

Welcome to the first update of 2022/23 from Exeter Maths School. For those new to the school, Parent Updates, sent every 2-3 weeks, provide parents and carers with a regular summary of key information and events coming up. This will be sent as an email attachment but will also be uploaded onto the website if you need to refer back - [Exeter Maths School | Parents Page \(exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk\)](https://www.exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk/parents).

We are deeply saddened by the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and our thoughts are with the Royal Family at this time. To mark the period of mourning, the Taster Day on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September has now been cancelled and the school will be closed to all students and staff on the day of the Queen's funeral on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September. Students are then due back in lessons at 10.30am on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September (please note Exeter College lessons start from 9am).

On a more positive note, it was great to welcome our new Year 12 last week for their induction week at EMS and to see the Year 13 students back in school for their final year with us. The first week of lessons has also gone well and it's encouraging to see students are getting stuck in already - there is a positive atmosphere around the School and we are looking forward to the year ahead!

### **Year 13 – FOR ACTION – UCAS Early Entry Deadline**

Our deadline for applications to the universities of Oxford or Cambridge must be completed **by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**.

Our Exams Officer, Jo Potts has asked students to confirm with her if they are taking all Universities admissions tests and will be finalising entries next week. Can students please let Jo know asap if they wish to enter but haven't confirmed with her yet.

### **Year 12 - FOR ACTION – Exeter College Subject Transfer Day and 'EXtra Day'**

If students want to change their A level subject at Exeter College, they must let us know **by Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September**.

Exeter College have invited all students to 'EXtra Day' on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September where they will provide details of the enrichment programmes available at the College. This is a non-teaching day for Exeter College students with EXtra activities arranged for all learners. For our students, this means there will be no Exeter College lessons. Whilst EMS lessons will continue as normal, there will be the opportunity for them to visit the college and find out more about their extra-curricular programme too.

### **Year 12 - FOR INFORMATION – First Impressions Parents Meetings**

All parents of Year 12 students are invited to come into school on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm or Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 3pm, for a one-hour meeting. We are keen that you get in touch as soon as possible when problems arise and 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.

You do not need to book a place at the meeting and students are not expected to attend.

Please note that Fiona and Stuart will not be available on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> and Claire will be unavailable on Friday 30<sup>th</sup>.

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.

## All – FOR INFORMATION – Induction and Transition Week

Year 12 had a productive week getting to know each other, their tutor and subject teachers. On Tuesday the year group went bowling followed pizza at On the Waterfront which seemed to be enjoyed by all!

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

On Wednesday afternoon, all students enjoyed taking part in social activities doing a range of sport, games and craft activities either at University of Exeter Sports Hall or in school.

## All – FOR INFORMATION – Exeter Mathematics Certificate (EMC)

The Year 12s have had a great start to their EMC. They have started difficult projects, including ones on peaceful chess, topology and fake news. They have navigated some meetings with University academics professionally and intelligently. The academics were incredibly excited and impressed. They have done all this in a new school and in groups of students they have never met. No mean feat! The Year 13s have got down to starting their individual project. Staff have been impressed with the motivation and seriousness of these students. Time will fly this term so they will need to keep it up. What a fantastic start to the term!

## All – FOR INFORMATION – Student Council – Welcome from Scarlett, Chair of Student Council



After the summer holidays, it was lovely to return to EMS last week!

On Friday 9th September, students in both years had the opportunity to put themselves forward to be on the Student Council. The perfect number of students wished to take part, so it was nice and easy to elect our Reps for this year! It was lovely to see people, especially the Year 12s, wanting to take a more active role in the school community.

On Tuesday 13th, we had a training and bonding day - many thanks to Dinah Lees for organising it. We had an informal lunch together before taking part in an Escape Room at the Guildhall. Everyone had a great time, and it was a fantastic opportunity to be able to bond with each other. The Reps then took part in a training session on being a Student Councillor before being allowed to attend the CSEC governors meeting. It was very beneficial to be able to observe a formal meeting and learn how it was conducted; we are so grateful to the governors for allowing us to watch.

