

Welcome to the latest update from Exeter Maths School. The start to the summer term has been busy with lots of EMC visits to industry partners, a visit to Liverpool Maths School and another to the Norman Lockyer observatory – further information below.

Feedback to Year 13 students on their mock examinations will be completed this week. Please reassure your child that historically students make significant gains between the mocks and their final exams – this period of focused revision really does have a positive impact on grades. All lessons are now dedicated to their revision and their teachers are always happy to help, support and answer questions.

Please remember that the school and boarding will be closed on Monday 8th May and lessons will commence at lesson 2 (10:45) on Tuesday 9th May. Exeter College lessons will start at lesson 1 as normal on Tuesday 9th May but the college have been made aware that EMS boarding students may be late if they have far to travel.

I wish you all a wonderful long weekend and hope all Coronation celebrations on Saturday are a success!

YEAR 13 - FOR ACTION – EMC and Curriculum X Awards Celebration – Hold the date

Year 13 EMC and Curriculum X Awards Celebration will take place on Monday 26th June from 4pm. This is held at University of Exeter and an invitation to the event will be sent to Year 13 parents in the next couple of weeks but in the meantime please hold the date!

YEAR 13 - FOR INFORMATION – Examinations Update

The students received an exam briefing before Easter, highlighting the rules and regulations for the upcoming A level exams and students have been given their timetables. We recommend students regularly check dates and times of each exam. If any students are having problems with transport on the day of the exams, they have been advised to phone reception as soon as possible to inform of the delay so we can have a contingency plan if necessary - there are strict rules we must adhere to!

There are documents on the web page that students must familiarise themselves with – JCQ Candidate Information.

<https://exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk/parents-page/#1641479618248-3087cdb4-c873> –

It is also important that students are available to come into school on the contingency days if requested.

These dates are:

- 8th June (Afternoon)
- 15th June (Afternoon)
- 28th June (All Day)

Results day is 17th August 2023 – more information will be sent out shortly.

YEAR 13 - FOR INFORMATION – Study Leave and Leavers Assembly and BBQ

Study leave for Year 13 students will start after May half term – w/c Monday 5th June. Year 13 Leavers Assembly and BBQ will take place on Friday 26th May from 11.45am.

For students also studying a subject at Exeter College, Year 13 students should attend their lessons as normal (as far as is possible) until teaching finishes on Friday 16th June.

During study leave, students are welcome to come into school and teachers will be available for support. Boarding students will be able to study in their rooms or in school during the exam weeks after half term.

For the afternoon exams before half term, students are welcome to miss their morning lessons and study from home or in school.

YEAR 13 - FOR INFORMATION – Year 13 Prom

The Student Council are busy organising the Year 13 Prom which will take place on Friday 30th June at The Hall in Exeter. Students will be provided with further information very soon.

Year 12 – FOR INFORMATION – Curriculum X

Year 12 have enthusiastically begun their first set of Curriculum X courses over the last two weeks. These offer a taster of university-style learning, beyond what we offer in the main A-level curriculum. Claire and Aeran have their hands full with 44 students choosing to start the Limits course (an introduction to the rigour of university-level mathematics and the ideas involved in an undergraduate analysis module). This is the largest number of students on a Curriculum X course we have ever had so far! Will also has 22 keen students signed up for his Introduction to C++ programming course. Further courses will be on offer through the Autumn and Spring terms of Year 13, covering a wide range of topics across Maths, Physics and Computer Science, so we hope that all students will find at least one they are interested in!

Year 12 – FOR INFORMATION – Recording from UCAS Parent Information Talk

If Year 12 parents were unable to log into the UCAS Parent Information Talk on Tuesday 18th April, the session was recorded and can be watched by clicking on the same meeting link - <https://bit.ly/EMSUCAS>.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Year 10 Residential

We are pleased to announce that our residential programme for Year 10 students will be taking place this summer for the first time for 3 years! If you have a younger child or know anyone who may be interested in attending further information is available on our website - [Exeter Maths School | Students – Secondary Maths \(exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk\)](http://exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk).

