



Newsletter – Lockdown Edition

22nd May 2020

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Headteacher's Address (nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the strangest half-term I have seen in nearly 20 years as a teacher comes to an end, I hope that everyone is able to enjoy the half-term break. We have been giving some thought at home to how we can try to make next week feel a little different for our children (other than them simply getting a break from home schooling). We haven't come up with much yet so I am certainly open to suggestions from The Emmbrook Family!

Before we break-up I want to be as transparent as possible with you all regarding our provision from June 1st. As you know the Government has asked us to provide Year 10 and 12 students with some face-to-face contact from June 1st at the earliest. Implementing this request, while ensuring that we remain safe, offer fair provision for all students and that it is manageable given our resources, has been challenging to say the least.

Remote Learning for All Students

It is now clear that remote learning will remain the primary mode of education for the vast majority of students for the rest of this academic year. There remains much uncertainty regarding when we will return to something akin to normal schooling (according to media reports, Cambridge University has already announced that they will hold no face-to-face lectures during the 2020-21 academic year).

Therefore, whatever steps we take to support Year 10 and 12 students, we must preserve our capacity to continue setting remote leaning work and offering students regular feedback. Our provision will continue to evolve and we are currently exploring new ways of providing interactive content, including through the use of commercially available software packages and services to add to our capacity. There will be more information on this next half-term.

I am conscious that some families may not have good access to IT at home and I am keen to explore how we might be able to support you with this. If you would like to discuss potential support for IT provision then please contact our Administration Manager, Jane Rimmer, via email (jrimmer@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk) and we will be in contact with you next half-term.



Provision for Key Worker and Vulnerable Students

This daily provision, for the relatively small number of vulnerable and key worker children who complete the remote learning work set for all students under supervision, will be maintained. We have continued to experience rising demand and we will always do our best to support families. Therefore, next half-term I anticipate that we will need to split the students into two groups. This will, necessarily, require additional staffing to maintain the safety of our provision.

Should your family's circumstances change then please contact me directly via email (nmcsweneey@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk), with as much notice as possible, as our resources are limited.

As noted in my letter last week, we are grateful that families using the provision have advised us that they do not require our support over half-term, so we will be closed next week.

Provision from June 1st

To reassure you, I want you to know that we have developed a full plan for Years 10 and 12 for the next half-term. This plan is phased and conditional (i.e. the provision builds-up over the half-term, conditional on developments within the School and at local and national levels). These plans have been shared with governors and the staff.

On Thursday 28th May, the Government will be updating all schools with further guidelines regarding the safe return of students. I therefore think it wise to await these guidelines to confirm that all aspects of our planned provision are in-line with the most recent advice. **Therefore, I will write again to all parents on Friday 29th with our confirmed plans.**

At this stage, I will add that I anticipate that provision for students in **Year 12 will begin no earlier than Wednesday 3rd June, and for Year 10 no earlier than Monday 8th June.** In the first phase, we expect to see very limited numbers of students each day to discuss their wellbeing and review their progress with remote learning, supporting them with feedback and advice.

I hope you can understand my caution about sharing more now; I am comforted that we have a fully developed plan, that we can deliver safely, but I do want to ensure that we are compliant with all guidelines. Therefore, we will check, and if necessary modify our plans, when we have that guidance on 28th May.

Creation Station Changes

I am so impressed by the incredible contributions from the community to these daily challenges. From half-term we will be moving to weekly challenges, so I hope that the extra time will allow even more creativity! My sincere thanks to Miss Andrews for the time that she is devoting to this endeavour, I know that lots of students really enjoy it!



I would also like to thank all of the contributors to this newsletter – which I think is a really impressive overview of what you are all achieving in lockdown.

I will write again to all parents on Friday 29th May with confirmation of our provision after half-term. Wishing you all a safe and happy week.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney
Headteacher

Maths, Computing and Science (lpansar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

In maths, science and computing our year 12 students have been working hard on their exam content. We are so impressed with them as it can be very difficult to keep the motivation going when the weather is so beautiful and they don't have direct access to their teachers. In computing the students are learning about the different methods of data transmission along with what affects the speed of transmission, relevant to their lives right now when they might see the speed of their network drop when they are streaming Netflix instead of working!

In maths the student engagement with the videos prepared by Mrs Bishop, Mr Marshall and Mr Parry has been excellent and helped push our you tube views beyond the 6000 mark, we are glad to see that this is helping all our maths and computing students.

Our A-Level scientists have been busy this week learning about Chromatography & Spectroscopy, Collisions and Communication and Homeostasis, some excellent work has been handed in and we appreciate all their efforts at this difficult time.

While work is being set through ShowMyHomework, I thought it might be useful to have a reminder of the online resources that are available in each of the subjects. There are so many resources available for maths that sometimes it can be confusing to know which one to use. In maths Mathswatch is our number 1 resource for all students and parents. If your child is struggling with a topic the videos provided are excellent and explain the topics very well. Textbooks for science and maths are available through Kerboodle, this can also help with reading around a topic or it can be used to provide some additional questions and finally computing resources for year 9 and 10 can be found on Teach-ICT where the username for the students is RG411JP and the password is python2. The full GCSE syllabus is covered and students can turn to this resource for help.



Last week I left you with the following problem.

Can you crack the code?



2	9	1
---	---	---

One number is correct and well placed

2	4	5
---	---	---

One number is correct but wrong place

4	6	3
---	---	---

Two numbers are correct but wrong places

5	7	8
---	---	---

Nothing is correct

5	6	9
---	---	---

One number is correct but wrong place

- 2 9 1 - One number is correct and well placed
- 2 4 5 - One number is correct but wrong place
- 4 6 3 - Two numbers are correct but wrong places
- 5 7 8 - Nothing is correct
- 5 6 9 - One number is correct but wrong place

Did you get the answer? The code was **394**

Logic:

From statements 1,2 and 4 we come to know that one of the numbers is "4".

Now the position of "4" is "_ _ 4", we get this from statements 2 and 3.

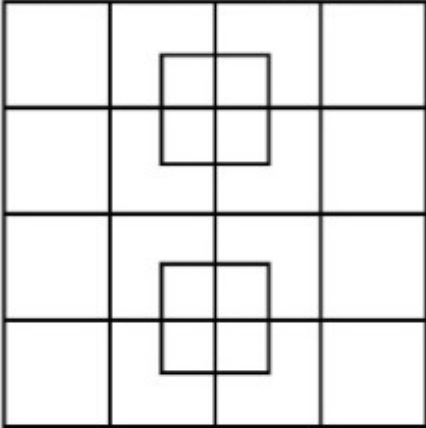
Hence now we get from statement 1 that another number is 9 and code now will be "_ 9 4"

Now from statements 3 and 5 we get that "3" is the last digit of the code.

and hence the code is "3 9 4"

This week's problem is:

HOW MANY SQUARES?



I found _____ squares.

How many squares in total in this image? Answer in next week's edition!



Business and Humanities (cjohnson@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

I am struggling to comprehend a half-term where we have mostly worked from home. This wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of the staff, the engagement from students and the support of parents. Thank you all.

I asked the faculty to let me know if any students have stood out for them this week. There have been more submissions than I can write about!

Mr McGrath emailed back almost instantly saying how he has been impressed with **Harry Drayton** (Year 8) going above and beyond each task in Geography. He was keen to send a second email praising **Callum Warburton** (Year 7) and **Bonnie Hearn** (Year 9) for similar efforts. Thank you all.

Miss Bundy didn't stop typing as she is so impressed with all of her Year 12 students in Government and Politics but did highlight **Will Kemsley, Aaron Breadmore, Abi Pearce, Phoebe Osborn, Zara Sullivan and Katie Hampton** for all of their fantastic work. (I have watched a PowerPoint created and narrated by Katie and can attest to the amazing quality of her work!)

Mr Baylis was incredibly impressed with **Harry Bridges** (Year 7) who submitted a fantastic Geography test with very well constructed answers.

Miss Horne and I have been incredibly impressed with the quality of work provided by **Amirah Ashraf** and **Willow Mills** (Year 10) over the last few weeks. They have really developed their points and improved their exam technique.

Miss Donovan wanted to highlight **Rosa Ketley** (Year 9) for her immense organisation and the consistent high quality of her work, and **Christopher Revell** (Year 9) who has applied himself brilliantly in each task, and thought very hard about the social conditions in Whitechapel in the 1880s.



Mr Matthews has been incredibly impressed with the quality of essays by **Will Kemsley** and **Katie Hampton** (Year 12) and has also been delighted with the effort students have put into the 'Heraldic Shield' assignment. It was so inspiring that some younger siblings got involved too!

Arvel Gurung



Evie Martin



Eman Abdulla



Jannah Abdulla
(Eman's little sister!)



PE (chumber@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

The PE dept have been setting a number of different exercises for all Core PE classes from Yoga to High Intensity Interval Training. Well done in particular to **Zachary S** in year 7 for sharing his exercise accomplishments with the department. The GCSE PE and Sport Science classes have been working on their knowledge and understanding of the Musculoskeletal System and now the Cardiorespiratory and Technology in Sport as well as competing against other classes in the fortnightly online SMHW quiz!

As it stands the current GCSE average class scores in the SMHW quiz are below but these will updated as we get closer to next week's deadline:



9A (Miss Matthews) – 90%

10C (Mr Humber) – 49%

10D (Miss Matthews) – 58%

Special congratulations to the 100% super stars so far:

Ben Poole!

Well done to 9A/Pg1 so far but if you haven't had your three attempts have another go to get your feedback and then revise and have another go to improve your and your classes score!

As it stands the current Sport Science average class scores in the SMHW quiz are:

9A (Mr Humber) – 91%

9D (Mr Tichband) – 76%

Special congratulations to the 100% super stars:

Alex F

Bonnie H

Kyle P

Kymani R

Well done to 9A/Sr1 who are still leading the pack at the moment!

Also Mr Humber has created the most recent Twitter challenge that can be seen @EmmbrookPE

English and MFL (efry@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Following some time to catch up on any outstanding work last week, over the last few days students have been working hard on a variety of new tasks. We continue to be impressed by the innovative ideas and quality shown in the creative work that has been submitted in both English and MFL, examples of which can be found on the school's social media accounts. There are also many students who are going above and beyond, completing all optional tasks in addition to the main work set. Students have also been sent details of two creative writing competitions currently open for entries. We have so many talented writers and it would be great to see lots of entries from The Emmbrook. Wishing you all a restful half-term.

Creative and Performing Arts (msimpson@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Mr Malyan was very impressed with **Oliver's** home-made cinema (we have had the perfect weather for it!)





Here are the creative and performing arts 'Artists of the week'

A R T I S T

of the

W E E K

Danny Jordan
Year 8

@EmmbrookArtDesign



ARTIST

of the

WEEK

**Rufus Ashley
Year 7**

@EmmbrookArtDesign



Mrs Hodgson: Year 7 (shodgson@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

As you are all aware this will be my last contribution to the newsletter as Head of Year 7. I have already started on transition, although it feels very strange not to be arranging visits to primary schools to talk to Year 6.

Year 7 continue to amaze me with their talents and creativity. Miss Pepper is setting her form group a weekly challenge and it has helped focus their minds on the positive things that there is to be found in these strange times. My feeling is that all the children going through lockdown will turn out to be the most imaginative and creative young people and this bodes well for the future.

Next week should have been half-term. There will be no remote learning set so I hope that Year 7 will use their time well and explore new opportunities during that week.

For the meantime, let me wish you all good health and happiness and let me thank you for all your help and support over the last year.

