

It's been a lovely warm October but it hasn't stopped colds and bugs spreading. We've incredibly grateful to all who have been cautious about attending school when they are coughing or sneezing and hope that the online access to resources has enabled the students concerned to keep up to speed with the work.

All – FOR INFORMATION - Student ID Cards

Students need to remember their ID cards each day because they also double up as an access key for the back door, which all staff and students are now encouraged to use and their main entrance into the school. This not only reduced drafts and distractions for busy reception staff, but it also helps us maintain building security: by ensuring only those who are visitors enter via reception, we'll always make sure they are properly signed in and supervised.

If students do forget their cards, we'll have to verify their ID when coming into school via reception. Tor already knows most of them but if another member of staff is on reception, students shouldn't be surprised if they are asked to stop and have their details checked.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Covid Cases

We've had three confirmed cases of COVID within the school community: two students and one member of staff. There is no evidence of an outbreak in school – the students infected are not in the same classes and the member of staff has not had contact with the students.

Please remind your sons and daughters to continue to take twice-weekly lateral flow tests. We've had a few students missing from Taster Days and other outreach activities due to a positive test result despite not having symptoms – they really are a useful tool in reducing transmission.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Bus Strike on 18th October

There is planned industrial action for stagecoach in Exeter, Torbay and North Devon on Monday 18th October. More information can be found here: [Strike Action Disruption to services in the South West | Stagecoach \(stagecoachbus.com\)](https://www.stagecoachbus.com/strike)

All – FOR INFORMATION – Consultation on Expansion outcome

Our consultation on the expansion of the EMS catchment area is now closed. An overview of responses is available on our website: <https://exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk/our-story/#consultation>

All – FOR INFORMATION – EMS in the news

Yesterday, the New Schools Network published a document “10 years of Free School” within which EMS is featured: [Free schools at 10 Oct2021.pdf \(newschoolsnetwork.org\)](https://www.newschoolsnetwork.org/news/free-schools-at-10-oct2021.pdf)

Yr 12 - FOR INFORMATION – Internal Assessments

This week students have been completing assessments in all their EMS subjects. Some may have enjoyed the experience, others perhaps less so. Whatever their results, please encourage your son or daughter to think of this as a useful opportunity to identify strengths, areas of development and anything lacking in their exam-technique. Teachers will certainly be doing this and will work with students to help them learn from the experience.