



The English Martyrs
Catholic School and
Sixth Form College

Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #32 | 10th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another academic year, this final bulletin provides an opportunity to reflect on what has been a truly remarkable year for our school community.

Throughout the year, we have worked together with a shared commitment to ensuring that every student is able to thrive academically, socially and personally. Looking back on the past twelve months, there is much to celebrate and many reasons to be proud of the progress we have made together.

One of the most significant developments has been the improvement in student behaviour across all aspects of school life. Classrooms are calmer, learning is more focused, and students are demonstrating higher standards of conduct both during lessons and around the school site. These improvements have not happened by chance; they are the result of clear expectations, consistent support from staff, and the willingness of our students to embrace the values that underpin our school community. The positive atmosphere that visitors frequently comment upon is a testament to the collective efforts of students, staff and families.

Alongside this, we have seen a significant improvement in attendance. We know that attendance is one of the most important factors influencing educational success, and it has been encouraging to see more students attending regularly and engaging fully with their learning. Thank you to parents and carers for your support in reinforcing the importance of attendance and ensuring students are in school each day, ready to learn.

Perhaps most pleasing of all has been the transformation in our school culture. There is a stronger sense of belonging, pride and aspiration amongst our students than ever before. Across all year groups, we have seen students increasingly willing to contribute to school life, support one another and take pride in their achievements. The culture we are building is one where students feel safe, valued and challenged to be the very best versions of themselves.

A key factor in this success has been the strengthening of our partnership with parents and carers. Throughout the year we have sought to improve communication, increase opportunities for engagement and ensure that parents have a stronger voice in the life of the school. The development of parent forums, information sessions and regular opportunities for feedback has helped us build relationships based on trust, openness and collaboration. Schools are most successful when families and staff work together, and I am grateful for the support, challenge and encouragement that so many parents have provided throughout the year.

This positive picture has been reinforced by the feedback we have received through both student and parent voice activities. It has been encouraging to hear students speak positively about their experiences in school and to see parents recognising the improvements that have taken place. While there is always more work to do, this feedback gives us confidence that we are moving firmly in the right direction.



**BISHOP
HOGARTH**

Catholic Education Trust

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

As we look ahead, there is a genuine sense of excitement about the future. We remain ambitious for every young person in our care and are determined to continue building upon the foundations established this year. In particular, we look forward to seeing the outcomes of the extensive support and intervention provided to our Year 11 students. The commitment shown by staff and students through revision programmes, intervention sessions, Period 6 learning and targeted support has been exceptional. We are hopeful that this investment of time, effort and expertise will be reflected in a strong set of examination outcomes and will provide our students with the opportunities they deserve as they move on to the next stage of their education.

As Headteacher, I would like to thank every member of our school community. To our students, thank you for your hard work and commitment. To our staff, thank you for your dedication and professionalism. To our parents and carers, thank you for your unwavering support and partnership throughout the year.

While this may be the final bulletin of the academic year, it is by no means the end of our journey. We have achieved a great deal together, but our ambitions remain high, and I am confident that the coming year will bring even greater success.

I wish you and your families a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break, and I look forward to welcoming students back in September for another exciting chapter in the life of The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School

Year 10 Work experience 2026

Last week, our Year 10 students stepped beyond the classroom and into the workplace for a fantastic week of work experience.

Students gained valuable insight into a wide range of careers, spending time in primary schools, engineering workshops, hospitality venue, retail businesses, hair and beauty salons, architecture firms, dental practices, pharmacies, laboratories, armed forces and many other workplaces. They developed new skills, built confidence, and experienced first-hand what life in the workplace is really like.

We are incredibly proud of the professionalism, enthusiasm and maturity shown by our students throughout the week. Their positive attitude and willingness to learn made a lasting impression on employers across the community.

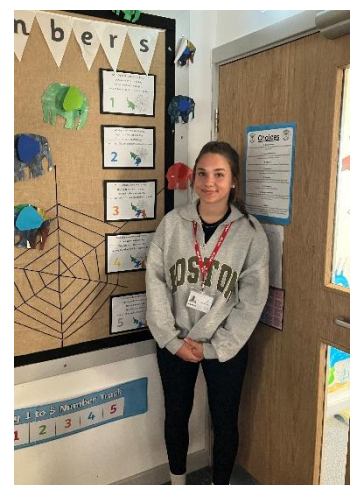
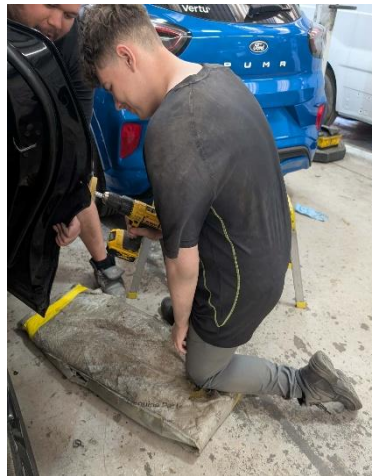
The feedback from employers was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising our students for their excellent work ethic, reliability and eagerness to learn. We are delighted that several students have already been offered part-time employment once they turn 16, while others have committed to volunteering during the summer holidays to gain further experience and develop their skills.

