



The English Martyrs
Catholic School and
Sixth Form College

Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #23 | 27th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach one of the most important weeks of the Church's year, we reflect on how this mirrors one of the most important times in our Year 11's education careers. In this final run up to the GCSE exams, our staff and students are working harder than ever to get across that finish line!

The hard work, however, is not limited to our Year 11 students. We have seen some incredible work being done by all our students. It has been a great privilege to observe some fantastic teaching and learning over the last few weeks, with visitors to school commenting on how well staff and students have risen to the challenges we are setting to improve the quality of education right across EMS.

It's also been wonderful to share in some of the preparation work that our school community has been doing during Lent. As we enter Holy Week, all students have had chance to reflect on the Stations of the Cross through their RE lessons, as well as witness the reverence and poignancy of Passiontide.

One thing that always strikes me at this time of year is the incredible rollercoaster that the short time between Palm Sunday and Good Friday presented for Jesus. The voices that cry 'Hosannah' on Palm Sunday, are the same voices that yell 'Crucify Him' just five short days later. Each year, it reminds me that we have a choice to make: we can rally together and support each other in our mission, or we can allow circumstances to drive us apart. One of the things I am most proud of since joining EMS is our commitment to stand together, as a staff, as a school community and within the wider community. The support we receive from you as the first educators of our young people cannot be overstated in terms of its impact on the changes we are experiencing.

A real highlight of my relatively short time at EMS came on Wednesday night, as I had the genuine privilege to watch some of the most talented people, never mind youths, I have ever seen perform at the Town Hall Theatre. The cast of Annie were truly exceptional. I have been to professional performances that haven't captivated me as much as this show did. I already can't wait to see what is produced next year.

Please remember that students will finish for their Easter break at 12:30pm on Thursday 02 April. Buses have been arranged for those who access this as their usual mode of transport.

I wish you all a happy and Holy Easter time when it arrives. May Christ's Passion remind us to stand together, and His victory over death remind us that all is possible through Him.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Christopher Corcoran
Deputy Headteacher



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Hartlepool Youth Parliament Election 2026

Last week I led assemblies for Years 7-11 promoting the election of the next Youth Representative for Hartlepool. Former student Oliver Huermann was elected to this post two years ago and now his tenure has come to an end, four more young people from Hartlepool are putting themselves forward for election. You can read more about Oliver's success here: <https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/homepage/158/hartbeat-magazine>

During their assembly students learnt about democracy, the values of mutual respect and the importance of young people using their voice to make a difference.

This week each student has been invited to read the manifesto of each of the four candidates and cast their vote in the ballot for Hartlepool's Youth Parliament 2026. The ballots will be collected by the council at the end of March and the outcome shared once all ballots are in and counted.

All students listened attentively, and it was a pleasure to see them engage positively with issues in their area and play their part in a democratic process affecting them.

Mrs Henderson

Good Friday Walk of Witness – St Joseph's R.C. Church to Victory Square

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 3 April, at 10:10 am, and walk to Victory Square for a short service of witness at 10:30 am. 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 (St Paul's Rd, Hartlepool TS26 9EY) for a 10:10 am departure.

All are very welcome to attend.

Thank you and God bless

Mr Tucker



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Sixth Form Updates

Year 12 Work Experience

This is a reminder that Year 12 Work Experience will take place during the week commencing Monday 6 July. It is essential that all students secure a placement as soon as possible and ensure that all required checks and paperwork are fully completed.

We are delighted that many students have already arranged their placements at a range of fantastic organisations, including Hart Biologicals, Orangebox Training Solutions, the NHS, local Primary Schools, Azets – Accounting and Business Advisors, EDF, Regency Finance, and many more.

If your young person has not yet secured a placement, please encourage them to do so as soon as possible. Early arrangements help ensure all health, safety, and safeguarding checks can be processed in time.

Thank you for your continued support.

