



The English Martyrs
Catholic School and
Sixth Form College

Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #2 | 26th September 2025

Dear Parent and Carers

Student behaviour in school continues to be exceptional across all year groups. Students continue to demonstrate our virtues both within the classroom and the community. Throughout this week, students have been awarded over 13,500 positive points for displaying positive behaviour around school which I am sure you will agree is fantastic!

We have been involved in some community events this week, which encapsulate the vision of EMS and remind us of the importance of family. The first event took place on Tuesday, which was our Year 7 Welcome Mass at St. Josephs Church. 220 students attended the mass and they were also joined by Headteachers from our feeder primary schools, School Governors and members of the parish community. It was wonderful to see our students engaged in the mass and respecting the reverence of the occasion. It was also wonderful to see our students, whom at this time last year attended many different primary schools, come together with new friends as part of 'one body' in team EMS. We have received a lot of feedback from the various attendees, in which they confirmed what we already believed, that our Year 7 students are a credit to the school and the community.

For the second event of the week, we opened our doors to the community, for the Macmillan Coffee morning. The event was very well attended and included members of the local parish, parents and grandparents. Witnessing generations of families come together at English Martyrs, to support such a great cause was special, and a privilege to be involved in. A special thank you also to parents, students and members of the community who donated a wealth of prizes and cakes for this fantastic event.

The third event of the week took place on Wednesday evening, in which the parents of our Year 11 students had been invited to a preparation evening. The aim of this evening was to clarify what our students are required to do over the next academic year, and the support that is on offer to help them succeed. Mr Doyle (Assistant Headteacher) discussed the importance of Period 6 intervention, while our Curriculum Leaders for English, Maths, Science and R.E. provided exam tips and expert advice. The information for the evening will be shared with all year 11 parents over the next week. To finalise the evening Mrs Henderson (Head of Sixth Form) discussed the extraordinary successes of our Sixth Form Students, which highlighted that our students achieved some of the best grades in the town and many students achieved grades above the national average, an amazing achievement. I hope to write to you in the coming weeks, with more information around our Sixth Form College.

It is an exciting time to be a student at English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College. Together with your continued support, we look forward to an exciting new chapter as we build an even better future for our school community.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School



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A Level RE

Our Year 13 Religious Studies students have made a strong start to the year and are already showing real commitment to their A Level studies. The class have volunteered to attend booster sessions on Monday evenings after college to deepen their understanding. This week, they have been exploring religious pluralism and theology, engaging thoughtfully with a range of perspectives. The RE department and sixth form team are really pleased with their enthusiasm and the critical thinking they're demonstrating in lessons.

Mr Casey

Year 10 - Health and Social Care and Child Development

Any Year 10 students who are completing Health and Social Care or Child Development are encouraged to attend a coursework club. The club will take place on a Monday evening in room S7, between 2.45pm to 3.45pm.

Ms Bell

Year 7 Poetry Day

The English Department look forward to welcoming award-winning poet Charlotte Oliver on National Poetry Day, Thursday 2nd October. Charlotte will be running creative workshops with groups of Year 7 students throughout the day. Meanwhile, all students are welcome to pop into the library where there will be a range of poetry-based activities available.

Mrs East

Sisters in Sport Netball Shield

On Wednesday 24th September our U13 Girls Netball team travelled up to North Sunderland to play Whitburn Academy. The students played some brilliant netball in their first game of the season. The score ended 29-10 to EMS. Congratulations to Deb who was awarded opponents Player of the Match and to Erin who was awarded Player's Player. Great work girls, now onto the next stage of the competition.

Miss Parker



House Cross Country and Fun Run

Over 430 students from Years 7-10 took part in the annual house competition. Congratulations to the winning house team St John Boste. Students showed grit, determination and team spirit wearing their house colours to participate in the event. Some outstanding performances were observed in the Competitive Run. Congratulations to our students placing in the top 3 of their Year group.

Year 7 Girls - 1st Ava T, 2nd Verity A, 3rd Libby W

Year 7 Boys - 1st Isaac C and Tommy P, 3rd Henry P

Year 8 Girls - 1st Violet T, 2nd Jessie M, 3rd Adetutu O

Year 8 Boys - 1st Jack EH, 2nd Matthew S, 3rd Perrin J

Well done to all who took. We are proud of you.

Miss Parker

Year 11 P6 Intervention Timetable

Y11 P6 Intervention 2:45pm- 3:45pm Half Term 1		
Monday	Science	History
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Maths Business Studies	Art Photography
Thursday	English Child Development Hospitality and Catering Health and Social Care	Geography Product Design Textiles
Friday	RE Imedia Performing Arts PE	French Spanish Computer Science Sports Studies

Year 11 Information Evening

Wednesday evening saw us host our first Year 11 Information Evening of this academic year. A huge thank you to our four core subject leaders for sharing their expert insights into the exams in their subject areas.

It was a pleasure to finally get the chance to meet some of our highly supportive parents and speak to them about their hopes for their young people and the school in a wider sense. We are excited to work with you all to ensure we make the most of the Year 11's final stretch at EMS. There will be another opportunity to get some expert revision advice later in the year.

