



Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #21 | 13th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you and your families well. It has been a particularly significant and uplifting week in school, especially for our Year 11 students who have been taking part in their Sixth Form interviews. I am delighted to share that we have seen an exceptionally high number of applications this year, with many students expressing a strong desire to continue their educational journey with us.

The interview process has given staff the opportunity to speak with students in depth about their aspirations, subject choices, and long-term goals. What has stood out most is the maturity and clarity with which so many of our young people are approaching this next stage of their education. Their enthusiasm for joining the Sixth Form reflects not only their ambition but also the confidence they have in the supportive, high-quality learning environment we strive to provide. Over the coming weeks, we will continue to guide students through the next steps, ensuring they feel fully informed and prepared for the transition ahead. As mentioned we are delighted to share that we have received a much higher number of Sixth Form applications compared with the previous academic year. Our Year 11 students clearly recognise that their time at English Martyrs is part of a seven-year educational journey, and this year they have experienced first-hand the exceptional support offered by staff as they prepare for their GCSEs. They have also had valuable opportunities to explore life in our Sixth Form, gaining a real sense of the high expectations, strong community, and excellent teaching that define it. Alongside this, they have seen the outstanding results achieved by our current Sixth Form students, which continue to place the college among the strongest providers locally. We are immensely proud that our students appreciate what makes The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College so special, and that they trust us to guide them successfully into the next stage of their academic careers.

As we continue our journey through the season of Lent, our Catholic ethos remains at the heart of school life. Lent is a time of reflection, prayer, and renewal—a chance for each of us to pause and consider how we can grow in compassion, kindness, and service to others. Throughout this period, students and staff have had the opportunity to walk the Stations of the Cross. If you have visited our school recently, you may have noticed the beautiful and ornate Stations of the Cross that have been generously donated by a local parish. We have placed them at the very heart of our school, surrounding the central dining area where students and staff pass through each day. Their placement is both symbolic and intentional: a daily reminder of Christ's sacrifice and a visible expression of our Catholic mission. By situating the Stations in such a prominent space, we hope to keep Jesus' journey at the forefront of our community's minds and to ensure that His example continues to guide everything we do at The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College. This powerful devotional experience for staff and students when they walk the Stations of the Cross, invites them to reflect on the final journey of Jesus, encouraging a deeper understanding of sacrifice, forgiveness, and hope. Many students find this a moving and grounding moment in their week, and it is a tradition we value greatly as a school community.



Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School



THE ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



Annie

— The Musical —

24TH - 26TH MARCH 2026

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**BISHOP
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Catholic Education Trust

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

Easter Card Competition 2026

This year's Key Stage 3 Easter Card Competition at English Martyrs School brought together creativity, craftsmanship, and a wonderful sense of community spirit. Students across Years 7, 8, and 9 were invited to design and produce an Easter card that reflected the themes of hope, renewal, faith, and togetherness—all central messages of the Easter season.

The response from pupils was exceptional. Our Art Department was delighted to receive a wide range of imaginative and beautifully crafted entries, showcasing everything from traditional religious symbolism to modern graphic design. Many students incorporated scripture, stained-glass motifs, springtime imagery, and thoughtful messages of peace.

The Art department judged the entries, and were incredibly impressed by the technical skill, attention to detail, and personal expression demonstrated across the submissions. Selecting winners proved a real challenge due to the consistently high standard.

After careful consideration, awards were given for:

- Best Overall Design
- Most Creative Concept
- Most Meaningful Message
-

Winning designs will be professionally printed and be shared with neighbouring trust schools.

The competition not only celebrated artistic talent but also gave students an opportunity to reflect on the deeper values of the Easter season—kindness, sacrifice, gratitude, and new beginnings.

Well done to everyone who entered—your creativity continues to brighten our school community.

Mr Meynell



Year 12 Students Take Part in CAFOD Big Lent Walk

During this Lenten season, our Year 12 MET students are actively participating in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk, a national initiative that encourages individuals and communities to walk in solidarity with those experiencing poverty and injustice across the world.

As part of this challenge, students are committing to increasing their step count throughout Lent, using this simple but powerful act as a way of supporting CAFOD's vital work with some of the most vulnerable communities globally. Through their sustained effort, students are not only raising awareness but also demonstrating the values of perseverance, compassion, and service to others.

This initiative provides a meaningful opportunity for students to live out the Gospel call to action during Lent, reminding us that faith is shown not only through words, but through practical acts of love and solidarity. Their involvement reflects the principle that "Christ has no body now on earth but yours", as students place their faith into action through commitment and sacrifice.

