

Dear Parent/Carers,

The highlight of this week was welcoming you to our Meet the Tutor evening on Tuesday. Thank you for attending to discuss how your child has settled into the new year. If you missed the evening I strongly encourage you to check-in with your child's class tutor.

Cross country was one of our first PE ventures away from EMS this year. Well done to all the pupils involved. Notable performances from Sienna Perkins for coming 3rd in her race and Sophie Foyle 4th. On the sporting front, please encourage your child to take part in House competitions. Dodge Ball and Netball are currently taking place. Uptake this year has not been as strong as previously. On the flip side, 50 key stage 2 pupils attending netball club after school on a Thursday is impressive! I wish them luck next week at their netball tournament.

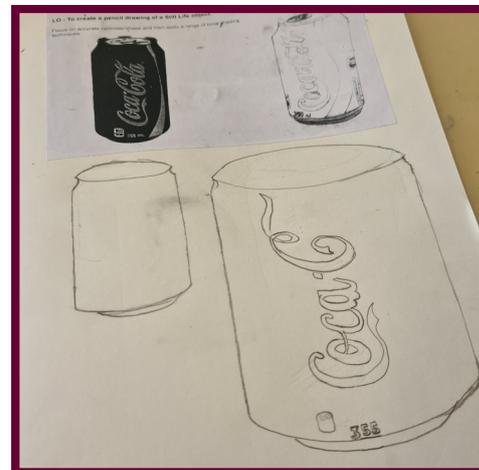
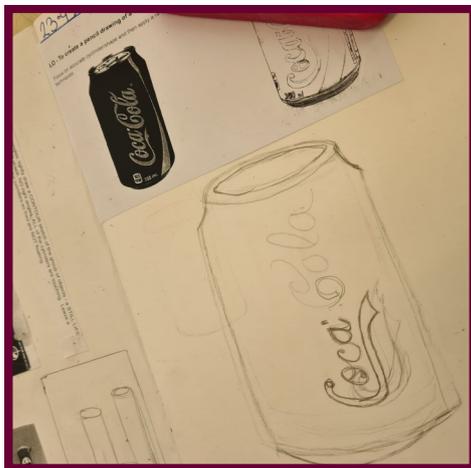


Mr Barker and I have dropped into several lessons this week to see the pupils working hard in class and being pushed by some strong teaching. The use of mini whiteboards and cold calling are two strategies that demand the attention of pupils. Retrieval practice is also a common theme in lessons where staff are checking pupils have retained prior knowledge taught.

A reminder to year 5 parents that we have a visit from Treehouse Theatre next Tuesday which has been paid for by the PTFA. Our Greek Day is well established and I encourage pupils to dress appropriately for the day. I will be making a point of finding Mr Brennan who loves this particular day!

On Wednesday next week we will be holding our first PTFA meeting at the school for a few years. The meeting starts at 6.30pm and everyone is welcome. Supporting the PTFA can be done in a variety of ways; attending meetings with ideas and then organising these, offering support at events where your time is hugely appreciated and finally by attending and supporting events or fund raising ventures. I am always massively grateful for the time people give and the additional funds it provides to enrich the curriculum and pupils' learning. A PTFA questionnaire was sent out yesterday for parents to complete if they are interested in help with the PTFA.

A frequently visited topic of mine is the era of 'instant gratification'. Too much of our lives are dominated by this rather than developing resilience to see something through to the end that takes time. A brilliant example of this is the observational drawing our year 8 students are completing in Art. The pupils are really grappling with this. The diminishing factor, frequently, is not their artistic ability but the ability to keep going, keep trying, modify and develop their work. It is fascinating to see and I enjoy catching up with their progress through the process.



The food technology room has been frequently visited this week. I have kept a close eye on year 7 in particular. I have a well known soft-spot for bread. I have witnessed some serious kneading and moulding of bread doughs. I also think there is going to be a cinnamon shortage in Verwood at this rate! Pupils have been super excited creating different shapes, from pretzels to French plaits, knots to batons. Well done! (they tasted pretty good, too!)



Into year 6 and the quality of maths journaling promotes the care and attention to detail pupils show in their work. Teacher modelling, stepped narration and plenty of practise allow the pupils to be successful in their work. It is one of those moments where I reflect on how I was taught and know how lucky pupils in this generation are. Keep up the hard work year 6!

Pupils have come into school excited to share their experiences from both Upper School open evenings this week. I also encourage you to attend, if possible, their open mornings. Please let the school office know (either by telephone 01202 828100 or email to office@emmanuelmiddle.org) if you are taking your child to visit the upper schools and attendance will be authorised. The step up to upper school is important and we are lucky to feed into two excellent schools.

Have a fabulous weekend.

Mr Christopher and Mr Barker