



## Information for Parents 2022/23

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The  
**Emmbrook**  
School



## Welcome to The Emmbrook School

I am excited and proud to have the opportunity to introduce our successful and caring school.

We are ambitious for every student, conscious that success is different for each individual. Our mission is to provide all of the young people in our care with high quality learning and exciting experiences. Academic success is crucial, which is why our dedicated and skilled staff work in partnership with students and parents to provide a personalised learning journey for all. Every bit as important as securing high quality qualifications is developing the character and resilience that will stay with our students for life – I am inspired by the achievements of Emmbrook students.

I know what is special about this community; our ethos, traditions and pursuit of excellence that have made our students flourish for over 50 years. Crucially, I know how to sustain the rapid improvements we have enjoyed, so that The Emmbrook is the truly exceptional school that our students deserve.

As a father, I have always had two rules for my own children: to be kind and try hard. These principles guide my leadership of The Emmbrook. Our FAIR values (Family, Ambition, Integrity and Respect) form the backbone of our community and they are summed up well via our motto 'learning together, succeeding together' – which highlights that excellence is achieved through cooperation. These values permeate all aspects of our community.

The number of preferences for The Emmbrook has risen for each of the last 5 years. I am humbled by our growing popularity which, last year, saw us receive the second highest number of parental preferences in the Borough. With over 700 preferences for our 240 places (and with waiting lists) I would recommend you select The Emmbrook as your first choice school if you want to secure a place here.

I believe that this is a very exciting time. We are a happy, warm, caring school, engaged in a never ending pursuit of academic excellence. We maintain high standards of personal conduct and offer a broad and rich curriculum. Equally important, in the ever changing arena that is education in the 21st century, we will continue to evolve and grow, ensuring that our students are equipped for the opportunities and challenges that await. We would be privileged to share that journey with you.

With very best wishes,

Nick McSweeney  
Headteacher





## Extra-Curricular

Extra-Curricular activities and charity events are always popular with our students and they are an excellent way to make new friends whilst enjoying school life.

Our impressive Music Department contributes to the wider development of school life; there are several clubs for students to attend. These include Concert Band, Orchestra, Choirs and various smaller ensembles.

Students can also take part in a variety of concerts and musical performance events as well as the Whole School Production which the Drama Department delivers.

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Additionally, there are wide ranging sports activities throughout the year that students can participate in with clubs running each night of the week. Various sports and fixtures against other schools run throughout the year.

Every summer we hold a whole school sports day and all children are encouraged to participate and represent their house. This is always an enjoyable event for the school community.

For more sporting photos and stories, go to our twitter feed: @Emmbrook\_PE

These are just some of our clubs available;

3D Printing Club  
Art Club  
Brooky's Business Club  
Chess Club



CREST  
Awards



CREST Club  
Crochet Club  
Drama Club  
Duke of Edinburgh

EPQ Award  
Family History Club  
Mindfulness Club  
Retro Gaming Club







## A Level Exam Results 2022

A*-A%	A*-B%	A*-C%
26.6	50.8	75

We were delighted to be able to celebrate with our students as they received their fantastic results this year.

Over a quarter of all grades were A\* or A and over 50% of grades at A\*-B. There was considerable success for individuals, with over 12% of students achieving three A grades or better and almost half of students achieving an A grade in at least one of their subjects.

High performing subjects at A\*-A included Maths and Further Maths, Computer Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, English Literature, Psychology and Economics.

These results mean that our students will now be able to progress to the next stage of their studies. We value the achievements of each and every student and the opportunities that are now before them, from those taking up places on courses at many of the UK's top universities, including very many at Russell Group universities, to those who are pursuing their career aspirations through high quality apprenticeships.







## Ensuring an Outstanding Transition Experience

Hello to all our Year 6s, parents, carers and families.

I am Mrs Hodgson and I have been part of The Emmbrook family for 30 years, 22 of those as a Head of Year and Transition Manager.

We have a designated person to deal with transition and that is because we feel it is one of the most important times in the lives of our pupils.

My job does not just start when your child starts here in September. My job starts the minute your child is allocated a place here in March.

From that point on, I contact primary schools to make appointments to go and meet with the Year 6 teachers but more importantly with the children.

I visit every single school where possible, regardless of the number of children who are coming to us, be it one single student or a group of 45. I consider this to be the first, and most valuable, step to forging a strong relationship with your child and you. I am still trying to get the Headteacher to allow me to visit those students who are coming to us from overseas!

This year I went to 42 Primary Schools, 20 of them were just to visit one child. It is so important to do this. It allays fears and anxieties and the students then know who will be there to care for them and help them throughout the transition period and beyond.

I work hard behind the scenes to do some social engineering and forge possible friendship groups to help the children settle in. Fortunately, after doing the job for so long I am usually successful.

My philosophy is that a happy child is a productive child and I do everything in my power to ensure that transition for the children and their families is as smooth and as 'stress-free' as possible.

I look forward to welcoming your children into The Emmbrook Family.

Sandra Hodgson





## Our Curriculum

Here at The Emmbrook School, we are committed to providing a curriculum that is broad, balanced, challenging and fosters a love of learning. The curriculum is designed to build on students' prior learning, provide engaging and high quality learning experiences, and promote aspirational performance and progress for all its students. The Emmbrook curriculum is wide ranging; we seek to promote and develop interpersonal skills, resilience and reflective learners who understand the context of their learning and can transfer knowledge across their subject areas.

