

9th January 2026

Dear Parents

New Year

I have been delighted to welcome all the students back this week looking refreshed and ready for the new term. This is a very important term for all students which includes learning many new topics as well as focussing carefully on revising work already completed and preparing for examinations later in the year. Thank you for your support with uniform and Sixth Form dress code. I have asked Tutors and Heads of Year to contact parents where there are any uniform issues. In this cold weather, students should have a coat if needed. A reminder that hooded tops are not coats and should not be worn to school.

I have held Principal assemblies with all students and used the reading from Matthew. I spoke to students of using their God given gifts to achieve their full potential.

Advent Charity Fund Raising – thank you

During Advent we raised £602.50 for the following charities: MIND, Let the Children Live and LOROS. Toiletries and non-perishable goods were collected for City of Sanctuary and Trussell Trust Foodbank. A very big thank you to all members of the school for contributing to our Advent fundraising.

Exam Workshops

We know that sitting exams can be very stressful for students particularly for GCSE and A Level students. Please click on the link for three free workshops from Geraldine Jozefiak who has many years' experience as an exams officer.

[Coping with Exam Anxiety Workshops - English Martyrs' Catholic School](#)

Safety

At the start of term may I ask you to remind your child to keep safe whilst travelling to and from school. Where possible, they should not walk alone, especially in unlit or quiet areas; they should not talk to strangers and should report any concerns they have to home, police or school.

Year 11 Study Club

We have been inviting students who would benefit from extra help with homework to a Study Club, which will take place on Monday's afterschool.

Pre Loved Shop

This is an opportunity for any parents to replace any missing uniform. At English Martyrs we recognise that school uniform is expensive and as students grow, they can grow out of uniforms.

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.

I hope this will be a small way in which we can all contribute to reducing clothing waste and protect the environment. Thank you to those families who have already donated Pre-loved Uniform. It would be marvellous if you had uniform that you no longer needed and you brought them to the main school reception.

Our next Pre-loved Uniform event is Wednesday 14th January, 3.00 – 4.00pm.

A reminder that as part of our continued commitment to be Eco-Martys. Over the past year we have been reducing the school's contribution to landfill/carbon footprint and all students need to bring in a reusable bottle to school. These cannot be glass for safety reasons.

Parents' Consultation Meetings

Year 12 – Thursday 22nd January 2026, 3.30 – 6.00pm

Year 10 – Thursday 29th January 2026, 3.30 – 6.00pm

Year 9 – Thursday 5th February 2026, 3.30 – 7.00pm

Year 8 Options Fair Thursday 26th February 2026, 4.00 – 6.00pm

Year 8 - Thursday 19th March 2026, 3.30 – 6.00pm

Year 7 – Thursday 26th March 2026, 3.30 – 6.00pm.

Year 8 KS4 Options Information Meeting for parents and students – Thursday 26th February, 4.00 – 6.00pm

This term, Year 8 students at English Martyrs' make their options choices for Key Stage 4 studies which they will commence in Year 9. Students will be supported at every stage of the options process to help them make the best decisions for their long-term futures. On Thursday 26th February, you are invited to attend the Year 8 KS4 Options Information Meeting for parents and students. A presentation outlining the options process will begin at 4.00pm in the Auditorium. Parents and students will then have the opportunity to speak with subject teachers in an Options Fair in the Exhibition Area until 6.00pm.

Free Breakfast

Bagels, Cereals, Porridge, the school provides a free breakfast for all students.

Parking

Please can I remind parents who are collecting their children to park with consideration and avoid blocking our neighbours' drives. Also to take care for the safety of all our students.

Severe Weather

In the event that the school were to be closed due to winter weather there would be an announcement on the school's website and a text would be sent to you. Please note we do not post school closure on social media. Clearly, we hope to operate school as usual every day. Unless an announcement is made, please assume the school is open.

May I wish everyone health, happiness and prosperity in the coming year.

Yours sincerely



M Calen
Principal