The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #7 | 23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you and your families well. This week has provided an opportunity to reflect on the importance of recognising and celebrating those individuals who make a positive difference to our school community each and every day.

On Thursday evening, I had the privilege of attending the Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust Awards Evening, where students and staff from across the Trust were recognised for exemplifying our shared virtues of Compassion and Justice, Confidence and Self-Belief, Respect and Responsibility, and Honesty and Resilience. Each award recipient had been nominated by members of staff in recognition of their contribution to school life and the positive impact they have on those around them.

It was a truly inspiring evening. What struck me most was hearing the personal stories behind many of the nominations. Several students and staff have faced significant challenges, including experiences of loss and grief, yet have continued to demonstrate remarkable strength, resilience and a determination to make a positive contribution to their communities. Listening to these stories was both humbling and uplifting, and it served as a powerful reminder of the character, kindness and courage that exist within our schools.

The evening also reinforced the importance of recognising the positive contributions that students make each day. While award ceremonies provide an opportunity to celebrate exceptional achievements, our values are lived out in classrooms, corridors, on the sports field and within the wider community every single day. Whether through acts of kindness, showing determination in the face of challenge, taking responsibility, supporting others or consistently demonstrating integrity, many of our students embody these virtues in ways that deserve recognition.

It was therefore particularly pleasing to see so many students celebrated during this week's Celebration Assemblies. These assemblies provide an important opportunity to acknowledge achievement, effort, attendance, improvement and the positive choices students make on a daily basis. The pride on students' faces as they received rewards was wonderful to see and reflects our commitment to ensuring that positive contributions never go unnoticed.

Finally, it was a genuine honour this week to present our Year 11 students with their Prefect ties. Becoming a prefect is a significant milestone and reflects the confidence that staff have in these young people to represent the school and its values. The role carries both privilege and responsibility, requiring students to lead by example, demonstrate high standards and serve as positive role models for younger students.

I have every confidence that this year's prefect team will fulfil these responsibilities admirably. Throughout the selection process, students demonstrated a real commitment to our school community and a desire to make a meaningful contribution during their final year with us. We are excited to see the leadership they will show over the coming months and the positive influence they will have across the school.

As we continue through the year, I am reminded that a successful school is built upon much more than academic outcomes alone. It is shaped by the values we demonstrate, the relationships we build and the way in which we support and encourage one another. This week has provided many examples of exactly that, and I could not be prouder of our students and staff.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable weekend

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School

A Level Art & Design Taster Day

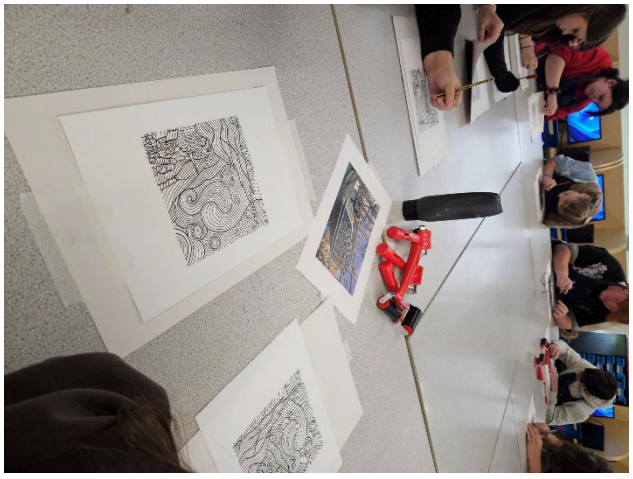
Students enjoyed an inspiring A Level Art & Design Taster Day, experiencing the creative opportunities available across Graphic Design, Fine Art, and Photography. Through a series of practical workshops, students gained an insight into the specialist skills, techniques, and independent learning expected at A Level.

