



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Weekly Update

A sincere thanks to all Year 7 parents and carers who attended meetings with teachers yesterday. We know that working in partnership is so vital for success and happiness.

At the other end of the school, I want to celebrate the way that Year 11 have conducted themselves this week during their mock exams. Their attitude and focus has been brilliant.

### FAIR Values: Integrity Focus

Each term we select one of our FAIR Values (Family, Ambition, Integrity and Respect) as a collective focus. Last term's focus was ambition and lots of students did a wonderful job of demonstrating ambition throughout the term. To recognise those students who showed the highest levels of ambition, a group reward event will be announced to students shortly.

For this term our focus is integrity. Miss Fry and I have used assemblies this week to remind students of how they can demonstrate integrity in order to maximise their learning and the learning of all students.

We have given the students five simple expectations for the term to help them show integrity:

- Arrive on time
- Get ready to learn as soon as you arrive
- Listen to others when they are talking
- Complete work to the best of your ability
- Be honest and reflect on mistakes

### Integrity

We are  
always honest  
and do the  
right thing.

This focus will run throughout the term and there will be another group reward event to recognise those students who consistently demonstrate the highest levels of integrity. We know that the vast majority of our students show integrity every day and so this is an opportunity to reinforce and acknowledge this. Please support your child(ren) to be successful by having a conversation with them at home to help them understand the importance of integrity and how they can show it at school and in life.

### New Staff Appointments

This week we have welcomed some new colleagues to The Emmbrook Family:

- Miss Edwards is teaching Business & Economics.
- Ms Nilsson is teaching Art and 3D Design.
- Mrs Ring our new Intervention Support Worker.



## Year 9 Options Evening – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Year 9 parents and carers have already received direct communication regarding the Options Evening on Thursday. Choosing options is the most significant educational decision since selecting a secondary school back in Year 6, so we hope that everyone will be able to attend.

The evening runs from 6pm to 8pm and is made up of two parts:

- Options information presentation in the hall at 6pm and 6.45pm.
- Subject stalls in the dining room and classrooms throughout.

We recommend that everyone attends one of the talks in the hall (they are the same presentation) and visits all of the subject stalls that are of interest.

## Year of Reading and Book of the Month

As part of our Year of Reading, the library will be highlighting a Book of the Month to encourage reading for pleasure at home and at school. Each month we will feature a book chosen for its appeal to students, including reluctant readers. Whether your child is a keen reader or still finding the right book, we encourage parents and carers to talk to their child about the monthly book.

This month's recommended read is *Awkward* by Svetlana Chmakova.

Whether your child loves comics or hasn't picked up a book in a while, this book is a great choice! It is a highly popular, funny and relatable graphic novel about friendship, misunderstandings, and finding your place at school. Told through a combination of illustrations and text, *Awkward* is particularly accessible for reluctant readers and students who may find longer novels challenging, while still being an enjoyable and engaging read for confident readers.

## Library Website

Students can check their loans or search the library catalogue and much more on the [library website](#).

## Lost Property

Lost property will be emptied after morning break on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January. If your child has lost anything please encourage them to go to Student Reception to have a look for it. We always return all named items that are found directly back to student.

## 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.



Have a fantastic weekend!

Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**

Headteacher

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