

Welcome to the first Parent Update of the 2025/26 academic year. For those who are new to the school, these updates are sent every 3-4 weeks, and are designed to keep parents and carers informed of key information, updates and upcoming events. Each edition will be shared via email and also made available on the Parents Page of our website at the following link - [Exeter Maths School | Parents Page \(exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk\)](https://exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk).

The school year has got off to an incredibly positive start. Last week our new Year 12 students got stuck into the numerous induction activities and thank you to the Year 13 student mentors who came in on the Tuesday to support the new students and help them settle in. Elections have been taking place this week to recruit new student reps for 2025/26 Student Council and we will update you on this in the next Parent Update.

It was also fantastic to welcome back the Year 13 students last Wednesday and as the first week of our regular timetable comes to an end, I have no doubt that although students will be quite tired, they will hopefully be feeling positive for the year ahead!

Dates for your Diary:

Date	Year	Time	Event	Description
22/09/2024	Year 12	1700 - 1600	First Impressions parents' meeting	Hear about the term so far, meet your son/daughter's form tutor and other parents, provide feedback and ask general questions.
26/09/2024	Year 12	1500 – 1600	First Impressions parents' meeting	An alternative date for the above event.
10/11/2024	Year 12	1500 – 2000 (break at 1730)	Parent, student, teacher meetings	A series of meetings to review progress and targets.
08/12/2024	Year 13	1500 – 2000 (break at 1730)	Parent, student, teacher meetings	A series of meetings to review progress and targets.
16/12/2024	All	1230 – 1630	Year 12 Christmas Lectures	A highlight of the year. The presentation of EMC academic projects.
02/02/2026	All	1800 – 2000	EMS Festival of Culture	In partnership with Exeter College Reach Academy - a showcase of cultures, hobbies and talents through performances, workshops and exhibition stands.
05/03/2026	All	TBC – throughout the day	Year 13 EMC Conference	Another highlight of the year. Presentations and posters showcasing the final EMC projects.
09/03/2026	Year 12	1500 – 2000 (break at 1730)	Parent, student, teacher meetings	A series of meetings to review progress and targets.
30/04/2026	Year 12	1700 - 1800	UCAS Parent Information Event – online	An explanation of the university admissions process. An online event.
TBC	Year 13	TBC	EMC and Curriculum X Celebration	A get together to celebrate the achievements of Year 13 and to award certificates.
07/07/2025 and 08/07/2025	Year 12	Individual appointments	End of year review with Tutors	Post assessment review of the year's progress, target setting for the year ahead and receive UCAS predicted grades.

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://exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk).

Year 13 – FOR ACTION – UCAS Deadlines

Please note the following deadlines for University applications.

Date	Early Application (Oxford/Cambridge)	Normal Application
Thurs 2 nd October (internal deadline)	Complete (pay for, send off) UCAS application.	
Weds 15 th October (external deadline)	We will check students' applications, complete and check our school reference, and send off to UCAS.	
Tues 9 th December		Complete (pay for, send off) UCAS application. We will check students' applications, complete and check our school reference and if you meet this deadline we will send off to UCAS before Christmas.
Wed 14 th January (external deadline)	Last opportunity to add university/course choices.	We will check students' applications, complete and check our school reference, and send off to UCAS.

Tutors/teachers will compile the school reference for all students, and they will prioritise based on the order of completed applications and if students are applying to Oxford/Cambridge.

Further information on UCAS deadlines can be found on their website at the following link - [Dates and deadlines for uni applications | Undergraduate | UCAS](#)

Year 13 – FOR INFORMATION – Curriculum X

Our current Year 13 cohort have continued to enthusiastically sign up for the Curriculum X courses on offer: this half term, 51 students have opted to study one of Computer-Aided Maths, an Introduction to C++, or Signalling. We hope that these courses will be interesting and will be useful preparation for university; if the start of Year 13 studies proves to be more demanding than initially expected, students have until the end of next week (Fri 19 Sep) to change their minds and drop their chosen course.

Year 12 - FOR INFORMATION – First Impressions Parents Meetings

All parents of Year 12 students are invited to come into school for one hour on Monday 22nd September at 5pm or Friday 26th September at 3pm. The format of this meeting will be a 20 – 30 minute talk from Kerry about the term so far followed by a group 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. 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

We are currently recruiting for mentors to work with students in Years 7-11 as part of our Axiom Maths Circle programme. Every year, several year 12 EMS students take on this role and it's a very positive experience on many levels. It is a paid role and requires approximately 3.5 hours per week during term time. Mentors will need to be available to deliver their Circle from 1630-1730 every Wednesday, followed by a 30 min debrief. The additional hours are allocated as weekly prep time which mentors can do at their own convenience. Full training is given. Please encourage your child to consider this opportunity. Full details are available on our website and there is also an information session on **Weds 17th September** at 13:15 in Fermat.

[Exeter Maths School | Work With Us](#)

All – FOR INFORMATION – Computer Science

Year 13:

Thank you to all those who attended our online information session for the Computer Science project (NEA) on Wednesday, 10 September. If you were unable to join us and have specific questions which were not addressed on the information sheet, then please contact Melanie on melaniedennig@exeterms.ac.uk.

Year 12:

Computational systems contribute to the daily experience of young people, yet it is the only subject at EMS which has not been taught consistently throughout our students' experience in school. Consequently, the prior knowledge, skills and understanding of the subject is highly varied amongst our students. The Computer Science department closes these learning gaps in our structured weekly drop-in sessions to which all students are invited. Particularly but not exclusively those who experience a lack of confidence in lessons or homework tasks. These drop-in sessions occur every Thursday at midday.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Radon Reading

For your information we have had an elevated Radon reading in one of the rooms in the Lower Ground Floor. Following advice from UK Health & Security Agency we will be monitoring this for the next 3 months when another reading will be made and further advice sought if needed.

In the meantime, the room will need to be well ventilated, and we will ensure students do not exceed the maximum time recommended in the room. If you have any concerns, please contact our Business Manager, Henry at HenryCummins@exeterms.ac.uk.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Careers Update

Students interested in seeing how Maths, Physics, and Computer Science are applied in a variety of careers should check out the following opportunities:

- MEI Introduction to Data Science [Introduction to Data Science - MEI](#)
- AMSP Maths into AI [Maths into AI - AMSP](#)
- ICE CityZen civil engineering competition [ICE CityZen Award: Promoting Innovation in Engineering | Institution of Civil Engineers \(ICE\)](#)
- Diagnostic & Healthcare Science Careers Event [Book Tickets – Diagnostics & Healthcare Science Careers Event - SWITA Morning – South West Imaging Training Academy](#)

All – FOR INFORMATION – Application Form for 2026 Entry

For any families with a child in Year 11 interested in applying for a place in September 2026 or know of someone who would like to apply, our application form is now live. To access the form, please go to our website at the following link which also provides details of Taster Days running this term - [Exeter Maths School | September 2026 Entry](#). If you have any questions, please email admissions@exeterms.ac.uk.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Student Volunteers

We strongly encourage our students to volunteer in various ways throughout their time here. Volunteering offers many benefits including the development of valuable skills, boosting self esteem and enhancing job prospects. Many of our Outreach events, particularly in the Autumn Term, depend on student volunteers to be involved. Pupils from other schools who take part in the programmes greatly benefit from the support of EMS students, gaining a richer experience and a better sense of life at EMS.

Students also get involved in events in school such as helping at parent evenings and are regularly asked to show visitors and prospective staff around the school. Student volunteers manage the library and help ensure the student areas such as the kitchen and courtyard are kept tidy. Students completed an online form at the beginning of the school year where they have chosen Outreach events and school activities they would like to be involved with.



A big thank you to the Year 13 student mentors who came into school on the last day of their school holiday last week to support the Year 12s and help them settle in. Their guidance and encouragement have been greatly appreciated by the Year 12 students, making the transition much easier and more welcoming.

Student Council:

We have a very active Student Council at EMS and voting is currently underway to recruit new Student Council Reps for 2025/26. The new Student Council will have an induction and training session on Tuesday 16th September which will include a team building trip to the Escape Rooms in Exeter and attending the Curriculum and Student Experience governors' meeting. The Student Council meet every half term and have a budget which they can use on projects which they agree are important to improve the student experience at EMS.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Reading with the Elderly



We are pleased to confirm that the Reading with the Elderly scheme will continue in the 2025/26 academic year. This rewarding program involves up to six Year 12 students visiting Age UK Sycamore respite sessions to read and interact with elderly guests.

Last year's group of Year 12 students visited monthly throughout the Spring and Summer terms, and they will continue their visits until a new group of Year 12 students take over in the second half of the Autumn term.

To ensure minimal disruption to lessons, monthly visits will alternate between Tuesday and Friday mornings, so students won't miss the same lesson each time. Many Year 12 students have already expressed interest in participating, and an online sign-up form will be available shortly for students to register to take part.

We look forward to another successful year of this valuable intergenerational community engagement!

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 Thursday 25th September**. To change subjects or drop one, students should complete the Change of Course Form, available in the EMS Students Team.

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 Lucy Gibson, Clerk to Governors, at LucyGibson02@exeterms.ac.uk.

All – FOR INFORMATION – EMS Values

We began the school year by reminding Year 13 of and introducing Year 12 to our values. The EMS values focus on the following six key themes:



- Everybody
- Mistakes
- Honesty
- Endeavour
- Openness
- Joy

Further information on our values can be found in the attached document to accompany this update.

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. This applies to all day and part day absences so a student will need to complete the form even if they are just missing one lesson.

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 relevant teachers.

ALL – EMS NEWS – Message from the Boarding Team



We are into our second week of boarding, and it has been lovely getting to know the new Year 12 students. Both year groups had an induction back into boarding and were very keen to join staff in making sure boarding continues to be an inclusive and joyful place for all. The Year 13s actioned this straight away taking a lead role in helping the Year 12s settle in and introducing them to their favourite pastimes, such as using the college gym and playing Dungeons & Dragons.

All parents and carers of boarding students should have had a message from their child's boarding tutor introducing themselves and the rest of the team. If you haven't, please let us know at boarding@exeterms.ac.uk - you are also welcome to use this email for any questions throughout the year.

We had our first whole boarding social which went well and included working on puzzles whilst visiting other flats and meeting other boarding students.

Boarding students are aware that boarding is open from 4pm-9am Monday-Friday, and on Monday's and Friday's there is an allocated storage place in school for belongings. We will also be open between 9am and 11am on the first morning of school after a holiday (e.g. on the 03.11.2025).

In a change from last year, we are asking boarding students to remove their belongings from their rooms for the Easter period to accommodate one of our Outreach events. We will provide further details nearer the time, but we will be providing storage in boarding so not all items need to be returned home where this is not possible. Finally, please note, any post should be sent to the school address rather than boarding, thank you.

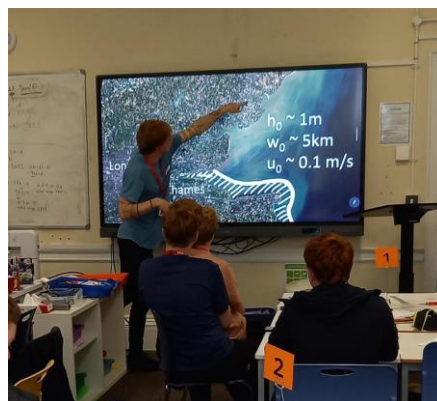
All – EMS NEWS – Exeter Mathematics Certificate (EMC)

The Year 12 students have made an impressive start to their EMC journey. They have dived into challenging projects, exploring fascinating topics such as Cepheid variable stars, information theory, and induction. Despite working in a new school environment and collaborating with peers they had never met before, they have demonstrated professionalism and intelligence during meetings with university academics—who were genuinely excited and impressed by the students' enthusiasm and insight. This is no small achievement! Meanwhile, the Year 13 students have begun their individual projects with great focus and determination. Staff members have been particularly impressed by their motivation and commitment. With the term progressing quickly, maintaining this momentum will be key to their success. What a fantastic way to kick off the year—well done to all!

All – EMS NEWS – Outreach Update

Many of our Outreach programmes have started up again this week for the new academic year.

We were delighted to welcome Dr Tom Crawford from the University of Oxford to our Year 11 Axiom in-person event this week. Tom's session was all about using Maths to clean the ocean - brilliant for our outreach students to appreciate such a real-world application of Maths.



All – EMS NEWS – Staffing Update

We had the pleasure of welcoming the following new staff to EMS this September:

Andrew Daniel, Mathematics Lead:

Andrew has many years of experience teaching Maths and Further Maths both in the UK and overseas, along with a strong background in department leadership and senior leadership roles.

Anna Green, Outreach Coordinator:

Anna previously worked as a Primary school teacher and Pre school manager and although she is new to working in a Sixth form, Anna's strong organisational skills and positive attitude make her a fantastic addition to the Outreach team. Anna works part time hours from Tues to Fri.

Philip Godfrey – Pastoral Accommodation Tutor:

Phil has joined the Boarding Team as our new Pastoral Accommodation Tutor, working on Monday evenings. Phil brings a wealth of experience from his years as a Police Inspector with Devon and Cornwall Police, which also involved projects that supported young people and provided pastoral care.

ALL – EMS NEWS – Alumni News

Since the graduation of our first cohort of students in 2016, the EMS alumni has played a vital part of our school community with many coming back for alumni events, to support with outreach activities and speak to current students about their experiences since leaving EMS.

This year's annual alumni summer BBQ took place on Thursday, 28th August, and we were thrilled to welcome back so many of our past students. It was a fantastic turnout, and a wonderful opportunity to catch up and hear what our alumni have been up to since their time at EMS.



All – EMS NEWS – Induction and Transition Week



Year 12 had a very productive week getting to know each other, their tutor and subject teachers. On Tuesday, Year 13 student mentors came into school and did an amazing job supporting the new students. This included talking to students about the EMC as a whole and their EMC projects, sitting with them in their Maths and induction lessons and answering any questions students had about the school in their tutorials. At the end of the day 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 looking at UCAS applications during tutorial time.

Our student social and BBQ took place on Thursday with all students enjoying time together playing board games and other social activities followed by a BBQ in the courtyard.