

July 2025



English Martyrs' Catholic School,
A Voluntary Academy,
Anstey Lane, Leicester, LE4 0FJ
Tel: 0116 242 8880
Email: office@englishmartyrs.org
Web: www.englishmartyrs.org
Principal: M. Calen

Dear Parents

This is my final letter of what has been another enjoyable and busy year. The exam season has passed smoothly. I am very impressed and proud of how prepared and calm students were and how seriously they took them.

There have been many important events including the Year 11 prom at Leicester Racecourse and Year 13 dinner dance at the City Rooms. There have been trips to Paris, London, Liverpool, Birmingham, Loughborough, The Briars, Alton Castle, Nottingham Cathedral, Warwick, Kenilworth, Twycross, Bosworth Battlefield, and the Black Country Museum, to name a few.

There have been numerous sporting fixtures, Year 10 football teams have been crowned champions again. netball, cricket and rounders teams have completed across the county.

62 students were involved in the Area Athletics at Saffron Lane Stadium. Resulting in 17 students going to represent the school at County Athletics at the Paula Radcliffe Stadium in Loughborough. Two of these students going on to be crowned County Champions.

This year over 120 trips have taken place. Thank you to all staff who take time to plan and run these trips and thank you to Miss Carr for all the organisation of them.

We have held our successful Grease the Musical including students from all year groups. We have over the year welcomed a range of visitors to the school, from Jessica Feichtlbauer, Author, a former professional cricketer who is now a Headteacher talking to students about perseverance. A range of companies interviewed our Year 10 students. Year 10 completed a week of work experience, with amazing feedback.

We celebrated our 60th Anniversary with a wonderful open day, in which we welcomed former students and staff from a range of decades and opened our prayer garden. The whole school celebrated as a community by holding a picnic on the school field.

Year 10 held a very successful Enterprise Day raising over £2000. It has been my pleasure to meet a number of students from across the year groups to give them an English Martyrs' principals pen or certificate for their outstanding work and contribution to the school. Year 7 Thomas D, and Year 9 Olive S received a certificate for Poetry. Every member of the Brass Band received a certificate for playing at a contest in Hull; Amelia A, Roque C, Diyenka D, Maya D, Kingsford E, Naomi F, Jonathan F, Michael G, Gabriel K, Albert L, Jemima M, Raylan M, Annaliese N, Edgar P, Ola P, Beatriz R, Cathleen R, Sebastian R, Abigail S, Poppy S, Alex S, and Emily W.

We celebrated the hardwork and commitment of our students with our Awards Evening, over 125 students received awards. It was a pleasure to see and hear about the achievements of our students. This continued with Awards Assemblies celebrating the success of even more students with over 600 certificates awarded.

We held our annual Sports Day at school, which saw all students taking part in activities throughout the day.

We celebrated our End of Year whole school Mass on Thursday which is a school tradition and a wonderful occasion. We were pleased that the Bishop was able to celebrate with us. We welcomed over 90 guests, including Mr A Hunt, Mr C Lee, Mr D Akiens, and Miss J Hill who are retiring. Mrs Sheehan who was celebrating over 25 years' service. As a collective these staff have contributed over 118 years of service to English Martyrs and have been instrumental in the education and development of thousands of students. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude and thanks to them.

We continued our desire to celebrate the hard work of our students by holding our Celebration of Learning Evening, in which students' homework projects were on display. Alongside this we had a Photography and Art exhibition of students' work.

It was lovely to meet Year 6 students who will be joining the school community in August. Students from over 30 primary schools had an opportunity to meet teachers, experience lessons and speak to our current Year 7's.

Art

The Art department celebrated the achievements, hard work and effort of our amazing students with the Art Exhibition, 'English M-Art-Yrs 7-9', at the Celebration of Learning on Monday 7th July. A range of Art, including sculpture, painting and drawing was on display. This is our way of saying thank you to our students, of whom we are very proud.

Many of our students have already achieved 'Artist of the Month' this year and there will be more to come in the new school year, as we continue to recognise our students, display their work and congratulate them.

Dance

The Dance Departments Annual Dance Showcase 'Encore' was back for another year blending Hip Hop, Jazz, Contemporary, K-Pop, Indian Classical, Ballet, Afrobeat and Musical Theatre dance styles with an EMS twist. The show created by Mrs Pemberton and her dancers combined high-energy footwork, acrobatics and powerful storytelling creating emotional and thought-provoking performances.

