



Thursday 11th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Weekly Update

This week's update has been written a day early to coincide with the distribution of home testing kits to Years 11, 12 and 13 today. I felt it was important that we share this information to coincide with students bringing their kits home. Students in Years 7-10 will receive their kits tomorrow and Monday during their third school test.

Home testing for students

As home testing is such a significant change, I have attached two letters that give clear details about the home testing system, including frequently asked questions. If you have any queries about home testing then please contact covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk.

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 until a test is arranged at a local test centre and the negative result is received. If your child tests positive please notify us using covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk.

Third test

The school testing had been an incredible success and the students have, quite simply, been absolutely perfect. I am utterly indebted to the community volunteers who have donated their time and so pleased that they have found our students to be so polite. Today Years 11, 12 and 13 completed their third and final school Covid-19 test. The remaining year groups will be tested tomorrow and Monday as follows:

- Friday 12th – Years 8 & 10
- Monday 15th – 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. If you have a positive from your home test then notify us and arrange a confirmation PCR test at your local test centre. Any positive tests at school or at home will trigger the same track and trace process that we used before Christmas and anyone in close contact with that individual will be required to self-isolate.

Home testing for families

As advised last week, 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. More information about this can be found via these links:

- [Department for Education](#)
- [Wokingham Borough Council](#)



- [Online testing](#)

Covid-secure rules

The students have been coping brilliantly with the measures in place to protect the community by:

- The wearing of face masks when indoors (unless exempt).
- Maintaining social distancing as much as possible and keeping strict social distancing from all adults and children in other year group bubbles.
- Sanitising at the start and end of lessons or whenever students enter or leave a room.

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).

Attendance

The government have advised that all children must attend school from March 8th. 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.

PE kit

Students should continue to come to school in PE kit on any day when they do PE. My thanks for the support with this change, which is temporary and will be reversed as soon as is practicable. If your child is feeling anxious about this change then please contact their Year Leader to discuss the situation.

Visitors

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

Wellbeing Activity Hub

With the students returning to school we continue to place a strong focus on wellbeing. To support the work that we are doing here, attached with this week's update is a range of activities that you could encourage your children to engage with at home. We hope you find it useful.

It has been an absolute pleasure to have students back in the school this week. The students have had to deal with huge challenges over the last year and have shown incredible resilience and determination. I hope that all of the students have enjoyed the transition.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

The Emmbrook School



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