



# Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #20 | 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a pleasure welcoming students back after the half-term break. The atmosphere around school this week has been positive and purposeful, and it's clear that many pupils have returned refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

You will be aware that we are in the process of moving from Bromcom to our new management information system, Arbor. During my first term in post, I met with a number of parents who raised concerns about the inconsistency of communication and the need to access multiple platforms, such as MCAS and Class Charts, in order to keep up to date with their child's progress. This feedback has been invaluable, and the decision to transition to Arbor is, in part, a direct response to the issues families highlighted.

Arbor will allow us to streamline and modernise the way we communicate with parents and carers. One of the most significant improvements is the consolidation of key information into a single, easy-to-use app. Behaviour, attendance, timetables, communications, payments, and other essential updates will all be accessible in one place, reducing the need to switch between different systems. This will not only make information clearer and more convenient for families but will also support the school in maintaining more consistent, timely communication.

In addition to improving accessibility, Arbor offers a more intuitive and user-friendly interface, which we believe will make it easier for parents to stay informed and engaged with their child's education. The system also provides us with more efficient internal tools, enabling staff to work more effectively and ensuring that the information shared with families is accurate and up to date.

Over the coming days, you will receive further details about the Arbor Parent App, including clear instructions on how to download it, log in, and navigate its key features. We are committed to making this transition as smooth as possible and will provide support for any families who may need assistance during the changeover.

Our Year 11 students have now completed their mock examinations, and I would like to commend them for the maturity and determination they have demonstrated throughout this period. This was the second round of mock exams this academic year, and students are now well prepared for the forthcoming examination season. Considerable work has gone into establishing strong habits and consistent routines ahead of each assessment. These routines play an important role in reducing anxiety and helping students feel secure, as they remove uncertainty about where they need to be and when. By keeping expectations clear and simple, students are able to preserve their working memory for the demands of the examination itself.

We deliberately scheduled the two mock periods on either side of the half-term break to mirror the structure of the summer GCSE series. This has given students valuable experience in planning their revision, following a timetable, and preparing effectively for each subject. Such familiarity helps to create a sense of calm and reduces the unknowns they may otherwise face in the summer. Staff will now begin marking and moderating the papers, and we look forward to sharing results in our 'mock results day' and outlining next steps with students in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson  
Head of School



THE ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



# Annie

— The Musical —

**24TH - 26TH MARCH 2026**

**HARTLEPOOL TOWN HALL THEATRE**  
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BOOK BY THOMAS MEEHAN / MUSIC BY CHARLES STROUSE / LYRICS BY MARTIN CHARNIN / ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY MARTIN CHARNIN PRESENTED ON BROADWAY BY MIKE NICHOLS. PRODUCED BY IRWIN MEYER, STEPHEN R. FRIEDMAN, LEWIS ALLEN, ALVIN NEDERLANDER ASSOCIATES INC., THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS, ICARUS PRODUCTIONS. BASED ON "LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE" © BY PERMISSION OF THE TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES INC. THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (EUROPE) ALL AUTHORISED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI EUROPE



Hartlepool  
Borough Council



**BISHOP  
HOGARTH**

Catholic Education Trust

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

## World Book Day

For World Book Day we celebrated in style with staff dressing as characters from books. Additionally, at the start of Key Stage Three lessons, students were treated to a story (Roald Dahl's Lamb to the Slaughter) spanning the whole day- it was fantastic to hear students talking about what might happen in the next part of the story. The love of reading was strong across school today. We encourage students to take part in activities in the library and break and lunch time and use the day as a further opportunity to discuss favourite books with their teachers.

### Mr Jones



## Valentine's Day Charity Bake Sale

Two dedicated and talented Year 10 students, Sofia Bestford and Honor Gould, spent the last week of term in our EMS Hospitality and Catering workspace baking over 100 red velvet cakes to raise money for CAFOD.

Demand was huge, the cakes were delicious, and thanks to their hard work and generosity, Sofia and Honor raised over £80 for CAFOD.

A fantastic effort—well done, both!

Mr Doyle



## February Half-Term Intervention

Over the February half-term, our Year 11 students showed fantastic commitment by attending intervention sessions across a range of subjects, including Product Design, GCSE PE, Maths and Textiles.

Attendance was excellent, and the engagement throughout every session was outstanding. All EMS staff are incredibly proud of how well our Year 11s have conducted themselves throughout the PREP mock exam window.

Mr Doyle



## Attendance League Winners

Congratulations to Attendance League winners for season 3. The form groups join their form tutor for breakfast to celebrate their win!

