



Friday 25th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Weekly Update

Today was Sixth Form Taster Day for Year 11. I hope that they found the day interesting and helpful. I stressed in the morning assembly that we have an excellent Sixth Form with incredibly high academic standards and brilliant opportunities to develop skills and have fun, which takes me to...

Sixth Form Fundraising Week

A huge congratulations to the Sixth Form for an excellent Fundraising Week 2022. Due to the pandemic, this was the first time we have been able to hold the iconic Emmbrook event since 2019 and so it was no small task to reintroduce the event to three year groups who hadn't experienced it before. The students did a wonderful job and have raised around £1,400 for the [Ollie Young Foundation](#). I am grateful to all staff who supported the students to make the week such a success.

CCTV Consultation

My thanks to the many parents who contacted me in response to the consultation about adding CCTV to the communal areas of toilets. I received very many replies and almost without exception they were supportive of the initiative. I think it is likely that we will proceed with a limited trial to see if it does lead to an improved experience for the students.

Online Safety – New App: Picnic

We have been made aware of a new app that young people (some as young as 9) may be downloading and using; feedback suggests that it could be the new TikTok due to the recent rise in downloads.

Just like other social media platforms, Picnic allows users to message and chat with other users, friends and strangers, about common interests. Simply by joining an interest circle, children are immediately at risk of 'meeting' people who are there to scam, groom or deceive them. There is also the concern of image sharing and once a photo or video is posted on Picnic, your child loses control of that image or video.

They are also running a 'Creator Program' which gives those using Picnic the ability to make money by creating content that promotes the app to others – no matter the size of the follower base. The prospect of making money by creating and submitting content is incredibly appetising for a young person, especially when one way of receiving funds is in a Robux gift card, so please be aware of this.

If you have concerns over your child using this app and would like further support then please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor, their Head of Year or the Safeguarding Team (safeguarding@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk).



Christmas Production

Tickets for this year's school production 'Trouble in Pantoland' are now available to purchase through ScoPay. The performances are on Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th December 2022 at 7pm in the main hall. Ticket prices are as follows: Adult £7, Children £5 and a family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) is £20.

Christmas Dinner Day

This year's Christmas dinner will take place on Thursday 15th December. Students will be offered a Christmas dinner filled Yorkshire pudding (Halal chicken and vegetarian options will be available), pudding & crackers for £3.80 (free school meal children will be able to choose the Christmas dinner within their usual daily allowance). Details to follow regarding the ticket system that will be used on the day.

Christmas Musical Celebration

You are welcome to join us at St. Paul's Church on Monday 19th December (7.00pm-8.15pm) for our annual Christmas-themed musical celebration.

Final Day of Term

A reminder to all parents (and especially Year 7 parents whose children haven't yet completed a full term) that the final day of the term will be a half day. School will finish at 12.20pm on Tuesday 20th December. All WBC school transport will be available at 12.20pm; students who use public transport or are collected by car will need to make alternative arrangements.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

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