



Friday 7th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Weekly Update

Happy New Year!

I hope that you and your family were able to enjoy the festive period and that the first week of 2022 has gone well. My sincere thanks for your support with the testing day on Tuesday. We are always seeking to improve so your feedback is always welcome, however, my sense is that an intensive day of testing gave us a sharper start to the new term.

Covid-19 Summary

New cases	6 new cases were identified via the testing day on Tuesday.
Communication	Use covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk for all Covid-19 related queries and to report new positive cases to us.
Symptoms	Do not send your child to school and seek a PCR test if they have any of the following symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feverish ▪ A new, continuous cough ▪ A loss or change to sense of smell or taste ▪ Headache ▪ Upset stomach ▪ Sore throat ▪ Unusually tired
Home Testing	Twice per week using LFD. Please report all results to the NHS . You are now advised to continue testing even if you have had Covid within the last 90 days. From Tuesday 11 th January those who test positive via LFD are not require to take a confirmatory PCR test and should self-isolate immediately.
Guidelines for Positive Cases in Your Household	Any child who has a household member test positive or has been identified as a close contact of a positive case via NHS Test and Trace or by other means should take a daily lateral flow test for 7 days . Whilst engaging in daily LFD testing, anyone who tests negative can continue to attend school.
Changes to Isolation Period for Positive Cases	Students can now leave self-isolation after 7 days if they have a negative LFT result on day 6 and day 7. The tests must be 24 hours apart and they must not have a high temperature. Students can then return to school on day 8. If either test is positive, students must continue to isolate until they get 2 negative LFT results taken 24 hours apart or they have completed 10 full days of isolation.
Isolation Work	Set via Microsoft Teams.
Mask Wearing	Now highly recommended in all communal areas and classrooms. Please send you child to school with a suitable face mask.



Vaccinations

Following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, children aged 12 to 15 are now being offered a second dose of the vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose. The School Age Immunisation Service will visit the school on Monday 31st January to offer the following:

- 1st doses of Covid-19 vaccine to any young person that has never received a vaccine.
- 2nd doses of Covid-19 vaccine to any young person that received a first dose at least 12 weeks prior to 31st January.
- For young people considered extremely clinically vulnerable (you will have received a CEV letter) a 3rd dose of the Covid-19 vaccine (8 weeks after the 2nd dose).

We will be in touch with more details.

Parents of children aged 12 and over can book vaccinations using the [NHS booking system](#).

Year 11 Applications for the Sixth Form

A reminder to Year 11 parents that Sixth Form applications are still open. You will have been sent an email directly that makes clear how to apply. Please contact Mr Constable (dconstable@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk) with any questions or queries about the Sixth Form or Mrs Panesar (lpansar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk) for queries relating to the application process.

Next Music Concert

Given the uncertainties caused by the Omicron wave, we have taken the decision to postpone the concert planned for Wednesday 16th February. We are hoping that as the situation becomes clearer it will be possible to hold the event on a new date in March or April.

Canteen Improvements

Over the holiday we implemented some upgrades to the canteen to improve the queueing and to add an additional till. This seems to have improved the experience for the students and is only the first stage of our plans to improve this area.

Library Coordinator Appointed

I am delighted to share that Kerry Gale has joined us as the Library Coordinator. This is a new post which I am sure will create amazing new opportunities for the students. From Monday Year 11 will no longer be using the Library as their canteen space (which has been the case since the pandemic hit; they will instead be able to eat in H2.8 and H2.9 at break and lunch). Over the coming weeks we will be investing in new resources, books and a renovation of the space so that by the end of the term a new facility will be available for students to use throughout the day. This is a really exciting new venture, made possible by the investment we have received as a result of our growing popularity and rising student numbers.

British Airways Donation

We are grateful for the generous donation of individual sanitisers and wipes from British Airways Cargo that arrived this week.



Tesco Community Grant for Soulscape

For many years Emmbrook students have benefitted from our relationship with Soulscape, an excellent local charity that supports young people. Soulscape is one of the nominated charities for the community grants at Tesco across January, February and March 2022. Every token helps, so please drop your token into the Soulscape slot each time you shop at Tesco Wokingham or Tesco Express Crowthorne. This will help support mentoring of young people in our community.

Sporting Success

It is with real pride that I can share the news that Ty Moorcroft (Year 11) has won a silver medal in the Junior Men's TeamGym competition representing Great Britain at the European Championship. This is not just a remarkable achievement but also an historic one, given that the team's previous best was bronze. Our sincere congratulations to Ty!

I am hopeful that we can get through the months ahead with minimal disruption. We have had higher than average staff absence this week and staff shortages are predicted to be the biggest challenge for schools in the weeks ahead. We will do absolutely everything we can to keep school normal for the students and would only ever resort to partial closures if there was no alternative - it would not be a step taken lightly. As always, I will be in touch each Friday to share whatever information I can.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk