EMS Parent and Carer Update 75 — 27th November 2026

Introduction from Kerry:

Welcome to the penultimate Autumn Term update from EMS. I am struggling to believe it is only three weeks until the end of term – I guess time does fly when you are having fun! There's lots to celebrate in this addition and still plenty to look forward to. Not least of these is the Christmas Lectures when Year 12 will showcase their project work and the whole school comes together to celebrate, their achievements. I do hope to see many of you there.

Which leads me to highlight a couple more dates for your diary – our Festival of Culture is becoming an eagerly anticipated fixture in the school calendar. It's an opportunity to mix informally and share in the many talents, interests and cultures of our students. Please do come along if you can. Please also note the date of our EMC Conference, a real chance to shine for our Year 13s.

The last few weeks have been very assessment focused, particularly for Year 13, who've had both internal assessments and university admissions tests and applications to deal with. The pressure from much of this has passed and in the coming weeks and months they will be able to better focus on their studies – it's a very satisfying time, when the different threads of their learning come together in a coherent whole.

Dates for your Diary:

Date	Year	Time	Event	Description
07/12/2026	Year 13	1515 – 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	1515 – 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
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)

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

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

On **Thursday 4th March 2027**, Year 13 students will be presenting the findings of their individual EMC projects at our annual EMC Conference. This is a key event in the EMS calendar and parents and carers of Year 13 students will be invited to attend.

Parents and carers of Year 13 students will also be invited to the University to celebrate their child's achievements in their EMC and Curriculum X projects on **Monday 21st June 2027**, between 16:00 and 18:00.

Further details of both events will be provided closer to the time, but in the meantime please add the dates to your calendars!

All – FOR ACTION – Our Fundraising Continues

Following our fundraising campaign in March 2026, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated and supported our efforts. Your generosity and encouragement make a real difference to our students and the opportunities they can access.

How can you help us support more young people?

There are a number of ways you can get involved:

- **Donate to EMS** – Every contribution, large or small, helps to enhance opportunities for current and future students. Make a monthly or one-off gift by completing this short form: https://forms.office.com/e/gaGjU3pTb2.
- **Make an introduction** – Do you have connections with businesses, trusts, foundations or individuals who might be interested in supporting EMS? Perhaps your employer has a charitable giving programme or is looking for opportunities to partner with schools. We would love to hear from you.
- **Get involved** – If you have skills, experience or ideas that could support our fundraising, or would be interested in volunteering some of your time, we would be delighted to have a conversation with you.
- **Spread the word** – Please help us raise awareness of EMS and our fundraising by sharing the attached leaflet with your personal and professional networks.

As we approach Christmas and Giving Tuesday next week, this is a lovely opportunity to reflect on the many different ways we can give. Whether through your time, expertise, connections or a donation, your support can make a real difference to the future of EMS and its students. For more information, please email: headteacher@exeterms.ac.uk.

Year 12 - FOR INFORMATION – EMC Christmas Lectures

The EMC Christmas Lectures will take place on **Tuesday 15th December** at the University of Exeter, Streatham Court Lecture Theatre A. 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 parents/carers.

Students are responsible for booking seats for their parents/carers and family members and a booking form has been made available to them via Teams. Due to limited venue capacity attendance is only open to parents and carers of Year 12 students and is currently limited to two parents/carers per student. However, we will endeavour to offer places to additional family members if space permits.

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!

Year 13 – FOR INFORMATION – Examinations

The confirmed Summer Exam Timetable 2027 is now available on the school website - https://exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk/parents-page/#1641479618248-3087cdb4-c873

There are also a number of important documents on this page that exam students need to familiarise themselves with before the summer exam season. These can be found under **'Candidate Information 2026/27'**.

STEP Dates (09:00 start):
STEP 2 – 14th June 2027
STEP 3 – 21st June 2027

It is important that students are available to come into school on the Contingency Day if requested. This will be all day on **Wednesday 23rd June.**

A level results day is on Thursday 13th August 2027.

Year 13 – FOR INFORMATION – Parents and Carers Meetings

Year 13 Parent and Carer/Student/Teacher Meetings will be held on **Monday 7th December 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.

Reports will go out in advance of the meetings, on **Friday 4th December.**

All – FOR INFORMATION – Admissions Deadline

For anyone with younger children hoping to apply to EMS for September 2027 entry, the deadline is fast approaching! Students who want to apply should submit their form by the end of **Monday 7th December** to guarantee a spot for the Entrance Test on **Saturday 6th February**, 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 – End of Term Arrangements

As the next Parent Update isn't due until the last day of term, we can confirm the following arrangements for the final week of term, week commencing **Monday 14th December.**

Monday:
Lessons as normal.