The evening was incredible, and our dancers danced their hearts out on stage and represented our school community with pride. So much talent and passion was shown throughout the evening and the support for each other was amazing. The dancers are a credit to our school.

Drama

Students began rehearsing for this year's school production of Grease in October, and the final performances took place on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th June. This production has been an opportunity for students from across the school to come together and perform, design and create set and props, and perform alongside a live band as well as manage the backstage area during the show.

We are extremely proud of all of the students involved and once again they have demonstrated incredible skill and talent at a very high standard. We have been particularly impressed at the level of commitment from all of them and it has been an enjoyable experience for all involved.

Food and Nutrition

Doreen M and Maksymilian reached the regional finals of Futurechef at Loughborough College, Doreen went on to win this heat as well and proceeded to the final in London. She didn't win but was highly commended. Nationally over 14,500 students enter the competition so to be in the final twelve is an incredible achievement.

Chefs from the Royal Navy came into school to do a 'Ready Steady Cook' Competition with year 10 students which they really enjoyed and also a careers talk about the Logistics department of the Royal Navy.

The Food and Nutrition department were lucky enough to receive a free Thermomix for the department by holding a healthy eating workshop.

We also had a visit from development chefs from Samworth Bros came into school to making the winning sandwiches with the students who won the 'Tasty Schools' competition.

English

All Year 10's have enjoyed the opportunity to deliver a talk about and answer questions on a topic of their choice. We were impressed by the range of topics chosen, and by their maturity.

Year 8 learners recently studied texts from a variety of cultures as part of our new Minority Voices scheme of work. Many have been inspired to borrow a book from the library after reading an extract in class. They were expected to reflect on the pieces studied, many producing lovely scrapbooks to record their reflections.

At the end of Year 8, we check students' spelling progress by comparing their 'Spelling Age' with results from the end of Year 7. A significant amount of progress was revealed with 45 students making gains of 2 years or more – and 41 topping the scale with spelling ages of 18+ years.

Year 7 have completed Accelerated Reader Reading Competition, where form groups compete to read the most books and articles in the Academic Year. The winners are 7 Fisher, with 14.7 million words read between them – closely followed by 7 Champion with 13.5 million.

Year 8 continued to follow the Accelerated Reader Program to stave off the notorious 'drop-off' in reading for pleasure. Mrs Bhakta's class read 15.3 million words between them.

We hope that all these students have enjoyed the wide variety of books available to borrow from our wonderful library. More importantly, we hope they will continue reading for pleasure over the summer.

Inclusion

Congratulations to a number of our Teaching Assistants who have completed the CMAT SEND certificate this year and shown further commitment to exploring new opportunities for additional support and sharing good practice. Congratulations also to Miss Gray who has successfully completed her ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) training, another valuable provision in school to support the overall wellbeing of our students.

This year the Sister Anna Centre has turned a once blank space into a wonderful calm sensory space, warmly named by students as 'The Little Calm Corner'. This room offers a quiet reactive space for a variety of need and is a wonderful new addition to our Inclusion area.

And well done to many of those students who despite additional needs have engaged incredibly with enrichment opportunities in school including the recent Dance Show and Grease performance, we are very proud of your resilience, motivation and enthusiasm to build on your own personal development.

Media/Film

It has been a very challenging yet rewarding time for both Film and Media students across a range of year groups. While Year 10 have been tasked with creating film that 'Inspires', Year 11 have been looking at film that is influenced by culture as well as creating film designed to raise the awareness and role of carers in our society. Year 13 have now completed their genre-based film project. A project that saw students draw from a wide variety of genres including drama, fantasy, film noir and crime. Finally, Year 12 and 13 Film students having now completed all their AS and A level exam papers as well as completing their film projects that draw on the film knowledge they have studied and watched. There have been some truly stand out pieces of film across all years and all have worked incredibly hard.

Mathematics

130 students across Years 7 and 8 recently competed in the UKMT Junior Mathematics challenge, a national competition.

Congratulations to all those who gained prizes, with particular praise to Oliver S in Year 8, and Chidera I in Year 7, who both achieved joint-best in school with an amazing 101 points, gaining gold and an invitation to the next round, which was the Junior Kangaroo Challenge on 10th June. We await their results.

A big well done to all those that participated.

Below is a breakdown of prizes:

Year 7

Gold 1, Silver 4, Bronze 15

Total 20

Year 8

Gold 5, Silver 17, Bronze 23

Total 45

Thank you to all teachers for facilitating this national competition and a big well done to the gold, silver and bronze prize winners.

