



The English Martyrs
Catholic School and
Sixth Form College

Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #9 | 21st November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all had a positive week, even with the poor weather conditions. The snow fall across the country has brought several challenges this week, but challenges that have been overcome. Despite the snow, our Year 11 students have shown their determination and have been resolute in arriving early at school for their PREP exam boosters. Students have continued to behave in a safe and orderly manner around the school grounds to ensure that they still arrive on time to lessons. Staff have battled motorways across the North East to ensure that they arrive at school for the start of the day and our site staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that the snow and ice are cleared and that the grounds are safe. These acts of determination from all students and staff across our community demonstrate the team spirit that is well and truly developing across our school. Everyone is playing their own special part within the system, to ensure that our students get the best possible academic offer.

Attendance is another measure in which shows the togetherness of the school. It is well known that students who attend school regularly, perform better in exams and gain the qualifications needed for a successful future. We are committed at English Martyrs to support all students in attending school. We have further demonstrated our commitment by investing in another Attendance Officer for our school, to support students and families. Our school attendance is reflective of our efforts within this area and continues to improve above the secondary school average for Hartlepool.

Regular school attendance is one of the most important factors in ensuring that children make strong academic progress and feel confident and settled in school. Each day offers new learning, opportunities to develop friendships and chances to build the skills and habits that prepare students for their future. Even small amounts of missed time can add up; frequent absence or regular lateness can make it difficult for children to keep up with learning and to feel fully part of the school community.

We understand that there will be occasions when absence is unavoidable, particularly due to illness. However, I ask for your support in ensuring that children attend school consistently when they are well enough to do so. Establishing strong attendance routines now will benefit them in their school years and beyond.

If you are experiencing any difficulties that affect your child's attendance, please do reach out. Our pastoral and safeguarding teams are here to help, and we are committed to working in partnership with families to overcome barriers.

Thank you as always, for your continued support. Working together, we can ensure that every child has the best possible opportunity to learn, thrive and succeed.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School



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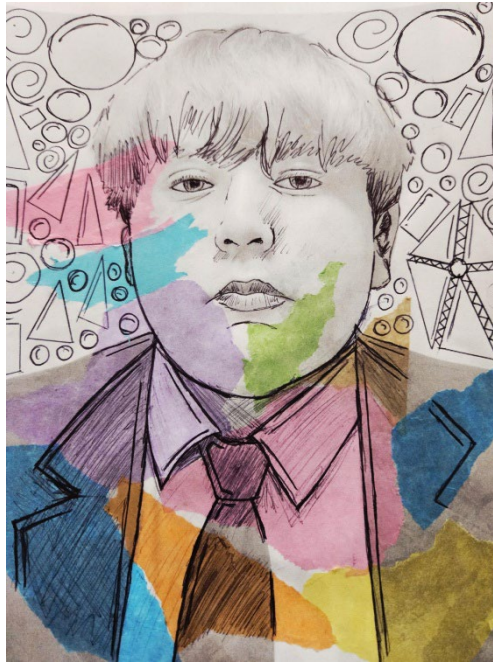
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**Christ Has No Body Now
On Earth But Yours**

Year 10 Photography

This highly sophisticated self-portrait, produced by year 10 Photography student Thomas R, draws inspiration from Andy Warhol's iconic collages of Mick Jagger, reinterpreting the pop art aesthetic through a contemporary lens. The composition is a dynamic interplay of layered textures, bold colour blocks, and fragmented photographic elements. The student has deconstructed their own image into overlapping planes, creating a sense of movement and multiplicity that challenges the notion of a singular identity.

Mr Meynell



New School Chaplain

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to Mr Tucker, who joins us as the new chaplain at English Martyrs. His presence will be a blessing to our faith community, and we look forward to the positive impact he will bring to both students and staff.

Mr Tucker's invaluable role will help deepen our spiritual life, strengthen our Catholic ethos, and support us in living out our mission as a community rooted in faith, hope, and love.

As he begins this important ministry, we ask for your prayers for Mr Tucker, that he may be guided by the Holy Spirit and find joy and fulfilment in serving our school family.

