



Friday 20th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Weekly Update

I cannot believe how quickly 2023 seems to be going. I have really enjoyed the Sixth Form interviews this week, it has been lovely to have the opportunity to spend some quality time with students discussing their plans for the future.

National Strike Action by the NEU

Members of the National Education Union (the largest teacher union) have voted in favour of taking strike action. The strike dates announced are:

- Wednesday 1st February
- Thursday 2nd March
- Wednesday 15th March
- Thursday 16th March

Schools have received guidance from the Department for Education which make clear my duty to take all reasonable steps to keep the school open. The NEU is the largest union within The Emmbrook and while it is still too early to be able to share a detailed contingency plan, the strikes could lead to significant disruption, including partial closure of this school (schools are asked to offer provision for vulnerable students during industrial action).

As more information is shared with me, I will be able to form a view as to what provision is possible during strike days. For reasons that I'm sure will be well understood, we will prioritise the year groups preparing for public exams this summer (i.e. Years 11 and 13).

Lunar New Year

Sunday is the Lunar New Year and we have been marking the event in school with decorations and activities. On Monday the canteen will be providing a special Chinese theme menu as part of the celebrations.

Music Concerts This Term

As the school has grown so significantly over the last 4 years, we now have so much musical talent that a single concert this term would be either too long or leave too many disappointed at being unable to perform. Therefore, Mrs Wellman has decided to divide the coming concert over two evenings:

- Wednesday 8th February at 7.00 pm – Senior Chamber Concert (Years 9–13).
- Wednesday 22nd March at 7.00 pm – Year 7 & 8 Spring Concert.



Sixth Form Applications Closed

We have been really pleased to see a high number of internal applications for places in September 2023. The deadline for applications has now passed, however, if your child would like to make a late application please contact Mr Constable (Sixth Form Leader) via dconstable@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk.

If you celebrate Lunar New Year then I hope that enjoy the festivities!

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

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