

# The **Emmbrook** School



## **Learning Together: Succeeding Together**

Achieving excellence through personal development,  
integrity and ambition.

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Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to The Emmbrook School.

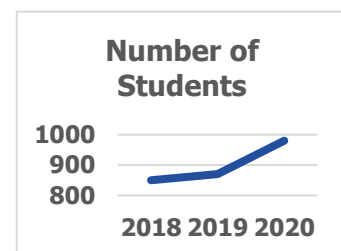
I am excited and proud to have the opportunity to introduce our successful and caring school to you.

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 joined the school in 2005 as a head of department and have been fortunate to earn numerous promotions, ultimately being appointed headteacher by the governors in September 2019. I am, therefore, in the somewhat unique position of being a new headteacher with both an intimate knowledge of The Emmbrook alongside the vision and energy to continue our journey of improvement. I understand what is special about this community; our ethos, traditions and pursuit of excellence that have made our students flourish for over 50 years. We are relentlessly ambitious for each of our students and want to see them all develop and achieve success. Crucially, I know how to sustain the rapid improvements we have enjoyed this year, so that The Emmbrook becomes 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. We promote the values of integrity and respect for students and staff. Our motto 'learning together, succeeding together' highlights that we create success through cooperation.

The number of students attending The Emmbrook School has grown significantly over recent years. For each of the last four years we have increased our intake in Year 7 to accommodate our rising popularity. This growth brings with it additional funding, which helps us to fund investment to enhance the experience for all students. Unfortunately, we will not be able to expand further for September 2021. Therefore, to secure your place as a member of our family, I would urge you to select The Emmbrook as your first choice school.



This is a very exciting time for The Emmbrook. I am proud to be a member of this community and look forward to delivering a new chapter in our history. We will preserve what is great; our warm, caring school, our never ending pursuit of academic excellence, our high standards of personal conduct and our broad, 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



## Transition

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

I am Mrs Hodgson and I have taught at the Emmbrook for 28 years, 20 of those as a Head of Year and Transition Manager.

We are the only school in the area to have a designated person to deal with Transition and that is because we feel it is one of the most important times in the life 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 schools to make appointments to go and meet with the Year 6 teachers but more importantly with the children.

I visit every single school, regardless of the number of children who are coming to us, be it one single student or a group of 35. 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 41 Primary Schools, 22 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 to do some social engineering and forge possible friendship groups to help them 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 my Year group.

Sandra Hodgson







## Curriculum

The Emmbrook School is 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.

Students who arrive at The Emmbrook School without a secure grasp of reading, writing and numeracy skills are supported from the outset with a programme of intervention, designed to reinforce and, most critically, apply learning from the KS2 curriculum to KS3 in a creative and rigorous way. 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. This cycle of improvement provides a structure where feedback and assessment is used to modify practice and inform intervention. The importance of revisiting knowledge to consolidate understanding and reduce cognitive overload is reflected in the interleaved approach to curriculum design across the range of subject areas.

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. Assemblies are structured and designed to enrich the curriculum by reinforcing the school's ethos, its values and its mission statement. They help develop identity and provide the opportunity for our young people to consider spiritual and moral issues, to develop community spirit and reinforce positive attitude

From the beginning of their learning journey at The Emmbrook School, students engage with a pastoral programme which has been designed to equip students with the skills, knowledge and competencies, distinct from their academic work, which will help them succeed in the future. Throughout their studies at key stage 3, students engage with a bespoke programme based on the 'Philosophy for Children' initiative which encourages them to develop their oracy skills whilst engaging in current affairs and important topical issues. The school places an emphasis on developing positive relationships and promoting equality within a tutor time programme and students are encouraged to build and develop these important skills. At KS4 students are explicitly taught about the importance of community cohesion and how we can live together harmoniously. Built into the curriculum are distinct lessons around cultural studies.



## 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, competition as well as a range of new opportunities for students to get involved in school life and try new skills.

- Saturn
- Jupiter
- Mercury
- Venus

Every student in the school is identified within their Houses through their school ties which consist of a coloured stripe co-ordinating with 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 ranging from sporting clubs to creative writing competitions to charity events. The wellbeing of students' mental and physical health is reinforced by the plethora of sports clubs, mentoring programmes and pastoral care that are on offer. Whole school musical and drama productions also provide an outstanding platform for inclusive community cohesion and to showcase the talent and hard work of the student body.

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

### Inter-house events

October: Halloween Bake Off

December: Christmas Photography Competition

January: Code Breaking and Problem Solving Challenge

February: Dodgeball Tournament

March: Basketball Shoot Out and World Book Day including design a book token, short essay competition, 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







## Tyr Abad

The Emmbrook School is proud and privileged to be joint owner of Tyr Abad. Together with Charters and Maiden Erlegh schools Tyr Abad has become an incredibly successful centre that has been educating students for over 30 years.

Tyr Abad Residential Education Centre is situated in the village of Tyr Abad near Llangammarch Wells about twenty miles from Brecon. The building, formerly a hunting lodge is now run by the Tyr Abad Trust. Tyr Abad serves the needs of students throughout the year providing Outdoor activities and field study courses as well as more specialised courses as the need arises. Three full time teachers staff the centre, all experienced and qualified to lead outdoor activities along with three student instructors.

The centre achieves its aim through numerous outdoor pursuits including:

**Climbing**  
**Caving**  
**Bivvy/Camping**  
**Problem Solving**

**Mountain Walking**  
**Kayaking/Canoeing**  
**Gorge Walking**  
**Shelter Building**

Students benefit from attending Tyr Abad courses in many ways. Due to the nature of the courses students are able to make new friends and enjoy time with other students without the distraction of mobile phones or games consoles.

The students are able to push their independence to levels they are confident with. This then improves self-esteem and confidence levels.

Tyr Abad also grants them a week away with friends, participating in sports that are not readily available on the doorstep in Wokingham and the surrounding areas. This introduction to activities can sometimes lead to lifelong pursuits in areas such as caving, climbing and kayaking.

The students at The Emmbrook School are incredibly lucky to have such an opportunity available to them; it is certainly a unique part of Emmbrook life.





## Duke of Edinburgh

At The Emmbrook, we are proud to offer all of our students the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. As students move up through the year groups they can engage with the Bronze, Silver and Gold levels.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award provides an enjoyable, challenging and rewarding programme of **personal development** for young people, **which is of the highest quality and the widest reach.**"

The aim is to help teenagers to become more motivated, disciplined and balanced. The skills delivered are **highly respected and valued by all universities and employers** and continue to reward the individual long into their lives. The DofE Awards of Bronze, Silver and Gold can underpin progression in academic excellence.

DofE is often just known for the expedition side but it also has three other sections - Skill or Hobby, Service to the community or Volunteering and Physical Recreation or Sport - which all have to be completed to attain the awards.

## 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 takes 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!

Iceland



China



Cambodia



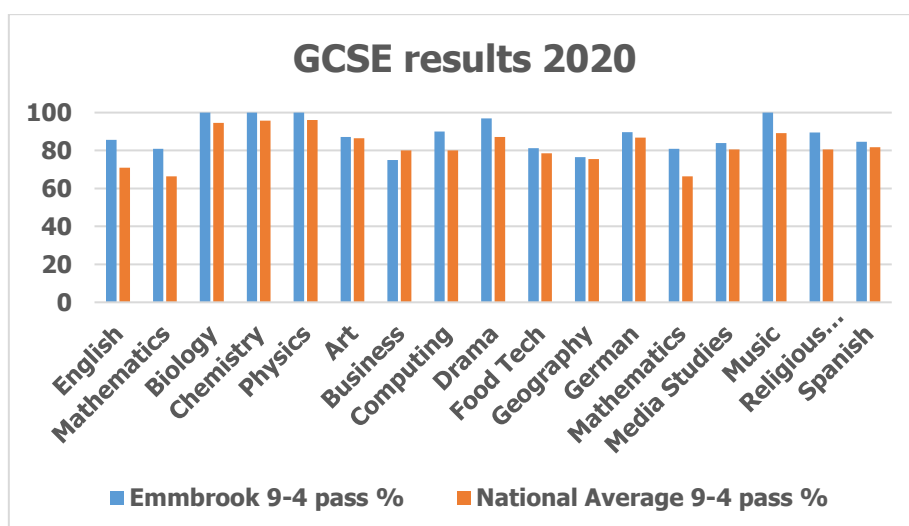
Addington School





## GCSE Exam Results 2020

Covid restrictions meant that this year's GCSE cohort were unable to sit the exams which would have been the culmination of two years of very hard work. However, GCSE's are not about the exams, they are about the learning and progress made over the duration of the course. We are immensely proud of the way these students went about their studies. They were positioning themselves to be a group of individuals ready to perform to the very best of their abilities. Their focus, dedication and exam preparation in the build up to lockdown was very impressive. We are delighted that the students were awarded the grades that their hard work and effort deserved.



The Emmbrook School has outperformed the national picture in terms of attainment. Over a quarter of all grades were awarded at 7-9 (equivalent to A/A\*). Two thirds of students achieved a strong pass in all subjects. English and Maths maintained their high performance, with 86% of students achieving a standard pass in English and 80% in Maths.

Our focus on academic excellence for all has resulted in outstanding individual performances, including very strong performance at the top end; impressively, on average each of our high ability students made a third of a grade more progress per subject than high ability students nationally. Our top students who performed very strongly:

**Elena Arizabalo Peralta** secured ten grade 9s

**Alex Harvard** achieved seven grade 9s, and three grade 8s

**Lucy Clarke** achieved seven grade 9s, and three grade 8s

**Daniel Robson** achieved eight grade 9s, one grade 8 and a Distinction





## **A Level Exam Results 2020**

Just like our GCSE cohort, the Sixth form 'class of 2020' did not get the opportunity to actually sit their finals. Covid restrictions meant that they were unable to take the exams which would have been the culmination of two years very hard work. A-levels are not about the exams, they are about the learning and progress made over the duration of the course. We are immensely proud of the way these students went about their studies and conducted themselves as their courses ended in the most unprecedented of circumstances. We are delighted that the students were awarded the grades that their hard work and effort deserved.

