



Friday 23rd June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Weekly Update

The public exam season has finished for another year! The students in Years 11 and 13 were exemplary and should be really proud of how they conducted themselves throughout. More than anything else that schools do, public exams are a total true team effort; every member of staff, the students and parents, working together to secure the best possible outcomes.

Year 12 also completed their internal exams this week and next is the turn of Year 10. If you need any support with the Year 10 exam then please contact Miss Cairns, Head of Year 10 (rcairns@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk) or the subject teacher directly.

National Teacher Strikes – 5th & 7th July

As widely reported, members of the NEU will take 2 days of strike action in July. Based on our experience with previous strikes this will severely limit the number of students that we can safely supervise. We will therefore offer the following provision on July 5th and 7th:

	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 have now trialled both online lessons and setting work and I have received feedback preferring both methods (with some preferring the structure that online lessons provide, while others prefer the flexibility of work without the need to find multiple devices for siblings). Therefore, 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.



All major teaching unions are currently balloting members on further strike action so it is possible we will continue to experience strike action in the Autumn Term. If all of the unions were to coordinate any action, that could result in full school closure. I will keep you all informed.

Summer Concert Postponed to July 12th

While we don't generally like to move calendar events that happen to fall on a strike day, the strike will make it impossible for the students to rehearse (as many will not be in school) and so we must, regretfully, move the event.

The summer concert will now take place at 7pm on Wednesday 12th July:

- Any tickets already purchased via Scopay will be valid for the new date. Refunds will be given to anyone who cannot attend on the new date; please email Mrs Wellman immediately if this is the case.
- Permission slips (already handed in to Mrs Wellman) will be valid for the new date. Please inform her ASAP if attendance is no longer possible due to this change of date.
- Tickets can still be purchased via Scopay: Adult – £6, Child/Concession – £3.
- The deadline for returning student permission slips was today, so if still outstanding, please return to Mrs Wellman on Monday as a matter of urgency.

Summer Uniform Consultation

While it has, on average, been a few degrees cooler this week than last, it remains warm. Next week is forecast to be cooler still (my preferred forecasting service is currently showing highs of just 21° by the end of the week). With climate scientists suggesting that we must be prepared for more extreme weather events (which will include heatwaves), I would like your views on options for potential summer uniforms. I'd appreciate you taking 2 minutes to complete this [survey](#). The survey will close on Thursday 29th June.

Sickness Bugs on the Rise

We have seen an increase in students being sick at school. A reminder please that your child must be kept off school for 48 hours after vomiting to help reduce transmission.

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.

It has been fantastic to have had so many Year 5 students from across the Borough attending our after-school master classes over the last few weeks. I am grateful that so many staff have given up their time to lead these. Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk

