



'Christ Has No Body Now on Earth But Yours'

PARENT AND CARER BULLETIN

ISSUE 1: W/C 22ND SEPTEMBER 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first Parent and Carer Bulletin of the new academic year 2025-26. As parents and carers of our students, you are very welcome to our English Martyrs Community. A special welcome to new Parents and Carers, of the 250 students who have joined us in Year 7. I have already introduced myself and welcomed all of our students, in person on the first day, during special assemblies.

I hope to be writing to you each week of this academic year, to keep you updated on the school's journey and to highlight all of the wonderful things happening across our school, and sixth form. I have sent a letter to parents and carers at the start of this week, highlighting the importance of the relationship between school and home. This is an essential aspect of my vision for English Martyrs, and I will write to you in the coming weeks about opportunities in which you can express your own views, ensuring that your voice will be heard.

We have also welcomed a number of new staff members to English Martyrs at the start of this academic year. This ensures that our students have expert teachers, specialising in each subject, throughout all of their timetabled lessons. We also have two new members of the Senior Leadership Team who joined us in September. Mr Christopher Corcoran joins the team as Deputy Headteacher, leading Quality of Education and Mr Mark Doyle joins as Assistant Headteacher, leading Achievement and Progress. Their expertise and experience will support the school in its ambition to deliver outstanding teaching across the curriculum, and to raise achievement and improve results for all of our students.

Parents and Carers of our Year 11 students should now be aware of some of the additional support that has been put in place to ensure that our students succeed to the best of their ability in their GCSE's. Each evening after school, staff are providing extra opportunities, to improve student progress. These classes have been very well attended to date, and we hope that this continues. Within these extra lessons students are covering key concepts, addressing common misconceptions from the curriculum and they are provided with expert knowledge around exam preparation.

I have been very impressed with the start that our students have had this academic year. Our main focus in the first few weeks is to support students in developing good habits and routines, to communicate our expectations and to re-focus our students after the summer holidays. Our students have 'hit the ground running' with a huge 21,133 positive points awarded so far. Students are rewarded and celebrated for demonstrating the school virtues and we will be looking for further opportunities to reward our students who demonstrate the true spirit of EMS.

Finally, I want to focus up on the school motto of 'Per Unitatem Virtus' which is Latin for 'Strength Through Unity'. It is together that we will continue to improve our inclusive education offer, enabling us to transform the lives of our students. It is a real partnership, and I look forward to working with you all.

Yours faithfully

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School

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A Brilliant Start to Year 7!

We are absolutely delighted with how our Year 7 students have begun their journey with us. Their enthusiasm, kindness, and eagerness to learn have truly impressed all the staff. They've settled in beautifully and have already become a valued part of our school community. It's been a pleasure to welcome them, and we're excited to see all the wonderful things they'll achieve this year.

Celebration of the Word with 7AL1

Last week marked our first Celebration of the Word across the whole school, and 7AL1 set the stall very high. The students led with confidence and reverence, showing a deep sense of reflection and pride in their Catholic faith. It was heartwarming to see them take such an active role in their faith journey, and we look forward to seeing more groups share throughout the academic year.

Important Dates for Parents & Carers

A reminder that our Year 7 Welcome Mass will take place on Monday 23rd September at St Joseph's Church at 10:00am. Additionally, we have a 'Settling In' meeting planned for Monday 21st October, where parents and carers will have the opportunity to speak with their child's tutor. More details will be shared closer to the time.

Mr Hutchinson

Careers Guidance Meetings for Year 11 Students

We are pleased to inform you that your child will be scheduled for a one-to-one Careers Guidance meeting with a member of our Careers Team over the coming months. These meetings are designed to support students in exploring their future pathways, including options for further education, training, or employment after Year 11.

In addition to these scheduled appointments, we offer a drop-in support service where students can request further guidance if they feel they need additional help in planning their next steps.

If you have any questions or would like further information about these activities, please do not hesitate to contact our Careers Team.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ms Russell

BAE Systems Education Programme Roadshow – Thursday 2nd October, Periods 1 and 2

We are delighted to welcome the return of BAE to our Year 7 and Year 8 students. Delivered in partnership with the RAF and Royal Navy, the programme is celebrating its 20th year of making a difference in the perception of STEM subjects in schools.

Aligned to the National Curriculum, the 50-minute performance aims to inspire and engage our students. The theme of the 2025 show is Artificial Intelligence.

Artificial Intelligence is already making a tremendous impact across the globe. The presentation introduces AI as a tool that can be embraced with just as much gusto as Google was five years ago. The Roadshow demonstrates some useful applications of AI and stresses how important human skills are to ensure we can maximise its effect in our lives.

The team showcases well-established tools and illustrates how to spot deep fakes and other dangers surrounding AI. They also highlight how AI can be a valuable learning tool for both teachers and students – all with the assistance of the AI robotic dog, Lexi. It is a show full of surprises and insight, designed to promote the safe adoption of AI tools in the public domain, today and tomorrow.

We are excited for our students to experience this engaging and educational event, which we hope will spark their interest in STEM and encourage thoughtful conversations about the future of technology.

Ms Russell

Entrepreneur Visit

Business Owner Tom Cook of local Burger Ding fame came in last week to speak with our Year 10 Business students about his journey setting up his own business. Students enjoyed the session with high levels of engagement throughout.

