



Friday 17th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Weekly Update

As is often the case, the final update of the year is a lengthy one! The last few weeks haven't been the easiest in the intense heat, so I am hugely grateful for the way that staff and students soldiered on. Thank you for your support, particularly with the period of early closures. We were lucky to have reasonable weather for the excellent Sports Day on Monday.

House Championship

Venus House have been victorious in this year's house competition! This means that Venus House will have the honour of displaying their flags on the driveway for the next year. It has been a very long time since Venus have been house champions (certainly none of our current students have seen this happen!) so well done to them!

Retirements

We are saying farewell to two much beloved colleagues today who are both retiring after a combined service of 40 years!

Mrs Wellman retires from her post as Curriculum Leader for Music after 13 years at The Emmbrook. Mrs Wellman has transformed music for the better in this school during my 7 years as headteacher and she did it through having a bold vision for the department, setting an inclusive culture and striving to give the best musical opportunities to our students. Of course the quality of lessons in the classroom is paramount but her impact goes far beyond, supporting a stunning range of extra-curricular opportunities and musical experiences. The highlight for me has been attending the concerts; I have a catchphrase that you will always leave one of our concerts in a better mood than you arrived. More recently, I have to stop saying "that was the best concert ever" for fear that people will think I'm just saying it! Mrs Wellman is an inspiration to so many students and will be a tough act to follow.

Mrs Mortimer retires today after 27 years of service in the Finance Team. Over the years she has held a number of roles within the team. She took on her current role in September 2023 when she joined our Senior Leadership Team becoming School Business Manager. I have had the pleasure of working with Mrs Mortimer for over 20 years and I have been so very impressed to see her rise to the challenge of managing a £9,000,000 annual budget with total skill. The person looking after the money doesn't always have the easiest role and yet Mrs Mortimer has done so with compassion for her colleagues and a total determination to see the students have the best opportunities. She leaves us with our finances in good health with our site and facilities safer and better equipped than ever before. It is a tremendous legacy and we will all miss her attention to detail, always with a smile!



Teacher Farewells

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

- Mr Simmons (Geography) is taking a sabbatical and so we look forward to him returning in September 2027.
- Miss Leggatt (English) is relocating to Yorkshire.
- Miss Beasley (Science) is relocating to Germany.
- Mrs Meredith (Maths) has secured a Head of Department role at another local school.

Support Staff Farewells

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

- Miss Acaro Perez has been supporting as a cover supervisor this term.
- Ms Thapa (cover supervisor) will be relocating to London.
- Miss Macklin has been so brilliant with our students in the Intervention Centre.

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 demonstrated our FAIR values by selecting them the Headteacher's Award. This term's recipient is Riley Weller in Year 10. I have chosen Riley for recognition because of the outstanding progress he has made this year. The transformation that I have seen in him has been remarkable and I am delighted to be able to recognise him.

Outstanding Contribution Awards

Each term we like to acknowledge a member of the teaching staff and a member of the support staff. In addition to working hard and making a vital contribution to The Emmbrook, these colleagues uphold our values and are true role models.

This term's recipients are:

- Support Staff: We have made the unusual decision to recognise a team of colleagues this term; Mrs Duarte, Mr Farndon, Mrs Fisher and Mr Tiwari who are our Reflection Room Team. These colleagues do a huge amount to support staff and students across the school. They are proactive and hugely dedicated and make such a difference to the day-to-day operation of the school.
- Teaching Staff: This term's award goes to Mrs Novelli from the History Department. Mrs Novelli is a wonderful teacher who cares so deeply about the students in her classes. She has a positive and warm outlook that supports students to thrive in her lessons.

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 be cleared next term.



PTA

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

The PTA have teamed up with Stikins to offer families the opportunity to purchase quality labels for your children's school uniform. These labels are such a great idea; they simply stick onto the wash-care label of clothing. They can even be used in shoes!

How it works: each order placed quoting the school's reference number **23100**, will provide the school with 30% commission. You can order via the link <https://www.stikins.co.uk/>

Book of the Month

Our Book of the Month for August is *Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B Alston. This exciting fantasy adventure follows Amari, a young girl who discovers a hidden world of magic while searching for her missing brother. Packed with mystery, humour and action this is an excellent summer read for those who enjoy imaginative worlds and fast paced stories.

Reading over the summer is one of the best ways to help students maintain their reading skills, build confidence and start the new school year ready to learn. Even reading a few chapters a week can make a real difference.

Amari and the Night Brothers is the first book in a popular series so a great choice for encouraging reading over the summer holidays. Wokingham libraries have a few copies of this great story so it can be borrowed from them over the summer.

Have a wonderful summer break filled with lots of great reading.

Book Donations

A huge thank you to all our families for your generosity this year. Thanks to your support we received an amazing **249 book donations** for our school library!

Donated books help to enrich our collection, giving students even more opportunities to discover new authors, explore different genres and develop a love of reading. Your kindness is helping to create a library full of exciting books that can be enjoyed by students across the school for years to come. We are so grateful for your continued support.

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, games and Lego to the library. Any donations can be left at the main reception.

Results Days

A-level and Level 3 results will be released on Thursday 13th August, with GCSE results following on Thursday 20th August.



Results will be emailed to students from 8.00am on each day (please allow time for delivery), and hard copies can be collected from school between 9.00-11.00am. We would love to see as many students as possible in school to celebrate their achievements, and staff will be available throughout the morning to explain results, answer questions and provide guidance on next steps.

Uniform

Following the communication sent yesterday regarding preparations for September, we have been made aware that the link for families who may require additional support with purchasing the full school uniform was not accessible. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. Please find below the updated link to access support: <https://www.firstdays.net/contact>

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 3rd September
- All other year groups return on Friday 4th 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

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