



Tuesday 2nd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re. New School Year

I hope that you and your families were all able to enjoy the summer and we are very much looking forward to the students returning over the coming days. I thought it would be useful to send a few reminders for the start of the new school year.

Student Testing

Testing for Years 7 & 12 has gone very well today and thank you for your support. Friday we will test Year 9, 11 & 13 then 8 and 10 on Monday. Students will then have a second test during the school day on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. After this we will issue students with kits to continue testing at home.

First Days

A reminder that the start of term arrangements are as follows:

Year groups	First school day	Where to go
7 & 12	Friday 3 rd September at 8.20am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Year 7 to the Main Hall ▪ Year 12 to the Study Area
9, 11 & 13	Monday 6 th September at 8.20am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Year 13 to the Study Area ▪ All other students to go directly to their form rooms
8 & 10	Tuesday 7 th September at 8.20am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All students to go directly to their form rooms

Equipment & Uniform

Please support your child to make a positive start to the school year by ensuring that they attend with the correct equipment and school uniform. Students will need pens, pencils, ruler, rubber and a scientific calculator. We expect students to be in full uniform, including a blazer. I understand that there have been some delays with uniform deliveries and therefore we will be understanding if there are some gaps with uniform; to avoid confusion please provide your child with a note or make their Head of Year aware.

Year 7	Mrs Hodgson	shodgson@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk
Year 8	Miss Taylor	dtaylor@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk
Year 9	Miss Cairns	rcairns@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk
Year 10	Miss Horne	ehorne@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk
Year 11	Mr Tichband	jtichband@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk

Attendance & Punctuality

Good attendance is essential for success at school. If there is a valid reason why your child cannot attend, you should contact us on the first day of absence on 0118 978 4406 and leave a message on the Absence Line stating the reason for absence or alternatively email us directly via absences@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk.



Year 7

On arrival students will be directed straight to the Main Hall, where staff and older students will greet them and show them to their seats. Once everyone has arrived Mrs Hodgson will then introduce them to their tutor. As the students did not have the opportunity to attend the normal Transition Day in July, they will spend Friday undertaking transition and team building activities.

Canteen Payments

Our catering provider cannot accept cash payments so please ensure that your child's account is ready for the start of term. All new Year 7 parents should have received a letter with joining instructions within the last 24 hours. If you have not received this or need any assistance please email finance@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk.

It is possible that the system will not have updated in time for morning break tomorrow but it will be running by lunch. For new students joining in other year groups we will pass them the information during their first registration period. We will never allow a student to go hungry! So in extreme cases where there are problems in the first day or so we will make a note of purchases and the accounts will be charged once they are up and running.

Sixth Form

A reminder that Sixth Formers are required to comply with the dress code, which can be seen [here](#). Please direct any queries to Mr Constable (dconstable@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk).

Covid-19

It is important that we have in mind that Covid has not gone away. I'm sure that there will be very many students, families and staff who are rightly concerned or anxious.

If your child has Covid-19 symptoms then they should not attend school and seek a PCR test. If your child tests positive at home using a LFT then they should not attend school and seek a PCR test.

While the new guidelines mean that school life will feel much more normal this September we will continue to be vigilant. Many mitigation measures remain in place, including:

- Enhanced cleaning and sanitising
- Split breaks to limit the number of students mixing
- Year 7-9 students will be released at 2.50pm with all other students finishing at 2.55pm, again to limit student mixing
- Individuals may choose to wear face coverings

Under the new guidelines, if we were to experience a local outbreak then additional mitigation measures may be introduced, in coordination with experts from Wokingham Borough Council and local public health officers. This could include the recommendation for more wide spread wearing of face coverings. I hope that such steps will not be required but I wanted to ensure that you are fully informed.

School Transport

Buses resume from tomorrow. Please be aware that face coverings are a requirement on school transport.



As always, please do contact me if you have any questions or queries (email is usually the most effective, nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk). There is always a mixture of feeling at the start of a new school year; I can share with you that I am very much looking forward to the year ahead!

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher