



Newsletter – Lockdown Edition

3rd July 2020

In this edition;

Headteacher's Address	Year 8 Update
Maths, Computing and Science Update	Year 9 Update
Business and Humanities Update	Year 10 Update
English and MFL Update	Sixth Form Update
Creative and Performing Arts Update	House Update
Transition Update	Year 9 Poetry
Year 7 Update	Speakers 4 Schools
	Berkshire Maestros

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday the government released guidelines for the reopening of schools in September. I would suggest that the plans communicate three very clear messages:

- The government expects all students and staff to return to school in September (with very few exceptions).
- Schools will be required to provide a full curriculum experience for all students.
- There is huge flexibility for each school to interpret and apply the guidelines to best suit its individual context.

This September, we are expecting the number of students we have to grow in both the main school and Sixth Form, so we need to give careful thought to ensuring that we make the site as safe as possible for students and staff.

There are challenges that will be unique to each school, for us in particular this will include the approximately 1/3rd of our students who come by school bus and the compressed nature of our school day (with only 2 relatively short breaks). Given that we now have these guidelines, we will be refining our plans over the coming days and I will communicate with you as soon as I can and certainly before we break up on Friday 17th July.

School Uniform in September

The new guidelines are very clear on uniform and the government expects all schools to return to normal uniform when they reopen in full. Therefore, please use the summer holiday to prepare for this by ensuring that your children have all elements of the uniform, including the blazer. After such a long period of absence, September will inevitably have unique challenges and heightened anxieties. One area where we can all work together to have the smoothest possible start is ensuring that all students arrive in full uniform. It would be a shame if we had to start the new school year negatively with individuals who were not meeting our uniform expectations.



Year 10 and 12 On-Site Lessons Week Beginning 13th July

With the changes to the rules regarding social distancing, I am pleased to confirm that we will be offering on-site lessons to students in Years 10 **and** 12 during the final week of term. For Year 10 this will be another week of English, Maths and Science lessons (similar to the provision for next week) and for Year 12 it will be subject sessions (as we offered this week). We have been able to achieve this by merging bubbles into larger groups while maintaining the guideline of 1 metre plus with enhanced hygiene measures.

Mrs Panesar will be emailing out timetables for the final week in due course.

Key Worker Provision (KWP)

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). Mr Bhambra has already written to parents using this provision to inform them that we will not be offering any provision over the summer.

In the coming days we will be finalising our plans for September. Following that, the plans will be scrutinised by governors and then we will be in the position to confirm arrangements for September. I will communicate our all arrangements with you as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney
Headteacher

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

This week we have finally seen some sense of normality come back to the maths block. We have hosted year 12 lessons for Maths, Computer Science, Further Maths, Chemistry, Biology and Physics.

Miss Bishop kicked things off with our first maths group where she was able to work through some of the trickier concepts that have been taught remotely, just having that time in the classroom made a huge difference to the students even if they did have to get up earlier than normal! In Computer Science we were able to get access to the computer room and introduce a new topic and the programming project so students can get ahead over the summer months before returning in September. The maths block is hosting our scientists currently as there is essential works taking place on the science roof, part of the overall improvements we are making to the science environment and the science teachers and technicians had to tackle the huge job of clearing the prep room to allow the works to take place, a job which had not been done for a very long time! We found Miss Smith with her



physicists discussing the interesting and challenging Quantum Physics topic, I am looking forward to seeing how this develops if we manage to get another lesson.

Meanwhile online lessons are continuing for years 7-10 with live clinics for year 8 maths and year 8 computer science. Mr Marshall and Mr Parry took the clinic on Monday and were so impressed with the year 8 maths students who came ready with questions and worked hard on the tasks set. Mr Kalatzis will be hosting the year 8 computing clinic on Friday and after the success of Monday we are looking forward to that.

Year 10 have returned to normal home schooling after their welfare meetings and this is evident in the number of mathswatch questions and kerboodle quizzes they have completed this week with 500 maths questions answered so far. They will have to watch out though as year 9 are currently in the lead and working really well on their maths, so far they have answered a huge 1200 questions! With two days to go, can year 10 take the weekly crown?

As we approach the school presentations and awards it is worth mentioning that this week has seen the publication of the long list of the most influential women in technology. There are some great role models on this list, do take a look and research a few, for example Mala Mawkin has made the list and is a student at Imperial College who has worked with the European Space Agency on the effects of spaceflight on glucose tolerance as well as working with healthcare startups to work on improving the inefficiencies in the NHS. So it just goes to show that it is not just individuals who are making lots of money for large corporates who are making the list. <https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252485588/Most-Influential-Women-in-UK-Tech-The-2020-longlist>

Finally it has been reported that the national Cyber Security Centre has launched their first online Cyberfirst program which has seen record sign up from students. The Government are committed to preparing our young people for the jobs of the future and this is a great way to get involved.

<https://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk/cyberfirst-futures>.



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

This week has been fantastic in the faculty as we have been teaching actual lessons, with actual Y12 students.

Sociology, Criminology, Economics and Business saw an interesting logistical challenge with ensuring small groups and enough staff. My sincere thanks to Mrs Panesar for making the arrangements.

I must also extend a thank you to Mr McSweeney for stepping up and helping by teaching economics whilst I taught the business class. It was a real treat to see him back in the classroom and the students really engaged with him.

We have also been really enjoying the live lessons, Mr McGrath and Miss Wood have told me about how well the students engaged with Geography and RS. I was also very impressed with how well Year 9 Business students engaged with their business lesson.

Thank you all for your support and ongoing engagement.



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

This week the English department have been trying to brighten up the damp days with some creative tasks. Year 9 have been exploring the themes from their Power and Conflict work by writing their own poems. Teachers have been hugely impressed with the quality of the writing and also with the variety of ideas. We have a feeling that one day we might be studying some work from an ex-Emmbrook student in an English lesson! KS3 have also been using their imagination and we have continued to enjoy their dream menu ideas. There have been some outlandish pizza toppings and some equally unusual sandwich fillings that we are not entirely sure will catch on! This week Mrs Lloyd ran a very successful subject clinic for Year 8 and was very impressed with the turnout and also the enthusiasm of everyone that came. Miss Alder takes over next week and has lots of great things planned!

In MFL, we were also very impressed with the participation of Year 7 in the Spanish subject clinic. We were surprised by the high number of students who said that they would like to take part in the famous 'Running of the Bulls' festival that takes place every year in Pamplona. The idea of participating in 'La Tomatina', a festival during which people throw tomatoes at each other, was also remarkably popular! The Year 10 Spanish subject clinic was attended by a small but elite group and it was pleasing to see that the class still remember much of what we studied before lockdown began. Students in all years have been continuing to work hard on a variety of tasks set by their teachers. We have seen some excellent marks on the quizzes set for Year 7 and Year 8, and students in Key Stage 4 have been working on their exam technique.

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

Artist of the week attached, and a newly introduced Designer of the week too!

Year 9 art students have blown our socks off this week with their positive quotes posters inspired by the work of Lakwena Maciver that we are really looking forward to displaying around the school in September. They have also been creating Pop Art food still life pieces that are so colourful and eye catching. A big well done for working so hard!

Charlotte Ayres





James Breadmore

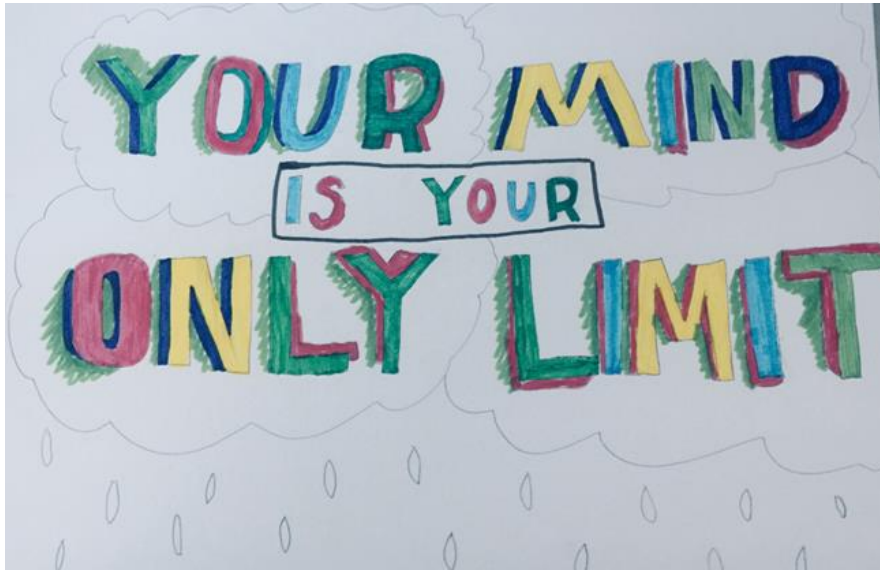


Saffron Herfegar





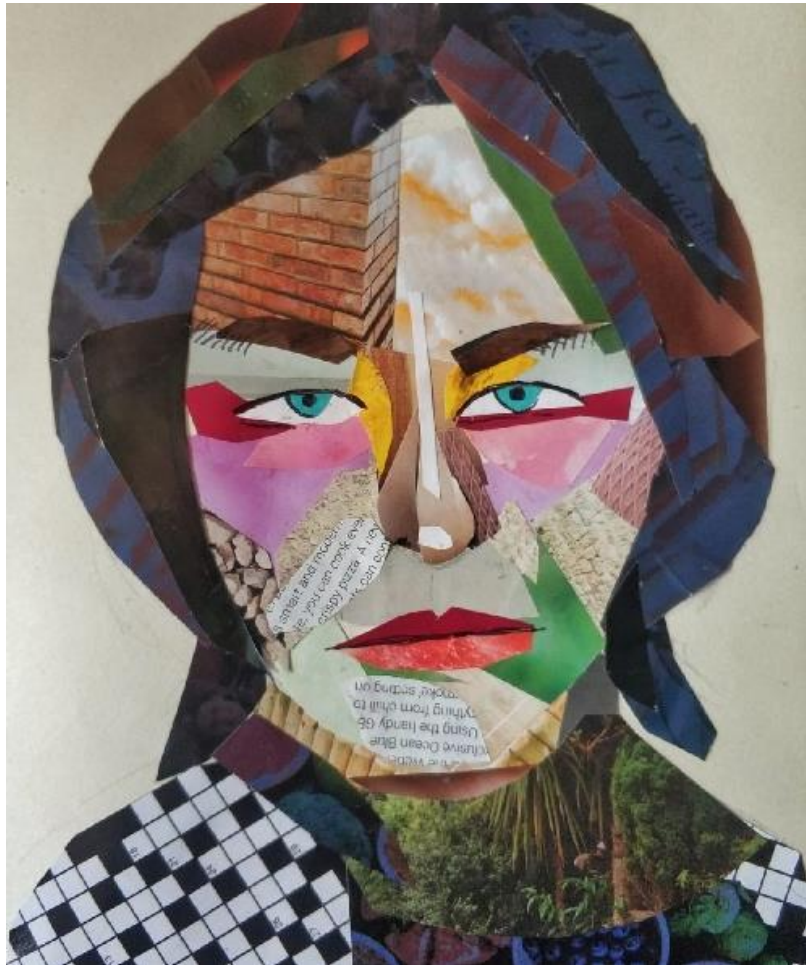
Niyor Gogoi



Hollie Glencross



Bonnie Hearn



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

Another busy week with transitions, we have been working with more primary schools to find out more about the year 6's – and the more we learn the more proud we are that they are joining us.