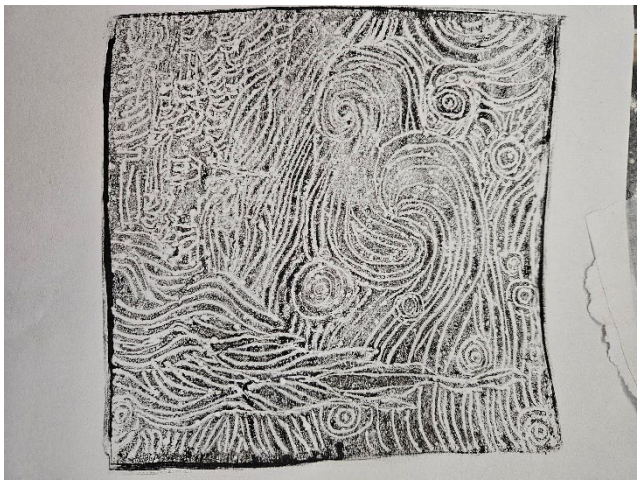
In Fine Art, students explored the creative process through mono printing, experimenting with texture, layering, and mark-making to produce unique printed outcomes. In Graphic Design, students investigated visual communication and design principles, developing creative ideas and learning how designers use imagery and typography to communicate messages effectively.

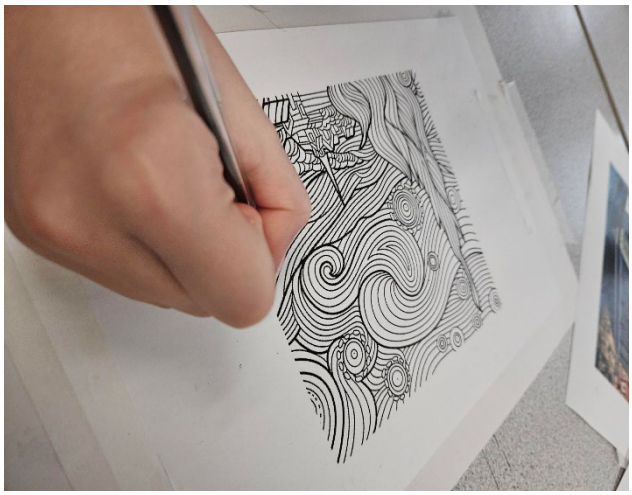
In Photography, students experienced both traditional and contemporary photographic practices. They created professional studio portraits using specialist lighting equipment and explored traditional darkroom processes, developing and producing photographic prints by hand.

The day provided students with an exciting introduction to A Level study and an opportunity to showcase their creativity, curiosity, and artistic potential.

Mr Meynell







Year 8

Year 8 have made a fantastic start to the new school year since returning after the summer holidays! We are incredibly proud to share that Year 8 are currently the highest-achieving year group in the school, with over 15,000 achievement points earned so far. Even more excitingly, 10 out of the top 12 students for achievement points across the whole school are in Year 8! Emerald and Fraiser take the top spots, with Simran (8AL1), Lyra (8JB2), Hashir (8AL1), Summer (8TM1), Joel (8AL1), Billy (8AL1), Essie (View) and Alex (8MC1) also featuring in the school's top 12.

This half-term has also seen some fantastic sporting achievements across rugby, football, netball and cross country. We are incredibly proud of our students who have represented the school with such enthusiasm, determination and team spirit.

Our students have also enjoyed a fantastic educational visit to Yorkshire Wildlife Park, where they had the opportunity to speak with zookeepers, learn about endangered animals and explore the importance of conservation and protecting wildlife.

This week, Mr Barnes also took a handful of our fantastic Year 8 students to St Michael's for the first stage of the University of Oxford's Catalyst Programme. This was a brilliant opportunity for our students to engage in an exciting academic experience, broaden their horizons and begin exploring the opportunities that further education can offer.

We have also welcomed back our Elite 8s recognition scheme, with form tutors nominating students each week who consistently work hard, contribute positively to the life of their form and demonstrate our school values. It is wonderful to celebrate the students who make a real difference to their form groups.

