

How can the weather be so different days apart?! I was calm about the prospect of not travelling to France this summer, safe in knowledge that when it's nice here all is good. I am not quite so optimistic right now!

Roof repairs started in May half-term and everything is on track for the £182k project to be completed for the start of the new academic year. Needless to say, nobody is on site this morning!

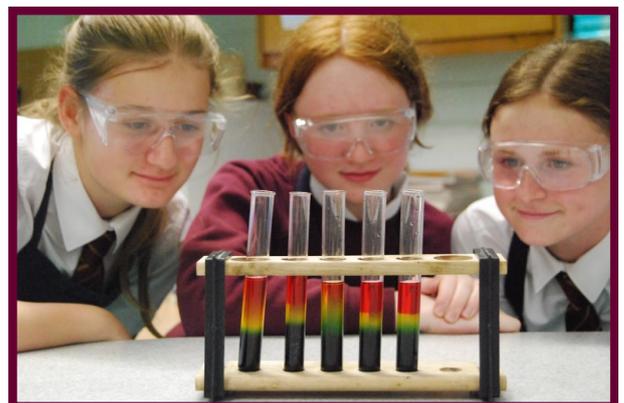
This week we received the not so surprising news that 'Freedom Day' would be delayed. However, for every school leader, it was the disappointment of the impact this delay has for our transition plans and end of year social events such as Sports Days and Church Services. You would have received a letter from Liz West stating the Trust position and I will write again on Monday to confirm our plans. At this stage I can confirm we will have an internal Transfer Day and use it as an opportunity to provide year 8 students with an enrichment day on site. This will be a fantastic day for them as part of their leavers' experience!

I have enjoyed dropping into year 5 English lessons this week. Pupils are currently studying Viking Boy. I am yet to find a pupil who is not enthused by the book and the subsequent writing that comes from this. Today, the pupils were learning to Infer character's feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions and justify inferences with evidence. Listening to the pupils discuss Gunnar, Father and Brunshild with such passion and conviction is an absolute joy!

Into year 6. Whilst SATs did not take place, we will run a week of SATs style tests that serve two purposes. The first and most significant, to identify gaps and inform planning for next year and to help with reporting to you and to Dorset County Council for the end of term. Whilst we want the pupils to perform well, these are not high stakes for anyone. These will begin on Thursday 24th June until Wednesday 30th June. Pupils will complete one paper per day, starting with English. We will be doing revision next week in our usual maths and reading groups Monday-Wednesday. To reiterate the above point, these are not "real" SATS, but are important end of year assessments for the children. The year 6 team would be grateful if you could ensure children prepare for these by getting a good night's sleep and having water bottles with them each day.

Year 7 have enjoyed their time in the practical rooms, particularly the food room. Again, it underlines the importance of taking every opportunity to give pupils the best experience possible. There is only so much theory you can do with a split group! It is this time of year where you notice this particular year group mature and grow. I see this with the athletic performances of my Year 7 PE class and the rising confidence of pupils in their abilities.

This week the year 8's were investigating Neutralisation in Science by making a rainbow in a test tube. Very appropriate really since it is Pride Month. Again, seeing pupils making the most of being back in labs is so positive.



Thankfully, class photos and the Year 8 leavers photos were booked in on Wednesday not today! The day went without any hitches due to the organisational brilliance of the Office team. Fraser Portraits are a well established partner for this and they thoroughly enjoy coming to EMS knowing how well behaved and respectful our pupils are. You will receive a link for these photos when it becomes available via ParentMail. We particularly enjoyed the 'fun' year 8 photo!

We have reviewed homework this week. As mentioned last week, Hegarty continues to be a fantastic resource. Key Stage 3 pupils also have Tassomai English, Maths and Science tasks to complete daily. Across all year groups, I would welcome a follow-up question of 'show me' when you ask your child if they have completed their homework. For year 8 pupils, next year will be a big leap for workload and homework. Keeping a good routine is vital. Generally speaking, homework is strong and completed to a good standard. We are keen to keep it there and thank you for your support.

Have a fabulous weekend. I am sure there will be a few divided households tonight from 8pm!

Mr Christopher.