



The English Martyrs  
Catholic School and  
Sixth Form College

# Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #13 | 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families enjoyed a restful and joyful Christmas break. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school this week, and I am pleased to say they have returned with enthusiasm, energy, and a readiness to learn.

The first week of term has been a positive start to the new year. Staff have been impressed with how quickly pupils have settled back into routines, and classrooms are already buzzing with purposeful learning. We have spent time revisiting expectations, re-establishing good habits, and setting goals for the term ahead. Your support in helping children return to school prepared and motivated has made a noticeable difference.

Throughout this week I have been working with staff to establish and develop our long-term vision for the next five years. I have been at the school now for a term, and I have a strong understanding of our strengths and areas for improvement. This has been developed through a range of methods including staff, parent and students voice, lesson observations, work scrutiny, data analysis and evaluating existing systems and protocols. This is an important time for our school as we plan the journey ahead and this vision will continue to guide the school and ensure that we stay focused on the right things. I made it clear to our teaching staff that this should never be just the vision of one person, but a collective vision that reflects the journey that our students, staff and wider community must take in order to effectively improve our school. The work this week has focused on ensuring that our values, priorities, and ambitions align and continue to reflect the needs of our pupils and the wider community.

Over the next half term staff will continue in collaboration to develop our vision. We will also be speaking with our students to ensure that they contribute towards it. As part of this process, we will be inviting parents to contribute through a Parent Forum later this term. Your insights and perspectives are invaluable, and we look forward to working together to shape the next steps for our school.

As we move into the spring term, we have a number of exciting learning opportunities, events, and enrichment activities planned. Further details will be shared in upcoming bulletins, but for now I want to extend my thanks for your continued partnership. Working together ensures the very best outcomes for our pupils.

Finally, a warm welcome to any new families who have joined our school community this term. We are delighted to have you with us.

I look forward to a productive and inspiring term ahead for all of our pupils.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson  
Head of School



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## 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**

## 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**

## School Production - Annie

First week of rehearsals and wow what a cast we have. We are all very excited to create such a fantastic performance for you to all come and see. Annie will take place at the Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre 24th-26th of March.

Ms Stirk



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## Enrichment of the Term - History

Key Stage 3 History club have been awarded enrichment of the Autumn term! Well done to all students involved, in particular Year 7 students. The club were awarded with a certificate, trophy and sweets from Mr Hutchinson. All students in Years 7-9 are welcome to attend; we investigate History mysteries and utilise Horrible Histories games. We also help to plan whole school events such as remembrance. The club is on every Thursday 2:45-3:45pm in 1.10.

Ms Edwards

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 Music	Product Design

## Year 11 PREP Exams

In order to mirror the summer exam timetable more closely, we have moved the February PREP exam series to the week after initially published. The exams now commence the week beginning 16 February and will run for the week before and the week after half term.

Further information will be shared shortly around the P6 and Breakfast Booster timetable and additional support that students will be able to access.

As with everything, we want to ensure that students are fully supported to reach their potential. We know that any exam series can be stressful, and so if there are any concerns, please contact Miss Taylor or Mrs Sweeting.

Mr Corcoran



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## Epiphany – Chalking of the Door

This week, students and staff at English Martyrs celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany with the traditional chalking of the door, a centuries-old custom that asks God's blessing on all who enter our school. Using blessed chalk, the inscription 20 + C + M + B + 26 was written above the Chapel doorway, marking the year and invoking the prayer *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, "May Christ bless this dwelling" while recalling the names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. This act reminds us that Christ is present in every person who crosses our threshold and sets a tone of welcome, hope, and hospitality for the year ahead. By beginning the term with prayer and blessing, we strengthen our sense of unity and purpose, ensuring that every classroom and corridor becomes a place where faith, learning, and kindness flourish. May God bless this house and all who call it home

Mr McCartie

## End of the Jubilee Year

Throughout the Year of Jubilee, our school community has embraced the call to be Pilgrims of Hope, journeying together in faith through prayer, collaboration, and music. This shared pilgrimage has united students and staff with the wider BHCET Trust, strengthening bonds and deepening our sense of mission. Highlights included the creation of the Trust hymn *Grace* and the unveiling of the Pilgrim Cross, both powerful symbols of unity and hope. Our journey culminated in a moving celebration at St Joseph's Church, Hartlepool, where members of our community joined Bishop Stephen Wright for the closing of the Holy Door, a moment that marked not just the end of the Jubilee Year but the beginning of a renewed commitment to live as people of hope. The principles we have embraced faithfulness, solidarity, and joyful witness will continue to shape our school culture, inspiring us to remain a community that prays together, works together, and celebrates together, carrying the light of Christ into all we do. Here is another opportunity to listen to our Trust piece to celebrate the end of our Holy Year: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzDk0pvvMDc&list=RDMzDk0pvvMDc&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzDk0pvvMDc&list=RDMzDk0pvvMDc&start_radio=1)

Mr McCartie

## Dates for the Diary

Dates	Event
5 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 13 PREP Exams
16 <sup>th</sup> February – 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 11 PREP Exams
17 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 13 Parents Evening (3pm – 6pm)
19 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 Options Evening (3pm – 6pm)