A huge thank you to all the parents, businesses, organisations and staff who welcomed our students and provided such meaningful opportunities. Your support plays a vital role in helping young people explore future career pathways and build confidence for the next stage of their journey.

We are always keen to develop new employer partnerships. If you would be interested in hosting a Year 10 or Year 12 student for a work experience placement next year, please contact Mrs Mincher at kmincher@ems.bhcet.org.uk. Your support can make a real difference in helping our students explore future career opportunities and gain valuable experience in the workplace.

Well done, Year 10 – you have represented the school brilliantly, and we look forward to seeing where these experiences take you next!

Ms Mincher



Student Absences 2026/27

From September 2026, The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College will only accept reports of daily student absence via the attendance line on 01429 273790, selecting Option 1. App messages and emails will no longer be accepted for reporting a child's absence. When leaving a voicemail, parents and carers must clearly state the student's full name, form group, and the specific reason for absence. The school will require a clear explanation of the illness or circumstance causing the absence. This change has been introduced to safeguard our students and ensure that absence information is communicated accurately and consistently. Please note that a member of staff may contact you to discuss your child's absence as part of our commitment to student welfare and to offer support where appropriate.

Ms Corcoran

Oxford University Visit

On Tuesday and Wednesday this week Year 10 students visited Oxford University and stayed at St Catherine's College. They learned about debating skills, toured the city, and visited the Ashmolean Art Museum.

Mr Barnes



SEND Cookery Club – A Tasty Term of Learning and Fun

This term, Cookery Club has been filled with delicious aromas, happy chatter, and plenty of culinary adventures. Our young chefs have worked hard to develop their cooking skills while creating a fantastic range of tasty dishes.

Throughout the term, students have learned a variety of practical kitchen skills, including chopping, peeling, grating, and whisking ingredients safely and confidently. They have explored different cooking methods such as frying, steaming, grilling, and baking, learning how each technique can transform simple ingredients into delicious meals and snacks.

Our recipes this term have taken us on a culinary journey around the world. Students prepared fresh and colourful fruit salad, crispy pizza toast, and spicy potato wedges. They demonstrated their baking skills by making mouth-watering muffins and rich, chocolatey brownies, which were always very popular!

The club also explored a variety of savoury dishes. Students created a comforting cheesy pasta bake and enjoyed trying a "fake-away" menu featuring Chinese egg fried rice and curry sauce. One of our more adventurous sessions saw students making authentic-style Chinese pot-sticker dumplings, which required careful preparation, folding, and teamwork.

As well as learning how to follow recipes, students developed important life skills such as kitchen hygiene, safe food handling, measuring ingredients accurately, and cleaning up after cooking. It has been wonderful to watch their confidence grow as they became more independent and willing to try new foods and techniques.

There have been plenty of laughs along the way, a few floury aprons, and lots of proud smiles when dishes were successfully completed. Remarkably, we managed to make all of these wonderful dishes and only set off the fire alarm once—which, we think, is an impressive achievement for a busy term of frying, grilling, baking, and enthusiastic cooking!

The enthusiasm, creativity, and determination shown by everyone have made Cookery Club a great success this term. We are incredibly proud of all our young cooks and everything they have achieved.

Well done, chefs – you've certainly cooked up a storm this term!

Ms Graham



Year 12 Work Experience Success

We have received outstanding feedback from employers who hosted our Year 12 students during their work experience placements, and we could not be prouder of their achievements.

Throughout the week, our students demonstrated professionalism, enthusiasm, maturity, and a strong work ethic, acting as excellent ambassadors for the college and showcasing the talents and potential of young people today.

One employer who hosted two of our students summed it up perfectly, saying:

"The students are fab, possibly two of the best students we've ever had on site."

This feedback reflects the commitment and positive attitude shown by so many of our students. Well done to our Year 12 cohort—this has been an incredibly busy half-term, yet you have continued to rise to every challenge with determination, positivity, and a smile.

We are extremely proud of everything you have accomplished and look forward to seeing what you achieve next.

The Sixth Form Team

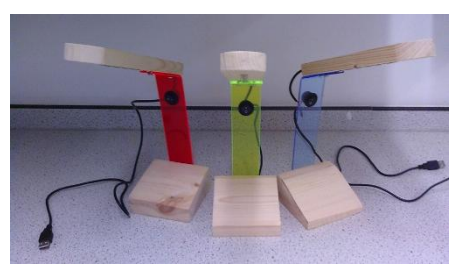
Design Technology

Key Stage 3 have been working very hard in Design Technology to produce their end of year projects.

