



Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #11 | 12th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy week at English Martyrs as our school community moves towards the Christmas holidays. This is always a special time of year in which our school community can gather and celebrate together. It also reminds all of us that school very often is a students safe space. A place in which they have structure and a support network that they may not always have outside of the school building. It is very important for us all at English Martyrs that our school is one in which students can depend upon should they ever need us.

On Tuesday we held a practise run through of a partial lockdown in school. This is an incredibly important procedure that would keep our staff and students safe should we have any unauthorised personnel or a dangerous situation that would pose a risk to staff and students on school grounds. The practice was very successful with students and staff responding quickly. Our safeguarding team, along with our pastoral team identified the two 'unauthorised personnel' quickly and they were 'removed from site'. We will have another practice run through of our lockdown procedure later in the academic year.

On Thursday, the whole school community celebrated Christmas with a variety of activities in tutor groups, including dodgeball and their Christmas dinners. The day has far exceeded expectations, and it was wonderful to see staff and students wearing Christmas jumpers, eating Christmas lunch together and having fun. All credit should go to Mr Gray, who planned the whole day.

Throughout the day students also had their first Celebration Assembly of the year. This is the first time that these types of assemblies have been delivered at English Martyrs. Students were awarded in front of their peers for outstanding performances in each subject. Curriculum Leaders and subject specialists nominated two students from each year group who have stood out this term and each student received a certificate and sweets as a reward. The atmosphere was fantastic in all of the assemblies. Celebrating our students is a core strand that will run through everything that we do here at English Martyrs. We want to acknowledge our students achievements and we also want our students to be celebrated in front of their peers. These Celebration Assemblies will occur at the end of each term, providing students with the recognition that they deserve. It is also worth mentioning the incredible rendition of 'The 12 days of Christmas' from our Year 7 students, each tutor group taking ownership of a '...day of Christmas' led by Mr Hutchinson.

Together we will grow, learn and succeed, which recalls our school motto, 'Strength Through Unity'.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School



Year 11 Mathematics – Sparx Maths

We are pleased to let you know that Sparx Maths is now live for all Year 11 students. Many students have not yet engaged with the platform so we would like to highlight a few important points for parents:

- Homework will be set every Wednesday and must be submitted by the following Tuesday.
- Students can log in to Sparx using their school email account.
- The more homework completed, the more Sparx adapts to each student's needs, creating a personalised learning journey that strengthens understanding and supports success.
- Research from the University of Cambridge shows that students who regularly use Sparx Maths make up to 67% more progress compared to those who do not.

We encourage you to support your child in engaging with Sparx Maths each week as consistent participation will make a significant difference to their progress.

Mr Murray



AUDITIONS

Annie

COMING MARCH 2026!

AUDITIONS

Year 7, 8 & 9
Wednesday 17th December - 2:45 in the Drama Studio

Year 10, 11 & Sixth Form
Thursday 18th December - 2:45 in the Drama Studio

Rehearsals begin Wednesday 7th January 2026

Students auditioning for principal roles should prepare

Annie: Maybe (Tomorrow for Call Back)
Miss Hannigan: Little Girls
Warbucks: Something Was Missing
Rooster: Easy Street

KS3 chorus auditions prepare 'Hard Knock Life'
KS4 chorus auditions can choose any song.

**Musical Runs 24th - 26th March 2026
in Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre**



Year 12 and 13 - St John Paul II Award

EM6 and the chaplaincy are pleased to announce the launch of the St John Paul II Award for the 2025-2026 season.

The faith award will see students participate in a variety of parish and social activities in honour of St John Paul II. Students were inducted in the EM6 chapel on 10th December 2025 and are now busy planning activities which will include volunteering in the local community, participating at Mass, raising money for charity and visiting the sick. Students have already organised Christmas cards for a care home and completed a litter pick around EM6. The group will meet frequently for prayer, to share ideas and develop their skills.

We thank Amy Aris, Bethany Carroll, Charlotte Boagey, Erin Harper, Stan Scott, Lily Errington, Amy Coulton, Jessica Powton, Courtney Dixon, Abigail Lilley, Miguel Yambao and Denver Alicarte for their kindness, faith and participation in this highly respected award. Students would welcome any opportunities to serve the local parish and community. Please pray for our students and the success of their work!

Mr Tucker

Savio – Christmas News

Our new chaplain, Mr Tucker, asked students if they would like to create some cards for the residents of an elderly care home.

