

Welcome to the first update of the Spring Term. I hope that everyone had a lovely Xmas break and that students have now settled back into school life.

The new term has kicked off to a flying start with successful Student Council elections and Poetry by Heart and Starcraft competitions. It was also great to see some Year 12 students offering mentoring to Year 7 students during a Maths Circles event recently.

We are very pleased to welcome Yasmin Trevelyan, Pastoral Lead and Jo Rule, Outreach Administrator to our EMS team.

**All – FOR ACTION – EMS Closed from Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January pm and all day on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January**

Due to a whole Maths School Network staff training event in Preston, the school will be closed from 12.15pm on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January and all day on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Lessons will finish at 11.30am on the Thursday and we are asking all students to vacate the school as soon as possible after the lesson finishes. All students have been informed and Boarding students know that they will be going home on Thursday. Lessons resume as normal on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 10.45am.

**All – FOR ACTION – Climbing Club**

Our first club meeting of the year looks to be on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of January. This academic year has had the biggest turn outs so far and it's been lovely seeing the students support both newer and experienced climbers. I hope that as this new year progresses, we get more people to sign up and come join us when they can. We are building a lovely group and the more the merrier!

If students are interested in joining the Climbing Club they can message Bethany on Teams for further information.

**All – FOR INFORMATION – Parent Survey**

Thank you very much to all parents who completed the recent Parent Survey. We have had a fantastic response and really appreciate time taken to do this. We will get back to you with feedback very soon and before the next Parent Update.

**All – FOR INFORMATION – Exeter College – Summer Exam Arrangements**

We are aware that Exeter College have emailed parents and students taking a subject at the College regarding the arrangement for exams in Summer 2023 and contingency planning for any unlikely disruption to exams due to Covid. This includes Schools and Colleges being asked to keep copies of evidence of students results in mock exams. The college would like to stress that students shouldn't worry unduly about this and just continue with preparing for mock exams.

Some students have asked about what our arrangements are for keeping mock exam papers for contingency purposes. We will be looking at the logistics for our mock assessments, taking place before and after the Easter holidays, and will get back to you about this as soon as possible.

We do want to emphasise that these contingency arrangements are highly unlikely to be used. We fully expect this summer's public exams to go ahead as timetabled.

**YEAR 13 - FOR INFORMATION - UCAS Deadline**

Well done to all who have completed their UCAS applications well before the deadline of Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Liam is working with the handful of students who still need to complete their applications. Liam has provided the

following information on Teams to Year 13 students regarding what the next steps are regarding choosing firm and insurance places:

- **Wait** to receive all of your offers (or declines). Don't panic if your friends get offers before you or if you are waiting ages for offers. Different universities have different systems and timelines for giving out offers.
- Attend **Offer Holder Days**, these are open days for students who have applied and have an offer, they are a great opportunity to visit if you haven't previously.
- From your (up to) five offers, choose a firm choice, an insurance choice, and you will turn down the remaining offers (by **8th June** in most cases). You have a while before you have to make your decision. I suggest talking to your tutor before making your final decision. You might want to wait until after your mock assessments, or even the first few real exams. Just make sure you select them before the 8th June.
- For more details on Firm and Insurance choices and the dates visit:
- [Deadlines for Accepting University Offers | UCAS](#)

### All – EMS News – Student Council Election

Last week saw the EMS Student Council elections and we are happy to announce that Apolo has been elected as Chair and Florence as Secretary of next year's Student Council. They will be working with the current Student Council for a handover with a view to officially take over after Easter. Congratulations to both and thank you to Tilly, Ted and Ollie for applying – it was a very close election!

### All – EMS News – Update from Boarding

Year 12s have assessment's coming up and are planning to spend time doing extra revision in the evenings - hopefully we will see them all working hard but don't worry we will make sure they have some fun as well! Staff are going to look at planning an evening out for the boarding students very soon - we have high hopes for bowling!

We had a fun social last week baking brownies and in true accommodation style at least one group forgot to turn on their oven! We have plans for more fun socials over the next term.

Staff have been taking time to do some extra training that will benefit the students living with us, such as, Mental Health and Pupil Care training. We also have plans to visit one more boarding school to check out how they do things and what we can add to our own boarding home.

We hope everyone has a great term and please don't hesitate to contact boarding staff with any questions or worries, we are here to help.



## All – EMS News – Face to Face Maths Circles – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January



On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January, we hosted a very successful Outreach Maths Circles Event at the Exeter Phoenix with Year 7 students from across the county and beyond.

Thank you to those EMS students who provided fantastic mentoring support at the event.

## All – EMS News – Poetry by Heart

A big thank you to Claire for organising the Poetry by Heart poetry competition on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January. We were also extremely grateful to former Chair of Governors and English specialist, Anne Oxborough, who came back to the school to judge the competition. Anne has provided the following update:

It was a delight to return to Exeter Maths School to judge the Poetry by Heart competition. Encouraged and supported by Claire Willman, five enthusiastic students had each learned two poems by heart and gave impressive public performances. The standard was high and made judging tricky. We eventually decided to award two first places - Georgia for the Best Performance of a Poem and Scarlett for Best Overall Performance. Enjoyment and appreciation of poetry is very much alive and kicking at the school despite the pressures of the academic curriculum. It warms my heart!

## All – EMS News – Starcraft Tournament

The annual EMS Starcraft tournament reached its conclusion on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January in a nail-biting finale! 28 players entered the competition this year and after 4 elimination rounds, the final match was played between Talan M and Alex C. Alex was arguably favourite having played last year and took the first game of the best of seven, but Talan brought it back with a couple of quick rushes to go 2-1 in front at the break. Talan continued his run when play recommenced to go 3-1 up and the pressure was on, but Alex, despite the random factor working against him, managed to tie the series up at 3-3 and force the decider. After a gruelling match lasting well over an hour, with some superb plays from both sides, it was Talan M who managed to take the win and become our 8<sup>th</sup> EMS champion! Congratulations Talan!