



The English Martyrs
Catholic School and
Sixth Form College

Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #7 | 7th November 2025

A message from Mr C Corcoran (Deputy Headteacher)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin the second half of our first term at English Martyrs, I can say with all earnest that it is an absolute delight to come to work each day and spend time with the incredible students and staff we have at this school.

My role within school is to shape the Teaching and Learning and Catholic Life. It has been a real privilege to spend time in classrooms across all key stages over recent weeks. We have had the pleasure of observing a wide range of lessons, and I want to share just how impressed we have been by the incredible work being produced by our students. Their enthusiasm, focus, and creativity have been truly inspiring.

Equally, the quality of teaching and the atmosphere in classrooms have been excellent. It is clear that our staff are deeply committed to providing the very best education for your children, and the positive relationships between students and teachers are at the heart of this success.

As with any school, we know that Teaching and Learning isn't perfect, and we are ambitious for the future. We have exciting plans to further enhance the quality of education at English Martyrs. We are working closely with all teaching staff to ensure that our standards continue to rise and reflect the high aspirations we hold for every student. Our goal is simple: to provide an outstanding education that our students richly deserve.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for the warm welcome I have received since joining the school. It has been a pleasure to speak with so many of you already, and I look forward to continuing to build strong relationships with our parent community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Chris Corcoran
Deputy Headteacher



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Year 9 Community Project

This group of wonderful Year 9 students have been working with Youth Focus North East on a community project. They are raising money to make well-being packages for families staying in the Dragonfly palliative care rooms at James Cook Hospital, supporting people in the difficult time when a family member is on end-of-life care. They are hoping to start bake sales soon in school to raise extra funds. The students met with Mr Thompson before half term to bid for some money to start their project in the "Dragon's Den". Suffice to say this dragon was very happy to help them out! We are very proud of these students and their caring and proactive nature. Well done!

Mr Barnes



Y11 P6 Timetable

P6 Intervention 2:45pm - 3:45pm Half Term 2				
	Week 1		Week 2	Week 3
Monday	Science	History	Maths	History Geography
Tuesday			RE	Maths
Wednesday	Maths Photography Performing Arts	Art Business Studies	Maths	Physics
Thursday	English Child Development Textiles Health & Social Care	Geography Hospitality & Catering GCSE PE	English	Art Photography Business Studies Performing Arts
Friday	RE Spanish iMedia Sports Studies	French Product Design Computer Science	RE	Child Development Hospitality & Catering Product Design Textiles Health & Social Care



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Year 11 Cyanotype Photography

Year 11 students have been exploring cyanotype printing, an early photographic technique that produces vivid blue images. Using light-sensitive chemicals, they created prints by exposing natural objects and negatives to UV light. This hands-on process encouraged creativity and experimentation, blending science with art. The results showcase thoughtful compositions and a growing confidence in alternative photographic methods.

Mr Meynell



Y11 PREP Exam Timetable

	Monday 10th November	Tuesday 11th November	Wednesday 12th November	Thursday 13th November	Friday 14th November
Lesson 1	English Language 2hrs	Maths Paper 1 1hr30	Religious Education 1hr30	Maths Paper 2 1hr30	English Literature 1hr30
Lesson 2					
Lesson 3					
Lesson 4	Biology 1hr45(Triple) 1hr15(combined)	History Paper 1 1hr30	Chemistry 1hr45(Triple) 1hr15(combined)	French & Spanish Writing 1hr15(F) 1hr30(H)	GCSE PE 1hr15
Lesson 5		Geography Paper 1 1hr			
	Monday 17th November	Tuesday 18th November	Wednesday 19th November	Thursday 20th November	Friday 21st November
Lesson 1	Religious Education 1hr30	History Paper 2 1hr20	Maths Paper 3 1hr30	Physics 1hr45(Triple) 1hr15(combined)	
Lesson 2		Geography Paper 2 1hr			
Lesson 3					
Lesson 4	French & Spanish Listening 35min(F) 45min(H) + Reading 45min(F) 1hr(H)	Computer Science 1hr30	Hospitality & Catering 1hr20 + Product Design 1hr30	Business 1hr30	
Lesson 5				Music 1hr	



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Sixth Form

We had a busy week in the Sixth Form in the last week of term.

