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Principal: M. Calen

July 2024

Dear Parents

This is my final letter of what has been an enjoyable and busy school year. The examination season has passed smoothly, I was very impressed with how prepared students were and how seriously they took them.

There have been many important events including the Year 11 and 13 Leavers Masses, Year 11 Prom at Leicester Tigers and the Year 13 dinner dance at VOCO Hotel. There have been trips to Paris, London, Castlerigg, Alton Castle, Ampleforth Abbey, Warwick, Kenilworth, Loughborough, Twycross, Black County Museum, Curve Theatre and Sheffield University. There have been numerous sporting fixtures including Year 9 Boys County Cup Football Final at Leicester City's Training ground at Seagrave, Cricket fixtures, 56 students involved in Area Athletics at Saffron Lane Stadium and Year 7, 8 and 9 students involved in County Athletics in Loughborough. Overall 28 trips have taken place since the Easter Term.

We welcomed the National Skills Academy for Food and Drink alongside Samworth Brothers who supported Year 8 students to take part in designing a new sandwich, marketing and packaging. Samworth Brothers were very impressed with our student's creativity. The winning two groups will have their sandwiches made by chefs from Samworth Brothers. Pepsi-Co came and presented to Year 12 students as part of their 'Unbox your Future' project. Year 10 spent a successful week on Work Experience.

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 students received pens for their outstanding written work in Geography; Aleksandr W, Makayla O, Frayne F, Sophie D. Year 8 students received pens for their World War I homework projects; Gabrille B, Kacper J, Filip M, Julia P. Antoinina G and Olive S in Year 8 for their English research project and presentation. Year 9 Drama students were awarded pens for their Easter assembly: Lewis A, Miracle A, Milosz B, Jessica CT, Amelia G, Kihara GH, Joel K, Bartlomiej K, Wisdom OM, Issac S, Thokozile S, Diyenka WD, Violet W.

We celebrated the hard work and commitment of our students with our Awards Evening, over 140 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 400 certificates awarded.

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 exhibition of Sixth Form students work.

We celebrated our End of Term Mass on Thursday, which is a school tradition and a wonderful occasion, We welcomed over 50 guests, including Mrs H Bradshaw, Mrs T Jones and Mrs O'Hagan who are retiring. Mrs Excell and Ms Fones who were celebrating over 25 years' service to the school. We were pleased to also welcome the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leicester.

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.

## Highlights from Subjects

### Art

Once again, we welcomed students and parents/guardians to our Summer Art exhibition, which was by invitation only, which this year included a stunning and diverse collection of work from our wonderful year 11 and year 13 students. It was a pleasure to see students standing proudly with their work and sharing it with their families. We are very proud of and grateful to our wonderful students and their creative and skilful commitment to their Art. It has been a pleasure to teach them.

### Dance

Year 11 took part in an all-day workshop with the prestigious Zonation Dance Company from the West End. Students were taught repertoire that then featured as part of their final BTEC Dance practical examination. A fabulous day was had by all, and students thoroughly enjoyed learning from professional dancer, Andry Oporia and learning all about the life of a dancer.

Our Annual Dance Showcase took place with over 60 dancers from years 7-12, showcasing their incredible talent and hard work from BTEC examinations and students own choreography. Also featuring choreography from Mrs Pemberton and work from the West End production 'Madhatter's Tea Party' by Zonation Dance Company. An incredible full packed show full of a variety of styles and celebrating the dance community at English Martyrs School. Mrs Pemberton was extremely proud of all who took part.

### Drama

Year 10 GCSE Drama students performed their exam work to family and friends on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June. The evening celebrated the hard work of year 10 students who created and developed their exam work themselves; they presented a range of different pieces that included different themes and characters that were both emotional and likeable. This was the first performance to a live audience as part of the GCSE and all gave impressive and confident performances.

Our Matilda Jr cast gave an outstanding performance on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June. This production brought together 84 students from across the whole school community participating either by performing on stage or being involved in backstage production like set making, operating our lighting and sound equipment and performing in the band. Miss Sole and Mrs Handley were so impressed with the commitment and effort of all involved and have already begun planning the next.

### English

Writing Competition: Year 8 have entered an in-house writing competition linked to the unit of study on 'Minority Voices'. After watching the BBC dramatisation of the *Windermere Children* they wrote an article entitled: 'What our generation can learn from the Windermere Children'. The standard of entry was very high. The winners were; 1<sup>st</sup> place Toby S, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Ava B, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Lili S.

Year 10 Spoken Language assessments: all Year 10s have enjoyed the opportunity to deliver a talk about and answer questions on a topic of their choice. Topics have ranged from 'Freedom is an illusion' to 'Racism.' Students have impressed with their maturity when listening to each other and confidence when addressing the class.

