



Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #2 | 18th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. It has been another busy and productive week in school, with a number of important events focused on supporting our students and strengthening the partnership between school and home.

This week, we were delighted to welcome Cameron Parker, a motivational speaker who spent time working with our Year 11 students. Cameron delivered an engaging and thought-provoking presentation to the full year group, encouraging students to reflect on their future ambitions, develop a positive mindset and recognise the importance of maintaining high aspirations throughout this crucial academic year.

In addition to speaking with the whole cohort, Cameron worked with a number of smaller intervention groups, where students had the opportunity to discuss their goals, identify potential barriers and develop strategies to help them achieve their ambitions. The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive, with many finding the sessions both inspiring and motivating as they begin their final year of compulsory education.

Cameron also joined us for our Year 11 Parent Information Evening, where he shared his insights with parents and carers. We are grateful for the time he spent with our school community and the valuable messages he delivered to both students and families.

The Year 11 Parent Information Evening provided an important opportunity to outline the year ahead and ensure that families feel well-prepared for the challenges and opportunities that Year 11 inevitably brings. Parents received key information regarding examinations, revision, attendance, intervention programmes and wellbeing support, alongside practical advice on how best to support their children at home.

One of the key messages from the evening was the importance of partnership. Success in Year 11 is most likely when students, families and staff work together with a shared sense of purpose. We discussed simple but effective ways in which parents can support their children, including helping to establish routines, encouraging attendance, monitoring revision habits and maintaining positive conversations around progress and aspirations.

I also want to reiterate a message that was shared on the evening: nothing is off the table when it comes to supporting our students. If there is support that we can reasonably provide, we will do everything possible to make it available. Whether this is academic intervention, pastoral care, guidance around revision strategies, mentoring, wellbeing support or assistance for families, we are committed to working alongside parents to ensure that every student has the very best opportunity to succeed. Our aim is simple: to remove barriers, raise aspirations and help every young person achieve their potential.

Finally, I would like to remind parents and carers of our upcoming Year 6 Open Evening, which will take place on Tuesday 29 September between 3.30pm and 6.30pm. This is always a wonderful opportunity to showcase our school and welcome prospective students and their families. We look forward to opening our doors to the local community and demonstrating the many opportunities available to students who choose to join us.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The strength of our school lies in the partnership that exists between students, staff and families, and I am grateful for the role you play in helping us create the very best experiences for our young people.

I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School

Harvest Festival Collection

On 8th October, students will gather for a special Harvest Festival liturgy led by Father O'Brien, reflecting on the importance of supporting one another and helping those in need.

As part of our celebration, we will be collecting donations for our local Food and Baby Bank. While there is no expectation to contribute, any support would be greatly appreciated.

Year 7: Breakfast essentials

Year 8: Tinned vegetables

Year 9: Tinned protein (fish and meat)

Year 10: Pasta and rice

Year 11: Tinned meals (soup, spaghetti, etc.)

Year 12: Household essentials (toothpaste, soap, etc.)

Year 13: Baby bank essentials (wipes, nappies, food pouches, etc.)

Thank you for your generosity and support of our local community.

Ms Stanwick

New Bicycle Storage Facility

We are pleased to announce that our bicycle storage area has been relocated to a new position closer to the main school building, providing improved and easier access for students who cycle to school.

It is fantastic to see an increasing number of students choosing to cycle as a healthy, active and environmentally friendly way to travel to and from school. We are delighted that so many students are making use of this option.

As a reminder, for the safety of everyone on site:

- Students must dismount and walk their bicycles whilst on the school site.
- Students should use the designated cycle paths and routes outside of school where available.
- All cyclists should follow the Highway Code and ride responsibly at all times.
- We strongly encourage students to wear a helmet and ensure their bicycle is roadworthy.

Our aim is simply to keep all members of our school community safe. We thank students and parents/carers for supporting these expectations and helping to promote safe cycling habits.

Mr Gray

P.E. Department - Netball

Netball season is well underway at EMS. The U13 girls made a brilliant start to the Sisters in Sport competition with a convincing 35-5 win against Whitburn. Our U15 team take on Easington Academy this Monday.

English Martyrs caters for all levels of experience, offering competitive opportunities to those who are playing club level but also to those who have never played before.

