



Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #19 | 20th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a particularly uplifting and productive final week of the half term. As a Catholic school, we are now journeying through the season of Lent, a time of reflection, renewal, and preparation. Across the school, students have been encouraged to think about how they can use this period to grow—whether through acts of kindness, moments of prayer, or small personal commitments that help them become more thoughtful and compassionate individuals. Our Celebration of the Word, assemblies and form activities have focused on themes of service, gratitude, and community, reminding us that Lent is not only about giving something up, but also about giving more of ourselves to others. It is inspiring to see how wholeheartedly our students embrace this season.

We began this week with our Year 13 Parents' Evening on Tuesday, which was exceptionally well attended. These evenings are always important, but for our oldest students—now firmly in the final stages of their courses—they carry a special weight. Staff spoke with great pride about the maturity, focus, and ambition shown by our Year 13s. Many are already deep into preparations for their upcoming exams, and it was encouraging to see families and teachers working together to support them through this crucial period. The conversations were thoughtful, honest, and forward-looking, and we are confident that our students are on a strong path as they consider their next steps.

On Thursday, we welcomed families to our Year 9 Options Evening, another significant milestone in the school year. The atmosphere was vibrant and full of curiosity as students explored the wide range of subjects available to them. It was wonderful to see so many young people engaging so thoughtfully with their choices, asking insightful questions, and beginning to shape their future pathways. Thank you to all parents and carers who attended; your guidance and encouragement play a vital role in helping students make informed and confident decisions.

Alongside these important academic events, I am delighted to highlight the growing excitement around our upcoming school production of *Annie the musical*. Rehearsals are now well underway, and the cast, crew, and staff involved have been working tirelessly to bring the show to life. The level of talent and commitment on display is truly impressive, and I have no doubt that this year's production will be a memorable one. Tickets are now on sale, and I strongly encourage you to join us—our productions are always a wonderful celebration of creativity, teamwork, and school spirit.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is greatly appreciated by all of us here at school and makes a real difference to the experiences and opportunities we are able to offer our students.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School



THE ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



Annie

— The Musical —

24TH - 26TH MARCH 2026

HARTLEPOOL TOWN HALL THEATRE
DOORS 6:15PM FOR 6:45PM START

£12 ADULTS / £10 CONCESSIONS
PLUS BOOKING FEE

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE BOX OFFICE | TEL: 01429 890000
OPENING HOURS: TUES-SAT 10AM-1PM OR WWW.CREATIVEHARTLEPOOL.COM

BOOK BY THOMAS MEEHAN / MUSIC BY CHARLES STROUSE / LYRICS BY MARTIN CHARNIN / ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY MARTIN CHARNIN PRESENTED ON BROADWAY BY MIKE NICHOLS. PRODUCED BY IRWIN MEYER, STEPHEN R. FRIEDMAN, LEWIS ALLEN, ALVIN NEDERLANDER ASSOCIATES INC., THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS, ICARUS PRODUCTIONS. BASED ON "LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE" © BY PERMISSION OF THE TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES INC. THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (EUROPE) ALL AUTHORISED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI EUROPE



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EMS Parent Community Advisory Board

We are delighted to invite you to be part of an exciting new initiative at our school – EMS Parent Community Advisory Board.

This group is being created to strengthen communication between school and home, ensure parent and carer voices are heard, and work together to co-design improvements that benefit our pupils and wider school community. Above all, it is about building even stronger trust, relationships and shared understanding between families and the school.

The Advisory Board will:

- Provide a forum for parents and carers to share ideas, perspectives and feedback
- Support open, constructive communication between school and families
- Collaborate with school leaders to help shape future developments and priorities
- Strengthen links between the school, families and the wider community

We are keen for the board to reflect the diversity of our school community. No previous experience is needed – just a willingness to listen, share, and work positively together for the benefit of our children.

Meetings will be held half-termly at times designed to be as accessible as possible, and involvement will be supportive and flexible.

If you are interested in joining, or would like to find out more, please complete the short expression of interest form (link below) by Friday 20th February.

[EMS Parent Community Advisory Board – Fill out form](#)

We truly value the role parents and carers play in our school, and we hope many of you will consider being part of this important new partnership.

Mr Gray

Message for Parents/Carers of Year 11 Student

As our Year 11 students move into the final stages of preparation for their upcoming exams, we would love your help in providing them with an extra boost of motivation.

We are inviting all parents and carers to write a short, good luck or motivational message for their Year 11 child. These messages will be given to students before their exams begin and will also be displayed in school as part of our celebration and support for their hard work.

A message has been sent out via the MYCAS app, which includes a link to the form where you can submit your message. If you have not yet done so, we encourage you to take a moment to share some encouraging words—your support makes a big difference.

