new Year 7 have settled really well and there has been a good atmosphere in school.

We were very pleased with this summer's GCSE and A-level results, with our students securing results above the national average performance in Years 11 and 13. Given the disruption that these year groups faced the students showed remarkable resilience and maturity.

## Year 10 and 11 Parent Information Evening

Parents in Years 10 and 11 are invited to attend a briefing information evening on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September**. The talks by key leaders will give an overview of the year so that you can support your child. They will last for around 45 minutes:

- Year 10 parents arrive at 5.50pm for a 6pm start
- Year 11 parents arrive at 6.50pm for a 7pm start

These events are part of our hybrid parental engagement model, which will combine in-person events such as these with online parents' evenings.

## Learning Habits & Key Expectations

We utilised the first day to share key expectations for the new academic year with our students. This included our four new **learning habits**. These habits will strengthen our purposeful learning community, one where all of our students can thrive and flourish.



It is pleasing to report that across the school we have had a fantastic week with hundreds of house points awarded already. I ask that we continue to work together as a collective to reinforce our learning habits in order to highlight their importance. These learning habits not only raise the profile of our core values but also support our students by equipping them with habits that will enable positive learning choices without even thinking, day in and day out.

Our learning habits:

- Wear our uniform correctly – **FAMILY**
- Be fully equipped every day – **AMBITION**
- Arrive on time – **INTEGRITY**
- Be polite at all times – **RESPECT**

We will always support our students and families so please contact your child's Head of Year if you foresee any issues or require any help or assistance with uniform, equipment and school resources.

### Assessment Strategy for 2022-23

Next week Mr Whitehouse will write to the parents of each year group to set out our assessment strategy for the coming year. This will be important information, including the dates of internal assessments.

### New Staff Introductions

While only a small number of colleagues left us at the end of last year, we have recruited a large number of new staff. This is to accommodate the growth in the number of students attending The Emmbrook and the extra opportunities created by the additional funding we receive as a result. I wanted to provide you with a brief introduction to our new colleagues:

Name and Role	Introduction
<b>Mrs Allen</b> Admin Assistant	Has lived in Wokingham for 20 years since leaving university in Reading. She has worked at three local secondary schools, most recently The Bulmershe School. She loves baking and cake decorating, enjoys going to the cinema and walking with friends.
<b>Mrs Attyde</b> Pastoral Support	Has been in Wokingham for 15 years and previously worked in a pastoral role at another secondary school in the Wokingham area. In her spare time, enjoys family time, days out, walking the dog and volunteering. She is also really interested in psychology and history.
<b>Miss Beasley</b> Teacher of Science	Having grown up in Bristol and then studied in Glasgow, Miss Beasley moved to the area to undertake teacher training at the University of Reading. She enjoys walking and is very excited to be teaching physics.
<b>Mr Cross</b> Teacher of Science	Born and raised in Ascot, following a career in retail he moved to Turkey as a missionary and English teacher. Returning to the UK he trained as teacher and taught at Garth Hill College for five years. In his free time he is a fair-weather cyclist and a regular gym visitor. He also has a passion for food and is an active Christian.



<p><b>Mrs Gomez-Santana</b> Teacher of Maths</p>	<p>Originally from the sunny Caribbean island of Trinidad and Tobago, she had worked at Bohunt Wokingham prior to joining us. In her own time, she enjoys crafting and painting and is looking forward to working with the REP club and celebrating the diversity that makes Emmbrook so unique.</p>
<p><b>Ms Holdaway</b> Teacher of RS</p>	<p>Having grown up and trained as a teacher in Wales, when she moved to the area, she joined The Emmbrook as a teaching assistant. We are delighted that she has now moved back into a classroom teacher role. She says that her hobbies include music, Lego and cake!</p>
<p><b>Miss Holmes</b> Teacher of Science</p>	<p>Has joined us from a Derbyshire school, having grown up in Sheffield. She has a love of nature, animals and going to the theatre. Miss Holmes is very excited to move to Wokingham and to meet our students.</p>
<p><b>Mrs Guerreiro</b> Teacher of Art &amp; DT</p>	<p>Originally from Portugal, she is very excited to be joining The Emmbrook. She has a background fashion jewellery design and production and hopes to inspire students in art and design by sharing her passionate so they enjoy learning within the subject.</p>
<p><b>Mrs Lewis</b> Teacher of D&amp;T</p>	<p>Having grown up in Long Beach, California she settled here having married an Englishman. Mrs Lewis has been teaching Food Technology and Design &amp; Technology in various schools for about 8 years. She loves reading, walking, ice skating and teaching and is looking forward to getting to know the staff and students and to help students achieve their potential.</p>
<p><b>Miss Parker</b> Teacher of History</p>	<p>Originally from Oxford, which is where she did her teacher training, and now into her first year of teaching. A big fan of NFL (her team is the Philadelphia Eagles) with a soft spot for anything sci-fi or fantasy. She is looking forward to being part of the Emmbrook family, and teaching some of her favourite parts of history.</p>
<p><b>Mr Puskas</b> Teacher of RS</p>	<p>Grew up in Serbia and has been living in the Wokingham area for 10 years. Mr Puskas is a part-time colleague, splitting his time between us and his work as a chaplain at Newbold College. He loves playing guitar and visiting Swinley Forest.</p>
<p><b>Mr Roberts</b> IT Technician</p>	<p>Moved all over the country while studying for his cyber security degree. He enjoys reading, particularly horror and sci-fi; he is currently reading 'The Institution' by Stephen King, and reads a wide variety of literatures including multiple religious scriptures, 'The Art of War', 'The Lord of the Rings', 'Brief History of Time' and one of my most recent favourites; 'Firefall' by Peter Watts.</p>
<p><b>Mr Simmons</b> Teacher of Geography</p>	<p>From West Sussex he has lived in Reading since 2018. He trained with us and Waingels last year and is delighted to be staying here. He enjoys "anything nerdy" including D&amp;D, gaming, Pokémon and Star Wars. Also, an avid Tottenham Hotspur fan (which I will try not to hold against him).</p>



**Miss E Smith**

Teacher of History

Originally from London, has lived in different parts of the UK and moves to us from teaching at a Southend grammar school. She is an avid fiction read (particularly a good murder mystery) and loves being outside walking or cycling. Miss Smith is now looking forward to getting to know the community and to settle down in our school.

I'm sure the students will be tired after a few days of concentration and so I hope that they all enjoy a restful weekend.

Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**

Headteacher

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