



Newsletter

7th May 2020

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first lockdown newsletter. It is our intention to make communication easier by bringing everything together into one place each week.

Remote Learning

We are still hearing from some parents that their children are finding too much work is being set. As I've shared before, we do want to ensure that there is always sufficient work for every student but we must get the balance right to avoid creating stress and anxiety. If your children are feeling anxious please help them to prioritise completing specific tasks. To help further, Mrs Fyfe has asked teachers to use the following guidelines:

KS3

English, Maths and Science: 2 hours of work assigned each week
Other subjects: 1 hour of work assigned each week

KS4

Maths & English: 2 hours of work assigned each week
Science: 3 hours of work (across all 3 Science subjects)
Other subjects: 90 minutes of work assigned each week

This should equate to 15 hours over the week, which meets our suggestion of 3 hours a day. As always, if you do have any concerns do contact your child's Year Leader, who can help with prioritising work.

Planning for Re-Opening

We are expecting announcements in the coming days about how the Government intends for schools to re-open. It is becoming clear that schools will be re-opening in some form in the near future but at the time of writing there is nothing official on the matter. Our priority will be to ensure a safe return of staff and students and I suspect that in my next update I will be able to provide more concrete information.



Year 6 Transition

We have 210 new students due to join us in September and we will be working hard to give each of them the best possible transition experience given the constraints we currently face. As a first step we will be releasing a series of videos for Year 6 students introducing them to the School. All new parents will be receiving the link by email shortly and we hope to respond to questions from students and parents in future videos. If you have a child preparing to join us in September, the first video can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXbT3Q8ocJY>

In the hope of keeping everyone in the community engaged, many of the staff have contributed a brief glimpse of the extra-curricular activities that they are doing with during the lockdown. This is just a bit of fun which I hope lifts the spirits:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA-FitpfbWQ>

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

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

Thank you to all the parents for the fantastic support we have had in maths, science and computing. In April we have seen 2468 logins to mathswatch with over 900 maths hours spent on the platform, with an amazing 1330 practice and 6368 assignment questions answered by year 7 alone. Our Emmbrook Maths and Computing YouTube channel has seen over 4000 views, so if you haven't been on there, please check it out

(<https://tinyurl.com/mathschannel>), we post answers to some of the harder questions, a run through of the topics for the week and answers to questions requested from students. It is not only years 7-10 and year 12 who have been busy, future A-Level maths students in year 11 have also been working hard on transition work ensuring that they don't lose their skills as they wait for the long return to school. Our year 7 and 8 Computer Scientists have all signed up to the Amazon Future Engineer project where they are learning about programming in python. Year 9 have been working on their advanced python skills and getting to grips with bits, bytes and even nibbles! Year 10 have been learning about all the different hardware needed to setup a computer network, something we have become to rely on in the past few weeks.





Science (lpansar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

In science year 9 have been making good use of kerboodle to learn about the digestive system, atomic structure and molecules and matter, year 8 have completed some excellent work for the Bronze Crest Award where students work independently to scientifically solve a real work problem and year 7 have been looking into the way different aspects of science has affected the jobs that we do, Mr Edwards has this to say showing how impressed he was



"I was very impressed with the amount of research that the students did, especially when looking at the future of their chosen industry. In all cases, according to the students' research, our future will be filled with the development of robotics within the work place, many students found studies and research that was looking at integrating robots into their chosen sector, whether that's within healthcare, with the potential of having robots perform surgery!".

Year 10 are coping well with these difficult times and have been working on their GCSE syllabus learning about Motion, Rates of Reaction and Types of Reproduction. Scientists around the world are very busy right now, helping us make sense of the virus. Understanding the impact science is having on the pandemic and how essential scientists are to our future is an excellent topic for our students to be researching. This link is a great start: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51204456>

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

Learning has continued in full in Business and Humanities with some geographers investigating climate change and others the urbanisation of China. History have been setting work surrounding the VE day 75th Anniversary whilst some Religious Studies classes have been working on philosophical questions. Business students have been focussing on recruitment and looking at interview questions, the most common (strange) question appears to be "What type of cereal would you be and why?" – feel free to debate this at home!

We know that working from home and having children distance learning is hard, the Business and Humanities team are here to help – so please email classroom teachers at the first sign of a problem. We are all in this together!

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. The GCSE PE and Sport Science classes have been working on their knowledge and understanding of Social Cultural Influences, Physical Training and Musculoskeletal System as well as competing against other classes in the fortnightly online SMHW quiz!

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

All of the teachers within the English and Languages faculty have been really impressed by the creativity and imagination shown by many students in the work that they have submitted so far. The weekly creative challenges in English have proved very successful and this week's task was to describe a view from a window. Miss Pepper continues to read Harry Potter every day from 4 p.m., so stay tuned! Miss Pepper has also had an overwhelming response from Y10 to her proposition of setting up a weekly hour live drop in for GCSE support to accompany their weekly lessons and video tutorials – she will be launching this next week! All English tasks are now accompanied by a video link to support students when working from home. In MFL, students in KS3 have been creating presentations on a topic of their choice and it has been great to see some original, personalised responses to this task. KS4 students have continued to work on their GCSE French, German and Spanish GCSE courses and there are some very impressive scores accumulating on Vocab Express and DuoLingo. We will announce the names of those at the top of the leader boards next week!

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

The Creative and Performing Arts Faculty have been inundated with an incredible range of student work. Staff have been amazed by the high standard and creative approach to the tasks, from; cooking, stop motion animation, recreating iconic scenes from films, music house competitions to family singing.



Lockdown has shown just how important the creative subjects are; it has been amazing seeing how our students and their families have gone above and beyond with their imaginative, heartfelt response to celebrating our NHS staff.



Have a look at the following examples of student work...and don't forget to follow the Art & Design Instagram @emmbrookartdesign





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

Mrs Hodgson has been very impressed with the way that Year 7 have embarked upon this very strange chapter in their lives. They have been trying very hard with their remote learning as well as making sure that they take time to do more "hands on" activities. Dylan Nanda has delighted us with his daily poem. Michelle Bell made some impressive cakes and Thomas Featherbe-Knott helped to make a sandpit for his younger brother. Mrs Hodgson misses her year group and their cheery "hellos" as they walk past her office every morning. She says "I miss them. I miss their helpfulness and their kindness. Every email I have received has started with "Hello Miss, I hope you are safe and well". They are a super year group and I am sad that my time with them was cut short".

Keep going Year 7 and continue with the amazing things you give to the community.

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

Year 8 have been on fire again this week in terms of quality learning and activities at home. We start with Mrs. Gelder. Her French classes have produced some excellent work and she has singled out Caitlyn Hyde, Raissa Kaninda, Oliver Simpson, Elliot Lewis, Jamie Herridge, Matt Anniss and Joe Dempster for producing tremendous work, and they have all been awarded 15 House Points for their efforts. In Maths, Ben Thorby has been working like a machine, and is continually producing outstanding Maths home-learning. Well done to all!

In Geography, William Yoxall scored the top mark in his class on the Climate Change test, and Harry and Tom Drayton have been nominated by Mr. McGrath for their amazing work. Well done to the Geographers! In terms of Art, Evie Boaf and Edward Taylor have produced some outstanding sketch books, and in English, Jack Hatch is smashing the work. 8E are making sure they are well represented in the newsletter! Finally, Isla Clarke produced some more great work in Music with her lyrics home-learning.

In terms of activities, Grace Maple has been practicing her footballing skills, and is much better than me already, and Alexander Tyszka has learnt how to do a number of tricks on the trampoline. Charlie Vickers has been working hard to support the NHS, and Acer Woolford has been creating some works of Art (painted stones) and leaving them as lovely gifts for unsuspecting people.

I am hugely impressed with Year 8, and would like to say a big thank you to the parents for their continuous support.



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

I would like to update everyone on some of the brilliant charity work being completed by year 9 students over the coming days. I have been told about two students in particular who have decided to use their time currently in order to help others. Theo Pett Ridge is taking part in a sponsored run in order to raise money for the RFU Injured Players Foundation. His team from Rams Rugby club will all be running 10 miles in order to raise this money. Erin Prowse has decided that after her 16inch hair cut in year 7 it is time to once again chop it all off. Erin is unable to donate the hair this year however she is as keen as ever to raise money for Daisy's Dream. Below are the links for both their sponsorship pages. It would be amazing if the Emmbrook community would be able to help these two raise some money for those less fortunate.

<https://tinyurl.com/erindaisysdream>

<https://tinyurl.com/theoramsrfc>

Overall I have loved the recent updates. Many year 9s have been working so hard and continue to make me really proud of them. As always please keep me updated. My emails are always checked and I love to hear from everyone.

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

With a shorter update from me this week, I thought I would offer a welcomed relief from remote learning.

UCAS have recently launched a new page with an abundance of information regarding pathways to multiple careers. It has information about both degree and apprenticeship routes, explains the requirements they have, including specific subjects, and any preferred experience. Whilst your child may be struggling to find some motivation at home, a break to look into what they may need in order to do their dream job may (hopefully) be helpful for a little boost.

At the beginning of Year 11 we will be looking at careers and post Year 11 options in school so there is no pressure on top of school work for your child to look into this now, however, if it provides a well-needed break then please do check it out:

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects>

If you have any questions about anything that your child finds or require any support with remote learning then please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

Firstly, I would like to say how proud I am of our sixth form learners. The determination they have shown to not let this school closure impact on their A levels is fantastic to see and their engagement with the distance learning process has overall been very effective. In addition, I would like to commend the learners on their engagement with the wider community, whether it is getting involved in the creation station task or the House Captains



continuing to support the running of house competitions, the sixth form have shown themselves to be a valuable part of the Emmbrook community.

Secondly, I would like to say something about each year group. Year 12, who are coming to the end of their first year of A levels, have dealt with the disruption very effectively. The levels of engagement from the year group have been excellent and I have been regularly receiving updates on work the students have been completing. In addition, a number of the students have been in contact with myself and the tutor team to see how they can use this time effectively for progression planning which furthers my belief of how mature this year group is. I have also had a couple of students email me some jokes (mainly cheese ones), which has really lightened the mood. Year 13, who have had their A levels cut short, have also embraced this situation. They have continued to prepare the year book, a number have taken it upon themselves to finish their A level studies or start preparation for university, and I have heard of a number who have taken the opportunity to learn a new skill, for example a new language. The way in which year 13 have dealt with this sudden end to their time with us has been truly inspiring and shows what can be done in the face of adversity.

Lastly, I would like to wish the whole sixth form well. I hope they are all staying safe and managing to keep busy during this very strange time and I can't wait to see them all again soon.

Sports Challenges

We have had a number of sports challenges from the PE team so far, don't forget to post your attempts on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram!

Week 1 – Mr Edward's press up challenge

Week 2 – Miss Matthew's balance competition

Week 3 – Mr Humber's squat challenge

Week 4 – Mr Tichband's juggling challenge

Week 5 – Miss Taylor's keepie uppie challenge

Week 6 – Mr Maskell's table tennis challenge

Week 7 – Mr Edward's trickshot challenge

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

Whilst school may not be physically open, we have continued to see the house spirit continue, but from our own homes. It has been fantastic to see the house points totals changing as students are continuing to earn House Points in 'lessons' for their great effort and the brilliant quality work that has been produced. Well done!

We may have had to postpone some of our planned House competitions but we have managed to still keep up the competition with events taking place from your homes.

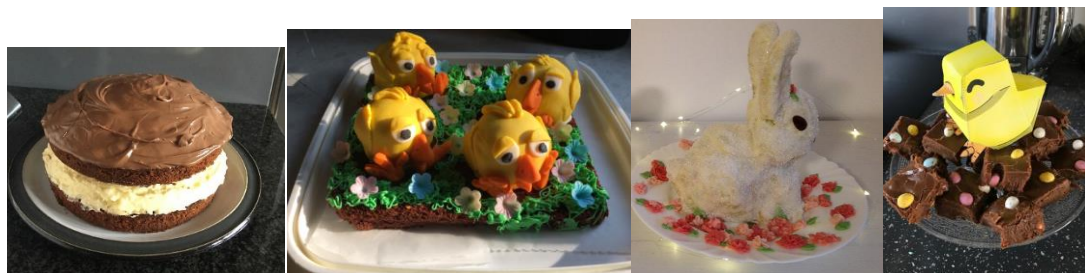
Over Easter, Miss Taylor (House Leader for Mercury) organised a fantastic Easter Bake off and we were very impressed with the entries we received. A big well done goes to our winners:

Year 7- Natasha Rowell (Jupiter)

Year 8- Maia Hill (Mercury)

Year 12- Dorotea Baji (Mercury)

Year 13- Mhairi Robertson (Mercury)



Our current competition has been organised by Olivia Rowell (Venus House Captain) and is the brilliant 'Recreation Challenge'. For this competition we want to see your best recreation of paintings, album covers or even iconic photos! Post your entries online and tag @theemmbrookschoolor email housecompetition@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk

We look forward to seeing your creative entries!

The current House point totals are as follows:

1st place = Jupiter: 11648

2nd place = Venus: 11636

3rd place = Saturn: 11622

4th place = Mercury: 11132

We have seen a shift in the first two positions over the last week so it really is close and therefore every point you earn through competitions or class and homework really does make a difference!

