

7th July 2022

English Martyrs' Catholic School



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A Voluntary Academy,
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Principal: M. Calen

Dear Parents

The last term has passed very quickly with a full and rich programme of events. The examination season has passed smoothly and students were well prepared for their examinations which they took very seriously. It was good to see all students who took part in our first public exams for 2 years working so hard, my admiration goes out to them.

There have been many important events including Year 13 Dinner and Dance, Year 11 Prom, Spring Music Concert including for the first time a performance by the staff choir. We have held Numeracy week, Debating competitions, Year 10 students took part in mock interviews with a range of employers, all Year 10 students took part in a week of work experience, Enterprise Day, Year 9 Masses, Year 9 STEM talks, there have been visits to Kenilworth Castle, University of Warwick, Twycross Zoo, London Zoo, Castleton, UCAS Fair Birmingham NEC and De Montfort Hall. We held the very successful Mary Poppins the Musical involving over 100 students.

Congratulations to all involved in Area Athletics, 16 students went on to compete in the County Athletics. Congratulations to T Simbanouta in Year 7 for winning the 100 metres and also for Year 7 boys relay team who also came first. Tracy Borman, Broadcaster, Curator of Historic Royal palaces and author visited and spoke to Year 7, Year 9, GCSE and A level students. Year 12 attended De Montfort University History talks and we hosted Bishop Kenneth, Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church for the day.

We held our Annual Awards Presentation Evening and the Awards assemblies for each year group took place this week, alongside the Celebration of Learning evening including Art, Photography and Homework exhibition. It was lovely to see so many students being acknowledged for their hard work.

All of this has culminated in our very beautiful end of year Mass of Thanksgiving, made even more special due to the fact we have not been able to hold this special event for the last few years, meaning that for Year 9 students and below this was their first experience of an English Martyrs tradition. Mass was celebrated by Father Simon OP, Father Simon is moving to Wales so this was his last mass with us, we have as a school been very privileged to have had Father Simon celebrate many Masses throughout the school year and he will be missed by all.

At the end of term we must offer our appreciation to all who have worked at the school this year, the teachers and teaching assistants, those who work in the office, in the catering teams, the technicians, the library staff, the pastoral team and Chaplain, the cleaning team and the premises officers.

Staff Farewells

This summer we bid a fond farewell to a number of teachers and support staff who are leaving us to take up appointments and promotions elsewhere. We offer grateful thanks for their work, Miss Appleby, Miss Cassam, Miss Cross, Miss Goodings, Mr Parmar, Mr Ridgewell and Mrs Suraweera.

Retirements

Teaching Assistants - Mrs Bliss after 26 years, Mrs Dade after 13 years, Mrs Nogai, cleaner after 16 years and Mrs Parkinson, Catering Manager after 31 years. We wish them all the best in their retirement and thank them for long service and commitment to the school.

Enterprise Day

Year 10 showed their entrepreneurial spirit in organising and running Enterprise Day. A fantastic £2000 being raised for Charity.

Sports Day Results

Students were excited to attend Saffron Athletics Stadium, a fantastic Sports Day in which Fisher won overall. There were 4 new records set in girls Triple Jump:

Year 7 N Kostrzewa 7.84, Year 8 N Smith 7.70, Year 9 A Jose 6.50 and in Year 10 A Pallatumadam 7.48. Congratulations to all involved.

Parents Survey

Last term, parents received our online parent survey. Thank you to all those parents who completed the survey. We greatly appreciate and value your feedback which informs our ongoing review of practice.

We were very pleased that the responses to questions relating to learning and behaviour, for example, were very positive indeed.

We are always striving to improve practice further and to work alongside you as parents. For example, we hope that our new website will provide more accessible information about what your child will learn during the year.

We have seen that a small number of parents responded with 'don't know' to some questions. With your help, we would like to ensure that you are as well-informed as possible about your child's journey at English Martyrs' and we would encourage you to contact the school for information on any areas about which you would like to know more.

Start of Term

Term starts on **Friday 26th August 2022 at 8.25am** for all students apart from Year 12.

Year 12 will start on Tuesday 30th August at 8.25am, Sixth Form interviews will continue on Friday 26th August for Year 12.

Results

A Level results will be available to collect on Thursday 18th August at 9.00am
AS Level results will be available to collect on Thursday 18th August at 10.00am
GCSE results will be available to collect from Thursday 25th August at 9.00am

If you are unable to collect your results these will be posted to you.

Interviews for Sixth Form will be held on Thursday 25th August. Students from other schools who wish to apply for a place should come from 1.00pm.

Parent Information Meetings

The following meetings will be held to explain the structure of the year. Please make every effort to attend:

Year 7 Information Evening – Wednesday 31st August 2022 at 5.00pm
Year 8 Information Evening – Tuesday 6th September 2022 at 5.00pm
Year 9 Information Evening – Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 5.00pm
Year 10 Information Evening – Tuesday 13th September 2022 at 5.00pm
Year 12/13 Information Evening – Thursday 15th September 2022 at 5.00pm
Year 11 X Band Information Evening – Thursday 22nd September 2022 at 4.30pm – 5.00pm
Year 11 Y Band Information Evening – Thursday 22nd September 2022 at 5.15pm – 5.45pm
Year 11 Futures Event – Thursday 22nd September 2022 at 4.30pm – 6.30pm

Cashless Catering

In line with a number of other schools, from 26th August the school will be moving to a Cashless Catering system this will mean that cards will need to be pre-loaded before students come to school. Students will not need to carry cash to school to load cards and it means that we will not need machines to take cash this takes away the need for money to be counted and banked. All payments to school will be made through the Parent Pay system for catering, trips etc. (We will no longer be accepting cash or cheques).

The only exception will be charity events when we will collect money in the traditional way.

This will benefit both us as a school and you as a parent. Not only will you be able to pay for items and top up students catering cards from the comfort of your own home but you will also be able to access your account at any time to see if there is anything you need to pay for. ParentPay has enabled us to experience a more streamlined, cost effective and efficient payment system in a secure and safe environment. Currently we have 93% of our students who have activated their ParentPay accounts. We will be sending out activation letters to the parents of the 76 student accounts that have not yet been activated.

If you have any problems in activating your account in preparation of our move to cashless in August please do not hesitate to contact us.

Uniform

Please ensure that when purchasing new uniform and Sixth Form dress code, all items comply with school regulations. There will be uniform checks in the new term – please do not place yourself or your child in a difficult position. Please be reminded particularly about the school advice on trousers, shoes and bags. Please also note that piercings are not permitted. Uniform regulations are found on our website or in your child's planner.

Trainers – Please note that school shoes should be formal black school shoes. They must be durable and protect the feet from potential accidents in classrooms, design and technology activities and around the school, Fashion items and training shoe or shoes which look like trainers are not appropriate school wear. Canvas shoes and boots are not permitted. **Shoes should not have any logos.** Examples of appropriate footwear are displayed on the school website. Please check with your child's Head of Year if in doubt prior to purchase.

Communication

We encourage all parents to communicate with the school if they have any questions. Please either telephone the school office or use the email address office@englishmartyrs.org. For consistency staff will not communicate using their school email, communication will be either via telephone or a letter will be emailed to you.

School Bus EM2

If your child travels to school on the Ausden Clarke Bus EM2, payment for this will need to be paid via ParentPay – a £50 deposit to be paid by 15th August and then in 10 monthly instalments thereafter. Passes will be issued to students on their first day of term, Ausden Clark will allow students to travel without a pass on the first morning.

Reminder Equipment

Please can I remind parents that students need to come school prepared for each day to enable learning see below: equipment list.

Pens	Pencil Sharpener
Pencil	School Calculator*
Ruler	Colouring pencils
Eraser	Dictionary
Protractor	

*can be purchased through the School Shop via ParentPay

Pre-loved Uniform

I wrote to you all the end of the Easter term to inform you that the school was planning to start a pre-loved uniform shop. At English Martyrs we recognise that school uniform is expensive and as students grow, they

can grow out of uniforms. As part of our commitment to 'Eco-Martyrs' to help with the environment. We will be opening a 'Pre-loved shop'. We would like parents to donate pre-loved school uniform that would have been thrown away due to not fitting. These pre-loved clothes will then be available in our pre-loved uniform shop for parents to visit and see if there is uniform they would want. There will be a donation box, if parents wish to make a donation towards the clothes. Once we have received a reasonable amount of pre-loved uniform, I will write again with details of the shops opening times. Please note if you wish to donate pre-loved uniform to the shop it must be of good quality and clean. I hope this will be a small way in which we can all contribute to reducing clothing waste and protect the environment.

It would be marvellous if you had uniform that you no longer needed and you brought them to the main school reception.

I would like to wish students, parents and staff an enjoyable and restful summer. I look forward to seeing you all again next term. I would like to thank parents for your continuing support, by working together we can ensure that your child has the best opportunities to achieve their full potential.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Calen'.

M Calen
Principal