Year 7 have made a phone holder.

Year 8 have made a candle holder.

Year 9 have made LED lamps.



Last Day of Term and First Day Back

A final reminder that the final day of the school year will conclude on Friday 17th July at 12.30pm. All school transport will be operational, and we ensure that all children will have access to the full school catering service prior to them leaving school site.

The academic year 26/27 begins on **Wednesday 2nd September** for all students.

Mr Lindsay

Safeguarding

EMS Safeguarding continues throughout the summer break with a reduced service. Please look out for the Safeguarding Newsletter which will be shared shortly with parents and carers.

Mr Lindsay

Chaplaincy

Thank you to all the students and staff who have contributed to the Chaplaincy since my arrival at English Martyrs late last year. Staff, students, parents, carers and the wider community will be in my prayers as usual over the summer. God bless you all.

Mr Tucker

Date	Up and coming events
13 th July-16 th July	Transition days
14 th July	Yr 6 Parents Evening
16 th July	Rewards Day



Summer Reading Recommendations

“Go All In” this summer as part of the National Year of Reading with some great recommendations to entertain you and your family.

For adults and older readers

Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir

The book behind the blockbuster film.

Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission—and if he fails, humanity and the earth itself will perish.

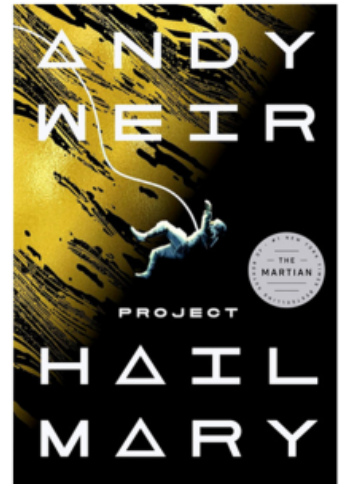
Except that right now, he doesn't know that. He can't even remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it.

All he knows is that he's been asleep for a very, very long time. And he's just been awakened to find himself millions of miles from home, with nothing but two corpses for company.

His crewmates dead, his memories fuzzily returning, Ryland realizes that an impossible task now confronts him. Hurtling through space on this tiny ship, it's up to him to puzzle out an impossible scientific mystery—and conquer an extinction-level threat to our species.

And with the clock ticking down and the nearest human being light-years away, he's got to do it all alone.

Or does he?



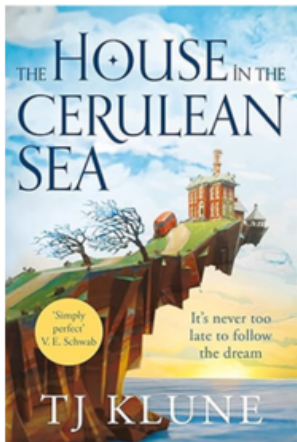
The House in the Cerulean Sea by TJ Klune

Linus Baker leads a quiet, solitary life. At forty, he lives in a tiny house with a devious cat and his old records. As a Case Worker at the Department in Charge of Magical Youth, he spends his days overseeing the well-being of children in government-sanctioned orphanages.

When Linus is unexpectedly summoned by Extremely Upper Management he's given a curious and highly classified assignment: travel to Marsyas Island Orphanage, where six dangerous children reside: a gnome, a sprite, a wyvern, an unidentifiable green blob, a were-Pomeranian, and the Antichrist. Linus must set aside his fears and determine whether or not they're likely to bring about the end of days.

But the children aren't the only secret the island keeps. Their caretaker is the charming and enigmatic Arthur Parnassus, who will do anything to keep his wards safe. As Arthur and Linus grow closer, long-held secrets are exposed, and Linus must make a choice: destroy a home or watch the world burn.

An enchanting story, masterfully told, *The House in the Cerulean Sea* is about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place—and realizing that family is yours.



HI Know How This Ends by Holly Smale

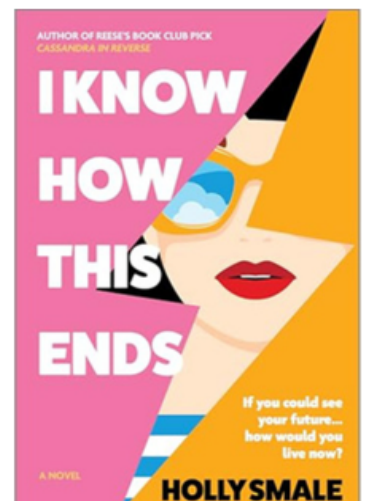
Margot Wayward is in manically gleeful self-destruct mode. Following the implosion of a ten-year relationship, she's wilfully derailing her successful career, joyfully taking down men on dating apps, and living in total chaos.