The English Martyrs Newspaper: The English Martyrs Newspaper team has successfully published 5 issues of the newspaper this academic year. We had a range of students from year 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 that took part working on their articles in their own time. They each have done an amazing job, and many want to remain a part of the news team in the next academic year.

Year 6 Transition Pack: we were delighted to welcome Year 6 pupils on their taster day. Thanks to Mrs Nelson, they enjoyed discovering a new interpretation of the George and the Dragon story and are looking forward to completing a range of reading and writing tasks to prepare them for Year 7.

### History

Year 12 have been the first group to complete the new A Level unit on Mao's China, 1949-76, and have really enjoyed the topic. They attended their very own Chinese Communist Tea Party, in character, with appropriate Chinese food. Some of them even dressed up as their character. There might be a few arguments about revisionists and counter-revolutionaries! Year 13's had a final Tudor Tea Party before the serious work in their exams began. There was a bit of tension between Lady Jane Grey and Mary I, and Elizabeth I wasn't entirely supportive of all of her father's decisions. We are very confident that they will achieve everything they have worked so hard for over the last two years and will be able to celebrate excellent results in August.

Year 7 enjoyed a very successful trip to Kenilworth Castle where they explored the Castle's military role under the Normans and in the Barons War, as well as the turbulent relationship between Elizabeth I and Robert Dudley and how this affected the castle.

Year 8 are currently studying the Holocaust. We are lucky at English Martyrs to have been one of the first Beacon Schools for Holocaust Education in the country and have access to world-class teaching materials on this hugely important and deeply emotive topic.

Our GCSE students are eagerly awaiting Educake, which we will be starting in the next academic year. More information to follow.

Our Year 11 students attended very successful final revision sessions just before their GCSE's and we look forward to celebrating with them in August.

### **Mathematics**

Students took part in the Junior Maths Challenge; we are very proud to see:

Year 8 students achieved 6 gold, 10 silver and 20 bronze certificates.

Year 7 students achieved 3 gold, 15 silver and 18 bronze certificates.

This means that more than 50% of the students we entered achieved a certificate which is a brilliant effort.

Year 7 Joyce O, progressed to the Junior Kangaroo Challenge where she completed a follow up challenge against the top 10,000 achieving students in the Junior Maths Challenge.

In June we took ten year 9 students to Leicester University for a day of maths activities working on unusual problems in new areas of maths, while also offering them a taste of maths beyond GCSE, informing them about different maths courses available post -16 and providing them with an opportunity to see the university and campus.

Finally, we are very pleased to have introduced two new Mathematical GCSE's this year. Our current year 9's are halfway through their GCSE Statistics course and they will sit their exam at the end of year 10. A group of year 11 students recently sat their GCSE Further Maths. We await their results but are pleased to say that over 30 current year 10 students have already signed up for this next year and have made a start before summer.

### **Modern Languages**

The French Department annual trip to Paris took place in June. 43 students and accompanying staff spent 5 very full days in the French capital. Students in Year 9 had the opportunity to spend a day in Disneyland Paris, go up the Eiffel Tower, take a boat trip along the Seine and visit many other local areas of interest. They stayed in a PGL château in beautiful grounds near Paris and will have had many opportunities to practise their French language skills.

### **Music**

Music have had a very busy year performing at the following:

Year 11 and Year 13 Leavers' Masses, in April visited Temple Church, London - CMAT Organists Masterclass. A Spring Concert in May, Matilda Musical in June, Schola Cantorum, Ampleforth Abbey Residential Friday 28th - Sunday 30th June, St Theresa's Concert, Birstall - Sunday 7th July and finally over 80 students playing at the whole school End of Year Mass.

### **PE**

56 students from Years 7-9 were taken to Saffron Lane on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to compete in the annual Area Athletics event. From this, 12 of our students qualified to represent the West Leicester Athletics team at the County Athletics Championships, held at The Paula Radcliffe Stadium in Loughborough on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June.

Congratulations to Reggie N in Year 9 who was crowned the Leicestershire & Rutland Junior Boys Shotput gold medallist with a winning throw of 11.14m, beating his nearest competitor by over a metre and to Niamh B in Year 7 also placed in her U13 200m race, taking a bronze medal.

The boys cricket team have been competitive in their West Leicester cricket league, beating Beaumont Leys but then suffering a close defeat against Fullhurst who progressed into the next round of the competition.

This term, the PE department have introduced 2 new activities to its co-curricular programme. Miss Liburd has run multiple trampolining sessions for students and Mr Nicholson has started a golf club - both of which have seen consistent numbers attending and developing new sport skills and knowledge.



