



Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #18 | 13th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy week, I want to share some reflections on themes that are being discussed widely across schools nationally, and how they relate to our own community.

Schools across the country continue to see challenges with attendance following the disruption of recent years. Good attendance remains one of the strongest predictors of academic success, and we are working closely with families to support students in maintaining strong routines. We invest heavily into attendance and safeguarding support for students and families, knowing the impact attendance at school has on the life chances of our students beyond year 11. We know that if a student attends school regularly, they are 80% more likely to succeed. We invest in a number of short-term incentives to motivate our students, which increases the likelihood of building good habits. The hope is that these short-term habits become a long-term commitment, in which students' invest in their own future. Our whole school attendance continues to improve and is now 0.6% higher than the local authority average and 0.8% better than this time last academic year. Thank you to parents and carers for your support.

Many headteachers are reporting an increase in issues linked to social media use outside of school hours and we are not immune to this trend. While the vast majority of our students behave responsibly online, we continue to see how online disagreements can spill into school life. We will keep educating students about digital responsibility, particularly through our PD curriculum. We have a full Key Stage 3 drop down morning next Wednesday that will continue to inform our students on how to be responsible citizens. You may have seen an announcement from the Department for Education recently, encouraging all schools to ban the use of mobile phones in school. Our current policies do reflect this, and it is clear to our students that the use of phones during school time can be both detrimental and damaging to student wellbeing and progress. Students are encouraged to turn mobile phones off and to leave them in their bags until they leave school site at the end of the day. If a student needs to contact home, or if a parent needs to contact a student, this should be communicated through the school admin office and the student's pastoral manager. Thank you to parents and carers for your invaluable support in monitoring our student's online activity at home and supporting our school policies during school time.

Thank you to parents and carers of students in Year 10 for attending our parents' and carers' evening on Tuesday. It was wonderful to see such a great turnout. Receiving feedback from several parents and students during the evening and afterwards, it was evident that they greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet with teachers and senior leaders, to discuss progress in their academic studies.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I am grateful for the trust you place in us each day. I hope you have a restful weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School



EMS Parent Community Advisory Board

We are delighted to invite you to be part of an exciting new initiative at our school – EMS Parent Community Advisory Board.

This group is being created to strengthen communication between school and home, ensure parent and carer voices are heard, and work together to co-design improvements that benefit our pupils and wider school community. Above all, it is about building even stronger trust, relationships and shared understanding between families and the school.

The Advisory Board will:

- Provide a forum for parents and carers to share ideas, perspectives and feedback
- Support open, constructive communication between school and families
- Collaborate with school leaders to help shape future developments and priorities
- Strengthen links between the school, families and the wider community

We are keen for the board to reflect the diversity of our school community. No previous experience is needed – just a willingness to listen, share, and work positively together for the benefit of our children.

Meetings will be held half-termly at times designed to be as accessible as possible, and involvement will be supportive and flexible.

If you are interested in joining, or would like to find out more, please complete the short expression of interest form (link below) by Friday 20th February.

[EMS Parent Community Advisory Board – Fill out form](#)

We truly value the role parents and carers play in our school, and we hope many of you will consider being part of this important new partnership.

Mr Gray

Message for Parents/Carers of Year 11 Students

As our Year 11 students move into the final stages of preparation for their upcoming exams, we would love your help in providing them with an extra boost of motivation.

We are inviting all parents and carers to write a short, good luck or motivational message for their Year 11 child. These messages will be given to students before their exams begin and will also be displayed in school as part of our celebration and support for their hard work.

A message has been sent out via the MCCAS app, which includes a link to the form where you can submit your message. If you have not yet done so, we encourage you to take a moment to share some encouraging words—your support makes a big difference.

Thank you for helping us make this experience a positive and uplifting one for all our students.

Mr Gray

Health and Wellbeing Support

Year 11 Exam Stress Support

To support Year 11 students through their upcoming PREP exams and GCSE preparation, we are planning two sets of wellbeing workshops:

One-off workshop before mock exams – focusing on managing stress, preparing effectively, and building healthy routines.

Three-week workshop series after PREP exams. This will be a deeper programme offering practical strategies, wellbeing guidance, and emotional support.

Further details are available from Mr Gray or Miss Taylor.

KS3 Assemblies – February 2026

We will also be delivering tailored sessions for Key Stage 3:

Year 7 Assembly: Friday 6th February delivered by Alliance mental health team.

Years 8 & 9 Assemblies: Friday 13th February delivered by Alliance mental health team.

These assemblies will focus on health awareness, wellbeing, and how to access support when needed.

Mr Gray

Year 8 – Religious Education

This week in RE, Y8 students have wrote their own modern-day parables. A parable is a story told by Jesus with a key moral or spiritual lesson. They have created some brilliant writing with powerful messages.

As Jesus was preaching to the Hartlepoolians, 2 of his disciples brought a man in a wheelchair who seemed to be distressed. The man said "Lord, I have suffered a terrible accident, paralysing me from the waist down. My wife left me and I lost my home. For the past 3 years I have been living on the streets, surviving, but still putting my trust in you". Jesus replied, "You have been suffering all of this time, but your faith remains? For this, you have been healed. Jesus held the hand of the man as he wept. A roar of applause struck the people of Hartlepool. The man turned to Jesus and said "Thank you Lord, for my faith and all of those around me, is renewed".

This story tells us to never lose our faith in God; it will find you when you least expect it.

8U1 Ritvik Kishore

Ms Hodgson



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Sixth Form Updates

Year 13 Aspirations

With the North East receiving significant investment and development in the film and television industries, we are delighted to share some exciting news from our Year 13 cohort. Several of our students have secured offers to study a range of undergraduate courses that will prepare them for careers within this growing sector.

Andrea has received offers to pursue Film Studies, while Evan and Jemima are aspiring to enter Film and TV Production and have secured places to help them take those next steps. We are also incredibly proud to announce that Harvey has been awarded an unconditional offer to study Media Production.

We wish all four students every success as they move into this highly competitive and creative industry, and we look forward to seeing the productions they will help bring to life in the future.

DWP Careers Drop-In

It was wonderful to welcome Jennifer from the DWP to the sixth form last week to host a drop-in session for students seeking part time employment and additional support when applying for apprenticeships.

We look forward to welcoming Jennifer back next month continue this support. Thank you DWP for supporting EM6 students!

Jennifer shared that every student she met and spoke with was outstanding, and she truly enjoyed each conversation.

Good Luck, Year 11!

The EM6 Team would like to wish all our Year 11 students the very best of luck as you begin your prep exams next week. We know how hard you've been working, and we're incredibly proud of your effort, commitment, and determination.

Remember to stay calm, do your best, and believe in yourselves - you've got this!

We're cheering you on every step of the way.

Good luck!

The EM6 Team

Sporting Success

Year 11 student Jack Ord is well on his way to becoming a world-class athlete. Jack regularly finishes in the top three at Hartlepool parkrun and consistently places first in his age category. His parkrun PB is an incredible 17:09.

His other statistics are just as impressive:

3km PB: 9:42

800m PB: 2:02

400m PB: 53 seconds

Jack currently competes for his county and has recently qualified for the National Finals.

Keep your eyes peeled for this superstar student—Jack's athletic journey is only just beginning

Mr Doyle



Period 6 Timetable During the PREP Mock Exams

The EMS Period 6 timetable will be adjusted during the PREP mock exam fortnight. Each intervention session is scheduled to run in parallel with the order of the assessments, ensuring that students receive targeted support at exactly the right time.

This means students will have the opportunity to gain vital subject knowledge and practise key assessment techniques on the afternoon before each exam, helping them enter every assessment feeling confident and well-prepared.

Mr Doyle

Spring Term PREP Mock Exam Period 6 Timetable

	Week1	Half Term	Week 2
	16th Feb - 20th Feb		2nd Mar - 6th Mar
Monday	English		English
Tuesday	Chemistry		Physics
Wednesday	Maths		English
Thursday	English		Maths
Friday	Maths		

Year 11 PREP Exams Timetable

Y11 PREP Exam Timetable 16th February – 6th March

	Monday 16th February	Tuesday 17th February	Wednesday 18th February	Thursday 19th February	Friday 20th February
Lesson 1	Biology	English Language	Chemistry	Maths Paper 1	English Literature
Lesson 2	1hr45(triple) 1hr15(combined)	1hr45	1hr45(triple) 1hr15(combined)	1hr30	1hr45
Lesson 3			French Reading 45m(F) 1hr(H) Spanish Listening 35m(F) 45m(H)		
Lesson 4	History	Religious Education	French & Spanish Writing 1hr10(F) 1hr15(F)	Comp Science iMedia Business Studies	History 1hr30
Lesson 5	1hr50	1hr30	Product Design 1hr40	CNAT Sports Science GCSE PE	Geography 1hr30
Half Term Intervention 23rd February - 27th February					
	Monday 2nd March	Tuesday 3rd March	Wednesday 4th March	Thursday 5th March	Friday 6th March
Lesson 1	Maths	English Language	Physics	English Literature	Maths
Lesson 2	1hr30	1hr45	1hr45(triple) 1hr15(combined)	2hr15	1hr30
Lesson 3	Spanish Reading 45m(F) 1hr(H) French Listening 35m(F) 45m(H)				
Lesson 4	Music	Religious Education	Comp Science Business Studies	History 1hr20	Religious Education
Lesson 5	1hr30	1hr30	CNAT Sports Science GCSE PE	Geography 1hr	1hr

The English Martyrs Catholic
School and Sixth Form College



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February Half Term Intervention

As part of the EMS package of support for our Year 11 cohort, we are offering some drop-in revision sessions over the February half term break. Sessions will be led by subject specialists and learning mentors.

Students should enter the school via the main entrance in the sixth form building and ensure they sign in at reception. Students should bring any snacks/drinks/lunch with them. There is no requirement for students to wear school uniform.

These sessions are open to all Year 11 students. If you wish for your child to attend a revision session over February half term, please complete the consent form sent to all Y11 parents via the app and to all students via Teams.

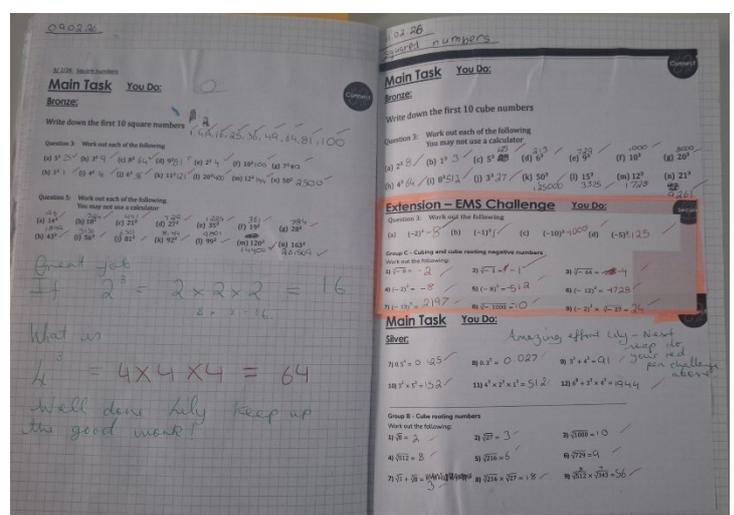
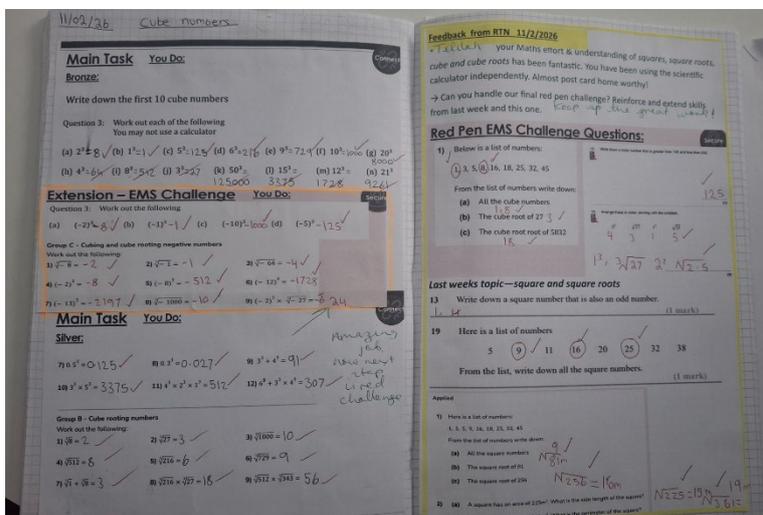
Mr Doyle

Date	AM Session	PM Session	Staff	Room
Monday 23 rd February	Higher Maths 9.30am-12pm	Foundation Maths 12.30pm-2.30pm	JMS & SWN	S7
	GCSE PE 10am-12pm	GCSE PE 12pm-2pm	VPR	S6
	Product Design 10am-12pm	Product Design 12pm-2pm	PMN	0.23
Tuesday 24 th February	Foundation Maths 9.30am-12pm	Higher Maths 12.30pm-2.30pm	JMS & SWN	S7
Wednesday 25 th February	Textiles 10am-12pm	Textiles 12pm-2pm	NHN	0.25

Message from Savio

The past few weeks our Savio students have been working extra hard. In Maths in particular, some students admitted certain symbols looked a bit like a foreign language to them. It felt impossible at first, but they didn't give up. Now our students are facing our red pen challenge questions. Well done, Savio! Keep up that tenacity and problem solving!

Ms Thurston



Dates for the Diary

Dates	Event
17 th February	Year 13 Parents Evening (3pm – 6pm)
19 th February	Year 9 Options Evening (3pm – 6pm)