

24-04-26

# THE EPOCHS



# 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 Easter break. During the holiday many of our Year 11/13 pupils continued to come in to school to attend additional intervention sessions staff put on in preparation for the upcoming external examinations which take place in the next few weeks. Subject interventions continue now school has started again and we encourage pupils to attend to support their progress and examination success.

Last night our 6<sup>th</sup> form progress evening event took place where pupils, parents and carers had the opportunity to come into school to look at their current and predicted data and also to have supportive conversations about next steps plans for when they leave school. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers come into school for those important conversations.

It has been another busy week at school. Year 10 and 12 pupils are currently taking their PPEs. These examinations are important for our pupils in terms of encouraging effective revision habits, building examination confidence and reducing any exam day anxiety and also help both staff and pupils to identify areas of strength and weakness that can then support any additional intervention needed moving forward. All pupils involved in these examinations have shown great resilience and strength which will prove invaluable for them during their external examinations next summer.

As part of their career's information, advice and guidance programme our Year 13 pupils received a talk from Chester University on what happens now that they have made their university applications. Our 6<sup>th</sup> form Golden Key pupils also went to Hollymere on Wednesday evening to have dinner with the upcoming Mayor, Cllr John Stockton. Mr Stockton and the staff at Hollymere were so impressed with our pupils that they have been invited to the mayoral inauguration as his guests, invited to afternoon tea at Hollymere with the residents this July and those same residents have also chosen to raise money for the society so the pupils can go on a cultural enrichment trip of their choosing. Well done to all those pupils who attended the event and to Ms Borsberry for accompanying them. Some great events to look forward to.

As stated in previous newsletters we continue to support our pupils each morning as part of our entrance procedures which are linked to our whole school priorities of Presence, Participation and Progress. The 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



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 .



## Important Dates

- 30<sup>th</sup> April - Year 8 Spanish Trip to Manchester's Instituto Cervantes
- 28<sup>th</sup> April - Year 8 STEM trip
- 6<sup>th</sup> May - Reports emailed to parents
- 6<sup>th</sup> May - Year 10 Geography Fieldwork (rivers)
- 14<sup>th</sup> May - Year 10 Geography Fieldwork (rivers)
- 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> May - Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice Expedition
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Year 13 Leavers Assembly (Parents have been invited this week by email)

# Head of Year **HEROES**



Congratulations to all of our Head of Year Heroes this week!

We're celebrating for reasons such as:

Outstanding sporting achievements in Rugby

Top achievement points in year this week

Excellent start to school life at EPCHS- working hard in all areas





Department  
for Education

# Ellesmere Port Catholic High School Planning Application

## Planning Application Coming Soon

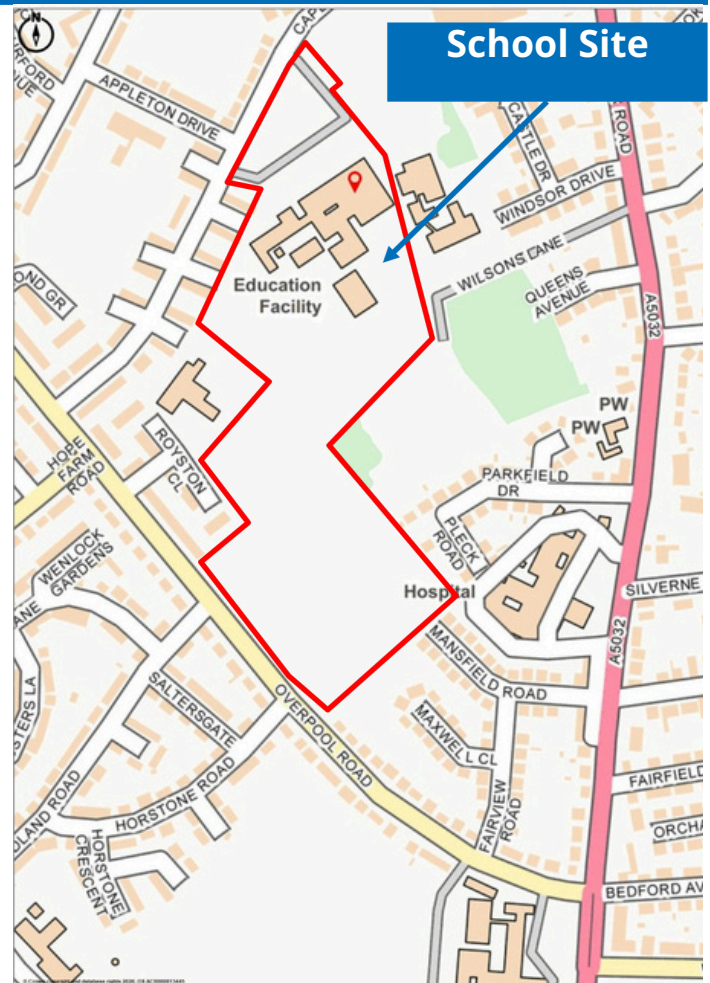
We are excited to let you know that a planning application will soon be submitted for the redevelopment of Ellesmere Port Catholic High School. This welcome redevelopment will deliver significantly improved educational facilities for both the school and the local community.

The redevelopment of Ellesmere Port Catholic High School is being delivered by the Department for Education as part of their School Rebuilding Programme. Kier Construction has been selected by the Department for Education to design and build the new school.

## Proposals

The existing school buildings are in a poor condition and several are no longer in use. All existing buildings are earmarked for demolition. Two new school buildings (a 2 storey teaching block and a sports block) are proposed to be built on the existing sports field towards the south of the site. An area of new sports field to replace the lost area will be created in the north of the site following the demolition of the existing school buildings.

The existing vehicular entrance from Capenhurst Lane will be retained for access to Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School. New vehicular and pedestrian / cycle access is proposed from Overpool Road to the new school buildings. A new staff and visitor car park, and a parent drop-off facility are also proposed. The car park will include electric vehicle charging points, and new cycle shelters will also be installed.



There will be no change to staff and pupil numbers as a result of the redevelopment.

The new building will minimise energy demand and use low carbon / renewable energy solutions. This will include solar panels on the roof and ground source heat pumps.

View our proposals online at:  
<https://www.olhoc.org.uk/epchs-newbuild>

Email the design team at: [epchs.uk@avisonyoung.com](mailto:epchs.uk@avisonyoung.com)

Please send questions or comments no later than 1st April 2026



Department  
for Education

# Ellesmere Port Catholic High School Planning Application



**Have Your Say / Drop-in Event** At this pre-application stage, the development proposals can be viewed on the School Trust's website and you can also contact the Kier project team if you have any queries or comments. Details are at the bottom of this page. We are holding a **drop-in event at Ellesmere Port Catholic High School** for anyone who wants to find out more or who would like to ask any questions about the proposals. The session will run from **4pm to 7pm on Wednesday 25th March 2026**.

**Timescales / Next Steps** We will be submitting the planning application in Spring 2026. Once the application has been submitted, it will be available to view and comment on online via Cheshire West and Chester Council's online planning portal: <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-control/see-or-comment-on-planning-applications/how-to-view-an-application> Subject to receiving planning permission the school redevelopment is planned to commence on site in Autumn 2026.

View our proposals online at: <https://www.olhoc.org.uk/epchs-newbuild>

Email the design team at: [epchs.uk@avisonyoung.com](mailto:epchs.uk@avisonyoung.com)

Please send questions or comments no later than 1st April 2026



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

When you're in school you...

Have fun



Gain qualifications



Make new friends



Develop awareness of other cultures, religion, ethnicity, and gender differences



Develop new skills



Achieve



Experience new things



Build your confidence and self esteem



**HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE START IN LIFE!**

# Conway Residential

YEAR 7



Three unforgettable days, endless laughter, and challenges conquered! Our students truly thrived on the Conway trip, embracing every opportunity to step outside their comfort zones and support one another along the way.

