



The English Martyrs Catholic
School and Sixth Form College

NEWSLETTER

Issue #01 | End of Autumn Term | December 2021



It's Christmas!

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2021.

This is an opportunity to share with you all the wonderful achievements and events that have happened at English Martyrs since September.

This glimpse into the academic, sporting, arts and community engagement from so many of our students highlights the abundant talent, great effort and tenacity of our young people.

Despite the difficulties of returning to school and settling back into routines, students have shown enormous resilience and character.

As we break for Christmas, I would like to wish you all a 'Happy and Holy Christmas with your loved ones'.

I have written to all parents/carers with details of the staggered return for students in January due to Covid testing. Please ensure you download the app so that you are fully informed of all school notices for 2022. (<https://ems.bhcet.org.uk/school-app/>)

Thank you for your continued support and Happy Christmas.

Mrs Crawshaw (Headteacher)



At the end of November, we held a short service to bless and switch on our Christmas Tree which takes pride of place in the foyer of the new building. Special thanks to Chair of Governors, Sue Harrison and former colleague and friend of the school, Councillor Brenda Harrison, for coming in to celebrate with us. Even bigger thanks go Mr Wilson and his site team for giving up part of their Saturday to install the 20ft tree and dress it. They did a wonderful job!

Fundraising Total

raised for our school charity this year
which is Alice House Hospice

£849.74

Parents & Staff can now donate to our fundraising efforts via Parent Pay.



We have had another successful year for our annual Shoebox Appeal. This year, with the continued support of St Teresa's Primary School, we have managed to collect and donate over 150 shoeboxes for those families in need via Link to Hope. Thank you to all of our students, staff, parents & carers, and of course, Miss Frain and the students of St Teresa's for your continued support. Your kindness and generosity is always appreciated. We also offer a huge thank you to Mr Hutchinson who coordinated the appeal.



Towards the end of September, our Year 7 students had their welcome mass in St. Anne's Hall. Our choir & musicians were wonderful and a small group of students (pictured) read bidding prayers. Thank you to all staff and students involved in making the mass a success and thank you to Fr Michael for celebrating with us.



Staff and students were delighted to join the congregations of St Joseph's, St Patrick's and St Mary's on Sunday 19th September. Thank you to Father Michael and Father Jim for the opportunity for students to read and for our new Head, Mrs Crawshaw to introduce herself to parishioners. We thank you all for your prayers and good wishes.

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

- Martin Luther King

#BlackHistoryMonth



During our 'Live Issues' segment in tutor time students had a focus on Black History Month; they were asked to write their own 'I Have A Dream' speech inspired by Dr Martin Luther King Junior's original. The following excellent contribution was submitted by Isabel J in Year 7.

"I have a dream that one day, we can all live in a society where everyone is accepted for who they are, no matter what colour skin or what gender they believe they are. I do not think it is fair that some people think it is ok to ridicule someone for how they look or who they think they are. In the past, some people would be paid less or not even work because of their gender or the colour of their skin. Some people are bullied for what they believe in. It doesn't matter if you believe in God or not, you are who you are and that's not your fault. That's my dream and I hope you believe in it too."

A truly great piece reflecting our virtues by focusing on equality for all.



To kick off a week of activities in school supporting #antibullyingweek2021, we started with Odd Socks Day.

Students attended school with odd socks on to show we are all different but equal.

Well done to everyone who took part and big shout out to Mrs Hannah who wore odd shoes.



Towards the end of the summer term last year, our then Year 8 students, painted stones in their Virtues lessons to be added to a National Holocaust Memorial in London. The stones were collected and featured on BBC Look North.



On Wednesday 15th December, we held our annual Christmas Jumper Day to support wonderful local charity Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group. We really loved James and Henry's matching waistcoats.

On the same day, we extended lunch periods, filled the dining hall with Christmas music while our wonderful kitchen staff served up a hearty Christmas Lunch.

In the sixth form, students had Christmas parties across their lunch periods with balloons, crackers and of course, Christmas Dinner.

Thank you to everyone who took part and donated to the charity fund. Stay tuned on the website and social media channels for the total raised.

Merry Christmas Everyone!





