



Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Remote Learning Extended until February Half-Term

Following the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday, we now know that all students will be learning remotely until at least February half-term. I'm sure that this news will have caused a variety of responses across our community.

Our top priorities remain the wellbeing and education of our students. To this end, we will continue to offer a full live timetable via Microsoft Teams.

Live lessons

From tomorrow, we are moving the timings of the day for Years 8 and 10 to match the rest of the school (the decision to stagger the day for 8 and 10 was a Covid-19 mitigation measure).

Therefore the timings of the day for all students are:

8.25am	Tutor Time
8.50am	Period 1
9.55am	Period 2
11.20am	Period 3
12.25pm	Period 4
1.55pm	Period 5
2.55pm	Period 6

Each day starts with the form tutor. Tutors will support the health and wellbeing of students and deliver the pastoral programme.

These timings will match the timing of lessons as shown in the student's calendar on Teams.

Lessons will start promptly and last for 50 minutes.

Period 6 is for Years 12 and 13 only.

I have attached a guidance sheet for students on remote learning and Mrs Fyfe will be in touch later this week with more information about how to get the most out of this time.

If the class teacher is absent from work then a live lesson will not be possible and independent work will be set via Teams for students to complete. We will notify you each day of any staff absences affecting your child's lessons.

We have already loaned out IT equipment where we are aware of a need. Should you need support with access to IT equipment please contact your child's Year Leader. Our resources are very limited but we will do our best to support if we can.

2021 summer examinations

While much of the media is reporting that this summer's exams are cancelled, the message from the government is much more subtle. The Department for Education has released very little at present but has said that the summer exams will not be able to continue as planned. I am certain that students in Years 11 and 13 will be assessed, via limited exams, coursework and/or teacher judgements. It is therefore essential that students in these exam years remain fully committed to





their studies, so please reinforce this message with your child. I have emailed a [link](#) to Year 11 and 13 students of a short assembly to help keep them informed.

Year 13 exam week postponed

This week we were expecting Year 13 students to sit internal exams. This will now be postponed, in the first instance until March. As the situation becomes clearer we will communicate a new programme. Teachers of Year 13 will continue to use on-going assessments in lessons and through homework to ensure that students can prepare and improve.

Year 9 into 10 options

This term our Year 9 students were due to select their options for Year 10 and we will continue with that process remotely. Information regarding subjects will be available on the website and we will hold a virtual information evening (similar to the one regarding Sixth Form options for Year 11 held earlier in the year). Mr Whitehouse will write with more details in the coming weeks.

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 so that we can discuss the arrangements. Given that this provision will now be required until February half-term, from tomorrow students will not be required to wear school uniform.

Covid-19 testing in school

It appears that plans for widespread testing are now on hold. In anticipation that this will resume after half-term, if you have not yet completed the online survey to give consent for your child to be tested then please do so by clicking this [link](#).

We will use our new testing capacity to test students and staff who are on site in the first instance and this was discussed with the students earlier today.

I hope that our provision will enable the best possible opportunities for students to remain engaged with school. I enjoyed teaching online today and I'm impressed by the engagement of students. The students on-site today were very impressive.

Please keep in contact with us if you need any help or support.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk



@EmmbrookSchool