EMS Parent and Carer Update 74 — 23rd October 2026

Introduction from Kerry:



Welcome to the latest update from Exeter Maths School.

At the end of another busy half term, I would like to congratulate our students for the enthusiasm, resilience and commitment they continue to show. From reading with elderly at Age UK to taking on leadership roles through the Student Council, students have embraced a wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at our outreach events and Taster Days this half term. Their support makes a real difference to visiting pupils and helps showcase the unique student experience at EMS. Well done also to our boarding students, whose impressive pumpkin-carving creations brought plenty of creativity and Halloween spirit to boarding this week!

Finally, if you know of any Year 11 students who would be keen to apply to EMS for September 2027 intake, please direct them to our website for full details and a link to the application form Apply for entry at our next intake - Exeter Maths School.

We hope you all have a wonderful and restful half term, and we are looking forward to seeing students back in school on **Monday 2nd November at 10.45am.**

Remember to put your clocks back this Sunday 25th October!

Dates for your Diary:

Date	Year	Time	Event	Description
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.
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).

Exeter College – Parent Meetings:

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

Date	Year	Time	Event
03/11/2026	13	17:00 – 20:00	Year 13 parents evening (remote)
12/11/2026	13	17:00 – 20:00	Year 13 parents evening (remote)
11/03/2027	12	17:00 – 20:00	Year 12 parents evening (remote)
16/03/2027	12	17:00 – 20:00	Year 12 parents evening (remote)

Information will be emailed to parents and students by the College nearer the time.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Reporting Absences

A reminder to all students that they need to 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 reception staff are 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.

All – FOR INFORMATION – U-Maths Staff Development Day – Friday 20th November

The school will be closed on **Friday 20th November** for a Staff Development Day in Birmingham which will bring together staff from all Maths Schools to collaborate and share best practice. Lessons will continue as normal on Thursday, and Boarding will be open as usual on Thursday evening. The main school will be open to boarders from 09:00 on Friday morning until their earliest transport home is available.

Exeter College lessons will go ahead as normal on Friday 20th November.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Festival of Culture 2027 – Students needed!

In partnership with Exeter College's Reach Academy, we are starting to make plans for the **Festival of Culture 2027** and would encourage all students to consider getting involved in what has become one of the highlights of the EMS calendar.

Last year's festival was a brilliant celebration of the student's cultures, talents and interests, featuring live music, cultural displays, workshops and food from around the world. Whether your child would like to perform, run a workshop, showcase a hobby or cultural tradition, help organise the event behind the scenes, or simply contribute ideas, there is a role for everyone. Taking part is a fantastic opportunity to build confidence, develop leadership and teamwork skills, meet new people and gain valuable experience. We would be grateful if parents and carers could encourage their child to get involved and help make the 2027 Festival of Culture our biggest and best celebration yet!

Students have been asked to complete the following form to express interest in taking part - EMS and Reach Academy Festival of Culture 2027 – Fill in form. They will then be invited to our first planning meeting at Exeter College on **Wednesday 4th November at 12:15.**

Year 13 – FOR INFORMATION – Year 13 Assessments

Year 13 students will be having assessments during week commencing 9th November and will be off timetable all week. Please see below the assessment timetable which has also been sent to students via Teams.

2026	Day/Date	Monday	Monday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Thursday	Friday	Friday
Assessment	Date	09/11/26	09/11/26	10/11/26	10/11/26	11/11/26	11/11/26	12/11/26	12/11/26	13/11/26	13/11/26
	Start Time	10:45	13:00	09:00	13:30	09:00	13:15	09:00	13:30	09:00	12:00
	Subject	FM	CS	Maths	Physics	Maths	CS	Physics	Maths	FM	STEP/UKLO
	Paper	FM Core	Paper 1	Pure & Mech	Paper 1	Pure & Stats	Paper 2	Paper 2	Pure & Comp	EP/NM	
	Duration	1 hr 30	2 hr 30	2 hours	2 hours	2 hours	2 hr 30	2 hours	2 hours	1 hr 15	

Exeter College lessons will continue as normal and if students have a college lesson that clashes with an assessment, they should try and attend the lesson and catch up with the assessment at another time – this can be arranged with Liam.

Year 13 – FOR INFORMATION – Curriculum X

Year 13 have just signed up for the next set of Curriculum X courses, which are due to start after half term (and run until the Christmas holidays). They have had the option of:

- LEANing into Group Theory (delivered by University of Exeter lecturer, Prof. Gihan Marasingha)
- Design, Projects and Products (a general introduction to the principles of engineering)
- Computer-Aided Maths
- Fluid Dynamics
- Knot Theory
- The Nature of Light

Year 12 - FOR INFORMATION – Parents and Carer Meetings and Reports

The first Year 12 Parent/Carer/Student/Teacher Meetings will be held on **Monday 9th November between 3.15pm and 8.00pm** with a break at 5.30pm. Parents/carers and students will have the option of attending meetings in person or online. Students will be booking the appointments directly with their teachers after half term. Reports will go home with the students, on **Friday 6th November,** in advance of the meetings.

Year 12 - FOR INFORMATION – U-Maths Girls Network

Students have had an assembly this week to introduce them to the U-Maths Girls Network. This is a community for all female students who attend Maths Schools across the country. It's still a growing project; last year there were newsletters, an International Women's Day event (with maths challenges, talks from women in industry and female Maths School alumnae) and fundraising for CAMFED (Campaign for Female Education). This year, the network hopes to increase its offering of work experience opportunities.

