



Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Headteacher's Update

In the hope of making my (semi-)regular updates more useful, I have divided today's up into sections, so that you can hone in on the areas that impact you and your children. In this update:

- Arrangements for GCSE & A-level Awards
- Safeguarding
- Farewell to Miss Long
- Celebrating Success

### Arrangements for GCSE & A-level Awards

The Government have now confirmed the process for assessing the outcome of GCSE and A-levels. The full details of this can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/how-gcses-as-a-levels-will-be-awarded-in-summer-2020>

We will be working to implement this over the coming weeks (Mr Whitehouse is leading on this and has already communicated our plans to Heads of Department) to ensure that every student in Years 11 and 13 will receive fair grades.

One of the key messages for students is that there is no requirement for them to undertake any additional work or exams (including completing unfinished coursework). Our teachers and Heads of Department are experienced professionals and I am confident they will apply this system fairly. I would also like to draw your attention to the provision for confidentiality – as stated, we will not be able to share with parents or students any information about our grading or ranking of students. I know that this will be frustrating for you, but we must apply all of these requirements to the letter.

Mr Constable will be writing separately to all of the students who have applied for a place in our Sixth Form with an update on how we will be proceeding. The key message is don't panic! We will be working with you all to support you through this process.

### Safeguarding

Please be aware that we have updated our Safeguarding Policy in light of the COVID-19 situation. More information can be found on our website:

- Safeguarding: <https://tinyurl.com/emmbrook-sg>
- Staying Safe Online: <https://tinyurl.com/emmbrook-ss0>





## Farewell to Miss Long

Today is technically the last day of the Spring Term and so I would like to thank Miss Long who is leaving us today to take up a promoted post as Head of Maths at another school. These strange times have robbed us of the opportunity to say goodbye properly in person, however, we are very grateful for her contribution and wish her all the best in her new venture.

If your child is currently taught by Miss Long then they will continue to be set remote learning on SMHW and the Maths Department will be in touch next term to communicate who you should contact for help, as required.

## Celebrating Success

I have genuinely been enjoying all of the submissions to Creation Station. Reading **Dylan Nanda's** (Year 7) poems has become a welcome part of my new daily routine; there are so many creative individuals out there! I'm sure that lots of students are producing amazing work every day and I know that it is simply not possible to highlight each of them. However, teachers have drawn my attention to two students in particular so I wanted to publicly praise **Jazz Abbott** (Year 10) for her amazing History and Business work and **Charlotte Ayres** (Year 9) for her brilliant Science work. Well done to both of them! I will share more successes in the future.

Finally, each term we recognise one colleague with the Governors' Award for excellence. This term's award goes to our new Site Manager, **Paul Piotrowski**, who has really hit the ground running and has made a tremendous difference to the look and feel of The Emmbrook already; we're all very appreciative of his hard work and good humour.

The staff have been very grateful for the huge amount of support that we have received from you over the last two weeks. I would like to wish each and every one of you a good Easter. I hope you all stay well and can enjoy time together with your loved ones (even if it is over Skype, FaceTime, etc.).

Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**  
Headteacher