



Friday 26th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with a great sense of honour that I write to you at the end of my first week as the permanent headteacher of The Emmbrook School.

I must admit that I have been a little overwhelmed by the positive reaction of students, parents and staff. I am very grateful for the support I have from our community; truly, by working together we will achieve success for our young people.

My mission is to do all I can to ensure that every single student has a great experience at our school. I always appreciate feedback from students and parents and I have become aware (via a Facebook group) that some Year 7 students have not had a positive experience while queuing for food from our canteen. This is disappointing to hear and I am already taking action to improve the situation. I have a meeting arranged with our catering company to discuss how we can speed up the pace of food service and I will be introducing a new queuing system as soon as new queue barriers have been delivered. These changes may take a few days to implement fully, so please bear with us as we get right.

Our library is a fantastic learning space and I want to ensure that we can offer all of our students access to it during break, lunch and after school in order to read, work and borrow books. We have not had a librarian for a number of years (owing to government spending cuts). It would be tremendous to have community volunteers who support the running of our library. If you think that you might be able to offer any time at all to help then I would be excited to hear from you (nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk). Equally, if you know of anyone from our local community who might be interested, then I would be extremely grateful if you were able to put them into contact with me.

I want to maintain the highest standards in all areas and strong parental support is crucial. As the weather starts to turn autumnal, I expect students will want to wear something warmer – a reminder that hoodies are not part of our school uniform. Students may wear a hoody to and from school but during the school day hoodies need to be put away in bags; I think this is a perfectly reasonable expectation. I have asked colleagues to confiscate hoodies being worn during the day. I would appreciate parents reinforcing this message at home.

For the next three weeks I will be touring Year 6 students and parents around the school every morning. I am proud of The Emmbrook and I am very much looking forward to being able to showcase the amazing learning taking place.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney
Headteacher