



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Weekly Update

As is often the case, the final update of the year is a lengthy one!

### House Championship

Mercury House have been victorious in this year's house competition. They narrowly defeated defending champions Jupiter by 22,986 points to 22,339. This brings to an end Jupiter's three-year winning streak and means that Mercury House will have the honour of displaying their flags on the driveway for the next year. The contest for 3<sup>rd</sup> was even closer, with Saturn's 19,200 points just pipping Venus who finished on 19,142. Well done to all students who participated in house competitions this year!

### Retirements

We are saying farewell to two much beloved colleagues from the Teaching and Learning Assistants Team today who are both retiring after a combined service of nearly 45 years! Mrs White, TLA Manager, has been with us since November 2004 and Mrs Hardman, TLA, since April 2002. Both colleagues have given outstanding service to the school, supporting literally hundreds of young people and making the crucial difference for so many. I am delighted that both colleagues have committed to returning next year to support students during the exams, so it is farewell for now and sincere thanks for all that has been contributed to the staff and students of The Emmbrook.

### Teacher Farewells

We say farewell to four teachers at the end of this year:

- Miss Nicholl leaves the Music and Art Departments to move back home.
- Miss Johnston is taking up a new post at another school as Head of Department.
- Mrs Beckett is stepping away from teaching for now.
- Mrs Bisset-Garside leaves us after four years to relocate to the South West.

### Support Staff Farewells

We also say a fond farewell to a number of support colleagues this year:

- Thanks to Mr Herridge for assisting in Student Support since March.
- Miss Narracott (DT Technician) will be starting her master's degree.
- Miss Keogh (Student Support) is beginning a new career in Bracknell.
- Miss Dolamore (Student Support Manager) is taking a promotion at a local AP.
- Mr Flux (Janitor) is moving back home.

My sincere thanks go to all of the departing staff. In September, I will write with details of the new staff appointments.



## Headteacher's Award

Each term I celebrate a student who has made an exceptional contribution to The Emmbrook and this term's recipient of the Headteacher's Award is Jalen Teji. Jalen has been selected for his response when the teacher leading his class became unwell earlier in the term. In that moment Jalen showed maturity and his actions helped to manage a particularly tough situation. Well done to Jalen.

## Local Advisors' Awards

Each term the Local Advisors select two members of staff (one from the teaching staff and one from the support staff) to recognise their outstanding contribution to the school. This term's recipients are:

- Support Staff Award – Mrs Grafham. In her role as the first aider, Mrs Grafham plays a crucial role in keeping everyone here looked after. She does this with total care and dedication and I always feel that we couldn't be in safer hands.
- Teaching Staff Award – Mrs Moon. In addition to being an outstanding teacher and leader, Mrs Moon has guided another team to victory at the regional finals of the highly prestigious Mock Trial Competition. This is our second win in three years under Mrs Moon's leadership; a truly exceptional achievement.

## Senior Students Appointed

I am delighted to share with you the new Year 13 student leadership team for 2025/26:

- Natasha Rowell – Head Student
- Dylan Nanda – Head Student
- Hana Ahmed, Deputy Head Student, Wellbeing
- Kiera Houldcroft – Deputy Head Student, Editor of The Wave
- Andreas Kadiwar – Deputy Head Student, Fundraising
- Tao Lahay – Deputy Head Student, EcoSphere

We were utterly spoilt with the largest field of candidates in the 6 years that I have been headteacher. Though that made the selection process even harder than usual, I am confident that the new team will make a significant contribution over the year ahead.

## Library Donations

A huge thank you to everyone that has kindly donated items to the library this year; we have received 132 books this year, 3 jigsaws and 8 games! If you are having a clear out over summer and have items that you'd like to send to a new home please consider donating any books, jigsaws, Lego and games, as they will be gratefully received.

## Library Books

If you find an overdue library book over the summer, please can it return to school in September. There are no late fees and books can be dropped off to the returns box in the library during the school day.



## Governance of The Circle Trust

As many will know, our school is part of The Circle Trust. Understandably, you may not know much about our Trust because it is an organisation that thinks it is important that each school keeps its unique identity and ethos. That said, being part of the Trust makes an enormous positive difference to all that we do. We learn from one another, share the workload and enjoy the economies of scale of many schools working together. The Circle Trust is an educational charity which exists to do one thing, and that is to promote education for the common good. By being part of the Trust, we can do much more than we ever could by working alone. You can find out a little more about our Trust in [this short film](#).

During this academic year we have been looking at the way governance works and drawing on the experience of others. The culmination of this work means that from September the traditional role of governor, which some of you will be familiar with, will change. We think this new way of working will make it better for Trustees (who have the legal responsibility for our Trust) to be able to listen and learn from all stakeholders including students, staff, the local community and, of course, you as parents and carers. This will include the opportunity to serve as parent elected Trustees on the Trust Board. This next generation governance will be rolled out from September, and I very much look forward to sharing its features and how you might become involved as parents and carers.

## Lost Property

We end the year with lots of lost property! If you know of missing items then please encourage your child(ren) to check in September. Lost property will next be cleared on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

## PTA Thanks

We are very lucky to have the phenomenal support of our PTA. I am particularly grateful for their support with Sports Day and the re-arranged Colour Run on Wednesday. The students certainly looked like they enjoyed it!

## Attachments

This week we're also including two attachments from companies we partner with:

- Earth Uniform – our uniform supplier
- [Cook]ed – our new catering supplier

As we do every year, the new year will have a staggered start, with year groups returning as follows:

- Years 7 & 12 start on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September
- All other year groups return on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September

I hope that all of the students enjoy a lovely summer break and I look forward to seeing everyone in September!





Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**

Headteacher

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