



Friday 17th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Weekly Update

This week I have led four tours around the school of children and parents looking for a secondary school for September 2022. In each tour I have been really proud at the conduct of our students – put simply, your children are amazing ambassadors! The school has been purposeful and focused, lessons have looked engaging and the improvements to the site and buildings have been noticed. It has been a real pleasure to share this with members of the public.

Covid-19

Although it has been very quiet for us over the last week, we know from experience that cases could happen here and there are cases in many other local schools. We recommend that you continue testing Sunday/Monday and Wednesday/Thursday. Please remember to report your results to the NHS [here](#) (and ensure that you inform us of a positive result).

If your child has Covid-19 symptoms or returns a positive LFT result then please **do not send them to school** and seek a PCR test.

Under the new guidelines, if your child is identified as a close contact of a positive case (by NHS Test and Trace, schools no longer do this) then they are advised to seek a PCR test. They may continue to attend school pending their PCR result.

Early Closure on Thursday 30th September for Open Evening

A reminder that we will hold our Open Evening on 30th September and, therefore, we will finish at 12.20pm. As is always the case, the school buses will not be able to arrive earlier and therefore students who wish to leave at 12.20pm will need to make alternative arrangements on that day.

If you would like your child to remain on-site and be supervised then please notify Jane Rimmer (jrimmer@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk) by 12pm on Monday 20th September. Any students staying on-site will be asked to help with preparations for the Open Evening.

The buses will arrive at 2.50pm so students who have been supervised on-site will be able to catch their bus as usual. In the past, some students who have left the site for the afternoon have returned to catch their usual bus home at 2.50pm and that is perfectly fine.

We have already had a record number of parents book tickets for the talks during Open Evening which suggests a much larger than usual attendance, so I sincerely hope that lots of students will return to school for 6pm to help with Open Evening.



Parent Webinar – Tuesday 21st September

This year we will continue our partnership with Elevate to support our students with study skills. On Tuesday all parents are invited to attend their first online seminar of the year. This will focus on how to get (and keep!) your child motivated, and how parents can help their children to increase and sustain their motivation at home.

Registration for parents is free and the details are below:

Date: **Tuesday 21st September**

Time: 6 – 7pm

The webinar will be suitable for all year groups. To register, follow this [link](#). Registration is essential and all parents that register will be sent the recording and resources, so if you are unable to join live, you can still catch up on the webinar at a later date!

Promoting Good Mental Health

Wellington College is running a two part programme which is centred around promoting and supporting good teen mental health. Jane Downshire who is leading the programme is offering two evening talks which will provide the information and understanding to enable parents/carers to provide positive and proactive support to their teenage child. These sessions will be held on Thursday 30th September and Thursday 7th October from 18:30-21:00. A limited number of places are available, if you are interested and would like more information please click on the following link: [Promoting Good Mental Health](#).

Year 10 Maths Sets

With Year 10 moving into Key Stage 4, the Maths Department are currently reviewing the setting to ensure that every student has the best opportunity to achieve excellence. They will be in touch shortly with Year 10 parents with more information. If you have any queries regarding Maths then please contact Mrs Panesar (lpansar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk) and she will be happy to assist you.

Covid-19 Vaccinations

As has been widely reported in the media, 12-15 years olds will be offered a Covid-19 vaccination. We have been notified that students in Years 8-11 will have the opportunity to receive a vaccination on our school site during the week beginning October 18th. The vaccination programme will be managed by the NHS and our involvement is limited to supporting the NHS with gathering consent and offering a physical space for vaccinations. As I receive more information I will share it with you. General information about the vaccine for children can be found [here](#).

Road Safety

Please do not drive onto the site at the beginning or the end of the school day as excessive traffic alongside the school buses presents a genuine risk to the safety of the students. If your child has special requirements (e.g. currently using crutches) then we will be happy to make arrangements for you to be able to come on site. Please be considerate of our neighbours when parking around the school; this week there were cars parked near the zebra crossing by the main entrance and this was potentially dangerous.



Trips and Clubs

I am pleased to see that sporting and non-sporting clubs are beginning to resume (I understand that attendances at both Business Club and Retro Gaming Club were excellent this week!). We will also be resuming trips shortly and parents will be receiving a survey to explore demand for residential trips in the near future.

Uniform Supply Issues

I am sorry for the problems that parents have encountered with M&S. The company have assured us that resolving the supply issues has been a top priority and I expect to see improvements. Thank you for persevering!

Lost Property

Given the efforts expended securing uniform, please help us to ensure your child keeps theirs by naming items! We have already built up quite a collection of lost property in Student Reception and we will return items to students directly if they are named.

School Photographs

Advanced warning that Years 7, 9 and 11 will have their school photographs taken on September 28th.

As ever, if you need any assistance from me then I am happy to help. My email address is included at the end of this letter.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

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