Our Performing Arts students had a wonderful opportunity to attend a theatre trip to Newcastle to see Everybody's Talking About Jamie and to attend a workshop with Workshop with professional West End performer, Marvyn Charles.



The creative endeavours and commitment in Mrs Hutchinson's textiles class led to them being declared "Mastery Session of the Month"



The Art department took part in The Big Draw Festival throughout October. All of our Year 7 students were being asked to draw representations of what they can do now that we are no longer in lockdown. Students reflected on the activities, events, and people they missed the most and that they now appreciate even more since restrictions have been lifted.



Thirteen of our Year 7 students took part in the Maritime Roadshow organised by the 1851 Trust. They had a fun, informative and inspiring day working with business ambassadors in a variety of careers workshops. The students came back from the day with a better understanding of careers within STEM and Maritime industries and learned how to develop a "can do" attitude through growth mindset principles.



Year 11 students and their parents participated in our annual Choices event. Sixteen local colleges and training providers took part in the event to make up our careers market hall.

In The Classroom And Beyond



At 11am on 11th November, school fell silent to remember those who gave their lives for us and to pray for those families who mourn them. Our huge handmade poppy wreath, created by Miss Hunt in Technology, had pride of place on the balcony in the dining hall and was a focal point and inspiration for our cross-curricular remembrance work. Students handcrafted poppies dedicated to real, researched DLI soldiers who sacrificed for our communities.

Librarian Legends Thank you to our student librarians who have been so helpful finishing the merging of our libraries from the Sixth Form building to the main school so that our focus on reading for 2021 can be full steam ahead. They have helped get the library ready for our Accelerated Reader re-launch.

Special thanks to Layla 8J12, Willo 8MC1, Emily 8MC1, Charlotte 8TM2, Jian Min 8TM2, Amy 8TM1, Abi 9J11 and Maddison 9AL1.



The MFL department also hosted an event to celebrate Mexico's Day of the Dead. Students created their own Calavera masks and iced skull biscuits. Well done to all those who got involved!

European Day of Languages

The languages department hosted a European breakfast and a Spanish Whodunnit to celebrate the European Day of Languages. Students enjoyed French, German and Spanish delicacies. Thank you to our Year 10 and 11 language ambassadors who helped host the event and welcomed new Year 7 students. We look forward to celebrating again next year!

Language Corner



Congratulations to Kobi in Year 11 and Emma Year 10 for completing the 5-day Duolingo vocabulary streak in German but top prize has to go to Julia in Year 13 who has a Duolingo streak of over 300 days in German – quite a record to beat! Keep up the hard work everyone!

Duolingo is a free app that teaches you languages. Give it a go!



Since September a group of keen linguists in Years 8 and 9 have been attending Latin lessons every Wednesday. Students began by learning about Latin that is still used in English today; for example "a.m." (ante meridiem) and "p.m." (post meridiem) and then its links to English, French, German and Spanish. Ava in year 9 said "At the beginning I thought Latin was just a dead language. However, I have learnt that it is the origin of many words from many languages. It is also useful in other subjects." Did you know? The chemical symbol for lead (Pb) comes from the Latin "plumbum", the origin of the word "plumbing" as pipes were originally made from lead. Congratulations to all students who have shown commitment in attending each week.

EMS HOUSE TEAMS

Over the summer, super talented Mr Carless has re-drawn and modernised our House Saints. Here he is with our some of our House Captains and the new designs. Don't they look fabulous!



House Points

- 53 - St. John Boste
- 45 - Blessed John Ingram
- 38 - St. Thomas More
- 36 - St. Anne Line
- 29 - St. Margaret Clitherow



The rain was pouring and the ground was soggy, but that didn't dampen the spirits, smiles or enthusiasm of our 87 runners battling it out for the points and Cross Country Shield in September. Once Mr Corcoran's clipboard had dried out, we totted up the results and St. John Boste were crowned champions.



Scores of our Year 8 students gave up their lunchtimes to take part in House Netball and House Football Tournaments.

The competition was played once weekly across a five week period. Huge well done to St. John Boste house who won both tournaments.



In October, we kicked off our school fundraising with a Coffee Morning for Parents and Carers of Year 7 students. Alice House Hospice are the nominated charity for fundraising this year at English Martyrs after students were invited to nominate a charity close to their hearts. A heartfelt letter from a Year 7 student left us in no doubt that the local Hartlepool charity would be this year's beneficiary. The coffee morning was a huge success raising £849.74.

Find out more: <http://ems.bhcet.org.uk/house-teams>



On Wednesday 20th October, we held a House Pumpkin Carving competition. The event originated as a remote house activity during the first lockdown and proved so popular with students that we added it to our events calendar. The competition featured two pairs from each house, scooping and carving for 40 minutes to create their spooky masterpieces.



Over October half term we held a House Autumn Photography Competition. Once we had sifted through all the entries; our winners were announced! Mr Draper won the staff competition (left) for St. Anne Line with Olivia Addison winning the student competition for St. Margaret Clitherow (right). There's a lovely video montage of all the entries on our Youtube channel.



Students took part in our annual House Advent Wreath Making Competition. Back for its sixth successive year, the popular competition gives five groups of students, one from each house, the chance to get creative as they roll up their sleeves and dive into the task of creating an Advent Wreath in just forty-five minutes. Congratulations to this year's winners St. Thomas More. The finished wreaths are be used in various places in school across the Advent period with the winning wreath taking pride of place in the Chapel where it will be lit during prayers.



In September, we welcomed our new cohort of Year 12 students. The sixth form team organised a week of induction activities. Here's a group of them enjoying a game of rounders in the sunshine.



Before the dark cold days of winter, our Year 13 Geographers enjoyed practising field work techniques in preparation for their NEA projects. They visited Durham city to look at social and economic disparities across urban areas. Before exploring the physical characteristics of a sand dune network.



A local Midwife, Gayle Smith, visited our Year 13 Health and Social Care students and was grilled on all things babies by Mrs Walsh's class.

Students always find it invaluable to hear from real-world practitioners and see their learning in action.

Student Ambassador

Charlotte Brown in year 13 is a board member of the Youth Endowment Fund's first Youth Advisory Board, a national governance role that supports the reduction of serious youth violence across the country. She has input in the funding of projects relevant to our local community to positively impact the lives of young people. She has also been able to speak to members of the youth justice board, youth workers as well as vulnerable individuals, who have shared some of their personal experiences. Well done Charlotte!

Mathematic Masterminds!

On Wednesday 12th November, Hartlepool Sixth Form College hosted a Maths competition which was attended by schools from across Teesside. English Martyrs entered three teams that finished 2nd (Nicole, Tahmid and Nicole), 3rd (Brandon, Adrien and Keona) and 4th (Ella, Alexander and Ava). We are proud that the team containing Brandon, Adrien and Keona won a stand alone award for scoring consistently high in each round. Well done to all our students who took part.



Summer BBQ!

In September, to cap off a fabulous week of induction activities for Year 12, we held a summer BBQ in St. Francis Garden for all of our sixth form students. Sunshine, food, music, bunting and some rather large deckchairs - who could ask for more!





Well done to our Year 7 & Year 8 students involved in the Town Sports Hall Athletics competitions.

Our Year 7 Boys team were crowned Town Champions with the girls finishing 3rd.

Both of the Year 8 teams finished second meaning both squads, along with the Year 7 Boys, go onto represent Hartlepool in January at the TESS Valley County Competition. Phenomenal talent!

In early November, our under 13 girls football team attended a tournament at High Tunstall which they won! This makes the girls Town Champions!

Team B also came second in their tournament.

Fantastic effort from all.



At the end of November, three teams attended the County round of the Table Tennis following qualifying to represent Hartlepool.

They placed 1st in the Under 13 girls category and 2nd in the Under 16 and Under 13 boys categories respectively. Great job everyone!

Huge congratulations to Year 9 boys Ewan Purdy and Kian Foreman who have been selected for the Cleveland Schools FA U14 football team against some fierce competition!

Special mention also to Ewan, after he was offered a club contract with Middlesbrough FC recently. One to watch in the future.



In early December, our Year 8 boys 6-a-side football team won the town 8-team tournament. Well done!