Ms Hughes



Primary Arts Project 2025

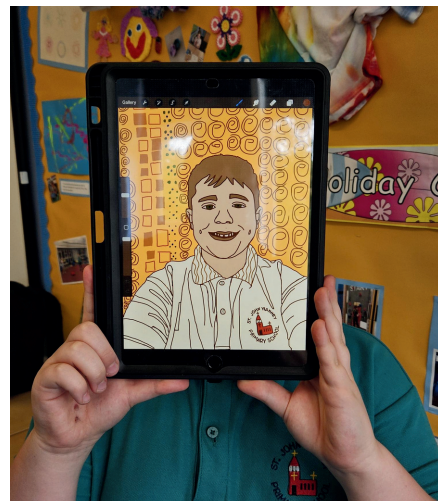
As part of our extensive and exciting transition to Secondary School work Art staff have led an ambitious project of transition. Staff visited 6 Primary schools across Hartlepool working with all year 6 students, 250 students in total.

Schools involved were Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, St Bega's Catholic Primary School, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, St John Vianney Catholic Primary School, St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School and St Teresa's Catholic Primary School.

Primary Arts 2025, allowed EMS art staff to visit Primary Schools, work alongside Primary staff and for every student to produce an illustrated digital portrait. The project was influenced by the work of Artist Gustav Klimt encouraging students to explore and experiment with iPads and digital media. Every student involved absolutely loved the experience and really enjoyed being taught by a teacher from their desired Secondary school.

It was a pleasure visiting Year 6, being able to get to know them, work a long side them and start build positive relationships that we aim to enhance when they officially join in September.

Mr Meynell



Savio

The Savio students have spent some time in our garden, refilling the bird feeders, planting spring bulbs and collecting pears from our fruit tree. Afterwards, they then enjoyed eating some of the pears. The leftover pears will be used in our Food Tech lesson to make a lovely Crumble!

Ms Allison



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Year 11 Intervention Timetable

Y11 P6 Intervention 2:45pm- 3:45pm Half Term 1

Monday	Science	History
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Maths	Art
	Business Studies	Photography
Thursday	English	Geography
	Child Development	Product Design
	Hospitality and Catering	Textiles
	Health and Social Care	
Friday	RE	French
	Imedia	Spanish
	Performing Arts	Computer Science
	PE	Sports Studies

Calendar dates	Upcoming Events for Autumn Term
24 th September 24th September 1 st October 21st October 10th- 14 th November 28th November 4th December 9th December	Year 11 Information Evening 4:30pm Macmillan Coffee Morning 10:30am - 12:00pm Year 6 Opening Evening 3-6pm Year 7 Settling in Evening with tutors 3-6pm Year 11 Mocks School Closed Sixth Form Opening Evening 3-6pm Year 9 Parents Evening 3-6pm

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Vikas Agrawal Sixth Form Maths Scholarship

We are delighted to announce that this year's Vikas Agrawal Maths bursary has been awarded to Year 12 students Christy Howe and Kobi Kung who both achieved outstanding success in GCSE Mathematics and Further Maths. Christy and Kobi are pursuing their love of mathematics and studying A level Mathematics at EMS6. It has been a pleasure to see their academic excellence develop at English Martyrs and for it to be celebrated in Sixth Form by being awarded this prestigious scholarship.

Any budding mathematicians can read more about the award here:

<https://ems6.bhcet.org.uk/about-us/financial-support/vikas-agrawal-maths-bursaries>

We welcome applications from students who achieve grade 9 in GCSE mathematics and enrol at EMS6 to study Mathematics A level.

Year 13 Parents Information Evening

We will be hosting an information evening for parents on Year 13 students on Tuesday 23rd September at 5pm in the sixth form building. Our sixth form team will be available to discuss your child's post 18 options and the UCAS process and there will be a speaker from a local university to share information about student finance.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

As part of their moral, ethics and Faith in Action enrichment opportunity at EMS6 our sixth form students are hosting a Macmillan coffee morning on Wednesday 24th September in the sixth form study area from 10.30am - 12pm. Parents and friends of EMS are welcome to join us and support this worthy cause.

Sixth Form Sweet Sensation Welcome Brunch

Our Year 12 and 13 students have made a fantastic start to the 2026 academic year and it was a pleasure to invite Sweet Sensation to EMS6 to provide waffles, ice cream and cake for our hardworking students. If you are interested in studying at EMS6, more information about our college and courses is available here: <https://ems6.bhcet.org.uk/>

Ms Henderson



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Year 11 Information Evening

On Wednesday 24 September, from 16:30, parents of our current Year 11 students (and the students themselves) are welcome to join us in St Anne's Hall to explore some key information relating to this important year in their English Martyrs careers. The evening will be an opportunity to hear important points about examinations, interventions, strategies and tools that will support all of our Year 11 students to achieve their potential in the Summer 2026 examination series. Representatives will be available from Maths, English, Science and RE, to outline what the students can expect from their exams in these subjects, and to answer any questions you have about the best ways to prepare for these exams. This will also be a chance to meet members of the Senior Leadership Team who are responsible for ensuring the quality of education at the school. Refreshments will be available for those attending from 16:15. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Mr Corcoran

The European Day of Languages 2025

The European Day of Languages will take place on Friday 26th September and the MFL department have arranged a variety of activities to celebrate.

Please encourage your child to take part in our Sprachenut competition which will run from 5pm on Monday 22nd September to 5pm on Friday 26th September. By completing as many quizzes as possible, they will be able to fight their way to the top of the school leaderboard. If your child is unsure of their log in details, please ask them to see their MFL teacher.

Students will also be taking part in a music quiz in PREP time and activities in their French lessons next week.

The MFL department have also arranged a 'translation bee' for students from our primary feeder schools and a group of Year 9 students will be taking part in a Fútbol Lingo event the following week.

We hope that this day will encourage students not only with their language learning but also their understanding of other cultures.

Ms Williamson