Keep a look out for more induction videos being put on YouTube and remember to email if you have any questions.

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

Another awesome week for Year 7 has simply flown by. Once again I have had the pleasure of seeing lots of pupils in our TEAMS tutor times and hearing all about the wonderful work they have been up to! This week, Year 7's favourite tasks seem to have been; an English task that saw them create their very own menus full of delicious starters, mains and desserts and a Design Technology Task that saw them create their own monopoly board, featuring a brand new theme – these ranged from medieval to family editions. Although these two tasks topped the poll, many pupils have also been enjoying learning about immigration in History, tectonics in Geography, Islam in RS and the challenge to create their own masterpieces in Music! A week full of achievements great and small.



With the latter in mind, I felt that this week's assembly could be on nothing other than achievements and so it follows the theme of 'How do we measure achievements?' – with a few examples along the way I hope that pupils will walk away knowing that all achievements are extremely valuable, big or small, and that they are achieving things each and every day! Year 7 can watch the assembly by following this link:

<https://youtu.be/CnucaAW67vU>. They will also have a copy of the link in their email from me.

Tutor Times will continue next week with a slightly altered timetable...

Day	Time	Tutor Group
Monday	10:00	7A
Tuesday	10:00	7C
Wednesday	10:00	7B
Thursday	10:00	7D
Friday	10:00	7E
	10:30	7F

As always, if you need anything at all, please do not hesitate to email me and I will do my absolute best to help. I look forward to another two weeks of seeing the amazing achievements of our wonderful Year 7s!

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

Year 8 have had another phenomenal week. The effort and levels of engagement across the board have been exceptional. I am very impressed with their commitment, and the vast majority seem to be enjoying the new system of learning more than the old system.

The weekly check-in meetings have been a success. At present 8C are in the lead with the most participants on a regular basis – they have averaged 16 pupils. The conversations have been interesting (especially their favourite pizza) and many pupils really do want to come back to school, which is lovely to hear. Thankfully, there has been far less Arsenal bashing this week, after 3 victories in a row.

Please do have a look at the Year 8 End of Year Awards ceremony, and please excuse my lack of haircut. There are a large amount of pupils that won awards, and massive congratulations to those pupils. Their hard work and commitment has been recognised. The amount of talent in year 8 is tremendous, and if pupils were not successful in the awards this time, they just need to keep on going and they will be recognised in the future.



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)

Thank you once again for a brilliant week of tutor sessions. I can honestly say they have made my week. It is so nice being able to see you all and hear how things are going. It has been wonderful to hear that the new system for work has been positive on the whole. I have had some fantastic comments from your teachers and am really proud of how mature and well you have all handled the drop in clinics being run for each subject. James Breadmore received the highest praise Mr Baker can give as his work was labelled "Champions League Quality" and Morgan Anderson creating a poem so fantastic I would like to share it at the bottom of this entry for the newsletter. I would like to also just thank your fantastic tutors who have been there every session this week ensuring you are all ok not only with school work but with your wellbeing. It really is important to us all and I would encourage all of you to get in touch one way or another with your form tutor just to touch base and share how things are going. Please keep your eyes peeled for another assembly. This will be the end of year celebration assembly and many of you have been given awards from subject areas.

Thank you all

Mr Tichband

Ps - Well done Morgan!

the unknown

We stood at an unknown place

In a unknown world

With unknown mists

And it's unknown frown

There was an unknown tree

With an unknown branch

Which had an unknown smile

We had an unknown purpose



And an unknown job
With the unknown monarch
And his unknown throb

There is an unknown power
In this unknown world
With its unknown defender
Who whispers unknown words

So we started an unknown war
With an unknown evil
In this unknown world

With are unknown weapons
Agents the unknown magic
And are unknown error
Led to are unknown deaths

And the one thing that we all know is that we don't mess with the unknown

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

This week saw the launch of the Year 10 Pastoral Tutor Sessions; it has been lovely to catch-up with so many of you. A particular highlight from these was Mr Edwards receiving a barrage of pressure from 10D encouraging him to do his signature dance but he is building the anticipation and making them wait until they are all reunited in person... we are all looking forward to seeing what is to come! Mr McGrath is planning a task for his tutor session next week so bring your competitive edge 10C!

