



The English Martyrs
Catholic School and
Sixth Form College

Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #8 | 14th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week, the government published the Final Report of its Curriculum and Assessment Review. This Report proposed revisions and recommendations to the National Curriculum, including changes to GCSEs, to come into effect from 2028. Although we are still digesting the full 197 pages, several key headlines stand out.

- Religious Education will become a National Curriculum Subject.
- A greater emphasis on the Arts and Performing Arts.
- English and Mathematics are central to student success.
- Strong transition from Primary to Secondary School is essential.

English Martyrs is already well placed to respond in these areas with our current curriculum model and I know that this is one of the many reasons parents and carers send their children to our school. We have strong specialist teachers in our Religious Education, Mathematics and English Departments and our transition programme led by Mr Gray and Mr Hutchinson is well established. Performing Arts and Visual Arts have a rich history at English Martyrs, and I am committed to continuing this tradition and enhancing opportunities in the future. At English Martyrs we understand how these opportunities enrich our students lives, and it is great to see their importance recognised nationally. Ms Stirk will have some exciting plans in the near future regarding this year's school production and details of the production will be revealed in the next few weeks.

On Tuesday 11th November, we celebrated Remembrance Day as a whole school community. Mr McCartie organised a wonderful event that was live streamed across the school. Joining the event we also had members of the public and local parishes, governors and ex-teachers from the school. Canon Paul led the remembrance prayers and many of our students dressed in regimental uniform. Our Head Boy and Girl devoted prayers to the fallen and a wonderful musical performance added to the significance of the occasion. The town of Hartlepool has a deep-rooted history with the armed forces and English Martyrs as a community paused together, in silence, to pay our respects.

It can sometimes feel that the world we used to know is quickly changing, even in education with new Ofsted frameworks, curriculum reviews and policy shifts. The mission of English Martyrs remains steadfast, and we remain committed to delivering great education, high standards of conduct and meaningful partnerships with parents and carers.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School



BISHOP
HOGARTH

Catholic Education Trust

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

Year 10 Photography – Working outside of the camera

Photography students are delving into the world of creative collage, drawing inspiration from Andy Warhol's iconic pop art style. Using their own self-portraits as the foundation, they experiment with repetition, bold colour palettes, and layered compositions to transform ordinary images into vibrant works of art. This process encourages them to explore identity and self-expression while embracing Warhol's approach of elevating everyday subjects into striking visual statements. Through digital and physical techniques, the students combine multiple versions of their portraits, play with contrasting hues, and incorporate graphic elements, resulting in collages that celebrate individuality and challenge traditional notions of portraiture.

Mr Meynell



**BISHOP
HOGARTH**

Catholic Education Trust

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

Sixth Form - UCAS

It's a fantastic moment in the academic journey of our sixth formers as their UCAS applications are being submitted. Many students are already receiving offers and invitations to interviews from universities across the country.

We are incredibly proud of their hard work and determination, and we wish every one of them the very best of luck as they take this next big step toward their future goals.

Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support, it truly makes a difference!

Ms Jackson

History

The History Department have run lots of Remembrance Activities this week, including making class memorials out of handprints and turning the hand prints into poppies which have been put on display in the main building.

The History Department has also taken KS3 History Club students and our Head and Deputy Head Students to the Heugh Battery to lay a memorial wreath on behalf of English Martyrs, they read war poetry as well as a poem written in KS3 History Club. A lovely opportunity to pay respect.

Before Half Term the History Department invited 'Transformers Hartlepool' in to EMS to present a Black History work shop. Students from all year groups had the opportunity to take part in a seminar with Q and A and a traditional drum workshop. Students thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity, and we are looking forward to our future projects with Transformers

Ms Stanwick



Y11 PREP Exam Timetable

	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	

Year 11 Math Revision

Paper 3 revision is now available on Teams. We've streamlined the original revision list by removing topics that have already appeared on Papers 1 and 2. This updated list is more focused and provides an accurate picture of what will feature on Paper 3.

Mr Murray

Year 11 – PREP and P6 Intervention

We are so proud of how our Year 11 students have approached the first week of their PREPs. The attendance to Period 6 and the breakfast boosters has been excellent and the attitude to the exams themselves has been overwhelmingly positive. This is a tough couple of weeks and is mentally draining for all students. Thank you to all parents for supporting them at home.

The P6 intervention timetable has become an essential part of our package of support for Y11s at EMS. Students have been accessing pre-PREP exam intervention sessions in huge numbers. Over 150 students attended English intervention on Thursday ahead of their Literature exam on Friday morning. 145 students attended Maths and over 80 students attended RE intervention. Full preparations are in place for the second week of the PREP exams. P6 intervention gives students the opportunity to receive guidance and support from subject specialists, helping them reflect on their progress and plan their revision. Well done Y11 for a successful week. The EMS community are proud of you.

