



Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

## RE: Weekly Update

We are reaching the mid-point of the academic year and despite all the disruptions that Covid-19 continues to bring the day-to-day focus here remains on driving academic progress and supporting wellbeing.

### Year Groups Learning at Home Next Week

Staff absences are still very high and thankfully we remain just on the right side of managing with all students at school. This clearly is a precarious position and should more staff cases occur we would need to ask year groups to remain at home. In such an event we would repeat the previous cycle (starting with Year 10 and ending with Year 7; I recognise that Year 7 parents require the most notice regarding childcare). Presently we expect all year groups to be in school Monday (particularly as we have the Covid-19 vaccinations) but it may become necessary to take action from Tuesday onwards. I will keep you posted and communicate decisions as early as possible.

### Covid-19 Vaccinations

We will be hosting the Berkshire School Aged Immunisation Team on January 31<sup>st</sup> and they will be providing the Covid-19 vaccine to all students with parental consent (the deadline to offer consent has now passed). If you missed the deadline and wish to consent you will need to wait 24 working hours after the school session when the consent system will be reopened. You will then need to complete a form using the original information sent from the school and wait for a link to be emailed to book into one of the catch-up clinics. Alternatively, you can book their vaccination appointments on the [NHS website](#) or visit a local vaccine walk-in clinic which are available at Waitrose Sports Hall, Bracknell and Broad Street Mall, Reading, please check the [NHS website](#) for opening hours.

### Covid-19 Summary

<b>New cases</b>	Students: Cases rising in all year groups. Staff: Cases high and not yet falling significantly.
<b>Communication</b>	Use <a href="mailto:covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk">covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk</a> for all Covid-19 related queries and to report new positive cases to us.
<b>Symptoms</b>	Do not send your child to school and seek a PCR test if they have any of the following symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Feverish</li> <li>▪ A new, continuous cough</li> <li>▪ A loss or change to sense of smell or taste</li> <li>▪ Headache</li> <li>▪ Upset stomach</li> <li>▪ Sore throat</li> <li>▪ Unusually tired</li> </ul>



<b>Home Testing</b>	Twice per week using LFD. Please report all results to the <a href="#">NHS</a> . You are now advised to continue testing even if you have had Covid within the last 90 days. Those who test positive via LFD are not required to take a confirmatory PCR test and should self-isolate immediately.
<b>Guidelines for Positive Cases in Your Household</b>	Any child who has a household member test positive or has been identified as a close contact of a positive case should <b>take a daily lateral flow test for 7 days</b> . Whilst engaging in daily LFD testing, anyone who tests negative can continue to attend school.
<b>Changes to Isolation Period for Positive Cases</b>	Students can now leave self-isolation on day 6 if they have a negative LFT result on day 5 and day 6. The tests must be 24 hours apart and they must not have a high temperature. If either test is positive, students must continue to isolate until they get 2 negative LFT results taken 24 hours apart or they have completed 10 full days of isolation.
<b>Isolation Work</b>	Set via Microsoft Teams.
<b>Mask Wearing</b>	Optional (encouraged in communal areas).

## Year 12 Mid-Year Exam Week

Next week our Year 12 students will be sitting their mid-year exams. These represent the major assessment milestone within Year 12 and therefore form a crucial part of the A-level learning journey. Students have received a great deal of preparation materials and I expect that you have seen your children preparing at home. We wish them the best of the luck!

My thanks to those parents who contacted me regarding the potential further growth of The Emmbrook that I wrote about in last week's letter. I am hoping to be able to write in more detail this half-term with an outline of how we are hoping to develop the site over the coming years.

Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**

Headteacher

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