



Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #24 | 24th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable Easter break. It has been a real pleasure to welcome students back to school this week, and it has been heartening to see them return refreshed, settled and ready to learn. The positive atmosphere around the school has been very noticeable, with pupils re-engaging quickly with routines, expectations and learning. As we move into the summer term, there is much to look forward to, and we are excited about the opportunities ahead for both academic progress and wider personal development.

This week also saw the first meeting of our newly formed Parent Community Advisory Board, an important step in strengthening partnership between home and school. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for open and constructive discussion, particularly around how we communicate with parents and carers. Attendees shared thoughtful insights into what works well, alongside helpful suggestions for how we can further improve clarity, consistency and accessibility of information. I am very grateful to those parents who gave their time to attend and contribute; your feedback will directly inform future developments. We are committed to ensuring that communication is effective, two-way and supportive, and the Parent Community Advisory Board will play a key role in this ongoing work.

We were also delighted to come together as a school community on Wednesday for the Year 7 Mass, held here in school. This was a meaningful and reflective occasion, offering our youngest students the opportunity to pause, pray and celebrate together as part of their faith journey. The reverent manner in which Year 7 conducted themselves was commendable and reflected their growing confidence and sense of belonging within the school community. Events such as this are an important part of our ethos, helping to nurture spiritual development and underpin the values that guide all aspects of school life. I would like to thank Canon Paul for his continued support of The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College, our staff, chaplaincy team and students who helped to make this celebration so special.

Finally, I am extremely proud to congratulate our football teams on reaching the Town Cup Finals. This is a fantastic achievement and a reflection of the team spirit, determination and resilience shown throughout the competition. The players have represented the school with great pride, not only through their performances but also through their sportsmanship and conduct both on and off the pitch. Our Year 7, 9, 10 and 11 Boys all won their respective games along with our KS3 Girls team. I am incredibly proud of all of the students involved as they add to the rich history of sporting success at The English Martyrs Catholic School.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school. I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School

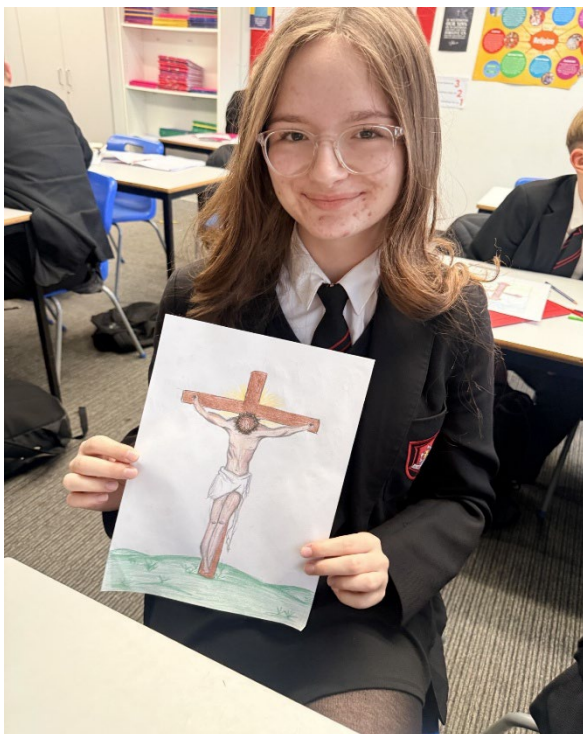


RE Through Art: Students Create Powerful Interpretations of the Crucifixion for Holy Week

Our students have been exploring the events of Holy Week through creativity and reflection. As part of their 'RE Through Art' lesson, they produced their own interpretations of the crucifixion, each one thoughtful, unique, and deeply expressive.

We're incredibly proud of the sensitivity and maturity they showed as they engaged with this important moment in the Christian story. Their artwork is a powerful reminder of the meaning of Holy Week and the impact it continues to have today.

Ms Fairclough



University of York – Shine Residential

Prior to the Easter holidays some of our Year 10 students had been to the University of York for the Shine residential. They have learned about Higher Education options, had a sample lecture on memory and psychology, worked on research techniques in an academic setting, and learned more about their personality profile! As well they took part in society sports and games as well as staying in a university hall of residence and experiencing University dining!

The students were fantastic throughout and a real credit to EMS.

Mr Barnes



Walk of Witness

A massive thank you to all who attended and contributed to the Hartlepool Walk of Witness on Good Friday. Students from English Martyrs processed alongside parishioners, from St Joseph's Church to Victory Square, for a short service to mark this solemn and holy day. The service was led by year 7 and 9 students, who braved both the wind and rain to read the scriptures and prayers of intercession. Canon Paul Douthwaite concluded the gathering with a blessing, before the group returned to St Joseph's for refreshments and some much-needed warmth.

People were gratified to see young people taking a lead on a day of great importance for the Christian faith, as one person from Stockton-on-Tees said, "they were a tremendous witness for the Catholic faith and give me such hope for the future, may God bless them". Well done everyone!