All – FOR INFORMATION – Train strikes on Friday 12th May

We are aware that train strikes are planned on Friday 12th May, but it looks like this will not be as disruptive as previous strike days. We recommend students keeping an eye on the situation and if students are unable to come into school or will be late to lessons on Friday, they need to let reception know in advance. Boarding students will also need to let Boarding know if they decide to go home on Thursday evening. The school will be open until 5.30pm on Friday if any students need to wait to be collected.

All – EMS News – Outstanding Ofsted Inspection for EMS Boarding!

In the penultimate week of term, Ofsted completed a care standards inspection of Boarding at EMS. I'm delighted to let you know that our provision was judged to be Outstanding in all areas and enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the full inspection report, due to be published on the Ofsted website shortly.

Our boarding provision is inspected every three years. Inspectors called just after 9am and arrived in school soon after 11am. They spent three days at EMS joining activities, speaking with students, parents, staff and other professionals. They took an in depth look at much of our provision, in particular Safeguarding and support for those with high needs.

Whilst I have every confidence in Grace and her boarding team and the experience of boarding students, it is nevertheless an intense experience! Thank you to all the parents of boarding students who took the time to either contact or speak to inspectors. Your voice was an important part of the evidence they considered. Of course, we will not rest on our laurels and remain as committed as ever to continue to reflect and improve where we can. Also, there still remains the little issue of a main school inspection which is now overdue...!

All – EMS News – Trip the Norman Lockyer Observatory

It was great to see headteachers and governors from open and pre-open maths schools from around the country meet in Birmingham for the second annual event of the u-Maths network on Friday 21st April. The day included a presentation from Gabryel, a former EMS student, talking about how attending Exeter Maths School impacted and shaped his future. Gabryel felt that attending EMS deepened his love and understanding of Mathematics and Computer Science. Gabryel has a First Class degree in Computer Science from the University of Plymouth, is currently completing a Masters in AI at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and will shortly be starting a PhD at QMUL on Artificial Neuroscience:

applying Mathematics to the understanding and control of Deep Learning. Feedback from the event showed that Gabryel's presentation was the most beneficial item on the agenda for the majority of participants and highlighted the unique and nurturing environment we provide for our students.



All – EMS News – Trip the Norman Lockyer Observatory

A student led trip to the Norman Lockyer Observatory in Sidmouth took place on Monday 24th April and enjoyed by all despite the weather! There was an excellent talk from the volunteers at the Observatory about the history of both astronomy and Norman Lockyer himself.

Unfortunately the cloud cover meant we didn't get much of a look through any telescopes however, we did get to view the return signals from French radar bouncing off the Lyrid meteor shower the previous evening.

We attempted a picnic but the weather was against us, the sun returned for a short nature walk until we hopped back on the bus to head home!



All – EMS News – Visit to University of Liverpool Maths School

Kerry and Nick had the pleasure of taking a group of students to visit Liverpool Maths School on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Tilly in Year 12 has provided the following feedback:

We all had a great time and learnt a lot from them, not just Maths! We toured their building and the surrounding city, which was very different from Exeter, and fascinating to learn more about! Each team of EMS students discussed with some Liverpool students and teachers about how they run their school in three categories: student voice, extracurricular and pastoral curriculum. We have some interesting takeaways we'd like to include at EMS, and hopefully have shared a lot with them too! Overall, we all agree we love the ethos of our schools and feel very lucky to be here, with the many opportunities we're given and the support and fun we have too!



All – EMS News – English Speaking Board – Feedback from the Examiner

Following the English Speaking Board Certificate in Speech taken by 9 of our students on the 23rd March and detailed in the previous update, we have now received feedback from the examiner and below are a selection of quotes provided to students:

"Your choice of poem was outstanding and the personal connotation for you that you were able to share with the group made it even more powerful."

"You were nervous when you began your programme today. And so to see you blossom in such a short space of time and deliver to a very high standard was wonderful."

"This was an excellent programme which was well delivered in a way that I would expect from someone with far more experience than you, well done."

"For me the outstanding part was your poem, Remains, which was intelligently introduced with excellent context and evaluation and delivered in a way that deserves no criticism, it was truly wonderful. I would be happy to listen to it again any time I got the chance"