

Welcome to the first Parent Update of 2024 and I hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas break and that students have settled back into school life and are coping with the cold mornings!

It was lovely to welcome Susie Catling back to EMS in January. Susie previously worked for the Outreach Team between 2016 and 2021 and is covering reception on Tuesdays and Wednesdays while Louise is on sabbatical.

We have added a new regular section to the update highlighting key dates for your diary. Any new dates or changes will be highlighted in bold. For each event listed we will continue to provide more detailed information in an update closer to the time.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Year	Time	Event	Description
27/02/2024	Year 13	All day	Year 13 EMC Conference	Year 13 parents invited to see student presentations and posters showcasing the final EMC projects. All students off timetable all day.
11/03/2024	Year 12	1645 to 2000	Parent, student and teacher meetings	Meetings between parents, students and their teachers. Students book appointments directly which can take place online or in person.
15/03/2024	Year 12	1430 to 1630	Parent, student and teacher meetings	An alternative date to the above.
01/05/2024	Year 12	1700 - 1600	UCAS Parent Information Event – online	An explanation of the university admissions process.
24/06/2024	Year 13	1600 to 1800	EMC and Curriculum X Celebration	Taking place at University of Exeter to celebrate the achievements of Year 13 and to award certificates.

Please note the Staff Development Day planned earlier in the year for Friday 26th January has now been cancelled and EMS will be open to students as normal.

The Parents Page on our website has information on key parent events, term dates, internal assessments and the Summer exams timetable - [Exeter Maths School | Parents Page \(exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk\)](https://www.exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk/parents).

All – FOR ACTION – Exams Invigilators Needed

We are looking to increase our bank of invigilators to provide an efficient and effective invigilation support service to the School and ensure the integrity of its examinations.

This year we have work available from 22nd May to 24th June 2024. Exam sessions run in the morning from 8.30am or in the afternoon from 12.30pm. Each session lasts for approximately 2-3 hours (although some may be longer). There will also be other invigilating opportunities throughout the academic year.

Additional information for applicants and an application form are on the website at the following link - <https://www.exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk/work-with-us/#1704910198043-daaab9b3-5938>.

To apply, complete the application form and email jobs@exeterms.ac.uk by **midnight 5th February 2024**.

If you would like more information or the opportunity to discuss this post, please get in touch by emailing our Exams Officer - jopotts@exeterms.ac.uk.

All – FOR ACTION – HM Government Consultations – Share your Views

The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan, Secretary of State for Education, has drawn our attention to three consultations launched recently by her department and is keen for parents and students to share their views. Details of the consultations are below along with links for you to respond:

- [Introducing minimum service levels in education](#) – help us design a policy to protect children and young people’s education whilst balancing an individual’s right to strike. This consultation is open until **30 January**.
- [Gender questioning guidance](#) – share your views on the draft guidance for schools and colleges on how best to support pupils questioning their gender in schools and colleges. The consultation is open until **12 March**.
- [Advanced British Standard](#) – we are seeking views on the design and implementation of the landmark qualification framework, as well as how it will be assessed and awarded. The consultation is open until **20 March**.

Year 13 – FOR INFORMATION – New STEP Dates and Exam Contingency Days

STEP Exam Dates have now been confirmed with STEP 2 on 5th June and STEP 3 on Monday 24th June - both start at 9.00am. Students will soon be able to complete a form regarding STEP entries.

Changes to the confirmed Summer Exam Timetable can be seen on the school website – <https://exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk/parents-page/#1641479618248-3087cdb4-c873>

Exam Contingency Days:

It is important that students are available to come into school on the Summer Season Contingency Days if requested.

These dates are:

- 6th June (Afternoon)
- 13th June (Afternoon)
- 26th June (All Day)

A level results day is on Thursday 15th August 2024

Year 13 – FOR INFORMATION – UCAS Applications

Most UCAS applications have been received by the school and have now been sent off. Many students will be receiving offers, and we expect students who are still waiting to hear from universities will do so once the external deadline arrives and universities know their application numbers.

Not every application will result in an offer, this can be hard for the student, particularly if it was a preferred destination. We will work with these students, although students normally have access to this information before we do, so please encourage them to talk to their tutor if they are in this situation. We are very pleased with how supportive students are with each other, as well as being moderate in their success.

Some students are applying for higher or degree level apprenticeships at the moment, there are a few links to further information on our website: <https://exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk/careers/#1653377113370-29a4430f-5274>

Year 13 – FOR INFORMATION – Curriculum X

Year 13 have just finished the previous block of Curriculum X courses, and have gone straight into the penultimate block: students have now had their first week of learning about Sums and Integrals, Data Science and/or Mechanics Major Highlights. Thank you all for your continued enthusiasm for learning (and especially well done to the five students who have started two courses simultaneously at this busy time of year!).

Year 13 – FOR INFORMATION – Year 13 Mock Exams

Year 13 mock exams will take place the week before and the week after the Easter holidays. Please find the timetable below for your information.