To ensure students are able to access learning across the spectrum of subject areas, the importance of securing literacy and numeracy skills is prioritised throughout an Emmbrook student's learning journey. In particular, the school encourages students to read widely and for pleasure. Reading is promoted across each subject area to widen students' knowledge and understanding of key topics and to expose students to complex vocabulary and ideas that must be grasped in order to achieve academic success.

Each subject area has its own clear statement of curriculum intent, designed to reflect the school's values and vision. The school's diverse and inclusive culture establishes a student focused approach to provide outstanding learning, not just for academic success but also to develop values of respect, integrity and personal development. At The Emmbrook, the learner is placed at the centre of the Teaching, Learning and Assessment cycle – it seeks to engage all students, celebrate success and plan for progress.

At The Emmbrook, we want to develop students who are not only well prepared with the knowledge and skills they require for their exams but who can also both understand and contribute to a wider cultural framework, preparing them for life beyond a classroom. Integral to our curriculum is the exploration of social, moral and cultural topics – this provides our learners with opportunities to broaden their understanding of the world in which they live and enhance their cultural capital.







## GCSE Results 2022

9-8%	9-7%	9-4%
<b>17.7</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>76.6</b>

We are incredibly proud of the fantastic results achieved by our Year 11 students.

These students have faced so much uncertainty and disruption as a result of Covid-19 and yet showed incredible resilience and maturity to produce results well ahead of 2019 (when public exams were last sat).

Students performed well across English, Maths and Science, with the three subjects together producing the best combined exam results The Emmbrook has seen in a generation. Over half of the cohort secured a 7 grade or above (A & A\* in the previous grading system).

High performing subjects at grades 7-9 included Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Business, Computer Science, Classical Civilisation, French, German, Geography, PE and Religious Studies.







## **Trips**

As well as day trips to France, museum visits and opportunities as close as local primary schools, The Emmbrook also offers a fantastic array of opportunities that take students to places that they may not get the chance to visit otherwise.

Follow us on Facebook for up to date information on our travels!



## **School Spirit**

We recently introduced our school mascot, Brooky, to the world. Brooky embodies the school values. Brooky cheers for every student at every school event, showcases the school to younger children and allows students in the school to develop their role in the community by wearing the costume. Importantly, Brooky is fun because we believe that school should be fun!







## The Pastoral System

The Emmbrook understands the need for a nurturing and supportive environment. Each morning, students will meet with their tutor for registration. Tutors are the first point of contact with the school for students (and parents). They will get to know your child and be a consistent face each day.

Form time provides an opportunity to share messages for the day, complete uniform checks and also offers a chance to delve into the RSE (relationships) and CE (character) Curriculum. The use of form time along with assemblies, guest speakers and the Philosophy and Ethics lessons in Years 10 & 11 mean that the life skills needed are delivered throughout their time at The Emmbrook.

Each year has a dedicated year leader, supported by a member of the senior leadership team and a deputy year leader.

### Student Support Unit

This area of the school is specifically designated to support students with additional needs. Whether that be a Special Educational Need or when a student is in a situation that needs extra help. This area is used for therapies, extra support, counselling, occupational therapy and also houses the student reception. We will be there when needed.

### Canteen

Our canteen runs daily for all students offering a mix of delights ranging from pizza to falafel wraps, salads and fruit. There are items to suit all dietary and religious requirements. The canteen is run by Aspens catering, more information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/emmbrookcanteen>.

**Aspens**







## The House System

The house system has been an integral part of The Emmbrook School since its inception over 50 years ago. It aims to provide an even greater sense of community and competition as well as a range of new opportunities for students to get involved in school life and try new skills.



**Saturn Venus Jupiter Mercury**

Every student in the school is identified within their houses through their school tie which consists of a coloured stripe indicating their house colour.

The school's house system also promotes an inclusive and collaborative learning environment and provides opportunities for students to engage in enriched curricular activities including sporting clubs, creative writing competitions and charity events.

The house system is a central part of our school community, encompassing our school value of being a 'family'. It unites students across each group, including the sixth form. It creates a sense of belonging and will involve a range of events within each department.

### Inter-house events include:

#### **October:**

Halloween bake off

#### **December:**

Christmas photography competition

#### **January:**

Code breaking and problem solving challenge

#### **February:**

Dodgeball tournament

#### **March:**

Basketball shoot out, World Book Day, cardboard tube design and staff fancy dress

#### **April:**

The Great Big School Clean and the Emmbrook Easter Egg Extravaganza

#### **May:**

Gymnastics competition

#### **June:**

Tug of War and sports quiz

#### **July:**

Sports day







## Our FAIR Values

Family	Ambition	Integrity	Respect
We support each other in everything that we do.	We are determined to achieve excellence.	We are always honest and do the right thing.	We treat everyone and everything with care.

Our values guide us at The Emmbrook. We will always come back to these when correcting behaviour or making difficult decisions.

### Family

The Emmbrook is unique and serves the community. Whilst we are diverse, we all work in the belief that we all belong. Many staff have their children in the school. Many staff attended the school as students. This sense of family enables cohesion and builds respect.

### Ambition

We are ambitious for all our students and we want them to achieve excellence. Whether that be reading English Literature at Oxford, or getting a local work placement. We recognise that excellence is different for each student and we will work hard to help them achieve it.

### Integrity and Respect

Are very important values for the conduct of our students. We expect them to be honest and we expect them to treat each other with care. These values are at the heart of our tutor programme.

It is no accident that these words form the acronym FAIR. Throughout your child's journey with us we will make sure that there is always fairness.