We are extremely proud of the determination shown by our Year 12 students as the step count continues to rise. Their participation is a powerful example of young people responding generously to global need and embracing the spirit of Lent with purpose and integrity.

We thank them for their continued enthusiasm and commitment, and we look forward to seeing the impact of their efforts as the challenge continues.

Mr McCartie



Sixth Form Updates

University of Sunderland - First Choice Scheme

Stu from the University of Sunderland visited school this week to deliver a workshop to our Year 12 students who have registered for the First Choice Scheme. This programme offers a fantastic range of benefits, including:

- A free summer school
- Additional guidance throughout the UCAS application process
- A reduced offer to study at the University of Sunderland
- Access to exclusive First Choice scholarships and awards
- ...and much more!

This is a wonderful opportunity for our students, and there is still time to get involved. If you would like further information, please contact Bev Scaife.

Year11 EM6 Sixth Form Interviews

It has been a pleasure meeting so many of our Year 11 students for their EM6 Sixth Form interviews this week. Their attitude and enthusiasm have been fantastic to see.

Missed or not yet had an interview?

If your child missed their meeting or hasn't had their interview yet, we will be catching up with them over the coming weeks.

Haven't applied but want to know more?

If your child is interested in EM6 but hasn't applied, please encourage them to apply online - we're always happy to chat and answer questions.<https://em6.bhcet.org.uk/>

EM6 confirmed as first choice?

If your child has confirmed that EM6 is their first choice, there is nothing more you need to do right now. They will simply enrol on GCSE Results Day, and we look forward to welcoming them in September.

Ms Jackson



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HCFE – Year 9 Girls

Our Year 9 girls who showed an interest took part in the Women in Construction event at Hartlepool College of Further Education. The day aimed to highlight the range of careers available within Construction and the Built Environment and gave our students the chance to work directly with female mentors who are already established in the industry. They were set a Design and Build challenge using Lego, with each model needing to show sustainability, energy efficiency, open spaces and include a fun room. The girls threw themselves into the task with real imagination, planning their ideas carefully, working brilliantly as a team and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Ms Russell



Computer Science Trip - Disneyland

Over February half term, a group of computer science and digital media students set off on an exciting journey to Disneyland Paris to attend the Computing Live! conference. The event offered a unique blend of industry insight and Disney magic, giving students the chance to deepen their understanding of the digital world while enjoying one of the most iconic destinations in Europe.

Throughout the conference, students explored a range of cutting-edge topics, including:

- The world of ethical hacking and the career pathways it opens
- What it means to be empowered as a woman in the tech industry
- The rapid rise of artificial intelligence, and how it will continue to evolve and shape the future

Students also took part in a lively Q&A session with guest speakers, asking thoughtful, challenging questions that pushed discussions further and helped break down common misconceptions about computer science.

After the conference, students had the chance to enjoy both Disney parks. Whether they were chasing adrenaline on the biggest rollercoasters or meeting their favourite Disney characters, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

The group represented the school and college with maturity, enthusiasm, and curiosity throughout the trip. Their engagement at the conference and their conduct during the visit made the experience memorable for all involved.

Mr Draper



Year 11 Period 6 Timetable

Now that the Spring PREP Mocks have concluded, the Period 6 timetable has reverted to its standard sequence

Mr Doyle

Y11 P6 Intervention 2:45pm- 3:45pm		
Monday	Maths	French
	Art	Photography
	Spanish	Textiles
	Hospitality and Catering	
Tuesday	<i>No Period 6 intervention due to staff training</i>	
Wednesday	English	Science
Thursday	History	Geography
	iMedia	Computer Science
	PE	Sports Studies
	Business Studies	Child Development
	Health & Social Care	
Friday	RE	Product Design
	Music	





#Hartlepool Holiday Fun

We're hatching Easter holiday fun! Please note our new booking system!



It's set to be a cracking Easter as Hartlepool Holiday Fun gears up for another action-packed programme of school holiday activities for eligible school-aged children. **Please note there's a new system for booking places!**

Performing arts, multi-sports, mindfulness, life skills, football, a forest school, arts and crafts and STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) are just some of the fun-packed sessions for young people - plus they'll get a tasty, nutritious meal at each session too.

Under the terms of the Government funding, the programme is open to children who receive benefits-related free school meals plus some additional children.

Some activity providers may also offer payable spaces for non-eligible children at reduced cost.

