



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Weekly Update

Happy New Year! It was, I'm sure, a tough wake up on Tuesday morning for most members of the school community. However, attendance this week has been very strong Tuesday to Thursday and there was good focus across the school.

And then storm Henk came!

Closing the school is never a decision that I would want to take, however, conditions on site at the beginning of the day made it impossible and unsafe to open to students. I arrived on site shortly after 6am to assess the situation and we were able to get messages about the close out by 7am so that we could give you as much warning as possible. Both the front and back gates were impassable and the flood waters were contaminated with waste.



*A view of the front of the school showing the flood water on our drive and Emmbrook Road at the start of the school day.*

*The back gate was equally impassable.*

We will be working closely with Thames Water to ensure that the site is safe for use on Monday and expect things to be back to normal but will be in contact if the need arises. I hope that students were able to engage with the remote learning set via Teams.

## Sixth Form Applications

The deadline to apply for a place in the Sixth Form is rapidly looming. We've received nearly 170 applications already, which is fantastic, so it's important that anyone who has not yet applied does so as soon as possible. The online process can be tricky so if you need any help with your child's application then please contact our Head of Sixth Form, Mr Constable ([dconstable@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:dconstable@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)).



## Year 11 Update

We hope that the bulletin sent out before the holiday to Year 11 parents about exam preparation was useful and that the students made good use of the time. Parents will receive a further bulletin on Monday. We launched the new after school revision session loyalty card scheme and prom passport to the students at the start of the week. It has been great to see so many Year 11 students at after school revision. As a reminder, students have access to sessions all week:

- Monday: Spanish (lunchtime) and Media
- Tuesday: Maths
- Wednesday: Science
- Thursday: English
- Friday: Computer Science and Creative Media Production

We would like to see as many of our Year 11 students as possible in school from 3-4pm attending these revision sessions, so I would really appreciate your support with that.

If you ever need any help for your child in Year 11 then please don't hesitate to contact us:

- Miss Cairns (Head of Year 11) – [rcairns@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:rcairns@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)
- Mrs Panesar (Assistant Headteacher) – [lpanesar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:lpanesar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

## An Apology Regarding Tuesday's Buses

I need to apologise to all of the students who arrive by school bus for the issue on Tuesday. Clearly there was a breakdown in communications and that resulted in a significant delay to the buses arriving. I know that many students were left waiting in the rain and some parents decided to bring in their children, no doubt disrupting the start of the day. I will never claim that we get everything right and know that it's important that we hold our hands up when we get things wrong. A sincere apology from me and an assurance that we have put in place measures to ensure that nothing like this will happen again.

## Lower School Music Concert – Change of Date

We have had to take the decision to postpone the lower school concert (Years 7-9) to the later date of Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm, in the main hall. My apologies for any disruption that this causes and I'm sure it will be a brilliant evening.

Have a great (and dry, I hope) weekend!

Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**

Headteacher

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