Our Year 8 students have also had the opportunity to read at St Joseph's Church, helping to strengthen our links with the local parish and play an important role in our school's Catholic life.

This week, we also welcomed parents and carers to our Year 8 Parents' Evening. The feedback we received from so many families was overwhelmingly positive, and we would like to thank our Year 8 parents and carers for their continued support and partnership. Working together makes such a difference to our students' progress, confidence and success.

As we look ahead to next half-term, we are excited for the festive run-up to Christmas! We look forward to celebrating our students' continued hard work through rewards trips and exciting opportunities.

It has been a brilliant half-term, full of achievements, opportunities and memorable experiences. We are incredibly proud of Year 8 and look forward to seeing them continue to flourish in the lead-up to Christmas!

Have a lovely break!

Mr Hutchinson

Rome Trip – Faith, Friendship and Unforgettable Memories

40 students recently enjoyed an unforgettable trip to Rome, combining faith, culture, adventure and fun! Highlights included visiting the Vatican, the breathtaking Sistine Chapel and St Peter's Basilica, celebrating Mass, learning the art of pizza making, enjoying the thrills of Cinecittà World theme park and rounding off the experience with a game of bowling.

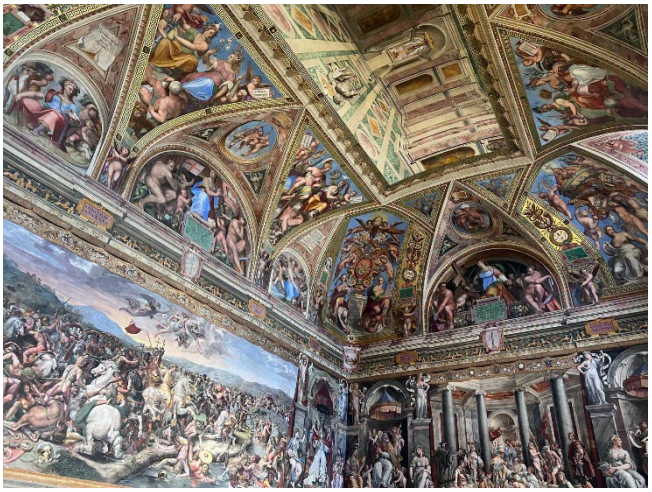
Beyond the exciting activities, one of the most rewarding aspects of the trip was witnessing our students grow in confidence, independence and friendship. Throughout the visit, they demonstrated our Catholic virtues through their kindness, respect, courage and consideration for others.

It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to deepen their faith, create lasting memories and strengthen their sense of community. We are incredibly proud of the way they embraced every experience and represented our school.

Parents/Carers can use the form below to express their child's interest in attending a future trip to Rome.

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-OvlemCWl0mB-Fxg9M2FOIRQwy09nIJIjR0QXzhtlOZUMTA0N1laWUkyVDExTFIxMUNXRUFKRFZEWS4u

Mr Casey



Celebrating a successful half term at EM6

It has been a busy and successful start to the academic year, with our Sixth Form students settling in extremely well and giving us plenty to celebrate.

Congratulations to our Sixth Form mathematicians who took part in the UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge. A special mention goes to James, who achieved Gold and has qualified for the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1. An outstanding achievement, and we wish him the very best of luck!

We also enjoyed welcoming Year 11 students to experience life at EM6. They took part enthusiastically in subject sessions and had the opportunity to spend time in our common room and bistro. We look forward to welcoming them back at future events.

A reminder to Year 13 families that our internal UCAS deadline is Monday 2 November. Students have been working hard on their applications and personal statements, and it is fantastic to see their excitement as they plan their next steps.

Have a wonderful half-term break!

The Sixth Form Team

Year 10 English Revision

Year 10 revision session are running every Monday during Period 6 from the week commencing the 2nd of November. All are welcome.

Ms Kerridge

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

Key Dates	
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