



The English Martyrs  
Catholic School and  
Sixth Form College

# Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #12 | 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the autumn term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a busy, productive, and genuinely uplifting few months in school. The run-up to Christmas is always full of energy, and this year has been no exception. Your children have shown resilience, curiosity, and kindness in equal measure, and it has been a privilege to watch them grow both academically and personally.

This week we have held a Christmas Liturgy at St Joseph's Church which was very well attended by the school community. Mr McCartie and Mrs Snowball did a fantastic job planning the event which was appreciated by all. The student choir performed throughout the evening and their performances were truly spectacular. The students' vocals with the candle lit church as a backdrop, you could not help but feel the magic of Christmas getting closer.

We have also seen a number of rewards trips going out this week across all year groups, including trips to the cinema, Ninja Warrior and ice skating at Billingham forum. As I have previously mentioned, celebrating our students for their efforts is an important strand of our mission, and something that we will continue to invest in.

It is also worth mentioning the incredible charity work that has taken place this term. Our students have donated hundreds of items for the shoe box appeal, which has been delivered to St Aidan's Church. These gifts will be distributed to those most in need in our community over the Christmas period. Our Sixth Form students have donated a significant range of gifts for the seafarers and those at sea over Christmas, which is further detailed later in this bulletin. Charity and giving back to our community are an essential part of our mission as Catholics. Our students at English Martyrs continue to make us proud planting deep roots within our community and town.

Our staff have worked tirelessly to provide rich learning experiences, from classroom projects to performances, trips, and community events. I am incredibly proud of the commitment they show every day, and I know many of you have shared your appreciation with them throughout the term.

I would also like to thank you for your continued support. Whether you've attended parent's evenings, helped with homework, volunteered your time, or simply encouraged your child through the ups and downs of school life, your partnership makes a real difference.

As we head into the Christmas break, I hope you find time to rest, reconnect, and enjoy the simple moments that this season brings. For those celebrating, I wish you a joyful Christmas; for everyone, I hope the holiday offers peace and a well-earned pause.

We look forward to welcoming the children back in the new year, refreshed and ready for the learning ahead. Term begins on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026, and we ask that all pupils arrive promptly and prepared for the term's new challenges and opportunities.

Thank you once again for being such an important part of our school community. I am grateful for your trust and partnership, and I look forward to all we will achieve together in the year ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson  
Head of School

## Year 7 and Year 12 Reading Programme

Our Year 12 Reading Leaders are showing incredible leadership and mentoring skills as they guide Year 7 students through the joy of reading - skills that will serve them well in the future.

Meanwhile, our Year 7 students are loving their time in the Sixth Form building, developing confidence, communication skills, and a lifelong love of reading with the support of their mentors.

This programme is a fantastic example of how our Sixth Form provides enrichment opportunities that benefit everyone - building leaders and learners together.

**Ms Jackson**



## Key Stage 3 English Enrichment

Key Stage 3 English Club resumes 5th January and runs every Monday 2.45-3.15pm. All year 7/8/9 students are welcome to join Mrs East in room 1.22 to develop their reading and writing skills and enjoy all things English!

**Ms East**

## Tees Skills Career Fair at Riverside Stadium Middlesbrough

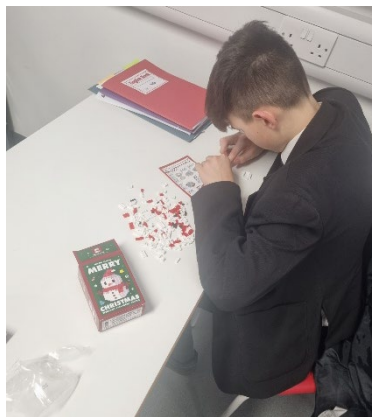
A select group of Year 11 and Year 13 students had an incredible opportunity at the Tees Skills Careers Fair last week. They explored exhibition stands from local employers and training providers, learning about exciting career paths and training options. They listened to inspiring talks from business leaders including Teesside's Business woman of the year 2025 Rachel Burke. Other leaders from the world of engineering, AI and biotech gave them a real insight into what these industries are like and how they can get involved here in the Tees Valley. It was a fantastic morning for them to learn, network, ask questions, and start planning for the future after year 11 and EMS!

**Ms Mincher**

## Savio – Christmas News

Savio have been doing some Christmas lego this week. This is to help us improve our problem-solving abilities and concentration skills. We were successfully able to follow instructions to build a snowman.

**Ms Allison**



## Key Stage 3 Religious Education

On Monday, 15th December, eight Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students took part in the EMS Christmas Bake Off after school. Each student showcased their beautifully crafted festive chocolate logs, which were judged by Mr Corcoran, Mr Gray, Mr Walker, and Mr Hutchinson.

The judges had a tough decision to make, but after much deliberation:

1st Place: Micah Coates

2nd Place: Matthew Barker

3rd Place: Amelia Ward

All of the students demonstrated incredible skill and creativity, and we are so proud of their efforts. Well done to everyone who took part—you truly outdid yourselves!

