



The English Martyrs
Catholic School and
Sixth Form College

Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #15 | 23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the third week of the new term, the school has regained its familiar rhythm and energy. Students have returned with a positive attitude, and it has been encouraging to see classrooms buzzing with focus and determination.

Our Year 13 students have been fully immersed in their Mock examinations recently. This is a crucial period for them, and staff have been impressed by the maturity and commitment they have shown so far. We appreciate your continued support at home in helping them balance revision, rest, and wellbeing. Teachers have now begun the process of marking and providing detailed feedback to guide students through their final months before their exams.

For our Key Stage 3 students' homework is critical. One benefit of homework is that students get into the habit of working outside of school hours. This builds resilience for when they are in year 11 or 13 and need to revise at home to be successful. Building these habits as early as year 7 helps students with this demand.

The other benefit comes from what research suggests about learning and memory. Working independently is challenging and regularly bringing back previous knowledge into your working memory helps the brain code it and transfer it into the long-term memory. This then makes retrieval of key information easier. A good analogy is thinking of a journey you make regularly, do you sometimes find yourself realising you have not fully paid attention to it? Your brain has taken over, making something that was once unfamiliar, so routine it does not require your full attention. This is like the impact homework has on learning; students begin to remember a vast array of knowledge and skills automatically, without effort.

A particular highlight this week was the visit from Cameron Parker who is a motivational speaker. Cameron delivered an inspiring talk to students across year 11, with further bespoke workshops that followed. The message centred on resilience, ambition, and the importance of taking ownership of your goals. A moment that resonated with some of our students was when Cameron discussed effort and success, using an example of football to explain the concept to the students. He stated that a student's future in which they gain everything that they ever wanted would be the pinnacle or equivalent to the 'World Cup' in football. He then compared that to the least desirable outcome for their future in which he highlighted a 'Sunday League' level. Cameron explained that students who are not successful may be providing 'Sunday League' effort but expecting 'World Cup' outcomes. This reinforced our message to students that effort is the most important aspect of success. No matter how many times that you may fail, you must keep trying. This is the mentality of successful people. Many students have already shared how the session encouraged them to think differently about their learning, and we hope the momentum continues throughout the term. It was a timely reminder of the power of mindset—something we will continue to reinforce in school.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. The partnership between home and school is vital, and we are grateful for the encouragement you provide to your children each day.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School

Year 11 Revision Information evening

Parents and students in Year 11 are invited to join us on Tuesday 3rd February from 4pm to discuss the best revision techniques for each of their GCSE subjects.

There will be an introductory talk at 4pm from Mr Thompson and Mr Corcoran, followed by the opportunity to meet with curriculum leaders of all subject areas. Curriculum leaders will be sharing their advice on what makes the most impact in the final stretch.

Members of SLT will also be available to discuss more generic topics such as setting up a practical timetable and keeping on top of anxiety.

We very much look forward to seeing you all there.

Mr Corcoran

Year 7 Technology

Year 7 boys have been working incredibly hard in their technology lessons. Jacob, Richie, and Joey designed and created their own football-themed coat hooks. To bring their ideas to life, they learned how to cut, file, and sand wood into the shape of a football shirt, then bent, drilled, and screwed metal pieces to form the hooks. They carefully printed and cut out letters and numbers for the back of the shirts, before painting their designs in the colours of their favourite teams and players.

The finished coat hooks look fantastic, and the boys should be proud of their effort and craftsmanship. Well done!

Mr Carless



Sixth Form Success

Congratulations to Year 12 student Harrison who has been accepted onto the Naval Wings Programme run by the Sea Cadets at a naval base in Cornwall in February. This is an extremely competitive course with over 200 applicants nationwide and Harrison is one of 20 to have been selected on merit. Harrison has been a member of the Sea Cadets since 2019 and enjoys going out on the water in the summer, driving power boats and kayaking. Harrison has ambitions to join the Royal Fleet Auxiliary who work along side the royal navy to resupply and refuel them on deployments.

We wish Harrison the best of luck on his placement in February and look forward to following his progress in the months ahead, well done Harrison!

Ms Jackson



Holocaust Memorial Day

We have planned events across school for Holocaust Memorial Day; to remember the victims of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides across the world. Assemblies and Live Issues will be delivered to all year groups.

We would like to invite KS3 students to our KS3 History Club on Thursday 29th January in room 1.10 to paint remembrance stones to be displayed in school.

We have also organised for a second-generation Holocaust survivor to come into school on Thursday 29th January, to speak with Year 9 students.

The History Department.

Careers Assemblies and Work Experience

All year groups have received a career focussed assembly this week as well as the launch of Year 10 Work experience. Year 10 students are encouraged to find their own placements in areas of interest for them. The dates of work experience are 1st July to the 3rd July 2026. Letters have recently been distributed to parents through the app.

Helping You Support Your Child's Future

We know how important it is to have conversations about careers at home. Talking Futures is a brilliant resource to help you feel confident in guiding your child's next steps. The website offers practical tips, guides, and activities to make these discussions easier and more meaningful.

👉 Explore resources today: www.talkingfutures.org.uk

As always support is available on the careers section of school website, in school via our careers team or by email ems-careers@ems.bhcet.org.uk

Ms Mincher

After School Collection

A polite reminder to parents and guardians who collect students after school from the front car park on site. Please ensure that all cars are parked inside the marked bays and ensure that you are not blocking the live lane. This is causing road safety issues with cars blocking Catcote Road waiting to pull into the car park and safety concerns for both children and staff leaving school site at this time.

Thank you in advance for your support.

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



Year 11 PREP Exams

Week 1	Breakfast Booster	Exam (P1 & P2)	Booster (P3)	Exam (P4 & P5)	Period 6
Monday 16th February	Biology	Biology (75 mins / 105 mins)	History	History Paper 1 (110 mins)	English
Tuesday 17th February	English	English Language Paper 1 (105 mins)	RE	RE Paper 1 (90 mins)	Chemistry
Wednesday 18th February	Chemistry	Chemistry (75 mins / 105 mins)	French Reading/Spanish Listening (45 / 60 mins) / (35 / 45 mins)	French / Spanish Writing / Product Design (70 / 75 mins) / (70 / 75 mins) / (100 mins)	Maths
Thursday 19th February	Maths	Maths Paper 1 (90 mins)	Computer Science / iMedia / Business / Sports Science / PE	Computer Science Paper 1 / iMedia / Business Paper 1 / CNAT Sports Science / GCSE PE Paper 1 (90 mins) / (90 mins) / (90 mins) / (75 mins) / (75 mins)	English
Friday 20th February	English	English Literature Paper 1 (105 mins)	History Geography	History Paper 2 / Geography Paper 1 (90 mins) / (90 mins)	Maths
Week 2	Breakfast Booster	Exam (P1 & P2)	Booster (P3)	Exam (P4 & P5)	Period 6
Monday 2nd March	Maths	Maths Paper 2 (90 mins)	French Listening / Spanish Reading (35 / 45 mins) / (45 / 60 mins)	NFER Maths and English / Music (60 mins) / (90 mins)	English
Tuesday 3rd March	English	English Language Paper 2 (105 mins)	RE	RE Paper 2 (90 mins)	Physics
Wednesday 4th March	Physics	Physics (75 mins / 105 mins)	Computer Science Business	Computer Science Paper 2 / Business Paper 2 / CNAT Sports Science / GCSE PE Paper 2 (90 mins) / (90 mins) / (75 mins) / (75 mins)	English
Thursday 5th March	English	English Literature Paper 2 (135 mins)	History Geography	History Paper 3 / Geography Paper 2 (80 mins) / (80 mins)	Maths
Friday 8th March	Maths	Maths Paper 3 (90 mins)	RE	RE Paper 3 (60 mins)	

Dates for the Diary

Dates	Event
2nd February	Y11 Exam Preparation Evening for students and Parents (4pm – 6pm)
16th February – 6th March	Year 11 PREP Exams
10th February	Year 10 Parents' Evening
17th February	Year 13 Parents' Evening (3pm – 6pm)
19th February	Year 9 Options Evening (3pm – 6pm)