



Friday 10th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Weekly Update

We have completed our first full week of the year and I've been delighted by the conduct of the students. The new Year 7 students have made an incredibly positive start and we can all be very proud of them. We have now concluded the in-school testing – the students were brilliant throughout! I am incredibly grateful to the small army of volunteers who staffed this, we could not have got through it without their generosity.

Covid-19

Testing over the last week did identify positive cases of Covid-19 amongst the students so it is important that we continue with home testing. Students have been issued with kits and we recommend testing Sunday/Monday and Wednesday/Thursday. Please remember to report your results to the NHS [here](#) (and ensure that you inform us of a positive result).

If your child has Covid-19 symptoms or returns a positive LFT result then please **do not send them to school** and seek a PCR test.

Under the new guidelines, if your child is identified as a close contact of a positive case (by NHS Test and Trace, schools no longer do this) then they are advised to seek a PCR test. They may continue to attend school pending their PCR result.

Early Closure on Thursday 30th September for Open Evening

We will hold our Open Evening on 30th September and it is traditional that we have a half day to help prepare. Therefore, we will finish at 12.20pm on Thursday 30th. As is always the case, the school buses will not be able to arrive earlier and therefore students who wish to leave at 12.20pm will need to make alternative arrangements on that day.

If you would like your child to remain on-site and be supervised then please notify Jane Rimmer (jrimmer@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk) by 12pm on Monday 20th September. Any students staying on-site will be asked to help with preparations for the Open Evening.

The buses will arrive at 2.50pm so students who have been supervised on-site will be able to catch their bus as usual. In the past, some students who have left the site for the afternoon have returned to catch their usual bus home at 2.50pm and that is perfectly fine.

I hope to have as many students as possible return to school for 6pm that evening to help with Open Evening. Our students are the very best ambassadors and I appreciate your support. We have produced a new promotional video which can be watched on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#). I encourage you to share the video with any friends who may have children in the current Years 5 and 6.



Safety on Site

Please do not drive onto the site at the beginning or the end of the school day as excessive traffic alongside the school buses presents a genuine risk to the safety of the students. If your child has special requirements (e.g. currently using crutches) then we will be happy to make arrangements for you to be able to come on site.

Meet the Tutor

Next week you will be able to meet your child's tutor to discuss their start to the year. As I have previously advised, following consultation with parents and staff at the end of last year we will continue to hold parents' evenings online as they appear very popular with the vast majority.

Uniform

We believe a school uniform is a key way of developing a sense of togetherness and cohesion among students and staff. It is a badge of pride and creates an identity for our school. By wearing a school uniform we are preparing our children for the formal scenarios they will encounter throughout their lives. From Monday 13th September we expect all our students to be adhering to our full school uniform policy, which is below:

- Emmbrook School blazer (Year 7-10) & tie are worn (school jumpers may be worn in addition to the blazer).
- Plain white school shirt (top button must be done up and shirts tucked in).
- Plain black school trousers/school skirt at an appropriate length.
- All black footwear must be worn.
- No jeans/denim/tight fitting skirts or leggings.
- No headphones/AirPods/ear buds.

If you are having any difficulty in providing any items of required uniform please do not hesitate to contact us and we will endeavour to help and support where we can.

Year 7

As Year 7 become more practised at using the canteen the speed of service increases. However, we are aware that it has been slow over the past week. We are currently allowing Year 7 to leave lessons a few minutes earlier to help. Please tell your child that they should stay in the queue – we want to ensure that everyone gets fed!

We're all looking forward to a year that feels more like normal. So far, so good! However, the last 18 months have taught us all to be adaptable and so we will just have to wait and see how things develop over the year to come.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney
Headteacher