Congratulations to our Year 7 footballers who won a town 6-a-side tournament at the end of November. Well done to you all.



After a challenging time for sports teams up and down the country following COVID, Aeronauts Trampoline Club members were determined to get back to the sport they love and decided to raise funds to get the club up and running again. EMS students Niamh, Ruth, Lily, Scarlett, Max and Emily were involved in the club efforts and were rewarded by British Gymnastics with a visit from an Olympic Trampoline Medalist in Bryony Page. (Silver in Rio and Bronze in Tokyo). They were given the privilege of wearing her Olympic Bronze medal from Tokyo and asked many questions regarding her experiences in the sport. An incredible opportunity. Congratulations to the club and to our own EMS students.



Year 8 & 9 students created two Netball teams and competed against High Tunstall College of Science

The first game was of an extremely high standard, all girls demonstrated their talent and worked so well together as a team. EMS took the win with 16 goals to 14.

Team 2 then took to the court, for some of the students this was their first netball match. All students developed their confidence and improved their knowledge of rules. High Tunstall took the victory for this game.

Goes to show you are never too old to learn a new sport!



On the 7th October, the PE department took the EMS cross country team to High Tunstall for the Hartlepool Schools Cross Country Championships. The competition was a team event and the results were as follows:

Year 7 Girls – 2nd / Year 7 Boys – 3rd
 Year 8/9 Girls – 2nd / Year 8/9 Boys – 2nd
 Year 10/11 Girls – 2nd / Year 10/11 Boys – 2nd

Overall we came 2nd as a school – well done to all students who took part. From this competition - 14 students finished in the top 10 for their age groups in Hartlepool and progress to represent the town at the Country Championships in January.



Congratulations to the students who represented English Martyrs at the county round of the Netball Nationals on Saturday 6th November. All girls were at the school and a pleasure to watch. After two very close matches against the two teams that eventually qualified, the girls finished 3rd overall.

The weekend also was significant as Mrs Chapman coached her final team in this competition, after taking students for over 15 years to this event. Thank you from all the girls you have given this opportunity to over the years.



Well done to Year 10 student, Megan who competed at the Open World Kickboxing Championships and put in some superb fights across the day. She showed resilience throughout.

Following trials Year 9 girls Ava Watson and Tilly Parker have both been selected for the next stage of the Cleveland Under 14 Girls Football trial process!

Our trampoline students were at Billingham for a club competition. Congratulations to Emily, Lily, Scarlett, Max, & Joe on some superb performances with many coming home with medals. It was lovely to see former student Connor involved too.



Communication & Useful Information

Address:

The English Martyrs Catholic School
and Sixth Form College, Catcote Road,
Hartlepool, TS25 4HA

Telephone: 01429 273790

Email: admin@ems.bhcet.org.uk

Website: <http://ems.bhcet.org.uk>

School Office Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday - 8am - 4:30pm

Accessing our systems from home:

School Cloud (Parents Evenings):

<https://englishmartyrs.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Student Email & Teams:

<https://ems.bhcet.org.uk/microsoft-teams-school-email/>

Parent Pay:

<https://www.parentpay.com/>

School App

At EMS we have a school app
which is a fast and efficient
two-way communication tool.

It also gives you daily
Attendance, Behaviour &
Achievement data, direct links
to Holidays, Parents' Evenings,
Parent Pay, Events, Timetable,
Reports & more

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If you have any questions or queries please contact Mr. Hope
(shope@ems.bhcet.org.uk) & he will be able to get you up and running in no time.

We're social...

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EnglishMartyrsSchool

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January 2022

New Term Arrangements

Testing Schedule Monday 10th January 2022

Class	Time Allocation
Year 11 arrive in school	08:45am
Y13 arrive	11:25am
Y12 arrive	12:20pm
FINISH	3:00pm

On Monday 10th January, Year 11 should arrive for 8:45am and go straight to period 1. Year 13 should arrive at 11:25am, and Year 12 should arrive at 12:20. Both Year 12 and 13 should go straight to the Sixth Form Study Area. Normal lunch service will be available.

