



Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

## RE: Weekly Update

I hope that our Year 12 students found their mid-year exams this week a useful learning experience. As they receive their results it is crucial that they consider the feedback more than the grade, no matter how they have performed the key question is "and now how can I improve further?"

### Year 8 to Work at Home Monday and Tuesday (and possibly Wednesday)

Unfortunately, along with many local schools, we continue to face extremely high levels of staff absence. This means that we will need to ask Year 8 to work at home on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>. If the situation does not improve we may need to continue Wednesday. I am reluctant to make that decision now as a lot could happen between now and Wednesday. I am also very reluctant to have Year 7 work at home next week as it is their assessment week and interrupting this would be very disruptive to their learning. I will give Year 8 parents as much notice as possible should be need to extend to Wednesday.

I am sorry for the pressure this puts on students, parents and staff; if we could avoid this action then we certainly would.

### Covid-19 Summary

<b>New cases</b>	Students: Cases high and relatively stable. Staff: Cases high and relatively stable.
<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="https://www.nhs.uk">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 9 Options

My thanks to all those who attended the virtual Options Evening yesterday, I hope you found it useful. We will continue to work with Year 9 over the coming days to ensure that they are supported to make well informed decisions. If you missed the event a recording can be seen [here](#). Should you have any remaining options questions then please contact Mrs Ridsdale (Deputy Headteacher) [rripsdale@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:rripsdale@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk) or Miss Cairns (Head of Year 9) [rcairns@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:rcairns@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)).

## Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Last Day of Half-term

I want to draw your attention to the unusual last day of this half-term on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February. As this is a half-term, Thursday will be a full day ending at the usual time (we only have a half day at the end of the "big" terms). Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February is the first day of the half-term holiday and therefore we will be closed to all students.

## Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Non-Uniform Day

We will use this half-term's non-uniform day to fund raise for the PTA. Please send your child to school with £1 if they wish to participate in non-school uniform. All money raised will go to the PTA, who do an amazing job supporting our students.

I hope the Year 11 students enjoyed having their photos taken today! The year group photo is another landmark moment in their final year of compulsory schooling and a nice reminder that despite all the disruption of the last two years, much of school-life looks reassuringly familiar.

Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**

Headteacher

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