Year 13 Mock TT 2024		AM 0900 start	PM 1315 start
Monday	25/03/2024	NM/EP (1045 start) (1hr 15)	Pure & Stats (2hrs)
Tuesday	26/03/2024	Physics 1 (2hr15)	Pure & Mech (2hr)
Wednesday	27/03/2024	Pure & Comp (2hr)	STEP 2 (3 hours) / Catch-up
Thursday	28/03/2024	Physics 2 (2hr)	Mech Minor (1230 start) (1hr 15)
Friday	29/03/2024	Good Friday	
Easter			
Monday	15/04/2024	Inset Day	
Tuesday	16/04/2024		FM Core (1300 start) (2hr 40)
Wednesday	17/04/2024	Physics 3 (2hr)	CS Paper 1 (2hr30) @uni
Thursday	18/04/2024	Stats Minor (1hr 15)	STEP 3 (3 hours) / Catch-up
Friday	19/04/2024	CS Paper 2 (2hr30)	catch-up

All – FOR INFORMATION – Exeter College Mock Exams and Staff Development Day

For students that study a subject at Exeter College, both Year 12 and Year 13 will be off timetable next week for their mock exams. Students can access their exam timetable on their eILP. Year 13 exams will take place in the Sports Hall and Year 12s will be in their classrooms.

Exeter College will be closed to students on Tuesday 30th September for a Staff Development Day. EMS will be open as usual.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Parent Survey and Raising Concerns

Thank you very much to all parents who have completed the Parent Survey. We have had over 80 responses and we really appreciate the time parents have taken to do this. Kerry has read through all responses and comments and will be providing feedback to parents very soon.

We would encourage parents to get in touch with us at anytime to raise concerns you may have. We will always listen to your concerns and endeavour to address them. To raise a concern please contact your child's tutor or go to the contacts page of our website at the following link - [Exeter Maths School | Contact Us](https://www.exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk) ([exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk](https://www.exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk)). Kerry is also always happy to speak to parents about any specific concerns.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Ball Games in School and Keeping School Tidy

Some of our students have started playing ball games in the school courtyard which has unfortunately resulted in a ball being kicked over the fence and breaking the window of an adjoining building. We have therefore asked students to not play ball games in school from now on and make use of the gardens on our doorstep instead. We will not be charging for the breakage on this occasion, however we will need to charge the students responsible for any similar breakages in the future.

We would also like to remind students to consider others by keeping the Main School and Boarding rooms and corridors tidy at all times.

All – FOR INFORMATION – EMS Values – Endeavour



Learning something new or working out how to do something better can be incredibly fulfilling and rewarding. There's always something to strive for and often effort is its own reward. We embrace challenge, aspire to achieve and seek out opportunities to learn.

As we enter a new year and summer exams are insight, Year 13 maybe worried about revision schedules and how and what to revise. We want to encourage them to focus their efforts and trust that the results will follow. They should take full advantage of all the support available, including drop-in sessions and embrace feedback from their teachers. Paying attention to errors, looking again at the question and asking for help when needed will help give students the confidence needed to achieve results.

All – FOR INFORMATION – British Informatics Olympiad and Oxford University Computing Challenge

The 10 top performing students from the BEBRAS computational thinking challenge, took part in the British Informatics Olympiad earlier this month. This was a very challenging 3-hour programming challenge so well done to all the students who took part! In the time students had to complete 3 programming challenges which required not just coding skill and speed but also logical and creative thinking. A National Final for the Olympiad will be held later in the year for the top performing students in the country, leading to the International Informatics Olympiad which this year will be held in Egypt. A number of students also took part in the Oxford University Computing Challenge, which followed on from the BEBRAS challenge with a set of shorter programming challenges. Well done to all who took part!

All – FOR INFORMATION – Outreach Update

The Outreach team at EMS have had a busy start to 2024, which has included launching the Axiom (previously MESME) Maths Circles programme to new cohorts of year 7 students.

We have two new cohorts: a blended cohort, with 140 students from across the South West, and an in-person model, with 25 students from local secondary schools joining us. The blended cohort, will now meet weekly online up to the Summer term, with another in-person event to wrap-up the series, and our in-person students will continue to join us weekly at EMS.

Axiom Maths Circles are small groups of students who meet weekly with knowledgeable mentors to tackle a curriculum of challenging maths problems, explore exciting ideas and learn to think like advanced mathematicians. It's an approach that's worked successfully in other countries, and which EMS is bringing to the South West. The beauty of Maths Circles is that they're about the relationships as much as the Maths.

We're delighted to have some of our Year 12 students supporting the in-person model as mentors, and look forward to supporting them to thrive in this role.

We regularly host Outreach events at EMS during the week and on Saturdays and are always grateful to our fantastic student community, for stepping in to offer their time to help the events run smoothly.

If you would like to find out more about our Outreach programmes, please visit our website or contact: events@exeterms.ac.uk

ALL – EMS NEWS – EMS Running Club



It was great to see some of the Running Club in their new EMS t shirts this week! We are also very impressed that they braved the very cold afternoon on Tuesday!

The Running Club takes place every Tuesday at 4.30pm with an additional run occasionally taking place on Wednesday afternoons. Students can speak to Melanie if there are interested in joining.