



Friday 8th April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Weekly Update

I can only apologise for needing to ask Years 7-10 to learn at home for periods over the last two weeks and I am genuinely grateful for the support that we have received from you regarding this. Experience has shown that when we have previously had surges at the end of a term the holiday has acted as a circuit breaker and absences have reduced in the first weeks of the new term. I can only hope that is the case on this occasion too. In the event that staff absence looks like it could be problematic next term I would write to you towards the end of the holidays, with as much notice as possible.

Covid-19 Summary

The guidance relating to Covid-19 has now radically changed. Please follow the new guidance below:

New cases	Students: Low in all year groups except Year 9 Staff: Now falling
Communication	Use covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk for all Covid-19 queries.
Symptoms	If your child is feeling unwell and has a high temperature they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people.
Return to school	You child should only return to school when they no longer have a temperature and feel well enough to attend school.
If your child tests positive	Although free testing has now been withdrawn, the new guidance states that should your child test positive for Covid-19 they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days.

New Building Plans

I have previously written of the growth of The Emmbrook over the last few years and the plans for further growth in the future. I am so pleased to share that Wokingham Borough Council has confirmed their plans for a multi-million pound investment to improve our facilities over the years to come. This will include:

- A brand new Sixth Form Block
- Complete refurbishment of the canteen and the creation of a new dining room
- New reception and improved parking at the front of school
- Other site improvements including new toilets, improved access around buildings and better outside areas for the students

This is very exciting news to be able to share and I look forward to providing more details in the future. Works will be phased over the next few years with the first stage of the project beginning as soon as the summer holiday.



Headteacher's Award

The student who receives this term's Headteacher's Award is **Connie Thrift** in Year 7. I met Connie earlier this year when she was nominated for hot chocolate and she is such a positive role model for others. Mrs Hodgson tells me that she is a really kind and caring person and that nothing is ever too much trouble for her. Furthermore, she recently produced one of the greatest pieces of work that I think I have seen in 20 years with her incredible entry for the History Diorama Competition. Her model is currently on display in reception and is quite simply stunning. Well done Connie!

Local Advisors' Award

Each term the local advisors (our governors) select a group of colleagues to recognise their hard work. This term there are 5 recipients:

- **Mr Kalatzis** has been going above by supporting Mrs Panesar with the running of Computing alongside planning the Austria trip (in challenging circumstances) and the residential trip to Wales.
- **Mrs Spencer** has been asked to juggle a variety of roles this year and never ceases to excel in whatever she is asked to pick up. Her support of the school is exceptional and we are very grateful.
- **Mrs Middleton, Mrs Duarte and Mr Farndon**, our Inclusion Team, provide tireless support for colleagues and students to ensure that we maintain high standards across the school. The impact of this team is seen every day and I know how important their work is and how respected they are.

Staff Farewells

Today we say goodbyes to three members of staff:

- **Mrs Ellis** leaves us to take up a promoted post at another school. Mrs Ellis joined us in September 2017 and worked her way up through the ranks to the position of Curriculum Leader for English, which is a critical role in any school. Mrs Ellis is a fantastic teacher who has led her department through some very challenging times in recent years and I wish her the best of luck in her new role.
- **Mrs Mulcock** has served as one of our much-valued Teaching and Learning Assistants since February 2015. Mrs Mulcock has provided outstanding support for the young people of this school and she will be hugely missed by those students that she currently works with, as well as the staff that she supports. Mrs Mulcock leaves us to pursue a new career as a counsellor and I sure that she will continue to make a real difference to others in that role.
- **Mr Baylis** has decided that the time is now right for him to take retirement, having started his teaching career in 1983. He has been at The Emmbrook since April 1996. For over 20 years Mr Baylis was our Curriculum Leader for PE and latterly he has been teaching humanities, specifically RS. Mr Baylis is an incredibly dedicated and hard working individual who has given so much to the students and staff of this school. We certainly wish him all the best for a long and happy retirement.

Support for the Ukrainian People

We continue to think of the plight of the Ukrainian people and these are good charities:

- [Oxfam Ukraine Appeal](#)
- [DEC Ukraine Appeal](#)
- [British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal](#)





The summer term begins at 8.20am on Monday 25th April. I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday and, for those who celebrate it, a lovely Easter.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

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