Mr McCartie

Year 11 Mathematics

After the mock exams, Year 11 students will begin using Sparx Maths. This is a helpful tool that gives each child personalised tasks to strengthen the areas they most need to improve. Parents may receive an email from Sparx once their child has been enrolled, so don't be surprised if it lands in your inbox. We'll share more details soon, but rest assured this is all about giving students the best possible support as they prepare for their exams in the summer.

Mr Murray

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge Success

On Thursday 9th October all Year 12 and Year 13 Maths students took part in the Senior UKMT Maths Challenge.

We are delighted to share that Daniel Hart and Freya Moir in Year 13 have both qualified for the Senior Kangaroo, achieving gold awards, with Daniel securing the highest score in the sixth form.

A special mention also goes to Kobi, Cohen and Christy in Year 12 who achieved the joint top score in their year group and were awarded bronze. We look forward to seeing them build on this success in Year 13, following in Daniel and Freya's footsteps and hopefully qualifying for the Senior Kangaroo themselves.

For context, the Senior Kangaroo is a prestigious follow-on round of the Challenge, reserved for students who achieve outstanding results. It consists of a 60-minute paper with 20 problem-solving questions and qualifying is a significant achievement that places students among the top mathematical thinkers nationally.

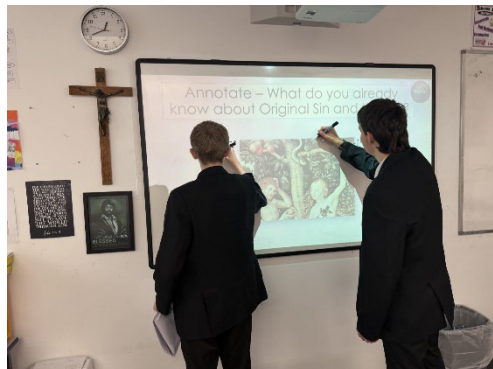
Mr Murray



Year 10 RE

Year 10 this week are focusing on Good and Evil for their GCSEs. The students were annotating an image of Adam and Eve and discussing what they know about the origin of original sin.

Ms Fairclough



Celebrating Our Alumni – Lewis Cope on Strictly Come Dancing!

We are delighted to share some exciting news with our school community. Lewis Cope, a proud alumnus of English Martyrs, will be performing at the world-famous Blackpool Tower Ballroom this Saturday on BBC's Strictly Come Dancing! 🥳 ✨

Earlier this week, students from our EM6 community recorded a heartfelt message of support for Lewis, which was featured on BBC Radio Tees on Thursday morning. If you missed it, we encourage you to listen to the short clip and hear Lewis' wonderful reaction.

As a school, we are incredibly proud of Lewis' achievements and the inspiration he brings to our students. We wish him every success for Saturday night and beyond!

A huge thank you to our EM6 students for representing our community so brilliantly and sharing their good wishes.

Please scan the QR code to watch the video:

Mr McCartie



Year 9 Parents Evening – Tuesday 9th December

I would like to invite you to attend our Year 9 Parents' Evening on Tuesday 9th December, 15:00pm – 18:00pm.

This evening will provide parents and carers an opportunity to speak with staff about student progress within each subject.

Registration or booking of appointments are not required for the event. If you need support in identifying your child's teachers, this can be found in the MCAS app in the Timetable section.

Students are not required to attend the evening; however, they may do so if they wish.

Mr Gray

Christmas Celebration Day – Thursday 11th December

We are delighted to announce that Thursday 11th December will be our Christmas Celebration Day at English Martyrs.

Students are warmly invited to wear a Christmas jumper to school on this day to help celebrate the festive season. Please note that the Christmas Jumper will replace the school blazer. All other uniform must still be worn.

As part of the celebration, all students will enjoy a Christmas lunch and take part in a range of festive activities. We ask that students bring trainers to change into for certain activities.

Christmas Jumper Donation & Swap

To help us support one another as a community, we are collecting donations of any unwanted Christmas jumpers. These can be handed in at Student Services.

From next week, any student who would like to freshen up their Christmas look are welcome to visit Student Services to swap their jumper for a different one.

Thank you, as always, for your support. We look forward to a joyful and festive day with our students.

