



Newsletter – Lockdown Edition

5th June 2020

In this edition;

Headteacher's Address
Maths, Computing and Science Update
Business and Humanities Update
PE Update
English and MFL Update
Creative and Performing Arts Update
Year 7 Update

Year 8 Update
Year 9 Update
Year 10 Update
Sixth Form Update
Emmbrook Creation Station
Students in the Press

Headteacher's Address (nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that everyone was able to enjoy a break over half-term. From my point of view, the excellent weather certainly helped!

Black Lives Matter

We have all been watching the news of the impact that George Floyd's death has had. This incident serves as a reminder of the deep rooted inequalities that continue to permeate our society.

Feeling on this matter is strong and I received communication from many students expressing their desire for the school to show solidarity. I think that they were right to do so. For progress to be made we must all be willing to participate.

Much has been said and written over the last week; personally, the most moving statement that I have read has come from a member of The Emmbrook Family. Simeon Titus, a member of the class of 2018, has shared his thoughts and experiences via a Facebook post on his father's account. With the family's permission, we are sharing the link here:
<https://www.facebook.com/roots.titus/posts/10157236144196546>

I find his words, his challenge to us all, very powerful.

Access to the Site

In line with guidance from Wokingham Borough Council, to protect the children and staff we will be acting to limit access to the site. Therefore, from Monday the front gates will be locked during the school day. There will be a phone number posted on the gates should anyone



require urgent access. For the foreseeable future the back gate will remain locked. I do apologise for any inconvenience that this causes you but maintaining safety is our first priority.

Year 10 and 12 Provision from June 15th

We are continuing to make preparations for changes to our provision from June 15th. The main focus is to divide our Year 10 and 12 students and their teachers into 'bubbles' so that we can welcome students back in a way that maintains safety. Clearly, dividing classes up so that they have a maximum of 8 or 9 students (required so that we can stay within the social distancing guidelines) means that we require significantly more staff to teach the students. To make our sessions more effective, we are having to draw students from multiple forms into bubbles, therefore, it might be the case that the dates you were advised of previously are subject to change. Once the bubbles are formed it may be that we can offer some additional dates, but I don't want to give false hope here as we are very close to full capacity given the constraints of class size and available teachers.

I will write to parents of Year 10 and 12 students next week with more details, including how the booking system for the Welfare and Academic Review meetings will work. I am grateful to those parents who have indicated their preference for meeting on site versus via Teams (it is roughly 50/50), as this aids our planning.

Whilst on school site, we will ensure that all students follow the strict rules around keeping safe. Volunteer staff have worked tirelessly to mark out one-way systems and create signage around the school. We all recognise how real the threat remains, so we will ensure that students are clear around the responsibility they have for their own safety, as well as that of others.

Year 11 Prom Cancelled

Although this decision has felt somewhat inevitable, it is with regret that I can confirm that this year's prom has been cancelled. I know that this will be disappointing news for all, but given the current guidelines it is impossible to hold the event as planned.

While there remains much uncertainty about how this situation will develop, I am hopeful that we can arrange a 'reunion prom' at some point when government guidelines allow.

Year 11 into 12 Virtual Transition

Had things gone differently we would now be approaching the end of the GCSE exam season and then, naturally, our thoughts would turn to Sixth Form induction. This year the traditional induction day will not be possible but we will be doing our best to provide a virtual introduction to the Sixth Form. Therefore, Mr Constable will shortly be writing to every Year 11 who applied to the Sixth Form with our plans.

Appointing the New Head Girl & Boy



We were incredibly lucky to have had such a strong Sixth Form Leadership Team this year, led by the frankly amazing Head Girl and Boy, Mhairi Robertson and Mark Crawley. They were supported by a strong team of deputies, Sophie Hernandez-Luis, Emily Sylvester and Joe Asater, and together made such a positive impact on the school (literally, by volunteering to join our decorating teams) and particularly with the brilliant return to form of the Fundraising Week. I am very grateful to them all.

Traditionally, this is the time of year when we look to appoint our new Sixth Form leaders so Mr Constable will be in touch with all current Year 12 students to launch the application process. We will complete the appointment process remotely.

Being a senior student leader is a fantastic way to contribute to the development of the school to improve the experience for all students, especially at a time like this. It will also provide students with great experiences to draw upon for the next stage of their education or journey into the workplace, so I would encourage anyone who is interested to make an application.

Key Worker Provision (KWP)

We have continued to experience an increase in key worker parents asking for support and as a result we will split this provision into two bubbles from Monday. Mr Bhambra is now leading KWP, so if you require support with your child then please contact him directly via email (tbhambra@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk).

Our resources remain limited, particularly as we gear up to begin regular face-to-face contact with Years 10 and 12, but we will do our best to support all those who need it.

There remains much uncertainty about how this situation will develop in the near future. This week, I have noted the first news reports suggesting that schools may continue to be disrupted into October and November. So far schools have not received any information in advance of the daily press briefing, so I suspect that we will all find out together what the plans for September look like as and when the Government makes its announcements. Hopefully the lockdown will continue to be loosened and more and more aspects of life can return to normal.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney
Headteacher

Maths, Computing and Science (lpansar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)



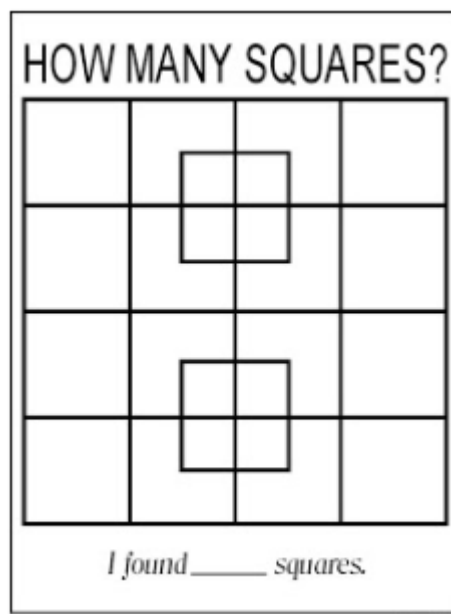
This week we have welcomed all our year groups back. As we continue with the home working we understand that it is getting tougher for the students to stay engaged. I thought I would focus this week on the external resources that are available to help as well as the resources we have in school.

The government has launched the Oak National Academy. It can be a useful resource for our students to supplement their learning. Currently in maths we are studying algebra in year 7 and there is a sequence of lessons available (<https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom/year-7/maths#subjects>) associated with algebra. All subjects are covered and students can join in live lessons as well as dip in to enhance their knowledge on a specific subject.

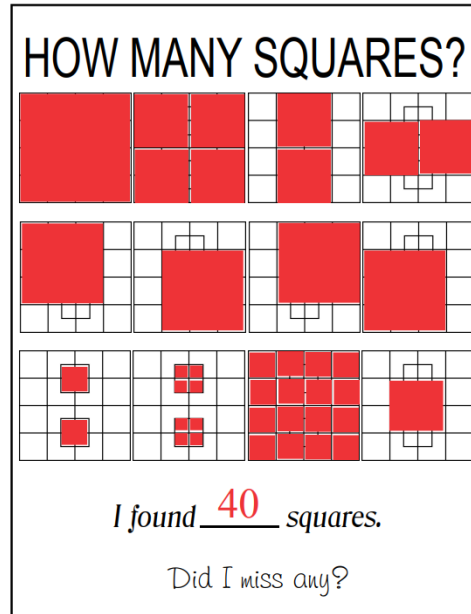
In addition to the Oak National Academy there are many companies offering free access to resources during this period. Pearson have launched a Youtube channel which covers maths, science and computer science (as well as other subjects) this can be found at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcqJs7mKolb_p5GGPIAMwqQ?view_as=subscriber and is suitable for all years from 7-10. Twinkl is an online platform which focuses on maths content and has free access for a month for parents who wish to create an account and access resources (<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/parents>). BBC Bitesize is an excellent resource and they have now enhanced their provision by giving daily lessons for many subjects and for years 7-10 (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>). Finally Collins have an excellent set of online free resources as well as offering all revision guides at school prices which is at least 50% off the retail price (<https://collins.co.uk/pages/support-learning-at-home#Secondary>).

For our year 12 students who are looking ahead to UCAS Coventry University have a series of webinars available to book which talk you through each stage of the process (<https://app.geckoform.com/public/#/modern/FOEU04014aSvr0Iq>). For subject content post 16 EdX provide some excellent online courses and these can be found here: <https://www.edx.org/>

Last week I left you with the following problem.



The answer was of course 40 squares as can be seen here.



This week we have been excited by the launch of **Elon Musk's** SpaceX and so rather than a puzzle we thought you might prefer some fun facts

1. SpaceX's billionaire CEO Elon Musk has said that he named his spacecraft "Dragon" after the fictional "Puff the Magic Dragon," from the hit song by music group Peter, Paul and Mary.
2. On the Dragon capsule's first test flight in December 2010, it carried a wheel of cheese into orbit. Prior to the successful lift-off, SpaceX officials hinted that Dragon was carrying special cargo into space, but the company did not reveal the secret payload until after the spacecraft had returned from orbit and splashed down in the Pacific Ocean.
The wheel of cheese was launched in honour of a classic skit from actor John Cleese in the British comedy show Monty Python's Flying Circus.
3. Part of the live-action superhero movie "Iron Man 2" was shot in SpaceX's factory in Hawthorne, Calif., and CEO Elon Musk even graced the silver screen with a cameo as himself.
4. SpaceX's Dragon capsule "breathes fire" with its 18 Draco thrusters that help the spacecraft manoeuvre in orbit and maintain altitude control.



Business and Humanities (cjohnson@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

We hope you all had a restful and safe half-term holiday. My family have had to celebrate several lockdown birthdays over the last few weeks, finding ways to make it special has proved interesting and varied!

Students have started the term incredibly well, we have had some amazing work in the last 5 days



Kirstie Coelho produced some exceptional work on Czechoslovakia, Mr Baker was so impressed he was keen to share the work with many colleagues in the faculty. Well done.

Sanjana Jaidka has demonstrated excellent diligence in her Business work by asking for help and using advice to create an excellent piece of work.

Miss Donovan has commented on how she spent a day researching the origins of surnames for one of her history class, sometimes with hilarious results!

Watching the news over the last week has heightened discussion on issues that will affect many people in our community. Miss Bundy has taken the time to share resources that the faculty can use to influence our planning for next year to ensure that all voices are heard.

We all look forward to the continued high levels of engagement from our students.

PE (chumber@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Before half-term Mr Humber set 4 different fitness videos to help guide students and staff of all abilities to take part in some physical activity. They can be found at:

Level 1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pdpt-L04JM>

Level 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYsBYATTMM0>

Level 3 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9j-U300vKs>

Level 4 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1cJy4-nG80>

Well done in particular to Nedas B and Madison-Mae P in year 7 for sharing their exercise accomplishments with the department, we really enjoy hearing about them!

The GCSE PE and Sport Science classes have been working on their knowledge and understanding of Social Cultural Influences, Physical Training, Musculoskeletal System, Cardiorespiratory System and Technology in Sport as well as competing against other classes in the fortnightly online SMHW quiz!

As it stands the current GCSE average class scores in the SMHW quiz are:

Technology in Sport

9a/pg1 – class average 84% - with the current leaders Charlotte A & Ben Poole both on 100% - GREAT WORK!

Cardiorespiratory system (studied last academic year)

10c/pg1 – class average 48% with Jazz A & Hollie W currently top scoring with 85% - **Well done!**

10d/pg1 – class average 54% with Matthew S & Kayla M currently top scoring with 90% and 75% respectively – **Well done!**

Well done to those trying, revising and trying again to improve their score - But if you haven't had your three attempts have another go to improve your and your class average!



As it stands the current Sport Science average class scores in the SMHW quiz are:

9A – 97%

9D – 88%

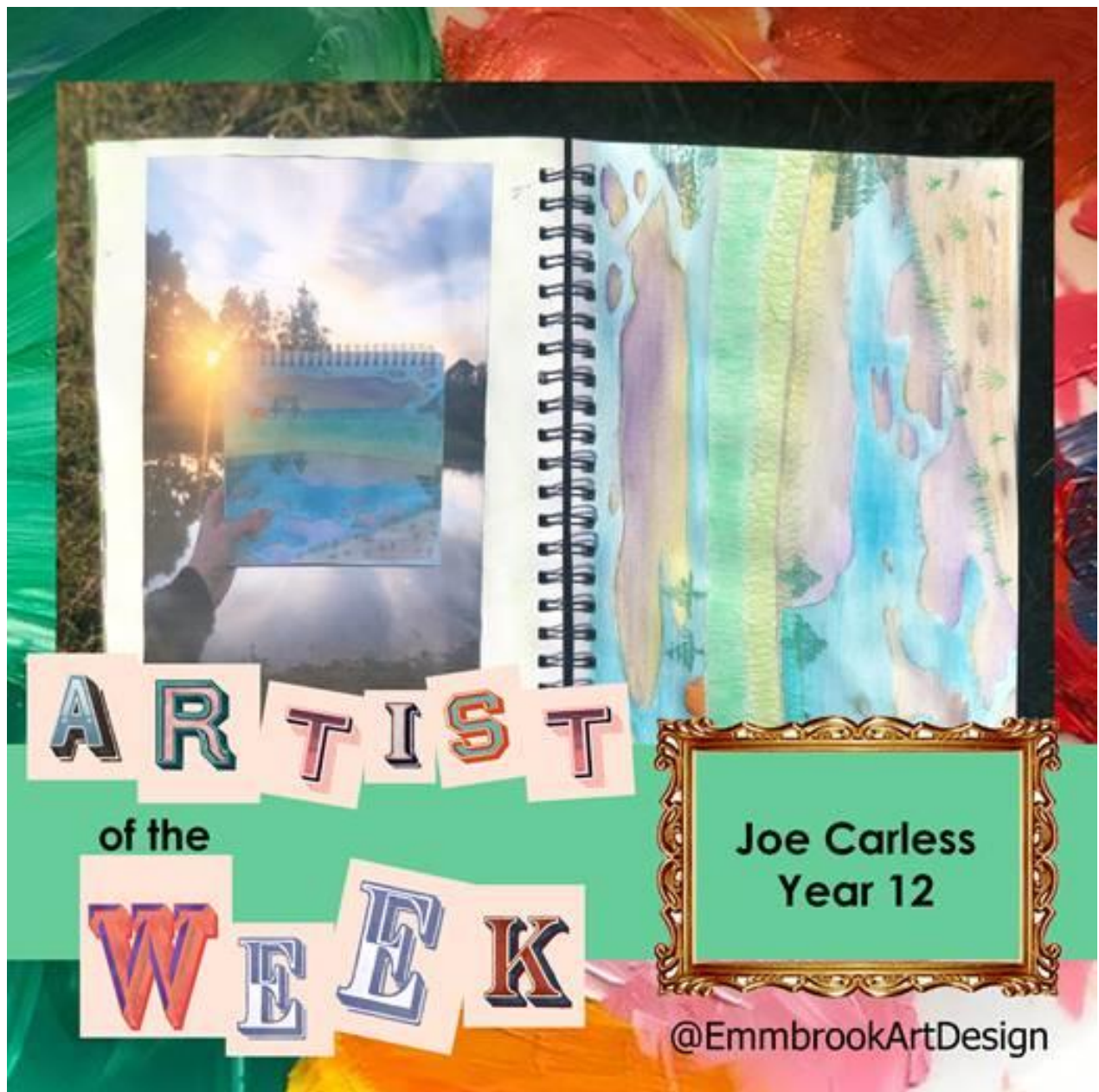
Well done to 9A/Sr1 who are leading the pack at the moment! There will be a new quiz set next week on Arousal so get revising everyone!

English and MFL (efry@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

After a restful half-term week, students have been back to work on a variety of tasks for their English and MFL teachers. This week sees the close of entries for the Extra-ordinary reading competition organised by Miss Pepper so we look forward to seeing some great photos and finding out who has won. This term, the focus in English will be on poetry. Year 9 & 10 will be looking at Power and Conflict, whereas for years 7 & 8 the theme is poetry from other cultures. For MFL, much of the work has involved using the BBC Bitesize website to revise previous topics and we have been really impressed by the high scores students have achieved on the quizzes related to this. Keep up the great work everyone!



Creative and Performing Arts (msimpson@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)





Bethy in Year 11 has been cooking up lots of delicious treats in lockdown and has started her own food Instagram. Last week she did some research into strawberries including their history and different recipes and then she made some strawberry turnovers!



Zoe in Year 9 started painting a mural on her bedroom wall over the half-term – excited to see it when it's finished so make sure to send us a photo. We'll be commissioning you for art around the school soon Zoe!



Henry Bray (Year 8) has also been doing some excellent work with Lego



Miss Cairns: Year 7 (rcairns@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

So my first week as Head of Year 7 has come to an end and I have had some really lovely emails welcoming me to the job as well as lots of emails telling me about some of the delightful things Year 7 have been up to, thank you for both! If your child has done any amazing school work or indeed anything interesting outside of the academic work please do let me know via email and perhaps even include some pictures if you can!

Year 7 seem to have spent the week studying some fascinating things. A few highlights include the very important, and hugely relevant, work set by Miss Pepper surrounding the BlackLivesMatter movement – she compiled an excellent set of resources including documentaries, autobiographies and films about black artists. In Geography, Mr McGrath has set Year 7 off with a series of lessons on tectonics, volcanoes and earthquakes whilst in History 'The War of the Roses' seems to be the next topic of interest, with a fun nod in the direction of 'Horrible Histories'. I hope all of the Year 7s have enjoyed these activities as well as lots of others that I have seen published for this week.

My first shout out to an amazing Year 7 goes to Joshua du Preez! In Maths, we have been setting a MathsWatch based assignment each week and Josh has completed all of them in record time and scored 100% in every single one for the last eight weeks! What an amazing effort! Well Done, Josh!

I really hope you have all had a safe, productive and happy week! Have a lovely weekend!



Mr Baker: Year 8 (sbaker@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Another week of learning seems to have flown by. I hope everybody had a relaxing half-term, and enjoyed the fabulous weather. Even though the weather has turned, Year 8 tutors have been impressed with the continued level of commitment and engagement year 8 pupils are showing. The level of work completed and submitted on SMHW is absolutely fantastic. The History work on the Suffragettes has been brilliant, and Mr. McGrath is continually impressed with the Geography work handed in. Year 8 are smashing Maths Watch again, and many are joining in on the daily and weekly challenges set for various subjects. They really are a tremendous year group.

Again, I would like to thank the parents and carers of Year 8. Your support has been fantastic, and made this difficult time, much more workable. If you do have any queries then please do not hesitate to get in contact. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Mr Tichband: Year 9 (jtichband@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Hello year 9!

Another week another update. I have been really proud of the effort everyone has put into the first week back after half-term. I am constantly being reminded that you are truly a special year group each day with teachers and tutors emailing me some of the wonderful work you are producing. This is a great attitude to have especially when times are a bit strange. I cannot wait for us to all be back together at some stage soon and able to catch up face to face about how we are doing. Until that point do not forget to let me know via email and ensure you are keeping in touch with your tutors. Everyone is missing you all and it really does make our days.

Again I would like to thank parents/carers and staff for their amazing support over the past few weeks. It truly has been a fantastic sign of how lucky I am to have such supportive parents working with myself and the tutor team to achieve the best for the whole year group.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch if we can support further.

Miss Horne: Year 10 (ehorne@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

I hope you have all been able to enjoy the wonderful sunshine over the past couple of weeks and your child took time in half-term to truly relax and recuperate.

This half-term would have seen Year 10 visit their work experience placements. Understandably, this opportunity has been cancelled and therefore Mr Maskell and I are looking at how to enrich careers provision as we move into the next academic year. Post-16 options and careers are a huge focus for Year 11 and we have our in-school advisor, Carrie Haywood from Adviza, who is excellent at supporting students in this difficult decision.



It would also have been a busy half-term with end of year exams. Mr Whitehouse and the exams team have taken the unprecedented decision not to give Year 10s exams during this time. As Year 10 roll into Year 11 they will need some formal exam grades to inform their sixth form / college application choices. I do not want any student to worry about this situation. No student will be disadvantaged by this decision. As soon as we have more information relating to school opening from September, we will ensure that the exams form part of our strategic planning. At this stage, the mock exams (PPE's) will take place in the run up to Christmas.

In the meantime, the Year 10 Tutor Team and I are so looking forward to welcoming Year 10 back in various stages throughout this half-term!

Mr Constable: Sixth Form (dconstable@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Year 12 have continued to engage with the distance learning process and have continued to submit some very good quality work. I am also very pleased to see the students continuing to sign up for UCAS, we are now up to 20 applicants. As you will be aware, this is a significant term for year 12 as they will be getting some face-to-face contact with teachers in the coming weeks to help with their studies, details of which have been circulated and will continue to be circulated over the next week. However, this half-term is also significant for year 12 as we will be looking to appoint our new leadership team. Due to the current circumstances we find ourselves in, this process will be done virtually but will still be as rigorous as it has been in previous years as these positions are incredibly important to the school. The opportunity to be a school leader provides students with a chance to give something back to the community that has supported them for a number of years. It is an avenue through which students can help to develop the school and to make changes to both sixth form and the wider school, that help to improve the learning experience of everyone involved with The Emmbrook School. More details of how to apply will be sent to year 12 students and parents on Monday.

Year 13 would now be in the full exam season and I hope they are continuing to find ways to keep themselves busy preparing for the next steps in their lives. The yearbook for year 13 is nearing completion and we should be able to approve this by the end of June and therefore have it ready for the students towards the end of July. There is still time to purchase a yearbook, if you follow the online payment link on the Emmbrook School website (link is label Tucasi) you will be able to pay for a yearbook – cost is £16.

To all in sixth form, stay safe and see you soon



Emmbrook Creation Station (kandrews@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

The creation station has now moved to a weekly task, it isn't too late to enter this week's contest;

The
Emmbrook
CREATION# station
Joy

This weeks theme:
1st-5th June

Be as creative as you can – comment with a pic of your creations or tag us on Instagram.

Students in the press

Well done to Daniel on his entrepreneurial spirit!

Greenfingerted Daniel's plants for Kenya

A SCHOOL student looking forward to a trip of a lifetime has used the lockdown to get Woosehill blooming.

Daniel Robson, who attends the Emmbrook School, is hoping to take part in a scheme that will see him volunteer in Kenya next summer. But to get there, he has to raise £5,000.

And to help, last Friday the 15-year-old set up a socially distanced plant stall outside his home, giving friends and neighbours the chance to freshen up their garden.

It's just one of many initiatives he has undertaken in recent months to reach his target, including babysitting, cleaning and also going vegan.

The plant stall, he said, was inspired by his Grandpa. "We were initially hoping



Daniel Robson with his plant stall last Friday
Picture: Andy Preston

defences, and constructing a school.

"Not only is this trip going to have a crucial impact on those in need, but the entire experience of fundraising and travelling will also give a new perspective of the world we live in.

"I can't tell you how much all the support I've received from strangers, family, friends and everyone means.

"It has taught me the importance and power of socialising, I'm proud to put that focus into helping others and learn about the world we live in and its cultures."

■ To find out more about Daniel's fundraising effort or to donate, visit: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/daniel-robson-kenya

to have a stall at a fair in the half-term, but we had to rethink our approach due to the pandemic," he said.

"I am pleased to say that I have had a mind-blowing turnout with the stall and I'm hoping to be back soon with a fresh wave.

"I've met so many lovely people, at a safe distance, and have connected with the Woosehill and Wokingham community.

Coronavirus notwithstanding, Daniel, who is in Year 11, will be travelling to Kenya next year with a group from The Emmbrook School and Camps International where they will spend four weeks volunteering.

Work will include building on an 18-year-old pre-existing project at camp Kenya, installing clean water supplies, building animal