

Welcome to the first update of the Spring term and I hope everyone is managing the cold wet January days!

There's lots to look forward to this term, starting with our Festival of Culture on Monday 2nd February 2026 and I hope you can come along. Details and sign-up form below.

Although it feels like a long time ago, please see page 4 for some great photos taken from the Lake District walking trip before Christmas.

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 \(exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk\)](https://exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk/parents).

All – FOR ACTION – Festival of Culture

The plans are coming together for our next Festival of Culture on Monday 2nd February between 18:00 and 20:00 at Exeter Maths School. EMS and Exeter College Reach Academy students are working hard on creating a variety of performances, workshops and exhibitions.

A programme will be sent out to parents later next week but in the meantime, we would be grateful if you can complete this very short form by **Thursday 29th January** so we have an idea of numbers attending and information on any severe allergies or accessibility issues.

[Festival of Culture - 2nd February 2026 – Fill in form](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Dinah at dinahlees@exeterms.ac.uk.

All – FOR ACTION – Summer Term Travel Passes

For parents paying for their child's travel pass on a termly basis, the next payment of £254 for the Summer term is due by **Friday 20th February** – bank details as follows:

1. Exeter Maths School
2. Sort Code: 30-93-14

3. Account No. 00604421
4. £254 for Summer Term
5. Use Ref - SURNAME followed by TRAV

If you would like to cancel your child's travel pass for the Summer Term and/or if you have changed your address recently, please email Lydia or Lousie as soon as possible at enquiries@exetermaths.ac.uk.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Parent Survey

Thank you very much to all the parents who completed the Parent Survey. We have had a total of 58 responses, and we really appreciate the time you've taken to provide feedback. A summary of your feedback and our responses is attached with this update.

Some parents raise concerns anonymously and whilst it is helpful to have things flagged, it can be difficult to fully understand a situation based on a sentence or two on the form. In the summary Kerry asks that some parents get in touch with her directly so that she can understand and address your concerns.

You don't need to wait for the next survey or parents meeting to raise an issue. We are always here to listen and will do our best to address any issues you may have. 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 \(exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk\)](https://exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk). Kerry is also always happy to speak to parents about any specific concerns for which a tutor does not feel appropriate to raise it with.

All – FOR INFORMATION – Alumni Update – Paid Teacher Internship

As mentioned in the update before Xmas, we will be running the Paid Teacher Internship Programme again this summer. This is open to second, third and final year 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 – EMS NEWS – Visit from Steve Race MP

On Friday 16th January we welcomed Steve Race, MP for Exeter to speak to Year 12 and 13 students. He gave an honest overview of the everyday work of an MP — from constituency commitments to the challenge of spending time in London — before opening the floor to questions. Students asked incisive, well-informed questions about economic and political issues and about how he balances personal views with party loyalty. Their curiosity and enthusiasm turned the session into a lively, insightful discussion and showed just how engaged our students are with current affairs.





The decorations and snowmen have long been packed away, and we have all quickly settled back into the routines of boarding after the holidays. Students have been busy cooking meals, doing their weekly chores, completing homework and many continue to enjoy the weekly student-led socials such as D&D.

There have been some very tasty meals cooked such as veg chilli with guacamole and basmati rice, Thai Green chicken curry, and Korean beef. Last week, some students even had time to do extra baking in the evening and we were very lucky that sticky Oreo buns were made - an alternative cinnamon bun - and some were saved for us to try, as they were delicious. We hope they make these again very soon!

We shared with boarders, on a Teams post, a real-world study written by neuroscientists from the University of Manchester which was about how getting more daylight is not only beneficial for good sleep but also for improved cognitive function. If you'd like to read the report here is the link:

[Higher daylight exposure improves cognitive performance, study finds](#)

As we are in the depths of winter our nutritional focus this half term is Vitamin D - how to get enough and which foods are a natural source as there isn't much sunlight at the moment. It is always good to chat to students as they cook and suggest ways to boost their vitamin D intake and hopefully we will see the sunshine again very soon!



All – EMS NEWS – U-Maths Lake District Trip

Eleven EMS students joined students from other Maths Schools for the final three days of the autumn term on a walking trip in the Lake District. Despite the threat of bad weather, all walks went ahead, and the trip was a real success — students showed great teamwork, resilience and enthusiasm as they tackled the routes, enjoyed the scenery and strengthened friendships across the network of Maths Schools. Many thanks to Kerry and Liam who accompanied our students on the trip and all the teachers who generously gave up their time to make the trip possible.

