



Friday 3rd March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Weekly Update

March 1st was national offer day when families learned if they had secured their place with us for this September. I was delighted by the news that we had nearly 900 families choose The Emmbrook (the second highest in Wokingham Borough) and for the third year running we will welcome a new Year 7 of 240 students (with a long waiting list).

National Strike Action by the NEU

Thank you for your support of our response to the national strike action by members of the NEU yesterday. Colleagues who took the decision to strike did so to support their union's campaign to ensure that the education system delivers for children and young people in the long-term. Schools currently face a national teacher recruitment crisis and I welcome any reforms that would make it easier for me to recruit more staff of the high calibre that your children deserve. Given that we will be growing again in September, we are already recruiting additional teachers and it is almost a full-time job in itself!

There are two further dates for strike action (Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March) at present. I will update you with our provision for those two days in my next weekly letter. There is the possibility that further dates will be announced in the future.

Year 11 Exams Completed

Year 11 have had a challenging two weeks of internal exams and, speaking with many of them, I know that they are feeling the strain of those! These exams will be so useful in preparing for the real ones this summer. Year 11 teachers will be continuing to mark papers and provide feedback so that the students know how to improve. Please email the Year 11 team if you ever need any advice or support:

- Miss Horne (ehorne@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk), Head of Year 11.
- Mrs Panesar (lpansar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk), Assistant Headteacher, can assist with academic enquiries, with a particular focus on English, Maths and Science.
- Mrs Guinn (sguinn@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk), can support with mental health and wellbeing. Please contact us if you are concerned about pressure building up.

Year 13 Exam Next Week

Year 13 will now start their preparatory exams. While we expect Year 13 to be more independent than Year 11, if you would like any subject specific advice to support your child them please email subject teachers directly. You can also contact Mr Constable, Head of Sixth Form (dconstable@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk) or Mr Whitehouse, Assistant Headteacher responsible for Sixth Form (pwhitehouse@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk).



PTA Update

My sincere thanks to all who supported the PTA's presence at the Wokingham Half Marathon on Sunday. A reminder that the **PTA Quiz Night** will take place at 7.30pm on Saturday 18th March in the hall. Tickets are £5 an adult and £2.50 per child for teams of up to 8. Tickets can be purchased via this [link](#).

WBC Transport Plan

WBC have asked us to share that they're updating their Local Transport Plan, an official document guiding how they make all kinds of improvements to footways, cycle lanes, roads and other transport networks. You can contribute to the consultation using this [link](#).

Free Football Session for Girls

GPA World have asked us to share that they will be offering free football sessions for girls every Wednesday at 4pm to 5pm at Cantley Park. For more details please contact John at gpaworld@hotmail.com or on 07307130736.

We are aware of a number of students misusing their school email account. Their conduct was unacceptable and appropriate sanctions will be applied. I apologise for any upset caused.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

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