



# Emmanuel Update

News from Emmanuel Middle School

Spring 2019

## Welcome...

from Ron Jenkinson, Executive Headteacher

**Welcome to our most recent update to share the successes and achievements of Emmanuel CE Middle School with parents in the Verwood area.**

It is difficult to believe it has already been 15 months since Emmanuel joined Wimborne Academy Trust, as time has flown by incredibly quickly.

However, it is also amazing to think how much we have achieved in such a very short time.

Many of you will be aware that Emmanuel was placed in special measures in 2017 and although we have not received another visit from Ofsted since the last inspection, we know the school has improved dramatically.

We know this because we have had external visitors to the school who have validated our own judgement and our internal data is showing a vast improvement in the progress pupils are making.

That said, it is not just the academic progress that makes a school.

At Emmanuel we are very lucky to have a team of staff who, like our vision statement inspires us to, go 'beyond our own limits' to make this school a very special place to learn. We also have a remarkable group of pupils who make us very proud.

Please don't just take my word for it. We would very much welcome you to our school so you can see for



yourselves how we put our core values of 'excellence', 'endeavour' and 'enjoyment' into everyday practice.

I hope this update gives you a small flavour of what we offer at Emmanuel CE Middle School.

**If you would like to arrange a visit please contact the school office on 01202 828100.**

## Making significant progress

At the start of the year we were delighted to welcome a school improvement officer from The School Diocesan Board of Education, who declared Emmanuel had made significant and positive progress.

The advisor also noted that:

- Pupils speak very positively about the school.
- Pupils are proud of their school and describe it as a fun place to be.
- Pupils are given lots of opportunities and really like the new house system.
- Pupils say the school has been transformed in the last year and know the school's Christian values

and can reference these to their own lives.

The report concluded: "Emmanuel continues to make rapid and significant progress. The children with whom I met were very impressive."

Our internal data also shows the significant improvements noted by the Diocesan advisor.

Last year our Year 8s left school outperforming national scores in English and maths, with more than 90% of them achieving the national average or above in both subjects (compared with 70% nationally).

In addition we were delighted with the performance of our more able pupils: 40+% exceeded the above average score in English; and in maths it was more than 30% (compared with just 19% nationally).

We also predict our Key Stage 2 results this year will show considerable improvement. Our data from February shows our Year 6s are on course to exceed the 2018 national average scores in English and maths.

These advancements are the results of changes put in place by Wimborne Academy Trust and the hard work of our staff and pupils.





Hillside and Verwood First schools join Wimborne Academy Trust's family of first and middle schools. Hillside and Verwood feed into Emmanuel CE Middle School and pupils from all three schools are pictured with Trust CEO Liz West, Verwood headteacher Adam Parsons (left), Emmanuel executive headteacher Ron Jenkinson (centre) and Hillside headteacher Jeremy Harrison (right).

## A family of schools for Verwood

Emmanuel was delighted to welcome fellow Verwood schools, Verwood First School and Hillside First School, to Wimborne Academy Trust.

It means three of Verwood's four first and middle schools, including Verwood Nursery, are now WAT members.

CEO of Wimborne Academy Trust, Liz West, said: "We were absolutely delighted to welcome Verwood and Hillside first schools to our Trust.

"The vision and ethos of both schools fit very much with ours - we're based in the local community, serving the local community.

"We have in place a powerful partnership of schools in Verwood all working together to

provide the best possible education for our children."

Adam Parsons, headteacher at Verwood First, added: "We have been really impressed with the excellent work WAT has done with our close neighbour Emmanuel CE Middle School and now we're excited to be part of that same team."

This was echoed by the headteacher at Hillside First, Jeremy Harrison: "Almost all of our pupils go on to Emmanuel and our already close ties with the middle school will be further strengthened.

"This is not only about providing the best possible education for our present children, but also for the future children of Verwood."

### Innovation and best practice is at the heart of all we do

Part of the evidence of the new confidence around the school is the way it is already showing innovation and best practice in key areas.

