



Friday 10th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Weekly Update

This half-term is the mid-point of the school year (though in terms of school weeks we are already past the mid-point, and for Years 11 and 13 we are really quite close to the end).

Turkey-Syria Earthquake

Following the devastating news this week we added a non-uniform day today to raise money for the UNICEF relief programme. My thanks to all who supported this (some families gave much more than the £1 suggested donation). To support this, we had a special form time presentation today to help the students understand the tragedy. In total £1,784.01 has been raised; this is around three times as much as we would normally raise on a non-uniform day. Thank you for your incredible generosity and donations can still be made online via [ScoPay](#).

National Strike Action by the NEU

Three strike dates have been announced for March:

- Thursday 2nd March
- Wednesday 15th March
- Thursday 16th March

I will communicate plans for the next strike on Friday 24th February. I expect our provision on that day to be similar to the previous strike.

Year 11 Wave & Non-core Exams

After half-term Year 11 students will be sitting the final round of preparatory exams before the real ones start in May. Please support your child to use half-term wisely:

- Help them to create and stick to a revision timetable.
- Encourage a quiet work space free from distractions.
- Suggest that they use a variety of methods (e.g. flash cards, notes, posters, online activities/videos, mind maps, exam questions)
- Utilise the online resources that we use (e.g. Maths Watch, Tassomai, Seneca)
- Encourage them to work in short bursts (30 minutes), with breaks.
- Keep them active, in a good sleep routine and doing fun things too!
- Help them to keep things in perspective – stress doesn't aid preparation.

Guidance can be found on our [website](#). If you would like any subject specific advice please email subject teachers directly. For other advice please feel free to email the Year 11 team:

- Miss Horne (ehorne@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk), Head of Year 11.
- Mrs Panesar (lpansar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk), Assistant Headteacher, can assist with academic enquiries, with a particular focus on English, Maths and Science.
- Mrs Guinn (sguinn@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk), can support with mental health and wellbeing. Please contact us if you are concerned about pressure building up.



Wokingham Railway Line Closed During Half-term

If you are planning some days out over half-term please be aware that the line through Wokingham will be closed from Monday 13th to Sunday 19th February for engineering works. Bus replacement services will be in operation.

I hope that everyone enjoys the half-term holiday. We will return for all students at 8.20am on Monday 20th February.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

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