



EXETER MATHEMATICS SCHOOL
SERVING CORNWALL, DEVON, DORSET AND SOMERSET

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

MAY 2018 – Issue 16

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Of particular note must be our students' success in the English Speaking Board examinations – to have a quarter of our year 13 volunteer to trial this course and then to be so successful is something we are incredibly proud of. Year 12 will be given the opportunity to take part in the future and no doubt this will become a staple part of our curriculum offering.

This week we are having our leavers' assembly for year 13 as they move to a period of independent study and exams. We never quite say good bye: there'll be a further celebration on the 25th June and we'll see most of them again on A-level results day. In the new academic year we'll host a reunion and no doubt continue to have them back to share their experiences with future EMS students.

For year 12 it's business as usual with lessons continuing at EMS until the end of term, although those at Exeter College are suspended for two weeks to accommodate AS examinations.

The summer term can become quite stressful with an increased focus on assessments, we are therefore working with Student Council to ensure some social activities are planned to provide some rest and relaxation between study sessions.

Kerry Burnham

STUDY LEAVE

Study Leave for Year 13 students will begin on **Monday 4th June**. There will be timetabled support for students available during the study leave period – for Mathematics, teachers will be available in Brahmagupta, for Physics and Computer Science support will be available during the times that students would normally have had their lessons.

During the study leave period Year 13 residential students will be allowed to stay in accommodation during the day if they don't have an exam. Staff will be in accommodation to supervise. Students are not allowed to invite friends over to accommodation however. The school will be open as usual and residential students are welcome to study in the main building if this works better for them.

Year 12 students will continue to have lessons as normal after half term. Year 12 assessment week is the week of Monday 25th June, and feedback week will follow in the week of 2nd July. The last day of term for Year 12s is Friday 6th July.

Exeter Mathematics Certificate (EMC)

This term has been a great term for EMC. The year 13 conference was a great success. I was delighted with the standard of the projects and the presentations by our students. This event seems to get better and better each year. Congratulations to all involved. Particular mention goes to Finn Manning and Blake Morrow for their entertaining presentations and to Sam Laurenti who I gave the overall EMC award for project, poster, report and presentation. The year 12 projects were also brilliant. I was so proud of their output for the different companies. Their presentations to the visiting Hong Kong teachers and to the companies were extremely professional. The companies were extremely impressed and the students were a credit to themselves and to the school. Thanks and well done.

Ed Horncastle

STUDENT COUNCIL

We are delighted to be the new co-chairs of Student Council for the coming year, and would like to thank Sophia and Michael for all they have done over the last year and for supporting us in our new roles.

As the new co-chairs of the school council, we will be playing a large part in the changing role of the school council, as many of the major issues within the school have already been solved by the work of previous years.

This leaves room for us to move towards suggesting extra events and activities, such as developing and arranging charity and social events for students on a more regular basis.

Throughout the next year, we hope to create the foundations of what school council should be for future years.

Erin Miller and Tom Potter, Year 12

EMC CELEBRATION EVENT

The EMC Celebration Event for Year 13 students is taking place on **Monday 25th June from 3-5pm**. It is an opportunity to present students with their certificates from the University of Exeter and to celebrate their achievements through EMC with their family and friends. It is usually a lovely celebration to wrap-up the year and after the presentations there will be a cream tea for everyone to enjoy.

Every Year 13 student is invited to bring up to two guests with them (parents / guardians / friends) and may request additional places should there be space available.

To book places at the event, students need to complete a short form. They have been sent all the information on how to do this by email. The deadline for completing the form is **Monday 4th June**.

The event will be held at the **Xfi Building, University of Exeter, Rennes Drive, Exeter EX4 4PU**. The Xfi building is at the bottom end of the Streatham campus and is building no.30 on this campus map: <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/visit/directions/streatham-map/> Information about parking is available on the University's website.

We hope to see as many of you as possible on the 25th June.

AWARDS, COMPETITIONS & ACTIVITIES

English Speaking Board (ESB):

On 20th April 15 of our year 13 students took the English Speaking Board Level 3 Certificate in Graded Examination in Speech, Senior Proficiency Grade 6. We had two examiners who presided over two groups through the morning. Each student gave three short talks to their group: a presentation on a technical subject, a poem or piece of prose, and a review. They also took part in discussions on each piece and asked questions of each other.