One quarter of our students achieved A\* and A grade passes, and over 80% secured A\*-C grades. This represents an improvement on last year and keeps our Sixth Form performance in-line with all of the high performing local and National Sixth Forms.

Academic achievement is strong across the breadth of the curriculum. The school's strong focus on academic excellence has paid dividends across a broad range of A level subjects. A significant proportion of students achieved the highest grades of A\*/A in a wide range of subjects, including: English Literature, Maths, Further Maths, Media and Religious Studies.

As always, our top performing students achieved results that put them amongst the highest achievers in the country. We are extremely proud of our top performing students; Wiktor Kepa scored three A\*'s in English Literature, Religious Studies and Theatre Studies. Ellie Harrop scored two A\*'s English Literature, Religious Studies and an A in History. Ryan Murphy scored an A\* in English Literature and two A's in History and Government and Politics. Headboy Mark Crawley scored three A grades in History, Religious Studies and Theatre Studies, Headgirl Mhairi Robertson scored three A Grades in Religious Studies History and Sociology, Alex Pang scored three A Grades in Computer science, Mathematics and Physics.

Across all of our students there was fantastic success with many students not only achieving entry requirements for the next stage in their education but exceeding these requirements considerably.

### **Ofsted Inspectors commented:**

*"Provision in the sixth form is good. Academic lessons meet students' needs well and they make good progress."*

*"At the end of the Year 13, students achieved well and the majority made expected progress."*

*"High-quality questions and opportunities to discuss activities enable learners to explore their thinking and deepen their understanding."*



## 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.

Below are our current Extra-Curricular Timetables (these change each term):

	Activity	Venue	Teacher
Monday	Year 7 Girls Football	Astro	Miss Taylor
	Year 7 Basketball	Gym / Sport Hall	Mr Edwards
	Year 7 Rugby	Astro	Mr Tichband
	Year 7 Badminton	Sports Hall	Mr Maskell
Tuesday	Year 11 Netball	Courts	Miss Matthews & Miss Taylor
	Year 11 Boys Football	Astro	Mr Tichband
	Year 8 Basketball	Gym / Sport Hall	Mr Humber
	Year 8 Rugby	Astro	Miss Matthews & Mr Edwards
Wednesday	Year 9 Netball	Courts	Miss Matthews & Miss Taylor
	Year 9 Basketball	Gym / Sports Hall	Mr Maskell
	Year 9 Rugby	Astro	Mr Tichband
Thursday	Year 10 Netball	Courts	Miss Matthews & Miss Taylor
	Year 10 Basketball	Gym / Sports Hall	Mr Edwards
	Sixth Form Fitness	Gym / Fitness Room	Mr Humber & Mr Tichband
Friday	Year 11 Basketball	Gym / Sports Hall	Mr Edwards

## Music Clubs

Day	Group	Suitable for:
Monday (8.15-8.45)	Keyboard Ensemble	All years (Grade 1+ piano and keyb players)
Tuesday (Break 2)		
Tuesday (3.00-4.00)	Senior Vocal Ensemble	Years 9-13
Wednesday (8.00-8.45)	GCSE Music and Ensembles (book with Mrs Wellman)	All years
Wednesday (3.00-4.00)	Year 8 Music Club	Year 8
Thursday (8.00-8.45)	Band (all instruments)	All years (Grade 1+)
Thursday (After school)	Y7 and Y8 Singers	Years 7 and 8
	GCSE Music	GCSE Music students



Additionally, there are wide ranging sports activities throughout the year that students can participate in.

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](https://twitter.com/Emmbrook_PE)







As well as a plethora of Music and Sports clubs, the following clubs are also on offer:

CREST Club  
EPQ Award  
Duke of Edinburgh  
Chess Club  
Art and Design Club  
Drama Club  
Family History Club  
Retro Gaming Club



The **Duke of Edinburgh** team spent time learning how to put up tents in preparation for an expedition. They look at menu design, routes and safety requirements

The team have the opportunity to take part in several weekend trips throughout the year.

**Retro-Gaming Club** meets on Thursday lunchtimes where students get to play on various games consoles from the past.

All year groups (and staff) are welcome.



### "Hot Chocolate with The Head"

Students who have demonstrated one of the core values and gone above and beyond are invited to celebrate with Mr McSweeney and enjoy a hot chocolate.





### **Quotes from Year 7 Parents (September 2020)**

*"Being the youngest of 4, her experience and the communication from the teachers in the school has been the best I have seen from any school I have had any of my children at. I am very impressed and she loves the school."*

*"I'm so pleased. I was so worried about him starting the school as he doesn't know anyone but he's had such a positive start, so I needn't have worried. I think all your hard work behind the scenes has paid off!"*

*"Thank you ever so much, Mrs Hodgson, I could not ask for more. Absolutely great! A brilliant start to Year 7, we could not be any happier."*

*"My first impressions with the school and sorting out small issues has been above and beyond and I am very impressed and grateful to those of your staff that I have made contact with."*

# The **Emmbrook** School