We enter the Hartlepool Schools League, Sisters in Sport Shield, BHCET Netball Tournament and England Netball National Schools competitions.

For those new to the school, netball club takes place on a Monday night 2.45-3.45pm. We would love to see more students there. All are welcome.

See Miss Parker for more information.

Ms Parker



Period 6 Autumn Term Update

What an incredible start to the year for our Year 11 students!

Teaching and Pastoral staff have been delighted by the commitment, determination and positive attitude shown by Year 11 during the first week of our Period 6 Autumn Term timetable.

In just one week, students recorded over 450 attendances, demonstrating a fantastic dedication to their studies and future success. Even more impressively, almost 25% of the entire year group attended every available Period 6 session, a remarkable achievement so early in the academic year.

As we continue to build momentum, we encourage any student who may need support with Period 6 attendance to speak with Mrs Sweeting or Mr Doyle, who will be happy to help.

Well done, Year 11. We are incredibly proud of the excellent start you have made and look forward to seeing this momentum continue throughout the year!

Mr Doyle

Sixth Form Update

We have had a fantastic start to our Sixth Form enrichment programme, with students selecting from a range of exciting extracurricular courses including Oracy, Finance and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). These opportunities will help students develop valuable skills, strengthen their CVs and enhance university and apprenticeship applications.

We have also been extremely impressed with the positive and proactive approach Year 13 students have taken towards their UCAS applications. Students have made full use of the support provided by IntoUniversity, who have been working with them on developing and refining their personal statements.

During their MET sessions, Sixth Form students have been busy preparing to host a Macmillan Coffee Morning. This will take place in the Sixth Form Study Area from 10.00am to 12.00pm on Wednesday 23 September. We would be delighted to welcome parents, carers and families from all year groups to join us and support this worthwhile cause. We look forward to seeing you there.

Ms Edmundson



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Student Welfare and Communication

At English Martyrs, the health, wellbeing and welfare of our students is always a priority. If a student feels unwell during the school day, they should speak to a member of staff who will ensure they receive appropriate support and care.

Students should not contact home directly using their mobile phones if they feel unwell. Instead, they should inform a member of staff, who will follow the school's established procedures. Where necessary, parents/carers will be contacted by the school through official channels.

This process helps us to:

- Ensure students are properly supervised and supported.
- Assess any medical or welfare needs appropriately.
- Maintain accurate records of student wellbeing concerns.
- Communicate important information clearly and consistently with parents/carers.

We are fully committed to supporting all of our young people and understand that students may occasionally feel unwell during the school day. By following the correct procedures, we can ensure that every student receives the care they need and that parents/carers are kept informed through the appropriate channels.

Mr Gray

Geography - Fieldwork

This week, our Geography students travelled to Seaham to carry out both their human and physical geography fieldwork, helping to prepare them for Paper 3.

Throughout the day, students demonstrated outstanding commitment, enthusiasm and resilience, applying their geographical knowledge and fieldwork skills with confidence and maturity.

We are incredibly proud of the effort and determination shown by all involved. A fantastic day of learning outside the classroom. Well done, everyone!

Mr Hope



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Absences

From September 2026, The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College will only accept reports of daily student absence via the attendance line on 01429 273790, selecting Option 1. App messages and emails will no longer be accepted for reporting a child's absence.

When leaving a voicemail, parents and carers must clearly state the student's full name, form group, and the specific reason for absence. General statements such as "unwell" will not be sufficient; we require a full explanation of the illness or circumstance causing the absence. This change has been introduced to safeguard our students and ensure that absence information is communicated accurately and consistently. Please note that a member of staff may contact you to discuss your child's absence as part of our commitment to student welfare and to offer support where appropriate.

Ms Corcoran

Year 11 Period 6 Timetable

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

Key Dates

29th Sept 15:30-18:00	Yr 6 Open Evening
14th Oct 17:00 – 18:00	Parents Forum
20th Oct 15:30-18:00	Yr 8 Parents Evening
3rd Nov 15:30 – 18:00	Yr 7 Parents Evening
17th Nov 15:30 – 18:00	Yr 10 Parents Evening
1st Dec 15:30 – 18:00	Yr 11 Parents Evening
8th Dec 15:30 – 18:00	6th Form Open Evening