Thank you for helping us make this experience a positive and uplifting one for all our students.

Mr Gray

Year 7 - Highlights

As we come to the end of another very busy half-term, it feels the perfect time to reflect on just how much our Year 7 students have achieved in such a short space of time. The weeks really have flown by, and I could not be prouder of the way they continue to embrace school life!

We recently celebrated 100 Days of Year 7! It is hard to believe how quickly that milestone arrived! To mark the occasion, we gathered for a group photograph, capturing a moment in what has already been a memorable first year at secondary school.

Our tutors also nominated one student from each group who they felt had shown exceptional effort and commitment. These students were invited to the food room where we made (and enjoyed!) some well-deserved pancakes together. This was a lovely way to recognise hard work and positive attitudes of just some of our Y7 students.

For Children's Mental Health Week, we recorded our entire year group proudly saying, "This is my place." This was shared across our Trust and formed part of a wider video showcasing schools coming together with the same powerful message.

Wednesday, we marked Ash Wednesday with a visit to St Joseph's Church, where Year 7 students attended Mass alongside Mrs Hodgson and me. With very last-minute preparation, several students confidently stepped forward to read and serve on the altar. It was a lovely way to pause and reflect together as a year group as we start this journey of Lent together.

It has also been an outstanding half-term for sport in Y7!

The Year 7 boys' football team secured a fantastic win against OLSB. A brilliant team performance. The Year 7 girls' football team have gone one step further and made it through to the final - we can't wait to see you lift that trophy!

Maddie, Isla, Verity, Ruby and Olivia proudly represented the school at the Primary Netball Festival, demonstrating excellent leadership and sportsmanship throughout. Joel, Isaac, Tommy and Ava represented Year 7 at the Cleveland Schools Cross Country event and did themselves and the school proud.

In addition, the PE department rewarded a group of students with a trip to the Metro Centre and to watch the Newcastle Eagles in action. From what I hear, some students didn't return with much of a voice left!

Year 7 continue to impress us not only with their achievements, but with their enthusiasm, resilience and growing confidence. We still have a long way to go before we reach the summer holidays. Attendance, punctuality and high standards must remain at the front of our minds. The foundations built in Year 7 are so important, and maintaining these expectations every single day will ensure students continue to thrive both academically and personally.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are very much looking forward to what next half-term will bring!

Mr Hutchinson

Sixth Form Updates

Year 13 Aspirations

We are delighted to share more fantastic news about the university offers our Year 13 students have received.

Joseph has secured excellent offers to study Management from Edinburgh, St Andrews, Lancaster and Loughborough. Blake is also aiming to pursue Management and is choosing between York, Keele and Heriot-Watt.

Obéline has received an outstanding set of offers to study Business Management from Durham, Newcastle, Liverpool, Manchester Met and York. Meanwhile, Travis and Oliver are celebrating offers from Northumbria, York St John and Leeds Beckett.

Throughout their time at college, our students are provided with many opportunities to develop their leadership skills - from paid lunchtime roles to supporting younger students as reading leaders. These valuable experiences, combined with the high-quality teaching at EM6, help shape our learners into the business leaders of the future.

Year 13 Parents' Evening – Thank You

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the Year 13 Parents' Evening on Tuesday. It was lovely to engage with so many of you, and we truly value your ongoing support as students move into the final phase of their studies.

If you were unable to attend but would like feedback on how your son or daughter is progressing, please don't hesitate to get in touch, we are more than happy to arrange this.

With only 80 days until the first exam, every lesson counts. All lessons will continue right up until the examination period, and it is essential that attendance remains a top priority. Consistent attendance and engagement will make a significant difference in the months ahead.

Year 12 PPD – Visit from Clennell Education Solutions

This week, we welcomed Clennell Education Solutions into school to speak with our Year 12 students as part of their Personal and Professional Development (PPD) programme. The session focused on harmful sexual behaviour and consent, providing students with important information to help them make safe, respectful, and informed decisions.

Our students engaged extremely well with this very sensitive topic, listening with maturity and demonstrating thoughtful awareness throughout the session.

If parents or carers have any questions about the content covered or would like further information, please feel free to get in touch.

Ms Jackson

Homework

Homework makes up an important part of your child's education. We know it builds independent, confident learners who can use skills of organisation and self-discipline in their working lives. As more and more aspects of life move online, homework has followed suit, and often parents feel a little bewildered. We have made things simple with a new link on the school website. If you access the usual EMS website <https://ems.bhcet.org.uk/> and select; Students > Apps - Useful links, then all our platforms are in one place. Even better, your child can login with Microsoft, meaning they only need 1 password to access everything.

Ms Diamond

Year 7 and 8 Science Club

Students are warmly invited to attend Science Club, where they will have the opportunity to deepen their scientific understanding through practical activities and collaborative projects.

