



Friday 19th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Weekly Update

We have reached the end of another academic year and summer has finally arrived!

Our Sports Day on Tuesday was a brilliant day! In the end the weather was just about good enough (I am always nervous in the days before but the we only had a couple of little showers so all was well). It's a totally unique day in the school year and I'm sure that the students appreciated the opportunity to do things differently. It was a true community event with sport at the heart. I received a lovely email from a parent who reported that their child came home Tuesday and declared it the best day ever, so that sounds like a good review! My thanks to all the staff who made it possible and to the students who made it such an enjoyable day.

Staff Farewells

We have four teachers moving on to new pastures this year:

- Miss Hurley ends her second stint with The Emmbrook, having returned to take up the post of Curriculum Leader for Business and Economics at the start of the year. Miss Hurley has decided to return back home to the Republic of Ireland to be close to family and who could blame her! We wish her all the best in her new life.
- Mr Harrison joined us in 2021 teaching in the History Department and will now be leaving us to move back to his previous school in Hampshire to take up a promoted post as Head of Department. In his three years with us he has established himself as a well-liked history teacher and has also contributed to the extra-curricular life of the school with the popular Board Game Club to name just one. We're sure he'll be great in his new leadership position.
- Miss Ridgers is also relocating to a Hampshire school and is also taking up a new post as Head of Department! Having joined us in 2019 she has been the heart of our DT Department for five years. Miss Ridgers faced the challenge of trying to deliver a practical subject through remote learning and during the phased return to schools as a result of Covid which was not at all easy. Alongside, she has supported school events including providing catering for concerts with her Hospitality classes. We wish her all the best in her next role.
- Maintaining the theme of relocation, but taking it to the next level(!) is our final leaver Miss Matthews, who is joining a new school in Abu Dhabi. Miss Matthews started as a newly qualified teacher in 2014 in the PE Department. During her decade her she has risen up through the ranks, initially becoming Second in PE, then Co-House Coordinator before also moving into the position of Curriculum Leader for PE. Miss Matthews has an incredible energy and is ultra-competitive which are both excellent qualities for a PE teacher! She will leave both the Houses and PE better than when she inherited them and that is a fantastic legacy. We hope that she enjoys the sun in her new home!



We also say a temporary farewell to Mrs Kisubi who leaves us to start her maternity leave. We wish her all the best and I'm sure she will love the next year with her young family.

Headteacher's Award

Each term I celebrate a student who has made an exceptional contribution to The Emmbrook and this term's recipient of the Headteacher's Award is Leah Woolford in Year 10.

Leah gives a huge amount to the school, most notably through her tireless support of the PE Department (exemplified throughout Sports Day on Tuesday). Leah is positive and friendly, never failing to raise the spirits of others and a great ambassador for The Emmbrook.

Local Advisors' Awards

Each term the Local Advisors (our governing body) select two members of staff (one from the teaching staff and one from the support staff) to recognise their outstanding contribution to the school. This term's recipients are:

- Support Staff Award – Ms Oliver. In her role as the SEN Manager, she provides expert and diligent support for SEND students and colleagues.
- Teaching Staff Award – Mrs Moorcroft. This year she has been working hard to support the development of a new approach to teaching and learning across the school.

House Cup

The overall House Cup champions this year are **Jupiter!**

Congratulations to all members of Jupiter House. They will have the honour of displaying their colours on the driveway for the next year to come! This is an unprecedented third year running that Jupiter have been victorious. I wonder, can any of the other houses possibly defeat them next year?!

PE Update

Soreya Mills in Year 8 attended District Athletics back in May where she qualified to represent Wokingham in the 100m in June. Following her county performance, she further qualified to represent Berkshire in the next round of English Schools at Alexander Stadium in Birmingham. The Emmbrook School has never had an athlete reach this level of competition so we were already in awe of Soreya but we were even more impressed when she achieved an amazing PB in Birmingham, running 12.56 seconds.

Soreya finished 11th in this national event, having competed in a category with students a year older than her. Soreya was also chosen to race the 4 x 100m relay where her team finished 2nd overall.

Soreya is pictured with ex-Emmbrook student Kahlon who also competed and came 3rd in men's senior triple jump.

The PE Department and The Emmbrook School are so impressed and proud of Soreya and Kahlon. We are in awe of their commitment to training and competing – we cannot wait to see what they go on to achieve in the future... watch this space!





Library Update

- Donations: a huge thank you to everyone that has kindly donated books this year, we have received over 140 books! If you are having a clear out over summer and have items that you'd like to send to a new home please consider donating any books, jigsaws, games and Lego to the library. Any donations can be left at the main reception.
- Website: students can check their loans or search the library catalogue and much more on the library website. <https://emmbrook.oliverasp.co.uk/library> If your child ever forgets their password they just need to click on 'reset password' and a link will be sent to their school email allowing them to set a new password. Usernames are the same as their school login.

Careers Update

We have a final bumper update for the year from our Careers Lead, Miss Martins, included as a separate attachment with this letter.

Our Year 7 and 12 students begin at 8.20am on Wednesday 4th September. Students in Years 8-11 and 13 will return at 8.20am on Thursday 5th September.

I hope that you all enjoy a happy and healthy summer and we look forward to seeing the students in September.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk