



Information for Parents 2023/24

The
Emmbrook
School





Welcome to The Emmbrook School

I am excited and proud to have the opportunity to introduce our successful and caring school.

We are both ambitious for every student and conscious that success is different for each individual. Our mission is to provide all of the young people in our care with high quality learning and exciting experiences. Academic success is crucial, which is why our dedicated and skilled staff work in partnership with students and parents to provide a personalised learning journey for all. Every bit as important as securing high quality qualifications is developing the character and resilience that will stay with our students for life – I am inspired by the achievements of Emmbrook students.

I cherish what is special about this community: our ethos, traditions and pursuit of excellence that have made our students flourish for nearly 60 years. Crucially, I know how to sustain the rapid improvements we have enjoyed, so that The Emmbrook is the truly exceptional school that our students deserve.

As a father, I have always had two rules for my own children: to be kind and try hard. These principles guide my leadership of The Emmbrook. Our FAIR values (Family, Ambition, Integrity and Respect) form the backbone of our community and they are summed up well via our motto 'learning together, succeeding together' – highlighting that excellence is achieved through cooperation. These values permeate all aspects of our community.

The number of preferences for The Emmbrook has risen for each of the last 6 years. I am humbled by our growing popularity which, last year, saw us receive the second highest number of parental preferences in the Borough. With over 700 preferences for our 240 places (and with waiting lists) I would recommend you select The Emmbrook as your first choice school if you want to secure a place here.

I believe that this is a very exciting time. We are a happy, warm, caring school, engaged in a never ending pursuit of academic excellence. We maintain high standards of personal conduct and offer a broad and rich curriculum. Equally important, in the ever changing arena that is education in the 21st century, we will continue to evolve and grow, ensuring that our students are equipped for the opportunities and challenges that await. We would be privileged to share that journey with you.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. McSweeney'.

Nick McSweeney
Headteacher



Ensuring an Outstanding Transition Experience

Hello to all our Year 6s, parents, carers and families.

The transition team is led by Mr Johnson and Mrs Ridsdale, supported by a range of colleagues from across the school.

For us, transition started last October when we reached out to parents & carers and gave you the plan of events for the year and began the conversations that will enable you to make the right decision.

Since then, the aim has been to allow as many students, parents and carers to come and see us as often as possible. The Year 5 masterclasses gave students a great opportunity to visit the site and meet the teachers. Mr McSweeney and Mr Johnson then went to many primary schools delivering assemblies and Q&A sessions to inform the children about what secondary school is like.

Our tour programme and open evening mean that we give access to the whole site for children and parents to see our values in action and start building the foundations of those relationships.

Once decisions have been made and shared, we hold an early parent's evening to give information on what to expect before the September start. We visit primary schools, gather information and start seeing what we need to do in order to meet the child's needs and ensure they are fully equipped to start at The Emmbrook.

Students attend an induction day in June where they meet their peers and teachers and spend a day on site.