On Wednesday, we held the first of our weekly food tasting experiences, giving students the chance to sample exciting new dishes that will be gradually introduced into the Bistro throughout the year. This is all part of a wider revamp of the Bistro, driven by your feedback to bring in fresh, student-approved options. These tastings will take place every Wednesday, so keep an eye out and don't miss your chance to try something new!

On Thursday, it was wonderful to welcome the first cohort of our Year 11 students to our Sixth Form taster day! Students enjoyed relaxing in the common room and making us our new facilities. Students explored a wide range of subject sessions with us - from familiar favourites to exciting new additions like Criminology! They got hands-on in Biology by dissecting hearts, experimented with clay in Art, and captured creativity through Photography and Digital Media. It was a fantastic opportunity to dive into different disciplines and discover new passions.

Ms Jackson



Remembrance Day

Parents and Carers are warmly invited to join us for our Remembrance Service at The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College on Tuesday 11th November.

The service will take place in St Francis' Garden, with guests asked to arrive for 10:30am ahead of a 10:45am start.

Together, we will honour and remember those who have served and sacrificed for peace and freedom. Your presence would be a valued part of this special occasion.

Mr McCartie

Anti-Bullying Week

Next week is Anti-Bullying Week, and we'll be joining schools across the country to stand united against bullying in all its forms. The theme this year is about celebrating differences and showing kindness, reminding everyone that we are all unique and valued members of our community.

At English Martyrs, we're proud of our student-led well-being and anti-bullying group, EMS Together. This team of dedicated students helps to support their peers and promote a caring and respectful school culture.

Our Well-Being and Anti-Bullying Room (1.33) is open every break and lunch time, offering a welcoming space for students to talk, seek support, or simply take a breather. The room is run by our trained Student Well-Being Leaders, who are always ready to listen and help.

Monday 10th November – Odd Socks Day: Students and staff are encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate individuality and show that it's okay to be different.

Friday 14th November – Anti-Bullying Lesson Activities: Tutor and class sessions will include work on kindness, respect, and standing up for others.

Thank you to parents for your continued support in helping make English Martyrs a place where everyone feels safe, respected, and included.

Together, we say #NeverOK to bullying.

Mr Gray

Year 7 Updates

Year 7 have had another fantastic start to this half-term, and we couldn't be prouder of their continued enthusiasm and effort. At the end of last half-term, students enjoyed a well-deserved rewards trip to Ninja Warrior and Hollywood Bowling. Staff accompanying the Ninja Warrior group were delighted to see so many students celebrating their hard work and success, while Mrs Hodgson, who led the bowling trip, was full of praise for the students' behaviour and attitude.

Looking ahead, letters have now been sent home for the upcoming Christmas Rewards trip to the Vue Cinema to watch *Home Alone*. Consent forms must be completed by Tuesday 11th November, and payments should be made via the MCAS app no later than the 22nd November. If you need assistance accessing the app, please don't hesitate to visit the school reception, where staff will be happy to help.

This week, all Year 7 students received a book to keep as a gift from EMS. Back in September, students visited the library for a "Library Introduction Lesson," where they were able to choose a book from a wide range of genres. We're excited to hear about the stories they're enjoying at home and during social times at school, and we look forward to seeing those book-inspired conversations come to life around school.

We're also proud to share that Year 7 were the best year group in terms of behaviour, attitudes, and attendance last half-term. It's a fantastic achievement, and we're keen to see this continue throughout this term and beyond. We kindly ask parents and carers to support this by checking their child's equipment daily, ensuring they're prepared for learning, and making sure they attend school every day!

Mr Hutchinson



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Year 11 October Half Term Revision

An outstanding commitment to success was on display by some of our Y11s during the October half term revision sessions. Equations, algebraic fractions and solving quadratics were all on the menu! Further PREP exam support will be available through the amended P6 timetable. All EMS staff continue to be impressed with the progress Y11 have made so far.

Mr Doyle



Dates for your Diary

Dates	Event
10 th – 21 st November	Year 11 Prep Exams
28 th November	School Closed for Students
4 th December	Sixth Form Open Evening 3pm-6pm
9 th December	Year 9 Parents' Evening



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