### Ms Hutchinson



## Year 12 and 13 - St John Paul II Award

EM6 and the chaplaincy are pleased to announce the launch of the St John Paul II Award for the 2025-2026 season.

The faith award will see students participate in a variety of parish and social activities in honour of St John Paul II. Students were inducted in the EM6 chapel on 10th December 2025 and are now busy planning activities which will include volunteering in the local community, participating at Mass, raising money for charity and visiting the sick. Students have already organised Christmas cards for a care home and completed a litter pick around EM6. The group will meet frequently for prayer, to share ideas and develop their skills.

We thank Amy Aris, Bethany Carroll, Charlotte Boagey, Erin Harper, Stan Scott, Lily Errington, Amy Coulton, Jessica Powton, Courtney Dixon, Abigail Lilley, Miguel Yambao and Denver Alicarte for their kindness, faith and participation in this highly respected award. Students would welcome any opportunities to serve the local parish and community. Please pray for our students and the success of their work!

### Mr Tucker



## Sixth Form - Updates

It's been a wonderfully busy and festive week in our Sixth Form!

**Leadership in Action:** Two of our students took the lead in organising the Youth Voices Choir Christmas Concert, showcasing fantastic organisational and leadership skills. Another student captured the evening beautifully through photography, ensuring we have lasting memories of this special event.

**Festive Fundraising:** Our Sixth Formers embraced the Christmas spirit with a bake sale, a Christmas PJ Day and name the teddy bear, raising funds towards their eagerly anticipated Leavers' Night.

**Welcoming Future Sixth Formers:** We were delighted to invite our Year 11 applicants to join us for a Christmas brunch in the common room, giving them a taste of Sixth Form life and an opportunity to meet staff and students.

We are incredibly proud of the initiative, teamwork, and community spirit shown by our Sixth Form students this week.

**Ms Jackson**



**BISHOP  
HOGARTH**  
Catholic Education Trust

**Christ Has No Body Now  
On Earth But Yours**

## Community Project

A huge well done to Isabella Williams, Hollie Allison, Wiktorina Hadala, Claudia Krancioch-Daniel, Erin Morrow, Maisie Reed, Theo Kroon who raised money and contributed to the community project.

These students managed to make a lot of family care packs for families who are staying in the Dragonfly Palliative Care room at James Cook hospital. They have also raised an additional £53 on their own through cake sales.

We are so proud of them, they are a credit to EMS

### Mr Barnes



## Advent Liturgy

On Tuesday 16 December, our school community gathered at St Joseph's Church for our Advent Liturgy. We were warmly welcomed by Canon Paul and the parishioners of Holy Family, whose hospitality created a truly prayerful and uplifting atmosphere for our celebration. Our students displayed exceptional musicality throughout, leading us in song with skill, reverence and joy. Our readers proclaimed the Scriptures with confidence and clarity, inviting all present to reflect on the hope, peace and love that characterise this holy season of preparation. This was a wonderful opportunity for the community of English Martyrs and the Parish of Holy Family to come together in faith and unity. We are deeply grateful to Canon Paul, the parish team, our staff and all the families who supported and attended.

Your presence and encouragement make occasions like this so special for our young people. As we continue our journey through Advent, please be assured of our prayers for you and your families. We look forward to sharing further moments of faith and community throughout the academic year.

## Supporting St Aidan's Church — A Community Effort

This Advent season, each form group from Year 7 to Year 11 at English Martyrs came together in a spirit of generosity and compassion to create shoeboxes and gather food donations for St Aidan's Church of England. These thoughtful hampers were filled with essential items and festive treats, reflecting our commitment to caring for those in need.

On Wednesday, it was an honour to welcome Rev. Becky Reeve and the dedicated volunteers from St Aidan's to our school as they collected the hampers. Their gratitude and warmth reminded us of the power of working together as a wider faith community.

As a school, we strive to enhance our ecumenical outreach, building bridges of friendship and service across Christian traditions. This was a wonderful example of how faith can unite us in acts of kindness and solidarity. We look forward to further opportunities to support St Aidan's Church and continue living out our shared values of love, hope, and generosity.

## EM6 Students Support Seafarers Mission — Advent Outreach

Our EM6 students in MET lessons have shown incredible generosity this Advent by creating hampers for the Seafarers Mission. These hampers were filled with thoughtful items to bring comfort and joy to those working at sea during the festive season.

It was an honour to welcome Shane Moore, the regional chaplain for the Seafarers Mission, to English Martyrs as he joined Year 13 for a special Advent Liturgy. During this celebration, Shane received the donations prepared by our students and shared inspiring insights into the vital work of the Seafarers Mission, which provides practical and spiritual support to crews who spend long periods away from home. Shane expressed his deep gratitude for the invaluable contribution from our school community.

On the same day, Shane delivered the hampers to the crew of the Lady Hanneke, currently docked in Hartlepool. He told us how the crew were extremely grateful for the gifts, especially knowing they will be at sea on Christmas Day. Shane shared that the hampers from EM6 truly "made their days" and reminded them that they are not forgotten during this special season.

We are proud of our EM6 students for their generosity and their commitment to living out Gospel values through acts of service and compassion. We as a school community look forward to continuing our partnership with the Seafarers Mission in the future.

**Mr McCartie**







## Student success in the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators 2025

As part of its annual enrichment programme, the MFL department encourages students to participate in the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators. This prestigious competition, organised by The Queen's College at Oxford University, challenges students to translate a poem or an excerpt from a novel from French into English. Inspired by the life and work of renowned translator Anthea Bell, the prize aims to promote language learning and foster creativity within the classroom.

Building on Molly Davison's national success in 2024, this year sixth-form student Bridget Krancioch-Daniel received a commendation for her entry in the North East region. Her translation of an extract from *L'Incendie* by Mohammed Dib (1954) was successful in its preservation of the stylistic nuances of the original text and notable for her creative solutions to address untranslatable elements.

If any students would like to be entered for the 2026 prize, please see Miss Williamson in the new year. The prize is open to all year groups with four different age categories.

### Ms Williamson





## School Production - Annie

We are very excited to announce our cast for the upcoming school production of Annie. Students did a fantastic job of rehearsals and worked incredibly hard to be a part of the main cast.

Rehearsals will begin after Christmas, and we cannot wait to put on a show for our school community. More details will follow in the new year.

Well done everyone.

**Ms Stirk**

<b>Character</b>	<b>Student Name</b>
<b>Annie</b>	Fern l'Anson
<b>Molly - Age 6</b>	Kitty Dunn
<b>Kate – Age 7</b>	Evie Harrison
<b>Tessie – Age 11</b>	Jessica Stead
<b>Pepper – Age 12</b>	Raven Teasdale
<b>July – Age 13</b>	Lucie Murphy
<b>Duffy – Age 13</b>	Althea Melendrez
<b>Miss Hannigan</b>	Freya Moir
<b>Grace Farrell</b>	Bridget Krancioch-Daniel
<b>Rooster Hannigan</b>	Niaf Nunn
<b>Lily St Regis</b>	Isabelle Magill
<b>Oliver Warbucks</b>	Evan Lister
<b>Drake</b>	Faith Milligan
<b>Apple Seller</b>	Bobbie Kemp
<b>Lt. Ward</b>	Olivia Coulson
<b>Bert Healy</b>	Katie Gibson
<b>Puppet</b>	Francheskka Shears
<b>Bundles</b>	Tahi Nunn
<b>President Franklin D. Roosevelt</b>	Daniel Johnson
<b>Boylan Sisters</b>	Tahi Nunn Charlotte Boagey Christie Howe Isla Gilbraith Alexis Newbegin



## Year 7 Updates

I cannot believe how quickly the first term has gone. Fifteen weeks have flown by. It seems only a moment ago that Year 7 were with us for our July Transition Week, and now they have successfully completed their first full term with us at EMS.

These fifteen weeks have been filled with so many positive and exciting opportunities. Students have settled well into their new classes and routines, formed strong friendships, and embraced a wide range of new and engaging subjects.

As secondary schools, we ask students to make a significant transition over a very short period. They move from being primary school pupils in July to being secondary ready in September. This is not always easy, but Year 7 have risen to the challenge brilliantly. They have shown great maturity, resilience, and enthusiasm throughout the term, and I could not be prouder of how they have approached this important stage of their journey.

I could be here all day writing about the fantastic achievements that have taken place this term. However, I would like to give a special mention to the cinema trip that we ran yesterday. Students had an amazing time, and this reward was entirely down to their hard work and dedication. It was wonderful to see them enjoy the festive film Home Alone together.

A special mention also goes to 7AL1 for once again achieving the highest number of achievement points this term. Well done to Miss Lester and all of the students in 7AL1 for your fantastic efforts.

Our rewards celebration took place today, and it was lovely to celebrate the outstanding work that Year 7 students have put in throughout the term. A huge shout out goes to Isla in 7JB2 for gaining the most achievement points across the entire school. Everyone in Year 7 is incredibly proud of her. Well done, Isla.

Progress reviews have recently been sent home and are therefore not available to view on the school app. If you have any questions regarding these, please do get in contact with us at school or speak to Mrs Hodgson directly.

Finally, thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support this term. I hope that all our Year 7 students and their families have a lovely Christmas and a well-deserved break. We cannot wait to see what 2026 brings for Year 7!

**Mr Hutchinson**

## Year 11 - Period 6 Update

Nearly 100 Y11 students were rewarded with a Christmas pizza party this week. Their hard work and resilience is starting to make a massive difference to their progress.

Now the Autumn Term has concluded, subjects have rotated and now have a different slot on the P6 intervention timetable. Please familiarise yourself with the new timetable in order to support your child's attendance. Updates on next term's Period 6 attendance reward will come in the new year. All the staff at EMS wish our Y11s a happy and restful Christmas in preparation for their final spring term at KS4.

**Mr Doyle**



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

### Dates for the Diary

Dates	Event
5 <sup>th</sup> January	Students return to school