

# THE

27-02-26

# EPCHS



# BEACON

The weekly round up of school life



**READY - RESPECTFUL - SAFE - KIND**



"I Have Come So That They May Have Life And Have It To The Full" - John 10:10

# HEADTEACHER MESSAGE



Dear Parent / Carer,

It was lovely to see all our pupils and staff back this week after the half term break. During the holiday many of our pupils enjoyed a trip to Berlin where they gained a greater understanding of German history by exploring significant landmarks and historical sites such as the Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie and the Berlin Wall. An amazing experience which I have no doubt those involved will remember for years to come and support them in their GCSE History studies.

Last night saw our Year 9 options evening event where pupils, parents and carers had the opportunity to come into school, listen to a presentation about our options process and speak to staff and older pupils about the subjects we offer at Key Stage 4. It was a really busy and successful night and I am sure helped our Year 9 pupils make informed decisions about their subject choices going into their GCSE years. This week also saw Cheshire Police run a parental engagement session in school on Wednesday night on Cyber Crime. This is a really important topic in our modern world and it was wonderful to see so many parents and carers attend the talk.

Please be aware that our next Parents' Evening is for Year 7 on Thursday 12th March and our Year 11 Progress Evening taking place on 26th March.

It has been another busy week at school. Our Year 9 pupils went to the Civic Hall to compete in a Big Maths event and pupils from different year groups also took part in a Golden Key event.

As part of their career's information, advice and guidance programme our Year 13 students took part in a mock assessment centre experience led by the Cheshire and Warrington Pledge Organisation. Here they worked alongside students from other schools to complete group tasks and presentations. They also had mock interviews with employers such as Airbus and The Bank of America. This was a really worthwhile experience to prepare our students for their next steps and many gained valuable links with local employers for possible job and apprenticeship opportunities when they have left our successful 6<sup>th</sup> form.

In addition, well done to our Year 12 Young Enterprise team who, just before the half term break, proudly represented the school at the Trafford Centre for a prestigious sales event. They also showcased their product at the Year 9 options evening last night. Well done to all those involved.

In sporting news, congratulations to our pupils who are part of the Ellesmere Port U12 netball team for their amazing win in the England Midlands netball final event. They now progress to the national finals next month. Our U13 girl's football team have also progressed to round 2 of the Wirral Cup. A huge congratulations to all our sporting teams and to the staff for their continued support and encouragement of our pupils.

As stated before the half term break we have brought into effect our new entrance procedures which are linked to our whole school priorities of Presence, Participation and Progress. The new procedures have worked really well with a specific focus on the importance of our uniform standards. Our uniform is a great source of pride and part of our identity which is why all pupils need to follow our uniform policy fully. Wearing our uniform helps create equality and unity and prepares our pupils for the world beyond school where presentation can matter and this week, we have seen a reduction in the amount of jewellery and trainers worn. I would like to thank all parents and carers for your ongoing support both for this and for all aspects of school life.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via my PA at [joanne.wright@epchs.co.uk](mailto:joanne.wright@epchs.co.uk)

Kind regards,

*Lorraine Henderson - Acting Headteacher*

*Tim Beesley - Executive Headteacher*

# *Option for the Poor and Vulnerable*



## **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**

The Catholic social teaching principle Option for the Poor and Vulnerable (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) encourages us to imitate Christ's love for the poor by working to create a society where the needs of the poor are always considered first .



**Secondary School of the Year  
WINNER**

**Ellesmere Port Catholic High School**

Thursday  
5th  
March



**WORLD  
BOOK  
DAY®**

World Book Day is an annual celebration dedicated to promoting reading for pleasure, celebrating authors and illustrators, and making books accessible to everyone

On Thursday 5th March, we will be celebrating World Book Day in school. Staff and students are invited to take part in a fun dress-up activity, and there will also be a whole-school reading session during Period 3.

