



Friday 18th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Weekly Update

Last Friday's Year 7 disco was a lovely event and the students seemed to really enjoy themselves. I am indebted to the parent volunteers who made the evening possible; it is an incredible act of generosity to give up your own time to support a school event, my sincere thanks to each of you. It was also lovely to see so many staff, including an appearance by our mascot Brooky, who led the students in the Macarena!

World Cup Match on Monday

England play their opening game of the World Cup at 1pm on Monday. I recognise that football can be divisive; for many of our students it is their passion while others will be ambivalent and others will have concerns about the venue, which I understand.

I am conscious that many of our younger students may have memories of only one World Cup and that this is a big moment for them. Therefore, I will be allowing teachers to show the game in their classrooms during Monday afternoon. For those students not interested in the match, teachers have been asked to have learning activities on hand to enable students to practice and revise.

I hope that you will understand my reasoning for this decision, even if you may have made a different decision personally.

CCTV Consultation

It's very important to me that students have the best facilities and we have a plan to improve the toilet facilities at this school. In the new year we will start work renovating the first set of toilets to modern standards. Such renovations are expensive and will take many years to roll out across the whole school. In the meantime, I am confident that additional CCTV would be a useful first step in improving the condition of the facilities that our students have.

I would like to seek the views of parents regarding the option of installing CCTV cameras within the communal areas of toilets.

I recognise that there may be some natural anxiety about hearing this (initially I had concerns myself), so I would like to be clear that:

- I have met with an experienced CCTV provider who has business with over 60 schools and I was reassured that this is common in secondary schools. It rapidly improves the condition of the toilets for students, making them safer and cleaner.
- Cameras would only ever view the communal spaces of toilets. There would be no coverage of urinals or cubicles. The privacy of the students would be utterly upheld.
- The views of parents would be a crucial deciding factor in this decision.



If you would like to make any comments regarding this proposal (either in support or opposition) then please contact me via nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk by Friday 25th November.

Under-14 Girls Reach Cup Semi-final

A big well done to our U14s girls for progressing through to the semi-final of the Elite Cup with a 4-2 win! It was a fantastic team display, particularly the second half. Congratulations to Ivy Thompson for being named player of the match and to the goal scorers Sianah Dyson and Lauren Nimme.

Christmas Musical Celebration

Remember to save the date for our Christmas Musical Celebration. You are welcome to join us at St. Paul's Church on Monday 19th December (7.00pm-8.15pm). It is always a lovely evening and really gets you in the mood for the Christmas period.

Just One Tree

The recent Just One Tree fundraiser resulted in a further 198 trees being planted. This takes the total number of trees planted over the years in "The Emmbrook Forest" to 822, removing approximately 250 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere over the next 25 years. My thanks to all who contributed and a special thank you to Miss Cairns for organising.

Finally, a huge thank you to Mrs Grandin, who baked a cake for every member of the Sixth Form. Such a kind gesture!

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk