



Friday 25th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Weekly Update

It continues to amaze me just how quickly the situation with Covid can change. So far this half-term we have had very few staff cases and in the last few days a large number of colleagues have suddenly tested positive. This again places us in a vulnerable position in terms of having sufficient staff to safely supervise the students and therefore, with regret, I must again ask a year group to learn from home next week.

Home Learning for Year 10 on Monday 28th & Tuesday 29th February 2022

Due to staffing shortages, all Year 10 students will need to learn at home at the start of next week.

Why have we taken this action?

We are currently experiencing much higher than usual staff absence. As many schools face similar challenges, supply agencies simply cannot provide us with additional relief staff. Given these constraints we do not have enough staff to provide supervision for all classes and therefore we cannot safely discharge our duty of care. By asking year groups to remain at home we reduce the number of classes that require supervision.

How long will these measures last?

It remains unclear how long the high rate of staff absence will persist. We will continue to monitor developments and respond accordingly. If the situation does not improve we may need to ask additional year groups to work from home later next week. We will provide as much notice as possible.

What provision will students receive at home?

As much as possible students will have a live lesson delivered via Teams. Lessons will last for 45 minutes and supplementary work may be set. Where live lessons cannot be provided because the class teacher is absent, independent work will be set via Teams (each morning we will email parents a list of absent staff so that you are aware of the lessons that won't be live). We will not provide live lessons for PE and encourage students to find an opportunity for their own suitable physical activity.

Information regarding Teams can be accessed via these links [for students](#) and [for parents](#). If you have any queries about remote learning provision then please contact my PA, Sarah Farndon (sfarndon@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk).



Covid-19 Summary

New cases	Students: Year 7 high, all other year groups moderate. Staff: High
Communication	Use covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk for all Covid-19 related queries and to report new positive cases to us.
Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feverish ▪ A new, continuous cough ▪ A loss or change to sense of smell or taste ▪ Headache ▪ Upset stomach ▪ Sore throat ▪ Unusually tired
If you child has symptoms or a positive test	It is recommended that they do not attend school and take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to school if they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.
Isolation Work	Set via Microsoft Teams.

Ramadan

The month of Ramadan is nearly here. During this time many of our students, families and staff will be fasting from sunrise to sunset. Mrs Kisubi has asked me to pass on that we want to support those fasting as much as we can throughout the month. If there are any students who are entitled to free school meals and are also fasting, they should see Mrs Kisubi as soon as possible to arrange takeaway meals. The multi-faith room continues to be well used and may be busier than usual during this month. Students who are fasting will be allowed to use the space **before school, break, lunch and after school** as a quiet space to sit as well as for prayer. The room is not to be used during lesson time. Miss Matthews also wanted to remind students who are fasting, they do not have to take part in PE if they do not feel able to. There will be outside shaded places to sit, or if very warm, fasting students can remain inside with another PE class. Ramadan Mubarak from all of us at Emmbrook!

Water Bottles

Now that Spring has arrived it is a good time for a reminder to please ensure that your child comes to school with a water bottle. Good hydration is essential for health, wellbeing and learning.

Year 10 Interview Day

It was fantastic to see our Year 10 students participating in their practice job interviews yesterday. The members of the business community who came in to facilitate the day were incredibly positive.

Canteen Update

The canteen faced significant technical issues with payment systems over the last 48 hours. We can only apologise for any inconvenience and we expect things to be back to normal on Monday.

They would like to gather feedback from students about the food theme days to help them plan for future events. Please could you ask your child to complete the questionnaire using the following [link](#).



Support for the Ukrainian People

We continue to think of the plight of the Ukrainian people and these are good charities:

- [Oxfam Ukraine Appeal](#)
- [DEC Ukraine Appeal](#)
- [British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal](#)

If your child is being impacted by these developments please let us know (either via their tutor or Year Leader) so that we can support them.

The Sixth Form inter-year football match on Wednesday was a brilliant community event. My thanks to all the students and staff who were involved in making it such a success. I've included an 'action shot' below! I especially liked that the Year 7/8 Business Club used the opportunity to make some sales – very entrepreneurial!

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk

