

Introduction from Kerry:

Welcome to the first Parent Update of the 2026/27 academic year. These updates are sent every 3-4 weeks, and are designed to keep parents and carers informed of key information, updates and upcoming events. Each edition will be shared via email and also made available on the Parents Page of our website at the following link - [Exeter Maths School | Parents Page \(exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk\)](https://www.exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk/parents).

I cannot express how much I have enjoyed the start of term: meeting our new Year 12 cohort and welcoming back Year 13 has been an absolute joy. With induction week reduced to four days this year, it has been a busy time and with the increased number of students (78 in Year 12), the building is full and vibrant.

We're having a focus this year on working together to keep the space clean, tidy and ready-for-use, this should help alleviate some of the pressure on space. The Student Council have elected new reps and who are already beginning to think about how to support the smooth functioning of the school and community spirit. There are lots of volunteering opportunities ahead and I encourage every student to get stuck in.

I'd like to offer some words of encouragement to our new intake. Whilst many of them are having a wonderful time, I know that for a significant number, the start of term has felt overwhelming. It is not uncommon for students to feel a little out of place initially and to question whether they are "good enough". This is all perfectly normal, and I encourage them to be open about their concerns and to make good use of staff and their peers during this period of adjustment. It will get easier in time. We have every confidence that they'll be able to thrive once they have settled in.

Dates for your Diary:

Date	Year	Time	Event	Description
21/09/2026	Year 12	1700 - 1800	First Impressions parents' meeting	Hear about the term so far, meet your son/daughter's form tutor and other parents, provide feedback and ask general questions.
25/09/2026	Year 12	1500 – 1600	First Impressions parents' meeting	An alternative date for the above event.
09/11/2026	Year 12	1500 – 2000 (break at 1730)	Parent, student, teacher meetings	A series of meetings to review progress and targets.
07/12/2026	Year 13	1500 – 2000 (break at 1730)	Parent, student, teacher meetings	A series of meetings to review progress and targets.
15/12/2026	All	1230 – 1630	Year 12 Christmas Lectures	A highlight of the year. The presentation of EMC academic projects.
01/02/2027	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.
04/03/2027	All	TBC – throughout the day	Year 13 EMC Conference	Another highlight of the year. Presentations and posters showcasing the final EMC projects.
08/03/2027	Year 12	1500 – 2000 (break at 1730)	Parent, student, teacher meetings	A series of meetings to review progress and targets.
29/04/2027	Year 12	1700 - 1800	UCAS Parent Information Event – online	An explanation of the university admissions process. An online event.
21/06/2027	Year 13	1600 - 1800	EMC and Curriculum X Celebration	A get together to celebrate the achievements of Year 13 and to award certificates.

Date	Year	Time	Event	Description
06/07/2027 (PM) and 07/07/2027 (AM)	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 \(exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk\)](https://exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk/parents).

Year 13 – FOR ACTION – UCAS Deadlines

Please note the following deadlines for university applications.

Date	Early Application (Oxford/Cambridge)	Normal Application
Thurs 1 st October (internal deadline)	Complete (pay for, send off) UCAS application.	
Thurs 15 th October (external deadline)	We will check students' applications, complete and check our school reference, and send off to UCAS.	
Thurs 10 th December (internal deadline)		Complete (pay for, send off) UCAS application. We will check students' applications, complete and check our school reference and if you meet this deadline we will send off to UCAS before Christmas.
Thurs 14 th January (external deadline)	Last opportunity to add university/course choices.	We will check students' applications, complete and check our school reference, and send off to UCAS.

Tutors/teachers will compile the school reference for all students, and they will prioritise based on the order of completed applications and if students are applying to Oxford/Cambridge.

Further information on UCAS deadlines can be found on their website at the following link - [Dates and deadlines for uni applications | Undergraduate | UCAS](#)

All – FOR ACTION – Boarding Costs

Thank you to the parents/carers of students in boarding who have made their September payment.

For those who are still to make payment, please check your payment schedules and make your monthly payment for September. We recommend setting up a standing order for the 1st of each month up to, and including, June 2027. Any queries please email Tamsin at finance@exeterms.ac.uk.

All – FOR ACTION – Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility

You may be aware that the government has extended eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM). From 1st September, all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit will now be entitled to receive a free meal. All parents/carers have been sent a letter with further information and a link to complete this form - <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/Mpzytkf1bA> - **Please action by Wednesday 16th September**. You will still need to complete the form if your child is already eligible for FSM.

If you have any queries, please contact enquiries@exeterms.ac.uk.

Year 13 – FOR INFORMATION – Curriculum X

Our current Year 13 cohort have continued to enthusiastically sign up for the Curriculum X courses on offer: this half term, 41 students have opted to study at least one of Advanced Statistical Modelling, an Introduction to C++, Signalling, or Continued Fractions. In the case of Continued Fractions, it's our first time running the course as an after-school activity and we've been delighted to have some Exeter College students join us for this! We hope that these courses will be interesting and will be useful preparation for university; if the start of Year 13 studies proves to be more demanding than initially expected, students have two weeks (until Fri 25 Sep) to change their minds and drop their chosen course.

Year 12 - FOR INFORMATION – First Impressions Parents Meetings

All parents of Year 12 students are invited to come into school for one hour on Monday 21st September at 5pm or Friday 25th September at 3pm. The format of this meeting will be a 20 – 30 minute talk from Kerry about the term so far followed by a group meeting with your child's form tutor.

Tutors will meet with parents as a group, rather than one-to-one tutor meetings, therefore, you do not need to book a place at the meeting, or individual appointments with your child's tutor. Students are not expected to attend.

If you are unable to attend when your child's tutor is available, but would still like to speak to them, please either email them directly or call the School on 01392 429020 and arrange a suitable time to speak or meet with them. Your child's tutor will email you next week to introduce themselves and ensure you have their contact details.

We are keen that you get in touch as soon as possible when problems arise therefore this meeting will give you the opportunity to meet your child's form tutor, to ask questions and raise any concerns you may have.

Year 12 - FOR INFORMATION – Paid Work Opportunity for Year 12 Students

We are currently recruiting for a number of online mentors to work with younger students for 3-4 hours per week during term time.

Every year, several Year 12 EMS students are recruited and it's a very positive experience on many levels. Full training is given. Please encourage your child to consider this opportunity. Full details are available on our website and there is also an information session on **Tues 15th September** at 13:00 in Fermat Wiles.

[Exeter Maths School | Work With Us.](#)



All – FOR INFORMATION – Application Form for 2027 Entry



For any families with a child in Year 11 interested in applying for a place in September 2027 or know of someone who would like to apply, our application form is now live.

To access the form, please go to our website at the following link which also provides details of Taster Days running this term - [Apply for entry at our next intake - Exeter Maths School.](#)

If you have any questions, please email admissions@exeterms.ac.uk.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Student Volunteers

We strongly encourage our students to volunteer in various ways throughout their time here. There are lots of opportunities so there really should be something for everyone! Volunteering offers many benefits including the development of valuable skills, boosting self esteem and enhancing job prospects. Many of our Outreach events, particularly in the Autumn Term, depend on student volunteers to be involved. We also find that EMS students are fantastic role models for younger students. Pupils from other schools who take part in the programmes greatly benefit from the support of EMS students, gaining a richer experience and seeing first-hand how exciting Maths can be beyond the classroom.

Students also get involved in events in school such as helping at parent evenings and are regularly asked to show visitors and prospective staff around the school. Student volunteers manage the library and help ensure the student areas such as the kitchen and courtyard are kept tidy.

Students will be completing an online form in tutorial next week to confirm which Outreach events and school activities they would like to be involved with. Please encourage your child to get involved.

A big thank you to the Year 13 student mentors who came into school on Tuesday last week to support the Year 12s and help them settle in. Their guidance and encouragement have been greatly appreciated by the Year 12 students, making the transition much easier and more welcoming.

Student Council:

We have a very active Student Council at EMS and voting has taken place this week to recruit new Student Council Reps for 2026/27 and we are really pleased Year 12 students Max, Rue, Miles, Michael and Betsy have joined the team! The new Student Council will have an induction and training session on Tuesday 15th September which will include a team building trip to the Escape Rooms in Exeter and attending the Curriculum and Student Experience governors' meeting. The Student Council meet every half term and have a budget which they can use on projects which they agree are important to improve the student experience at EMS.

We have had a fantastic start to our volunteering this year with Year 12 and Year 13 students Jack, Antony, Seth, Toby, Beth, Jay, David, Ella, Rue and Nicole who stepped up today to help with an Outreach mailout. With so many students involved it took no time at all to get 348 envelopes ready to go out to schools across the South West. A massive achievement - thank you everyone!



All – FOR INFORMATION – Reading with the Elderly



We are pleased to confirm that the Reading with the Elderly scheme will continue in the 2026/27 academic year. This rewarding program involves up to six students visiting Age UK Sycamore respite sessions to read and interact with elderly guests.

Last year's group of Year 12 students visited monthly throughout the Spring and Summer terms, and they will continue their visits until a new group of Year 12 students take over in the Spring term.

To ensure minimal disruption to lessons, monthly visits will alternate between Thursday and Friday mornings, so

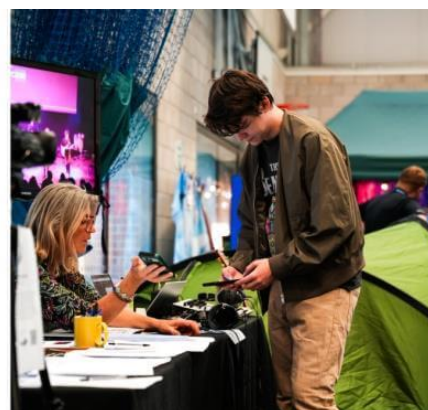
students won't miss the same lesson each time. Information and a sign-up form will be available to Year 12 students very soon.

We look forward to another successful year of this valuable intergenerational community engagement!

All – FOR INFORMATION – Exeter College Subject Transfer Day and EXtra Hub

If any Year 12 students want to change their A level subject at Exeter College, they must let us and Exeter College know **by Thursday 24th September**. To change subjects or drop one, students should complete the Change of Course Form, available in the EMS Students Team.

Exeter College's new EXtra Hub drop in is now open Monday to Friday between 11:45 and 13:30 on the ground floor of the Tower Building, where students can go along and get further information about everything on offer or ask any questions they may have. They can also email extra@exe-coll.ac.uk.



All – FOR INFORMATION – EMS Values

We began the school year by reminding Year 13 of and introducing Year 12 to our values. The EMS values focus on the following six key themes:



- Everybody
- Mistakes
- Honesty
- Endeavour
- Openness
- Joy

Further information on our values can be found in the attached document to accompany this update.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Contacting the School and Reporting Absences

Please can all students either phone the main school number and leave a message or email enquiries@exeterms.ac.uk before 8.30am, if they are not going to be in school due to illness or other unplanned absence. This will ensure the message is picked up if the receptionist is not available.

For all pre-planned absences, including medical appointments, students need to complete an 'change of attendance form' available on the EMS Students Team, General channel. This applies to all day and part day absences so a student will need to complete the form even if they are just missing one lesson.

Any longer-term change to attendance hours, for example leaving early, needs to be agreed by completing the attendance alteration form in the same channel; this also applies to students who had negotiated an arrangement in the previous academic year. Alterations are only granted after discussion with student, tutor and relevant teachers.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Contacting EMS Governing Body

If you would like to contact any of our governors, observe a meeting or have any other questions then please email Lucy Gibson, Clerk to Governors, at LucyGibson02@exeterms.ac.uk.