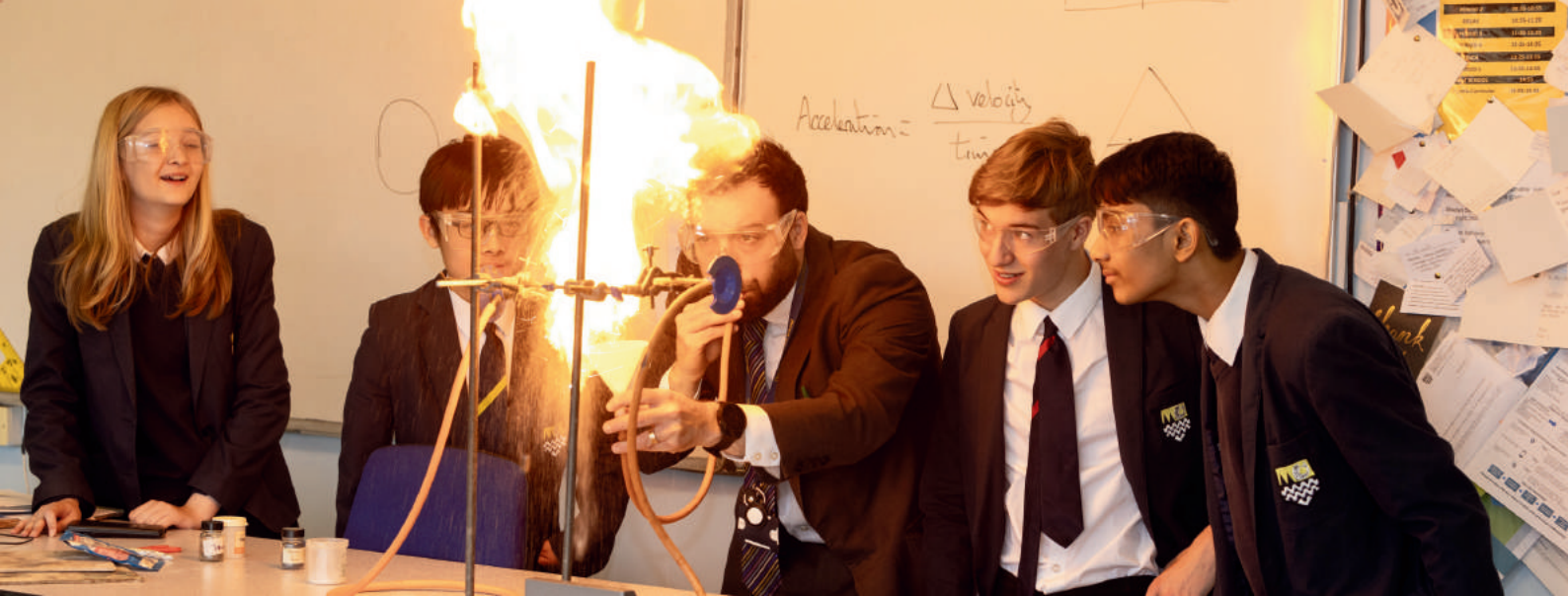
We also run a summer school in August that helps bridge that gap even further and also means we can have a lot of fun!

Our core driver through all of this is to understand the children as much as we can so they feel part of The Emmbrook Family.

We look forward to welcoming your children into The Emmbrook School.

Mr Johnson and Mrs Ridsdale





Our Curriculum

Here at The Emmbrook School, we are committed to providing a curriculum that is broad, balanced, challenging and fosters a love of learning. The curriculum is designed to build on students' prior learning, provide engaging and high quality learning experiences, and promote aspirational performance and progress for all. The Emmbrook curriculum is wide ranging; we seek to promote and develop interpersonal skills, resilience and reflective learners who understand the context of their learning and can transfer knowledge across their subject areas.

To ensure students are able to access learning across the spectrum of subject areas we prioritise securing secondary ready literacy and numeracy levels to support their learning journey. In particular, the school encourages students to read widely and for pleasure. Reading is promoted across each subject area to widen students' knowledge and understanding of key topics and to expose students to complex vocabulary and ideas that must be grasped in order to achieve academic success.

At The Emmbrook, we want to develop students who are not only well prepared with the knowledge and skills they require for their exams but who can also both understand and contribute to a wider cultural framework, preparing them for life beyond a classroom. Integral to our curriculum is the exploration of social, moral and cultural topics – this provides our learners with opportunities to broaden their understanding of the world in which they live and enhance their cultural capital.



SCAN ME





The Pastoral System

The Emmbrook understands the need for a nurturing and supportive environment. Each morning, students will meet with their tutor for registration. Tutors are the first point of contact with the school for students (and parents). They will get to know your child and be a consistent face each day.

Each year has a dedicated year leader, supported by a member of the senior leadership team and a deputy year leader.

Form time provides an opportunity to share messages for the day, complete uniform checks and also offers a chance to delve into the RSE (relationships) and CE (character) Curriculum. The use of form time along with assemblies, guest speakers and the core RS (Religious Studies) lessons in Years 10 & 11 mean that the life skills needed are delivered throughout their time at The Emmbrook.

The pastoral team provide internal and external support where needed including partnerships with counselling services, specialist therapies and alternative provision providers.

Student Support

This area of the school is specifically designated to support students with additional needs. Whether that be a Special Educational Need or when a student is in a situation that needs extra help. This area is used for therapies, extra support, counselling, occupational therapy and also houses the student reception. We will be there when needed.

