



Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #5 | 9th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the tremendous success of our Year 6 Open Evening last week, when we welcomed more than 280 prospective students and received so much positive feedback about our school, I have been reflecting on what makes a young person's experience of school truly memorable. While high-quality teaching and learning will always sit at the heart of what we do, some of the most valuable experiences students have come from the opportunities they embrace beyond their normal lessons.

Our Open Evening gave prospective families a real insight into the breadth of experiences available to our students, and this week I would like to place a particular focus on our enrichment programme. We want every student to feel connected to the wider life of the school, to have opportunities to develop their interests and talents, and perhaps even discover something completely new. Taking part in a club can build confidence, create new friendships and develop important qualities such as teamwork, resilience, leadership and commitment. In many cases, it is through trying something new that students discover interests and talents they did not previously realise they had.

We have a wide range of clubs and activities available, and the current enrichment timetable can be viewed in the Enrichment area of the school website. Students can also sign up for clubs through the parent app on Arbor. However, I want to make it clear that students should not worry if they have not signed up in advance. They can still attend any club that interests them, as a register will be taken at each session. Our priority is to make participation as straightforward as possible and encourage more young people to get involved.

I would particularly encourage parents and carers to spend a few minutes looking through the enrichment timetable with their child and discussing what they might enjoy. Sometimes students can be reluctant to try something unfamiliar, but a little encouragement can be all that is needed to take that first step.

Importantly, we also want our enrichment offer to reflect the interests of our students. If there is an activity or club that a student would like to attend but we do not currently provide, please encourage them to speak to a member of staff. We cannot guarantee that every suggestion will be possible, but if we have the staff expertise and capacity to offer it, we will certainly explore whether we can make it happen. Student voice should play an important part in shaping the opportunities available within their school.

Our commitment to enrichment also extends well beyond the clubs that take place each week. Throughout the academic year, students have access to a wide range of school trips, visits and cultural experiences designed to broaden their horizons and provide experiences beyond the classroom. These opportunities are an important part of the education we want our students to receive, whether through visits linked to the curriculum, theatre and museum trips, sporting events, university visits, residential opportunities or experiences that allow students to encounter new places and cultures. We recognise that these experiences can have a lasting impact on young people, raising aspirations, developing independence and helping them to see the world beyond their immediate surroundings. We will continue to look for opportunities to ensure that students across all year groups can benefit from a rich and varied programme of experiences during their time with us.

My challenge to students this week is therefore simple: get involved and try something. You do not have to already be talented at an activity, and you do not need previous experience. Bring a friend, try something different and see whether you enjoy it. The clubs, teams, activities and experiences students participate in often become some of their strongest memories of school.

I would also like to thank the members of staff who give their time, energy and enthusiasm to provide these opportunities. Their commitment allows us to offer students experiences that extend well beyond the classroom and contribute significantly to the culture and community we want to continue building.

Thank you, as always, for your support in encouraging your child to make the most of everything that school has to offer. I hope to see even more of our students participating in enrichment activities over the coming weeks.

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

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School

A Taste of Culture

As part of the launch of our Black History Month celebrations, students enjoyed taking part in an African Cooking Workshop. The session gave students the opportunity to explore African culture through food, learn about traditional ingredients and work together to create some delicious dishes. A big thank you to @Transformershpl

Ms Stanwick

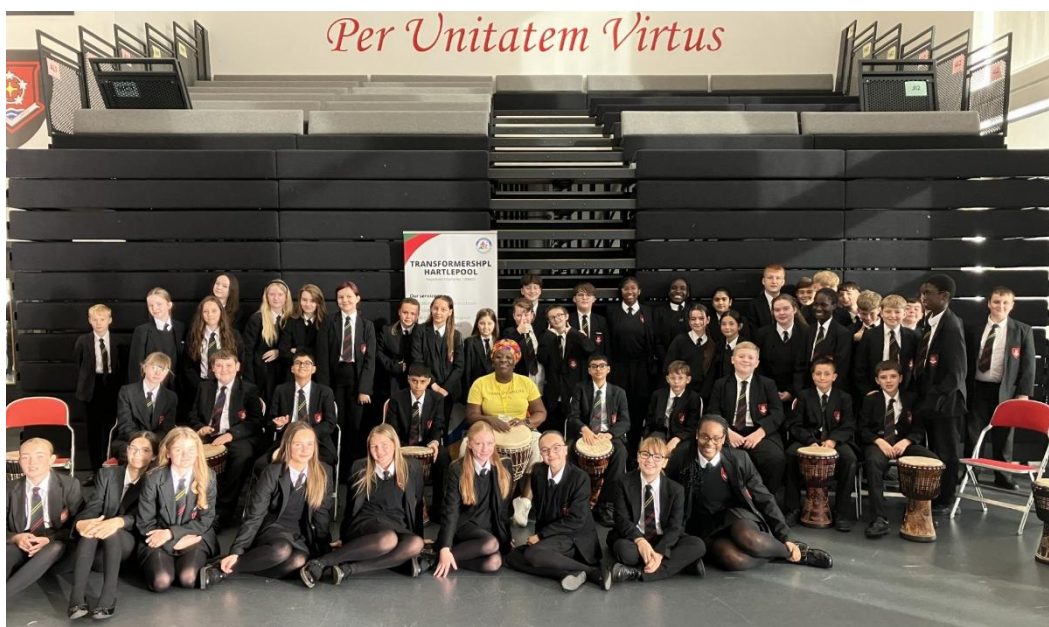


Black History Month Begins!