Tuesday:
Year 12 are off timetable all day on Tuesday 15th December to rehearse their EMC group presentations in the morning before they present to parents, carers and the rest of the school in the afternoon.
Year 13 are in lesson 1 and 2 as normal before they make their way over to the University for the EMC Christmas Lectures for the remainder of the afternoon.

Wednesday:
Year 12 are off timetable during lessons 1-3 to receive feedback and reflect on their EMC presentations. Normal lessons will resume from 13:45.
Year 13 lessons 1-3 - EMS classes are off timetable. Exeter College lessons will run as normal. Year 13 will have the option to attend support sessions for writing personal statements, EMC projects, NEA or homework. Normal EMS lessons will resume at 13:45.

Thursday:
Lessons as normal.

Friday:
This is the last day of term and lessons will finish at 14:15 as usual.

Return in January:
All students are due back in school on **Wednesday 6th January** for lesson 1 (09:00) and boarding will be open from 16:00 on Tuesday 5th January.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Alumni Update

Alumni Newsletter:
If you have an older child who was previously at EMS, they will hopefully have received our first-ever Alumni Newsletter last week. We intend to produce an alumni newsletter each September, and as this was our first edition, we would love to hear your feedback. Please ask them to take a few moments to complete the form below and let us know what they enjoyed and what they would like to see included in future editions.
- Alumni Newsletter Feedback and Suggestions – Fill in form

Class of 2026 – Pizza and Certificate Evening:
Our latest alumni, the Class of 2026 have been invited to come into EMS on **Monday 4th 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 - 2026 Leavers ALUMNI A-Level Certificate Celebration.

ALL – EMS NEWS – Message from the Boarding Team



We can't believe it is nearly time to put up the Christmas decorations again and blitz boarding with tinsel, stars and lights! This half term is zooming by and another busy one with students going to their after-school clubs, student-led socials, studying, homework and socialising with friends in boarding.

Just before half term, we had a brownie baking social which was very popular. It was wonderful to see so many of our boarders joining in and we even had a competition for the tastiest and best-looking brownie at the end, judged and eaten by boarding tutors, of course! It was so hard to decide as they were all delicious, but we had a winner - a perfect brownie with raspberries delicately placed on the top of a very gooey but chewy mixture. The winning group received some fruit - a watermelon - to share.

A few weeks ago, we also did a mini origami evening where we had lots of squared coloured paper and practised folding shapes, creatures and a tree. The students continue to impress us with their meals across the three kitchens, including a very tasty mushroom soup with gnocchi, halloumi tikka masala and chicken fajitas with tomato salsa and an avocado salad.

A reminder that boarding continues to open on Mondays from 09:00 to 10:30 for boarding students only to drop off bags before going to school.





ALL – EMS NEWS – U-Maths Staff Development Day

EMS staff travelled to Birmingham on Friday 20 November to attend a training day with other Maths Schools from across the UK. The event was a great success, enabling colleagues to collaborate, exchange ideas and explore new approaches through a variety of workshops. We are confident that many of the ideas and strategies gained will have a positive impact on the student experience in the months ahead.

ALL – EMS NEWS – KS5 Physics Challenge 2026

On Wednesday 18 November, a team from Exeter Maths School joined teams of four students from schools, sixth forms and colleges across five counties to compete in the British Physics Olympiad, KS5 Physics Challenge.

We are delighted to report that the EMS team achieved an outstanding result. Congratulations to **Hettie, Alex, Ethan and Jimmy**, who were the overall winners and were among the highest-scoring teams in the South West!

And with their stylish hand-crafted team T-shirts, they may well have been the best-dressed physicists too!





ALL – EMS NEWS – Senior Team Maths Challenge

A team of four EMS students took part in the UK Maths Trust's Senior Team Maths Challenge Regional Final at Blundells School on Tuesday 24th November.

A massive congratulations to the EMS Team - **Hadi, Eli, Beatrice and Jessica** who came third place overall – amazing achievement!







ALL – EMS NEWS – Gardening Club



Exciting news for the Gardening Club! Thanks to funding from the WPA Foundation, we will be able to further develop our outdoor space.

A huge congratulations to Aeran for securing this support, which will have a lasting impact on the school environment and create plenty of opportunities for students to get involved.