



The English Martyrs Catholic
School and Sixth Form College

NEWSLETTER

Issue #07 | End of Autumn Term | December 2023



Merry Christmas!

In November, our school musical returned! Oliver! was performed to nearly eight hundred spectators over a three-night run at Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre. The cast and crew put on a production that left audiences full of praise for the young talent on show with many messages of support being left on the school's social media channels. Story and pictures on page 20.

Advent is a season of joy, hope, peace and love. As we approach Christmas and anticipate the birth of Jesus our school has been filled with laughter, friendship and generosity.

This past term, students, staff and parents have taken part in many activities and events that continue to celebrate our values and virtues.

Oliver!, KS4 & 5 Awards Evening, Christmas Carol Service, Christmas Tree Blessing and our SEND Christmas Market to name a few of our celebrations have been wonderful opportunities to come together as a school community.

Our final Newsletter of 2023 is testament to all the hard work and enthusiasm of students and staff who embrace opportunities, new learning and the joy of working together.

From all the students and staff, we wish you and your families a very happy and holy Christmas.



August

We'll start this newsletter where we left off from the last academic year and start by celebrating the excellent achievements of the Year 11 and 13 students who collected results in the summer.

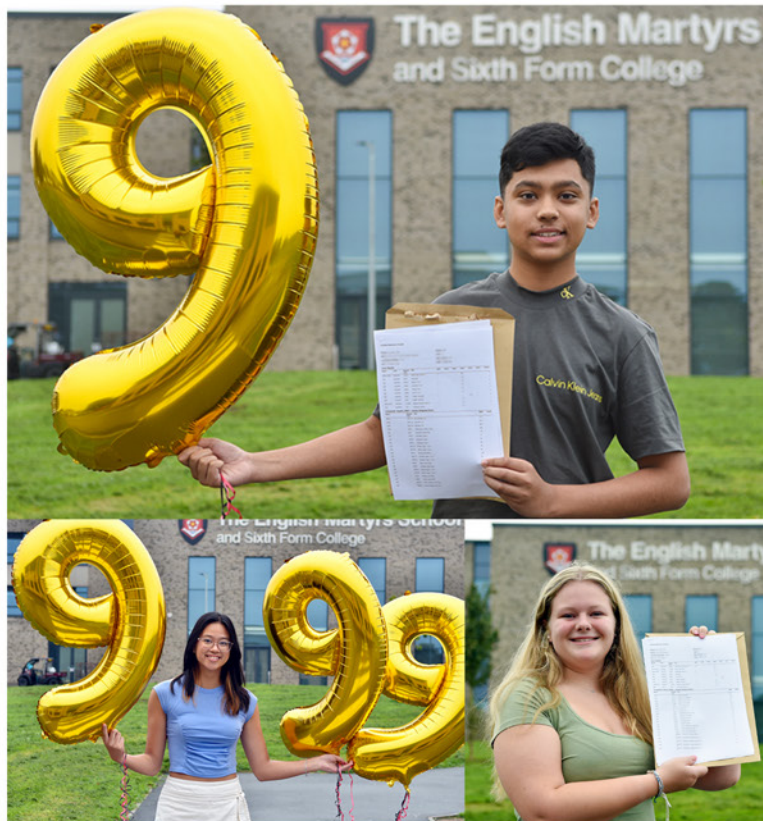
GCSE Results

Our students demonstrated their excellent skills and knowledge in these summer examinations. We, as a school, are extremely proud of our students and the results they have achieved.

Tahmid joined EMS6 after achieving a fantastic set of results, including 5 grade 9s in Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Maths and RE and two grade 8s. He is an incredibly talented mathematician and is one of four recipients of the Vikas Agrawal Bursary awarded to students at our college for gifted mathematicians.

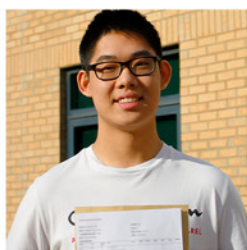
Read more success stories in the article on the website:

<https://ems.bhcet.org.uk/gcse-results-day-2023/>



A Level Results

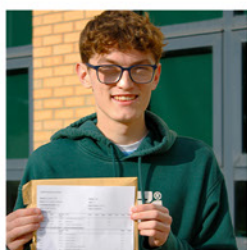
As we reflect upon our Year 13 leavers' time with us, we are filled with immense pride. The strength, resilience and fortitude demonstrated by these young people is something to behold. It is qualities such as these which will take them far. Here's a highlight of some individual successes. Read more: <https://ems.bhcet.org.uk/a-level-results-2023/>



After achieving an outstanding A*A*A*A* in Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Further Maths, Sam left EMS to study Chemical Engineering at Imperial College, London.



Harriet moved on to study Psychology at the University of Leeds after achieving D*BB in Health and Social Care, Psychology and History.



After achieving A*AA in Computer Science, Maths and Further Maths, Max is enjoying studying Computer Science at Newcastle University.



Jessica secured a degree apprenticeship with the NHS in Nuclear Medicine. Her achievements of A*AB created an excellent foundation for this.



Anne-Marie is studying French at University College London. As a member of the USA Sutton Trust programme she acted as a mentor in a summer school at Boston University after her A Levels.



A special mention to our double Digital Media students who were awarded a 7 Distinction stars and one Distinction between four students.

September



Lewis represented EMS at the National Final of the Catenian's Public Speaking Contest, having won the regional final in March. An amazing achievement and a fantastic speech. Well done.



Our Year 13 Geographers battled the wind and rain to collect data in the field for their NEA projects.



A selection of our Faith Leaders participated in the Stations of the Cross to celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Year 12 & 13 students enjoyed a welcome lunch courtesy of Napoli Woodfired Pizza.. It was lovely to officially welcome our Year 12 students and to start the academic year with a cheerful get together with sixth form tutors and students.



Congratulations to our students who submitted an entry into the Anthea Bell translation competition 2023. Students translated poems from French, Spanish and Mandarin into English. Special congratulations to Elliot (Y13) who was the Regional winner for his translation of a French poem and commendees Emily (Y9) and Jian-Min (Y10) who were runners up in the Spanish and Mandarin categories respectively.



September



Year 10 Biologists created a slide of a leaf cross section where they were able to identify the palisade mesophyll tissue, spongy mesophyll tissue and vascular bundles. Some great specimen preparation and microscopy skills on show. Well done all.



Our 8am Basketball club got underway with many girls turning up to perfect their shooting. Fantastic dedication.



Year 13 students enjoyed a trip to Durham University. They had a tour of the university followed by a personal statement workshop.



Year 11 Geographers carried out some excellent fieldwork in some very mixed weather investigating the direction of longshore drift along the shore line, visited the caves and researched the impact of tourism on Seaham's local economy.



Congratulations to the Year 11 Rugby team who kicked off the season with 2 wins and a draw at a 10's tournament at Allen's West.

September



We awarded our new House and Sports Captains with their badges in an assembly. The role of this leadership group is to help around the school with Events, House Competitions, Student Council and much more.



Our Year 9 football team beat St. Michaels in the Country Cup. An impressive 5-2 away win. Fab!



As part of our celebrations for the European Day of Languages, Bridget has recorded a famous Disney song in French - can you guess what it is? Fantastic performance. Scan the QR code to watch.



Thank you to Miss Frain, our school governor who generously donated books to our library.



Bonjour! Buenos días! Guten Tag! As part of our European Day of Languages celebrations the MFL department hosted a French breakfast. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to practise their language skills by ordering croissants in French, German and Spanish.

September



We are proud to introduce our student leadership team at EMS6 for this year. Head students Lewis and Libby with Emily, Hope, Matthew and Gracie-Mae. This group of fantastic students will work hard to enhance student life at EMS6, organising fundraising events, discussing issues with students, and taking on leadership roles in the Catholic Life of our college.



It was wonderful to welcome so many local business, further education and training providers to our Sixth Form this afternoon for our Careers Fair. Students of all age groups had some very informative and useful conversations about their future steps and career progression.

We held a Welcome Mass at St Joseph's Church for our Year 7 students & their tutors. A fantastic opportunity for the whole year group to come together in celebration. Thank you to Canon Paul & the parishioners of St. Joseph's.

September



A-Level History students had a brilliant time in London where they visited Hampton Court, Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London and went to Wembley for some food and shopping.



Our Year 7 footballers kicked off their season with a win against Durham Johnston in the County Cup. Well done!



Quizzers tackled multiple themed rounds in our first House event of the year, the KS3 Quiz! Congratulations to St. John Boste who were crowned winners.



EMS6 students enjoyed their first interform sports event of the year with games of Netball. Well done to Year 11 Sports Leader Ava who refereed and kept the Year 12 students in check.

October



100 of our advanced sport and education students visited Bede Institute of Sport and Education today to be put through their paces in basketball, netball, rugby and football academies. Students had the opportunity to work with specialist coaches and took part in fitness testing, strength and conditioning and nutrition sessions.



Year 7 Biologists had their first experience of using the microscopes where they observed onion cell tissue. Some great microscopy skills on display.



Hartlepool Football Club donated this fantastic warm up top and kit to our U13's girls football team who kicked off their season in style with a superb team performance in the National cup. Well done girls.



Kate was the highest scoring student in the BHCET MFL Languagegenut competition. She also ranked 4th in the world! Phenomenal.

Sixth form students attended the seventh annual STEM lecture hosted by High Tunstall delivered by Professor Danielle George MBE. A fantastic opportunity for students interested in pursuing their study of STEM subjects



October



Our Under 15 squad progressed to the next round of the ESFA National Cup with a resounding 7-2 win over fellow trust school Carmel College. Hat-tricks for Alfie Swift and Finlay Elsdon capping of a superb team performance.



Our Under 15 girls started their football campaign with a tough draw against Northfield in the National cup. Fantastic team spirit, determination and resilience through out! Well done girls.



Our Year 8 Primary Sport Leaders completed a leadership workshop. It was great to see them supporting each other and leading with confidence. They will now support our Primary Sport Programme.



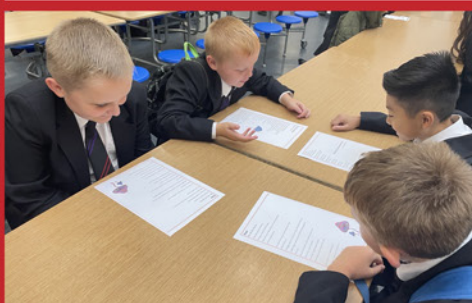
We welcomed author, and former student, Gabrielle Kent to come in to talk to a group of students. Gabrielle inspired students with her story of how she went from EMS into video games illustration, lecturing on video game development to successfully publishing children's books and writing for the TV and film industry.



The Music and Performing Arts Department took a group of 54 students to Sunderland Empire Theatre to see the smash hit west end musical 'Annie'. The students had a fantastic time and were amazed by the professional talent displayed.



Well done to the Year 9 Rugby Team who won 2 out of their 3 games at in a 10's tournament at Allens West. Brilliant!



On National Poetry Day students read poems linked to this year's theme, 'refuge'. Students looked at poems by Michael Rosen, Matsuo Basho and Kim Moore.



Year 12 scientists have been testing for different ions in chemistry and having a great time in a practical lessons.

October



Our Year 7 Coffee Morning was a huge success. There was a great atmosphere and we raised just over £500 for a charity that is very close to our hearts - DMD. We are raising money this year to help a student buy an all terrain wheelchair which costs £16,000.



We opened our newly landscaped St Francis' Garden, which coincided with the feast day of this inspirational saint. Canon Paul Douthwaite, Trust Leaders, Governors, Primary Heads, Staff and Students celebrated in prayer and song. The garden will be a wonderful space for students to reflect in and spend time in the outdoors.

October



Our swimmers competed in the National Schools Team Qualifiers. Fantastic atmosphere, team spirit and personal best times. Well done girls!