One example has seen us appoint a pastoral link, Mrs Binning, who works between our partner first schools and Emmanuel to ensure a smooth transition to middle school.

Middle school offers children a whole range of new opportunities, but it can be a huge leap for them.

Mrs Binning helps bridge the gap by getting to know all the

pupils in Year 4 in the summer term and is also a key point of contact for parents.

Another coup for the school was to be selected to take part in an international trial of the best methods for teaching maths in Key Stage 3, run by the Education Endowment Fund.

The Education Endowment Fund is a pioneering force for change in education and is working with our team to adapt outstanding international materials for teaching maths in England.

## What an 'ice' way to learn about science

Our would-be Albert Einsteins and Marie Curies spent a whole week unearthing new discoveries in a fun-packed Science Week.

During the week we staged daily fun scientific activities for pupils to try out, including taking part in a dry ice extravaganza.

With a special theme of 'journeys', a different activity was held every lunchtime for the children to pop in and try.

From examining raisins, to seeing the nucleation process of carbon dioxide build-up, to discovering how model boats can be propelled using the force of washing up liquid, the students enjoyed a wide range of the sciences.

Executive headteacher, Ron Jenkinson, said: "For Science Week our special theme was designed to take pupils on a journey of different scientific activities that might not be covered in the curriculum.

"It was wonderful to see so many of our pupils get involved and show such enthusiasm for science."

Emmanuel's special week was launched with an assembly to engage the children in the possibilities of science, both now and in the future.

In addition to the lunchtime activities, which also included creating flying machines, the pupils were encouraged to enter two competitions.

The first competition was set by the British Science Association to design a poster for Science Week and for the second challenge, the school called on the youngsters to produce their own journey sticks.

British Science Week, run by the British Science Association, is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths, featuring entertaining and engaging events and activities across the UK for people of all ages.



## Eureka! Ancient Greece inspires children to learn



We made an Olympian effort when it came to inspiring our children to learn about ancient Greece.

For one day only our Year 5 pupils ditched their school uniform for tunics, sandals and laurel wreaths as they turned back the clock more than 2,000 years.

The day was organised to help bring history alive for pupils - and it was not just a day for dressing up.

Thanks to the involvement of Treehouse Theatre, the pupils also created a 'play in a day' to re-enact everything they had learned.

Head of school, Rob Christopher,



said: "Nothing brings history and text books to life than getting the children truly involved in acting out what life was like back then."

Before performing their play, War and Peace in Ancient Greece, the children participated in workshops looking at Ancient Greece topics.

The play was a lively and humorous journey through 100 years of Greek history, from war with Persia to the fall of Classical Athens.

## Emmanuel's Got Talent!



**Our very gifted children took to the stage in the spring term and showed they have really got talent.**

The pupils wowed audiences when they showed off an array of many different performance skills in their own show.

Inspired by the popular ITV programme 'Britain's Got Talent', the youngsters put on such a good show that if Simon Cowell had been there he would have given them all a 'golden buzzer'.

Pupils from all year groups demonstrated dance and comedic skills, while singers took on numbers from hit shows like 'Annie'.

Head of Emmanuel, Rob Christopher, said: "This show and the whole process behind it has encouraged our pupils to demonstrate our core values of 'excellence', 'endeavour' and 'engagement'."



"It really gave our young people a chance to shine and be proud of their talents outside the classroom."

In the run-up to the show, the school first held inter-house competitions. More than 80 acts performed and, of those, 24 were put through to the semi-finals.

The 24 semi-finalists performed to their house groups and each house then had to choose the

two best acts to become the eight finalists for the live show.

For the final itself, which was hosted by two Year 8 pupils, the youngsters got to perform in front of a panel of judges – which included the Mayor of Verwood, Sandra Grove.

The judges crowned two joint winners – Year 8's Zoe Richardson with her solo performance of Thursday by Jess Glynne and The



Grylls Girls (made up of eight pupils across all year groups) who performed a routine from 'Annie' the musical.

Emmanuel's Got Talent competition also included categories for photography, art, product design and creative writing – with all the winning pieces of work put on display for the night.