



Friday, 23 August 2019

Dear Parents,

As the new school year approaches I wanted to share my vision for the Sixth Form and some key information you may find useful as your son/daughter starts their first year of Sixth Form study.

As you know, Mr Ging is leaving the Emmbrook School and I will be assuming the role of Head of Sixth Form from September 2019. The Emmbrook Sixth Form should be at the heart of the Emmbrook community and our students, as the senior members of the school, have a responsibility to set a positive example for all learners within the school. A key part of my role is to create a vibrant and positive learning environment which inspires every student to love learning and allows students to study subjects they are passionate about at the highest level. Sixth Form is one of the most exciting stages of a student's education and my aim is to provide a stimulating but safe learning environment within which learners are encouraged to stretch themselves and develop their academic and non-academic skills as fully as possible.

In order to achieve this vision, there will be a number of changes to the Sixth Form over the coming year. These will range from cosmetic changes to the student study areas, through to policy changes and reworking the systems we use to support the learners. The changes we make will be aimed at creating a more productive learning environment and will be communicated with parents and students in a timely manner. **The new Sixth Form dress code is attached.**

One change that I have already made is that we have a new five person student leadership team starting in September. This provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the Emmbrook Sixth Form and in effect provides us with a clean slate to move the Sixth Form forward. The new student leadership team is:

- Head Boy – Mark Crawley
- Head Girl – Mhairi Robertson
- Deputy Head Boy – Joseph Asater
- Deputy Head Girl – Sophie Hernandez-Luis
- Deputy Head Girl – Emily Sylvester

A note from the leadership team which outlines the students' vision:

*'As a leadership team we believe that community is an integral part of any working environment. In the past we often valued the sense of family that the Emmbrook possesses, receiving it both from teachers and fellow students. As the newly appointed leadership team, we think it is essential to uphold this value and ensure the wellbeing of the sixth form and the school as a top priority.*

*With this in mind, the leadership team would love to work with the lower school to provide mental health initiatives and support the pastoral care of students. The jump between primary and secondary school can be one of the biggest and we want to make sure that the new year 7s feel supported and comfortable in their new school. We also appreciate that the transition between year 11 and sixth form is an important and sometimes daunting period and we want to improve this transition to make it easier for both internal and external*



*students, and make sure nobody feels alone in our sixth form. We also want to improve links with the lower school and improve the community spirit through fundraising week, which we want to make bigger and better than ever, and through a range of whole school events, working together as a sixth form community and with the house captains to bring this into effect.'*

I am incredibly proud of the work the new student leadership team has already undertaken, and I am confident that they will assist me in developing the Sixth Form into a vibrant learning space, one that the students can be proud of and that is truly at the heart of the Emmbrook Community.

I want to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of Year 12. Year 12 is the year during which the foundations for success in year 13 are built. Arguably, the biggest jump a learner will take during their education journey is the jump between GCSE and A level. It is therefore incredibly important that our learners use their time effectively to develop the skills required to be successful during A levels. In order to support our learners in this, we will be basing our tutorial and additional studies sessions around the VESPA model. The VESPA mind set is a system that explores the importance of non-cognitive skills in educational success. It is based on current thinking from a range of academic areas and has a proven track record of assisting students to develop the behaviours and characteristics needed for success. It is based around exploring the following five areas:

- Vision – the degree to which a student knows what they want to achieve.
- Effort - the number of hours a student is willing to spend in proactive independent study.
- System – the level to which the student organises their learning resources.
- Practice – the level to which a student commits to practising and developing their skills.
- Attitude – the way a student responds to feedback.

I would like to end by stressing how important the school, student, parent partnership is in providing the best chance for success at A levels. Throughout my 12 years working with Sixth Form students, I have always found that the most successful students are those who have a clear vision of why they are undertaking A levels and who participate fully in the partnership system that is essential at this level of learning. All our learners have a personal tutor who is the first point of support within the school. You will have an opportunity to meet your son/daughters tutor at our 'meet the tutor' event on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

If you have any questions about the Sixth Form, please feel free to contact me.

I look forward to working with you all during this exciting time for the Emmbrook Sixth Form and I look forward to seeing all our students in tutor time on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Mr D Constable

Head of Sixth Form

The Emmbrook School