



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Weekly Update**

Once again this community has shown first class support by engaging so positively with the Covid-19 testing programme. From the staff and community volunteers who created a really efficient test centre through to families who have helped their children attend tests and last, but by no means least, the students who have been incredible. We have managed to test all year groups in just three days and can now look forward to a phased return to face-to-face lessons next week. At time of writing there have been no positive results (though we are still awaiting the last Year 7 test results), which I take as very assuring.

### **Covid-19 symptoms**

If any member of your household has Covid-19 symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of taste or smell) then all members of your household must self-isolate while a test is taken. If your child tests positive please notify us using [covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk).

### **Phased return to face-to-face lessons**

This week we welcome back students as follows:

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Years 11, 12 & 13
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Years 8 & 10
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Years 7 & 9

On their first day back students will start with a full safety briefing and will have their second test throughout the school day.

### **Third test**

The third test will be on the following days:

- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> – Years 11, 12 & 13
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – Years 8 & 10
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Years 7 & 9

### **Positive Covid-19 results**

If there is a positive result during the school tests, the student (and all close contacts) must self-isolate for 10 days. You should not attempt to book any further tests at a local NHS test centre for the student.

Once all students return to school, any positive cases will trigger the same track and trace process that we used previously and anyone in close contact with that individual will be required to self-isolate.



### Previous Covid-19 positive cases

If your child has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days then they are exempt from testing. Please ensure you have informed us of this. You can opt in to testing, but if your child does test positive they will need to self-isolate as will those who have been in close contact.

### Home testing for students

During the third and final test we intend to issue students with their home testing kits (they have not yet arrived). By undertaking three supervised tests at school, it is the intention that they will then be well prepared to continue testing at home with your support. More details will be shared next week.

### Home testing for families

The Department for Education has announced that anyone who lives with or is in a support bubble with secondary school aged children or secondary school staff is entitled to twice weekly home testing. A flyer from WBC explaining the scheme is attached with this letter.

### Split timetable

To accommodate year group bubbles the split timetable is in operation from Monday 8<sup>th</sup>, with Years 8 and 10 following the alternative timings. This will be in effect for Year 8 and 10 live lessons on Monday. The timings are:

Years 7, 9, 11 & Sixth Form		Years 8 & 10	
08:25 – 08:45	<b>Registration</b>	08:25 – 08:45	<b>Registration</b>
08:50 – 09:50	<b>Period 1</b>	08:50 – 09:50	<b>Period 1</b>
09:50 – 09:55	<b>Moving Time</b>	09:50 – 10:15	<b>Break</b>
09:55 – 10:55	<b>Period 2</b>	10:15 – 11:15	<b>Period 2</b>
10:55 – 11:20	<b>Break</b>	11:15 – 11:20	<b>Moving Time</b>
11:20 – 12:20	<b>Period 3</b>	11:20 – 12:20	<b>Period 3</b>
12:20 – 12:25	<b>Moving Time</b>	12:20 – 12:50	<b>Lunch</b>
12:25 – 13:25	<b>Period 4</b>	12:50 – 13:50	<b>Period 4</b>
13:25 – 13:55	<b>Lunch</b>	13:50 – 13:55	<b>Moving Time</b>
13:55 – 14:55	<b>Period 5</b>	13:55 – 14:55	<b>Period 5</b>
14:55	<b>Period 6</b>		



## **Covid-secure rules**

Our mantra this term will be that we mustn't allow the testing programme to create a false sense of security. All Covid-secure measures remain in place and we should all behave as if we have the virus and could be infectious.

- The wearing of face masks when indoors (unless exempt).
- Year group bubbles, including the use of split break and lunch to keep bubbles apart (with Years 8 and 10 reverting to the off-set timetable).
- Maintain social distancing as much as possible and keep strict social distancing from all adults and children in other year group bubbles.
- Sanitise at the start and end of lessons or whenever students enter or leave a room.
- All students will be issued with personal sanitisers.
- New operating procedures in the canteen with the use of screens, visors and masks by staff.
- Strict control of movement around the school site.
- Enhanced cleaning regimes.

Any student who fails to properly observe our requirements will be considered a risk to the safety of staff and other students; Mr Bhambra will personally resolve these incidents with parents to ensure that the highest safety standards are maintained. If you are concerned that your son or daughter will struggle to follow the safety instructions or that wearing a face mask is likely to cause your child severe distress, please contact Mr Bhambra via email as soon as possible ([tbhambra@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:tbhambra@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)).

## **Live lessons**

As students return to school live lessons will be phased out:

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Years 7-10 only
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Years 7 & 9 only

## **Attendance**

The government have advised that all children must attend school from March 8<sup>th</sup>. As this is a legal requirement, can you please let your son or daughter's year leader know as soon as possible if there is likely to be an issue with this.

## **School uniform**

From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> all students must return to wearing school uniform. The blazer remains optional (to allow families to wash uniform daily) but must only be replaced by the school jumper or a coat.

## **PE kit**

As a further Covid-19 mitigation measure, students should come to school wearing PE kit each day that they have PE on their timetable. Students must be appropriately dressed, as they would be for PE, with school branded tops, suitable bottoms and trainers. Students will not be able to access the changing rooms. The ultimate judgement of suitable PE kit is ours and we ask that you support our high standards to ensure that this reasonable measure does not deteriorate into a dilution of the uniform in any way.



### **Visitors**

We ask that parents do not come onto the school site. Please contact reception by phone or email if required.

You may have seen in the Wokingham Today newspaper this week that The Emmbrook has been approached by Wokingham Borough Council to expand our intake for September 2021 to accommodate demand for places (regrettably, even with potential expansion, we still have a waiting list). We will work in partnership with WBC to do our best to support the local community, however, I am clear that any decision to increase the next intake must not dilute the quality of provision for those new students or our existing students. I will keep you all updated.

Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**  
Headteacher