



Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #6 | 16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you and your families well. As we continue to build upon the positive start to the academic year, I would like to take the opportunity to update you on some of the important developments taking place across the school and to thank you for your continued support and engagement.

This week, we held our half-termly Parent Forum, bringing together parents and school leaders to discuss a range of important topics relating to school improvement and the experiences of our young people. The forum continues to provide a valuable opportunity for open and honest dialogue, allowing us to listen to the views of parents and carers and ensure that they play a meaningful role in shaping the future direction of the school.

Among the topics discussed were the school's recent examination outcomes, our growing enrichment programme, and the opportunities available to strengthen links between the school and the wider community. These conversations were both constructive and thought-provoking, and the feedback shared will help to inform our planning moving forward.

I would like to thank all those parents who attended and contributed to the discussion. The support, challenge and perspective that parents provide are invaluable. As a school, we are committed to continual improvement and recognise that this can only be achieved through strong partnerships with families. Parent voice remains a crucial part of our decision-making process, and we will continue to seek opportunities to work collaboratively with you in the months ahead.

During the forum, we also discussed future developments regarding mobile phones in school. I would like to reassure parents that mobile phone use is not currently a significant concern at EMS. Our students generally use technology responsibly, and instances of mobile phones disrupting learning are relatively uncommon. This is a credit to both our students and the support provided by families at home.

However, as schools nationally continue to respond to updated guidance and evolving best practice, we have been reviewing our own approach. As a result, and in line with the direction of travel across the education sector, we will be introducing mobile phone pouches for students. This is not a response to a particular problem within our school, but rather a proactive step designed to ensure that students can continue to learn, socialise and engage without unnecessary distractions throughout the school day.

We believe this approach will help to further strengthen students' focus in lessons, encourage positive face-to-face interaction during social times and support their overall wellbeing. Importantly, this initiative builds upon the strong culture already established within the school and reflects our commitment to creating the best possible environment for learning.

Over the coming weeks, we will share further information with both parents and students regarding the rollout of the mobile phone pouches, including practical arrangements, timelines and the reasons underpinning this development. We want to ensure that everyone understands

not only how the system will operate, but also how it aligns with our wider ambition to provide the very best educational experience for all students.

As always, our focus remains on making decisions that support students to flourish both academically and personally. By continuing to work in partnership with families and by embracing approaches that place learning and wellbeing at their heart, we can ensure that EMS remains a place where every young person is able to thrive

Thank you, once again, for your ongoing support. I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School



Pope Leo XIV

"As a Diocesan family we keep Pope Leo in our prayers. May those who care for him do so to the best of their talents. May Pope Leo return to his ministry soon."

"Our Lady of Lourdes pray for him."

Bishop Stephen.

Year 8 Support Mass at St Joseph's Church

A huge thank you to our wonderful Year 8 students who read so beautifully at Mass last Sunday. Your confidence, commitment and dedication never go unappreciated. You should be incredibly proud of yourselves.

Mr Hutchinson



Harvest Festival Mass

Thank you to Fr O'Brien who celebrated a special Harvest Festival Mass with representatives from Key Stage 3 last Thursday afternoon. Thanks also to the students who prepared the hall, read the scriptures and assisted at Mass. We were very impressed to see the items donated by students; it is great to see them living the Gospel in all they do!

Mr Tucker

Parent & Carer Webinar
**Understanding
T Levels**

**20th October 2026
6:30–7:15pm**

REGISTER NOW

[amapps.uk/t-level-
parent-carer-webinar](https://amapps.uk/t-level-parent-carer-webinar)



Homework Support for Parents

Do you need help with how to log into homework apps?

We are holding an open drop-in session on Wednesday 21st October from 3pm – 4pm to help. Please bring a phone/ tablet/ laptop from home and we can get you up and running.

Ms Diamond

Year 11 Business Studies

This week in the Business Department, Year 11 students studying the CNAT in Enterprise and Marketing have been preparing for their 'Dragon's Den'-style professional pitches, which are worth 30% of their final grade.

As part of the brief, students were tasked with designing an original burger product and developing a promotional campaign to ensure its commercial success. The visual displays shown here are the supporting materials they have created to enhance and strengthen their presentations.

Next week, students will begin rehearsing their pitches in front of their peers, refining their communication and presentation skills before completing their final assessed presentation in front of me. We are looking forward to seeing their creativity, entrepreneurial thinking, and marketing expertise brought to life.

