

Introduction from Kerry:

Welcome to the final update of 2025/26 from Exeter Maths School!

It's felt like quite a tough term in many ways.

Year 13 faced their first public exam which was arguably the toughest one of the whole set. They rallied well and I'm delighted that following that shaky start, the rest of the exams went smoothly. A huge thanks needs to go to Jo Potts, our Exams Officer, who works diligently behind the scenes to ensure this is the case.

Many of Year 12 have found the process of summer exams and feedback a challenge. I spoke to them today about their intrinsic worth and that this is not conditional on their achievements or on the impact they have in the world. I shared two stories of people who felt as though they had failed or let others down at their age, but years later have a more positive perspective. I hope this helped them. Your children are fantastic and we want nothing more than happiness, health and fulfilment for them.

For me personally, having been quite ill, I've not felt top-of-my-game and am most definitely in need of a break. I'm planning on spending a lot of time in my garden over the coming month and will come back ready and raring to go. You will see from the first item below that the term has culminated in incredibly sad news.

I want to take a moment to thank you all for your support and encouragement. There has been lots to celebrate this year, and indeed this term. Whatever challenges we face, there is still much to bring us joy. I hope you have a lovely summer and look forward to picking up with you at the start of the new school year.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Anne Oxborough OBE

I am very sorry to be sharing with you the sad and shocking news that our governor, Anne Oxborough, has passed away following a stroke. Anne was an exceptional person and a great supporter of the school.

Anne was an English teacher and when EMS opened, she had just retired from her senior role at Exeter College, leading A-levels. She was on the School's first board of governors and chaired our Curriculum and Student Experience Committee before going on to Chair of the Board. She held that position during COVID and was most likely the reason I remained sane throughout that tumultuous time. I am a better Headteacher thanks to her challenge, support and the example she set.

Anne cared greatly about people: she wanted to be sure that students had a voice and that their needs were central to decision making. She cared equally about the staff team and always gave praise and encouragement where it was due. She was incredibly incisive which we put to good use by having her interview almost every member of staff we appointed.

Two areas of school development that she staunchly defended and promoted were the development of our students' literacy skills (she loved EMC and judged our annual Poetry-by-Heart competition) and our students' ability to engage with activities at Exeter College, whether that be A-levels or extra-curricular activities.

Reflective, warm and challenging, countless students have benefited from the impact she has had on EMS, albeit mostly hidden behind the scenes. Her legacy will live on in the work we do by ensuring we continue to focus on the best interests of our students whilst caring for staff and adding a sprinkling of literacy into the mix.

YEAR 13 – FOR ACTION – EMS Alumni Network

Although we are sad to see our Year 13 students leave, we are also delighted to welcome them into our growing EMS alumni community.

To enable us to stay in touch after they have left us, we need each student's permission to contact them. If they haven't done so already but would like to join our alumni network, please remind them to complete the following form - [Exeter Maths School - Alumni Network – Fill in form](#)

By joining our alumni database, students will receive invitations to our annual Alumni BBQ and other alumni events as well as information on opportunities open to them. We also love hearing what our former students go on to achieve.

LinkedIn:

If students have a LinkedIn page, they can also request to join our private LinkedIn Alumni page at the following link - <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/15627028/>.

YEAR 13 - FOR INFORMATION – Results Day

Year 13 will have recently received information about results day and post exam services.

This Review of Results document can also be found on the school website - <https://exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Review-of-Results-2026.pdf>

Results day is 13th August 2026:

Students can collect their results in school between 9.30 -12pm. Teaching Staff will be available all day for support.

Please can all students fill out this form regarding results collection - [GCE Results Day 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Students in **UCAS clearing** on the 13th August can contact the Exams Officer, Jo Potts by email at JoPotts@exeterms.ac.uk from 08:00 to request results. A results report will then be prioritised and emailed to them as soon as possible but we cannot give an exact time.

Exeter College Results Day:

Exeter College will be sending A level results to students via their electronic individual learning plan (eILP) at 8.00am on Thursday 13th August. They have asked students to ensure that their relevant details are correct and if students have changed their mobile numbers or any other details, they will need to update these on their College account. They also recommend students set a reminder to log into the College account before results day as their password may have expired and need resetting.