We're hoping to have a new Year 12 rep join Freya as the EMS student link with U-Maths Girls; applications are open until **Friday 6th November.**

All – FOR INFORMATION – EMS Bus Pass Holders

Following the single bus fare cap reducing to £2 from 1 January 2027 we have been advised that the costs of our travel passes will not be reduced. As a result:

- we'll continue to provide bus passes to EMS students in receipt of a 16-19 bursary;
- we recommend that those in receipt of a 50% travel bursary continue to use the EMS travel pass as it is likely to be cheaper than paying daily fares;
- full travel bus pass holders are advised to cancel their EMS pass from January and buy their own tickets each day.

For further information/cancel a bus pass, please contact Lydia at enquiries@exeterms.ac.uk

All – FOR INFORMATION – Spring Term Travel Passes

Just a reminder that if your child has a travel pass through us and you pay termly, the next instalment of **£334** for the Spring Term is due by **Monday 9th November.** Our bank details for payment are as follows:

1. Exeter Maths School
2. Sort Code: 30-93-14
3. Account No. 00604421
4. £334 for Spring Term
5. Use Ref - SURNAME followed by TRAV

If you have any queries or would like to cancel your travel pass for the Spring Term, please email Lydia or Lousie at enquiries@exeterms.ac.uk. Furthermore, if you have changed address recently, please let Lydia or Lousie know as we will need to pass this to the travel team at Devon County Council.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Student Volunteers



Thank you to the group of EMS students who have done a fantastic job looking after our school courtyard. A team of volunteers organised themselves and gave up their own time to tidy and improve this shared space. A huge thank you to **Henry T, Jay M, Eli G, Alex W, Felix F, Ashan M, David B, and Jamie G** for taking the initiative and showing such pride in our school community. The courtyard is looking wonderful, and their hard work is greatly appreciated.

As we head towards the half-term break, we want to recognise a team of student volunteers who supported our Maths Student Community events. Over the course of six days, we delivered three events at two venues, welcoming over 200 students from Years 8 to 11. It was a packed schedule, but our EMS student volunteers helped make it both manageable and enjoyable.

A heartfelt thank you to **Year 13 students Abi S, Jay M, David B and Theo P**, and **Year 12 students Annabelle, Jack H, Josh R, Rhys, Ella S, Ella W, Iris, Betsy and Bethan**. Whether setting up, welcoming guests, taking part in workshops, sharing mathematical ideas, or simply being positive and encouraging role models, they contributed enormously to the success of the events. Their enthusiasm and willingness to get involved helped create a warm, supportive and inspiring experience for everyone who attended.







ALL – EMS NEWS – Message from the Boarding Team



The weeks have flown by again and we are all ready for the half term break after such a busy start to the year. It is lovely to see how the Year 12s have settled in so well and both year groups have been getting on with their chores and homework as well as finding the time to chat with friends in the kitchens - especially over dinner time. There have been many tasty meals cooked by students across the kitchens including orzo with feta, cauliflower and broccoli, beef stir fry with noodles and chicken harissa parcels with smoky tomato couscous.

As it is almost Halloween, we had a pumpkin carving social this week and much fun was had as groups of boarders quickly picked the perfect pumpkin to scrape out and carefully carve out designs. We were really impressed with them! We loved seeing them all lined up in the dark afterwards with plastic tealights shimmering inside ready for the friendly competition. We couldn't decide on just one, so we chose a winning group and runner up and they were awarded Halloween treats for their designs.

A few weeks ago, we also had a popular (and very tasty) brownie baking competition - more to follow about this social in the next Parent and Carer update.

Just to make parents and carers aware, we are continuing to trial using Mondays 9:00-10:30 to allow boarders to drop off their bags before school starts. We are asking parents and carers to be mindful that this is intended as a quick drop-off window and not a time to socialise, see visitors, use the kitchens, or otherwise use the boarding building as normal. Please ensure your child has either eaten breakfast or brought something with them on Mondays as the boarding provision does not cover Monday's breakfast.

After half term, we will be extending this to Friday afternoons 2:15-3:00 for students to pick their bags up instead of leaving them at school in the morning. We ask parents/carers and students alike to be mindful that this too is being done with the intent of a speedy entry and exit!"

Boarding is open again after half term on Monday 2nd November at 9am to 10.30am to drop off bags before school and then as normal from 4pm.





ALL – EMS NEWS – Maths Competitions

Results are now in for the Maths Competition for Girls, the Maths Olympiad for Girls and the Senior Maths Challenge.

Two of the entries for the Maths Olympiad for Girls achieved a Distinction, and there were two Merits, which is a fantastic result.

We had fourteen entries for the Maths Competition for Girls, of which eleven achieved at least a Merit, once again superb results from a very challenging competition.

We had a whopping 132 students enter the Senior Maths Challenge and the results were superb with 94% of entries obtaining a Gold, Silver or Bronze, including 40 Golds, on what was a more difficult paper than usual; those students will be eligible for the follow-on Senior Kangaroo competition. A few students will also sit the extremely challenging British Mathematics Olympiad and both competitions will take place on **Wednesday 18th November.**

Regardless of results, these competitions are a great source of fun and stimulating problems for our students - congratulations to everyone who has participated so far!

ALL – Message from the Pastoral Team

We hope you all have a wonderful half term, 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
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