Miss Cairns: Year 7 (rcairns@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

As my time comes to an end as Head of Year 11 I am of course saddened that my time with my previous year group has come to an end, as spending over four years with a group of children is a long time and I got to know them all so well. However, I am extremely excited (as you will come to realise I spend a lot of my life in this realm) to be taking on the Head of Year role for our current Year 7.

I have been lucky enough to teach a fair amount of them this year and have thoroughly enjoyed every single moment – so many of them have already made me laugh, made me proud, mesmerized me with their hard work or their kindness towards others. I feel privileged to have the job I do, I get to be there for a wonderful journey of over four years, where I get to watch them grow into the wonderful, older versions of themselves and I promise that I will do my absolute best to help them in any way possible over that journey.

So, if you have any problems at all you can always email me and I will do my absolute best to provide any support that they need. I hope you all have a wonderful half-term, full of sunshine, happiness and laughter, despite the times of uncertainty we find ourselves in, and I look forward to getting to know you all even better over the coming years.

Mr Baker: Year 8 (sbaker@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Year 8 have been on top form again this week. We start with French, and Miss. Fry has awarded special recognition to **Henry Bray, Ethan Undrell, and Reuben Jacques**. Their commitment and project work has been outstanding. Well done to them.

In terms of Art, Year 8 have produced some brilliant album covers. **Kayleigh Andrews** produced an epic Ozzy Osbourne album cover entitled 'Ozzy Andrews'. **Joseph Dempster** produced a fantastic 'Alice Wolf' album cover, **Spike Holdway** produced an awesome 'The Holdwinners' album cover, and **Danny Dunn** has been awarded the artist of the week with his tremendous album cover work, and person shadow work. A great effort by all!



In terms of Music, **Calum Batty** has been very creative with his piece 'Rivers'; Mrs Wellman was thoroughly impressed with it. **Sirayah Dyson** has been on fire in Maths, and earned special recognition for her recent efforts, and in History, there has been some outstanding pieces of home-learning on the Suffragettes. The level of comprehension and source analysis has been exceptional.

I would like to thank the parents and carers of Year 8. Your support has been fantastic, and made this difficult time, much more workable. I hope that you (and your children!) have a relaxing half-term.

Mr Tichband: Year 9 (jtichband@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Hello Year 9. Hope you are all well as we reach the end of the half-term. I would like to thank all of your teachers and parents/carers, but more importantly yourselves, for all of the hard work you have produced over the last few months.

I am continually impressed by your ability to remain motivated, especially when the weather heats up and the temptation to be outside gets stronger. It has been very strange not seeing you every day but it has been great to receive regular updates as to how you are getting on, both with your school work and in your free time.

With the half-term break around the corner, the focus turns to rest and relaxation for the week so please do let me know what you are doing to unwind. Here is how I plan on spending any R&R time I get. Please remain in touch with your tutors and myself and I look forward to hearing from you all soon.



Miss Horne: Year 10 (ehorne@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

As we approach the end of this half-term, I would like to thank you all for your support in what is a very challenging time. We truly appreciate the communication that we have had with you all and have enjoyed the updates on our wonderful year group. We really are missing them greatly!

This past week has been no different in that Year 10 have shone with their levels of engagement; many of the year group have joined Miss Pepper's weekly English drop-in sessions on YouTube. They were even joined by Miss Pepper's cat bopping pens around the room last week – it's a popular event it seems!

Year 10 have also been busy sharing stories about what is keeping them busy at home: **Sofia** has been baking, **Ella** taking wonderful pictures, **Lauren** 'getting the chop' and **Darci** writing poems.

We are so proud of how Year 10 have adapted to this unusual time and can't wait to be reunited safely soon.

Mr Constable: Sixth Form (dconstable@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

It has been another busy week for year 12 as UCAS has gone live for entry in September 2021, I can't quite believe that the group are already looking at their next steps. I have been very impressed by the speed with which year 12 have signed up with UCAS, we would normally guide them through this process and help resolve any problems, so to have ten



students signed up within hours of UCAS going live was very impressive. The work produced by year 12 has continued to be of a good standard, and we have even had some requests for students to return to site. Whilst this is not possible at the moment, it once again shows their desire to succeed in their studies.

