



Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Headteacher's Weekly Update

### National Strike Action by the NEU

Wednesday saw the first day of strike action by members of the NEU. Three additional dates have been announced for March:

- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March

I am very grateful to parents who supported their children to attend the online lessons. Years 11-13 managed the day here on site well.

The number of our staff who took strike action on Wednesday was sufficient that it would not have been possible to operate a normal school day; it would have been very challenging to have more students on site. This experience will necessarily inform our response to future strikes. With summer exams now only a few months away Years 11 and 13 will have to remain priority year groups and I hope that all parents can understand that. I will communicate plans for the next strike on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

### Year 11 Wave & Non-core Exams

The first two weeks after half-term will see Year 11 students sitting the final round of preparatory exams before the real ones start in May. On Friday, all students will have an extended form period and Year 11 will focus on getting the most out of half-term. Please support your child to use the time wisely, good tips include:

- 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](mailto:ehorne@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)), Head of Year 11.
- Mrs Panesar ([lpansar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto:sguinn@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)), can support with mental health and wellbeing. Please contact us if you are concerned about pressure building up.



Mr Whitehouse will be writing to you with more detail about the exams after half-term.

### **Senior Chamber Concert**

The Senior Chamber Concert will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February in the main hall. Performances will be given by a number of students from Years 9 to 13. Tickets can be purchased via Scopay (£5 for adults, £3 for pensioners/children).

### **Year 9 Options Evening**

We are looking forward to seeing Year 9 students and parents here on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 6.15pm for the Options Evening. The evening will begin with a short talk and then you will have the opportunity to meet with subject teachers.

### **Cake Sale Friday**

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February there will be a charity cake sale during breaks in the hall. This is to raise money for the 25<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree. If you would like your child to be able to take part then please send them to school with a small amount of cash.

### **Safeguarding Update**

Attached with this letter is a safeguarding bulletin from Mrs Ridsdale (Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead). Please take a moment to review the advice which has also been circulated to our staff.

### **Public Health Message**

We are aware of headlice in the school recently. Should you be concerned, the [NHS website](#) has a full page of information on the topic.

Next week is the last week of this half-term. As this is just a half-term, school will finish at the usual time on Friday. Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**

Headteacher

[nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)