



Newsletter – Lockdown Edition

12th June 2020

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week I wrote to all students asking them to contact me if they wanted to contribute towards promoting anti-racism and equality at The Emmbrook. I was heartened by the positive engagement that I received and I will contact those individuals who responded next week. If you think that your child can contribute to this then please encourage them to email me by the end of Monday.

I am heartened by the focus of a number of the articles in this newsletter on the issues of Black Lives Matter, racism and injustice. As a school we share and promote four values: family, ambition, integrity and respect. These are perfectly aligned with the cause of fighting racism and all forms of discrimination.

Remote Learning Provision

The government now appears to have confirmed that we will not be seeing any additional students return this term (beyond those in the Key Worker Provision, Year 10 and 12). This is very disappointing news for us all. It does therefore mean that remote learning remains the crucial method of education.

We are currently conducting an internal review of this provision and to support that process I would greatly appreciate hearing from students and parents. I am particularly keen to hear what has been working well and receive any thoughts on how we could enhance the provision.

The survey links are below:

Parents – <https://tinyurl.com/emmbrookparents>

Students – <https://tinyurl.com/emmbrookstudent>



Students will also be sent the link directly via SMHW.

So that we can implement changes quickly, these **surveys will close at 5pm on Monday 15th June**. If you have multiple children in the School then you are welcome to complete the survey for each child.

Year 10 and 12 Provision from Monday 15th June

Year 10 and 12 parents will receive specific emails regarding the next stage of our provision, including booking the personal Welfare and Academic Review meetings. Subsequently, you will also receive personalised timetables for the subject sessions that are planned to follow.

Year 7 Video Assembly

I was very pleased to watch Miss Cairn's first Year 7 video assembly (the link appears in her Year 7 update later in this newsletter) on the topic of Black Lives Matter. I would appreciate your feedback on this, as I think that it might be a good idea for us to do more of this as a school, perhaps even replacing my weekly update with a video briefing.

Planning for September

We continue to monitor the growing news reports and media speculation around what September may look like for schools. Any decisions around our provision for September will ultimately be a product of the guidelines provided to us by national and local government. The government has pledged to provide plans for summer catch-up next week, so we will study these and I will update you.

We are modelling a range of scenarios for September, from the impact if the current rules regarding social distancing, etc., were maintained all the way through to returning to normal. We have continued to recruit during the lockdown and we are fully staffed for September. Ultimately, we will do the best that we can, given the rules that we face at the time.

Key Worker Provision (KWP)

The two key worker bubbles have operated very successfully this week. Mr Bhambra continues to lead 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 are now offering face-to-face contact for Years 10 and 12, but we will do our best to support all those who need it.



It is vital that we hold on to what makes The Emmbrook special. The end of the school year usually presents opportunities to enrich the curriculum through trips and visits, bring together the community with sports day and celebrate the achievements of the students with our house assemblies and awards evenings. We are looking at how we can replicate the spirit of the end of term under lockdown and, as a big believer in crowd sourcing, I would welcome your suggestions (nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk).

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney
Headteacher


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

This week I would like to focus on science as the work we have seen from students has been extremely impressive.

Year 7: Miss Taylor's Y7 classes have done some brilliant assessment work before half-term and she continues to be impressed by the quality of work handed in. They have now started to look at levels of organisation. Mr Edwards' classes have been looking at forces and using supporting videos to complete practice questions on the topic. Mr Maskell has set some interesting tasks for his group to research combustion with a true or false quiz to complete as they go.

Year 8: Alongside the revision tasks on Kerboodle and Tassomai Y8 are being encouraged to take part in the Shell Bright Ideas Challenge. Mr Tracy and Dr Eagle have split this challenge into weekly tasks to be completed and each Y8 class will receive weekly guides and support from their teachers. This is an opportunity to put their knowledge to real world problems in a fun project!



Year 9: Miss Smith's group have started to review their knowledge of the topics taught this year with a variety of revision activities and Kerboodle quizzes. She has been really  impressed with some of the Mind Maps and flashcards she has been shown as well as the excellent quiz results. Mr Curry has been really pleased with the Y9s engagement with Seneca and Kerboodle to help with their revision. Mrs Slyfield's classes have been looking at required practical work in biology using efocuslearning so students can watch the video to gain a better understanding.

Year 10: Mrs Foster's classes have been looking at inheritance and completing some interesting work to produce leaflets on this topic. She has been impressed with the quality of research put in to this. Mrs Loveday's classes have been debating the importance of the Human Genome project with students really getting involved with identifying advantages and disadvantages as well as considering ethics.



Year 12: Our Y12 chemists have been looking at haloalkanes with Dr Eagle conducting research and practicing exam questions on the topic. Y12 biologists have been creating revision Mind Maps on the role of the kidney as well as reviewing their latest assessment on communication and homeostasis. The Y12 physicists have been applying their knowledge of momentum, impulse and collisions to analyse a vehicle crash to determine if either vehicle was speeding. Miss Smith has been very impressed with the solutions produced for this challenge – well done!



Of course we cannot forget our fourth science which is Computer Science and year 7 and 8 students have been busy on the Amazon Future Engineer project where they have been learning to code in Python. Overall approximately 200 students participated and joined in on the Amazon classes.

We want to congratulate Oliver Mastromarino who was top of the leaderboard with 5850 points, a close second was Filip Olbinski with 4720 points and special mentions go to Milo Scott, Esther Hassan and Benny Hossack who all managed to get over 3000 points. A superb effort by all. We are now moving on and Mr Kalatzis will be in touch with the next computer science activity.

Year 9 are learning about network threats and this week they are focusing on the difference between a virus, a worm and a trojan. Year 10 are learning about factors which affect the performance of a network so they can understand why the speed suffers when they are all streaming Netflix at once!



I will leave you this week with another logic challenge, answer in next week's edition. There are two ducks in front of a duck, two ducks behind a duck and a duck in the middle. How many ducks are there?

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

Business and Humanities have had an engaging week with many students excelling in their efforts.

I was very impressed with Tej Venkatkumar (Year 10) for applying her business knowledge to adverts she had seen on YouTube and emailing her thoughts to myself and Miss Horne.

Economics students have been researching behavioural economics and unconscious bias and applying it to the Black Lives Matter campaign. The students have really engaged and it is warming to see how much they care and how much they want to learn.

In Geography there has been research conducted into migration looking at the flow, socioeconomic makeup and the reasons behind it.

Sociologists and Criminologists have been looking into diversity in society and have been researching and learning about the diversity in our society and how people are treated. Mr Constable was particularly impressed with the efforts of Cameron Clark (Year 12).

Historians have been looking at the reunification of Germany and the control of the media under Brezhnev. Miss Donovan has been working with her historians learning about black history and sharing books and documentaries.



I am really proud of how the faculty have responded to current affairs by using it as an opportunity to educate and learn from each other. As always, the student engagement with these topics has been impressive.

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

The PE dept have been setting a number of different exercises for all Core PE classes from Yoga to High Intensity Interval Training. The GCSE PE and Sport Science classes have been working on their knowledge and understanding of the Cardiorespiratory System and Technology in Sport as well as competing against other classes in the fortnightly online SMHW quiz!

Mr Humber would also like to congratulate all those students regularly taking part in the online quizzes – this is not an easy situation but do not give up and keep trying! Well done!

As it stands the current GCSE average class scores in the SMHW quiz are below but these will be updated weekly:

GCSE PE

9A (Miss Matthews) – Technology in Sport - class average was 80%

10C (Mr Humber) – Cardiorespiratory System - class average was 50%

10D (Miss Matthews) – Cardiorespiratory System - class average was 49%

Special congratulations to the top scorers in each class who were:

Charlotte Ayres

Ben Poole

Jazz Abbott

Hollie White

Matthew Starkey

Tamryn Lester

Sport SCIENCE

9A (Mr Humber) – Class average is currently 85%.

9D (Mr Tichband) – class average is currently 90%.

Special congratulations to the 100% super stars so far:

Kymani R

Jay B

Hollie G

Luke K

Josh P



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

It has been another busy week of remote learning for the English and Languages faculty. As well as the weekly task set on Doodle, students have been working on poetry by Maya Angelou in English. In the MFL department, it is very tight at the top of the Vocab Express leader boards. The current leaders are Emily McCulloch, Mohitha Kumaravelan, Kirstie Coelho, Jonathan Dodd and Miracle Uwannah.

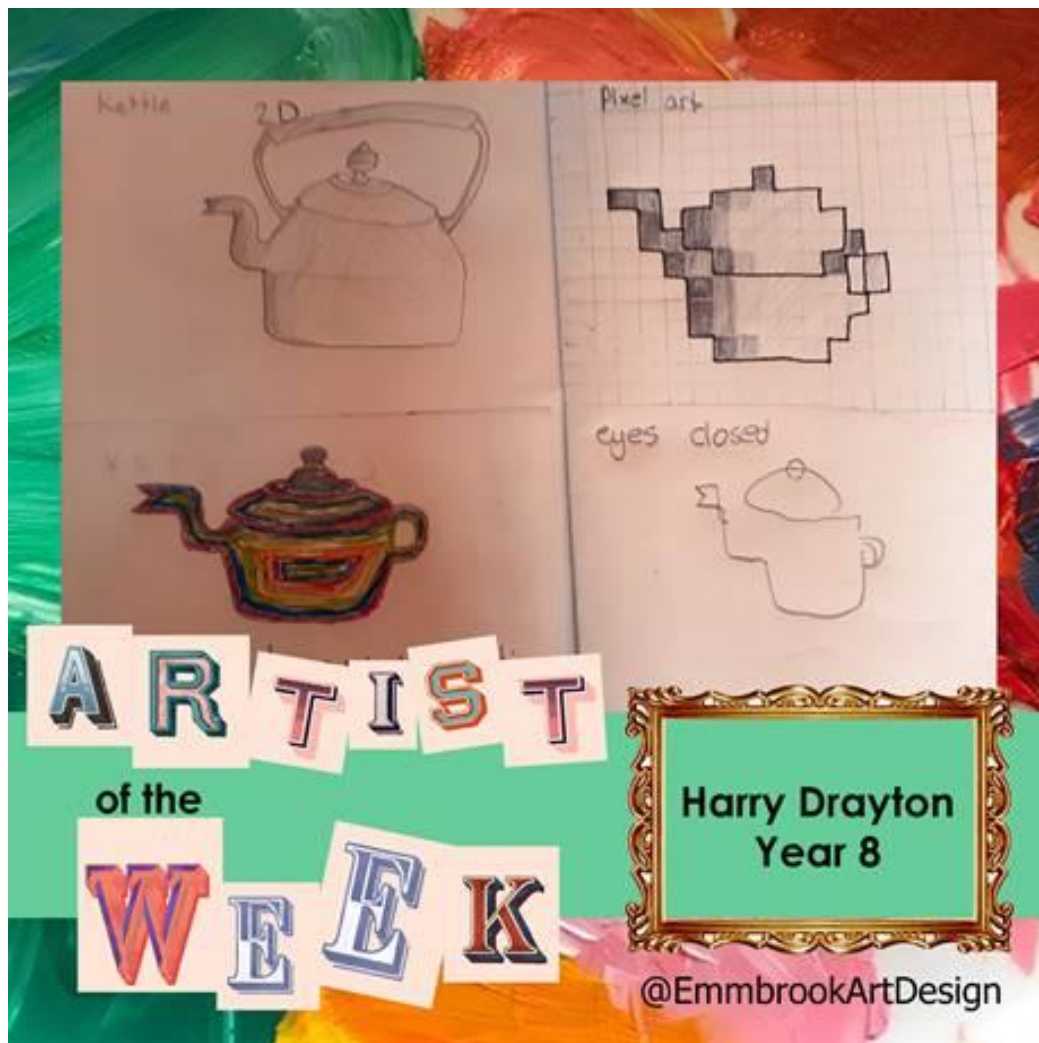
In addition to all of this, Mrs Lloyd and Miss Pepper have been working with students to ensure that the English curriculum addresses the issue of equality. Please see the statement below, written by Mrs Lloyd.

Given that we are currently reviewing our curriculum and in order to fight rooted inequalities, the English Department has turned to its students to spark a conversation about reading beyond what is sometimes seen as the canon. We started out by providing a suggested reading and watching list focusing on POC authors, which Miss Pepper posted on ShowMyHomework. Our year 12 students have engaged with this fully: the suggestions have been coming hard and fast. We are keen not to tokenise any writer, and make sure that they represent a variety of styles, writing and periods to highlight the diversity of voices that need to be heard within our community. As such, the influence of *Frankenstein* will be explored through Octavia Butler's *Fledgling*, and Derek Walcott's *Sea Grapes* have become our entry into a study of what classics and canon mean and how we need to reshape them to reflect our own identity, while at KS4, Agard's statement in one of our set texts, *Checking out me history*, that he is "blinded to his own identity" has become what we want to avoid: erasing POC and their history and contributions to literature. We need to make space for, and listen to, those that bear witness; we need to do better.

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

Art and Design

We have been in school renovating the Art & Design Department this week and have uncovered a hidden oak framed set of windows and doors between C7 and C8! This is such a lovely historical discovery that we are going to make a real feature of it.

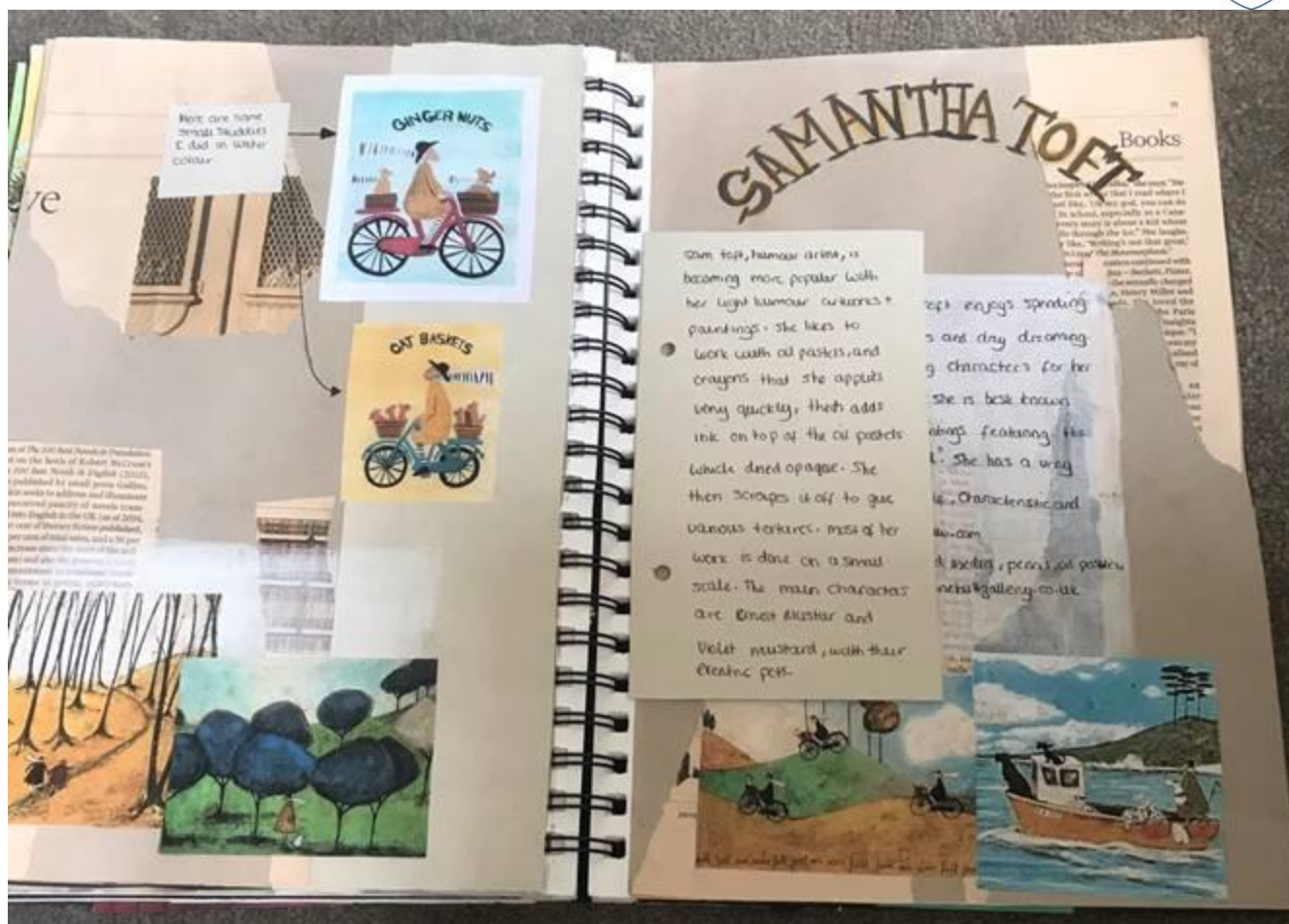




Lauren Malins in Year 11 is excited to be joining us for our new Graphic Communications A-level course in September and has been developing her photography skills in preparation.



Chloe Pidgeon



Ella Allwright

Year 12 Artists Chloe and Ella have been producing fabulous research pages and studies for their personal investigation coursework projects. Looking forward to hearing and seeing more of this when we meet in a few weeks!

Music

Years 7 and 8 have been developing their musical understanding, knowledge and creativity by choosing from a range of projects this half-term. These topics are allowing the students to explore areas that they are interested in, and allow for a range of music-making opportunities associated with them. Two of these are 'Writing a Song' and 'How to Rap'.

The works below are two responses to the huge global despair and concern regarding the death of George Floyd and racial inequality, in the form of rap and song lyrics. Music is a powerful advocate and celebrant of diversity in all its forms. Here are words written by two of our year 7 students.

Unequal Community by Kieron Jones (Y7) - Rap

Why don't we all take a minute to realise what has happened,
On why this trauma of George Floyd occurred,
And why everyone else in this world is so maddened,
But will this pain ever be cured.
It's just a matter of racism,
The truth is we are all equal,
Does this rap really suit my lyricism,
But honestly this world is an unequal community.
We need to understand why our community isn't diverse,
Do you think the devil came to earth to set a curse,
Or if it's just humanity at it's worst,
Was it a true matter of racism or just an outburst.
Anyway, I'm out!



Racism Is Not Right by Callum Warburton (Y7) - Song

Racism is the only Disease, nobody likes it,
All the people protesting,
Are correct, they de-serve justice.

People are dying because of racism,
It's not cool, not funny, it's stupid.
People are dying because of racism, yeah,
It's not cool, not funny, it's stu-pid.

To all the protesters out there, thank you,
For helping the world to be a better place,



Because of you it is being recognised,
This is what we need to do.

People are dying because of racism,
It's not cool, not funny, it's stupid.
People are dying because of racism,
It's not cool, not funny, it's stu-pid.

To all the protesters out there, thank you,
For helping the world to be a better place,
Because of you it is being recognised,
This is what we need to do.

Racism is not right,
Racism is not right,
Not right, yeah,
Not right

One last time,
To all the protesters out there, thank you,
For helping the world to be a better place,
Because of you it is being recognised,
This is what we need to do.

Racism, no not right,
Mmmmmmm
Racism, it's not ri-ght



**SAY NO TO
RACISM!**





Mrs Hodgson: Transition (shodgson@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Transition is in full flow! This week we have been working with many of our feeder primary schools (over 40 in total) to learn more about our new students.

Whilst we can't have the induction days that we are all used to, I have been working with Soulscape to build their induction provision for when they visit the Year 6 students in their primary schools over the next few weeks.

We have a host of videos on the Emmbrook YouTube channel for the new students to learn more about our school: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5O-YFsnbTWqaCAMLf7G0YKVwLTm6FCNz>

As always, if you have any questions, please send me an email.

