



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Weekly Update

We've had a very busy week in large part due to Open Evening on Wednesday. I am very grateful to everyone for supporting the evening. It was extremely busy and there was so much positivity. As ever, our students were the school's best advert! I am really hopeful that we will remain a popular choice for local families.

## Parent Information Evenings

We have a number of information evenings coming up in the next couple of weeks. These are an opportunity to share key messages for the year ahead to support your child(ren). We hope that you will be able to attend:

- Year 10: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 6pm in the main hall
- Year 11: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm in the main hall
- Year 8: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 6pm in the main hall

## Attendance and Family Holidays During Term Time

Good attendance remains one of the strongest predictors of academic success and we ask all parents to support us by ensuring that students attend school every day wherever possible. Whilst we understand that family circumstances can occasionally make a request for absence necessary, government regulations are clear that schools should not authorise leave during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The decision on whether circumstances are exceptional rests with me as the Headteacher.

Parents should be aware that unauthorised absence for a family holiday may result in a penalty notice being issued by [Wokingham Borough Council](#). Under the current national framework, unauthorised absence of 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10-school-week period can lead to a fine of £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days, increasing to £160 if paid within 28 days. A second penalty notice within three years is charged at £160, whilst further unauthorised absence may lead to legal proceedings rather than an additional fine.

We therefore strongly encourage families to plan holidays during school breaks wherever possible. Being in school every day and regular attendance gives students the best opportunity to achieve their full potential, benefit from classroom learning and participate fully in the life of the school.

Further information on Fixed Penalty Notices can be found [here](#).



## Studybugs – Reporting Student Absence

Another reminder that we've introduced a more efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence from school, called Studybugs. Through the app you will be able to report your child as absent due to illness and inform us of pre-arranged appointments.

We know that good attendance has strong links to academic outcomes and positive mental wellbeing; the use of this platform will enable us to take proactive steps in supporting this.

Please download the Studybugs app from the [App Store or Google Play](#) or by scanning the QR code. Please ensure that you sign up with the email address you have previously shared with us.



## PTA Update

Our PTA continues to provide fantastic support to the school community, helping to fund projects and opportunities that benefit students across the school. Their contribution makes a genuine difference and we are very grateful for the time and effort volunteered by members throughout the year.

The PTA Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday at 6pm in our conference room. All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend. Whether you are interested in taking on a more active role or simply want to find out more about how the PTA supports the school, any support is greatly appreciated and we would be delighted to welcome you along.

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

We are delighted to be hosting our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday. Students and staff are invited to enjoy a selection of cakes and sweet treats while helping to raise money for a fantastic cause. Cake vouchers can be purchased in advance through [ScoPay](#) at £1 per voucher, with each voucher redeemable for one cake. We look forward to your support and thank you for helping us make a difference.

## A Personal Message from Mr Johnson

My beloved Grandma, Nanny Johnson, is celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this weekend. Nanny Johnson spent most of her life in education supporting students; she still enjoys long conversations regarding education policy and dissecting The Emmbrook School's exam results.

Instead of gifts to celebrate her centenary, she has decided to raise money for St Giles Hospice in Lichfield. If you are able to, please [consider donating](#) to this worthy cause on her behalf!

I hope that you all have a brilliant weekend!



Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**

Headteacher

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