



Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Weekly Update

I hope that all of the students had a fantastic summer break and have enjoyed the first week of 2026/27. It has been particularly pleasing to see the new Year 7 students settle so well.

GCSE and A-level Results

We were delighted with the results achieved by last year's students in Years 11 and 13 – both cohorts did brilliantly! We had expected great things from them but it is always nerve wracking until the final results come through. At both GCSE and A-level our results look to be above national benchmarks and continue the trend of strong improvements.

These results are a testament to the hard work of our students, strong teaching from colleagues and the vital support from parents. We expect to continue this good news story with the new Years 11 and 13. We're delighted to have welcomed a record number of Year 11s back into Year 12 this year.

Studybugs – Reporting Student Absence

As shared last term, we have 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 (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>) or by scanning the QR code. Please ensure that you sign up with the email address you have previously shared with us.



Sixth Form Building Update

It is a genuine delight to be able to share the news that building work is finally underway for the new Sixth Form! We expect to move in during the summer of 2027 meaning that the current Years 11 and 12 will have a brand-new home for their Sixth Form studies.

It's been a busy summer in other areas of the school too, with brand new toilet facilities added to Humanities (due to open next week) and solar panels added to the roofs of English and Maths.



Ways of Working

It's vital that we aren't ever complacent as a school. We've seen results to improve over many years and we want to sustain this so that every student has the best opportunities in the future.

This year we are introducing Ways of Working so that students will always understand how they should be approaching each phase of the lesson. Such consistency will help all students, and particularly our SEND and vulnerable learners, to be successful during lessons.



The Emmbrook School

Ways of Working

- Different learning activities require different ways of working.
- Your teacher will tell you which way of working is expected for each part of the lesson.

Attention Here

Focus on the teacher (or student) talking.
Sit quietly and give your full attention.



Independent	Collaborative	Practical
Silent working. Ask questions by putting your hand up and waiting. 	Partners or small groups complete the task. 	Focused activity on the task at hand. 

Please support your child(ren) by helping them to understand why it's important that they are focussed during lesson time to maximise their opportunities to learn.

New (and Returning) Staff

Having lost very few staff last year it seems odd to introduce so many new colleagues but this is the benefit of the increased funding we've enjoyed as the school has grown in recent years. We have 14 new colleagues starting:

- Mrs Akangbe has joined the RS Department and will also be teaching geography.
- Mrs Athenasi has joined the English Department.
- Mrs Burgess has joined the Student Reception team.
- Mrs Chambers-Howell has joined the Geography Department.
- Mr Chomiak is our new Careers Coordinator.
- Ms Dhoble will be joining the Teaching Assistant team.
- Mr Eguogwu will be returning to the Science Department.
- Miss Lee has joined the Science Department.
- Mr Lincoln has joined the Intervention Centre as Inclusion Mentor.
- Mrs Mahajan has joined the Maths Department.
- Miss Ransom has returned to the English Department.
- Mrs Reddaway joins us as the new Head of Music.
- Mr Regnes will be returning to the school as a cover supervisor.
- Mrs Valbonesi joined the DT & Food departments.

In addition, we have two colleagues moving into new roles:

- Mrs Grafham is the new Attendance Officer.
- Mr Tiwari moves to the Maths Department.



Open Evening – Wednesday 16th September

We are at that time of year again when we will be welcoming Year 6 students and families to visit the school as they think about their school choices for September 2027. There will be tours every morning for the next four weeks. This year's Open Evening runs from 6pm on Wednesday 16th September. I hope that we will have the majority of students with us that evening to support the event.

As we do every year, **school will end at 12.20pm on that day** to allow us to set up for the evening. The E1, E2 and E3 buses have been rearranged to be at school for 12.20PM however the 202 and 244 cannot be rearranged as these are shared services (so students who rely on these services will need to make alternative arrangements or remain to catch the bus at 3.30pm). If you would like your child to stay at school until 2.55pm then please notify us by Monday 14th September via enquiries@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk.

If you would like more information about September 2027 then please visit our [website](http://www.emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk) or contact Mr Johnson (cjohnson@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk).

Canteen Accounts

Please ensure that funds are added to accounts in advance so that students can purchase food. We made the decision today to allow a small number of students to go into overdraft as it was the first day but this cannot be repeated. Students can pay for purchases using their ScoPay accounts or with a bank card. As we are now a mobile free school, Apple Pay and similar cannot be accepted.

Traffic and Safety

At the beginning and the end of the school day our site and local roads become very busy. For the safety of our students, I'd like to give the following reminders:

- Please do not drive onto the site to drop off or pick up students (unless with specific prior permission, e.g. if your child is temporarily using crutches).
- Please be considerate of local residents, avoid blocking roads or straddling pavements.

If you are bringing/collecting your child by car then we always recommend arranging a meeting point on one of the roads a few minutes from the school and agreeing with your child that they walk from/to there.

Lost Property

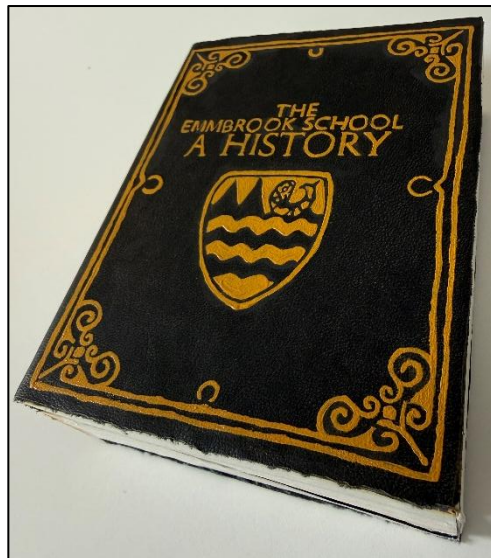
A number of valuables were handed into lost property throughout the last academic year; if you believe that your child may have lost something, please tell them to go to Student Reception and we will see if we can reunite them with their items. Any items not claimed by Friday 18th September will be donated to charity or repurposed. We will always return named items directly to the student.



Secret Contest Winners

Last year I was sent a video advert in the post (think small iPad inside a box) that seemed incredibly wasteful. Wanting to repurpose it, Mr Johnson discovered that it could be "hacked" and he replaced the video with one that he recorded and our brilliant DT Technician, Miss Simpson, recovered it as The Emmbrook School: A History. The book was hidden in the library and, if found and opened, played a video explaining that the book should be brought to me in return for a prize.

I was delighted when two Year 11 students, Mohammed and Liam brought me the book at break today and they will soon receive their prize. Mr Johnson has re-hidden the book in a new room so please encourage your child(ren) to be vigilant. I hope it's found again soon!



For new parents and carers, I will write a letter at the end of each week to keep you informed as much as possible (it is not normally this lengthy!). I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

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