



The English Martyrs  
Catholic School and  
Sixth Form College

# Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #22 | 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

As we move into the final weeks of this term, I would like to share several important updates and celebrate some of the wonderful things happening across our school community.

A reminder that school will close at 12.30pm on Thursday 2nd April, the final day of term. Year 10 students will follow their usual morning timetable, while Year 11 students will take part in a theatre production and workshop designed to support their English GCSE studies. Our Key Stage 3 students will enjoy a drop-down morning, exploring a range of real-world themes aimed at developing their understanding of life beyond school.

Throughout the morning, we will also be holding our Celebration Assemblies, recognising students' hard work, progress, and contributions over the course of the term. These events are always a highlight and offer a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of our young people.

Please ensure appropriate arrangements are in place for your child's journey home. School buses will arrive at 12.30pm for those who normally travel by this method. Staff will be available across the site to support a smooth and safe dismissal, and we appreciate your cooperation in helping the end of term run efficiently.

On Tuesday, there was a truly memorable milestone for our Year 11 students as they received their mock examination results. This moment is always significant, but this year's cohort approached it with real maturity and determination. It was wonderful to see students reflecting thoughtfully on their progress, celebrating the areas where they have excelled, and identifying the steps that will help them continue to grow as we move closer to the summer exams.

We were also delighted to welcome so many families to our Year 11 Parents' Evening. The atmosphere throughout the event was incredibly positive, with teachers sharing successes, offering personalised guidance, and helping students map out their next steps with confidence. Your engagement and encouragement make a tremendous difference, and it was fantastic to see such strong partnership between home and school.

The excitement is building as we approach our school production, which takes place next week. Students from across the year groups have been rehearsing tirelessly— learning lines, perfecting choreography, designing sets, and supporting backstage roles. Their dedication has been inspiring to see, and the production promises to be a real highlight of the school year.

We hope many of you will join us to celebrate the creativity, teamwork, and talent of our young people. It is always a joy to see the school community come together for events like this, and we are incredibly proud of everyone involved.

As always, thank you for your continued support. The partnership between home and school makes a tremendous difference to the experiences and outcomes of our students. I hope you all enjoy a restful weekend, and I look forward to sharing more updates with you soon.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson  
Head of School



**BISHOP  
HOGARTH**

Catholic Education Trust

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

THE ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



# Annie

— The Musical —

**24TH - 26TH MARCH 2026**

**HARTLEPOOL TOWN HALL THEATRE**  
**DOORS 6:15PM FOR 6:45PM START**

**£12 ADULTS / £10 CONCESSIONS**  
PLUS BOOKING FEE

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE BOX OFFICE | TEL: 01429 890000**  
**OPENING HOURS: TUES-SAT 10AM-1PM OR [WWW.CREATIVEHARTLEPOOL.COM](http://WWW.CREATIVEHARTLEPOOL.COM)**

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



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## Oxford University Visit

We were delighted to welcome a representative from St Catherine's College Oxford on Monday to speak to year 10 students from EMS, OLSB and St Michael's. The students learned about skills for higher education, options for study at university and a bit about life at Oxford.

The students will be visiting Oxford in July for an exciting sample of university life. On Tuesday Year 12 also got to learn about how to apply for a highly selective university and their options going forward beyond year 13.

**Mr Barnes**

## Stations of the Cross - RE

This week, students in RE have been taking part in a reflective and meaningful journey as we walked the Stations of the Cross together.

Our Year 7 and Year 10 classes spent time moving through each station, following in Jesus' footsteps and pausing to reflect on the events of Holy Week. Pupils were encouraged to think about themes such as compassion, sacrifice, forgiveness and hope, linking these moments to both their faith understanding and their own lives.

It was a powerful opportunity for students to engage with the Easter story in a deeper, more personal way, and their maturity and respect throughout the experience was fantastic to see.

**Ms Fairclough**



## Mock Results Day – Year 11

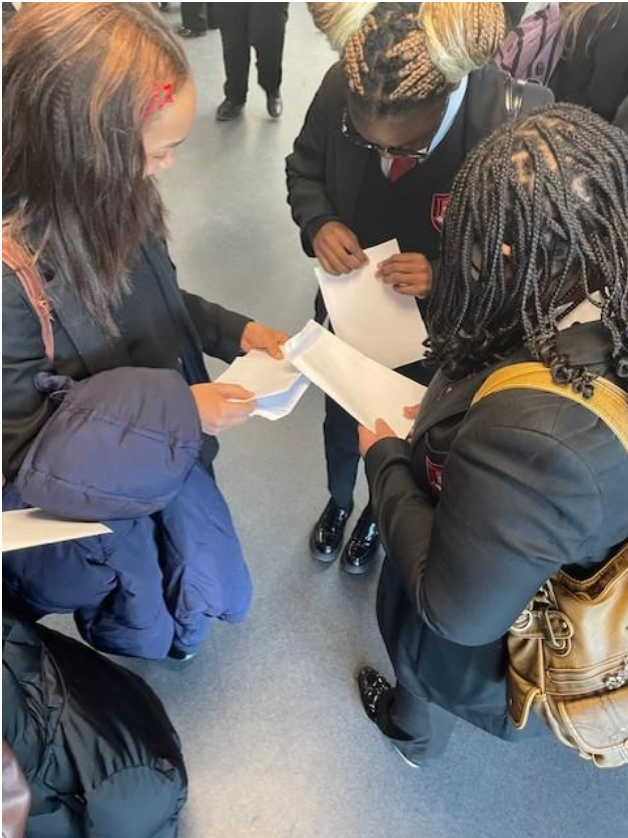
Our Year 11 students recently took part in an inspiring mock GCSE Results Day, collecting their results envelopes from St Anne's.