ALL – EMS NEWS – Message from the Boarding Team



It has been a busy and positive start in boarding. It has been wonderful getting to know the new Year 12s and how they have settled in and seeing how supportive and helpful the Year 13s have been with the new boarders. Both year groups had an induction about expectations and rules, and they were all keen to join staff in making sure boarding continues to be an inclusive and joyful place for all. Our first social was Taco Tuesday on the first night in boarding and it was a great success with a combined meal across the two larger kitchens for all the year 12s so that all flats could get to know each other. There was plenty of tasty food - taco shells, chicken wraps, beef, paprika beans, grated cheese, sour cream, salsa dips and a variety of

salads to add. This was followed by colourful decorations to make and a fun pinata full of sweets to whack (and share) in our outdoor courtyard. I hope the year 12s had as much fun as we did! There was also a puzzle and flapjack baking social for both year groups so they could all mix and meet everyone in the flats.

All parents and carers of boarding students should have had a text message by now from their student's boarding tutor, introducing themselves and the boarding staff with all our contact numbers. Also, a reminder that in case we need to reach you urgently, it is essential we can contact you on your number, including during the night. Any changes please let us or the school know and if you haven't received this text message, do let us know at the email address: boarding@exeterms.ac.uk.

Boarding students are aware that, for this year, boarding will be open on Monday mornings between 9am and 11am so that students can drop off their belongings before their first lessons.

Boarding is then open as usual from 4pm to 9am Monday to Friday. Finally, please note, any post should be sent to the school address rather than boarding. Thank you.



ALL – EMS NEWS – Alumni News

Since the graduation of our first cohort of students in 2016, the EMS alumni have played a vital part of our school community with many coming back for alumni events, to support with outreach activities and speak to current students about their experiences since leaving EMS. We also enjoyed having our first 10 year alumni reunion for the Class of 2016 in April this year and will be inviting EMS leavers from 2017 to a 10 year reunion next year.

New for this year will be an annual Alumni Newsletter, sent out each September, designed to keep our former students connected with the EMS community. This will feature highlights from the school year, stories and updates from alumni, upcoming events along with networking opportunities and ways to support the school.

This year's annual alumni summer BBQ took place on Friday, 28th August, and we were thrilled to welcome back so many of our past students and have the opportunity to catch up and hear what our alumni have been up to since their time at EMS.

Top AQA A level Computer Science Prize:

A massive congratulations to Toby E and Melvin P, who left EMS this summer, for being in the top 100 AQA Computer Science A level students nationally! As part of their ongoing support to recognise new talent in the industry, Netcraft have awarded Toby, Melvin and all top 100 Computer Science students to a £50 prize and an invitation to exclusive open day events taking place in London, Bath and Manchester.



All – EMS NEWS – Staff News



Towards the end of the summer term, we were pleased to welcome Chris Harwood to the school as Deputy Head of Boarding. Chris is leading the team of boarding tutors alongside Grace to provide the best quality of care for students. Chris has experience as a Youth Ambassador supporting young people with a variety of needs and his calm and supportive nature is already benefitting our students.

Chris is also covering for Grace Strachan who is now on maternity leave until July 2027.

All – EMS NEWS – Induction and Transition Week

Year 12 had a very productive week getting to know each other, their tutor and subject teachers. On Tuesday, some Year 13 student volunteers came into school and did an amazing job supporting the new students. This included talking to students about the EMC as a whole and their EMC projects, sitting with them in their Calculator lesson and answering any questions students had about the school.

On Wednesday students navigated the city centre on an orienteering quiz and had fun with circus skills and table tennis. At the end of the day on Wednesday, the year group went bowling followed by pizza at On the Waterfront which seemed to be enjoyed by all!

In school the students had a packed carousel of different activities throughout the week. On Thursday the Year 12's had a lecture up at the University and then returned to school to meet the Year 13's. Students enjoyed the time together playing board games and other social activities followed by a BBQ in the courtyard.

Year 13 got back into the swing with core lessons, assemblies on careers, pastoral and EMC and looking at UCAS applications during tutorial time.