We are also delighted that Abisha K in Year 12 has been accepted onto the prestigious University of Nottingham Sutton Trust Summer School. Thank you to Dr Nyawako for his support with her application.

Music

The Music department has had a busy period of Year 9 and 10 Performance and Composition Mock exams this term and Mr Leonard and Mrs Handley have been amazed by the achievements of our students across both year groups. During this time, many of our pupils were also working extremely hard rehearsing for our production of Grease. Several students taking instrument lessons have taken exams on their instrument this term, most recently with Annette in Year 8 and Xavier in Year 7 achieving highly in their Grade 1 Organ exams after just two school terms of lessons. Our tuition uptake this year has continued to grow with 258 students currently taking instrumental lessons across all year groups. We are also delighted, for the first time, to have recruited two classes of students for GCSE Music next year.

Steel pans and a group of soloist musicians gave fantastic performances at the Awards Evening at the end of June and the Junior Choir, along with players from our Senior Orchestra, took part in a concert at St Theresa's Church, Birstall at the start of July. Finally, it is always a pleasure to provide music for our whole school End of Year Mass in the last week of term, and with so many long-serving members of staff leaving us this year, the service was particularly special. Thank you to Schola Cantorum, Senior Orchestra and Senior Brass for performing.

PE

Rounders - Female rounders teams from Years 7 - 9 travelled to Sir Jonathon North to compete against other secondary schools in the West Leicester tournaments. The Year 7 team particularly performed well and were unbeaten on their first round of the tournament. Our year 7 girls rounders team remained undefeated from all 6 of their fixtures at the West Leicester tournament, demonstrating excellent commitment and teamwork throughout all of the fixtures.

Cricket - Students from Years 7 - 10 competed in the Leicester secondary schools cricket tournament, beating Castle Mead convincingly but then being beaten by City of Leicester so did not progress further.

Athletics - On Thursday 15th May 2025, the English Martyrs PE department took its largest-ever team to represent the school at the annual West Leicester Area Athletics competition. Hosted by the Inspire Together team, the event saw students from English Martyrs compete against other local secondary schools in a variety of track and field events at Saffron Lane Athletics Stadium. 17 students qualified to represent Leicester City at the County Athletics Championship at the Paula Radcliffe stadium, Loughborough university on Thursday 5th June - with Ubamaka I, 100m (7Fl) and Noah M, High Jump (7Fl) being crowned U13 County Champions!

Golf - over 10 students were involved in being able to experience playing golf on an actual course and practicing on a driving range. As a result of school golf, 2 students in Year 10 have now become members at Whetstone Golf Club and now play weekly.

Religious Education

Our Year 11-13 students are currently enjoying a well-earned rest from their final examinations! The department would like to thank all students for their commitment to the subject and willingness to fully participate in revision programmes with one another.

Year 9 have made a positive start to the new GCSE with a deep dive into Jewish beliefs and practices. Many students opted in for our immersive learning experience and took part in the Synagogue trips. Our students were welcomed by members of the Orthodox Jewish community who gave them a tour of their Synagogue and talked openly about their faith.

Students in Years 7 and 8 are currently exploring other faiths too as part of our 'Encounter and Dialogue' units. The feedback from our Year 8 Mosque trip was overwhelmingly positive. Students thoroughly enjoyed meeting and speaking with a local Imam and having an opportunity to explore a new place of worship.

Students in Year 7 were recently tasked with a public speaking activity to further develop their oracy skills. This involved creating their very own 'missionary organisation' to champion social justice and defend a group of vulnerable people in society. Students had 1-2-minutes to present their work and demonstrate how we all might put faith into action.

Run Club

A number of students took part in the Mini London Marathon for Schools towards the end of April. They all ran 2 miles as part of the challenge and the school received a lovely trophy for their efforts. Well done to all who took part.

Staff Farewells

This summer we bid a fond farewell to three members of our support staff who are leaving us to take up appointments and promotions and teacher training. We offer grateful thanks for their work, Mrs L Bale, Miss H Claridge, Miss M Lowe.

Retirees

Mr D Akiens, Premises Manager after 20 years' service, Mrs J Hill, Classroom Teacher after 3 years' service, Mr A Hunt, Classroom Teacher after 43 years' service and Mr C Lee, Premises Manager, after 27 years' service. We wish them all the best in their retirement and thank them for their long service and commitment to the school.