The Year 8&9 Netball teams played matches against Manor. The Year 8s played superbly winning their game with the player of the match, Aynaz. The Year 9s lost out in a tough encounter but displayed great team work and resilience. Player of the match, Phoebe.



Scores of Year 6 students visited EMS for our Open Evening. It was a wonderful event with a magical atmosphere. When asked what was most useful about the evening, one parent commented 'The enthusiasm and confidence displayed by the current pupils. The ones we interacted with were a credit to the school.' Excellent.



Durham University and The DWP held a college drop in session with students, checking personal statements and helping students with CVs.



The Year 9 football team beat fellow trust school Carmel 7-1 with a number of boys making their débuts for EMS and representing the school brilliantly. Well done to you all.



A Level Biology students who today completed their first AQA Assessed Practical to investigate the mitotic index of garlic root tip. Great work all.

October

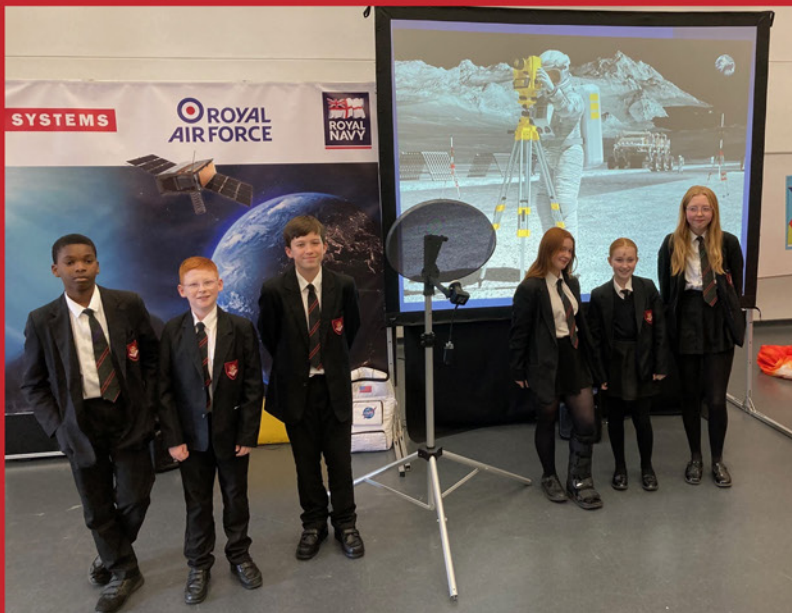


Year 9 students had a fabulous time in Barcelona where they enjoyed a fantastic Dali & Picasso tour through the city, a climb up to the top of Montjuic to enjoy many amazing views of the city, a visit to the Parc Guell to see many of Gaudi's beautiful designs followed by a guided tour of the magnificent Sagrada Familia. They sampled Churros for breakfast before heading out on a trail of the picturesque town, Tossa de Mar discovering many quaint streets, walked along the city walls and enjoyed many views of the beautiful coastline. A wonderful trip. Fantástica!



Year 7 and Year 8 students had a wonderful time on their retreat at the Emmaus Youth Village. Lots of fun games and activities and plenty of time for quiet reflection and prayer. All the students had a fantastic time and are looking forward to their next retreat.

October



Year 8 were involved in a STEM event hosted by BAE Systems Education Roadshow in conjunction with the Royal Navy and RAF. Students engaged with the digital resources through audience participation. From the depths of the oceans to outer space, students learned of the engineering challenges faced when travelling to the most inhospitable places and discovered some of the innovative solutions to these problems.



We had the privilege to welcome Bishop Stephen Wright to our trust. We commemorated his appointment as the fifteenth bishop of Hexham and Newcastle Diocese by attending a 'Christ Lives Within Our Trust' event. We celebrated the word during a liturgy, listened to Bishop Stephen's journey from being a barrister to being our bishop.

The annual House Pumpkin Carving Competition is always popular with the students and this year was no different. Students worked fantastically well on their designs and St. Thomas More picked up the win. Well done to all who took part.



Our Year 11 House FIFA Tournament got underway. Rounds will take place across the year on lunchtimes. Students competed well with some excellent skills shown. One game went right down to the wire going to the always daunting penalty shootout.



Well done to our Year 7 Netball team who won their first fixture of the season against St Hilda's. They played some brilliant netball and showed great team spirit.



October



PC Coggin from Cleveland Police visited college to speak to sixth form students about knife crime. As always, his talk was very informative and engaging. A popular visitor with the students.

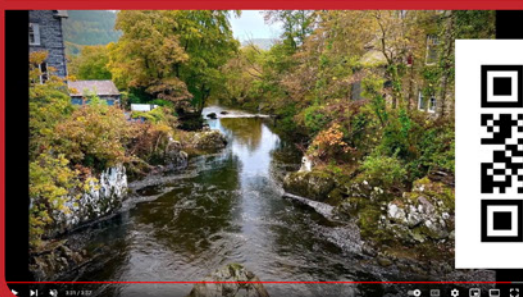


Congratulations to Leo who was selected to play for the Scotland Under 16s Rugby League squad. Leo plays rugby union for West Hartlepool but recently took up rugby league in the off season. To get selected at that level in a short time is a fantastic achievement. Well done Leo.

November



The Art and SEND department organised workshops for students to create ceramic poppies for Remembrance Day. Students designed their own poppies and once they had been fired in the kiln, they were painted, mounted and put on display. Fabulous work.



Over the holidays we held a House Autumn Photography Competition. Lots of fantastic entries which are showcased in this video, a perfect watch on a cold evening. Our Student and Staff winners are also revealed. Well done to all who took part - scan the QR code to watch the clip.

November



We welcomed students from St Michael's and High Tunstall to join us for our Behind Bars conference in the Sixth Form. The day was engaging, informative and a wonderful experience for students.



Year 7 celebrated mass to mark All Saint's Day. All Saints' Day celebrates the feast or solemnity of all the saints in Heaven, both saints recognized by the Church as holy men and women and those who remain unknown. It is also a holy day of obligation.



