



Friday 31st March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Weekly Update

Although only a six-week half-term, this is always such a crucial point of the year for students in Years 11 and 13. Students have now already sat crucial exams in a number of subjects including 3D Design, Art, Creative Media and Drama. Of course, we continue to keep a strong focus on the other year groups and our latest academic monitoring shows that Years 10 and 12 are in good positions at present. At the end of April, Year 7 will begin their assessment fortnight (followed by Year 8) and Mr Whitehouse has written already about these.

Easter Revision Sessions for Years 11 and 13

Please support students in Years 11 and 13 to attend as many of the Easter revision sessions as possible. I am very grateful that so many staff will be giving up time during their holiday to support the students. It is really important that students attend these revision sessions as part of a schedule of revision and independent study over the next two weeks to maximise their preparation efforts ahead of the exams starting in May.

When attending a session, students should report directly to the classroom where the session is scheduled and where they will then be registered.

If you have any queries about Easter revision then please contact one of our assistant headteachers:

- Year 11 – Mrs Panesar (lpansar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)
- Year 13 – Mr Whitehouse (pwhitehouse@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

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 Year 13 student Kirstie Coelho.

Kirstie has been recognised for her strong work promoting [Beat](#), including devising and delivering an assembly for the Sixth Form on eating disorders and leading the sponsored walk. Kirstie has grown in her 7 years with us into an exceptional young person who is a fantastic role model for the younger students.

Local Advisors' Awards

Our local advisors (governors) recognise two members of staff (one teaching, one support) each term who have made exceptional contributions to the school. This term:

- The Support Staff Award goes to **Mrs Wood**, for her thorough and time-consuming work to prepare for the move to Arbor (see next item). While it has been a team effort, Mrs Wood, as our Data Manager, has had to put in hours and hours of extra work to get us prepared for the switchover.



- The Teaching Staff Award goes to **Miss Hedley**, for her efforts going well above and beyond to support students in Art throughout the year and for her superb support of the GCSE Art exams last week.

New Management Information System (MIS)

As I advised last week, we move to a new MIS, Arbor, over the Easter holiday. This piece of software manages just about every system that the school uses so this is a huge undertaking. It does mean that after Easter the parent app won't be available. Regretfully, it will take some time for the new parent system to be up and running as we must prioritise critical in-school systems. In due course the new system will be made available to parents which will eventually give you more capabilities than we have with the current system.

Year 11 Hoodies

Students now have their leavers' hoodie. As is our tradition, these hoodies can now be worn in place of the blazer/school jumper until the start of the exam period in May. JCQ exam regulations require students to wear their standard uniform, so students will need to return to blazer/school jumper for the exam period.

Toilet Upgrade Works Over Easter

I know that we need to improve the toilet facilities for our young people to bring them all up to a modern standard befitting the 21st century. We have a three-year plan to upgrade all of the toilets to the standard of the Maths Block and I am so pleased that works will begin upgrading the toilets (boys and girls) in the English Block over the Easter holiday. These new toilets will be unisex single cubicles, affording our students comfort and privacy. More toilets will be upgraded over the summer holiday.

PTA Raffle

Sales of tickets will resume after the holiday (Mr McGrath will visit forms), tickets £1 each. The draw will be held during the first week back.

Bon Voyage to International Trips

We have two significant international trips heading away for the Easter holidays; the lower school ski trip to Austria and the Sixth Form trip to Dubai. We wish staff and students a safe journey and we look forward to the social media updates!

Please remember that Monday 17th April is an INSET day and so the students will return at 8.20am on Tuesday 18th April. I would like to wish you all a lovely Easter holiday!

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

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