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

Another week has come to an end and I have had the pleasure of seeing some amazing work emailed to me from the Year 7 teachers, in a huge variety of subjects! I have seen how Oliver M, Filip, Milo, Esther and Benny have managed to accrue over 3000 points in the Amazon Future Engineering Python competition, with Oliver managing almost 6000 points! I have been told of amazing test scores across the board, fantastic perseverance and a huge desire from some to do even more than is asked for. Outside of school life, I have been sent pictures of the most amazing cakes created by Rudra and seen how Dylan has been helping make videos for Soulscape. I love seeing how many amazing things my lovely Year Group are doing so please do keep sending them my way!

Linked to the above, due to all the amazing emails I receive about the wonderful things Year 7 are doing, I am going to restart 'Tutees of the Week' with a bit of a twist. Instead of differentiation by tutor group, I am going to pick six pupils each week who have done some amazing work, nominated by their teachers or myself, and award them 'Pupil of the Week'. They will get house points and a lovely, positive email home!

Finally, you should have received an email from me about our first Distance Learning Assembly! As a Head of Year, one of my favourite things to do, is create and deliver assemblies, as a result I have decided that each Friday I will send one to the Year 7s. All of them will be on something that is happening in the world that is important to us all. They will be posted on the Emmbrook School YouTube Channel and a link sent to the pupils' email addresses <https://youtu.be/QIndZaZs28s>. I believe that a very important part of secondary school is to think about the world around us and how we can make a positive impact, on this basis, I hope they enjoy the assemblies and that they bring back a little more of the normal school day to home.

As always, if you have any problems at all, please do not hesitate to get in contact. I look forward to another week with Year 7!



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

Year 8 have smashed it again this week. There have been numerous reports of brilliant work from the best year group. In terms of the Amazon Engineer Python Challenge, there has been great engagement by year 8, so a massive well done to all that took part, and a standing ovation to the top point scorers, who were: Oliver Simpson, Arun Corcoran, Elliot E.B. Barry, Kenisha Ghotey, and Edward Taylor!

On the music front Tristan Robberts and Danny Jordan were musical perfection with their drum and piano version of 'Sweet Child O' Mine'. It was brilliant to watch and listen to. In terms of the greatest subject (History), Isabelle Hearmon and Lewis Makepeace have been on fire with their work on the Suffragettes, and Kameron Waddon has produced tremendous Geography work throughout the entire week.

With Maths, Year 8 have completed a significant amount of work on Maths Watch, and are fast catching up Year 7 for the most amount of questions completed. Particular praise goes out to Kyle Taylor (Miss. Cairns was super-impressed with his work), and Narges Fereshtehpour, who has completed a staggering amount of maths home-learning.

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! As we end yet another week of lockdown learning, it feels longer than it actually has been since I last saw you all. I have been in school working this week, but it is not the same without you all being there too. I have been very impressed by the feedback I have received from your teachers, which shows that the majority of students in Year 9 have demonstrated an outstanding engagement with remote learning. Thank you, this makes me feel very proud. As always, it is important to spend time relaxing and having fun. I know that the weather has not been ideal, but try to get some outdoor exercise each day to help clear your head. Please also continue to let me know how you are spending your days and if you need any support at all.

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

Good morning!

It shocks me to think that we are already two weeks into the final half-term of this academic year but what a half-term it has already been. We are so impressed with the resilience and attitude continuously shown by Year 10.

Special shout outs this week go to Alfie Fullbrook, Daniel Hernandez-Luis, Daniella Smith, Ella Baker, Sienna Tomkins and Themba Jere who Miss Pepper has nominated as English Stars. Miss Cairns and Mrs Bishop have also been super proud of the efforts of many of their students in Maths: Matteo Harrison, Isla Fenning, Tejasvi Venkatkumar, Jake Ridd, Charlotte Jeffers and Sophie Janes.

It is so wonderful to hear about the great work that is being completed during this challenging time so a huge well done to you all.



We love sharing these achievements so please do keep us up to date with all things worth celebrating, academic or not!

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

Next week is a big week for year 12 as we get to see them after about 11 weeks of the school closure and I am very excited about this. The students will be able to access welfare and academic review meetings either onsite or online and, for many, this will be their first face to face contact with the school since we closed back in March. Myself and the tutor team are genuinely excited to see year 12 back and to find out a little bit about how the last 11 weeks have been for them and to get them back to some sense of normality. I must confess, it has also been lovely to see the notes parents have been putting on the parents evening booking system, there seems to be a genuine desire amongst the student body to return to school. Not that I want to labour the point, but I was looking through the bookings I have and a massive smile came across my face at the thought of seeing our wonderful year 12s again.