Mr Corcoran



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Reading and Library News

Year seven have just completed their first round of Star Reader testing and now all have reading ages and ZPD numbers in their planners. This allows students to access the thousands of books available in the library. Students attended a library session where they were able to choose a book to borrow that links to their appropriate reading age.

Readathon

Students are taking part in a readathon where they have been given sponsorship forms to take home and raise some funds for an excellent charity called "read for good". They do some excellent work with charities across the UK to allow sick children in hospital access to reading support. Look out for your children coming home with books and a bookmark and a sponsorship form to raise some funds. The readathon will run from Monday 29th September for one week.

Book Buzz

Today in their library session year 7 got to pick from 16 book titles after reading information about each book through collaborative learning. These books will be ordered next week, and students will be given a copy to keep encouraging further reading at home as well as school.



Fantastic Work

Year 7 have shown fantastic dedication and enthusiasm this week, impressing staff with their focus and effort across all subjects. Mr Hutchinson was particularly delighted during his visits to Year 7 classes, where he saw first-hand the brilliant learning taking place and praised the students for their outstanding attitude. Well done, Year 7!



Adopting Gatot

Year 7 made a truly meaningful decision last week by adopting an orangutan named Gatot through a partnership with the International Rescue Centre. This compassionate choice reflects their growing awareness of global conservation efforts and their desire to make a positive impact. We're all excited to follow Gatot's journey and learn more about his life in the rainforest—what a brilliant way to connect learning with real-world action!



Y7 History Trip

A group of Year 7 students attended a local History rewards trip to the Heugh Battery museum on Wednesday 24th September. This was made possible for those with 100% attendance and achievement points linked to History lessons. Students were able to gain an insight into the bombardment of Hartlepool from December 1914 with a guided tour from museum staff, and they then participated in workshops focused on WW1 weapons and uniform. Well done to all involved! This trip will continue to be offered on a regular basis for even more students to enjoy.

Mr Hutchinson



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Year 7 Welcome Mass at St Joseph's Church

The Holy Family Parish of Hartlepool warmly welcomed our new Year 7 pupils for their Welcome Mass, presided by Canon Paul at St Joseph's Church. This special celebration marked a significant milestone in the lives of our students, not only the beginning of their academic journey at English Martyrs, but also the first step in their personal journey of faith.

The Mass was a witness to the vibrant spirit of our school community. Our Year 7 pupils sang with joy with their voices filling the church with hymns and praise. Their prayerful participation reflected a deep sense of belonging and a willingness to embrace the values of our Catholic faith.

Canon Paul's homily reminded us all of the importance of walking together in faith, supporting one another, and trusting in God's plan. It was a powerful message for our young people as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

We are incredibly proud of how our Year 7s conducted themselves, with maturity, respect, and enthusiasm. Their presence, confident responses, and their heartfelt prayers were a testament to the nurturing environment we strive to create at English Martyrs.

We thank the Holy Family Parish for their continued support and look forward to many more opportunities to grow together in faith and fellowship.



Sixth Form Coffee Morning for Macmillan

Our Sixth Form students at English Martyrs have once again demonstrated their commitment to placing their faith into action. Since returning to College, our Year 13s, alongside our new cohort of Year 12s, organised a Coffee Morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Support during their Moral Ethics lessons.

The event was a true community celebration. Students invited their families, friends, and members of the Holy Family Parish to join them in raising funds for this vital cause. It was a joy to welcome parishioners into our school, strengthening the bonds between English Martyrs and our wider parish community.

The Coffee Morning was filled with laughter, conversation, and generosity. Tables were adorned with homemade cakes and treats, prepared by students and their families. The atmosphere was one of unity and compassion, reflecting the values we hold dear.

In total, an incredible £466.19 was raised, an outstanding achievement that will go directly to supporting those affected by cancer. We are immensely proud of our students for their initiative, teamwork, and dedication to serving others.

This event is just one example of how we are continuing to forge deeper links with our parish community. We are grateful to all who attended and supported the cause, and we look forward to welcoming you to our next charitable event.

Together, we are living out our mission to be people of service, compassion, and faith.



Mr McCartie



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Year 13 Information Evening

It was a pleasure to welcome parents of our Year 13 students to an information evening about post 18 options on Tuesday evening. Thanks to Northumbria University who supported the event and delivered an informative and important talk about student finance. There will be a follow up session for students in PPD later this half term. Any parents who could not attend, please contact our sixth form careers adviser for information: bscaife@ems.bhcet.org.uk

Sixth Form Open Evening

'Save the Date' Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 4th December. More information to follow. If parents or students would like any information about our sixth form, please contact: lhenderson@ems.bhcet.org.uk

Mrs Henderson

Dates for your Diary

Dates	Event
1 st October	Year 6 Opening evening 3pm-6pm
21 st October	Year 7 Settling in Evening with tutors 3pm-6pm
23 rd October - 3 rd November	Half Term
10 th – 14 th November	Year 11 Prep Exams
28 th November	School Closed for Students
4 th December	Sixth Form Open Evening 3pm-6pm
9 th December	Year 9 Parents' Evening



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