Keep up the great work and if anyone has any ideas for competitions they would like to see being run during this time, please do get in touch and let us know!

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

Every day, Miss Andrews sets an optional creative task for students (and parents) to join in with. Here are a few of her favourites from the last week;

What Makes You Calm?

By Dylan Nanda Year 7.

Imagine yourself on a hot quiet beach,
And on this beach all your favourite people and things are right in front of you.
To your side you can see a wonderful view,



Because on this beach there isn't anything that you can't do!
Nobody is going to judge you for whatever you're thinking about,
Who cares if you may stand out?
Now imagine yourself being somewhere that makes you feel safe,
Don't worry about thinking of somewhere that someone else would want you to say.
Because it doesn't matter at the end of the day.
You can interpret this poem in your own way.
Being calm is not something that your mind can do instantly.
It takes time,
So whenever you're stressing about something,
Whether it is work or just life,
Remember this rhyme,
Remember this,
There is no limit,
To how high you can climb.



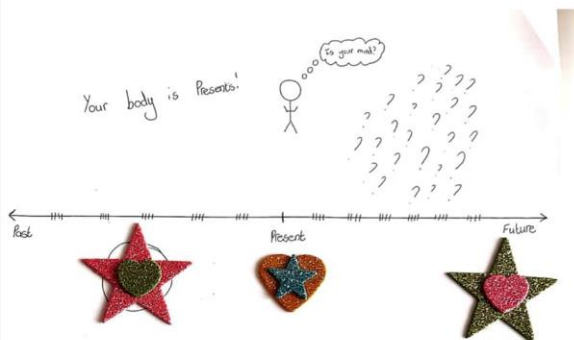
Aww leia and Luke are cute together
Nope never mind
They're siblings

Wow Darth Vader and Luke are enemies
Nothing can...
Nope never mind
They're father and son

IS THERE ANYONE WHO'S NOT RELEATED TO LUKE!

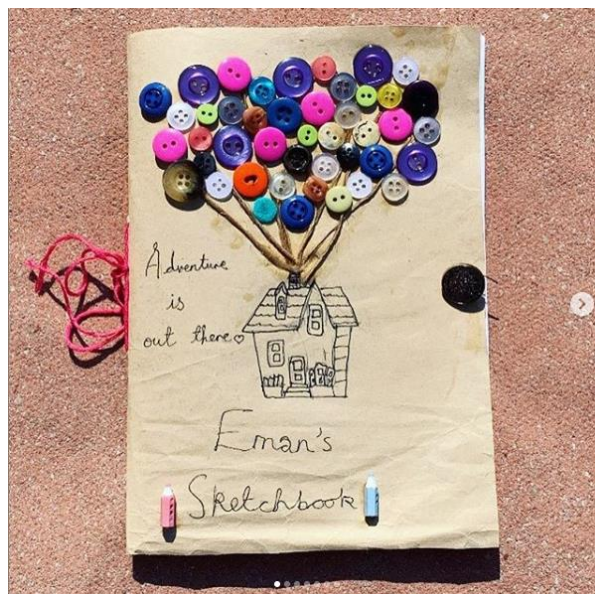


YES, I KNOW YOU'RE NOT...



Art Instagram (jmeader@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Here are a selection of some of the artwork the students have shared on Instagram;





English Work

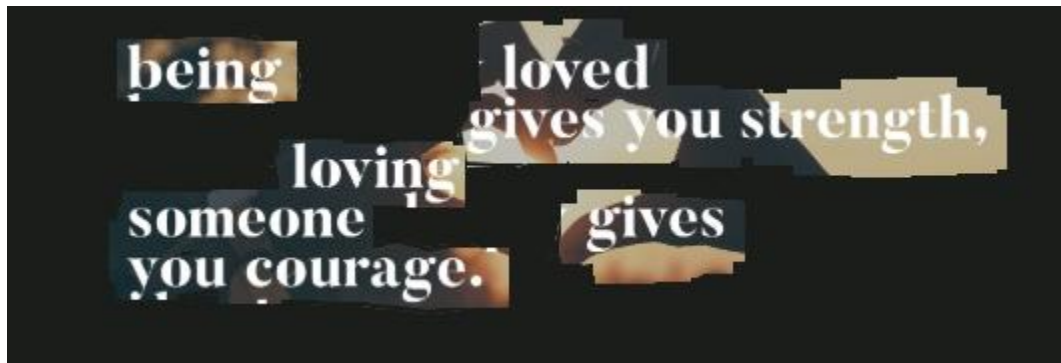
Below are some examples of the amazing English work that has been completed this week