We are all really looking forward to welcoming Year 10 back into school one day next week for a day of English, Maths and Science to get back into the groove of being in school. I have been so proud of the engagement levels of Year 10 across the past few months – you'll be pleased to know that we smashed our May figures of 4040 questions on MathsWatch by completing 4536 in June!



This week myself, Mr McSweeney and Mr Bhambra recorded a virtual awards ceremony for Year 10 students in which the awards for subjects and tutor time were announced. Please visit The Emmbrook School Pastoral Channel on YouTube to watch it – there is so much to celebrate!

We are really looking forward to welcoming your child into school next week, if you have any questions or require any support then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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

Year 12

This week has been an exciting week for year 12 as they have had their return to lessons following the school closure. Every student has been offered one, two hour session per subject and the attendance at these sessions has been excellent. From circulating around the sessions, it has been fabulous to see year 12 so heavily engaged with the learning and to see that their passion for the learning process has not been dampened by the school closure. In lessons throughout the week, they have been working hard, asking great questions, and handling the unusual setup in style. It has also been wonderful to talk to all the students and to see how pleased they are to be back in school. Throughout this whole process, they continue to demonstrate how valuable a year group they are to the Emmbrook School.

Year 13

Year 13 have been working hard on finishing off the year book. This was signed off today and is now with the year book company for final approval and printing. The year book is looking excellent, full of lots of lovely memories for the students and a nice send-off of for year 13. Year 13 were an excellent year group and they will be missed at the Emmbrook School.

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

Well done to all of those who have been busy earning house points through your commitment, hard work and enthusiasm. It has been fantastic seeing the totals change and hearing about all of your great achievements.

There are lots of ways to continue to earn points and I know lots of years 7s have been busy in tutor time with mini competitions. 7B have been busy with quizzes, origami challenges, dingbats and photo competitions! Well done!

There will also be an opportunity to gain house points with the upcoming 'Virtual Sports day' run by the P.E department – so keep your eyes peeled for more information!

The current totals are as follows:

1st: Venus: 11895



2nd: Jupiter: 11824

3rd: Saturn: 11777

4th: Mercury: 11295

If there are any events that you would like to take place please do get in touch with the house team so we can try to get them organised for you. We would love to hear from you!

Year 9 Poetry

Ty Moorcroft

When I was first grown I was very scared I didn't know what was going on, I looked around and all I saw was rocks and rocks.

As I grown bigger I got more green and I could see further, but one day there was a massive gust of wind it was blowing incredible fast I couldn't stand straight I was leaning so far to the right I thought I would snap. The wind was taking all my leaves off me it was terrible, I was terrified I thought my life would be over. As the wind started to slow down I was getting very thirsty and I needed some water soon.

I looked at myself and my light brown bark and my lime green leaves had all been blown off, I was so scared because I have no family or anyone around me.

The next couple of days later I was so desperate for some water I needed some soon I felt dizzy and sick, I started to go to sleep and then it felt like I got tapped on the back but then I looked up and it was rain and that was the happiest moment of my life, but then the rain stopped and a huge gust of wind came flying in at me and made me nearly fall over I was panicking I could feel myself snapping even more and then ...

