

Happy New Year!

Thank you to everyone who supported our students during their Christmas Lectures at the end of last term. We could not have been prouder of how well they coped with the occasion and the quality of their work. We hope the online experience was close to as enjoyable as being in the hall together.



All – FOR INFORMATION – COVID guidance update and LFT

I emailed you last weekend with updated COVID guidance. This is already out of date, so attached is Version 15. The only substantial change is guidance on what to do following a positive Lateral Flow Test – for the time being, a confirmatory PCR test is not required.

Please do encourage your sons and daughters to continue to take twice-weekly Lateral Flow Tests. Every week at least one person in our community is unexpectedly testing positive and have avoided further spread as a result of their test. Thanks to the diligence of everyone, we've not had an incident of COVID spreading within the school population – we'd like to continue with that truly remarkable record.

All – FOR ACTION – Student Concerns

A lot of students will have periods of absence in the coming weeks, as will many members of staff. Some of our teachers have already needed to remote-teach classes and other classes have been taught by teachers who students may be less familiar with.

Whilst many students will take this all in their stride, others will be more deeply impacted by this. If you are concerned about your son or daughter, please get in touch with their form tutor. We will put what help we can in place to support them through this unsettled time.

All – FOR ACTION – Reporting Absence

A reminder that if a student needs to miss school for any planned-for reason, they must complete an Absence Request Form which will be reviewed by Joe. He will then let the student know whether or not the school has authorised their absence. These forms must be completed at least a week prior

to the planned absence to allow time for processing. We try to be supportive of driving as a vital skill however it is preferred to book tests outside of school time wherever possible.

If a student is away because they are unwell or because of an unexpected emergency, they should email enquiries@exeterms.ac.uk or call 01392 429020.

Students may not elect to work from home for any reason other than COVID-related isolation. If students feel they need a special arrangement, they must first seek permission from Joe (e.g. a regular early leave for transport reasons or a regular absence for medical purposes).

We'd greatly appreciate your support in reminding students of this. A lot of work is created for our admin staff when students elect not to attend without good cause, permission, or communication.

All – FOR ACTION – School Business Manager Vacancy – Please Share

We are currently looking for a new School Business Manager. If you know of any suitable candidates we'd be grateful if you pointed them in the direction of our website: [Exeter Maths School | Work With Us \(exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk\)](https://www.exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk).

The closing date for applications is this coming Monday.

All – EMS NEWS – Students present at Environmental Intelligence Conference

With year 12 about to embark on their Industry EMC project, it's a pleasure to give you an update on the achievements of three year 13 students who built on their MET Office project and presented at the Environmental Intelligence Conference, which was hosted by the Joint Centre for Excellence in Environmental intelligence.

The conference was moved online so Matty, Louie and Josh recorded a six-minute video on sharing what they had learnt when attempting to answer the question "How likely was a particular extreme weather event to have occurred because of climate change?". They then participated in a live Question and Answer session alongside Industry representatives.

All – EMS NEWS – Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge

Last term 79 EMS students entered this national online challenge which tests logic and problem solving. They performed exceptionally well with 19 achieving a Merit and a further 21 a Distinction. George (Aeran's form) did exceptionally well, scoring 200 out of a possible 200 – not too shabby at all!