Students are welcome to come dressed as a favourite book character. If they choose to take part, they should bring either the book or a short description of their character with them to school.

(Please be aware this is not an own clothes day, and if not in character students should be in full school uniform)

**We look forward to celebrating the joy of reading together!**



# WE NEED YOU!

**TALK ABOUT YOUR CAREER!**

**SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE!**



We are looking for inspiring individuals to speak to our students about their career journey.

By sharing your experiences, challenges and successes, you can help broaden our students' understanding of the wide range of career pathways available and give them valuable insight into the world of work.

We would love to hear from anyone; past pupils, current parents or former parents who would be willing to give a little time to make a big difference.

We can accommodate any dates of your choice, and will always take place at 8.45am for 30 minutes. Please email us if you think you can help. We will be very grateful!

**Please email us on  
[Laura.Howell@epchs.co.uk](mailto:Laura.Howell@epchs.co.uk)**



**ELLESMERE PORT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

*'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full'* John 10.10



# *BERLIN VISIT*



Our recent school trip to Berlin was both an educational and truly memorable experience for all involved. Throughout the visit, students deepened their understanding of German history by exploring significant landmarks and powerful historical sites across the city.

Highlights included a visit to the iconic Reichstag Building and the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, as well as the Berlin Wall Documentation Centre, where students gained valuable insight into Germany's divided past. Two particularly moving visits were to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and the Hohenschönhausen Memorial, the former Stasi prison. These experiences prompted thoughtful reflection and helped students to engage meaningfully with some of the most important and challenging chapters of European history.



# BERLIN VISIT



Students also enjoyed seeing the Brandenburg Gate beautifully illuminated at night – a memorable moment that captured the spirit of modern Berlin.

Alongside the historical learning, there were opportunities for fun and cultural experiences, including bowling and a chocolate workshop where students created their own chocolate bars with a variety of toppings.

Overall, the trip provided a rich balance of education and enjoyment, helping students to develop a deeper understanding of Berlin's history while creating lasting memories with their peers.



# YOUNG ENTERPRISE SUCCESS AT THE TRAFFORD CENTRE

On 13th February, our fantastic Year 12 Young Enterprise team, proudly represented the school at the Trafford Centre for a prestigious Young Enterprise sales event.

Competing against 20 other schools, the team demonstrated confidence, resilience and impressive professionalism throughout the day. Their beautifully presented stand showcased their stunning Valentine's Edition baby lithops, carefully arranged in charming terra-cotta pots and packaged with creativity and originality. The judges praised the team's polished selling techniques, the quality of their presentation, and the uniqueness of their product. Unfortunately, due to the positioning of their stand in a quieter and particularly cold area of the centre, the team did not sell as many as they had hoped.

However, despite this challenge, the team performed exceptionally well, engaging confidently with customers, promoting their product enthusiastically, and representing the school with maturity and professionalism all day long!

Their efforts also attracted the attention of major retail representatives, including those from Selfridges and Chanel, who took the time to interview and praise them on their concept and presentation, a fantastic achievement and testament to their hard work. With the County Final on 25th March fast approaching, the team still has a limited number of their beautiful lithops gift sets available.

I am incredibly proud of the team for their determination and entrepreneurial spirit.  
*Françoise Williams*



**Please Support Our Young Entrepreneurs! Each set includes 3–4 baby lithops in a terra-cotta pot, beautifully packaged and available at the discounted price of £4.99. They make an ideal gift for Mother's Day, a birthday, or simply a thoughtful treat for yourself or a loved one.**

# EPCHS 6<sup>th</sup>

## JOIN US!

COMPLETE YOUR INITIAL APPLICATION FORM NOW!  
Stating your preferences matters!



SEPTEMBER  
2026



**GUIDANCE**



**ENRICHMENT**



**RESULTS**

**Presence - Participation - Progress**



[www.epchs.co.uk](http://www.epchs.co.uk)

For our current students we hope you enjoyed the Post 16 Experience Day in December and that it helped you feel excited and confident about your next steps!