We have a strong provision for high attaining students led by our coordinator, Mr Parry. Students have access to mentoring and enrichment.

Ultimately when students feel happy and safe they thrive.





The House System

The house system has been an integral part of The Emmbrook School since its inception over 50 years ago. It aims to provide an even greater sense of community and competition as well as a range of new opportunities for students to get involved in school life and try new skills.



Saturn Venus Jupiter Mercury

Every student in the school is given a house. This is identified through their school tie which consists of a coloured stripe indicating their house colour.

The school's house system also promotes an inclusive and collaborative learning environment and provides opportunities for students to engage in enriched curricular activities including sporting clubs, music concerts, drama productions, bake-offs, creative writing competitions and charity events.

The house system is a central part of our school community, encompassing our school value of being a 'family'. It unites students across each group, including the sixth form. It creates a sense of belonging and involves a range of events within each department.

Inter-house events include:

September:
Cross Country
October:
Halloween bake off, Shocktober story writing
November:
Photography competition
December:
Dodgeball tournament, Christmas Card design
January:
History Diorama
February:
Gymnastics display

March:
British Science week model competition
April:
The Great Big School Clean and the Emmbrook Easter Egg Extravaganza
May:
Geography diorama
June:
Tug of War, House badges design
July:
Sports day





Our FAIR Values

Family	Ambition	Integrity	Respect
We support each other in everything that we do.	We are determined to achieve excellence.	We are always honest and do the right thing.	We treat everyone and everything with care.

Our values guide us at The Emmbrook. We will always come back to these when correcting behaviour or making difficult decisions.

Family

The Emmbrook is unique and serves the community. Whilst we are diverse, we all work in the belief that we all belong. Many staff have their children in the school. Many staff attended the school as students. This sense of family enables cohesion and builds respect.

Ambition

We are ambitious for all our students and we want them to achieve excellence. Whether that be reading English Literature at Oxford, or getting a local work placement. We recognise that excellence is different for each student and we will work hard to help them achieve it.

Integrity

We expect students to be honest and we expect them to treat each other with care. Students are expected to do the right thing, even if no one is there.

Respect

We expect students to respect each other, the staff and the site. These values are at the heart of our tutor programme.

It is no accident that these words form the acronym FAIR. Throughout your child's journey with us we will make sure that there is always fairness.





Trips

As well as day trips to France, museum visits and opportunities as close as local primary schools, The Emmbrook also offers a fantastic array of opportunities that take students to places that they may not get the chance to visit otherwise. Last year we visited Wales, Austria, Dubai and more!

Follow us on Facebook for up to date information on our travels!



School Spirit

We recently introduced our school mascot, Brooky, to the world. Brooky embodies the school values. Brooky cheers for every student at every school event, showcases the school to younger children and allows students in the school to develop their role in the community by wearing the costume. Importantly, Brooky is fun because we believe that school should be fun!





Student Leadership

School Council

Each year, students can apply for the school council and become prefects. These students have a core role of feeding back on their experiences as well as being in control of decisions that shape the culture of the school. Whilst the school council meets as a whole once a half term, there are four major groups within it:

Well-being Group

The goal of this group is to develop the well-being and mental health of students. In the past, this has meant assemblies on mental health issues, social media posts, and fundraising for charities such as Young Minds and BEAT.

The Wave

Our school newspaper is published once a term and includes articles researched and written by the student body.

The Environment Group

This group focuses on the development of sustainability at The Emmbrook School as well as ensuring a lovely environment. They are responsible for the creation and maintenance of the planters around the school site.

REP (Racial Elevation Programme)

Dedicated to increasing awareness and celebration of cultural diversity within the school with regular meetings, mentoring, and a cultural evening showcasing the multitude of cultures and religions within our community.





Results 2023

A Level

40% of all students secured A*-B grades, with two-thirds achieving A*-C grades and many receiving A* and A grades across all their subjects. Maths, Computer Science, Chemistry and Physics achieved considerable subject success.

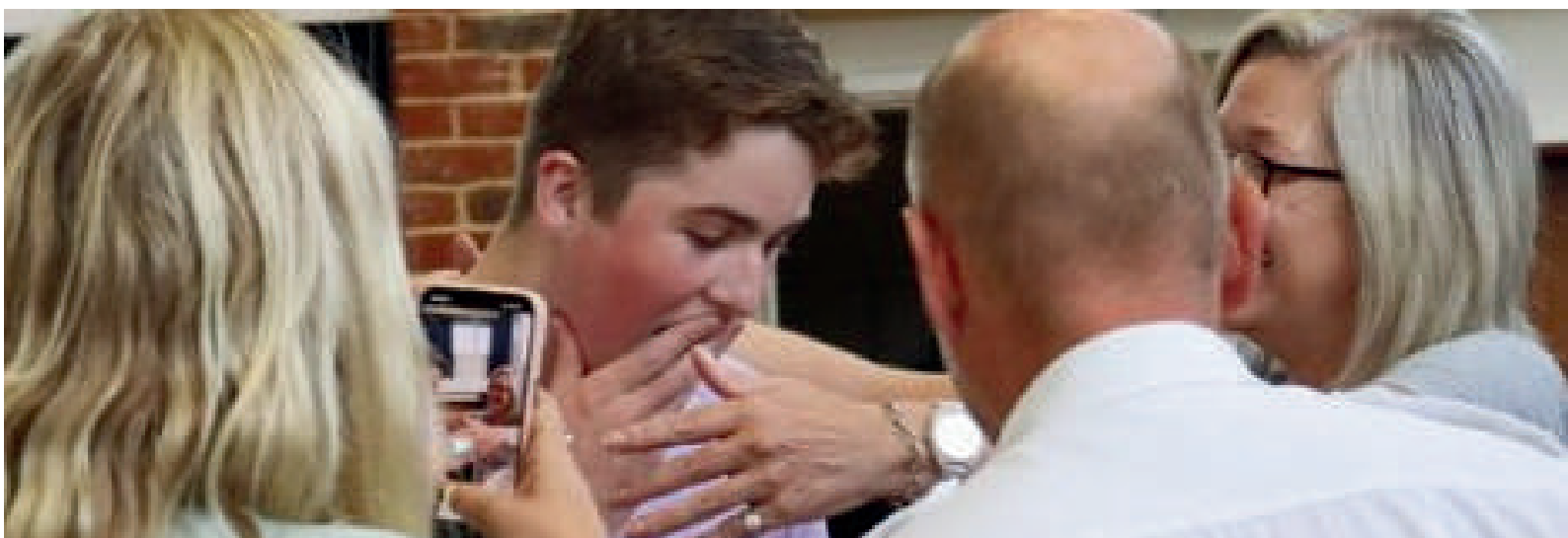
These results mean that our students will now be able to progress to the next stage of their studies. We value the achievements of each and every student and the opportunities that are now before them, from those taking up places on courses at many of the UK's top universities, including very many at Russell Group universities, to those who are pursuing their career aspirations through high quality apprenticeships.

GCSE

We are incredibly proud of the results achieved by our Year 11 students. They are the first students to be examined at the pre-pandemic standards and have shown great resilience in the face of challenges and disruption.

Students performed well in English, Maths and Science, with the three core subjects leading the way in exam results, in particular with "standard" (4+) and "strong" (5+) passes.

High performing subjects at grades 7-9 included Art & Design, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Computer Science, French, Geography, Maths, Media and Creative Media Production.





Extra-Curricular

Extra-Curricular activities and charity events are always popular with our students and they are an excellent way to make new friends whilst enjoying school life.

Our impressive Music Department contributes to the wider development of school life; there are several clubs for students to attend. These include Concert Band, Orchestra, Choirs and various smaller ensembles.

Students can also take part in a variety of concerts and musical performance events as well as the Whole School Production which the Drama Department delivers.

Additionally, there are wide ranging sports activities throughout the year that students can participate in with clubs running each night of the week. Various sports and fixtures against other schools run throughout the year.

Every summer we hold a whole school sports day and all children are encouraged to participate and represent their house. This is always an enjoyable event for the school community.

For more sporting photos and stories, go to our dedicated twitter feed: @Emmbrook_PE

These are just some of our clubs available:

3D Printing Club
Art Club
Brooky's Business Club
Chess Club



CREST Club
Crochet Club
Drama Club
Duke of Edinburgh

EPQ Award
Family History Club
Mindfulness Club
Retro Gaming Club





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