Students really got into the true spirit of Christmas / message of Christ with their thoughtfulness and sharing their talents.

We think their homemade cards and decorations will bring smiles to both the nuns and the residents in their care.

Students have also done a great job of making our room feel very Christmasy.

Well done and thank you Savio students.

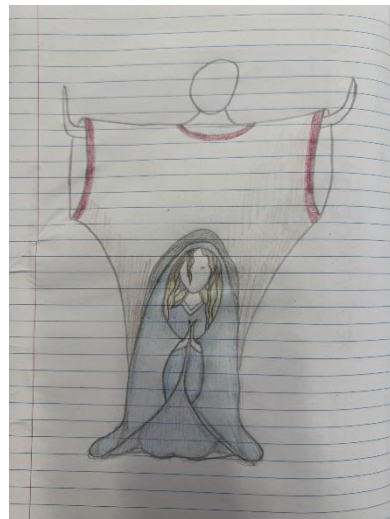
Ms Thurston



Key Stage 3 Religious Education

In Year 9 RE we have been learning about Artistic Expressions and how devotional images show beliefs about the Virgin Mary.

Ms Fairclough



Sixth Form Open Evening

Thank You for Joining Our Sixth Form Open Evening!

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Sixth Form Open Event last Thursday. We hope you found the evening informative and helpful as you plan your next steps.

Couldn't make it? Don't worry! All the key information is available on our website: <https://em6.bhcet.org.uk/>. You can also book a twilight tour by emailing us at em6@ems.bhcet.org.uk

What Did Visitors Say?

We asked guests to describe the evening in three words. Here's what came up most:

Informative • Welcoming • Engaging

Other words included: Helpful, Insightful, Friendly, Enjoyable, Interesting, Fun. We're thrilled so many of you found it valuable!

Ready to Apply?

There's still time to secure your place. Apply online today:

🔗 Apply Now <https://em6.bhcet.org.uk/>

Ms Jackson



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Catholic Education Trust

– KS3 Online Library

[Home](#) / [Students](#) / [Literacy & Reading](#)

ALL students in year 7-9 students have access to our free online digital library, MyOn. There are over five thousand different books to choose from and the books are all linked to ZPDs and STAR reading. There are multiple genres and subject areas available to all.

Students can access MyOn by following this link www.myon.co.uk/login

Student logins are the same ones used to login to the school computers.

Helping You Support Your Child's Future

We know how important it is to have conversations about careers at home. Talking Futures is a brilliant resource to help you feel confident in guiding your child's next steps. The website offers practical tips, guides, and activities to make these discussions easier and more meaningful.

👉 Explore resources today: www.talkingfutures.org.uk

As always support is available on the careers section of school website, in school via our careers team or by email ems-careers@ems.bhcet.org.uk

Ms Mincher



**BISHOP
HOGARTH**
Catholic Education Trust

**Christ Has No Body Now
On Earth But Yours**

Year 10 Hospitality and Catering

Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students have been busy learning how to make a festive chocolate log in their lessons.

Some of these talented students will showcase their skills in the EMS Christmas Bake Off, taking place after school on Monday, 15th December.

We can't wait to see their delicious creations!

Ms Hutchinson

Christmas Liturgy Invitation – Tuesday 16th December

We warmly invite all parents and carers to join us for our Christmas Liturgy at St Joseph's Church, Hartlepool on Tuesday 16th December at 18:00 pm.

This special celebration is an opportunity for our school community to come together in prayer and reflection as we prepare for the joy of Christmas this advent season. We look forward to welcoming you and your families.

Mr McCartie

End of the Autumn Term 2025/26- Friday 19th December 2025

The final day of the Autumn Term will conclude at 12.30pm. Please make arrangements for your child to leave site safely at this time. All school transport will be operational for the earlier finish, and lunch will be provided for students before the end of the school day.

EMS Safeguarding continues throughout the Christmas break with a reduced service. Details are available by asking to speak to the Safeguarding Office.

Mr Lindsay

Y11 P6 Intervention 2:45pm- 3:45pm Half Term 2		
Monday	RE iMedia Geography	French Spanish Computer Science Sports Studies
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Science	History
Thursday	Maths PE	Art Photography
	Business Studies	
Friday	English Child Development Hospitality and Catering	Product Design Performing Arts Textiles Health & Social Care

Dates for the Diary

Dates	Event
16th December	Christmas Liturgy at St Joseph's Church
19th December	Last day of Term. Students finish at 12.30pm

