EMS Parent Update 62 — 28 November 2025

Welcome to the latest and penultimate Autumn Term update from EMS. It was lovely to see so many parents of Year 12 students in school on Monday 10th November for the Year 12 parents' meetings and we are looking forward to welcoming Year 13 parents for their meetings on Monday 8th December.

Since returning from the half-term break, our Year 13 students have completed their mock assessments, and we hope they found the feedback constructive. These internal assessments are designed to show progress made and to highlight any gaps. They do not contribute towards their final grades.

We hope that you are able to attend our annual EMC Christmas Lectures at the University on Tuesday 16th December to see Year 12 students present their EMC group projects. This is a key annual event and a highlight for the school. Year 12 students are working incredibly hard, and we are looking forward to seeing the results. Year 13 parents are also very welcome to attend – I'm sure the students agree that the larger the audience, the better!!

Dates for your Diary:

Date	Year	Time	Event	Description
08/12/2025	Year 13	1500 – 2000 (break at 1730)	Parent, student, teacher meetings	A series of meetings to review progress and targets.
16/12/2025	All	1230 – 1630	Year 12 Christmas Lectures	A highlight of the year. The presentation of EMC academic projects.
02/02/2026	All	1800 – 2000	EMS Festival of Culture	In partnership with Exeter College Reach Academy - a showcase of cultures, hobbies and talents through performances, workshops and exhibition stands.
05/03/2026	All	TBC – throughout the day	Year 13 EMC Conference	Another highlight of the year. Presentations and posters showcasing the final EMC projects.
09/03/2026	Year 12	1500 – 2000 (break at 1730)	Parent, student, teacher meetings	A series of meetings to review progress and targets.
30/04/2026	Year 12	1700 - 1800	UCAS Parent Information Event – online	An explanation of the university admissions process. An online event.
22/06/2026	Year 13	1600 - 1800	EMC and Curriculum X Celebration	A get together to celebrate the achievements of Year 13 and to award certificates.
07/07/2026 and 08/07/2026	Year 12	Individual appointments	End of year review with Tutors	Post assessment review of the year's progress, target setting for the year ahead and receive UCAS predicted grades.

The Parents Page on our website has information on key parent events, term dates, internal assessments and the Summer exams timetable - Exeter Maths School | Parents Page (exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk).

ALL – FOR INFORMATION - Exeter College – Parent Meetings and Staff Development Day

If your child takes a subject at Exeter College, please note the following dates for their parent meetings:

Date	Year	Time	Event
26/03/2026	12	17:00 – 20:00	Year 12 parents evening (remote)
01/04/2026	12	17:00 – 20:00	Year 12 parents evening (remote)

Please note there will be no Exeter College lessons on **Friday 5th December** due to a Staff Development Day.

All – FOR INFORMATION – End of Term Arrangements

The last day of term is **Friday 19th December** and lessons will finish at 14:15 as usual.

All students are due back in school on **Wednesday 7th January** for lesson 1 (09:00) and boarding will be open from 16:00 on Tuesday 6th January.

All – FOR INFORMATON – Non-EMS Students coming into School

Recently, we've noticed that some students have been allowing non-EMS students access to the School through the back gate. Yasmin has already spoken with the students and year group involved, emphasising the importance of maintaining school security. To help us ensure the safety of our school community, we kindly ask that you reiterate this message to your children at home. Thank you for your continued support.

All – FOR ACTION – Festival of Culture – Save the Date!

Students have begun signing up to take part in the upcoming **Festival of Culture**, which will be held on **Monday 2nd February between 18:00 and 20:00 at EMS**. The event is in partnership with Exeter College's Reach Academy and we are delighted with the fantastic level of interest so far, as well as the creative ideas already being put forward.

There will be a planning meeting on Wednesday 3rd December at EMS where students will discuss key details, organise roles, and plan locations for the festival activities.

Invitations to attend the event will be sent to parents when we return in January, in the meantime please save the date!