Testing Schedule Tuesday 11th January 2022

Class	Time Allocation
Year 7 arrive in school	08:45am
Year 8 arrive in school	12:55pm
FINISH	3:00pm

On Tuesday 11th January, Year 7 should arrive for 8:45am and go straight to period 1. Year 7 will follow a normal timetable (including break and lunch). Y8 should arrive for 12:55pm and go straight to period 4. There will be no food facilities available for those arriving in the afternoon, so please ensure your child has eaten prior to their arrival.

Testing Schedule Wednesday 12th January 2022

Class	Time Allocation
Year 10 arrive in school	08:45am
Year 9 arrive in school	12:55pm
FINISH	3:00pm

On Wednesday 12th January, Year 10 should arrive for 8:45am and go straight to period 1. Year 10 will follow a normal timetable (including break and lunch). Year 9 should arrive for 12:55pm and go straight to period 4. There will be no food facilities available for those arriving in the afternoon, so please ensure your child has eaten prior to their arrival.

Next Term Key Dates

- 10th January - New term starts (week B)
- 13th January - Year 12 Parents' Evening
- 27th January - Year 7 Parents' Evening
- 10th February - Year 13 Parents' Evening
- w/c 21st February - Half Term
- 28th February - Year 11 Prep Exams
- 3rd March - Year 9 Options Evening
- 17th March - Sixth Form Open Evening
- 7th April - Year 10 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 14th April - Last Day of Term



MISS SCHOOL = MISS OUT

WHY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS SO IMPORTANT

If a child of compulsory school age is registered at a school it is essential that they attend their school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career.

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential.

Did You Know?

Young people who regularly miss school without good reason are more likely to become isolated from their friends, to underachieve in examinations and/or become involved in anti-social behaviour.

Below are just some of the key reasons why it is so important children attend school:

- To learn.
- To make new friends.
- To experience new things in life.
- To gain qualifications.
- To develop new skills.
- To build confidence and self-esteem.
- To have the best possible start in life.

CAN ATTENDANCE MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO EXAM RESULTS?

**Greater than
95% Attendance**



80% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended more than 95%



**Less than
90% Attendance**



52% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended less than 90%



**Less than
80% Attendance**



39% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended less than 80%





WE WISH YOU
a very
MERRY
CHRISTMAS

AND

Happy New Year



A Member Of
**Bishop
Hogarth**
Catholic Education Trust

Join us for our next

EMS
THE ENGLISH MARTYRS
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



Open Event

**Thursday
17th March**

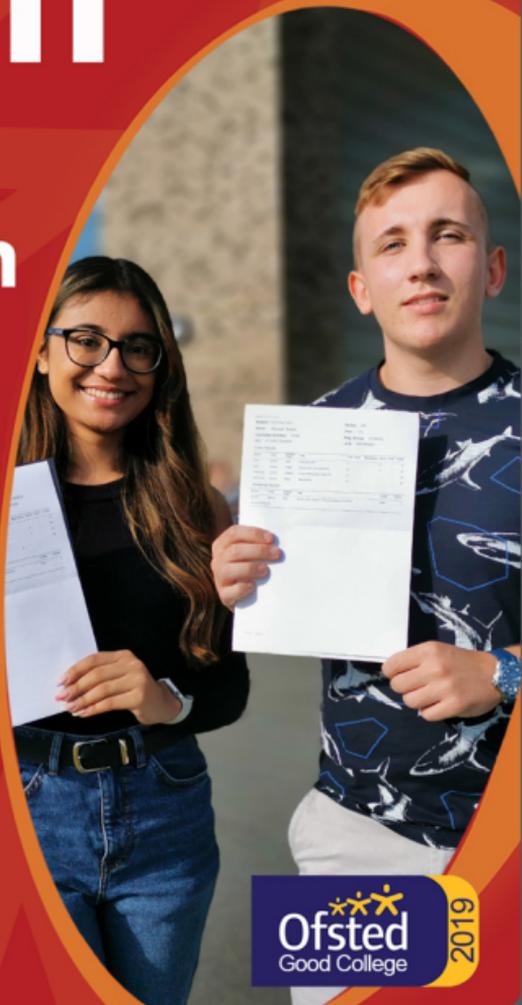
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