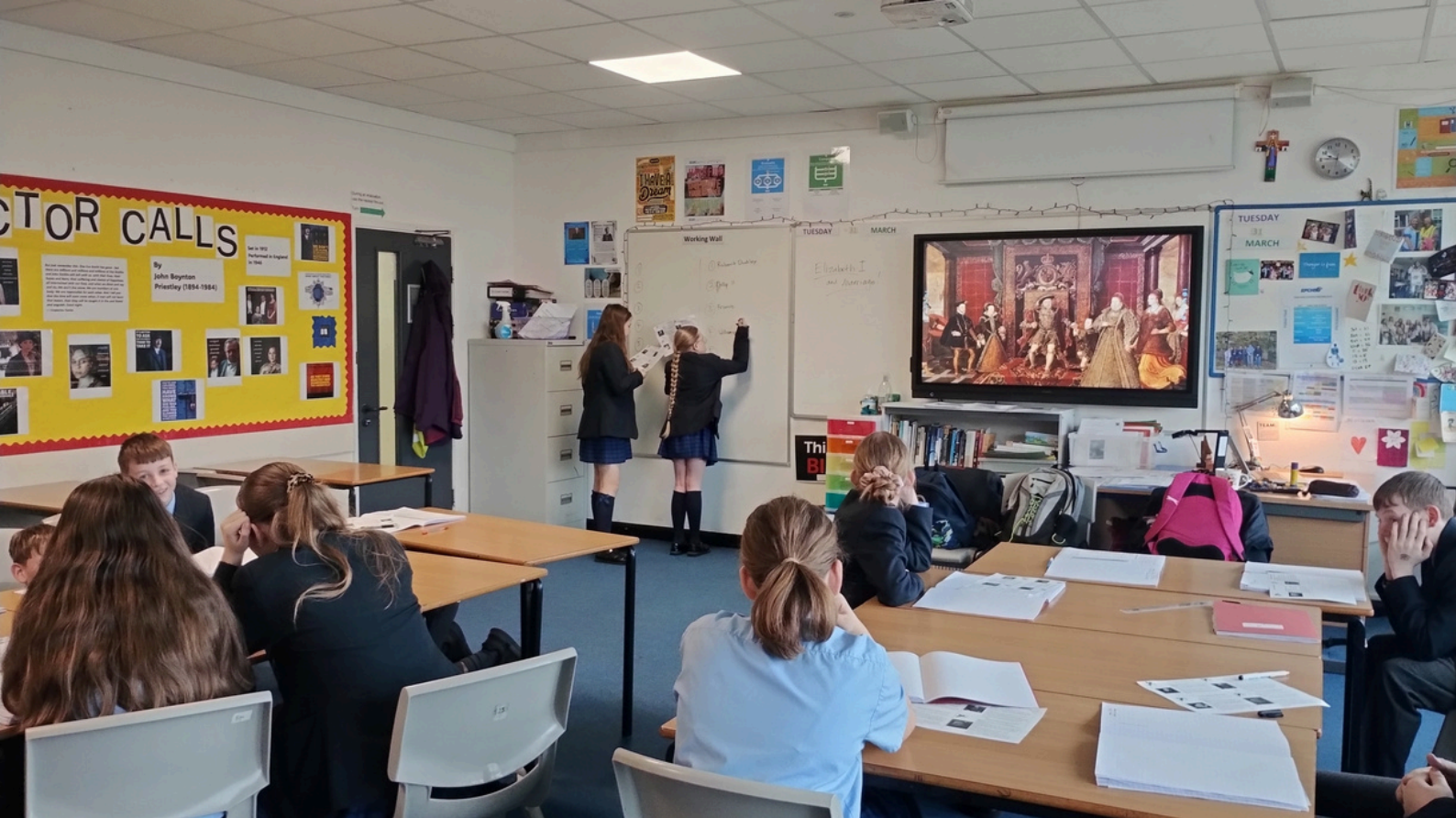
From the excitement of raft building to the adrenaline of high ropes and the determination shown on the mountain biking trails, every activity brought out the very best in our students. It was fantastic to see their confidence grow as they tackled new challenges, developed resilience and demonstrated outstanding teamwork throughout.

Beyond the activities, the trip was filled with memorable moments—shared laughter, new friendships and a real sense of achievement. Our students were a credit to the school at all times, showing positivity, respect and encouragement for each other.

They returned home tired but incredibly proud of all they had accomplished... and perhaps just a little bit sad that such an amazing experience had come to an end!