## **Sports Day Results**

A fantastic Sports Day was held at the school this year using our own facilities in which Ward won overall.

## **Photography**

Jenisha J, Year 13 A level Photography student, was one of 12 students to be shortlisted nationally for the Emerging Artist Award 2024 at The Photography show NEC Birmingham.

Jenisha was the youngest person to be selected and the only student who is currently studying A-levels, the other students selected were University students all studying Photography at Degree or Masters level.

The theme for the competition was Dusk till Dawn. The image was on display at the Photography exhibition.

## **Religious Education**

We have been absolutely delighted with the efforts of our students this term. Students in Year 11 and Sixth Form prepared extremely well for their examinations and continued to push themselves right into the final stages. We had record numbers attending our departmental revision and drop-in sessions. A huge well done to all!

Year 7 have completed their course on 'missionary discipleship' and are now busy exploring the key beliefs and practices of Hinduism. Students were given 'mission projects' and were asked to create their own charity organisation to help tackle an issue of social injustice. Students engaged in public speaking and pitched their ideas back to the class.

Students in year 8 have come to the end of their 'journey of faith' course. We have been exploring beliefs surrounding life after death and considering whether our actions in this life might have consequences. Students have made a good start on Islam and are currently investigating the five pillars.

Our year 9 students have made a fantastic start to Jewish beliefs and practices as they embark on their GCSE course. Students in year 10 are fast approaching the end of their Catholic Christianity units in preparation for Paper 1. Results from mock exams and recent end of unit assessments have been very pleasing with many students making excellent progress.

## **Science**

226 of our Year 9 and 10 students took part in the Biology Olympiad. Out of these students, 10 students achieved Gold, 18 students achieved the Silver, 36 students achieved Bronze and many others were highly commended. Fantastic results, well done everyone!

A number of classes completed the Biodiversity Week Tiny Forest Monitoring Surveys. They completed pollinator and ground dweller surveys and thought about what affects the environment around them. All groups worked fantastically and have contributed to some real citizen science.

The Society of Physics and Engineers (SoPE) have had a busy year with minting coins and most recently collaborating with Science Club to learn about fungal respiration and perform dissections.

The drop-in sessions which have been running throughout the year by Mr Carr and Dr Brown have been attended by students regularly and have led to an increased confidence for how to tackle exam questions.

We also have a strong partnership with former English Martyrs students who are successful in diverse fields, and they continue to inspire and help our students. Former English Martyrs Students Ayusha P and Georgina S, now 3rd year medicine students at University of Leicester and University of Nottingham, and Sienna F, Qualified Dentist, have recently delivered workshops to aspiring medics and dentists in year 12 on 'How to be successful in getting an offer to read Medicine and Dentistry at University'. We look forward to welcoming our former students to help our students in future.

## **Enterprise Day**

Year 10 showed their entrepreneurial spirit in organising and running Enterprise Day. A fantastic £1708.00 being raised for Charity.

## **Sixtieth Anniversary Celebrations**

Academic Year 2024 – 2025 will be our celebration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the school. I will write to you in September with more detail of the events that will be taking place.

## 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 and teacher training elsewhere.

We offer grateful thanks for their work, Miss Ace, Miss Liburd, Mr Lodhi, Mr J O'Donnell and Mr S White.

## Retirees

Mrs H Bradshaw, HLTA, after 26 years' service, Mrs T Jones, Classroom Teacher and SENDCO after 34 years' service and Mrs O'Hagan, Assistant Principal after 20 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 Excell, Reprographics Assistant celebrates 26 years and Ms D Fones celebrates 27 years.

## Start of Term

Term starts on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August for all students.

## Results

A Level results will be available to collect on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August at 9.00am

AS Level results will be available to collect on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August from 10.00am.

GCSE results will be available to collect on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 4.30 – 5.30pm

Year 9 Information Evening – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 4.30 – 5.30pm

Year 10 Information Evening – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 4.30 – 5.30pm

Year 11 Information Evening/Futures Event – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 4.30 – 6.30pm

Year 12 Information Evening – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 4.30 – 5.30pm

Year 8 Options Fair – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 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
Pencil	School Calculator*	*can be purchased through the School Shop via ParentPay
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.

## Professional Development Day - Change of Date

The St Thomas Aquinas Professional Development Day will be held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024, the school will be closed to students on this day.

## 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](mailto: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 2 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.

## Vaping

I recently wrote to you about the dangers of vaping, please continue to discuss this with your child. If you wish to read the letter again, please click on the link below.

<https://www.englishmartyrs.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2024/07/Red-Drug-Alert-Vapes-26.06.24.pdf>

## 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 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024**.

Yours sincerely



M Calen  
Principal

