



The English Martyrs
Catholic School and
Sixth Form College

Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #3 | 25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

One of the most encouraging aspects of the new academic year has been seeing our students quickly settle into school life and begin to take advantage of everything that is available to them. As routines become established, our focus is not only on high-quality learning in the classroom, but also on ensuring that students feel safe, connected and encouraged to participate fully in the wider life of our school.

Last Friday, we successfully completed our first fire safety drill of the academic year. Despite the rather challenging weather and persistent rain, students responded exceptionally well, leaving the building calmly and following the instructions given by staff. Regular drills are an essential part of ensuring that everyone understands exactly what to do should we ever need to evacuate the school. I was particularly pleased with the maturity and cooperation demonstrated by students throughout the process. Even in difficult weather conditions, they understood the importance of the exercise and ensured that it could be completed safely and efficiently. I would like to thank both students and staff for the professional manner in which they approached the drill. Exercises such as this provide reassurance that our procedures are understood and allow us to continually review how effectively we keep our school community safe.

As we settle into the year, I would also like to encourage all students to consider becoming involved in our programme of extra-curricular and enrichment activities. Education is about much more than what takes place within lessons. Clubs and activities provide students with the opportunity to discover new interests, develop existing talents, build confidence and form friendships with students who share similar interests. They also provide valuable opportunities to develop qualities such as teamwork, leadership, resilience and commitment. I would particularly encourage students who have not previously participated in an extra-curricular activity to try something new this year. You do not have to already be an expert or particularly confident to become involved. Often the greatest benefit comes from simply being willing to have a go. As parents and carers, your encouragement can make an enormous difference. Please take some time to talk to your child about the activities available and encourage them to participate in something that interests them. We want every student to feel that they belong to our school community and have opportunities to experience success beyond their academic studies.

I would also like to remind families that our Year 6 Open Evening will take place on Tuesday 29 September, between 3.30pm and 6.30pm. This is an important evening in our school calendar and provides us with an opportunity to welcome prospective students and their families into our community. Choosing a secondary school is a significant decision for families, and the evening will allow visitors to explore the school, meet staff and students and gain a real sense of what everyday life with us is like. We are extremely proud of our school and particularly proud of the young people who represent it so positively. I am looking forward to sharing our values, ambitions and the opportunities we provide with those families who are considering joining us next September. If you know parents or carers of children currently in Year 6 who may be interested in finding out more about our school, please do encourage them to come along.

I have been delighted with the way the school year has begun and the positive contribution students are already making. Thank you for continuing to work alongside us and for supporting the high expectations and opportunities we have for all of our young people.

I hope you and your families have an enjoyable weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School

Sacrament of Confirmation

St. Joseph's, Hartlepool will shortly begin preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation on 24th November. Application forms are available at the back of our churches and on our website.

<http://holyfamilyhartlepool.org>

Students can also speak to the school chaplain. If anyone in Year 9 or above would like to be Confirmed, please return your completed application form to the parish office.

Canon Paul Douthwaite and Mr Tucker

Rosary Event

Canon Paul Douthwaite would like to invite children and families to say a special rosary at St. Joseph's Church on Thursday 1st October at 6pm.

On this day, Pope Leo XIV will be praying the Rosary with hundreds of children in the Vatican, beginning the worldwide One Million Children Praying the Rosary initiative. Parishes around the world are being invited to join in prayer for peace and unity.

St. Joseph's, Hartlepool will be joining in spiritual union with the Holy Father and children throughout the world, praying the Rosary together and asking Our Lady, Queen of Peace, to intercede for our world.

All children and families are warmly welcome.

Thank you and God bless

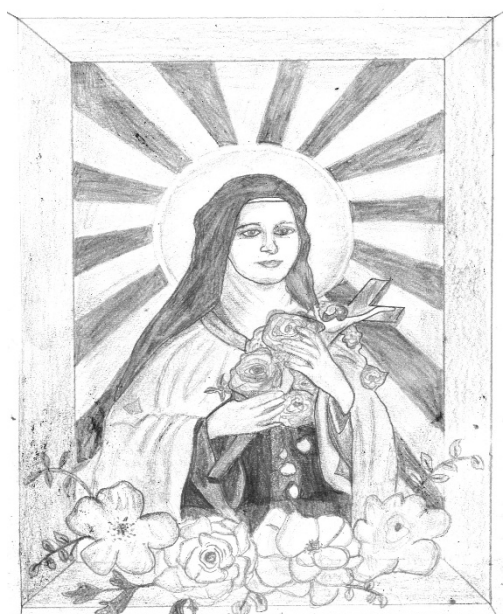
Mr Tucker

KS3 Students Respond to St Thérèse Portrait Art Competition

KS3 students recently took part in a portrait competition inspired by St Thérèse of Lisieux. Using a range of artistic techniques, students created thoughtful and imaginative portraits that reflected St Thérèse's life, faith and enduring message of kindness through "The Little Way".

The competition provided an excellent opportunity for students to develop their drawing and observational skills while exploring an important figure within the Catholic tradition. The quality of work produced was outstanding, with students demonstrating creativity, care and a real sense of pride in their artwork. We are incredibly proud of all those who participated and look forward to celebrating the winning entries.

Mr Meynell



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

Sixth Form Updates - Macmillan Coffee Morning

It was wonderful to welcome so many members of our community to our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Wednesday. Our Sixth Form students played a key role in making the event such a success, entertaining guests, baking delicious cakes, and serving refreshments throughout the morning.

We were certainly impressed by the talents on display and may well have some future Great British Bake Off stars and Britain's Got Talent performers among our students! Guests enjoyed a selection of tasty treats, games of bingo, and some fantastic musical performances.

The event was organised and hosted by students as part of their MET lessons, providing an excellent opportunity to give back to the community while putting our Trust Virtues into practice.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this worthwhile cause. We will share the final fundraising total with you next week.

Ms Scaife



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

Homework

As your child moves through their academic life at EMS we ask them to take responsibility for their learning, this will mainly be in the classroom but also occurs through carefully planned homework opportunities. As with much of modern life, technology can help support us with this work. All of your child's homework will be shown on the parent app. 'Arbor' as well as in the linked pupil app. They will show as 'Assignments'. The dates of the homework and the task will be explained on the app. Students can also ask their class teacher for clarification if they are confused on any aspect. To access the different types of homework through different apps, the easiest method is using our school website. When looking at the home page select 'Students' then 'Apps - Useful links'. All the platforms we use can be accessed from here, and can all be accessed with the 1 Microsoft password. To achieve this log into any app using your school username and password. Open an app and select 'Sign in with Microsoft' then enter the details your child was given by their form tutor.

We will be offering a parental drop-in session to support you, in the event that you still cannot access homework but please take all steps above first. A date for support sessions will be shared through the app and social media before half term. Please be reassured that no sanctions occur for failure to complete homework, rewards can be linked to it and as such we do place a high value on completion.'

Ms Diamond



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House Cross Country

The new school year had brought new House activities and opportunities for students.

The first event was our House Cross Country which took place on Friday 18th. Students could either compete in a competitive elite race or a more relaxed fun run. Over 400 students were involved, competing with great spirit for their House.

Each Year group had their own individual top 3 students, with Saint John Boste clinching the overall title.

Well done to all involved.

The next event is the Key Stage 3 quiz on Thursday 24th Sept. An update and results will follow in next week's bulletin, along with updates on future events.

Mr Corcoran



Year 11 Period 6 Timetable

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