The County Cup run continues after a great win for the Y7 football team against Northfield School. After a long period at 1-1, the boys played with confidence and dug deep to get the result. Great effort!



Spanish club students celebrated Mexico's Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) by decorating Calabera biscuits in their enrichment session.



In geography lessons, students explored an inventory of potential green careers that could be a local future for our students. We thought this would be a perfect opportunity for our Eco-club to plant wildflower seeds in St Francis' Garden. Stewardship of the Earth and care for our common home is essential for improving biodiversity, improving our carbon footprint and well-being as a community.



Huge congratulations to Chizaram who won the award for excellence in arts at the Black History Youth Awards. Her craftsmanship in her passion for performing arts was recognised. Fantastic!

November



Superb team work, resilience and self believe earned our Year 11 rugby team second place in a tough tournament. Well done boys.



A town 6-a-side tournament was the next test for our Year 7 footballers who played excellently making it to the final.



A brilliant day at the Hartlepool Schools Cross Country. All students performed with grit and determination with 12 students qualifying for the County Round in January. Notable successes came from Zak (1st) Jack (2nd) Bobby (1st) Finley (2nd) and Estelle (2nd) in their respective categories. Well done everyone



It was fantastic to welcome many Year 11 students to our EMS6 Open Event. Applications for September are open, apply online at <https://ems6.bhcet.org.uk> Our next Open Event is 21st March 2024.



We held a liturgy in St. Francis Garden to commemorate Remembrance Day which was live streamed to classrooms.

Readings, Prayers, Music & a procession of Poppies from our students who are in various service groups. This was followed by a silence & the last post. A wonderful service.

November



Historians in Year 10 had a fantastic trip to London. They were terrified in the London Dungeons, they visited the Tower of London to assist their GCSE topics of Crime and Punishment and Elizabethan England and went to see Matilda the Musical. Students who are in uniformed services helped to lay a wreath here to commemorate the fallen soldiers. A wonderful experience for everyone on the trip.



History club attended the Heugh Battery Museum to lay a remembrance wreath on behalf of the school and trust. We paid our respects and read In Flanders Fields. Students had a great time exploring the museum and shop. We also listened to an exhibition of recorded eyewitness accounts from the bombardment of Hartlepool in 1914.



Enjoy this wonderful performance from Year 12 student Ava and her haunting performance of the theme from Schindler's List. Simply beautiful.

This was recorded for Remembrance Day 2023 to give time to reflect on the fallen heroes and give thanks to the veterans who dedicated their lives to protecting us, Scan the QR code to watch.

November



A 3-1 win over South Hunsley (East Riding) saw our Year 10 footballers progress to the next round of the ESFA National Cup. Brilliant!



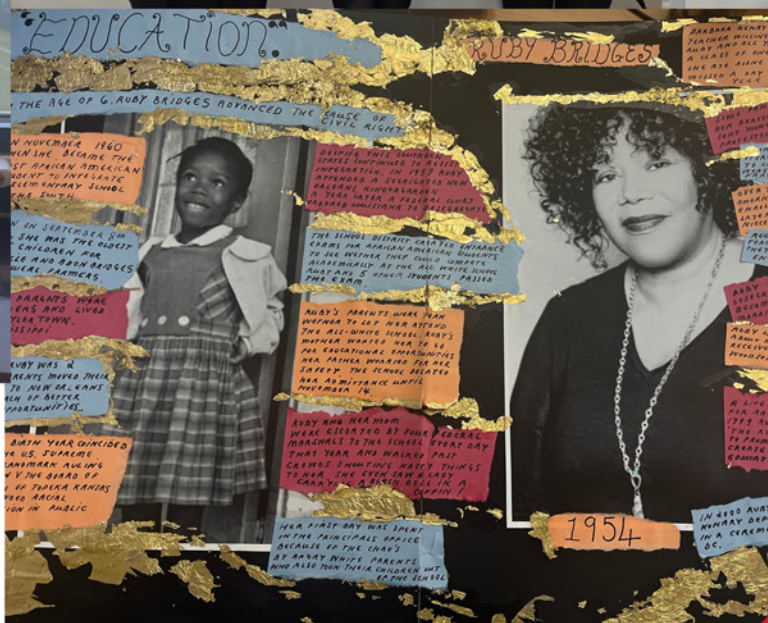
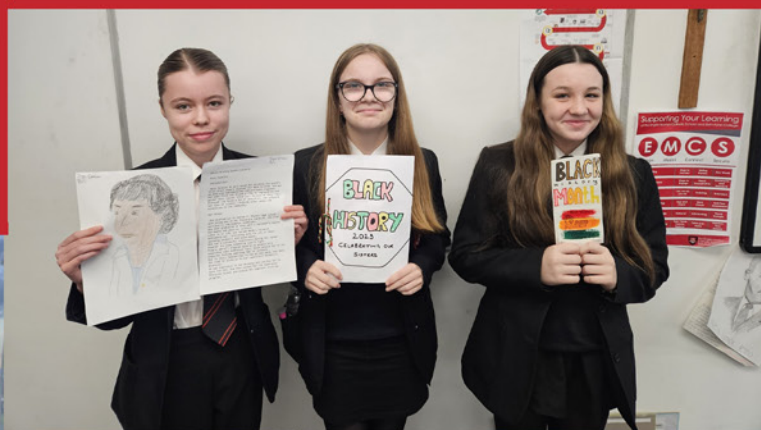
Our Year 11 footballers progress through to the next round of the ESFA National Cup with a solid 4-0 victory away from home against St Cuthbert's High School (Newcastle). Fantastic!



KS3 Historians took part in their 'Black History Month' Extended Project. We received a vast array of projects from posters to model ships and even a jigsaw! A big well done to everyone.



A group of year 8 students were able to attend a workshop run by Oxford University. The students got to see what it might be like to study at university. The courses available, activities and living arrangements. It was a fantastic afternoon and the students had a great time at Our Lady St Bede in Stockton.



November



It was great to see so many students and staff get involved with OddSocksDay to kickstart Anti-Bullying Week 2023.



