

Welcome to the first update of 2023/24 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 upcoming events. 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've had an incredibly positive start to the year with year 12 getting stuck into the plethora of induction activities. Year 13 joined them after a couple of days and it's been a joy to witness them embracing our new students and supporting them as they settle in. As the first week of our regular timetable comes to an end, I have no doubt that students will be quite tired, but hopefully happy too – there is certainly a positive buzz about the School and we're excited for the year ahead!

Year 13 – FOR ACTION – UCAS Early Entry Deadline and University Admission Tests

Our deadline for applications to the universities of Oxford or Cambridge must be completed **by Monday 2nd October**.

Our Exams Officer, Jo Potts has asked students to confirm with her if they would like to be entered for any of the Universities admission tests **by 18th September** and Jo will be attending tutorials on the 19th to confirm which tests and courses. To confirm these are admission tests for all universities that require them, including Oxford and Cambridge.

Year 12 - FOR INFORMATION – First Impressions Parents Meetings

All parents of Year 12 students are invited to come into school on Monday 25th September between 5pm and 6pm or Friday 30th September between 3pm and 4pm. The format of this meeting will be a 20 – 30 minute talk from Kerry about the term so far followed by a meeting with your child's form tutor.

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. Please note that tutors will meet with parents as a group, rather than one-to-one tutor meetings. Therefore, you do not need to book a place at the meeting, or individual appointments with your child's tutor. Students are not expected to attend.

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.

Year 12 - FOR INFORMATION – Paid Work Opportunity for Year 12 Students

On Wednesday 20 September between 1200-1330, we will be holding an information session for Year 12 students to find out more about becoming a MESME Maths Circles Mentor.

This is a paid role of 2.5hrs-3.5hrs per week (dependant on face-to-face or online delivery) - £12.22 per hour, inclusive of holiday allowance. The role will be to work with a group of six, Year 7 students, encouraging them to talk about their work and develop their mathematical thinking. The role is supported by an EMS teacher and mentors are given all the teaching materials needed. They will not be teaching content, rather asking questions to prompt younger students to think through solutions for themselves. Mentors are paid for delivery and preparation time, and they learn a lot about mentoring and improving their communication skills.

Further information and an online form for students to register their attendance next Wednesday is available on the EMS Students Team. If students have any specific questions, they can message Sophie Brown on Teams.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Exeter College Subject Transfer Day

If any Year 12 students want to change their A level subject at Exeter College, they must let us and Exeter College know **by Tuesday 27th September**.

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 at the school, including a range of board games, table tennis and a fantastic orienteering activity around the city with Liam.

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 fractals, special relativity and symmetry. 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 projects. 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 – Contacting EMS Governing Body

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.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Contacting the School and Reporting Absences

Please can all students either phone the main school number and leave a message or email 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 the EMS Students Team, General channel. Any longer-term change to attendance hours, for example leaving early, needs to be agreed by completing the attendance alteration form in the same channel; this also applies to 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

Yasmin and Grace will be completing SEND reviews with our new Year 12's in the coming weeks. If any parents feel that their child needs further support with their learning due to an additional need please get in touch with Yasmin on yasmintrevelyan@exeterms.ac.uk or Grace on gracestrachan@exeterms.ac.uk.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Student Drop-In Sessions

We have a regular timetabled slot, when students are on a break, for students to get together with teachers to work through questions and concepts on an ad hoc basis. Students may use this time to go over concepts met in class or to tackle a tricky homework question. We encourage all students to make use of the sessions whenever they feel the need.

Student drop-in sessions are running at the following times each week:

Year Group	Day	Time	Subject	Location
12	Tuesday	12.45pm	Physics	Bell-Burnell
13	Tuesday	12.45pm	Physics	Bose
12	Thursday	12.00pm	Maths	Poincare
13	Thursday	1.00pm	Maths	Poincare

All – FOR INFORMATION – EMS Values – Mistakes



We began the school year by reminding Year 13 of and introducing Year 12 to our values. Over the coming weeks we will be sharing these with you via this update. What better way to start than focusing on mistakes? Students often struggle to adapt to a new learning environment in which mistakes are more frequent. The sooner they embrace them and let go of their fear of failure or looking “stupid”, the sooner they will be able to enjoy true freedom in learning.

“We embrace mistakes. We understand that they are an essential part of the route to success. When we are learning something new, we know that we’re likely to make more mistakes. We recognise that mistakes can be good and can signal that learning is taking place. We will be patient and kind to ourselves and others as we learn from our mistakes.”

All – FOR INFORMATION – Alumni Research Opportunity through Martingale Foundation

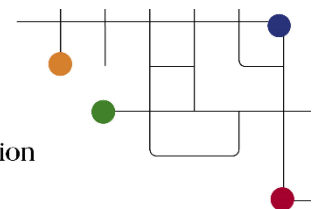
We have been made aware of the following opportunity which may be of interest to our alumni students:

Are you a Maths student or graduate thinking about pursuing postgraduate studies in Maths? The

Martingale Foundation awards fully-funded scholarships for postgraduate degrees in the mathematical sciences. Tuition fees and research expenses are fully covered, along with a tax-free stipend for living costs. As a Martingale Scholar, you will receive access to leadership and career development through our multi-year programme and be supported to apply for a Martingale PhD Scholarship to continue your studies.

MARTINGALE
POSTGRADUATE FOUNDATION

Supporting a new generation
of STEM postgraduates



Applications by 25 October 2023 at www.martingale.foundation

All – EMS NEWS – Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome Magda Buczek, Zoe Chinn and Nikki Eatherington to the Boarding team as Pastoral Accommodation Tutors. Please note the following daily staffing in accommodation each day:

	AM	PM
Monday	Magda and Devon	Devon, Jade and Nikki
Tuesday	Devon, Jade and Nikki	Devon, Jade and Magda
Wednesday	Devon, Jade and Magda	Devon, Zoe and Magda
Thursday	Devon, Zoe and Magda	Devon, Zoe and Magda
Friday	Devon, Zoe and Magda	

Shirin Monks has also returned to EMS as Deputy Safeguarding Lead following her maternity leave. Shirin works on Mondays and Fridays between 8.30am and 2.30pm.

ALL – EMS NEWS – Boarding Update



It's been great getting to know the new Year 12 students and welcoming back our Year 13s who have been brilliant in supporting the Year 12s to settle in. This week students took part in a jigsaw puzzle social where they rotated around Boarding to meet everyone whilst completing a different puzzle in every flat.



We have also kick started the term well with some great meals cooked by students including lasagne, tofu stir fry, chicken curry and sausage and mash! Some of our boarders have started going to the gym and running together and we look forward to helping other students into clubs that take their fancy. We completed a successful first fire drill in which all of our students showed maturity and efficiency. Parents of boarding students should have received contact information for all boarding staff, so any questions please do not hesitate to get in contact and if for any reason you haven't had contact from one of us, please email devonroper02@exeterms.ac.uk.

If parents have ideas for future socials or any feedback from the first couple of weeks in Boarding, please let us know.