It's now time to submit your top 4 A-Level subject choices (remember, most students will study 3 subjects from September). This is the next exciting stage in joining our highly successful Sixth Form; 'EPCHS6th', where students thrive, achieve excellent outcomes and are fully supported to reach their future goals.

Your choices will help us build the option blocks for final applications after Easter.

If you are thinking about returning after GCSEs, please make sure you complete this form or the QR code on the poster – courses will only run if there is enough interest, so your response really matters!

For external candidates please use the same form, we can't wait to welcome you to our successful 6th Form!

[Initial application for EPCHS 6th Form Sept 2026 entry – Fill out form](#)

# Children who read for **20** mins a day will...

Have a world of imagination and learning opened to them

Be exposed to **18 million words a year**

Have reduced stress levels

Improve focus and concentration

Develop a love for learning

Improved communication skills

Learn how to develop empathy

Have stronger writing skills

## 20 is plenty

Have a broad vocabulary

Improve test results

Improve critical thinking skills

Improve and strengthen memory

Have better general knowledge



ELLESMERE PORT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

*'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full'* John 10.10

Go to  
[www.sparxreader.com](http://www.sparxreader.com)

## The importance of reading

The importance of reading has always been prevalent in education and all teachers at Ellesmere Port Catholic High School recognise that they are teachers of literacy. In Ofsted's 2022 Reading Framework, they outline the reasons for reading being of the utmost importance; "To the individual, it matters emotionally, culturally, and educationally; because of the economic impacts within society, it matters to everyone." [Ofsted 2022]

**The average reading age for a GCSE examination paper is 15 years 7 months and, without appropriate and timely interventions, some pupils may not be able to fully access their GCSE papers and, therefore, not achieve their full potential at GCSE. [IBID]**



ELLESMERE PORT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Go to  
[www.sparxreader.com](http://www.sparxreader.com)

# YEAR 13 MOCK ASSESSMENT CENTRE EXPERIENCE



This week, our Year 13 students took part in a fantastic Mock Assessment Centre experience, led by James Pritchard-Wood from The Cheshire & Warrington Pledge.

After an in-school preparation session, students headed to Civic Hall to work alongside peers from other colleges, completing group presentations, team challenges and individual interviews with real employers – including Airbus and Bank of America.

The experience provided invaluable insight into recruitment processes and life beyond sixth form. A huge thank you to everyone involved – and well done to our students, who approached the day with confidence, enthusiasm and professionalism. We are incredibly proud!



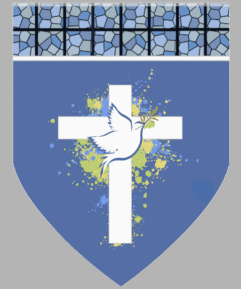
# CHAPLAINCY *news*

We are now in the season of Lent. This is the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert before he died. Part of our Lenten duty is to fundraise. The challenge is for each form to raise £40 for CARITAS. This money will be distributed by the Diocese to families who are in need. Let's see which form can raise the most. I am excited to hear all of your ideas.



## FUNDRAISING

If you have any unwanted gifts that you would like to donate for a possible Mother's Day sale, then please pass them to Angela in B11. We will be selling Mothers' Day cards and gifts in B11.



## INVITATION TO MASS

If you would like to attend Mass at church on a Monday lunchtime then please see Angela for a letter and put your name down.



OUR SINGING GROUP TAKES PLACE IN B11 ON A TUESDAY LUNCHTIME. WE WILL BE LOOKING AT SONGS FROM THE SOUND OF MUSIC. PLEASE COME ALONG.

## COMMUNITY

There are lots of exciting events taking place in our local parishes. Please check out the website. Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church | Roman Catholic Churches of Ellesmere Port and Hootton (rcchep.co.uk) Please contact your Parish Priest if you would like more information on the Parish Sacramental programme.