Mr Tucker



Easter Intervention

Over the Easter holidays, it was great to see so many students dedicating their time and energy to the intervention timetable. Nearly 100 students took part in revision sessions across the fortnight, with an impressive 550 session attendances recorded. As we head into the final weeks of preparation, the determination, resilience, and commitment shown by our students has been nothing short of inspiring. A huge well done to everyone involved.

Mr Doyle



EMS Tutor Groups Raising Money for CAFOD

Mr Hamer's tutor group, 9JB2, enjoyed a treat hamper this week after collectively raising over £50 for CAFOD. Mr Hamer's group beat stiff competition from Miss Richardson's tutor group, who also did brilliantly, raising over £45. Tutor groups have been predicting London Marathon finishing times, donating 50p per prediction and thanks to everyone's generosity, EMS tutor groups have raised over £200 for CAFOD overall.

Mr Doyle



A Day of Living Judaism: Virtual Visit from Rabbi Zvi

Today, our students enjoyed a truly engaging and enriching day in Religious Education with a virtual visit from Rabbi Zvi, giving pupils across both key stages the opportunity to explore Judaism as a lived faith.

Throughout the day, students from Years 8 to 11 took part in interactive sessions focused on Judaism and Passover, linking directly to GCSE content while also deepening their understanding of Jewish belief and practice. Rabbi Zvi shared his knowledge with enthusiasm and warmth, bringing learning to life through explanation, storytelling and opportunities for students to ask thoughtful questions.

Year 10 and Key Stage 3 pupils explored the meaning and symbolism of Passover, learning about freedom, remembrance and community. Students were able to see how a Passover Seder is set up and understood the significance of each item on the seder plate. Classes also had the opportunity to handle real seder plates and ingredients, making the experience memorable and hands-on.

Our Year 11 students benefited particularly from the sessions on general Judaism, helping to consolidate key GCSE knowledge and providing valuable insight into Jewish beliefs, practices and daily life from someone with lived experience.

The virtual visit was an excellent example of high-quality religious education in action, supporting our commitment to helping students learn about religions and from religions. Students were engaged, respectful and curious throughout the sessions, asking insightful questions and showing real enthusiasm for the subject.

We are extremely grateful to Rabbi Zvi for taking the time to speak with our students and for making the experience so accessible, meaningful and enjoyable. It was a fantastic day of learning that will stay with our students well beyond the classroom.

Mrs Fairclough

Sixth Form Updates

Year 12 PPD - Visit from the School Nurse

Last term, Year 12 students took part in an engaging and informative session led by our school nurse, focusing on Body Image and Body Modifications. The session explored the importance of self-care, self-confidence, and making informed choices about our bodies. Students were encouraged to think critically about the pressures they may face and to prioritise their wellbeing. The session provided valuable guidance on maintaining a positive body image and understanding the wide range of factors that can influence how we feel about ourselves. It was a supportive space that highlighted the importance of seeking help and asking questions when needed.

For any student who would like further information, advice, or support, the school nurse is available for both Year 12 and Year 13. To arrange a referral, students can simply pop in to see Mrs Henderson.

Sixth Form Easter Intervention Sessions

We would like to commend our Sixth Form students who chose to attend intervention sessions during the Easter break. It was fantastic to see such high levels of commitment and maturity, with students making the most of the additional support on offer.

Attending these sessions demonstrates excellent dedication and has provided valuable preparation for upcoming examinations and coursework deadlines. We are very proud of their positive attitude and proactive approach to their learning, and we wish them every success in the weeks ahead.

New Extra-Curricular Qualifications for Sixth Form Students

We are pleased to announce that from next academic year, Sixth Form students will have the opportunity to study new Cambridge OCR Level 3 qualifications alongside their main programmes of study.

Students can choose one or both of the following separate courses:

Cambridge OCR Level 3 Personal Finance

Cambridge OCR Level 3 Oracy

These qualifications are completed during Year 12, allowing students to gain valuable skills and qualifications early, helping them to stand out in applications and make a strong start to Sixth Form study.

Both courses carry UCAS points upon successful completion, enhance students' academic portfolios and develop essential, transferable skills that support progression to university, apprenticeships, or employment

The Personal Finance course builds practical financial knowledge for adult life, while the Oracy course develops confident communication, presentation, and critical thinking skills.

Further information, including entry requirements and course structure, will be shared with students and parents in due course.

THE ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



EMS LIVE

2026

ST. ANNE'S HALL
WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL

DOORS : 5:30PM FOR 6PM START
ENTRY £3 - PAY ON THE DOOR - CASH OR CARD

MONEY RAISED WILL BE GOING TOWARDS FUNDING SCHOOL PROJECTS



BISHOP
HOGARTH
Catholic Education Trust

Christ Has No Body Now
On Earth But Yours