The club provides a supportive environment for exploring new concepts, developing problem-solving skills, and engaging in enriching discussions beyond the classroom curriculum. Participation in Science Club not only enhances academic learning but also encourages curiosity, confidence, and a genuine appreciation for scientific inquiry.

I look forward to welcoming all students who wish to broaden their knowledge and take part in meaningful scientific exploration.

Ms Bell

Year 11

Spring Term PREP Mock Exam Period 6 Timetable			
	Week1	Half Term	Week 2
	16th Feb - 20th Feb		2nd Mar - 6th Mar
Monday	English		English
Tuesday	Chemistry		Physics
Wednesday	Maths		English
Thursday	English		Maths
Friday	Maths		

Year 11 PREP Exams Timetable

Y11 PREP Exam Timetable 16th February – 6th March

	Monday 16th February	Tuesday 17th February	Wednesday 18th February	Thursday 19th February	Friday 20th February
Lesson 1	Biology 1hr45(triple) 1hr15(combined)	English Language 1hr45	Chemistry 1hr45(triple) 1hr15(combined)	Maths Paper 1 1hr30	English Literature 1hr45
Lesson 2			French Reading 45m(F) 1hr(H) Spanish Listening 35m(F) 45m(H)		
Lesson 3			French & Spanish Writing 1hr10(F) 1hr15(F)	Comp Science iMedia Business Studies	History 1hr30
Lesson 4	History 1hr50	Religious Education 1hr30	Product Design 1hr40	CNAT Sports Science GCSE PE	Geography 1hr30
Lesson 5					
Half Term Intervention 23rd February - 27th February					
	Monday 2nd March	Tuesday 3rd March	Wednesday 4th March	Thursday 5th March	Friday 6th March
Lesson 1	Maths 1hr30	English Language 1hr45	Physics 1hr45(triple) 1hr15(combined)	English Literature 2hr15	Maths 1hr30
Lesson 2					
Lesson 3	Spanish Reading 45m(F) 1hr(H) French Listening 35m(F) 45m(H)				
Lesson 4	Music 1hr30	Religious Education 1hr30	Comp Science Business Studies CNAT Sports Science GCSE PE	History 1hr20 Geography 1hr	Religious Education 1hr
Lesson 5					

The English Martyrs Catholic
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February Half Term Intervention

As part of the EMS package of support for our Year 11 cohort, we are offering some drop-in revision sessions over the February half term break. Sessions will be led by subject specialists and learning mentors.

These sessions are open to all Year 11 students. If you wish for your child to attend a revision session over February half term, please complete the consent form sent to all Y11 parents via the app and to all students via Teams

Mr Doyle

Date	AM Session	PM Session	Staff	Room
Monday 23 rd February	Higher Maths 9.30am-12pm	Foundation Maths 12.30pm-2.30pm	JMS & SWN	S7
	GCSE PE 10am-12pm	GCSE PE 12pm-2pm	VPR	S6
	Product Design 10am-12pm	Product Design 12pm-2pm	PMN	0.23
Tuesday 24 th February	Foundation Maths 9.30am-12pm	Higher Maths 12.30pm-2.30pm	JMS & SWN	S7
Wednesday 25 th February	Textiles 10am-12pm	Textiles 12pm-2pm	NHN	0.25