Year 12 UCAS Discovery Exhibition

The UCAS Discovery Exhibition is fast approaching in May, and all Year 12 students are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible to secure their place. The event is free of charge, and transport will be provided for all students.

During the event, students will have the opportunity to:

- Chat to universities and colleges about their courses and what university life is really like.
- Speak to employers and apprenticeship providers to understand what an apprenticeship involves and explore the options available.
- Speak to qualified careers advisers about future pathways and next steps.
- Listen to talks from experts in a wide range of fields.

Information on how to sign up has been shared on Microsoft Teams.

Thank you for supporting this important step in your young person's post-18 planning.

Mrs Jackson

MFL Super Learning Event

Our Year 11 linguists had an *incredible* experience at the Trust's French and Spanish Learning Event at Carmel College this week! From cracking codes in a high-energy escape room using key vocabulary, to racing against students from St Michael's and Carmel in a thrilling translation challenge, our students rose to every task with enthusiasm and determination.

They also explored powerful higher-level phrases to elevate their French and Spanish writing; real "glow-up" language that will support them brilliantly in their exams.

Our students returned buzzing with confidence, pride, and excitement for their upcoming MFL exams this summer.

Mr Doyle



Easter Cards for Care Homes

A big thank you to students in Year 7 and 12, including Daniel, Gracie-May, Kayden and Sadie, who have been producing Easter cards for the elderly residents of a care home in Cumbria. Your effort and kindness will be much appreciated by the residents and nuns.

Mr Tucker

Careers Information

The following QR Codes will take you to a range of information, support and guidance on careers. These documents are provided by www.tvlpn.co.uk, which has even more information available.

Mrs Mincher

Apprenticeship Levels Explained



End Point Assessment Explained



Finding the Best Apprenticeship for You



Foundation Apprenticeships



Functional Skills Qualifications



How Do I Write a CV and Why Do I Need One?



Writing a Covering Letter



What are T Levels?



What is a Degree Apprenticeship?



What is an Apprenticeship?



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Year 11 English Performances

On Thursday 02 April, all Year 11 students will be taking part in two performances delivered by Initiate Theatre Group. The group will deliver a performance of Macbeth during their first session and then A Christmas Carol during their second. Both plays form part of the Year 11 GCSE Literature paper. Following each performance, there will be a workshop to support student understanding of the texts and boost their answers for the summer.

Mrs East

Easter Intervention Screen

We are pleased to share details of our Easter Intervention Timetable (added at the end of this bulletin). Over the break, students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will have access to a range of targeted sessions delivered by subject specialists and experts specialists and experts. Some sessions focus on specific topics or tiers, so please read the timetable carefully to ensure your child attends the most appropriate support.

A consent form will be sent out via the app at the end of the week. If you would like your child to attend any of the sessions, please complete and submit the form.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Doyle

End of Term Arrangements

On Thursday 02 April, all students will finish school at **12:30pm**.

During the morning, there will be a special PD curriculum delivered to KS3 students. Students will then take part in their end of term awards assemblies.

Students will have an extended break in the later stages of the morning, where hot food will be available. They will then be dismissed from classes at 12:30pm.

Transport has been arranged for all students who normally travel on the school bus.

Whilst this is a shorter day, attendance is still vital to ensure that students don't miss out on key information and vital revision in the case of year 11.