We very much look forward to this year and having the opportunity to action on our ideas. It will be exciting to see what we can achieve!

## ALL – EMS NEWS – Update from EMS Governing Body

Hello everyone.

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to briefly set out what role we play in the school's governance structure.

My name is Nathan Harvey and I'm currently Deputy Chair. I started life as an EMS parent governor three years ago and carried on (as a co-opted governor) after my son left in 2021. There are currently 15 governors, including two parent governors (one from each year group). A number of governors represent the school's two sponsors (University of Exeter and Exeter College) and others are co-opted from the wider community. Recently we have had an ex-pupil of EMS become a governor. We are lucky to have a full complement of governors with a wide range of skills and experiences.



Our role is to set the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction. We work closely with Kerry to hold her to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils. We also oversee the financial performance of the school to ensure money is well spent. We do this through a number of committees and, usually twice a term, the full governing board meets to discuss matters as a group. If you would like to come along to observe a meeting, our Clerk would be very happy to arrange this for you. A list of meeting dates are available on the website along with a copy of the minutes of each meeting.

If you would like to contact any of our governors, observe a meeting or have any other questions then please email Jane Lucas, Clerk to Governors at [janelucas02@exeterms.ac.uk](mailto:janelucas02@exeterms.ac.uk).

### **ALL – EMS NEWS – Reception and Staffing Update**

We sadly said goodbye to our Friday receptionist, Helen Hickman at the end of August and wish her lots of luck in her future endeavours. Thankfully Tor Turner has returned on a temporary basis to provide admin support and will be available on reception every Friday. Louise Brind continues to work in reception on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and the Outreach Team will be manning reception on Mondays.

We are also really pleased that Jodie Greatorex and Phil Hatchard have joined us in the Outreach Team and Devon Roper in the Accommodation Team.

### **All – FOR INFORMATION – Contacting the School and Reporting Absences**

We are sorry for the delay that some students experienced in receiving their travel passes. Hopefully this is now rectified, however if you're child has still not received their pass, please contact Tamsin by emailing [finance@exeterms.ac.uk](mailto:finance@exeterms.ac.uk). Tamsin can also be contacted for any other finance related queries.

Please can all students either phone the main school number and leave a message or email [enquiries@exeterms.ac.uk](mailto: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 absence request form available on Student Teams, General channel. Any longer-term change to attendance hours, for example leaving early to catch a train, needs to be agreed by completing the attendance alteration form in the same channel. This includes any students who had negotiated an arrangement in the previous academic year. Alterations are only granted after discussion with student, tutor and affected teachers.

### **All – FOR INFORMATION – SEND Reviews**

Grace is currently in the process of conducting SEND reviews with students. If parents have any concerns or comments, please contact Grace directly at [GraceStrachan@exeterms.ac.uk](mailto:GraceStrachan@exeterms.ac.uk).

### **All – FOR INFORMATION – Train Strikes**

We are pleased that all planned train strikes in September have been cancelled due to death of Her Majesty the Queen. We are expecting these will be organised for another time and will let you know what is in place to help students who may be affected.

### **All – FOR INFORMATION – Boarding Room Available**

We have one room available in boarding which is not yet allocated to any student, a second room is likely to become available later this term. If there is a student who is not currently boarding but feels they may benefit from being based nearer to school, we ask that their parents get in touch by emailing [finance@exeterms.ac.uk](mailto:finance@exeterms.ac.uk). If you have general questions about boarding, please contact Grace Strachan: [gracestrachen@exeterms.ac.uk](mailto:gracestrachen@exeterms.ac.uk).

We will prioritise those most in need of the room based on travel distance or other exceptional circumstances. If there are no students who take up the spare boarding place full time, we will then consider those who would like a room for part of the week or on a temporary basis. We will provide you with a further update if rooms remain free.