**ROSARY IS SAID EACH BREAKTIME IN B11. PLEASE JOIN US.**

**OUR 10:10/ SVP GROUP MEET EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON IN B11 AT 3.15PM. PLEASE COME ALONG AND SEE WHAT WE DO.**

# PARENT

## INFORMATION

### **Medical Information**

**Please ensure that your child's medical information on Arbor is fully up to date, including details of any allergies and their level of severity.**

**All medications must be signed in and stored with Student Services. This can be done by completing the relevant form at Reception.**

If you have any questions please email us on [admin@epchs.co.uk](mailto:admin@epchs.co.uk).

**Thank you for your cooperation.**





We are absolutely thrilled to share some fantastic news about a group of our talented Year 7 girls!

Last weekend, Ellesmere Port U12s travelled to Wolverhampton to compete in the ENG Midlands Finals – and they only went and WON!

A huge congratulations to all our students (pictured), who were all outstanding throughout the competition. Their teamwork, determination and skill truly shone, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievement.

They now progress to the National Finals next month – what an incredible accomplishment!

We wish them the very best of luck as they prepare to compete on the national stage. Go smash it, girls!

# CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS

# FOOTBALL

## UNDER 13 GIRLS

Congratulations to our fantastic U13 Girls' Football Team who have progressed to Round 2 of the Wirral Cup after an incredibly close match against Pensby High School!

With the score tied at 2-2 and just two minutes remaining before a potential penalty shootout, EPCHS delivered a dramatic late winner to secure the victory!

It was a brilliant team performance, with the girls showing great composure, determination, and resilience under pressure to book their place in the next round.



"Dear March, come in! How glad I am! I looked for you  
before." - Emily Dickinson

## WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March is World Book Day, the annual celebration of books, reading, and readers. Pick up a free book token from the library and redeem it in most supermarkets such as Asda, Sainsbury's, and Tesco, or at any bookshop.



On March 5<sup>th</sup> you can come into school dressed up as a character from a book - emphasis on the book part!

Visit [worldbookday.com](http://worldbookday.com) for a wealth of ideas and inspiration about costumes, what free books are available with your token, and where you can redeem them.



"Dear March, come in! How glad I am! I looked for you  
before." - Emily Dickinson

## WOMEN'S FICTION

In March we celebrate International Women's Day, a day to recognise and celebrate the 'social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women'.

Pop into the library this month to discover the greats in Women's Fiction, from classic to contemporary, humour to horror, serious to satire.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

# Prom Dress Sale

*Dresses from £50*

Sunday 1st March 2026,  
Whitby Sports and Social Club,  
Chester Road,  
Ellesmere Port,  
11am - 3pm



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION  
13+

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

### SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

### DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

### EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

### UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

### COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

ONLINE

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

### BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

### TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

### TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

# NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP & EDUCATION EVENT NORTH WEST

SALFORD COMMUNITY STADIUM  
MANCHESTER

TUESDAY 10  
MARCH 2026



**NAEE North West - Manchester** invites you to an inspiring, face-to-face event that connects employers, universities, colleges, and training providers in a welcoming and interactive setting.

Discover expert advice on apprenticeships, career options, and educational pathways – plus hands-on experiences from leading UK businesses.

Come along, for free, and meet...



Create positive steps towards your future by registering your free places today and connect with employers, and educators, at NAEE North West.

Make it happen!  
Register your **FREE** place today at:  
[www.nationalapprenticeshipsevents.co.uk](http://www.nationalapprenticeshipsevents.co.uk)



unifrog

# SUBJECT DISCOVERY FAIR

Wednesday 18 March, 4pm - 6:30pm (GMT)



Our virtual university fair on 18 March at 4 - 6.30pm is just five weeks away!

Over the course of two hours, students can attend mini-lectures on a range of subjects and meet 32 universities from across the UK including Kings College London, Manchester Metropolitan, and the University of Aberdeen.

