

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019 – Issue 18

Welcome to the latest newsletter from EMS. To be perfectly honest, this is supposed to be a March edition, but with so much going on, including our resident news-letter-coordinator leaving, it's been a little delayed.

Our communication with parents is something we are reviewing at the moment. If you'd like to see anything in particular in future newsletters or on our website, please do email enquiries@exeterms.ac.uk and we will do our best to incorporate your suggestions.

Your sons and daughters continue to impress and inspire us. There has been a notable maturing in year 12 over the course of this term and they are now well settled in to the school and its routines. Year 13 are incredibly focused with their exams looming just around the corner so it's been good to have a few fun events to take their mind of all that pressure; perhaps most notable was our visit from Jocelyn Bell Burnell, although the students may have found an hour at ibounce more of a release!

JOCELYN BELL BURNELL VISITS EMS

We were very excited by the recent visit of Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell to EMS. She was incredibly generous with her time, giving an inspiring talk to students, having lunch with our Physics teachers and competition winners, opening our re-named lab and even taking a lesson from one of our students. Huge congratulations to Francis Britton for giving a talk to Jocelyn about dark matter – Jocelyn was suitably impressed and even commented that she'd learnt something!



Staff Changes

Our Business Manager, Will Denford, secured a promotion in the NHS – their gain was most definitely our loss. It has been a pleasure to welcome Nicola Mitchell as a new addition to our team. As our new business manager, she is the person to get in contact with about all things financial. Nicola works from Monday to Wednesday and again on Friday and can be contacted via email: NicolaMitchell02@exeterms.ac.uk or by emailing finance@exeterms.ac.uk.

Jill Williams has also moved on to pastures new, taking a lead administration role at the University of Exeter. Her role as Examinations Officer, Clerk to Governors and my PA has now transferred to Jane Lucas. Jane can be contacted via email: janelucas02@exeterms.ac.uk. Jane works on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

PARENTS' FORUM

Dear Parents

The Parents' Forum meets at lunchtimes on the last Friday of each term and half-term. It's a great opportunity to get to know other parents, share experiences and learn from others about what is going on at the school, as well as what challenges and events might be in the pipeline for the Year 12 and Year 13 students. I've found that the information and support from attending this group has helped me in turn support my son's journey through Forms 12 & 13 and through the A-level process. The time has gone very quickly and I'm now looking ahead to decisions about universities and results day. I've been glad to get to know more about the students' experience through meeting with the Parents' Forum. With this in mind, Year 12 parents, please have a think about whether you would be willing to take over leading the Parents' Forum from September 2019. We can talk about this at the next meeting, which will be on **Friday 5 April at 12:30-2:00pm** at the Maths School.

Regards

Linda Gethin
linda.gethin@sky.com

Upcoming Dates

- Thursday 21st March - Year 12 Progress Meetings 1630-1930
- Friday 22nd March – Year 12 Progress Meetings 1430-1630
- Tuesday 30th April – Supporting your child during examination season 1800-1900
- Tuesday 30th April – UCAS Guidance Meeting 1930-2030

AWARDS, COMPETITIONS & ACTIVITIES

Linguistics Olympiad:

Congratulations to all the students who took part in the UK Linguistics Olympiad this year. Whilst everyone performed exceptionally well in a very tough test, particular congratulations must go to Frances Britton who achieved a Bronze Award and Sam Corner who achieved a Gold Award. In fact Sam was one of only 17 students from the 1497 students who entered who was invited to attend the second round of the competition at Birmingham University in March. Following his excellence performance, Sam has been selected as part of the British squad to compete in the international linguistics Olympiad in Yongin, South Korea at the end of July. More information can be found here: <https://www.uklo.org/2019iol>

Astronomy Club:

Astronomy club runs every Friday, where each week we come up with an area of space to learn about and discuss. Last term we started right at the basics, but this term we're working our way up to more interesting areas such as black holes and galaxy formation. Astronomy club is open to all year 12s interested in the cosmos, or those who just want to listen to something different to what's in physics classes.

Frances Britton – Year 12

Knitting Club:

Every Thursday lunchtime, knitting club is open to those who want to learn the amazing skill of knitting, or those who prefer to watch and chat. We have bags and bags of yarn to knit with, so knit whatever you like! One of our finest knitters, Lachlan Davies, says "I can look forward to my progressions with my scarf which I'm currently working on and the beautiful final product. Knitting club is brilliant!!!"

Rocketry and Aerospace Engineering Club:

Recently, we started up EMX Aeronautics, a club where our 'simple' aim is to design, build and launch our own model rocket! Obviously, it's not that simple. We currently have around 20 members across multiple teams to cover everything needed to make something that flies. We meet every Thursday lunch for core tasks but there is also plenty to do in spare time throughout the week, should that time be available.

The club is completely student run and self-organised. We are aiming to have a simple rocket launched within the next half term and beyond that we are working towards implementing more complex systems such as Thrust Vector Control. Due to the diverse nature of the work, there is plenty for everyone to do which gives everyone space to find areas that interest them whilst gaining practical experience in real engineering and learning industry-standard tools.

In short, we're emulating SpaceX without the millions in funding!"

George Yarnley – Year 12

English Speaking Board (ESB):

Six students have risen to the challenge of taking the English Speaking Board Level 3 Certificate in Speech (grade 6). The examiner is booked to come in on 2nd April when they will each give a presentation, a literature interpretation and a critical review to the group. We are meeting every Tuesday lunchtime to prepare.