Charlotte Mear

Today was different,

The monster came out from the clouds,

It came quietly, creeping up on us,

First consuming the sky,

Then the earth,

It pounced,

Torrential rain oozed from the twisting clouds

As the hungry wind picked up anything in its path,

But I cannot move, cannot run,

So, I just sit here,

Slowly being worn away but the violent winds,



Listening to the echoing screams and bright lights,
As the merciless monster takes everything

Freddie Brown

Power and Conflict Poem

In the shadows, I still see him, hood up, straight stance staring into my soul, end of the valley, I still see him, street lights casting his shadows, I know I'm free, but he's still there, still in my memories, I still see him, his commands and dark voice is echoing down the valley, telling me "do this, do that", I still see him, he used me, I agreed he's been gone for sometime, but I still see him.

Sophie Kim

The Poetry Challenge

No matter how strong you are,
No matter how powerful you are,
No matter how clever you are,
Never, never, never can everlasting

A huge rock breaks down over time.

A deep lake dries up over time.

High mountain cut off over time.

Time can swallow everything.

Like a child becomes an old man.

Like a new book becomes an old book.

Like a fearless ruler becomes dusts

Where did all go who challenged the power of time?

So don't be conceited.

And accept the power you can never bring down.

No matter how great you are,

Never, never, never everlasting.

Time can swallow everything.



Speakers 4 Schools

WEEK STARTING MONDAY 6TH JULY 2020

DATE	SPEAKER	INFO
Mon 6th July 10am Add to calendar	Katy Sumption, Author & Creative Director	Interested in advertising and how to start your career? Tune in to listen to co-founder of a creative agency and author, Katy Sumption speak about her career journey and what lead her to write a book for young people about anxiety.
Tues 7th July 10am Add to calendar	Cassie Chadderton CEO, World Book Day	Most of us have heard of World Book Day! Join SFS and World Book Day's CEO, Cassie Chadderton to discuss her varied career in the creative industries, the importance of the arts in society and more about World Book Day.
Tues 7th July 2pm Add to calendar	Matt Brittin, President, EMEA Business & Operations, Google	Matt will be joining SFS to discuss his life lessons and advice, preparing for the world of work and the ever changing tech industry - what could this look like in 2030 and how can students prepare themselves for a career in tech?
Wed 8th July 10am Add to calendar	Adam Forbes, Head of Marketing, BP Launchpad	Join this Vtalk to learn more about business start-ups and delivering cleaner energy to the world - a must attend for those interested in entrepreneurship, business or the environment.
Wed 8th July 2pm Add to calendar	Kanbar Hossein Bor, Deputy High Commissioner for Bangladesh	Join us as Kanbar Hossein Bor, formerly Deputy High Commissioner for Bangladesh is interviewed SFS. He will reflect on his personal journey from child refugee to British diplomat as he is asked questions by young people including on the meaning of British identity, British values and the challenges and opportunities of being a diplomat in the current climate.
Thurs 9th July 2pm Add to calendar	In Collaboration with Penguin Talks: Simon Armstrong, Publicity Manager and Hannah Chukwu, Editorial, Penguin Random House	How to Get Into Publishing Penguin employees, Simon Armstrong and Hannah Chukwu, share how the industry works, how books are made and how to get into publishing.
Fri 10th July 10am Add to calendar	Ben Saunders, Polar Explorer	Join us as polar explorer, Ben Saunders, talks to young people across the UK about his career and adventures. Ben will discuss with students the importance of goal setting, self-belief, resilience, teamwork, communication, and leadership. This exciting Vtalk is not to be missed!



HOW TO JOIN THE VTALKS

- Join 10 minutes before the VTALK to be ready
- You can join without needing an account – [Watch how here](#)
- For full speaker descriptions visit the [VTALK Schedule here](#)

VTALK LIBRARY & MORE

- Watch pre-recorded VTalks from our library [here](#)
- Please see our [Schools Guide here.](#)
- Below my signature is more information on the SFS activity sheet
- The colour codes can be found under my email signature below

From all of us at Speakers for Schools, we hope you and your students enjoy the virtual talks programme!