Year 10 BTEC Performing Arts students took part in an anti bullying performance lesson. In small groups they created their own scenes to show the importance of anti bullying.



Huge congratulations to current student, and now, Corporal Thompson of Hartlepool Rifles, A company, Cleveland Army Cadet Force. He is the youngest person to be awarded the rank of Corporal nationally. To achieve this at such a young age is ground breaking. Outstanding.



Congratulations to the Year 11 students who attended the County Schools Table Tennis competition placing second! Some great games played. Well done,

Sixth Form Leader Finley met with our Student Ambassadors to issue them with an Anti Bullying Week wristband and ruler to thank them for their support and to plan campaigns for the future. We are proud to have such amazing ambassadors who work hard to support each other. Well done everyone.



November



Students and staff from The English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College are celebrating the success of their latest musical performance of 'Oliver!'.

Oliver, played by Year 7 student, Tilly Duffield, is a timeless classic based on the Charles Dickens novel Oliver Twist about a young orphan boy who dared to ask for more.

Performed to nearly eight hundred spectators over a three-night run at Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre, the cast and crew put on a production that left audiences full of praise for the young talent on show with many messages of support being left on the school's social media channels.

The annual musical at English Martyrs is a long-served tradition of the school and thousands of students have trodden the boards in various musicals across the past fifty years.

Musical Director and Choreographer, Mrs Charlotte Stirk said: "Oliver is an all-time classic musical packed with great songs."

"The cast worked unbelievably hard, rehearsing at least three times a week to be ready for the performances and I couldn't be prouder of them all."



November



Since the move to their new building in September 2019, the school made the decision to move their musical to a professional theatre.

Mr Steve Hope, a long-time servant of the show said: "Giving the students the opportunity to perform in a professional theatre is fantastic."

"It allows us to have a larger cast which opens up the door for more students to be involved in the production."

Oliver! is the first production from EMS since the success of Sister Act in February 2020, a week before the pandemic, which meant this was the first musical for a large number of the cast.

Mrs Sara Crawshaw, Headteacher at the large secondary school and sixth form college, said: "This was my first experience of the musicals at EMS and it was far beyond all expectations"

"It gave me such pride to see all the students performing together and seeing our younger students learning from the experience of our Sixth Form students."

"To create a show of that standard in just 8 weeks is incredible and I thank everyone who was involved in making our production a such a huge success."



November



To close #AntiBullyingWeek please enjoy this rendition of 'Read All About It' from super talented James. Scan the QR code to watch



Year 12 Chemists started their first assessed practical. They were making up volumetric solutions in order to carry out an acid-base titration. Well done Year 12, excellent effort.



Phenomenal football performance from our girls saw them storm through to the next round out the County cup! Superb team display, showing great confidence and self belief with a fantastic hat trick from captain Emily. Well done girls!



We held a grand opening of our new book vending machine. Tokens were given to the top readers for November in Year 7, 8 and 9 along with a representative from the top tutor group 7AL2 and our student librarian of the month. Keep up with library usage, Accelerated Reader quizzing and MyOn to give yourself a chance at getting a token.

Literacy Newsletter

Across a term, our Literacy team work incredibly hard promoting reading and organising fantastic events for the students. Read all about it in their own newsletter on the website now.

November

Pupils and staff at The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College are celebrating after receiving a prestigious Artsmark Award in a momentous year for the programme as it celebrates 20 years of arts, culture and creativity in schools.



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



The Artsmark Award is the only creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. It supports schools to develop and celebrate arts and cultural education, putting creativity and well-being at the heart of the curriculum. Artsmark ensures every young person can be creative and access a diverse, high-quality cultural education.

In order to achieve their Gold Artsmark Award, the large secondary school and sixth form college had to develop their arts and culture provision to embed a broad and ambitious curriculum. This was achieved by creating an overall plan that was committed to and delivered across the whole school.

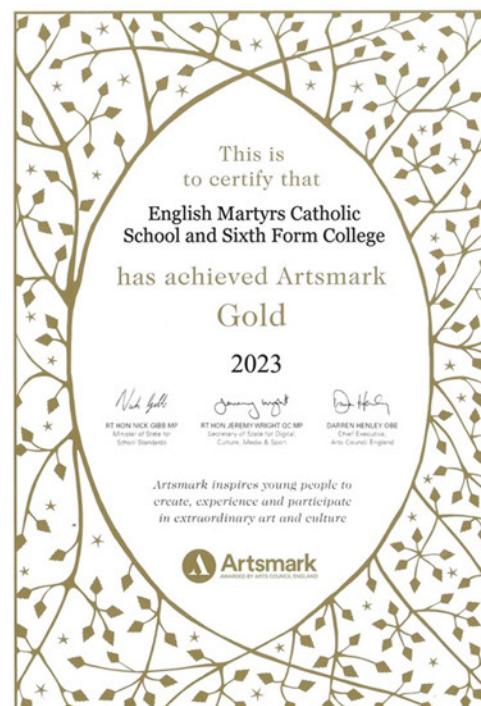
EMS was supported by Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums (Culture Bridge North East) – North East in planning and developing their objectives. Culture Bridge worked alongside the school at various stages to support their Gold Artsmark Award achievement.

The Artsmark assessor commended the school on its: "long-term commitment to arts and culture which is beginning to have measurable effects on staff and pupils. All pupils can access a diverse and consistent range of arts and cultural provision through work with local arts and cultural organisations, both in school and on visits outside the classroom, which leads to showcasing in school and the local community."

On receiving the award, Headteacher Mrs Sara Crawshaw said: "We're extremely proud of achieving our Artsmark Gold Award. We are committed to delivering a high-quality arts and cultural education and we look forward to continue to develop our offer."

Arts Governor Matthew Hutchinson said: "Congratulations to all staff and students who have embraced the legacy of arts at EMS and are continuing to maintain ambition for the arts and our commitment to our local area"

Dr Darren Henley CBE, Chief Executive of the Arts Council, said: "I would like to congratulate The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College on their Artsmark Award. Becoming an Artsmark school demonstrates that through offering a broad, ambitious, and creative curriculum, every pupil can develop character and resilience, increasing their knowledge, curiosity and skills that will remain with them through to adult life."