Until one day, when Margot has a vision of herself with a man she's never met before. She doesn't believe in fate. But when Margot meets single-dad Henry, the vision comes true: exactly as she'd foreseen it.

As her future continues to reveal itself, a glimpse at a time, Margot realises she knows exactly what's going to happen, and when. And there's nothing she can do to change any of it.

So Margot has to decide how to live, how to love again, and how to be herself...

Because if you can't change your destiny, how on earth do you live your present?



**BISHOP
HOGARTH**

Catholic Education Trust

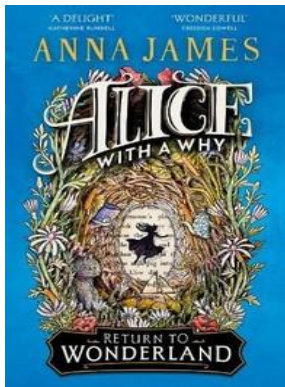
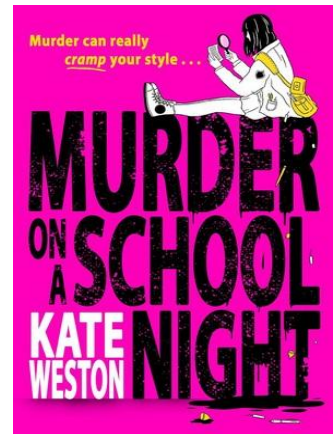
**Christ Has No Body Now
On Earth But Yours**

Murder on a School Night by Kate Weston (14 years upwards)

There's never a good time to find a dead body. But finding a dead body while you're trying to kiss your crush?

Dead awkward.

All Kerry wants to do is stay at home with her rom-coms and strict retainer schedule. Instead, her BFF Annie has roped her into going to their first sixth-form party to investigate who's cyberbullying Heather, the most popular girl in school. On the cusp of kissing her dreamy crush, Scott, Kerry discovers the body of Heather's second in command – suffocated with a menstrual cup. Within days, another student turns up dead, this time with a sanitary pad across the eyes. Now Annie and Kerry are officially on the case to stop the menstrual murderer . . . period.



Alice With a Why by Anna James (11 -12 years)

England, 1919. Alyce – with a Y – lives with her grandmother, the original Alice, having lost her father during the Great War. When a mysterious invitation to a tea party hits her square in the face, Alyce realises her grandmother's strange stories of a place called Wonderland might have some truth to them after all.

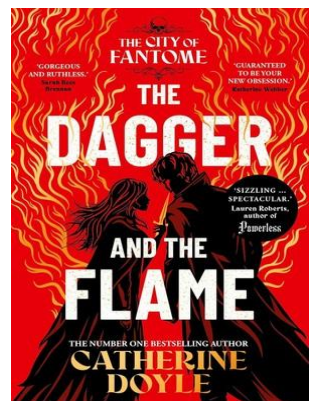
But the land Alyce finds herself in feels different from the Wonderland of her grandmother's stories – for it is trapped in its own war. The Sun King and the Queen of the Moon are fighting over a stolen hour, and soon Alyce is tasked with setting it right. With the help of the Hatter, the Cheshire Cat and a Sailor Fox, Alyce will have to solve Wonderland's problems and, eventually, find her way back home.

The Dagger and the Flame by Catherine Doyle (13 -16 years)

In the dark underbelly of a beautiful city, two rival assassins are pitted against each other in a deadly game of revenge, where the most dangerous mistake of all is falling in love..

In Fantome, Shade -magic is a deadly commodity controlled by two enemy guilds: the Cloaks and the Daggers – the thieves and the assassins. On the night of her mother's murder, 18 -year-old Seraphine runs for her life. Seeking sanctuary with the Cloaks, Sera's heart is set on revenge.

But nothing can prepare Sera for the moment she finally comes face -to-face with Ransom, heir to the Order of Daggers. And Ransom is shocked to discover that this unassuming farmgirl wields a strange and blazing magic he has never seen before...



AA Mind Full of Murder by Derek Landy (11 -14 years)

SIX YEARS AGO, THE UNIVERSE ENDED.

When it restarted, blinking back into existence, it brought with it a darkness that remains hidden from the mortal population.

A week ago – fuelled by unimaginable hatred and unstoppable rage – a masked sorcerer killed one of those mortals. Then he killed another. And another.

With their time running out, Skulduggery Pleasant and Valkyrie Cain must work to solve the puzzles the killer leaves behind before more innocents die, embarking on a journey that will force them to deal with the apocalypse they failed to prevent the first time around.

AND MURDER. LOTS AND LOTS OF MURDER.