Claire Willman

Mindfulness:

Here at EMS we have introduced Mindfulness sessions for all our students on a Monday lunchtime. Mindfulness is paying more attention to the present moment and to your thoughts, feelings and to the world around you. It can help relieve stress, improve sleep and mental wellbeing. We will be adding additional sessions when it comes to exam season and everyone is welcome.

Charlotte King



Maths Competitions

Most of our students entered the Senior Math Challenge (SMC) in November. This is an annual competition organised by the United Kingdom Maths Trust (UKMT) and is taken by students across the country. Our students scored very well, gaining 27 Gold medals, 42 Silver and 32 Bronze. Isaac Woods and Sam Corner were the highest scoring students in years 13 and 12 respectively.

There is a follow up paper for those who do well on the SMC, the Senior Kangaroo, for which 16 students were entered, who did well. Oscar Al Mashoor was the highest scoring student and achieved a rare Merit. For the top achieving students on the SMC, eleven students entered the extremely challenging round 1 of the British Maths Olympiad, and again scored very well. Isaac Woods was the highest scoring student, achieving a Silver medal, and was one of eight students who got a Distinction or a Merit.

Finally, four students entered round 2 of the British Maths Olympiad. This competition was entered by only 236 students across the country and is the most challenging maths competition in the UK. Lily Kearney was one of the 25% students achieving a distinction and has since been invited to join the European Girls Maths Olympiad team as a reserve for the upcoming Girls Olympiad taking place in Ukraine. Lily has also been invited to attend the Olympiad training session from which students are selected for the full British Maths Olympiad team.

These competitions provide students with a range of interesting and challenging problems and we congratulate everyone who has taken part and hope that they have enjoyed the maths!




Computer Science

Our computer scientists in Year 13 are finalising their A-Level projects and have produced a wide ranging set of electronic products, including a mobile app for file sharing, a converter for digital sound and a cyber security tool. In the meantime, students in Year 12 have increased their knowledge and understanding of the theoretical content of the subject and demonstrated their achievements in the recent assessments. They all achieved impressive results, including a 'B' from a student who only joined the course well into the first term!

Outside of lessons we have been expanding our Computer Science outreach programme. We launched the RI Masterclasses series in Computer Science for students in Year 9 and hosted Computational Problem Solving workshops for students in year 10. The sessions were supported by Chloe Bending, Oisín Wellesley-Miller and Amy Sloman.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to show our appreciation to all students who took part in the various computational thinking competitions we have been hosting. The organisers of Benras were particularly impressed with Igor Tarasiuk's score and invited him to stay at Oxford University to allow him to take part in the final round.





Physics

Our Year 13 students that took part in the British Physics Olympiad this year did extremely well, with several of them gaining medals and so I have high hopes for our Year 12 students, who will be having a go at the BPhO AS challenge next week! We also have the Key Stage 5 Physics Challenge coming up this month, when we'll host teams from other schools too to take part in an all-day competition that will test even the very best physics students. Hopefully all the students taking part will enjoy the day. We're greatly looking forward to having Dame Bell Burnell visit us at the end of this month and I'm sure her talk will be interesting and inspiring for our physics students.



Exeter Mathematics Certificate (EMC)


Since the last newsletter so much has happened during EMC. The year 12's did a fabulous job at the Christmas lectures and have started their projects with a number of different companies including GCHQ, JMA, MBA aerospace, the UKHO, the MET office and Dyson. They met with the companies were given a brief and are getting stuck in!

The year 13's have got feedback from PhD students on their reports and produced fabulous posters, reports and marvellous presentations at the EMC conference. This year raised the bar in the quality of the presentation skills to the next level. Well done everyone for producing such excellent talks.



Maths

Year 12 assessments were held before half term and reports are now being written. We are looking at how students did in these assessments to see how things are going and who needs extra support. Year 13 students are coming to the end of the work they need to learn for the examinations and are starting to move into revision. All courses should be completed by Easter and staff are populating Moodle with questions from past papers so that students can revise the right topics for the new syllabus. Mock papers will be sat in the week after Easter so that all students have experience of the new format of all the papers.



SOCIAL EVENTS – SPRING 2019

This year we have introduced termly social activities to encourage the mixing of all students and to set a healthy balance between work and play.

Student Council requested that there be a variety of options available and so this term students selected from a range of activities that included bowling, trampolining, knitting, curve stitching and board games.

Activities took place on a Tuesday afternoon during what is usually tutor time.



ACCOMMODATION – SPRING 2019

It has been a brilliant term in accommodation, we have seen many of the Year 13's making decisions for their futures and planning for life after EMS. All of our Year 12 students seem to have settled in well to life in accommodation with their peers, the recipes used for evening meals have become more adventurous and the addition of occasional homemade desserts has been extremely successful. A substantial part of this term for the students has been preparing for assessments and EMC. However, it is nice to see some of the students still taking some time to relax by playing card games, socialising over dinner, going for walks and other forms of exercise, attending bridge club, and frequently helping each other with school work.

We went out for an evening of bowling with the students and they all seemed to enjoy doing something fun as a team together, we are hoping to take the students for an evening meal this term. During the Easter break the students will need to take the contents of their room's home as the building is being used for an event by the school. As ever, if you have any questions please get in contact with us via email or telephone.

Our emails are; gracestrachan@exeterms.ac.uk; billhughes@exeterms.ac.uk and carlymiller@exeterms.ac.uk

Many thanks,

Carly, Bill and Grace

