



Friday 22nd March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Weekly Update

On Saturday I had the pleasure of watching our Year 9 team in action at Reading Crown Court in the annual Mock Trial competition. The students were a true credit to the school and can be incredibly proud of their performance. My thanks go to Mrs Moon for her brilliant leadership of the team, Ms Holdaway for supporting the team and to all the parents who attended and supported.

Year 11 and 13 Easter Revision Programme

The Easter Revision Programme has now been published. I am grateful to staff for giving up some of their holiday to be in school delivering sessions for the students. Please support your children to attend as many sessions as possible.

End of Term Arrangements

A follow up reminder that term ends on Tuesday 26th March and school will finish 12.20pm as usual (with the E1, E2 and E3 buses rearranged for this time, however, the 202 and 244 cannot be rearranged as they are shared services). Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th are INSET days for staff (so the school is closed to students) and Friday 29th is a bank holiday (Good Friday).

Message from Miss Taylor

I am excited to announce that I will be participating in the London Marathon to raise funds for the MS Society, a cause that holds deep personal significance to me. My mum battles with multiple sclerosis with unwavering resilience, and it's her strength that fuels my determination to make a difference, and to continue pushing through my training plan as well as the 500km that have already been completed.

As I lace up my running shoes, I invite you to join me in making a difference. Your donations will directly contribute to vital research, support, and awareness for those affected by this condition. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a *meaningful* impact. Together, let's stride towards a future where MS no longer holds power over our loved ones. You can donate directly through [this link](#). Or, feel free to scan the QR code! Thank you so much for your support!





Feedback on Parents' Evening Trial

I've shared in numerous weekly letters throughout the year that we are trialling extended parents' evenings that begin at 1pm. This decision was in response to the volume of communication from parents over the previous two years that all too often they could not secure appointments with teachers due to a lack of slots – without doubt it was the single biggest source of complaints that I received from parents. We now have only one more of these extended events left this year (Year 8 on Thursday 13th June) and after that we will seek feedback from all parents via a survey. Any decision like this is delicate and needs to balance up a number of competing trade-offs and your views will be an important factor of the review.

Notices from Our Catering Provider

Aspens has produced **Feed your family for £5.00** recipe cards (two are attached with this letter) and have also produced [online videos](#).

They would also like to hear your feedback and have produced a very quick survey that can be accessed via [this link](#). They would be grateful if you could spare a couple of minutes to complete the survey.

Careers Update

Messages from Miss Martins, Careers Coordinator:

- School life is real! School is a micro-society that helps to prepare our future adults to be at their best. Through school social life, exams, applications for colleges, apprenticeships, universities our future adults will be facing rejection several times. [Here is a suggestion](#) of a good exercise to do with your child about dealing with rejection.
- A great opportunity for those individuals considering choosing medicine as a potential profession, London Med Summer School. Deadline for application is 19th April. This programme is for **Year 12** students living in England (outside of Greater London), who have only attended non-selective state schools since age 11 and are currently studying A-level Biology and Chemistry. For more details on student eligibility, you can [visit their website](#) or access [the application form here](#).
- **Activate Learning Colleges:** [Reading Open Event](#) Wednesday 1st May, 4.30-7.30pm. [Bracknell and Wokingham College Open Event](#) Wednesday 8th May, 4:30-7:30pm.
- For information about university open days use [this link](#). This is also a useful page about [what to do if you are rejected from first choice university](#).

Funding to help your child and the school

Schools receive extra funding, known as the 'Pupil Premium', for every child registered as eligible for a free school meal if their parents are receiving benefits. Schools use this money for activities such as art therapy, booster classes, educational trips, and after-school clubs. To qualify, your child must be in school and you must be receiving one of the following benefits:

- [Income support](#)
- Income based [Job Seekers Allowance](#)
- Income related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)
- [NASS support](#)





- Guarantee element of [State Pension](#)
- [Child Tax Credit](#), provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- [Working Tax Credit](#) for the four weeks after employment ends
- [Universal Credit](#), provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400

If this applies to you but your child isn't registered for free school meals, complete a form and return it to your child's school. [Download the form](#) and apply for free school meals on Wokingham Borough Council's website.

I will write again on Tuesday with my next end of week letter. Until then, have a great weekend!

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk