



Friday 30th June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Weekly Update

This week has seen farewells and new beginnings. On Monday, we had the Year 13 Leavers' Day and prom – it was a brilliant day! A couple of well-meaning pranks set the tone, with the highlight being the conversion of M1.5 into The Sally Arms, a pop-up pub for Mrs Gelder's convenience (you will be pleased to know that there were no alcoholic beverages available). The party in the evening was fantastic and once all the student and teacher prizes were handed out, us teachers tactfully withdrew at 10pm to allow the students to celebrate as young adults will!

On Wednesday, we welcomed the new Year 7 students here for their transition day, followed by the parents that evening. It was a hugely successful day and I'm confident that our largest ever Year 7 intake will be a great addition to The Emmbrook Family.

And finally, on Thursday we welcomed the new Year 12 students for their Sixth Form taster day. The transition to Sixth Form is significant and I'm so pleased that so many students were able to attend and have such a positive experience. We look forward to seeing our Year 11s one last time for their Leavers' Day and prom on Monday 17th July.

National Teacher Strikes – 5th & 7th July

A reminder of that we have two strike days next week on July 5th and 7th, with provision as follows:

	Wednesday 5th July	Friday 7th July
Year groups in school as normal	8 & 12	10 & 12
Year groups working at home	7, 9 & 10	7, 8 & 9

On Wednesday 5th we will also **invite specific Year 10 students** into school for exam catch up if they have missed any internal exams during the internal exam week. Parents will receive direct communication about this.

We have prioritised having Year 8 in school on Wednesday because they have a school trip that day and we wanted that to be able to proceed. It therefore made sense to have all of Year 8 in school (either on site or on the trip) that day. Year 10 have been prioritised on the Friday as they are now the most senior examination group in the school. Year 12 can be in school both days as Sixth Formers have different supervision requirements to the lower school.

For the students working at home, we will split the provision as follows:

Wednesday 5th July	Online lessons at home
Friday 7th July	Independent work at home



As with previous strikes we will not know in advance if a teacher is striking. Therefore, on Wednesday students should log on via Teams at the start of each lesson and await a teacher; if no teacher arrives students can complete homework or read. Likewise, on Friday independent work will be set on Teams by teachers not striking, if there is not work set by a teacher then, again, students should complete homework or read.

Summer Concert Postponed to July 12th

A reminder that the strike will make it impossible for the students to rehearse (as many will not be in school) and so we have moved the event to Wednesday 12th July (7pm in the hall).

Summer Uniform Consultation

My thanks for all the responses to the summer uniform survey. I will now take some time to consider the results.

PTA Pre-loved Uniform Sale

The PTA will be holding a pre-loved sale on Sunday 9th July from 10am until midday, situated at the front of school. If you have any uniform you would like to donate please either drop to Main Reception or email the PTA at pta@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk.

Sports Day – Monday 10th July

Advanced notice that Sports Day will be held on Monday 10th July (fingers crossed for good weather). Students will need to come to school in PE kit. There will be stalls and an ice cream van so they should also bring some money if they would like to make purchases on the day.

Primary Transition for 2024

Mr Johnson and I have spent the last few weeks visiting many of our largest primary feeder schools to talk with the Year 5 students about life in secondary school.

End of Term – 12.20pm on Thursday 20th July

While still a way off, please be aware that the final day of the academic year is Thursday 20th July and we will, as always, finish at 12.20pm. All school transport buses will be rearranged for this time, however, all other students (e.g. walk, cycle, car, public transport) will need to make their own arrangements to return home.

Well done to Year 10 for their excellent conduct and focus during their exam week. They have their final exams Monday and Tuesday and we have then completed all of the examinations for the academic year!

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

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