We were delighted to launch our Black History Month celebrations with an exciting African Drumming Workshop. Students from across the school took part, learning traditional rhythms, developing new skills and experiencing the power of music as a form of cultural expression. It was wonderful to see so many students involved and engaged in the experience and a big thank you to @TransformersHPL

This is just the start of our Black History Month programme, with many more events and activities to follow throughout the month.

Ms Stanwick



Webinar Opportunity – Year 9 - 13

Applying to Medical School is a highly competitive process that requires significant dedication, combining strong academic achievement with a broad range of relevant work experience and wider enrichment activities. We are pleased to share an excellent opportunity for students considering a career in medicine. This programme is designed to support aspiring medical students by providing valuable insight, guidance and experience to help them make informed decisions about pursuing a future in the medical profession.

Ms Scaife

STEP INTO THE REAL WORLD OF MEDICINE

Behind the Scenes: Becoming a Doctor

Free online event for aspiring medical students
Tuesday 10th November 2026 - 5.30-6.30pm



Dreaming of becoming a doctor?

On 10th November 2026, from 5.30-6.30pm, aspiring medical students are invited to join online for an exciting, **FREE** behind-the-scenes look at the journey to becoming a doctor.

Hear directly from **doctors and current medical students**, sharing their experiences, top tips and honest insights on:

🎓 **Getting into medical school** – what does the admissions process really involve?

💪 **Strengthening your application** through our fundraising programme

🏠 **Life at medical school** – what is it *actually* like?

👤 **A day in the life of a doctor** – discover what a typical day looks like

Plus, find out how the RMBF (Royal Medical Benevolent Fund) can support you throughout your medical school journey.

Curious about your future in medicine? Join us, ask questions and get the inside story from people who've been there.

Don't miss out! Book your free place today

Visit rmbf.org/10nov or scan the QR code



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Sixth Form Updates

Year 13 student Hollie had an incredible weekend competing at the UKA Premier Dance Festival 2026 at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool. Balancing her dedication to dance alongside her studies with commitment, determination, and a constant smile, Hollie achieved outstanding results. She placed 1st in Ballroom and 2nd in both Classical and Sequence categories. What a fantastic achievement! Congratulations, Hollie. We are all incredibly proud of you and look forward to seeing what you accomplish next.

Year 13 student Kobi has returned to college with an impressive collection of medals after competing in Cyprus at the 51st FEW Cup European Wadokai Championships. Balancing his commitment to academic excellence with his dedication to sport, Kobi continues to demonstrate outstanding determination and hard work. His efforts were rewarded with an incredible haul of medals: Gold in Kata, Gold in Team Kumite, Silver in Kumite, and Silver in Team Kata. We are immensely proud of Kobi's achievements and the positive attitude he brings to everything he does. He takes every success in his stride and is always ready with a smile. Congratulations, Kobi, on this fantastic achievement!

This week, we were delighted to welcome Daniel from Northumbria University, who delivered an engaging session to our Year 12 students as part of their PPD programme. Daniel encouraged students to reflect on the importance of setting and adapting goals, developing self-awareness, and maintaining perspective when working towards success. We look forward to seeing how our Year 12 students apply these valuable insights as they continue their studies and plan for their future aspirations. Information about a range of enrichment and progression programmes available to Year 12 students has been shared on the Careers Teams page, including opportunities such as Sutton Trust Pathways, Next Step York, and Aim for Oxford. If you have any questions about these programmes or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact the college.

The Sixth Form Team



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Catholic Life at EMS

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



**Mon 12th Adoration
Chapel 8:15am**

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

**(SVP the following
Mondays in 0.02 at
2:45pm)**

**Tues 13th Rosary
Chapel 8:15am**

**Rosary
1st lunch in the Library
and Chaplain Office at
2:50pm**

**Thurs 14th
Rosary
2nd lunch in the
Library**

**Coming up:
The Source
10th November**

What is Sparx Reader?

Sparx Reader is an online reading platform that helps students develop reading habits, improve literacy and build confidence. Students read books matched to their reading level and answer questions to check understanding.

Benefits - Personalised books, improved comprehension, vocabulary development, motivating rewards and Sparx Reader Points, accessibility features, progress tracking for teachers and parents.

How to Access Sparx Reader

1. Go to www.sparxreader.com
2. Click Log In
3. Enter school username and password
4. Open the reading homework
5. Read and answer questions
6. Complete at least 30 minutes each week

How Parents Can Help - Encourage regular reading, discuss books, praise effort and provide a quiet place to read.

School Expectation - Students should complete a minimum of 30 minutes of reading each week. The library and use of laptops is available daily during social times and before school. Additionally, Key Stage Three homework club is available every Thursday evening (see enrichment timetable for more information)

Mr Jones



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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

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