November



Fine form from our Under 13 girls earned them a place in the county cup quarter finals. Wonderful self-belief and confidence shown by all a true team performance with another captains hat-trick from Tilly.



A fantastic 4-2 win for the Year 7 football team v St Robert's keeps the County Cup run alive. The boys showed great resilience in extremely windy conditions.



Our wonderful Art department worked with students in Year 5 from our feeder primaries to create ceramic plaques which illustrate the union between our schools. Each of the Headteachers were presented with their plaques which will go on display in their respective school. Thank you to all our talented artists. Well done.



We received lots of fantastic donations from tutor groups across Year 7. The donations went to families across Teesside who are in need this Christmas. Massive well done and thank you to everyone involved.

Art Newsletter

Keep up to date with all of the brilliant projects and work in our Art Department in their own Art Newsletter that is released every term. Available to view on the website.

November



Sixth formers had a great time making our reception area festive and welcoming for visitors.



Barrister, Fiona Todd, came into college to work with Y11-13 students preparing for the Mock Bar Trials at Newcastle Crown Court. Her input and advice was invaluable and students greatly appreciated Fiona taking time out of her busy schedule to mentor them.



Year 9 Biologists have been looking at the Microscopy Required Practical. They made their own slides of plant tissue and drew a scientific diagram according to scientific drawing standards.



Year 8 took part in a Knife Crime Assembly with PCSO Eric Barrett, this is part of a National Campaign to raise awareness. Older students then took part in a workshop. We would like to thank PCSO Barrett and Cleveland Police for all of their hard work.

A Level Psychology students attended a virtual conference streamed from Oxford High School entitled "Mind Map- Power of the Brain" and provided a fascinating insight into the development of the brain from birth through to adulthood.



November



We held a short service to bless and switch on our Christmas Tree which takes pride of place in the foyer of the school building. Our choir were on hand for music and a special thank you to Canon Paul for joining us to celebrate.



Huge well done to Year 13 Art student Katie who has designed this years' EMS Christmas Card. A fantastic hand drawn design with the sheet music to Away in a Manger as an overlay. Great work.



Year 11 and 13 Geographers attended The Hazards Student Conference in Manchester. The day unravelled the mysteries of tectonic hazards and explored the seismic world of volcano seismology. The conference offered students an unrivalled opportunity to deepen their understanding of our dynamic planet and interact with technical field equipment and volcanic ash from Iceland. Their curiosity was engaged as they delved into the complexities of tsunami impacts and volcanic risks. It was an excellent chance to ignite their passion.

December



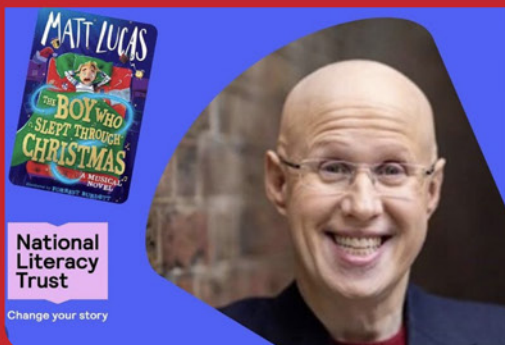
Congratulations to our students who received the sacrament of confirmation in a wonderful evening at St Joseph's Church presided by Bishop Stephen Wright. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Stephen to our School Community.



EMS6 students participated in a festive badminton competition. Fantastic Christmas spirit, excellent self-belief and wonderful compassion. 121 victorious.



Well done to our Year 11 footballers who progressed to the next round of the ESFA National Cup with a 2-0 victory over Houghton Kieper. Clean sheet, a solid performance, some excellent team togetherness and a fab team photo! Both goals from Joe R. Well done boys!



School Librarians had a Christmas treat as paired up with the National Literacy Trust to attend a webinar with Matt Lucas talking about his new Christmas book 'The Boy who Slept Through Christmas'. A fun time was had by all.

December



The annual House Advent Wreath Making Competition is always a festive evening loved by the students. Well done to St. Thomas More who won the competition, with JB 2nd, JI 3rd and AL & MC finishing joint 4th. Well done to everyone who took part.



Fantastic dodgeball performances from out Year 7 teams today. Superb resilience and self belief shown. Girls winning 1st place and the boys coming home in 3rd. Well done all.

December



The English Martyrs were delighted to partake in a Carol Service on Friday at St Hilda's Church for Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales. A fantastic occasion. Well done to all involved.



Christmas is a time to come together in our communities, make memories, and celebrate the hope and joy that the birth of a newborn baby brings. It is a moment to pause and reflect on the past year, and look forward to the future.

That is why this year, I am delighted that individuals have been invited to our community carol services in recognition of the remarkable contribution they are making to help the youngest in our society thrive during the golden period of early childhood.

It is during these precious early years that we first lay foundations which shape the rest of our lives, and the wider world around us. This is the period when, through our relationships, surroundings, and experiences, we begin to understand ourselves and our emotions, form relationships with others, and start to explore the world. In turn, these foundations go on to shape the adults we become and the society we build. So, never has it been more important to support our youngest children, and the adults in their lives.

I want to thank all of you for your contribution in shaping happier, healthier future generations.
We truly value everything you are doing.

Merry Christmas.

Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales



Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Market and Lights on Event in aid of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. We raised over £650 which will go towards purchasing a wheelchair for one of our students who suffers from this disease. Well done friends and families of EMS!



December



We were delighted to welcome back alumnus Luke who is in his second year studying Classics at Christ's College Cambridge. He came in to work with EMS Classicists. It was wonderful to see him and we really appreciate him coming back to spend time with our students and share his expertise.



To celebrate their hard work in Mastery Sessions and their prep exams, Year 11 student were offered a reward trip to do some Christmas shopping at the Metro Centre which everyone enjoyed.



Superb sports hall athletics performances saw Year 7 and Year 8 girls qualify for the Tees Valley Finals. Excellent effort, team work and competitive spirit shown by all. Year 8 and Year 7 boys bringing home 3rd and 4th place respectively. Well done team EMS.

Safeguarding Newsletter

Our Safeguarding Newsletter is published every term and available on the website for you to read at your leisure. It is packed full of useful contacts and information. A must read.

December



A group of students from Year 11 and Sixth Form competed in the regional Bar Mock trials at Newcastle Crown Court. They have worked hard over several weeks to prepare the prosecution and defence for two cases - learning the skills of being effective barristers, witnesses, clerks, ushers and jurors! Although the team weren't lucky enough to reach the national finals this year, they won two out of their three cases, including beating the overall winners: Keswick school. Their calm under pressure (and cross-examination) shows we have some future legal experts in our school community. Super proud!



Everyone had a wonderful Christmas time as we held our Christmas Jumper Day with Christmas Dinner, Crackers, Party Hats and Music in the dining hall. We managed to catch a picture of some of our Year 7 students in their jumpers before they headed off to a Pantomime.

The buckets were collected and counted and we raised a total of £287 for Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group, a local charity we have supported at Christmas for the last 9 years raising just under £7500. Thank you to everyone who took part.

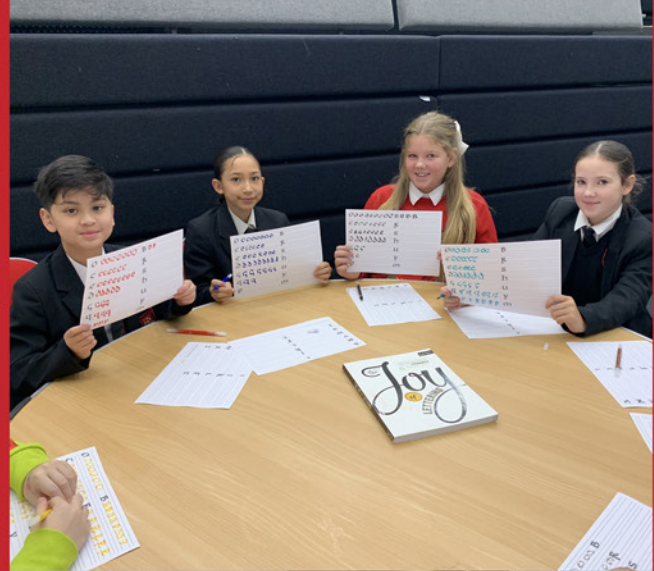
December



Sixth Form students and staff had great fun celebrating Christmas jumper day and enjoying their Christmas dinner in college with more festivities planned before their Christmas break.



The final of the Y11 FIFA tournament between 11J12 and 11JB2 was a fiercely contested game where 11JB2 turned in an determined performance in the first half taking a 1 nil lead. The tea and biscuits at half-time must have helped 11J12 as they came back into the second half with a very well worked goal and showed excellent spirit in the game. 11JB2 clinched the game with little time to spare, taking the victory with a fine goal in the last 10 minutes of the game, ending with a final score of 2-1.



Year 7 students were able to take part in a Calligraphy Workshop ran by Angela Reed. They did a fantastic job at practicing manuscript writing to prepare for their RE lesson on the Book of Kells. Thank you to Angela for the incredible sessions. Well done everyone.

December



Year 7 students visited the Life Centre in Newcastle on where they had the opportunity to explore the different zones, watch Mrs Harrison take part in an experiment, and even tried some ice skating. The students were exemplary and had a great time! Year 8's turn next! Brilliant.



We held our Christmas Liturgy in St. Joseph's Church. It was lovely to welcome students from our trust Primary schools to create a choir of 100 students. Thank you to everyone who attended the event, the parishioners of St. Joseph's and Canon Paul, the amazing students from our primary feeder schools and our Primary school headteachers for supporting.



December



In the last week of term, we held an awards evening to celebrate the achievement of the Year 13 students who left EMS6 in the summer plus Year 11 students currently at EMS.

We were privileged to have former student Dr Kathryn Gillen join us for the evening. Dr Gillen was educated at St. Joseph's Convent and The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College. At the University of Durham, she studied for a degree in Psychology and Philosophy and completed a PhD in Psychology immediately afterwards.

Dedicated to teaching and learning, Dr Gillen started her career as a University lecturer in Psychology, then took a change of direction and joined the regional Strategic Health Authority as Director of Education. Having gained valuable experience, Dr Gillen returned to academia and worked her way up the ranks, becoming Academic Registrar on the Executive Team at Teesside University.

Dr Gillen addressed the students, speaking affectionately about her time at EMS and encouraged them to work hard and enforced that the virtues we encourage in school will stand them in good stead.

Awards were given for a range of academic and cultural achievements including excelling within individual subjects, enhancing the school community, and recognising the many individual successes. Each award received by Year 11 students, were presented by the former winner of that subject.

The presence of many former colleagues and special guests presenting awards made the evening a special occasion to be remembered for time to come.



Miss School, Miss Out!

EMS students who ATTEND more achieve more!



Pupils with greater than 96% attendance:

85%

achieved 9-4 in
English and
Maths

56%

achieved 9-5 in
English and
Maths

53.82

was the total
Attainment 8
Score

Pupils with less than 96% attendance:

64%

achieved 9-4 in
English and
Maths

38%

achieved 9-5 in
English and
Maths

44.80

was the total
Attainment 8
Score

Pupils with less than 90% attendance:

50%

achieved 9-4 in
English and
Maths

22%

achieved 9-5 in
English and
Maths

36.96

was the total
Attainment 8
Score

Holidays 2023-24

Term 1

September 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
							1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					

November 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30			

December 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Term 2

January 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				

February 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29			

March 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	25
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30					

Term 3

May 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31		

June 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				

Key	
	School Holidays
	PD Days
	Public Bank Holidays

The other two statutory PD days will be deployed throughout the year as twilight sessions for staff

Key Dates

Thursday 21st December 2023 – School closes to students for Christmas at 3.20pm

Friday 22nd December 2023 – PD day – school closed to all students

Monday 8th January 2024 - Spring Term 2024 and all students return to school

Monday 8th January - Year 13 Prep Exams Begin

Thursday 11th January - Year 9 Meet the Teacher Evening

Thursday 18th January - Year 11 Meet the Teacher Evening

Thursday 8th February - Year 12/13 Meet the Teacher Evening

Reporting Absence

Maximising your child's attendance is paramount to their education. If your child will be absent, please contact the Attendance team on 01429 273790 (option 1) **as early as possible** or message us using the app.

Attend Today - Achieve Tomorrow



Catcote Road, Hartlepool, TS25 4HA



admin@ems.bhcet.org.uk



(01429) 273790



ems.bhcet.org.uk



The English Martyrs
Catholic School and Sixth Form College



A Proud Member of
**BISHOP
HOGARTH**
Catholic Education Trust

Head Teacher: Sara Crawshaw

Admissions 2025-26 Consultation

7th December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Consultation on Admission Arrangements for English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College, Hartlepool 2025-2026

Where changes to admission arrangements are suggested, schools are required to consult before these are determined and published.

A copy of the policy for consultation and a consultation response form can be found on the school website at <https://ems.bhcet.org.uk/admissions>. The proposed changes are as follows:

English Martyrs Reduce PAN from 270 to 250

Response forms should be returned to the school by Friday 19 January 2024
F.A.O Mrs Lisa Smith email address lsmith@ems.bhcet.org.uk

The Directors of Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust [the Admissions Authority] will consider all comments received before they determine the arrangements for 2025-26.

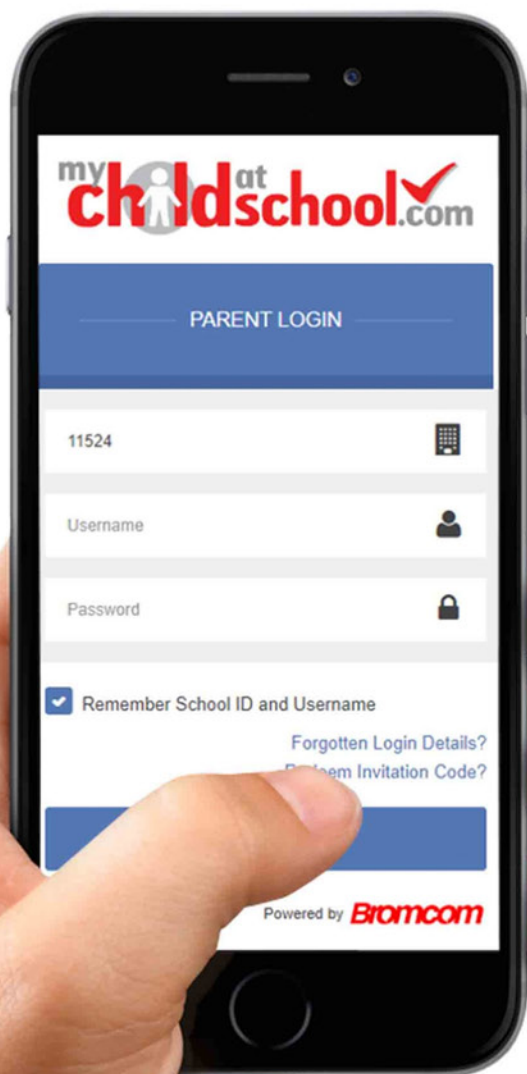
Yours sincerely

Sara Crawshaw
Headteacher



Per Unitatem Virtus

How to access all information and keep in touch.



As a parent, **everything** you need will now be in a single app called My Child at School (MCAS).

As well as being accessible on your mobile devices, MCAS is also accessible via a web browser meaning it can be viewed on a laptop or computer.

Unlike the apps we have used in the past, MCAS is live. The information updates in realtime. As soon as you sign in, you have all the information at your fingertips.

Dinner money, trips and other purchases is also incorporated within the single platform.

If your child is from one of our feeder primaries, the app will continue to work as normal.

If you have never had MCAS before, we will send you any information you need.

If you have any queries or questions, please contact us and we will be able to get you up and running in no time.

We're social...

Follow us on your favourite social media channels

Facebook.com/
EnglishMartyrsSchool



@ems_hartlepool



Find and Subscribe on



@ems_hartlepool





Parking Pledge

at The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Made in partnership with BHCET, HBC Highways Traffic & Transport, our parents forum, staff and students.

Objectives

- To **prioritise the safety** of students
- To **improve the parking** situation.
- To **reduce the volume** of traffic in St Annes' Car Park (Main car park)

Do you need to drive?

Walking and cycling to the school can often be quicker and easier. We have a bike shed behind the secure line of school for students to use. There are cycle paths along the majority of Catcote Road. School is easily accessible on foot.



Where possible, drop your child in a safe place a short walk away from school to help control congestion around the school site.

If you need to use St Anne's Car Park:

- Maintain a **5mph speed limit**.
- **Reverse park** into parking bays. If you are waiting to collect your child and there are no bays available, **do not double park and do not block in parked cars**.



If you park on public roads:

- Please do so **legally and safely**.
- Show consideration to our neighbours.



TEACHING INTERNSHIPS

Carmel Teacher Training Partnership's Teaching Internships provide you with the opportunity to experience the rewarding world of teaching and gain new skills whilst being paid £300 per week for your time.

New for 2024 – Masters student places now available

WE WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO:

- Learn about key aspects of the pedagogy of teaching
- Gain classroom experience and get involved in lessons
- Opportunity to try up to 2 days in a primary setting
- Work with existing experienced teachers
- Be involved in wider school activities
- Work with a range of students

3 week placements will commence end of June 2024

**Earn up
to £900**

If you are a current undergraduate or masters student on a STEM or MFL related course and are interested in teaching secondary maths, physics, chemistry, French, Spanish or computing, then the Teaching Internship programme could be perfect for you.

Visit our website for more information:

www.carmelteachertraining.com/teaching-internships



01325 523474
teachertraining@carmel.bhcet.org.uk