Year 13 – FOR ACTION – EMC and Curriculum X Celebration – Save the Date!

On **Monday 22nd June 2026**, between 16:00 and 18:00, Year 13 students and their families will be invited to a graduation style ceremony to celebrate their EMC projects and Curriculum X courses. This will take place at the University of Exeter, Streatham Campus and further details will be provided closer to the time, but in the meantime please save the date!

Year 13 – FOR INFORMATION – Parents Meetings

Year 13 Parent/Student/Teacher Meetings will be held on **Monday 8th December between 3.00pm and 8.00pm** with a break at 5.30pm. Parents and students will have the option of attending meetings in person or online. Students will be booking the appointments directly with their teachers.

Reports will go out in advance of the meetings, on **Friday 5th December.**.

Year 12 - FOR INFORMATION – Residential Visit to Lancaster University in July 2026

U-Maths have created an exciting opportunity for up to 20 EMS students to attend a conference for Maths School students between **6th and 8th July 2026** at Lancaster University. This residential event offers students a fantastic chance to experience a taste of university life, explore potential career pathways after their studies, meet new people, and enjoy a memorable and enriching few days.

To help us gauge interest at this stage, Kerry has asked all students to complete an online form on Student Teams to indicate how likely they would be to take part. The cost per student is approximately £200 and we are able to use our bursary funds to support those from low income households who would otherwise be unable to afford to attend.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Year 12 EMC Christmas Lectures

The EMC Christmas Lectures will take place on **Tuesday 16th December** at the University of Exeter, Newman Building, Blue Room from 12.30pm. This is a key event in the EMS calendar where Year 12 students present their EMC group projects to the whole school, governors, university academics and all parents (including Year 13 parents) are invited.

Students are responsible for booking their parents/family seats and a booking form will be available very soon. The venue has lots of capacity so there is no cap on family numbers per student, but if we find we are oversubscribed then priority will be given to family and friends of Year 12 students. Students will be given presentation time slots soon, and we ask that all guests stay for a whole session and not just their child's presentation (each session is approximately 1 hour 30 minutes long). EMC posters will be on display during the break.

We look forward to seeing you then!

All – FOR INFORMATION – Admissions Deadline

For anyone with younger children hoping to apply to EMS for September 2026 entry the deadline is fast approaching! Students who want to apply should submit their form by the end of **Sunday 7th December** to guarantee a spot for the Entrance Test on **24th January**, and to receive their Entrance Test practice materials by the end of term. Students can start their applications at https://ems.applicaa.com and send their questions to admissions@exeterms.ac.uk.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Alumni Update

Class of 2025 – Pizza and Certificate Evening:

Our latest alumni, the Class of 2025 have been invited to come into EMS on **Monday 5th January** between 16:15 and 18:00 to collect their A level certificates, eat pizza but more importantly to tell us what they have been up to since leaving in the summer! If you have a child who left EMS this year, please remind them to complete the online form to register for the event if they haven't already - 2025 Leavers ALUMNI Certificate Celebration – Fill in form.

Linkedin Alumni Group:

We have created a new private group on Linkedin for our Alumni and have started to invite students from the first cohort to this year's leavers to join. The aim of the group is to keep our ex-students updated with school news and opportunities, to advertise alumni events and reunions and to connect with the school and each other. If you have an older child who attended EMS and would be interested in joining the group tell them to check their emails for information or email Dinah at dinahlees@exeterms.ac.uk.

All – EMS NEWS – Volunteering Update

An enormous thank you to the students who have been volunteering at our Outreach events over the past few weeks. It's been great to see the Year 12s getting stuck in.

Chloe, Jack, Robin and Alex had a busy but fun day at the Sidmouth Science Festival last month. This is an annual public event which presents a great opportunity for STEM enthusiasts to share their passion for their subjects with the wider population in an informal, fun setting. The students were great ambassadors for EMS and our subjects and gave up a whole Saturday to attend.

We also welcomed students from around the region to our Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 Maths Student Community events recently. Again, a huge thank you to Georgina, Hettie, Henry, Liisa, Nathan, Tom and Isla for coming along to these sessions, supporting the students and EMS staff and acting as such great role models.

All – EMS NEWS – Outreach Update – EMS Axiom Maths Circles

This programme is a significant part of our Outreach offer. Students attend online or face-to-face in groups of 6-7 which are led by mentors. We recruit a number of our students each year to take up this paid position. We were delighted that so many students applied, and we are enjoying introducing the successful applicants to the programme through weekly training sessions. They will take up their positions in January.

In other Axiom news, our Year 11 cohort completed their programme recently. They've been with us since Yea 7 so that's a lot of Maths explored over that period! Thanks to Fiona who was the lead teacher for that cohort. Mentors for the Year 11 programme include former EMS students who are now at university, so it's been very much a team effort to support and develop these aspiring mathematicians.

All – EMS NEWS – Reading with the Elderly

A massive well done and thank you to Year 13 students, Joe, Dylan, Ivo and Agatha who attended their final reading session with the elderly guests at Age UK's Sycamore respite days this morning, Friday 28th November. Since their first session in March 2025, they have been absolutely brilliant—bringing joy, conversation and connection through reading a variety of poetry (with Pam Ayres being a strong favourite!), short extracts, good-news stories, "on this day" moments, and much more. Their enthusiasm has made a real difference, and the guests have thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the sessions. Kerry will be meeting with the students before Xmas to celebrate their achievement Well done, Year 13 - your positive impact will be felt long after your final session!

We were also delighted to welcome three Year 12 students, who attended today's session to observe ahead of taking over in January. Two of them even jumped straight in and read to the group. Well done everyone!

ALL – EMS NEWS – Message from the Boarding Team

It's beginning to look a little bit like Christmas in boarding as the first of the Christmas socials began this week with a 'make Christmas decorations' craft evening. Students had a go at creating mini trees from card and tinsel pipe cleaners, mini glittery wreaths, pompom snowmen, tinsel candy canes, silver angels and colourful paper snowflakes – many of which are now decorating the boarding corridors.

We organise many different socials each term, often getting ideas from boarders and they are all completely optional as students can choose if they would like to come along or not, whatever they prefer. Everyone is welcome to just turn up, see what we are doing, have a go or not join in at all. It is a relaxing, fun hour or so in one or two of the kitchens (usually after dinner time) and they are a great opportunity to be creative, try something new or different and a nice little break from studying. And best of all, there are often biscuits to enjoy too!

ALL – EMS NEWS – Senior Kangaroo Maths Challenge

The results are in for the Senior Kangaroo Maths Challenge and out of the 32 students who took part (twelve Year 12 and twenty Year 13) we are really pleased to announce students achieved 4 Gold, 8 Silver and 15 Bronze awards. Congratulations to all students who took part!

ALL – EMS NEWS – Chess Success!

Malcolm took 12 students to Taunton School on Tuesday as part of the National Schools Chess Championships. Both teams qualified to the next round with the A team completing smashing it! Well done to everyone who took part.

ALL – EMS NEWS – KS5 Physics Challenge

Our ever-popular, KS5 Physics Challenge took place last week with 23 teams of sixth form students from across the South-West taking part. The event includes a variety of team challenges, including the famous 'very hard question round'. EMS entered two teams and while Kings of Wessex Academy won the Ogden Award for Excellence and Devonport High School for Boys won the Estimation Round and Best Overall Work the EMS team were victorious in the Practical Round!

A massive well done to those who took part! We're already looking forward to the KS4 Physics Challenge in January 2026!

ALL – EMS NEWS – U Maths Staff Development Day

EMS staff travelled to Birmingham on Friday 21st November for a staff training day with other Maths Schools from across the country. It was a very successful event, offering opportunities to share ideas and participate in a range of workshops focused on key areas of practice. No doubt that lessons and ideas learnt will soon be seen in the classroom and beyond for the benefit of all our students!