



Friday 6th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Weekly Update

We hope that Year 9 parents and carers found the teacher meetings useful on Wednesday. We know that students do best when students, parents and school are all working together. As always, my thanks to all parents and carers for your support with these events.

Mr Constable Shares Sixth Form Success

I was very proud to have the opportunity to watch Mr Constable present at the PiXL national conference on Wednesday. PiXL, an organisation that provides resources and leadership development to over 1,500 secondary schools from across the UK, invited Mr Constable to share his insights as the leader of our successful Sixth Form.



Our Sixth Form continues to be hugely successful, with the progress made by our students having been graded as “well above average” for each of the last two years. Well above average is the highest banding awarded by the Department for Education and is testament to the great work of our students and staff, supported by you.

Changes to First Aid and Medications

Our most important priority will always be keeping every student safe and well. To bring our processes into alignment with Trust policies, we will no longer be able to issue students with paracetamol. If you wish your child to have paracetamol then you will need to provide them with it.

Students may carry their own medication and, in some cases, we hold medications for students. If you require school staff to administer medication then a medication consent form must be completed and can be [downloaded from the website](#). Completed forms can be



brought to Student Reception or emailed to enquiries@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk. Thank you for your support with this.

Book of the Month

February's Book of the Month is Look Both Ways by Jason Reynolds. This book tells ten connected short stories about young people walking home from school, each with a different voice and experience. The short chapters and varied perspectives make it an excellent choice for students who prefer dipping in and out of a book.

Preventing Winter Illness in Schools

As the colder months approach, we can expect to see increases in common airborne viruses. The Department for Education has recently published this blog article: [Top tips on how to keep your child healthy at school](#). It gives practical guidance to schools and families to help keep everyone healthy, support healthy learning environments, and reduce illness-related school absences.

Opportunity for Year 9 and 10 Girls to Participate in Research Project

The University of Reading is inviting girls in Years 9 and 10 to take part in The INDIE Study; an exciting research project exploring how brain and body changes during adolescence impact cognitive and emotional development. To learn more or sign up, you can contact them at indie.study@reading.ac.uk.

Why Participate?

- Experience cutting-edge psychology and neuroscience research firsthand.
- Engage with scientists and see advanced neuroimaging technology up close.
- Receive an image of your brain and compensation for your time!

What's Involved?

- Five after-school visits to the University of Reading (first and last with a parent/guardian).
- Completing questionnaires, and brain scans in our MRI scanner.
- Wearing a wrist device for four weeks to track sleep, activity, and mood.

Next week is the final week of this half-term. School will finish at the usual time of 2.55pm on Friday.

Have a brilliant weekend!

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk