



Welcome to the final update of 2025. I am writing to you from the beautiful Lake District where I travelled on Wednesday with Liam and eleven students. It was a long drive, but worth it and everyone seems to be enjoying themselves. Further information and pictures will be provided in the first update in January.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the University on Tuesday for the Year 12 EMC presentations. The standard was excellent, and I was particularly impressed by the students' team-spirit and their very clear and confident communication.

Last Friday, I also had the pleasure of meeting with four Year 13 students to celebrate their time and commitment to reading with the elderly at Age UK since March. It was also lovely to see a firm favourite at the sessions, Pam Ayres, 'Oh, I wish I looked after me teeth' adapted in the second edition of the student newsletter 'The Write Angle' which is attached for your enjoyment over Christmas!

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break, and we are looking forward to seeing all students back in school on Wednesday 7th January for lesson 1 (09:00).

Dates for your Diary:

Date	Year	Time	Event	Description
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.
22/06/2026	Year 13	1600 - 1800	EMC and Curriculum X Celebration	A get together to celebrate the achievements of Year 13 and to award certificates.
07/07/2026 and 08/07/2026	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 \(exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk\)](http://exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk).

All – FOR INFORMATION – Start of Term Arrangements

All students are due back in school on Wednesday 7th January for lesson 1 (9.00am) and boarding will be open from 16:00 on Tuesday 7th January.

Exeter College lessons begin on Tuesday 6th January and students are expected to attend Exeter College lessons on the Tuesday. We appreciate, however, that because boarding is not open until Tuesday 6th January, boarding students may be unable to attend their College lessons on the Tuesday. Please can these students log their absence on the College systems in the usual way.

All – FOR ACTION – Parent Survey

At this time of year, we ask parents to complete a survey to share their views of our provision. We use this, together with our staff and student surveys, to help inform our reflections and determine where to focus our attention over the coming year.

I'd be grateful if you could spare the time to complete this year's survey. This is not a box-ticking exercise: we read every comment and will take appropriate action when needed.

Whether you are delighted, concerned or ambivalent about our provision, we'd like know your thoughts.

Please complete this survey by **Tuesday 13th January**.

[Parent Survey 2025/26 – Fill out form](#)

All – FOR INFORMATION – Boarding Room Available

A room has just become available in boarding from January 2026. If there is a student who is not currently boarding but feels they may benefit from being based nearer to school, we ask that their parents get in touch by emailing finance@exeterms.ac.uk. If you have general questions about boarding, please contact Grace Strachan: gracestrachen@exeterms.ac.uk.

We will prioritise those most in need of the room based on travel distance or other exceptional circumstances. If no students take up the spare boarding place full time, we will then consider those who would like a room for part of the week or on a temporary basis.

Year 13 – FOR INFORMATION - UCAS Applications

Hopefully all Year 13 students have now completed and paid for their UCAS applications. If there are any students who haven't done this it is now too late for us to send before Christmas. Any late applications need to be paid for and sent to us by **Thursday 8th January**.

For Oxbridge early applications, students need to remember to add additional places if they didn't have five initially, **before 5.00pm on 14th January**.

If and when students have received all of their offers, we ask them not choose their Firm & Insurance places yet. Liam will post information and advice about this in student Teams in January - there is no rush or advantage in selecting them early, and they cannot undo this step.

Year 13 – FOR INFORMATION – Year 13 Prom

A group of Year 13 students have been busy organising a leavers Prom which we can confirm will be taking place on Wednesday 24th June at Whipton Community Hall. Further information will be available to students in the Spring term.

Year 13 – FOR INFORMATION – Examinations

The updated Summer Exam Timetable 2026 is now available on the school website and STEP dates have been confirmed:

STEP 2 - 4th June 2026 at 09:00

STEP 3 - 10th June 2026 at 09:00

Students need to familiarise themselves with the JCQ Candidate Information on the website, including the new AI document before the summer exam season.

[Exeter Maths School | Parents Page](#)

It is important that students are available to come into school on the contingency day, **Wednesday 24th June** if requested.

Results day is **13th August 2026**.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Alumni Update – Paid Teacher Internship

We are really pleased to announce that we have been approved by the DfE to run the Paid Teacher Internship Programme again in 2026! This is open to current STEM (including Design Technology) and MFL undergraduates and masters students considering a career in teaching and would like to give it a try.

Interns can earn up to £1,365 for taking part in the three week programme.

If anyone has an older child currently at university and is considering a career in teaching or knows anyone who may be interested, further information including the application form is on our website -

<https://exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk/internships/>

All – FOR INFORMATION – Devon County Council Library Consultation

Devon County Council have launched a public consultation on the future of the library service in Devon. Libraries play an important role in supporting literacy, learning, wellbeing and creative opportunities for children and young people and the outcome of the consultation will influence how these services are delivered. Our neighbours, Exeter Library, have asked us to share the consultation link to students and parents who would like to have their say in the consultation.

Please go to the following link if you would like to contribute to the consultation. There are two versions with one for adults and a specifically designed one for under-18s.

[Have Your Say Today - Shaping Devon's Library Service - Commonplace](#)

All – FOR INFORMATION – Careers Update

Please see below for some opportunities for students:

- Engineering UK careers resources [Careers resources](#)
- Discover Diagnostics career event at St Lukes campus, 24th Jan [Discover Diagnostics careers events | Peninsula Diagnostic Network](#)
- Morgan Stanley degree apprenticeship [2026 Technology Professional Degree Apprenticeship Program \(London\)](#)
- Met Office work experience [Work Experience at the Met Office. Exeter, UK and beyond.](#)

All – EMS NEWS – Competition Results

UK Linguistics Olympiad:

Of the 14 students who entered the UK Linguistics Olympiad, five were awarded a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate (placing them in the top 35% of over 1500 entrants nationally). Two more students were within 1% of getting a certificate! A special mention goes to Christophe, who earned a Gold award and has qualified for the next round. Well done to everyone who took part and had fun exploring these puzzles – they are now available online here for anyone who wants to have a go: <https://www.uklo.org/past-exam-papers/>

British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1:

The results are in for this very challenging competition and of the nine Year 13 students who sat the paper, six achieved a Distinction and one a Merit with Christophe being the top scorer. Congratulations to all the students who took part.

All – EMS NEWS – Boarding Ofsted Inspection

Many of you will be aware that we had an OFSTED inspection of boarding at the start of November.

I'm delighted to share the outcome of the inspection: provision was found to be Outstanding in all areas and inspectors raised no areas for development or improvement.

I was particularly pleased that inspectors recognised the care and warmth of our boarding tutors and the exceptional leadership of Grace in all regards.

Our focus has been and will continue to be our students, your children, rather than seeking external validation. It is, nevertheless, encouraging to have recognition of the care and support we provide.

Thank you to all who offered to provide feedback to the inspectors: they had a long list of parents to call, far more than they typically do – this in itself spoke volumes. Your kind words and feedback were incredibly encouraging.

A copy of the full inspection can be found on Ofsted website at the following link - [Exeter Mathematics School - Open - Find an Inspection Report - Ofsted.](#)

ALL – EMS NEWS - Reading with the Elderly Celebration

Kerry met with Year 13 students, Joe, Agatha, Dylan and Ivo on Friday 12th December, to celebrate their contribution to the Reading with the Elderly scheme this year.

As the first group to take part in the sessions at Age UK respite days they have set a brilliant example for future students to follow. Well done everyone!



ALL – EMS NEWS – Shelter Donation

Well done to Albert and the Year 13 students who collected for the housing and homelessness charity, Shelter, at the EMC lectures on Tuesday. They managed to raise a fantastic **£340.51** which will really help towards the charity's work on supporting some of the most vulnerable in society this Christmas. Thank you to everyone who donated. If you would still like to donate to the charity then please pay any amount to the school account as follows:



1. Exeter Maths School
2. Account No: 00604421
3. Sort Code: 30-93-14
4. Use Ref: EMCShelter

ALL – EMS NEWS – Exeter Foodbank Christmas in a Bag Appeal



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our collection for Exeter Foodbank's Christmas in a Bag appeal.

The Foodbank team was incredibly grateful to receive our bags as donations are significantly down this year. Our small efforts will hopefully make a difference to those for whom Christmas is a challenging time.

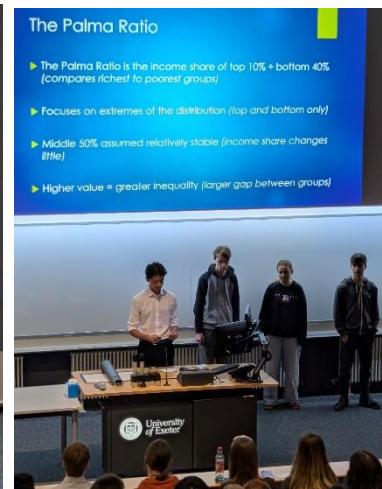
Thank you everyone!

All – EMS NEWS – Year 12 Christmas Lectures

It was great to see so many of you at the University on Tuesday to watch the Year 12 present their EMC group projects. They all did an amazing job presenting their work in a professional and engaging way. It is a daunting prospect standing up in front of a few hundred people and it was inspiring to see them explain complex mathematics and phenomena so clearly and with such composure.

Fantastic talks where we learnt about Planetary Tectonics, Eye Hand Synchronisation, Game Theory, Rainbows and much much more!

Great job Year 12!





Kerry, along with many of our students and parents, attended Exeter College's Festival of Carols on Thursday 4 December at Exeter Cathedral.

This well-attended event brings together students, families and the wider community for an evening of celebration and reflection, while showcasing the talents of our young people.

It was wonderful to see some of our students involved in the event and to be there to support them. Well done everyone!



ALL – EMS NEWS – Message from the Boarding Team



It has been a busy, fun and Christmassy few weeks in boarding - there were more festive socials, one being Christmas tree decorating with hot chocolate. Lots of us enjoyed making hot drinks and adding chocolate mini flakes, marshmallows and squirty cream followed with decorating the boarding kitchens and corridors with tinsel, Christmas trees, shiny baubles, hand painted snowflakes, star lights, twinkling lights and many cheerful Santas and Snowmen. It was definitely looking a lot like Christmas by the end of the evening! Next was a gingerbread evening with gingerbread people and tree shaped cookies baked, decorated and eaten by many of us.

And finally, to celebrate the end of term this week we had our annual Christmas buffet - the three main kitchens were full of Christmas music and plates of sausage rolls, pizza, halloumi sticks, crisps, spring rolls and homemade flapjacks - to name a few! It was lovely that some EMS teachers could join us and share the Christmas celebrations and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

With social media and technology being a huge part of young people's lives, our priorities are to keep our boarders safe online which includes social media and phone usage and AI. Recently, we shared a Teams post with boarders and a Toolkit resource from the 'Center for Humane Technology' - a nonprofit organisation dedicated to ensuring that today's technology such as AI and social media actually serve humanity. It made some interesting points, and we also shared some useful website links regarding internet safety and here are two of them:

[Explore more - Internet Matters](#)

[Cyber security advice for you & your family - NCSC.GOV.UK](#)

If you have any concerns or questions about your young person's online safety, social media or phone use then do please get in touch.

We wish you all a very happy and relaxing Christmas holiday and looking forward to seeing the boarding students back on Tuesday 6th January from 16:00.



ALL – EMS NEWS – Message from the Pastoral Team

We hope you all have a wonderful Xmas break, however, should students need someone to talk to, here are some contact details of people who can help:

Childline – 0800 1111 – www.childline.org.uk

Samaritans (24 hour helpline) – 116 123 – www.samaritans.org

Papyrus (Suicide Prevention Charity) – 0800 068 41 41 – www.papyrus-uk.org

Kooth (Online Counselling & Support) – www.kooth.com

Devon Rape Crisis & Sexual Assault Service – 01392 204174 - www.devonrapecrisis.org.uk

Devon Front Door -Formally known as MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub for under 18yrs old) – 0345 1551071

Adult Social Care (over 18yrs old) 0345 155 1007

Shelter – 0808 800 4444 – www.shelter.org.uk

Nightstop South Devon (Emergency accommodation) – 01803 551578

www.depaul.org.uk/nightstop/nightstop-south-devon/

Young Devon - 01392 331666 - www.youngdevon.org

Young Somerset - 01278 722100 - www.youngsomerset.org.uk

Y-Smart (Drug & Alcohol Support) – 01392 385637 – www.y-smart.org.uk

FearFree (Domestic Violence) – 01752 963493 – www.fearfree.org.uk/

Foodbank – 07818 226524 – info@exeterfoodbank.org.uk

NHS (Non-Emergency Health Advice) – 111 Service

CEOP (Child Exploitation & Online Protection Centre) – www.ceop.police.uk

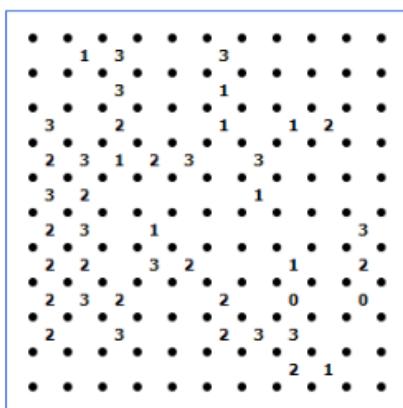
ALL – A Xmas Puzzle!

And lastly below is a Christmas Slitherlink puzzle that Stuart challenged his students to this week, and you may wish to try during some downtime this Christmas!

Christmas Slitherlink Puzzle

Rules

1. Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines to make a single loop.
2. The numbers indicate how many lines surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines.
3. The loop never crosses itself and never branches off.



With thanks to Nikoli for this amazing puzzle which gives rise to countless theorems.

<https://www.nikoli.co.jp/en/puzzles/slitherlink/>