Diamond-7AL2

Platinum-8MC1

Gold-9AL2

Silver-11AL1

Bronze-10JI2

**Mrs Corcoran**



## Edinburgh Visit - History

Students had a fantastic opportunity to visit Edinburgh this week on a History Trip. Students went to Edinburgh Castle, the Royal Yacht, the Dungeons and took part in an underground ghost walk! Students and staff had a great time and students behaved impeccably throughout the trip.

Ms Stanwick



## Author Visit – James Harris

We were delighted to welcome children's author James Harris to EMS on World Book Day. James was working with Year 7 throughout the day, and he was impressed with the enthusiasm and creativity shown by our students. Well done, everyone, and thank you, James!

Ms East



## A Level RE Students Inspired at Conference with Dr Peter Vardy

Our Year 12 and Year 13 A Level RE students had the exciting opportunity to attend an A Level RE conference led by the renowned philosopher, educator, and author Dr Peter Vardy. The event brought together students from across the region to explore some of the most important ethical theories on the A Level curriculum, delivered by one of the UK's leading speakers in philosophy of religion and ethics.

Throughout the day, students engaged with four thought-provoking lectures tailored specifically to support their studies and deepen their understanding ahead of examinations. The lectures covered the areas of:

### Natural Law

Dr Vardy unpacked the foundations of Natural Law, exploring Aquinas' key ideas and analysing how this traditional ethical framework continues to influence modern moral reasoning. Students were encouraged to reflect on the strengths and limitations of grounding ethics in universal human purposes.

### Conscience

Dr Vardy offered a rich examination of the conscience: its sources, its reliability, and its role within Christian ethics. Students compared theological and psychological interpretations, helping them build a nuanced understanding of this complex topic.

### Utilitarianism

This session examined Bentham's, Mill's and Singer's approaches to utilitarian thought. Dr Vardy challenged students to consider the practical implications of "the greatest happiness principle" and explore how utilitarianism shapes real-world decision-making in politics, medicine, and everyday life.

### Situation Ethics

In the final lecture, students explored Joseph Fletcher's perspective on agape-centred moral reasoning. Dr Vardy invited the group to discuss when it might be appropriate to set aside rules and traditions in favour of love-based, person-centred decision-making.

The conference was a valuable and inspiring experience, giving students the chance to develop their confidence, refine their critical thinking, and connect their classroom learning to wider philosophical debate. All returned with renewed motivation and a deeper appreciation of the ethical challenges explored throughout the A Level course.

We are very proud of the maturity and engagement shown by all students who attended, and we look forward to supporting them as they bring these insights into their upcoming assessments.

**Mr Bayne**



## Raffle Prizes – School Production

The performing Arts department are appealing for donations of raffle prizes to be won each night during our school production of Annie. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Miss Stirk at [CStirk@ems.bhcet.org.uk](mailto:CStirk@ems.bhcet.org.uk)

**Ms Stirk**

## National Careers Week

This week is National Careers Week and Virtual Work Experience is series of free, online, and interactive digital resources of varying lengths designed to help students and young people explore various career paths, gain insights into industries, and develop employability skills from home. Suitable for all year groups.

<https://ncw26.co.uk/>

**Ms Mincher**

## Sixth Form Updates

### Year 13 Aspirations

We are delighted to share the fantastic achievements of our students as they take their next steps toward STEM careers.

Alex hopes to study Chemical Engineering at Newcastle University, while Shang-Kai and Daniel plan to pursue Maths and Computer Science at Durham. Ellie is aiming to study Maths and has already received offers from Durham, Lancaster, Newcastle and York.

Jack, an aspiring Biologist, holds offers from Newcastle, York and Northumbria. Caprize is looking forward to studying Biomedical Engineering at Manchester Metropolitan University, and Cohen hopes to study Physics at either Newcastle, York or Northumbria.

We are incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication. We wish them every success in their future studies and look forward to hearing about the contributions they will make to the STEM community.

### Reminder for Year 11 Students - Sixth Form Interviews

A reminder to all Year 11 students that Sixth Form interviews will be taking place next week. We hope your exams have gone well this week.

Please note that the word interview is used lightly, it's really more of an informal chat to discuss your subject choices and how we can best support you as you consider joining the Sixth Form.

Before half term, you received an invitation with your allocated date and time. The Sixth Form team will come to collect you from your lessons when it is time for your appointment.

If, after your interview, you still have questions about your options, or if you haven't yet applied and would like help deciding your next steps, the Sixth Form team and your current teachers will be available to speak with you at **Year 11 Parents' Evening on Tuesday 17th March**.