Next week is just the first step back to normality and will be followed by lessons later in the month, another event I am truly excited for.

I would also like to take this opportunity to once again thank year 12, and all their parents, for the support during this period. The feedback I have received about year 12 has been almost universally positive.

Welcome back year 12, personally I can't wait to see you!

House Update: Miss Wood (rwood2@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

The Latest House points count:

Venus has continued to hold the 1st place position with Jupiter just behind it still in second place and Saturn continuing to sneak up in third place.

The current positions are as follows:

1st Place: VENUS – 11793

2nd Place: JUPITER – 11766

3rd Place: SATURN – 11718

4th Place: MERCURY – 11225

A big well done to all of you who have been working hard, producing excellent work, showing support, participating in the extra opportunities available and going above and beyond and helping earn extra points for your houses.

Keep up the great work in each of the houses!

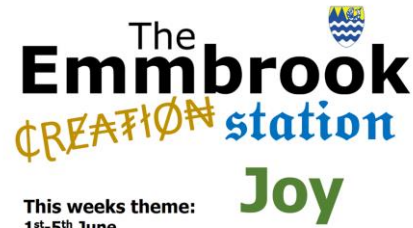


Emmbrook Creation Station (kandrews@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

Joy

By Dylan Nanda Year 7

You can experience joy in your own way,
I often think of it as a warm sunny day.
Where the birds are singing,
And probably so am I,
Except they can sing much more high!
As I open my eyes and get out of bed,
The sun invites me out,
I have a journey ahead.
Far away from home I will venture,
Into the luscious countryside,
What an adventure!
Like the sun I lighten with joy,
A smile on my face,
The trees sway with grace.
The beautiful and joyful music playing on the radio,
It makes me feel like I'm watching a show!
There are many things that give me joy,
Like my new batman lego toy!
Whether it's singing, dancing or playing in a park,
They're all joyful to me,
And always will be!



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

Message from School Nurses

Berkshire Healthcare is launching a new School Nursing advice and support line for children, young people and their families, to offer health advice and referral into the service for on-going support if needed. The line will be available from 9am-4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

You can access this service by dialing **0118 9312111** and selecting '**Option 4**' to speak to a School Nurse from our team.

In addition please can you send out the following message to all year 9 and above students as soon as possible;

You do not have to struggle in silence. The school nursing team are here to listen, phone our new advice and support line on **0118 9312111** and select **option 4** to speak to a school nurse. Monday to Friday 9am-4.30pm.

It's ok to not be ok.

Kind regards

School nursing service

NextThing Summer Camp (Ages 5-12)

Dear Parents,

Tech camp is here for **Summer** with all **NEW** activities! We are running on **20th -24th July** and **3rd - 7th August 2020** at Hemdean House School, RG4 7SS from **9 am to 4 pm** each day.

Our technology camps are your child's ticket to another world, with lots of exciting activities for curious coders, inventors and artists. Kids can learn how to program *artificial intelligence robots*, *modify madness with Minecraft* and even create their own *digital app*! The camps are designed to help children acquire in-demand skills from a young age, which will be needed for their future jobs market. Simply put, it is the perfect place for them to push their coding skills even further and provides an unforgettable learning experience.

Covid-19 safety – please watch our video to see how we are making our camps safe and secure this Summer: <https://nextthing.shortcm.li/l6As6W>

For a full list of activities and more information **please see flyer attached**. **Spaces are limited due to social distancing** and work on a **first come first serve** basis. To check availability or to enrol simply visit:

<https://nextthing.shortcm.li/rpSycy>

Kind regards,

Lauren Gent



Year 11 Leavers Movie

CLASS OF 2020

Local company Memory Lane Movies is creating a Leavers Movie of our Year 11s!

If you would like your Year 11 included, please contact Rachael Lawrence directly at rachael.hynes@btinternet.com by 19th June to find out more