Mr Corcoran and Mr Doyle

A Level Geography

Our A Level Geography students enjoyed a successful day of fieldwork at Coatham Sands near Redcar, collecting primary data for their independently designed NEA projects. From coastal processes to human-environment interactions, students applied classroom theory to real-world settings—developing critical research, analytical, and problem-solving skills.

Studying A Level Geography isn't just about maps and places; it's about understanding the challenges shaping our planet, from climate change to urban growth. The course combines scientific investigation, data analysis, and debate, preparing students for careers in environmental science, planning, and sustainability initiatives.

Ms Martindale



Year 10 – Remembrance Day

We would like to thank all the students in year 10 who supported both the school Remembrance Day celebration and the Hartlepool memorial parade. Students attended these events in full regimental uniform and supported in laying wreaths in memory of those who lost their lives through war.

The students continue to make us incredibly proud. Well done Year 10.

Mr Blackwood

Year 13 Digital Media

Y13 Digital Media students were tasked with capturing photos to contribute to an exhibition titled 'Growing Up Northern'.

The purpose of the exhibition was to both acknowledge the hardships suffered in this area and to also celebrate all that is good about our region that often goes unnoticed. Students were able to choose between documentary, landscape or portraiture and produced some outstanding photography to meet this brief.

Ms Malcolmson



Year 7 - Updates

This week, our Year 7 students have participated in a range of football fixtures across both the boys' and girls' teams. Our Year 7 boys represented the school at the BHCET Football event at St Michael's, achieving an excellent 2nd place finish. [Congratulations](#) to Isaac, who was awarded Player of the Tournament.

We would also like to commend our Year 7 U13 girls' football team: Isla, Verity, Harriet, and Nell, for their strong performance. Well done, girls!

Thank you to Lyra, Ronnie, Max, Lucy, and Kyle for representing EMS and our year group at the Heugh Battery on Remembrance Day. They laid a wreath and read a poem they created during their History Enrichment Club, and they conducted themselves with great maturity and respect.

A special thank you to 7TM1, who led our Celebration Of The Word this week. The class did an outstanding job; every student took an active role and contributed meaningfully. Thank you to Mrs East and all of 7TM1 for your hard work!

A reminder that the deadline for payment for our Christmas Rewards Trip is approaching. Payment must be made by 22nd November. Regrettably, we will be unable to take students who have not paid by this date.

Finally, please continue to support us by ensuring that students are fully prepared for learning each day. This includes being well-equipped, maintaining strong attendance, and adhering to the school uniform policy. Please note that false nails, false eyelashes, and jewellery are not permitted. Year 7 are doing an excellent job in these areas.

Thank you for your continued support it's much appreciated.

Mr Hutchinson

Year 7 - RE

In Year 7 RE we have been learning about the Bible and how we explore the Bible and how it was translated - we had a fun lesson this week creating a rap about the books of the Bible.

Ms Fairclough



**BISHOP
HOGARTH**

Catholic Education Trust

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

Remembrance Day

On Tuesday 11th November, our school community paused together for a moment of deep reflection and remembrance, marking Armistice Day in a way that was both moving and unifying. Although we gathered virtually, the sense of togetherness was palpable, as students, staff, and families joined in a sacred act of memory and gratitude.

We were especially honoured to welcome members of the Holy Family Parish, whose presence enriched our service and reminded us of the strong and growing bonds between our school and parish community. Our commitment to forging further links with Holy Family Parish remains steadfast, and we give heartfelt thanks to Canon Paul for his ministry and the unwavering support he offers to the community of English Martyrs.

The service began with a powerful opening address, inviting all to pause, remember, and honour those who gave everything for peace. Students and staff, many proudly wearing their uniforms, processed in silence to our prayer focus, surrounded by symbols of remembrance: the cross of Resurrection, poppies, and tributes to unknown soldiers. Their presence in uniform was a source of immense pride, reflecting the respect and dignity with which our young people approached this solemn occasion.

The service included readings, prayers, and a poignant reflection on the meaning of sacrifice and love, drawing on the words of Jesus and the story of a soldier's courage and friendship. Our Head Student shared the evocative poem "In Flanders Fields," and we joined together in prayers for peace, for those who mourn, and for all who serve today. The musical performance, our two minutes of silence, and the last post offered a moment for all to honour the fallen and recommit ourselves to being peacemakers in our homes, school, and world.

As we look back on this Remembrance Service, we are reminded of the power of community, the importance of memory, and the hope that comes from standing together. We thank everyone who joined us, in person and virtually, and especially our students for their exemplary conduct and pride in representing our school.

We will remember them.

Mr McCartie



**BISHOP
HOGARTH**

Catholic Education Trust

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

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



Dates for the 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

