

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. 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 respect, integrity and personal responsibility 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 grew by over 60 children this September. For the third year our Year 7 has grown and, as result of our rising popularity, I am confident that we will be oversubscribed in September 2020. 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



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 group, including the sixth form. It creates a sense of belonging and will involve a range of events, including within each faculty.

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

Along with many other activities!

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



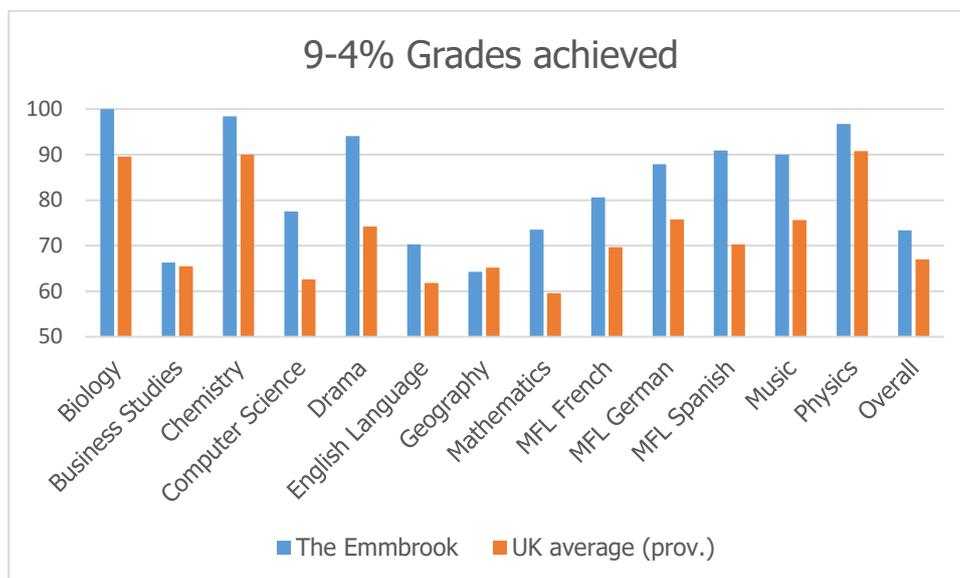
Addington School





GCSE Exam Results 2019

This year the school celebrated another set of amazing results. The Emmbrook School has consistently outperformed the national picture.



The Emmbrook School has also outperformed the national picture in terms of progress. 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 74% of students achieving a standard pass in English and 71% 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:

Solly Wheeler secured seven grade 9s, an 8, two grade 7s and an A* in Further Maths.

Klaudia Tyrala achieved seven grade 9s, an 8, two grade 7s and an A in Further Maths.



A Level Exam Results 2019

We are delighted by the success of our students this year, who have achieved outstanding results at A-level. One quarter of our students achieved A* and A grade passes, and over three-quarters 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 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: Chemistry, German, Maths, Further Maths and Media.

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 male and female students; Ben Lebovitch secured three A* grades in Maths, Further Maths and Physics, and Steph Hutchinson achieved A* passes in Biology and Psychology and A in Chemistry. 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.

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):



PE Extra-Curricular Activities - SPRING TERM

	Activity	For	Time	Venue	Teacher
Monday	Table Tennis	All years, boys and girls	Lunchtime	Gym	Mr Patten
	Football	Year 7 boys	3-4pm	Field / SH	Mr Patten
	Gymnastics	All years, girls	3-4pm	Gym	Miss Matthews
Tuesday	Netball	Year 7 & 8, boys and girls	3-4pm	Sports Hall	Miss Matthews and sixth formers
	Football	Year 8, boys and girls	3-4pm	Field	Mr Humber
	Football	Year 9 boys	3-4pm	Field	Mr Tichband
Wednesday	Football	Year 10 & 11 boys	3-4pm	Field	Mr Maskell
	Badminton	All years, boys and girls	3-4pm	Sports Hall	Mr Patten
Thursday	Fitness	Year 9, 10 & 11, boys and girls	3-4pm	Fitness Room	Mr Patten
	Basketball	All years, boys and girls	3-4pm	Sports Hall	Mr Humber
Friday	Football	All years, girls	3-4pm	Sports Hall	Reading Football Club

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

Music Clubs

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





Extra-Curricular

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 meet on a Friday afterschool each week, with 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.





Quotes from Year 7 Parents (October 2019)

"Exceptional and helpful staff."

"Very happy with communication from school to home. Head of year 7 has been exceptional at helping my daughter settle in and smoothed out a couple of incidents with wonderful care and efficiency."

"He loves History and is enjoying Spanish. It's lovely to have such flexible after school clubs, which anyone can attend"

"I already recommend The Emmbrook, happy with school hence sending second child, my experience is that you see something in the child and build in it giving opportunities which ultimately leads to academic success."

"I feel the Emmbrook School is a great place to learn and has the community and family at its heart."

The **Emmbrook** School

The Emmbrook Open Evening Sticker Challenge

Art

C1, C2

Business

H2.5

Design and
Technology

C8

Duke of
Edinburgh

H2.6

Drama

ST1

English

**E1.1 &
E1.2**

Food and
Nutrition

C5

Geography

H1.3

History

**H2.1 &
H2.2**

IT and
Computing

M2.1

Student
Support

P2-6

Maths

**M2.2 &
M2.4**

Media
Studies

M1.6

Modern
Foreign
Languages

E1.5

Music

**C13 &
C14**

PE

**Sports
Hall
Gym**

PTA

**Sixth
Form
Area**

Religious
Studies

H2.6

Science

**S1.1,
S2.2 &
S2.3**

Can you collect **all**

of the stickers?

Claim your prize in the
Sixth Form centre