Designed to recreate the excitement and anticipation of the real Results Day in the summer, the event gave students a valuable opportunity to experience the emotions, routines and reflections that come with opening their results.

Staff, tutors and senior leaders were there throughout - celebrating successes, offering reassurance, and helping each student reflect on the incredible progress they have made so far.

There was a real sense of pride and purpose across the year group.

**Mr Doyle**



## Student Reminders - Bicycles

Students are welcome to ride their bikes to school. To help keep everyone safe and protect your belongings, please remember the following:

- **Wear a helmet** every time you ride. It helps keep you safe on the way to and from school.
- **Bring a secure bike lock** and make sure your bike is locked up properly in the designated bike area.
- **Bikes are left on school premises at your own risk.** The school cannot take responsibility for any damage or loss.

Thank you for helping keep our school community safe and responsible!

Mr Nicholson

## Period 6 - Celebration

Last week, 85 Year 11 students earned an extended lunch break and delicious Domino's pizzas as a reward for their exceptional Period 6 attendance!

The bar was set incredibly high, which makes this achievement even more remarkable, a real testament to the commitment and determination shown by our students.

Period 6 attendance is already driving big improvements in progress across the year group, and the positive momentum is clear to see.

Mr Doyle



## Year 8 Exploring “Why Do We Suffer?” — A Practical Lesson in Purpose, Support & Solidarity

Today our Year 8s brought their learning to life in their RE lesson with a brilliant practical demonstration of how Catholics can understand the purpose of suffering.

Ethan bravely took on a wall squat to show us that suffering can have purpose — it builds endurance, strengthens us, and helps us realise that we can face challenges again. But he didn't stay there alone for long. When George joined him, Year 8 discovered the value of support in times of struggle — we lift one another up when things get tough. Finally, Vinnie and Thomas stepped in, showing us Solidarity, a key principle of Catholic Social Teaching. By choosing to share in Ethan's struggle, they reminded us that no one should suffer alone.

A huge thank you to the boys for turning our learning into a powerful, memorable experience. What a fantastic example of faith in action!

#ChristHasNoBodyNowOnEarthButYours

**Mr McCartie**



## GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS St Joseph's R.C. Church to Victory Square, Hartlepool

Staff, students, parents and carers are welcome to attend a short Good Friday service in Hartlepool town centre.

Members of the Holy Family Parish will gather at St Joseph's Parish Centre Hall on Friday 3rd April, at 10.10 am, and walk to Victory Square for a short service of witness at 10.30am. After the service, we will return to the Parish Centre for refreshments. The service will be led by our school chaplain and students from English Martyrs in association with Canon Paul Douthwaite. Please meet at the Parish Centre Hall.

**Mr Tucker**

## Sixth Form Updates

### Double Health and Social Care

We are pleased to inform you that EM6 has now received official confirmation that the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Health and Social Care will continue to be funded for an additional two years.

As a result, we are delighted to confirm that we will be offering the Double Health pathway from September 2026.

This qualification is equivalent to two A Levels and provides an excellent route for students interested in careers within health, social care, nursing, midwifery, paramedicine, and a wide range of related professions.

If your child is interested in pursuing this course, applications are now open and can be completed online <https://em6.bhcet.org.uk/>

### Year 12 Oxford Catalyst Programme Visit

This week, a group of our Year 12 students had the exciting opportunity to attend a talk delivered by the Oxford Catalyst Programme from St Catherine's College, University of Oxford. The session gave students valuable insight into university pathways and what top institutions look for in successful applicants.

The programme offers tailored support for students considering applying to highly competitive universities. This includes specialist workshops on writing strong personal statements, preparing for interviews, and developing key academic skills. Our students found the session inspiring and informative, and many left feeling more confident about exploring ambitious university choices.

We look forward to continuing our partnership and providing further enrichment opportunities for our Sixth Form students.

### Student Finance

We would like to inform parents and carers that Student Finance applications for Year 13 students will open on Monday, 23rd March.

Link <https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance>

If your child is planning to go to university next year, they will need to complete a Student Finance application to receive tuition fee and maintenance support. We encourage students to begin the application process as early as possible to avoid delays in receiving their funding.

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with the Sixth Form Team

**Ms Jackson**



# #Hartlepool Holiday Fun

## 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**



## 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 7QT

### De Bruce

- AI 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 - Wynyrd Road, Hartlepool, TS25 3LQ
- Eden Academy Trust - Eskdale Academy, 82 Eskdale Road, Hartlepool, TS25 4BT
- Kilmarnock Road Children and Young People Family Resource Centre - Kilmarnock Road, Hartlepool, TS25 3NU
- Live It & Get Active CIC - English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College, Catcote Road, Hartlepool, TS25 4HA
- R&G Coaching - Grange Primary School, 145 Owton Manor Lane, Hartlepool, TS25 3HB
- Schools Out, Sport's In - Brierton Sports Centre, Brierton Lane, Hartlepool, TS25 4AF

### Rossmere

- Games@Hart - Rossmere Academy, Catcote Road, Hartlepool, TS25 3LJ
- 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 Carew Methodist Church, 7 Farnedale Road, Seaton Carew, TS25 1BH

### Throston

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

### Victoria

- Games@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



Supported by  
 Department for Education  
 Hartlepool Borough Council

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