



Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #4 | 2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic evening we enjoyed on Tuesday as we opened our doors to prospective students and their families for our Year 6 Open Evening. It was wonderful to see the school so busy and vibrant, and I am incredibly proud of how our entire community came together to showcase what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

We welcomed over 280 Year 6 pupils, alongside their parents and carers, through our doors over the course of the evening. Families had the opportunity to explore the school, visit subject areas, speak with staff and students, and experience first-hand the range of opportunities available to young people who join our community.

Since the event, we have received a huge amount of positive feedback from families. Visitors commented particularly on the warm welcome they received, the positive atmosphere throughout the school and the enthusiasm and pride shown by our students and staff.

We received a great deal of valuable feedback, which will help us continue to improve. Some of the comments included:

"The atmosphere around the school was so welcoming. Every member of staff and every student we spoke to seemed genuinely proud of their school."

"I was nervous before we arrived, but everyone was really friendly and now I am excited about coming to secondary school."

"What stood out for us was the students. They were confident, polite and so helpful throughout the evening. They are wonderful ambassadors for the school."

One aspect of the evening that attracted particularly positive feedback was the contribution of our Year 11 prefects and student helpers. Our students welcomed families, provided directions, supported departments and spoke confidently and enthusiastically about their own experiences of school. For many Year 6 pupils, having the opportunity to talk to an older student can be one of the most reassuring and valuable parts of an open evening, and our students embraced this responsibility superbly.

Their maturity, friendliness and willingness to help were evident throughout the evening. They represented themselves, their families and our school exceptionally well. As Head of School, there are few things that make me prouder than hearing visitors speak so positively about our young people.

One parent summarised their experience by commenting on how helpful, polite and confident our Year 11 students had been and how positively this had influenced their family's view of the school. This is perhaps one of the greatest endorsements we can receive. Our facilities, classrooms and presentations are important, but ultimately it is our young people who provide the clearest reflection of the culture, values and aspirations of our school.

An event of this scale is very much a team effort, and I would therefore like to thank all of our staff for the considerable work that went into preparing activities, displays and demonstrations, and for the enthusiasm with which they welcomed families throughout the evening. I would also like to extend a special thank you to all of the students who volunteered their time to support us. Their

pride in their school was clear to see, and they played a significant part in making the evening such a success.

Welcoming more than 280 prospective students is extremely encouraging, but even more important was the positive response from the families who spent time with us. We wanted visitors to experience our school as we see it every day: welcoming, ambitious, caring and committed to providing the very best opportunities for every young person.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for the important role you play in our school community. I hope you and your families have a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School



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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://hollyfamilyhartlepool.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

Celebrating the European Day of Languages

Last week, students and staff came together to celebrate the European Day of Languages, highlighting the value of language learning and cultural understanding.

The celebrations began with a whole-school assembly, where students explored the importance of learning languages and the opportunities they provide.

During tutor time, students enjoyed taking part in a film soundtrack quiz, putting their listening and language recognition skills to the test by identifying songs translated into different languages.

At break time, students and staff were able to enjoy a selection of traditional French pastries, including pain au chocolat and croissants, which proved to be very popular.

We were also delighted to welcome pupils from our primary feeder schools for our annual Translation Bee competition. Participants demonstrated impressive linguistic skills, confidence and enthusiasm as they competed in a challenging and engaging event.

A sincere thank you to all students, staff and visiting pupils who contributed to making the celebration such a success. The European Day of Languages serves as a valuable reminder of the many benefits of language learning and the doors it can open for future opportunities.

Ms Williamson

Free School Meals

Thank you to everyone who has already re-applied for the Free School Meals due to the change in criteria in summer. If you have not already done so, please click on the link and follow the instructions <https://fsm.lgfl.net/app/school/16915> to check your eligibility.

Ms Barnfather



Catholic Life at EMS

*We are the hands, feet, and eyes of
Christ on earth.*



**Mon 5th- Adoration
Chapel 8:15am**

**Worship Choir - 0.02
2:45pm**

**Tues 6th- Rosary
Chapel 8:15am**

**Rosary- Chaplain's
Office 2:50pm**

**Wed 7th
Year 11 Mass
St Anne's
P5**

**Thurs 8th
Lunchtimes
Rosary- Library**

Feast of the Guardian Angels

Today (2nd October) the Catholic Church celebrates the Holy Guardian Angels. The Church asks us to call on our guardian angel to protect us and help us grow in faith with this prayer:

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
to whom God's love commits me here,
ever this day be at my side,
to light and guard, to rule and guide.
Amen.

Mr Tucker



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St John Paul Award Group

As the 2025-2026 cohort near the end of their award, we are pleased to announce the start of the 2026-2027 group. Expressions of interest are invited from Year 12 students who would like to participate in a programme which recognises charitable work, faith-based action, community involvement and care for others. Students from all backgrounds are welcome to apply. Students need to demonstrate commitment, be organised and be happy to work independently or as a small group. If you are interested, please speak to the chaplain.

Finally, a big thank you to the 2025-2026 group who have been charitable, helped their local community and supported the Catholic Life of English Martyrs and the wider Church. I have been very impressed to see students grow in faith, independence and maturity. Well done, Year 13.

Mr Tucker

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



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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

Sixth Form Updates

Year 12 students have taken advantage of a range of opportunities to develop their employability skills this term. This has included participating in workshops delivered by IntoUniversity, focusing on professionalism and CV writing. Students have also been encouraged to take on leadership roles within the college by applying to become Reading Leaders and House Captains.

Meanwhile, our Year 13 students have made an excellent start to the university application process. Many have been proactive in completing and submitting their UCAS applications, with several forms already sent and the first offers beginning to arrive. We look forward to celebrating their continued success as they plan for their next steps.

A huge congratulations to year 12 student Emily, who proudly represents Hartlepool Huskies, for giving up her time to support our Y6 Destination: EMS events. Emily was a fantastic role model, inspiring our future students with her enthusiasm, confidence, and passion for sport. Her positive attitude and willingness to share her experiences of school and sport helped make the event a memorable one for everyone involved. We are incredibly proud of the way Emily represents both English Martyrs Sixth Form and Hartlepool Huskies, demonstrating the leadership, commitment, and community spirit that we value so highly. Well done, Emily, and thank you for inspiring the next generation of English Martyrs students!

EM6 Duke of Edinburgh Gold students have been putting in the extra miles as they prepare for their upcoming expedition! Building teamwork, refining their navigation skills, and taking in the stunning scenery around Osmotherley, our students have been putting their training into practice while developing the resilience, confidence, and leadership needed for a successful Gold expedition. Good luck to the team as they continue their preparations.

The Sixth Form Team



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Year 11 Period 6 Timetable

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

Key Dates

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