Year 13 would have started their exam season this week, and whilst their year did not end the way it was supposed to, I want to reinforce how proud we all are at the Emmbrook School of our year 13s and the work they have put in over the last two years. They were all progressing nicely towards the end of A-Level exams and I am sure they would have done themselves proud throughout the exam season. It has been good to still hear from a number of the year group about their progression plans, they certainly seem to have some exciting plans.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank year 11 for their patience with the sixth form offers processes. It has obviously been very disrupted by the situation we find ourselves in but all year 11 students who applied to the sixth form have now received their individual offer letters and the response from students and parents has been very positive. I have been incredibly impressed by the engagement with the transition work, with some students requesting more to keep their minds working. I know that Miss Cairns is incredibly proud of her year group and I cannot wait to start working with them properly in September.

To all the current sixth formers and future sixth formers, stay safe, stay in touch, hopefully see you all soon.

House Update: Miss Wood (rwood2@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

As we reach the end of this half term we have seen the battle for 1st and 2nd place continue between Jupiter and Venus. Two weeks ago we saw Jupiter steal the first position, however we have seen the gap between the top two get even closer with a difference of 4 points! Saturn are also quickly sneaking up in 3rd position.

The current positions are as follows:

1st Place: **VENUS** – 11721

2nd Place: **JUPITER** – 11717

3rd Place: **SATURN** – 11712

4th Place: **MERCURY** – 11225

A big well done to all you who have been working hard, producing excellent work, showing support, participating in the extra opportunities available and going above and beyond and helping earn extra points for your houses. There is one half-term left of this year and we could still see a complete change in the results!

Keep up the great work in each of the houses!



Emmbrook Creation Station (kandrews@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Teachers Are Stars!

By **Dylan Nanda** Year 7

Teachers can give you a helping hand,
All our lessons are brilliantly planned.
Working hard every day,
All amazing in their own special way.
Teachers can help you if you're feeling down,
They can sometimes be funnier than a clown!
Teachers always try to make lessons fun,
They'll keep you going til your work is done.
My favourite would be hard to choose,
None of them I want to lose.
Thank you teachers for being so great,
100% to you I rate!



Darci (Year 10) has written this poem for all her teachers. Thank you!

Thank you, Teachers

We don't have stationary

So, you buy some out of your own money

You make us move that one step forward

Even when we want to move back

You deal with our tears

Our anger and rage

You make us smile

When the sun's seemed to have gone away

You make us angry and tired

When you set that homework

You make us feel listened to when we need it most and feel like going berserk

You make us laugh when you tell us your stories

Somedays you have patience

Other days you do not

What I'm trying to say is

Thank you

Thank you to all our Science teachers and your experiments



Thank you to all our English teachers and your Shakespeare plays
Thank you to all our Math teachers and your strange numbers and letters
Thank you to all our art teachers and your drawings, music and plays
Thank you to all our History, Geography, Business, Computer science, Language, DT, PE,
Religious studies, Sociology, Economic, Criminology, Politics and Food tech teachers
Thank you to all special need teachers for believing in others when other people don't



KS3 Creative work

Charlie Vicker's eye catching album cover with very appropriate title!



Tom Drayton

I used tinned tomatoes in a pasta bake and then I "borrowed" one of my dads tomato plants to make a decorative pot.



Kameron McNamara (Year 8) – creative use of tuna and its tin!



Mathilde Baret – (Year 7)

here is my tinned food challenge where I baked a cake with tinned fruits, mascarpone and fingers biscuit.



Miguel Arizabalo-Peralta (Year 8) - Covid art



Lily Ogston Carter (Year 7) Here are some photos of my DT work this week, I made my family posh beans on toast and then used the baked bean cans to make bird feeders.



Arvel Gurung (Year 7)

This is my project. It took almost 4 hours to build it is a toy for kids it's like a marble hill race thing with obstacles made from: wood; paper and sticky tape.