The students really impressed the examiners with their involvement, their level of understanding of their subjects and their support of each other. The possible outcomes for this examination are Pass, Good Pass, Merit, Merit Plus and Distinction. All of our students passed with at least Merit and 5 of them gained Distinction. The students concerned were self-selected volunteers who have been coming to occasional lunchtime sessions through the year to prepare and they all deserve an enormous pat on the back for their bravery in taking part in a somewhat experimental trial run with no one but mathematicians to advise them.

Claire Willman

National Chess Finals:

On the 25th April a chess team of 4 EMS students went to Imperial College London to play in the National Finals of the UK Team Chess Challenge. There were teams from as far and wide as Torquay and Glasgow competing. As a team, the EMS students came 6th overall. This was a great success given that, due to train delays, the team were late for the start of the competition and were therefore unable to gain any points for the first round. Reece Whittington, on board 1, got 2.5/4 against very tough opponents including a game against a player with a grade of 200 ECF, when his is only 140. Yannis Wells, on board 4, also played extremely well achieving 3.5/4. Credit also goes to Jake Corbett and Reece White, on boards 2 and 3 respectively, for playing very well against very tough competition.

Exeter College rugby team represent England in Japan:

EMS Year 13 student, Sam Rose, was a member of the Exeter Chiefs Rugby Academy at Exeter College who represented England at a prestigious international tournament in Japan from April 29th to May 6th. The Sanix World Rugby Youth Invitational tournament was hosted by the Japan Rugby Football Union at the Global Arena on the island of Kyūshū. Exeter College's team was the only UK college, or school, team to take part in this prestigious event, described as the pinnacle of the sport for schoolboy rugby.

Participation is by invitation only with the overseas schools selected by their respective unions to represent their country. The team played some great rugby and were very pleased to finish 9th in the world, winning the plate final – best of the rest.



School Photographs to purchase

Earlier this month a professional photographer came to the School to take some photos of students; both individually and in their tutor groups. Whilst this was done primarily for use in the Year 13 Yearbook, we would also like to offer parents / guardians the opportunity to purchase prints of these photos. So please look out for an order form that will be emailed to all parents/guardians after half term. Parents will be able to purchase individual photographs of their son/daughter (Year 13 only), and/or tutor group photographs (year 13 and Year 12).



ACCOMMODATION – SUMMER 2018

We are approaching the time of year where our Year 13 students are beginning to leave accommodation. Although we will still see most of our students up until the end of June or beginning of July, due to revision and study leave we will not see them all as much as we usually do. Therefore, Bill and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Year 13 students for being excellent role models for the Year 12s, making accommodation homely for everyone, and genuinely being a lovely group of young people to be around. We will both miss your individual characters around the flats and wish you all the best for the future. It has been a privilege to see how you have all matured and excelled in and out of school.

As an opportunity for the students to see each other, have a last meal all together and some time to relax, we are organising an evening of pizza and board games at school on the 19th June. Furthermore, as we have some Monday morning examinations, the flats will be open for use to the students on three Sundays in June: 10th June, 17th June and 24th June. The students will need to bring something for dinner, or money to buy themselves dinner out.

We look forward to seeing you all when the students begin to leave for the summer. Year 12 will be in school until 6th July, but Year 13 will be able to leave after their last exam.

As ever, if there are any queries or concerns about anything please contact us by phone or email;

billhughes@exe-coll.ac.uk and gracestrachan@exe-coll.ac.uk

Bill and Grace

PARENTS' FORUM

During the past year I have very much enjoyed attending the Parents' Forum. My son is currently in Year 12, and like many teenagers he doesn't generally communicate a huge amount about his day-to-day life. It has been informative and fun to meet other parents and hear stories about how the students are doing in their new environment and to share experiences as parents. It's a good source of informal information, and has helped me understand and feel more connected to the community that my son is now enjoying at the Maths School.

Sharon has been a very welcoming and approachable facilitator of the Parent's Forum, setting dates, sending reminders and hosting the meetings. Her daughter is now moving on from the Maths School as she has almost completed Year 13, so I have happily agreed to take over as organiser of the Parents' Forum, keeping all those who wish to be included informed about meetings. I hope I can provide as good a resource as Sharon has done. Please feel free to contact me with any questions – my e-mail address is linda.gethin@sky.com

I look forward to continuing to meet with the current Year 12 parents whom I've got to know over the past year, and also to getting to know the parents of the new Year 12 students in September.

Regards

Linda Gethin