Mr Gray

Easter Intervention Tuesday 7th April

Easter Intervention				
Date	AM Session	PM Session	Staff	Room
Tuesday 7th April	Higher Maths Revision Learning Mentors 9.30am-12pm	Foundation Maths Revision - Learning Mentors 12.30pm-2.30pm	JMS/SWN	S7
	GCSE PE 9.30am-12pm	GCSE PE 12pm-2pm	VPR	S6
	CNAT Creative iMedia (Y10) 9.30am-12pm		DCR	2.03
	A-Level Computer Science (Y13) 9.30am-12pm	A-Level Computer Sci (Y13) 12.30pm-2.30pm	DDR	S10
	Business Paper 2 - 9:30am-12pm		DDR	S11
	A-level Biology (Y12 and Y13) 9.00am-11.30am	GCSE Biology Sep. and Comb. HT 12pm-2.30pm	SMG	2.18
	Creative iMedia (Y10) 10am -2pm	Creative iMedia (Y10) 10am-2pm	BMN	2.06
	Science Support (Y11) 9am-12pm		JBL	2.19
Digital Media (Y13) 10am-2pm	Digital Media (Y13) 10am-2pm	BMN	2.06	

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Easter Intervention Wednesday 8th April

Easter Intervention				
Date	AM Session	PM Session	Staff	Room
Wednesday 8th April	Foundation Maths Revision - Learning Mentors 9.30am-12pm	Higher Maths Revision - Learning Mentors 12.30pm-2.30pm	JMS/ SWN	S7
	History Crime & Punishment 10:30am- 12:30pm		VES	1.13
	Performing Arts 9:30am-12pm		CSK	S3
	A-Level Comp Sci (Y13) 9.30am-12pm	A-Level Comp Sci (Y13) 12.30pm-2.30pm	DDR	S10
	A-Level Chemistry (Y13) 9.30am-12.30pm	A-Level Chemistry (Y13) 12.30pm-2.30pm	CBN	2.28
	Creative iMedia (Y10) 10am-2pm	Creative iMedia (Y10) 10am-2pm	BMN	2.06
	Digital Media (Y13) 10am-2pm	Digital Media (Y13) 10am-2pm	BMN	2.06

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Easter Intervention Thursday 9th & Friday 10th April

Easter Intervention				
Date	AM Session	PM Session	Staff	Room
Thursday 9th April	Higher Maths Revision Learning Mentors 9.30am-12pm	Foundation Maths Revision - Learning Mentors 12.30pm-2.30pm	JMS/SWN	S7
	A-Level Comp Sci (Y13) 9.30am-12pm	A-Level Comp Sci (Y13) 12.30pm-2.30pm	DDR	S10
	A-Level Sociology (Y13) 9.30am-12.30pm	A-Level English Literature (Y13) 12.30pm-2.30pm	ASE	S1
Friday 10th April	Whitechapel History 10am-12pm		CTS	2.09

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Easter Intervention Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th April

Easter Intervention				
Date	AM Session	PM Session	Staff	Room
Monday 13th April	GCSE Business Paper 1 10am-12pm		HHS	2.08
	Law A-Level 9.45am - 12pm	Law A-Level 12.30 - 2.30 BM S12	BM	S12
	Art & Design 10am-2pm		VBN	AR1
Tuesday 14th April	CNAT Sport Studies 10am-12pm		AGY/JCY	2.03
	Textiles 10am-2.00pm		NHN	0.25
	A-level Psychology 13D 10am-12pm	A-level Psychology 13A 12:30pm-2:30pm	AHA	S13
	Art & Design 10am-2pm		VBN	AR1
	RE Paper 2: Applied Catholic Theology 10am-12pm		BCY	2.25

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Easter Intervention Wednesday 15th, Thursday 16th & Friday 17th April

Easter Intervention				
Date	AM Session	PM Session	Staff	Room
Wednesday 15th April	Biology (F) Paper 1: Topic 1&2 10am-12pm		CDD	2.17
	Textiles 10am-2pm		NHN	0.25
	RE Paper 3: Judaism 10am-12pm		BCY	2.25
Thursday 16th April	History Superpower Relations and Cold War 10am-12pm	History Weimar and Nazi Germany 1pm-3pm	SSK/RLR	1.13/1.15
	Geography paper 1: Rivers/Coasts 10am-12pm		AME	1.28
Friday 17th April	History Elizabeth 10am-12pm	Spanish 12:30pm-2:30pm	CSS/SYK	1.15/0.02

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