



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Headteacher's Weekly Update

Our Sixth Form student leaders held a wonderful MacMillan Coffee Morning last Friday and raised £204.69. My thanks to all those who participated and especially to those who donated cakes.

## Parent Survey Update

Thank you for taking the time to contribute to the parent survey that was sent out last week. Overall, the results were positive, particularly important is the very high number of parents indicating that your children feel happy and safe at school. Other areas of strength include the breadth of the curriculum and the range of extra-curricular clubs and activities that we provide. From the survey results we have identified three areas where we want to make further improvements:

Improvement area	Action we've taken
Keeping you better informed about what your child will be learning.	We have compiled learning journey summaries so that you are aware of what your child is learning now and over the year ahead. These will be emailed to all parents shortly.
Keeping you better informed about how your child is doing.	We have launched the parent portal app so that you have live updates about achievements and sanctions. We have extended parents' evenings from 1pm-6.30pm so that more appointments are available to ensure you can meet with your child's teachers. We have a programme of parent information evenings running through the year so that you can have the opportunity to be in school talking with leaders.
Supporting your child's wider personal development.	We have a Personal Development Strategy that is led by an assistant headteacher. We will continue to address issues that impact the wellbeing and development of our students, for example our current focus is on online safety. Please contact us with suggestions of any other issues that you feel are important for us to address. Our FAIR values demonstrate our commitment to developing well-rounded young people who are able to function well in society. Students who embody these values are recognised with achievement points and we are continuing to develop the rewards system this year. We offer a plethora of extra-curricular activities that contribute to our students' personal development. We recognise that you may not be aware of these, so will be publishing an overview document in the very near future.

We work in partnership with you. Please don't feel that you must wait for surveys to give us your feedback.



## Government Announcement to Ban Mobile Phones from Schools

You may have seen the announcement this week that the government intends to introduce guidance for schools banning mobile phones. The devil will be in the detail so we will await that guidance and implement accordingly. Our new protocols this year have reduced mobile phone usage in the school so we are already on a journey ourselves, however, we currently allow mobile phones at break and lunch; it appears that may have to change once we have new government guidelines. We will keep you informed.

## WBC Cycleway Consultation

Wokingham Borough Council are seeking views on the first stage of a [planned new cycling and walking route](#) from Wokingham town centre to the outskirts of Winnersh. They are currently consulting on the first stage from Sadler's Lane to Emmbrook Road, with further consultation to follow in the coming months. If you would like to take part then please follow this [link](#) (the deadline is Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October). They also want to ensure the views of young people are represented in the public consultation, as many young people already use this route so we have sent the survey to all students in Years 9-13 (via their school email account).

## Being Considerate of our Neighbours

We want to be a good neighbour to our local residents so please be considerate when parking locally for drop-off/pick-up. Please do not use the private road near the school, signed as Emmbrook Road (numbered 80-98), as this is not a public highway.

## Book Fair Next Week

We are excited to have our first book fair starting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Every break and lunch time students can come to the library to browse the collection and select any books they would like to purchase. Payment will be online through the Scholastic website and your purchases at the book fair help to earn the school free books for the library.

## Book Fair Competition

Students have a chance to win a £5 voucher to spend at the book fair by completing a book review on the library website, [Oliver](#), before Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

## Careers Update

Helpful links this week:

- [National Film and Television School](#) open days
- [Sparsholt College](#) open days
- [The Parent Perspective Podcast](#) – Amazing Apprenticeships resources for parents
- [IBM Early Careers Webinar](#)

## Sporting Success

We are always keen to celebrate our students' successes, so I am delighted to share that Adam Steliaros (Year 10) entered and won his first two archery tournaments this summer. At the first event he won in his category and finished second overall to an adult archer with 12 years' experience (whose arrow landed 5mm closer to the bullseye than Adam's!). At his next tournament, Adam set his first Berkshire County records, claiming both the under 16s and under 18s records for the Short Metric 2 round, shot by compound bow. Since then, Adam has also secured the Berkshire County record for the World Archery 50 round, again in both age categories. These achievements are even more impressive given that he only began in April.



The Bowmen (and women!) of Burleigh range in age from 10 years old to over 80, and meet at Cantley recreation ground between spring and autumn, and in The Emmbrook Sports Hall in winter. Archers shoot different types of bows ranging from simple, traditional longbows, to the highly sophisticated Compound bow. Prospective members who are new to the sport must attend and pass ArcheryUK's training and safety short course, either with the Bowmen of Burleigh or another club, before being accepted as full club members.

### **Foyle Young Poets**

We were so proud that Gabi Goncalves (Year 12) was honoured as one of the commended poets at the Foyles Young Poets of the Year Award, at the annual award ceremony in London, yesterday. Click [here](#) to read an article about the event. Well done Gabi!

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend!

Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**

Headteacher

[nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)