



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Weekly Update

The last week of the Autumn Term is always a joy as we really start to get into the Christmas spirit.

I thought that the Christmas Concert on Monday was a triumph! All of the performers and readers should be very proud! I am grateful to all the staff who made it possible, most notably our fantastic Music Department: Mrs Wellman, Mrs Foyster and Miss Nicholl, and technician Miss Jolliffe. Thanks also to the parents/carers who contributed to the community choir.

The Christmas production, The Wizard of Oz – A Panto, was absolutely joyous! A very funny production and the performances were just excellent! Special thanks to our great Drama Department: Mr Malyan and Miss Meanwell. Thanks also to Mrs Cooper and Miss Hedley from Art for their support with the sets and Miss Narracott from DT for her amazing props work.

Finally, a massive thanks to the Sixth Formers who put on the Christmas Market on Thursday. It was a very festive affair which raised £292.45 for local charity [Me2Club](#).

## Headteacher's Award

Each term I select a student to receive the Headteacher's Award, however, this term I have selected co-recipients: George Rimmer and Josh Chaplin from Year 11. They have been chosen not just because they are both excellent role models here at The Emmbrook but also because on their outstanding fundraising efforts last month; they raised well over £1,000 for Children in Need by completing a 24-hour Le Mans race game. Well done to them both!

## Local Advisors' Awards

The Local Advisors (responsible for governance) select a teacher and member of the support staff for recognition each term. This term's recipients are:

- Support Staff: Mr Hughes, Premises Manager. As Mr Hughes comes to the end of his first year in post, he can be rightly proud of the impact he has had on our school. He is hard working, skilled and dedicated. As a result, the site continues to look better and better.
- Teaching Staff: Mr Tracy, Science RSL. Mr Tracy has been a leading figure in devising and implementing our programme for continuing professional development for the year. This is the vehicle by which we develop and enhance teaching and learning across the school so makes a vital contribution to our ongoing journey of school improvement.





## Farewells

We say farewell to three colleagues who are departing today:

- Mrs Bilsborough, who has been with us for two years providing fantastic support for the students as a teaching and learning assistant.
- Mrs Chillarigae, who has been a maths teacher here for nearly three years. She is leaving us to take up a position in the private sector.
- Miss Mondejar, who has taught Spanish and French for over 4 years, as well as leading on cultural enrichment within the MFL department. She is returning back home to Spain.

We are so grateful for all of the wonderful contributions made by these colleagues and wish them all the best for their future endeavours!

## Sporting Success

Congratulations go to Adam Steliaros (Year 11) who is now an archery champion, having won his age group/bow category last Sunday at the National Junior Championships. He is now the county, region and national champion for his category! This is an amazing achievement. Well done!

## Year 9 Assessments

Term 2.1 is the time in the academic cycle for all students in Year 9 to be assessed on their progress so far this year. Almost all subjects will be running formal assessments after the Christmas break in the fortnight beginning 6<sup>th</sup> January.

Assessments are nothing to worry about and, assuming the students have worked hard and applied themselves throughout the first term, they'll be absolutely fine. Students should take these assessments seriously and prepare as per the guidance of each department. All the preparation needed for the assessment week will be set via SatchelONE. The assessments will take place in lessons. Students should arrive to school with the normal equipment needed. Individual subject teachers will inform each class of when their specific assessment time/date is.

The results of the assessments will be made available to you shortly after the assessment period. This will be the ideal time to discuss any queries you may have around the assessment process. If you have any questions around the assessments, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Bhambra ([tbhambra@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:tbhambra@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)), subject teachers or your child's tutor at the school.

## Online Safety: 'Human or Not'

Please be aware of the so-called 'Social Turing' game aimed at under 18s, where individuals chat with someone for two minutes, and try to determine whether they are human or an AI bot. We've been notified of an extremely concerning incident where a student was instructed to go to the toilet and take a photo of themselves. Although this site looks to have been closed, other duplicates are already in existence and seem to be an open opportunity for unregulated interaction with children and young people. Helpful NSPCC resources are available [here](#).



## Mobile Phones

My thanks to the very many parents who made contact with me following my mention last week of the pressing need to review our mobile phone position. Your views have been very helpful. We will take time to reflect now in order to gradually phase in any changes over the coming months so that everyone is clear on what we hope to achieve to support our young people.

## Sixth Form Applications Deadline

Today is the deadline for Sixth Form applications. If you encounter any last-minute problems then please contact us for support:

- Mr Constable (Head of Sixth Form) – [dconstable@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:dconstable@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)
- Mr Whitehouse (Assistant Headteacher) – [pwhitehouse@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:pwhitehouse@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)
- Mrs Panesar (Assistant Headteacher) – [lpansar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:lpansar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

The new term starts for all students on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 8.20am.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**

Headteacher

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