



Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Weekly Update

Another very good week, with students adapting extremely well to the introduction of face mask wearing in the school canteen. Thank you for your support with that new measure. We are not planning to make any significant changes for the coming week, however, I do want to update you with some general notices. With two local secondary schools having confirmed cases this week, it is as important as ever that we keep our discipline and enforce our safety protocols precisely.

NHS Covid-19 App

With the release of the NHS app we have received new guidance from the Department for Education, which states:

The app is available to download for anyone aged 16 and over if they choose to do so. For some young people, particularly those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), parents will need to decide whether or not their use of the app is appropriate. This aligns with wider NHS services which are generally offered to those aged 16 and over as routine. This will mean that some students in year 11, and the majority of students in years 12, 13 and in FE colleges will be eligible to use the app and benefit from its features. Staff members will also be able to use the app.

If your child does opt to use the app then we ask that you inform us should they receive a notification that they have been in close contact (normally within 1-2 days) with a confirmed case. Attached with this email is a letter from Public Health England.

Year 11 Football Trial at Breaks

The Year 11 bubble has the exclusive use of the library and new picnic area during break but, unlike Years 7-10, do not have any outdoor space for sports. From next week we will be trialling students having access to the 3G pitch. This will be by request only so students need to raise this with Mr Bhambra.

PE Trialling Masks in Changing Rooms

The PE department will be trialling the use of masks in changing rooms with a small number of classes over the coming week; the students involved will be made aware directly. We will use the trial to judge the practicality of more widespread mask use.

Uniform

At the start of term I took the decision to support families who wanted more frequent washing of uniforms by making the blazer optional (until half-term, in the first instance). I have been really pleased by the standard of uniform (the jumpers do look smart) and your support with compliance. As temperatures drop, students will be tempted to wear other items in place of the blazer. Please support our rule that students may wear blazer or school jumper as their outer



layer and nothing else. They may wear a coat. Hoodies and non-school jumpers are not part of our uniform and may be worn to and from school but cannot be worn during the school day.

Cycling Safely

We have noted a significant rise in the number of students cycling to school. Please ensure that your child is safe by ensuring that they have a bike helmet.

Injections

HPV injections will be held Tuesday 29th September for Year 9 students (boys and girls).

School Photographs Postponed

The school photographs for Years 7, 9 and 11 will now not take place on Tuesday as originally planned. We will advise you of the new date as soon as that is confirmed.

Coronavirus Advice Translations

The government has translated its advice and this is now available in the following languages:

- [Arabic](#)
- [Bengali](#)
- [Chinese – traditional](#)
- [Chinese – simplified](#)
- [French](#)
- [Gujarati](#)
- [Polish](#)
- [Portuguese](#)
- [Punjabi](#)
- [Romany](#)
- [Somali](#)
- [Turkish](#)
- [Urdu](#)

New 2021 Year 7

Parents of Year 6 students have a much harder job selecting a secondary school this year as they cannot visit schools. We are doing our best to provide parents and students with as much information as possible. If you have friends or family in this position then please share our information page with them:

<https://www.emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk/page/?title=Open+Evening+and+School+Tours&pid=1043>

Finally, you may have seen our recent appearance on the front page of the Wokingham Paper (and smaller articles in some of the national papers) regarding the 10 sets of twins in Year 7. Our very own **Mrs Hodgson** has been invited to talk about this on BBC Radio Berkshire. If you would like to tune in the interview is scheduled for 10.35am tomorrow (Saturday).

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney
Headteacher

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