



Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Covid-19 Outbreak in Year 8**

I regret to inform you that Year 8 have now reached the point where 10% of the cohort have tested positive for Covid-19 and, therefore, this is designated as an outbreak. I recognise that this may be a concerning development for many; we want to work with the community and public health specialists to keep everyone as safe as possible.

We are not the first local school to have an outbreak and I met with officers from Wokingham Borough Council today who have briefed me on the next steps. These measures have been tested in other schools and have proven very effective at containing outbreaks.

I am always grateful for the support that we receive from parents and I know that not all headteachers are as lucky as I am in that respect! I hope that you will be able to help keep all members of the community safe by engaging with the measures outlined in this letter.

### **Take a PCR test this weekend**

The Director of Public Health has recommended that I strongly advise all students in Year 8 at The Emmbrook School to book and take a PCR test this weekend. Experience from other schools suggests that 1 in 3 students with Covid-19 are asymptomatic; by testing the whole cohort we will identify asymptomatic individuals which will prevent further transmission.

### **How to book your PCR**

Tests can be booked via this [link](#). For the question "Why are you asking for a test?" please select the option "I've been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional" followed by the first option. In our experience, visiting a test centre (either walk-in or drive through) provides a quicker result than using a postal PCR.

### **Keep your child off school until you have a result**

I request that your child in Year 8 does not return to school until you have received their PCR result. At present results are returning very quickly and if you have secured the test tomorrow it is likely that you will receive the result in time for your child to come to school on Monday. If you do not have the result for Monday then please keep your child at home until the result is received. Work will be set via Teams.

### **What if my child tests positive?**

They should self-isolate in line with national guidance. If they have siblings attending this school or another school the siblings should stay off school and have a PCR test on day 3 (day zero is the day that the positive PCR test was taken or when symptoms began).

### **What if my child tests negative?**

They should return to school the next day.





### Clubs and fixtures paused

With great regret, for the remainder of this half-term Year 8 clubs and sporting fixtures will be paused.

### Free school meals

If your child receives free school meals and cannot attend school on Monday awaiting their test result please contact us (using the email below).

### Communicating with us

Please use [covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk) for all Covid-related communications. This includes:

- Notifying us of a positive PCR or LFT result.
- Notifying us of non-attendance Monday while awaiting the result from your child's PCR.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions or queries about this then please direct them to the email address above.

Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**

Headteacher

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