Booking for all the Easter activities will open on Wednesday 11 March at 4pm on the new booking system at eequ.org/hartlepoolholidayfun

There's no need to create an account - just book and your account will be created as part of the booking process. You can now book for multiple children in one go.

Using Eequ, you'll be able to check your children's activity schedule, receive reminders and message the activity provider if you have a query - all from your account.

Happy Easter!

For more details, scan the code or visit

www.hartlepool.gov.uk/hartlepool-holiday-fun

 **Hartlepool Holiday Fun**



LOCATIONS

Burn Valley

Eden Academy Trust - Stranton Primary School, Southburn Terrace, Hartlepool, TS25 1SQ
Empowerment Education - The Women's Health Hub, The Arches, 79 Park Road, Hartlepool, TS24 7PW
Live It & Get Active CIC - St Matthew's Community Centre, 143 Elwick Road, Hartlepool, TS26 9JF
Something Positive Solutions CIC - Hartlepower Hub, 81 Stranton, Hartlepool, TS24 7QT

De Bruce

AI Stage Schools - Centre for Excellence in Creative Arts, King Oswy Drive, Hartlepool, TS24 9PB
Simon Carson Sports School - St Hild's Church of England School, King Oswy Drive, Hartlepool, TS24 9PB

Foggy Furze

Belle Vue Sports Community and Youth Centre - Kendal Road, Hartlepool, TS25 1QU
Lets Pretend and Play CIC - 18 Sydenham Road, Hartlepool, TS25 1QB
R&G Coaching - St. Helen's Primary School, Durham Street, Hartlepool, TS24 0HG

Headland & Harbour

R&G Coaching - St Helen's Primary School, Durham Street, Hartlepool, TS24 0HG
The Sensory Spot CIC - Heugh Battery Museum, 20 Moor Terrace, Hartlepool, TS24 0PS
The Sensory Spot CIC - Royal Navy Museum, Jackson Dock, Maritime Avenue, Hartlepool, TS24 0NX
The Wharton Trust - The Annex, Wharton Terrace, Hartlepool, TS24 8NS

Manor House

Central Hartlepool Group Mission Project - St. Columba's Centre, 52 Dryden Road, Hartlepool, TS25 4HZ
Community Hub South - Wynyrd Road, Hartlepool, TS25 3LQ
Eden Academy Trust - Eskdale Academy, 82 Eskdale Road, Hartlepool, TS25 4BT
Kilmarnock Road Children and Young People Family Resource Centre - Kilmarnock Road, Hartlepool, TS25 3NU
Live It & Get Active CIC - English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College, Catcote Road, Hartlepool, TS25 4HA
R&G Coaching - Grange Primary School, 145 Owton Manor Lane, Hartlepool, TS25 3HB
Schools Out, Sport's In - Brierton Sports Centre, Brierton Lane, Hartlepool, TS25 4AF

Rossmere

Games@Hart - Rossmere Academy, Catcote Road, Hartlepool, TS25 3LJ
North Star Learning Hub CIC - Rossmere Youth Centre, Rossmere Way, Hartlepool, TS25 5EB
Rossmere Forest School - 47 Callander Road, Hartlepool, TS25 3BD
St. Francis 2000 FC - Rossmere Playing Fields, Rossmere Way, Hartlepool, TS25 5EF

Rural West

C&S Fitness - Tunstall Active Building, High Tunstall College of Science, Elwick Road, Hartlepool, TS26 0LQ
Hartlepool United Community Sports Foundation - High Tunstall College of Science, Elwick Road, Hartlepool, TS26 0LQ
HBC Participation Team - Summerhill Country Park, Summerhill Lane, Hartlepool, TS25 4LL

Seaton

The Thrive Hive - Former Seaton Carew Methodist Church, 7 Farnedale Road, Seaton Carew, TS25 1BH

Throston

Eden Academy Trust - Jesmond Gardens Primary School, 3 Jesmond Road, Hartlepool, TS26 0JD
Schools Out, Sport's In - Throston Youth Project, Wiltshire Way, Hartlepool, TS26 0TB

Victoria

Games@Hart - Bovis House, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 7SE
NE Sports Coaching - Lynnfield Primary School, 2 Elcho Street, Hartlepool, TS26 8HP
Pets4People - Salaam Community Centre, Murray Street, Hartlepool, TS26 8PD
The Sensory Spot CIC - Masonic Hall, Raby Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AH

Note - Some venues may be subject to change. Any changes will be communicated well in advance.

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