We look forward to supporting you through this next stage of your journey.

### A Fantastic Achievement in Naval Aviation

We are pleased to share that Harrison has successfully completed his Bronze Wings ground school course during a week-long experience at a Royal Navy air station. He joined 31 other young people from the Sea Cadet Corps and Combined Cadet Force to learn about life in naval aviation.

Across the week, the cadets explored a wide range of topics, including the principles of flight, navigation, air engineering, flight deck operations, and weather forecasting. They also had the opportunity to visit key facilities such as the airfield fire station, the Merlin Training Facility, and Royal Navy aviation squadrons.

We are incredibly proud of Harrison's hard work and the skills he has gained through this unique and exciting programme.

**Ms Jackson**



## Year 11 Period 6 Timetable

Now that the Spring PREP Mocks have concluded, the Period 6 timetable has reverted to its standard sequence

Mr Doyle

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

## Catholic Life

### Ash Wednesday – Faith in Action at English Martyrs

This week, our school community gathered to mark Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the holy season of Lent — a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, inviting us to turn our hearts back to God and to live more intentionally as disciples of Christ.

Our EM6 John Paul II Award students played a central role in leading this sacred moment, truly placing their faith into action through reverence, service and quiet witness. From supporting the liturgy and welcoming members of our community, to serving with humility and care throughout the service, they helped create an atmosphere of prayer that allowed all present to enter deeply into this important moment of the Church's year.

As the words were spoken,

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,"

we were reminded of the humility at the heart of the Christian life. In the way our students conducted themselves — with dignity, attentiveness and generosity — they offered a powerful reminder that faith is not simply something we speak about, but something we live.

Through their leadership, our EM6 students embodied the true call of Lent: to pause, to reflect, and to respond to God's invitation by serving others with love. Their actions reflected the values we seek to nurture in all our young people — compassion, responsibility and a willingness to place others before self.

We are incredibly proud of how our students led our community into Lent, modelling what it means to live faith authentically and courageously. As we journey through these forty days together, may their example inspire us all to deepen our prayer, to grow in generosity, and to walk more closely with Christ.

### CAFOD Big Lent Walk 2026 – Faith in Action Through Solidarity

As part of our Lenten journey this year, our school community is proudly supporting CAFOD's Big Lent Walk 2026, an initiative that invites us to place our faith into action by walking in solidarity with communities across the world who face poverty, injustice and hardship.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 12 MET students, who have taken a leading role in promoting this important campaign by creating a powerful and inspiring promotional video for the Big Lent Walk. Through their creativity, teamwork and commitment, they have helped bring the message of CAFOD to life, encouraging our whole community to reflect on how small acts, when offered in faith, can make a real difference.

In producing this video, our students have lived out the Gospel values at the heart of Lent — compassion, justice and service. Their work is a clear example of young people standing in solidarity with those most in need, reminding us that faith is not passive, but something we actively live through our choices and actions.

The Big Lent Walk is an invitation to turn prayer into movement and generosity into action. Every step taken becomes a sign of hope, supporting CAFOD's vital work with vulnerable communities around the world. We hope that families will take time to watch the students' video and feel inspired to get involved — whether by walking, fundraising, or simply holding those most in need in prayer during this holy season.

We commend our Year 12 MET students for their leadership, creativity and witness. Their efforts are a powerful reminder of our school mission to live faith authentically and to respond generously to the call to love our global neighbours.

To view the created video, scan the QR code:

Mr McCartie





#Hartlepool  
HolidayFun

**We're hatching Easter holiday fun**  
Please note our new booking system!

It's set to be a cracking Easter as Hartlepool Holiday Fun gears up for another action-packed programme of school holiday activities for eligible school-aged children. **Please note there's a new system for booking places!**

Performing arts, multi-sports, mindfulness, life skills, football, a forest school, arts and crafts and STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) are just some of the fun-packed sessions for young people - plus they'll get a tasty, nutritious meal at each session too.

Under the terms of the Government funding, the programme is open to children who receive benefits-related free school meals plus some additional children.

Some activity providers may also offer payable spaces for non-eligible children at reduced cost.

Booking for all the Easter activities will open on Wednesday 11 March at 4pm on the new booking system at [eequ.org/hartlepoolholidayfun](http://eequ.org/hartlepoolholidayfun)

There's no need to create an account - just book and your account will be created as part of the booking process. You can now book for multiple children in one go.

Using Eequ, you'll be able to check your children's activity schedule, receive reminders and message the activity provider if you have a query - all from your account.

