



Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Term Begins Tomorrow**

Happy New Year!

Let's all hope that, over the coming weeks and months, the national situation will begin to improve. There remains a great deal of speculation in the media regarding the position of schools over the coming weeks and, as always, we will work within the guidelines and keep you updated of developments.

At present we expect Years 11 and 13 to return during the week beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January, with other year groups returning on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Remote Learning**

From tomorrow all learning will be provided via Teams. Lessons will be live and the students should follow their normal timetable, joining the start of the lesson at the correct time. I recognise that looking at a screen all day can be draining for students and staff, so lessons will be for 50 minutes; this will allow students to get sufficient breaks from the computer and be able to move around at regular intervals which will ultimately improve productivity and learning.

If the class teacher is absent from work then a live lesson will not be possible. Independent work will be set via Teams for students to complete.

Students will receive invites via their school email account and can also join lessons using their calendar in Microsoft Office. If you need support with the lessons then please contact the class teacher directly.

Senior and middle leaders are working with teachers to ensure that high quality learning is maintained during this period of phased return.

## **Covid-19 Testing Consent**

Thank you to those parents who have already provided consent for testing. If you have not yet completed the online survey then please complete it as soon as possible by clicking this [link](#).

## **Covid-19 Testing in School**

We are in the process of establishing our on-site testing system. We are prioritising staff and then students in the critical worker provision. Our next priority group will be Years 11 and 13 and I will be writing to their parents tomorrow with details. We will require students to attend school for around 30 minutes to be tested over the coming days. As you can imagine, this is a logistical



challenge, so your support will be appreciated. I am very grateful to those who have volunteered to support the testing programme.

If you have any queries or questions regarding the testing process then please contact us via [testing@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:testing@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk).

### **No Changing for PE Lessons**

As we are having to convert the gym into our testing centre, we will lose a significant proportion of our PE changing room capacity. Therefore, once students return to school they will need to wear their PE kit in place of their school uniform each day that they have PE on their timetable. Students will need to wear Emmbrook branded PE kit, which can include acceptable navy blue/black tracksuit bottoms. Students will not have the opportunity to change so it is important that they wear their PE kit on the correct days.

This decision will be reviewed at February half-term. Please support our high standards by ensuring that your child follows our PE kit rules; students who do not meet our standards will be sanctioned in the normal manner for any uniform problems.

### **Vulnerable children and children of critical workers**

The school site remains open only to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers, who can attend to complete the online learning under supervision. Should you have a child who needs access to this provision, please contact us using [covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk) so that we can discuss the arrangements.

Students must not attend the school site if they have Covid-19 symptoms and if anyone in your household has symptoms then all should isolate while that individual takes a test.

I hope that you are all keeping well. I am very much looking forward to seeing the outcomes of the inter-house Christmas decoration and gingerbread house competitions!

Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**

Headteacher

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