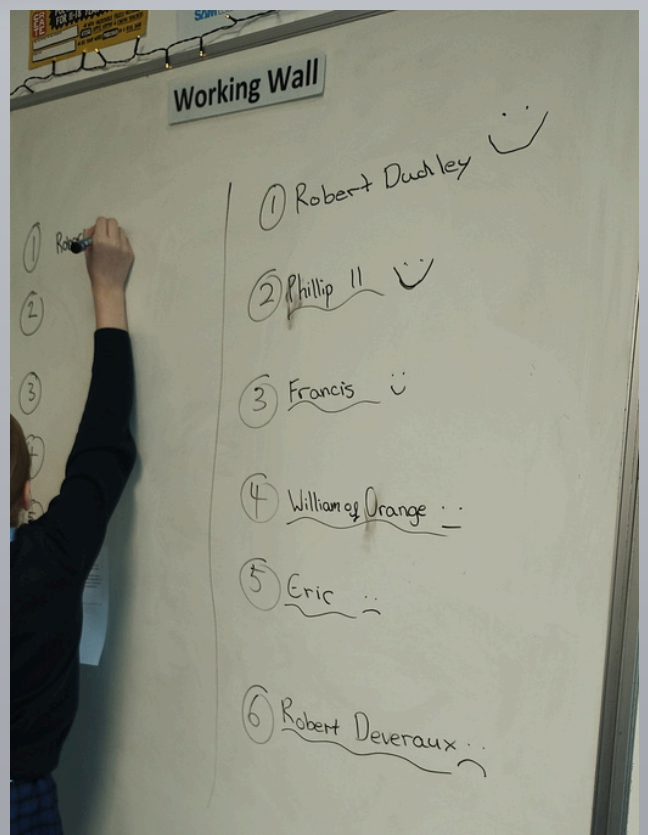






# History Department News

Year 7 have been exploring the Tudors and have now turned their attention to Queen Elizabeth I. In true Take Me Out style, pupils weighed up royal suitors, discussed alliances, and decided who Elizabeth should marry, justifying each choice with historical evidence and lively debate and even live proposals during this engaging history lesson.



# ROUNDERS

*Club*

**GIRLS ROUNDERS  
AFTER SCHOOL**

**TUESDAY 3.15 TO 4.15**



**JUST BRING YOUR KIT  
AND JOIN US IN THE  
GIRLS CHANGING ROOM**

*Ready. Set. Go!*



**ALL GIRLS WELCOME!**

# 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



# 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](#)

# CHAPLAINCY *news*

Happy Easter and welcome back.  
The Easter season lasts for 50 days.

Thankyou for all of the fundraising efforts during Lent. We have raised approximately £700 for CARITAS and this will be life changing for many people.



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



## 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. Fr Godlove will be delighted to see you.

## 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.



**OUR SINGING GROUP TAKES PLACE IN B11 ON A TUESDAY LUNCH TIME. PLEASE COME ALONG. SEE ANGELA IF YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT OR IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS OF NEW SONGS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN.**

**ROSARY IS SAID EACH BREAKTIME IN B11.**

**PLEASE JOIN US.**

# PARENT

## INFORMATION



Arbor

### Checking Lunchtime Funds

We kindly ask all parents and carers to regularly check the balance on the Arbor app for their child(ren) and ensure that accounts are topped up with sufficient funds to cover daily food purchases.



If you have any questions regarding Free School Meals, please contact our Finance Team via email at [epchs.finance@epchs.co.uk](mailto:epchs.finance@epchs.co.uk) or by calling the school on 0151 355 2373 and selecting option 2.

Further information can be found via this link

[cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/FSM](http://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/FSM)



Thank you for your cooperation.

# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Community Facilities for Hire at Ellesmere Port Catholic High School

**Hire Our School TODAY**

 **Contact Us**  
0330 808 1965

 **Our Website**  
[www.actihire.org.uk](http://www.actihire.org.uk)

- Available evenings, weekends and school holidays
- Free parking and dedicated member of staff on-site
- Great facilities at affordable rates

**BOOK NOW AT [WWW.ACTIHIRE.ORG.UK](http://WWW.ACTIHIRE.ORG.UK)**

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account. While some videos are marked as 'age restricted', this relies on uploader honesty and automated moderation, meaning children and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.

### TRENDS AND CHALLENGES



Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and widely shared. While many are harmless, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'salt and ice challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.

### EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT



The platform's algorithm often promotes content that attracts high engagement, which can sometimes include videos containing extreme viewpoints, misinformation, or risky behaviour. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, therefore reinforcing the exposure.

### CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS



YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.

### SUGGESTED CONTENT



YouTube recommends videos based on what a user has previously watched. While this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage binge-watching and excessive screen time, particularly when Autoplay is enabled. Without an account, users are shown trending videos, which are not always age appropriate.

### SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT



YouTube Shorts – short, fast-paced videos – are designed for continuous viewing. This style of content can be highly engaging but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS



YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger, and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside active supervision.

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS



Google Family Link allows adults to filter content, monitor usage, and manage younger users' screen time. Supervised Accounts offer a gradual step up from YouTube Kids, enabling children to explore the platform with appropriate safeguards.

### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS



If a child in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interaction from strangers.

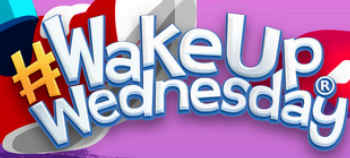
### WATCH TOGETHER



Spending time watching YouTube with the children and young people in your care can help you understand what they enjoy and guide your conversations about content. Tools like Downtime in Family Link can also help limit unsupervised viewing.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



See full reference list on our website

# 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

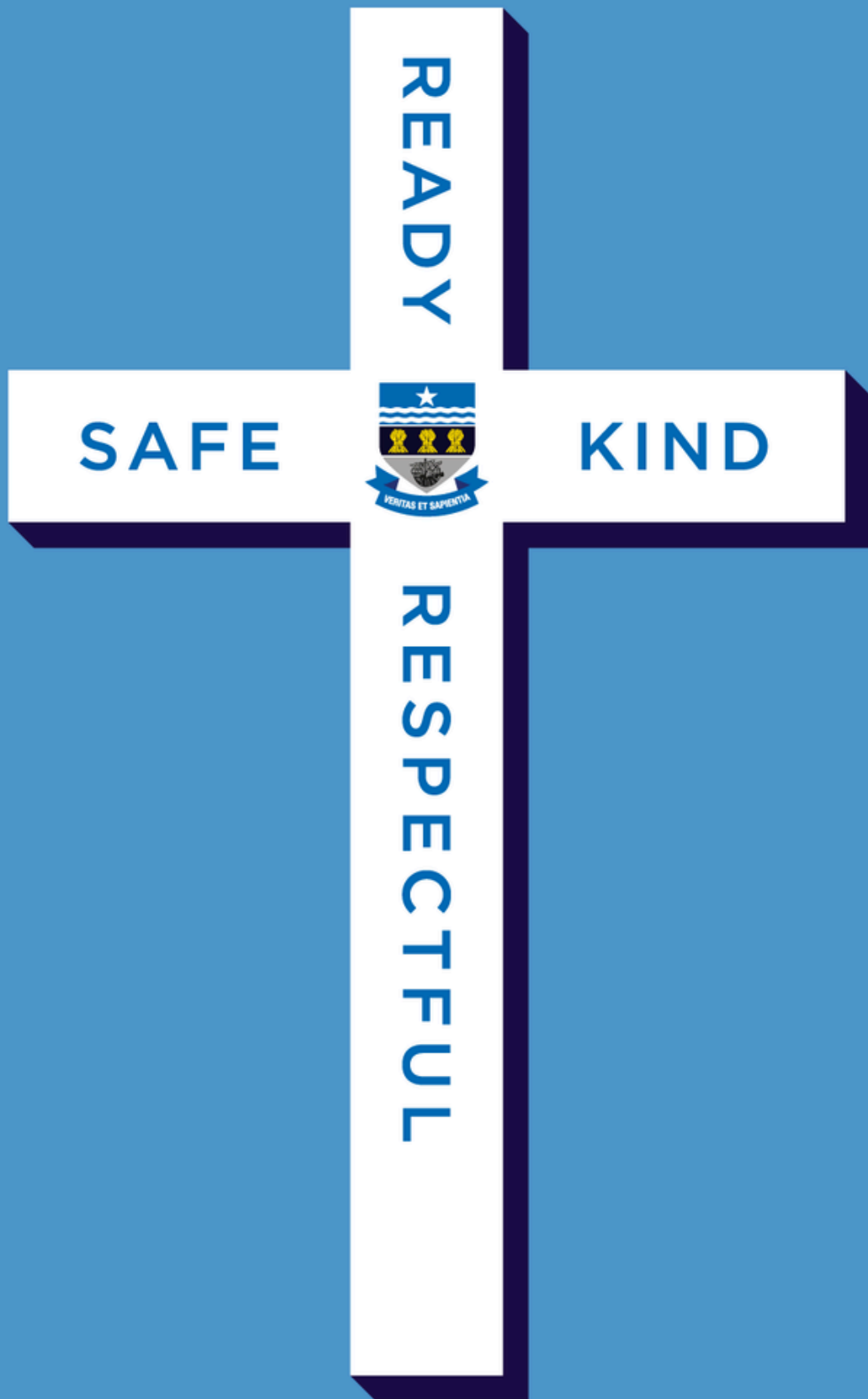
0151 355 2373

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*