Mr Gray



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Sixth Form – Philosophy and Ethics

Sixth form students are awarded Theologian of the week based on class work, essays, wider reading, and theological debate in class.

This week we are proud to award Amy A (Year 12) and Nicole B (Year 13) with the award.

Ms Fairclough



Year 7 - Updates

I am delighted to share that Y7 students have made a fantastic start on their return from the October break. They have settled very quickly back into routines and standards, and it has been wonderful to see their focus and enthusiasm across lessons.

This week, I had the pleasure of sitting in on some History lessons where pupils were delivering their History projects to their peers. The quality of work produced was truly incredible, and it was inspiring to see the confidence and creativity with which students presented their research.

A reminder that the deadline for payment for the Christmas Rewards Trip is by the close of play Friday. Please ensure this is completed in order for your child to attend. Alongside payment, it is important that students continue to demonstrate good behaviour in school and maintain strong attendance, as these are key requirements for participation.

We are also very grateful to Mrs Carter, who has worked with students from each form to create a beautiful Christmas Candle display. This will be placed in school for everyone to enjoy, and we thank her for her time, effort, and support in making this possible.

Another round of Super 7's has taken place this week, with tutors once again recognising the hard work and commitment of their tutees. It is fantastic to see students being celebrated for their dedication and effort.

Finally, we are thrilled to share some wonderful news from outside of school. Evie has recently performed alongside her choir for Miss Toni's Academy of Singing and Performing Arts at His Majesty's Theatre in London's West End. On Sunday, she also performed Hopelessly Devoted at the North East Vocal Championship, where she received a Judges Award for Most Promising

Musical Theatre in her category. Well done, Evie. Myself and everyone in Year 7 are incredibly proud of you! We are always wanting to hear the fantastic stories that students are doing outside of school!

Mr Hutchinson



Christmas Liturgy Invitation – Tuesday 16th December

We warmly invite all parents and carers to join us for our Christmas Liturgy at St Joseph's Church, Hartlepool on Tuesday 16th December at 18:00 pm.

This special celebration is an opportunity for our school community to come together in prayer and reflection as we prepare for the joy of Christmas this advent season. We look forward to welcoming you and your families.

Mr McCartie



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Y11 P6 Intervention 2:45pm- 3:45pm Half Term 2		
Monday	RE iMedia Geography Sports Studies	French Spanish Computer Science
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Science	History
Thursday	Maths PE Business Studies	Art Photography
Friday	English Child Development Hospitality and Catering Health & Social Care	Product Design Performing Arts Textiles

Now the Y11 November PREP exams have concluded, subjects have rotated and now have a different slot on the P6 intervention timetable. Please familiarise yourself with the new timetable in order to support your child's attendance.

All sessions are available to every Y11 student. Attendance has a significant impact on your child's progress.

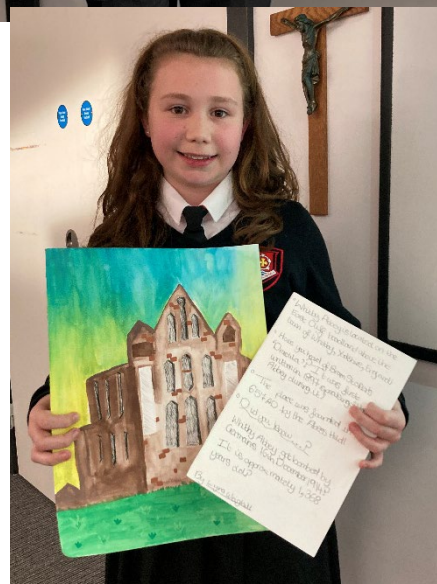
Mr Doyle



This week students from 7X1, 7U1 and 7X3 presented History projects in lessons. Some focused on the local history of Hartlepool, whilst others presented on Norman methods of control such as castle building. Student leadership, independence, and confidence were displayed.

Thank you to those who baked cakes for their projects and invited the class to share the taste! Well done to all involved.

Mrs Edwards



Dates for the Diary

Dates	Event
28 th November	School Closed for Students
4 th December	Sixth Form Open Evening 3pm-6pm
9 th December	Year 9 Parents' Evening
11 th December	Christmas Celebration Day



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