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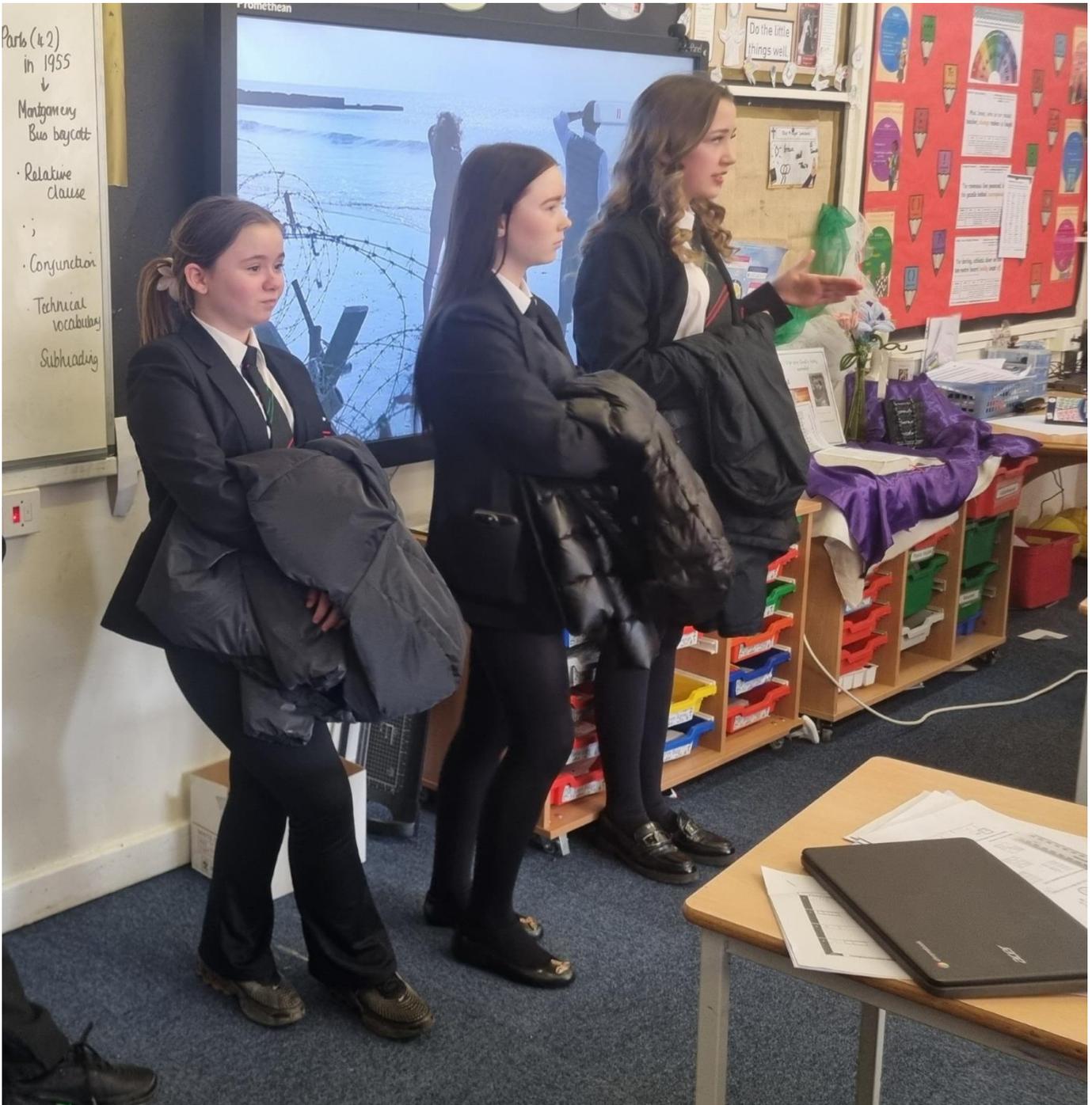
**Christ Has No Body Now
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Message from Savio

Savio had a trip to St Teresa's school yesterday. The students read to the children and some of the children read to them. They also visited Mr Hillan's class in Year 6 and answered the children's questions about EMS.

They were a credit to the school!

Ms Allison



Codex Amiatinus, hosted by Durham University

RE staff recently had the privilege of visiting the Rivers of Ink sound-and-light installation celebrating the Codex Amiatinus, hosted by Durham University at Blackfriars in Newcastle. The immersive experience brought to life the remarkable journey of this great Northumbrian manuscript, combining atmospheric storytelling with medieval-inspired hospitality. The event highlighted not only the historical significance of the Codex but also the exciting educational opportunities it offers for schools across the region. We are hopeful that this inspiring installation and the accompanying teaching resources, will soon make its way to Hartlepool, allowing even more staff, students, and families to engage with this extraordinary piece of our shared heritage.

Ms Fairclough



World Book Day

On World Book Day, Thursday 5th March, we are excited to welcome children's author James Harris. After delivering a session to the whole of year 7 Period 1, James will then be working with smaller groups of year 7 students throughout the day, helping them create their own characters and narratives.

Ms East

Chaplaincy

A big thank you to all the students who have helped in the chaplaincy over recent weeks. These include the St John Paul II Award Group (year 12/13) plus Kitty, Emily, Jess and Molly in year 7, who made some excellent posters for Lent.

Other commendations go to the Savio students who learned about St Carlo Acutis and the Divine Mercy image, they are a joy to work with.

Year 11 are showing real growth and have been mature and prayerful in their approach to the mock exams. I have been really impressed with the questioning skills of year 11 in RE over recent weeks.

Finally, it has been great meeting a wide range of students from across the year groups including Stan, Evan, Eni, Lennon, Kayden, Gracie, Amy, Lola, Lucas, Maximus, Charlotte, Beth and many others. Keep up the good work and God bless you all.

Mr Tucker

Year 7 Geography

Year 7 students worked collaboratively to embed the sequence and processes knowledge learnt independently in a 'maps from memory exercise' surrounding the formation of waterfalls. They then brought their understanding to life through a LEGO waterfall and gorge construction. Fantastic teamwork and learning in action!

Ms Martindale