**Happy Easter!**

For more details, scan the code or visit

[www.hartlepool.gov.uk/hartlepool-holiday--fun](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/hartlepool-holiday--fun)

Hartlepool Holiday Fun

Supported by  
Department  
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## LOCATIONS

### Burn Valley

**Eden Academy Trust** - Stranton Primary School, Southburn Terrace, Hartlepool, TS25 1SQ  
**Empowerment Education** - The Women's Health Hub, The Arches, 79 Park Road, Hartlepool, TS24 7PW  
**Live it & Get Active CIC** - St Matthew's Community Centre, 143 Elwick Road, Hartlepool, TS26 9JF  
**Something Positive Solutions CIC** - Hartlepower Hub, 81 Stranton, Hartlepool, TS24 7OT

### De Bruce

**Al Stage Schools** - Centre for Excellence in Creative Arts, King Oswy Drive, Hartlepool, TS24 9PB  
**Simon Carson Sports School** - St Hild's Church of England School, King Oswy Drive, Hartlepool, TS24 9PB

### Foggy Furze

**Belle Vue Sports Community and Youth Centre** - Kendal Road, Hartlepool TS25 1QU  
**Lets Pretend and Play CIC** - 18 Sydenham Road, Hartlepool, TS25 1QB  
**R&G Coaching** - St. Helen's Primary School, Durham Street, Hartlepool, TS24 0HG

### Headland & Harbour

**R&G Coaching** - St Helen's Primary School, Durham Street, Hartlepool, TS24 0HG  
**The Sensory Spot CIC** - Heugh Battery Museum, 20 Moor Terrace, Hartlepool, TS24 0PS  
**The Sensory Spot CIC** - Royal Navy Museum, Jackson Dock, Maritime Avenue, Hartlepool, TS24 0NX  
**The Wharton Trust** - The Annex, Wharton Terrace, Hartlepool, TS24 8NS

### Manor House

**Central Hartlepool Group Mission Project** - St. Columba's Centre, 52 Dryden Road, Hartlepool, TS25 4HZ  
**Community Hub South** - Wynyard Road, Hartlepool, TS25 3LQ  
**Eden Academy Trust** - Eskdale Academy, 82 Eskdale Road, Hartlepool, TS25 4BT  
**Kilnarnock Road Children and Youth People Family Resource Centre** - Kilnarnock Road, Hartlepool, TS25 3NU  
**Live it & Get Active CIC** - English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College, Carcote Road, Hartlepool, TS25 4HA  
**R&G Coaching** - Grange Primary School, 145 Owton Manor Lane, Hartlepool, TS25 3HB  
**School's Out, Sport's In** - Brierton Sports Centre, Brierton Lane, Hartlepool, TS25 4AF

### Rossmere

**Gamers@Hart** - Rossmere Academy, Carcote Road, Hartlepool, TS25 3JL  
**North Star Learning Hub CIC** - Rossmere Youth Centre, Rossmere Way, Hartlepool, TS25 5EB  
**Rossmere Forest School** - 47 Callander Road, Hartlepool, TS25 3BD  
**St. Francis 2000 FC** - Rossmere Playing Fields, Rossmere Way, Hartlepool, TS25 5EF

### Rural West

**C&S Fitness** - Tunstall Active Building, High Tunstall College of Science, Elwick Road, Hartlepool, TS26 0LQ  
**Hartlepool United Community Sports Foundation** - High Tunstall College of Science, Elwick Road, Hartlepool, TS26 0LQ  
**HBC Participation Team** - Summerhill Country Park, Summerhill Lane, Hartlepool, TS25 4LL

### Seaton

**The Thrive Hive** - Former Seaton Carraw Methodist Church, 7 Farnedale Road, Seaton Carraw, TS25 1BH

### Throston

**Eden Academy Trust** - Jesmond Gardens Primary School, 3 Jesmond Road, Hartlepool, TS26 0JD  
**School's Out, Sport's In** - Throston Youth Project, Wiltshire Way, Hartlepool, TS26 0TB

### Victoria

**Gamers@Hart** - Bovis House, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 7SE  
**NE Sports Coaching** - Lynnfield Primary School, 2 Elcho Street, Hartlepool, TS26 8HP  
**Pets4People** - Salaam Community Centre, Murray Street, Hartlepool, TS26 8PD  
**The Sensory Spot CIC** - Masonic Hall, Raby Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AH

*Note - Some venues may be subject to change. Any changes will be communicated well in advance.*



SCAN ME