The fair is free to all students and ideal for Y10-12 / S4-6.

[Register Now - Discovery Fair - Click here](#)

ROCKERS REUNITED PRESENTS

# LIVERPOOL BLUES *Festival*

AT THE ADELPHI HOTEL, LIVERPOOL

20th, 21st and 22nd March 2026

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JOHN ANGUS BAND

JAMES OLVER

WILLIE AND THE BANDITS

FGB BLUES BAND

DIRTY RUBY

GERRY JABLONSKI

THE STUMBLE

BLUE NATION

JAMIE AND THE WORRIED MEN

McHALES PERMANENT BREW

BIG WOLF BAND

PAT FULGONI

ALICE ARMSTRONG

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SPECIAL PRICE TO STAY AT HOTEL FROM ONLY  
£95 PER NIGHT 1, 2 OR 3 PEOPLE SHARING

FRIDAY £20, SATURDAY £30 SUNDAY £30.

FULL WEEKEND £50 RESIDENT/£65 NON RESIDENT.

FULL DETAILS ON WEBSITE-[WWW.ROCKERSREUNITED.CO.UK](http://WWW.ROCKERSREUNITED.CO.UK)

# PARISH INFORMATION



Bishop Mark will visit the parish on the evening of 1<sup>st</sup> July for a **Confirmation Mass at Christ the King Church.**

If you are in year 8 upwards and wish to receive this sacrament, or if you are a parent, grandparent or family member of a young person who might be interested but attends a non-Catholic school, please contact the parish office. An eight session programme will start on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May.

# TERM DATES 2025-26

Autumn 2025	Spring 2026	Summer 2026
<b>INSET: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b> Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September - Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January - Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April <b>BANK HOLIDAY: Mon 4<sup>th</sup> May</b> Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
<b>HALF-TERM</b> Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October - Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	<b>HALF-TERM</b> Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>HALF-TERM</b> Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May - Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December <b>INSET: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February - Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June - Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July <b>INSET: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b> - Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July
<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b> Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December - Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026	<b>EASTER HOLIDAY</b> Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April - Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April (includes Easter Bank Holidays)	<b>SUMMER HOLIDAY</b> Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July - Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> August
<b>Return to School : Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026</b>		

**Inset Day - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026**

# TERM DATES 2026-27

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School

## Term Dates 2026-27

### Autumn Term 2026

Inset Day	Tuesday 1st September 2026
School Opens	Wednesday 2nd September 2026
School Closes	Friday 23rd October 2026
<b>Half Term</b>	
School Opens	Monday 2nd November 2026
Inset Day	Friday 27th November 2026
School Closes	Friday 18th December 2026
<b>Christmas Holiday</b> <b>Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January 2027</b>	

### Spring Term 2027

School Opens	Monday 4th January 2027
School Closes	Friday 12th February 2027
<b>Half Term</b>	
School Opens	Monday 22nd February 2027
School Closes	Thursday 25th March 2027
<b>Easter Holiday</b> <b>Friday 26th March (Bank Holiday) – Friday 9th April</b>	

### Summer Term 2027

School Opens	Monday 12th April 2027
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	Monday 3rd May 2027
School Closes	Friday 28th May 2027
<b>Half Term</b>	
School Opens	
School Closes	Monday 7th June 2027
	Friday 16th July 2027
<b>Summer Holiday</b> <b>Monday 19th July – Tuesday 31st August</b>	

**Inset Days: Monday 19th July - Wednesday 21st July**

# CONTACT US

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School, Capenhurst Lane,

Whitby, Ellesmere Port CH65 7AQ

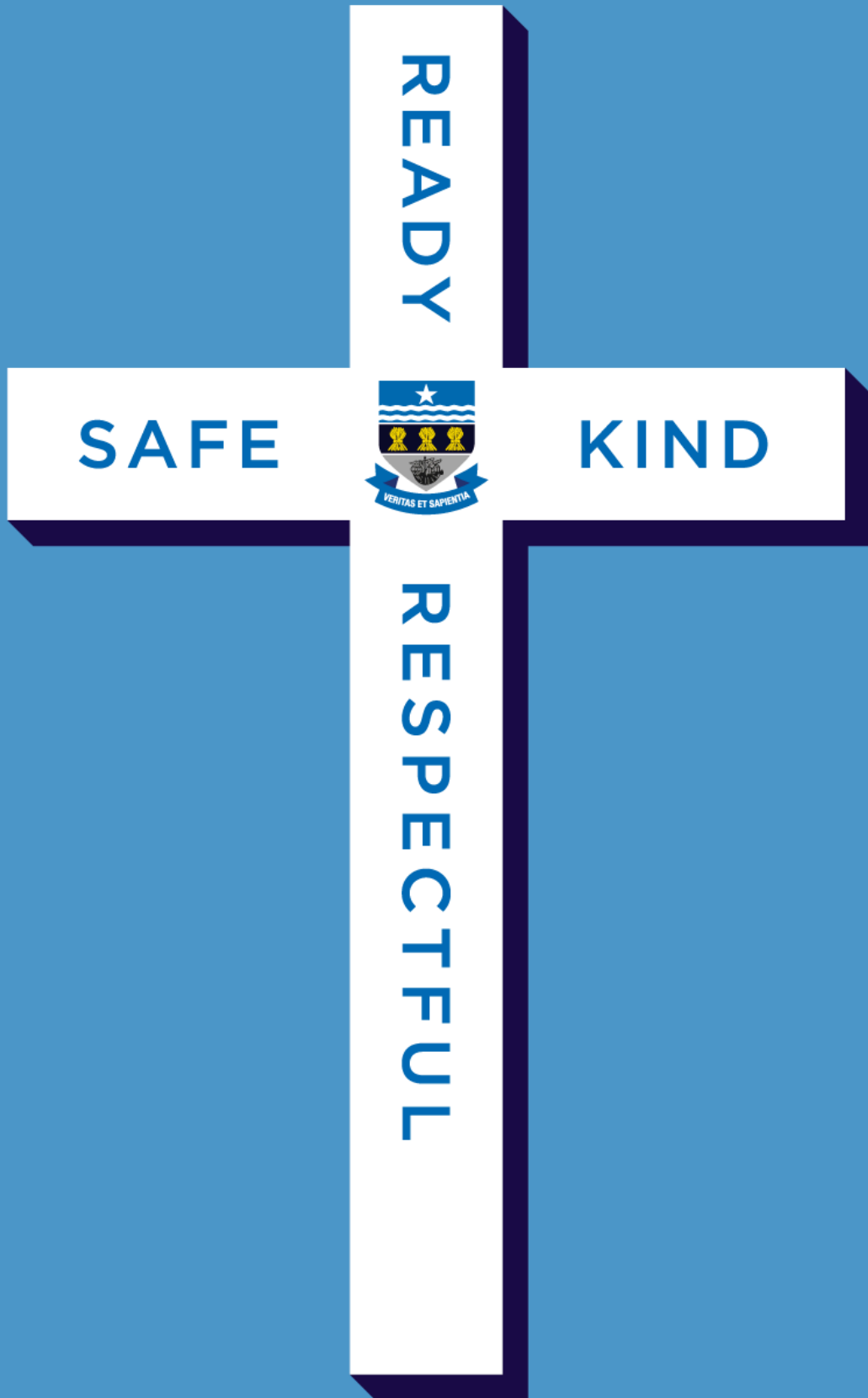
0151 355 2373

admin@epchs.co.uk

Monday – Friday: 8:00 AM – 3.45PM



**Our Lady Help of Christians  
Catholic Academy Trust**



*"I Have Come So That They May Have Life And Have It To The Full" - John 10:10*