We have also celebrated the wonderful commitment of staff to English Martyrs', Mrs Sheehan, English Teacher after 25 years' service.

Start of Term

Term starts on Thursday 28th August 2025 at 8.25am for all students.

Results

A Level results will be available to collect on Thursday 14th August at 9.00am

AS Level results will be available to collect on Thursday 14th August from 10.00am.

GCSE results will be available to collect on Thursday 21st August from 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 21st 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. Please note we have a different focus for each year group.

Year 7 Information Evening – Wednesday 3rd September 2025, 4.30 – 5.30pm

Year 9 Information Evening – Wednesday 10th September 2025, 4.30 – 5.30pm

Year 10 Information Evening – Tuesday 9th September 2025, 4.30 – 5.30pm

Year 11 Information Evening/Futures Event – Thursday 25th September 2025, 4.30 – 6.30pm

Year 12 Information Evening – Thursday 18th September 2025, 4.30 – 5.30pm

Year 8 Options Fair – Thursday 26th February 2026, 4.30 – 6.30pm

Each Information Evening will have a different focus and structure. We will write to you at the start of term with more details.

Uniform

We are very proud of how well students present themselves. We believe that a uniform prepares students for the workplace. Therefore, a reminder of the school expectations. 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 note that school shoes should be polishable black school shoes. They must be durable and protect the feet from potential accidents in classrooms, design and technology activities and around the school. 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 prior to purchase if in doubt.

Please also note that piercings are not permitted. The only permitted ear jewellery is a pair of studs, one in each ear in the bottom lobe. Ear stretchers, tapers and plugs may not be worn. Nose piercings are not permitted. Uniform regulations are found on our website or in your child's planner. Only natural hair colour is allowed.

Free School Meals

As a school community we are very keen to support all families, should you find your family struggling with finances, your child may qualify for Free School Meals.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

In order to see if you are eligible, please visit the relevant Parent Portal. We would encourage all parents to check to see if you are eligible.

If you live in the city, please use the Leicester City Council website to make an application. The link to the portal is: [Leicester City Council - Free School Meals Application](#)

If you live in the county, please use the Leicestershire County Council website to make an application. The link to the portal is : [Parent Portal](#)

Reminder Equipment

Students need to be ready and prepared to learn. This ensures there are no barriers to achieving their potential, as a reminder students need to come school prepared for each day to enable learning, see below: equipment list.

Pens	Pencil Sharpener	Protractor	Purple Pen
Pencil	School Calculator*	*can be purchased through the School Shop via Arbor Pay	
Ruler	Colouring pencils	Eraser	

Pre-loved Uniform

I am pleased to say that we have been running a pre-loved uniform shop once a month. I would encourage parents to take advantage of this 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 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. Please see the school website for dates of shop opening. 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. If you have uniform you no longer need, please bring it to the main school reception.

Administration Charges

As a school we are asked to provide a letter of attendance, for some families. To cover the cost of the admin task any letter required of this nature will incur a £5 admin charge. The admin charge will be added to your Arbor Pay account.

Arbor Pay

At the start of the Autumn Term, we will be phasing out Parent Pay and moving over to Arbor for school shop orders, school meals, and trips. We are just in the process of setting this up and we will have more information soon. Just a reminder that any outstanding debts will be transferred over to Arbor.

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. Please may I ask you to allow staff time to respond to you before chasing, as staff need time to collate the correct information before responding to you. We aim to respond to all correspondence within 3 working days.

The school phone system does not accept phone calls from withheld numbers. Can I ask that if your number is withheld that you ensure that you put 1470 before you dial, then your number will be visible for the school. As part of

our safeguarding procedures, we do match the incoming number to those held on our system to ensure we are talking to the right person.

It is very important that we have at least 2 contact numbers for every student. Please can you ensure that you have provided the most up to date numbers.

CMAT Professional Development Day

School will be closed to all students on Friday 21st November 2025, for a St Thomas Aquinas Multi Academy Trust Professional Development Day.

Thanks

As you can see from all the above, staff here, in all departments; Teaching, Teaching Assistants, Pastoral Administration, Catering and Premises, work very hard to ensure all students have as many opportunities as possible. I would like to thank them all for all they do.

I would also like to thank all parents/carers for all the support you give the school.

I wish you all a lovely summer and look forward to welcoming all our students back on **Thursday 28th August 2025**.

Yours sincerely



M Calen
Principal