Six word stories

"Sorry, soldier; shoes sold in pairs." Miłosz Ziaja (year 7)

Whose reflection's that? I live alone. Tamar Gillies (year 8)

Blackout Poetry



James Orunkoya (year 7)

Waterfall description



The luscious overgrowing greenery brushes against the elegant flow of water. Misty vapour fantasises the area as if it's from a fairytale. The water moves like a feather, dancing from side to side. Rocks sit there, lonely, waiting for a friend to come make conversation. The only sense of animal life is the occasional bird, chirping happily but longing for a drink.

Ethan Undrell (year 8)

Window with a view

I was in the car, looking through my side window, when the place came into view. School. It was my first day of school, and I was nervous. School was my worst nightmare. I knew because my brother kept telling me, even though mom says he should stop. Even though school was a terror itself, the thing I was most scared of was making friends.

As we parked on the road, I saw someone look at my window. It was a cute, adorable child. His cheeks were as fluffy as a cloud and his uniform looked smart like a business outfit. He looked like the perfect person to be friends with. I felt like then school could be a good place for me.

Kwamina Enchill (year 7)



I opened 2 of the windows and sat down. I was reading my book whilst listening to music and eating some chocolate. This building is a holiday house and you only get to stay for a week. I felt lucky when I found out that this week was my turn to stay. I am an adventurous, imaginative,



Creative and ambitious student. I have big goals and dreams that I want to achieve. My wavy, brown hair falls over my ears and covers the arms of my glasses. I am wearing a black long sleeved T-shirt with a chequered pinafore over the top. I also have a pair of tights on with my black and white laced trainers. Looking out the window I am feeling calm, refreshed and free. My head is spinning with excitement. This

place is beautiful. A glimpse out of the window and your mind is taken on a breathtaking journey. It is like being in the middle of a tropical forest. I can see a small, rigid stream with rocks popping up like obstacles at a horse show. The stream is like a tap that someone forgot to switch off. The trees and bushes hovered over the stream as an arch. The sun was like an angel descending to the ground as it was so bright. I can hear birds chirping, the stream moving over the rocks, the trees and bushes waving when the wind blows. I can taste salt from the stream, chocolate slowly melting on my tongue and the bitter air that comes through the windows. I can smell the water as it comes closer to the house. The fresh smell of grass overtakes the water. I can feel my fingers turning the pages of my book, my fingers picking up the chocolate and my feet moving in my shoes. If I put my hand out the window, I will feel the cold, bubbly stream, the green growing grass and the heat of the boiling sun. To sum the view up in one word: MAGICAL!

* The strong smell of my book as I turn the pages.



From my window seat I can see, our sparkling clean car wishing it was getting dirty from amazing adventure days out. Just behind it I can see a rough patch of grass; it's like lots of flattened sand dunes with little hints of green on. There's two rows of patio going through it. Did you know little fairies come out at night and play tag? I caught them once; they weren't very pleased: we woke up with a dirty car. We have a round island with grass and at night those fairies turn it to a swimming pool – I have always wondered why it was wet in the morning. The fairies live in our big oak tree at the top of our drive, they are guarding us from horrid villain's. The horrid villains live opposite us in this horrid brick wall, they try to get into the fairies' pool. The fairies are having none of it so they have bricks they throw at the villains. Oh that explains the pile of bricks, maybe I should get my dad to move them. Wouldn't want anyone getting hurt.

Megan Wrobel (year 9)

I wake up and stretch my arms to the sound of the morning rooster. I sit up in bed, to the comfort of the new day and open up the curtains. The morning's light greets me as I gaze out into the farm fields, and see the crops sway to the wind, back and forth. I decide to open up my window, and in comes the refreshing morning wind, fresh and elegant as ever. The tomatoes are looking red and plump; I can taste them already. I looked forward to getting out of bed, to walking through the lush grass of the fields: another day.

I look at the chicken run, wondering how many eggs they laid today. The warm wind blows my hair to one side as my eyes followed the tractor slowly driving along the field in the distance, accompanied by birds of prey, seeking food. The small pink specks in the distance walk out of their hut, to splat in the mud outside, whilst the geese sing their rather out of tune song, before heading to the sky-blue lake. Some ducks walked from the lake, in an order of smallest to largest, heading off to their nest, and I decided it is now my turn to start my day.

Harry Drayton (year 8)