Year 12 – FOR INFORMATION – Returning in September

Year 12, going into Year 13, students return to EMS on **Thursday 3rd September** and lessons will begin at 9am. Boarding students can move in their belongings on **Friday 21st August** between 12.30pm and 4.30pm, or alternatively they can move in the night before they start school on **Wednesday 2nd September** after 4pm. To confirm, Year 13 boarders' first night in Boarding is on Wednesday 2nd September.

Exeter College lessons will begin for Year 13 students on Monday 7th September with a welcome back afternoon on Friday 4th September. Exeter College term dates can be found at the following link - [Term Dates - Exeter College](#)

EMS Term dates for 2026/2027 can be found on our website at the following link - [Exeter Maths School | Parents Page](#)

ALL - EMS NEWS – Goodbye (for now) to the Class of 2026!



As the academic year comes to a close, we bid a fond farewell to the **Class of 2026!** It has been a privilege to teach and support such an amazing group of students over the past two years. We are confident that they are well-prepared for the exciting opportunities and challenges that lie ahead and look forward to hearing all about their future endeavours. This is not goodbye forever, however, as we hope to see students on **Thursday 13th August** for A level Results Day and alumni events in the future - our alumni form a strong part of the EMS community! In the meantime, have any amazing and relaxing summer!

All – EMS NEWS – Student Volunteers – Year 6 Polygon Poster Competition



Every summer term, primary schools are invited to take part in our **Year 6 Poster Competition**, and this year's theme was **Polygons!**

We were absolutely delighted by the fantastic response, with an **overwhelming number of entries** submitted. Each poster was carefully assessed for its **mathematical content, creativity, design, and accuracy.**

A special thank you goes to our wonderful Year 12 judges — **Freya, Hettie, and Agata** — who did an excellent job reviewing every entry. They looked closely at the mathematical understanding shown, the originality of the designs, and the overall presentation.

It was inspiring to see so many budding mathematicians and designers showcase their talents!

All – EMS Staff NEWS – Well done Louise!



If you were in school last week, you may have noticed the absence of our brilliant receptionist, Louise! This was due to Louise representing GB in the +60 Women's FIMBA Basketball European Championships in Athens!

Louise and the GB team beat Mexico and USA, getting knocked out at the quarter finals when they came up against tough opposition from Latvia, Finland, Poland and Germany - finishing in 8th place overall in the group. Latvia took gold. Well done Louise and the team!

All – EMS NEWS – Academics from University of Exeter



We were delighted to welcome academics from the University of Exeter to EMS on Friday 19th June. Colleagues from the University's Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science departments met with key EMS staff to explore opportunities for future collaboration, including our EMC and Curriculum X programmes, as well as a range of exciting new ideas currently in development.

A huge thank you to the Year 12 students who stayed after school to meet with the academics and share their experiences. The academics really appreciated having a student's perspective and helped showcase the unique opportunities available

at the school.

All – EMS NEWS – Outreach Careers Fairs

It's been another busy year for **Jane**, who has been out and about representing EMS at careers fairs across our catchment area.

Here she is in **Devonport**, promoting EMS *alfresco* and making sure future students and families know what makes our school so special!



ALL - EMS NEWS – Chess Trip to National School

We had a brilliant trip to Nottingham for the English Chess Federation's Senior Challenge Chess Finals on Monday 22nd June. Although we didn't qualify for the National Schools Chess Championship finals this year, qualifying for the Senior Challenge Finals was still a great achievement. It was the first big tournament for our Year 12 players, and they played fantastically to finish mid-table against really stiff competition. Hopefully the experience will help them succeed in the NSCC next year!

A massive thank you to Malcolm and Beth for their support – especially for driving the long journey to Nottingham and accompanying the team throughout the event.

All – EMS NEWS – Alumni Update – Teacher Internship Programme

It was fantastic to see some of our alumni who took part in the Teaching Internship Programme this year back to EMS for their final day of reflection on Friday 3rd July following their three week placement in a local secondary school. It was great to hear about their experiences, the skills they have developed, and the positive impact the placements have had. We're especially delighted that many are now considering a career in teaching.



The Teaching Internship programme is open to second, third and final year STEM and Modern Foreign Language undergraduates and masters students and we anticipate that the 2027 programme will be open for applications towards the end of the Autumn term 2026. Further information will be posted on our website nearer the time.

All – EMS NEWS – Boarding Update



What a fantastic year in boarding it has been, and we are so proud of all our Year 13's as they leave us, it has been a privilege to see how they have flourished and I hope they will remember all the cooking skills they've learnt, especially how long mashed potatoes take to make for 16 people! We wish them all the best on their future endeavours. The Year 12's have also impressed us with their calm and determined attitudes in finishing their first year assessments and we look forward to seeing them back in boarding as Year 13's.

We still had time for a few more socials before the year was finished! The much loved Scavenger photo hunt was

enjoyed by many students. There was a mad dash as they organised themselves into groups and then had one hour to find and photograph as many things as they could on the long list and bring them back to boarding. This was followed by a relaxing friendship bracelet making social outside in our courtyard. And for those who wanted to join in, we also had a friendly World Cup competition. This one was kindly organised by a student and we were all randomly given one of the 48 qualifying countries with a prize for those qualifying for the quarter final. It was great to see all the colourful flags from around the world on display.

A reminder that the date to move things back in to boarding (if they'd like to do so before the start of term) is on Friday 21st August where boarding will be open from 12.30pm to 4.30pm. Alternatively, students can move their belongings back in the night before their first day of term, Wednesday 2nd September for Year 13's, as boarding will be open as usual from 4pm.

Have a fantastic summer from all in the boarding team.

All – EMS NEWS – Oxford University Trip

On Wednesday 1st July, Liam, Andrew, Nick and Claire took a number of Year 12 students to Oxford to attend the University of Oxford Open Day. Students had an amazing day visiting colleges, attending lectures, seminars, workshops and speaking to other students.

We hope the trip gave them all a feel for student life in Oxford and plenty of information on any courses they may be interested in.



ALL - EMS NEWS – Governor Update

As the academic year draws to an end, we are saying a fond and grateful goodbye to three governors.

Our parent governor, Chrissie Walker, will be leaving now that her child has finished Year 13. Chrissie has supported the board for two years and was the governor for Health & Safety, serving on the Resources Committee. We will seek to appoint a new parent governor from amongst the new intake of parents.

Fiona Thomas has also come to the end of her term, having served as staff-governor for the last four years. Fiona has an exacting attention to detail and has been a thoughtful and diligent governor. It's wonderful to have a staff-governor that feels able to speak up in meetings, ask probing questions and actively contribute to the school's development. I'm delighted to share that Tamsin Muir, the school's Finance Officer, will be the new staff governor from September: our first non-teaching staff-governor, she will bring a new and welcome perspective to the board.



Finally, we are reluctantly saying goodbye to one of our longest standing governors, Dr Tim Paulden. Tim served on the board for 11 years but has been involved in supporting EMS from its inception in 2013, writing our very first Industry EMC project. His statistical expertise has been put to good use in analysing data and he has continued to support the school by offering EMC projects, outreach workshops, Curriculum X courses and training of teachers, all in addition to his governor role. In fact, Tim was the person who first trained our teachers in the use of R and shared how it is used in Industry. He possesses a rare combination of academic excellence, generosity of spirit, deep attention to detail, an understanding of education and industry insights. Initially serving on

the Curriculum and Student Experience Committee, Tim later took over from Anne as our Chair of Governors, stepping back this year to be able to spend more time with his family.

I'm delighted to share that Tim is not saying goodbye to the school completely and will continue to support our enriched curriculum. I don't think it too bold a statement to say that I expect he will be an active friend of EMS for life. I should also add that he has gifted the school two fiendishly difficult puzzles that look deceptively simple. Watch this space, students...

All – EMS NEWS – Lancaster Trip



On Monday, Liam, Beth and Magda accompanied a group of Year 12 students to Lancaster University for a conference bringing together students from University Maths Schools across the country. The trip was a great success, and Year 12 student Abi has kindly written the following account of the trip:

The coach journey up was long and everyone had a nice nap. On Monday evening we took part in an entertaining quiz which Natan and Henry did very well in. Unfortunately, we all failed miserably at the South West round - sorry Liam! On Tuesday there was a very entertaining talk from Colin Wright about the Maths of Juggling. We also took part in a series of university style workshops. Our EMC project presentation from myself, Conrad and Tom went really well and hearing the other talks was super interesting. A fun evening of football, board games and movies was had in the evening including two rounds of Blood On The Clocktower run by

Nicole. Finally on Wednesday we had two useful careers talks about Interviews and Stock Trading. We also took part in a Q&R with lots of alumni and STEM professionals. Finally, to wrap up we had an amazing talk from Aoife Hunt about modelling crowd movement, in the afternoon. The food throughout the whole trip was delicious and we all had lots of fun. The trip back on the coach was fun and Liam made sure to brush us up on our South West knowledge!



All – EMS NEWS – Year 13 Prom



The Year 13 Leavers Prom took place on Wednesday 24th June at Whipton Community Hall. Despite the extreme heat it was a great success, and it was wonderful to see students celebrating the end of their time at EMS with their friends.

A huge thank you to the Year 13 Leavers' Committee for all their hard work in organising the event, and to staff members Liam, Nikki and Nick, who generously gave up their evening to support the celebrations.



All – EMS NEWS – Beach Trip

Our summer social at Exmouth beach on Wednesday was a great success, made even better by beautiful weather including a very welcome breeze!

After registers were complete students wasted no time and set about playing rounders, digging, blinngo ball, and socialising with friends in shadier spots. Many students took the opportunity to get ice creams before the trip ended around midday. It was a lovely way for students to unwind and celebrate the end of Year 12.



All – EMS NEWS – EMC and Curriculum X Celebration and Dr Eugenia Cheng Talk

It was brilliant to see so many Year 13 students and their parents at the University of Exeter on Monday 22nd June to celebrate the student's achievements in their EMC and Curriculum X projects. Students have worked incredibly hard on their projects over the last 2 years, and it was great to see them get the recognition they deserve. This year we had the pleasure of welcoming our guest speaker, Dr Eugenia Cheng, who shared her passion for Mathematics, her journey to where she is today and what she has learnt along the way as well as her dedication in making Maths accessible and enjoyable for all including those who have been put off by the subject.

Prior to the Year 13 event, Eugenia also spoke to Year 12 students from EMS, Exeter College and Colyton Grammar School about the themes from her book *Unequal* and how Maths is about much more than just numbers and symbols.



All – Message from the Pastoral Team

We hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday, however, should students need someone to talk to, here are some contact details of people who can help:

Childline – 0800 1111 – www.childline.org.uk

Samaritans (24 hour helpline) – 116 123 – www.samaritans.org

Papyrus (Suicide Prevention Charity) – 0800 068 41 41 – www.papyrus-uk.org

Kooth (Online Counselling & Support) – www.kooth.com

Devon Rape Crisis & Sexual Assault Service – 01392 204174 - www.devonrapecrisis.org.uk

Devon Front Door -Formally known as MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub for under 18yrs old) – 0345 1551071

Adult Social Care (over 18yrs old) 0345 155 1007

Shelter – 0808 800 4444 – www.shelter.org.uk

Nightstop South Devon (Emergency accommodation) – 01803 551578

www.depaul.org.uk/nightstop/nightstop-south-devon/

Young Devon - 01392 331666 - www.youngdevon.org

Young Somerset - 01278 722100 - www.youngsomerset.org.uk

Y-Smart (Drug & Alcohol Support) – 01392 385637 – www.y-smart.org.uk

FearFree (Domestic Violence) – 01752 963493 – www.fearfree.org.uk/

Foodbank – 07818 226524 – info@exeterfoodbank.org.uk

NHS (Non-Emergency Health Advice) – 111 Service

CEOP (Child Exploitation & Online Protection Centre) – www.ceop.police.uk