Ms Hughes



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Changes to Students Leaving Site During the School Day

From Wednesday 14 October 2026, we will introduce a Green Permission Slip system to ensure that any student leaving the school site unaccompanied during the school day does so with the appropriate authorisation and oversight.

The safety and wellbeing of our students remain our foremost priority. To further strengthen our safeguarding arrangements, we have introduced this updated process to ensure that any student leaving the school site does so with the appropriate authorisation, that parents and carers are fully informed, and that our records are accurate and up to date. These measures provide an additional layer of assurance that every student is safe, accounted for, and supported throughout the school day.

How the Process Will Work:

Pre-arranged appointments or approved absences

- Parents/carers should notify the school in advance and send any supporting evidence of appointments to attendance@ems.bhcet.org.uk
- The student needs to collect a Permission Slip from the Attendance office prior to 8:40am.
- Students must present the slip at Reception before leaving site.

If the school has not been informed in advance and evidence has not been provided

- We will contact a parent/carer to confirm the appointment before a student is permitted to leave.
- Students will not be permitted to leave site until contact has been made with home.
- Evidence should be emailed to attendance@ems.bhcet.org.uk by 5.00pm on the day of the appointment.

Students who become unwell during the school day

- Students should not contact home directly to arrange collection.
- Students will be assessed by a member of school staff. Where appropriate, a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will review the circumstances and determine whether the student should be permitted to go home.
- If approved, a Permission Slip will be issued, and parents/carers will be contacted.
- Students who are sent home due to illness must be collected by a responsible adult and will not be permitted to leave site unaccompanied.

When collecting a student during the school day

- Report to Main Reception.
- Sign the Student Collection Log.

- Reception staff will verify your identity and confirm that you are authorised to collect the student before the student is signed out and allowed to leave the site.
- The student will be signed out and leave through Reception.

We recognise that some medical, dental and other essential appointments need to take place during the school day. These procedures are not intended to create barriers or inconvenience families; rather, they are designed to ensure that every student is safe, accounted for, and leaves the school site with the appropriate authorisation. Wherever possible, we kindly ask that students attend school before and after their appointment to minimise any disruption to their learning.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain the highest standards of safeguarding, attendance and student welfare.

Mr Gray



Catholic Life at EMS

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



**Mon 19th Adoration
Chapel 8:15am**

**SVP - 0.02
2:45pm**

**Tues 20th Rosary
Chapel 8:15am**

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

**Thurs 21st
Rosary-
2nd lunch in the
Library**

**Coming up:

The Source
10th November**



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2026 HARTLEPOOL AUTHOR SHOWCASE

**STORY
TELLING**

**WORKSHOPS &
CRAFTS**

**AUTHOR
PANELS**

**WRITING
DROP - INS**

**BOOK
SIGNINGS**

AND MORE!



**Saturday 24th October
10:00am-1:00pm
Community Hub Central**

Sixth Form Updates

Our year 12 students have made a fantastic start in their roles as Reading Leaders, supporting Year 7 students with their reading. By sharing their own experiences and offering encouragement, they are helping our younger students develop confidence while also gaining valuable leadership and communication skills themselves. Thank you to all of our Sixth Form Reading Leaders for your commitment and enthusiasm. Your support is greatly appreciated.

We welcomed Transformers HPL to speak to our year 12 students during PPD. They shared stories of cultural diversity in Hartlepool and how we can help build community understanding. A number of students signed up to support the group with volunteering in the community. We look forward to following their progress.

You may have seen on our social media pages the fun that a group of our year 12 students had on their gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition. The students had a fabulous time developing their skills and creating memories to last a life time. Thanks must go to Miss Leighton and Mr Travis for supporting our students with this wonderful opportunity.

It has been wonderful to meet so many of our Year 11 students as they begin exploring their post-16 options. We would like to remind parents and students that applications to join EM6 are now open and can be submitted online via the EM6 application form.

If you have any questions about the courses we offer, please do not hesitate to get in touch. You are also warmly invited to attend our Open Evening on Tuesday 8 December, where you can drop in between 3.30pm and 6.00pm to meet current students and staff, learn more about our curriculum, and experience our dedicated Sixth Form facilities. Here's sneak peek on what is on offer EM6

The Sixth Form Team



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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
	<i>No Period 6 intervention due to staff training</i>
Wednesday	Maths
Thursday	History
	Science
	iMedia
	Geography
Friday	Computer Science
	Health & Social Care
	RE
	Engineering Design
	French
	PE
	Performing Arts
	Sports Studies

Key Dates

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

