

19-06-26

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,

We are pleased to let you know that our final Ofsted report has now been released, and a copy has been emailed to all parents and carers and can also be found on our website.

This week marked an important milestone in our school year as we reached the end of the exam season for our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils. I am incredibly proud of the maturity, determination, and resilience they have shown throughout this period. Their commitment to attending lessons, revision sessions, and extra interventions, alongside the impeccable way they conducted themselves in the exam hall, has been exemplary. I know they will reap the rewards of their hard work when we gather together on results days this summer to celebrate their achievements.

It was also wonderful to welcome so many parents and families to our Year 11 Leavers' Assembly on Tuesday. The event was a heartfelt celebration of the five years many of our pupils have spent with us, filled with memories, gratitude, and pride. We now look forward to the upcoming Year 11 and Year 13 Proms, which will take place over the next few weeks and offer another opportunity to celebrate their journey with us.

Alongside these key milestones, it has been another busy and uplifting week in school. We began our Year 4 retreat days, led by our chaplain, Ange. This week we were delighted to welcome pupils from St Bernard's and St Saviour's, who enjoyed a range of reflective and creative activities, culminating in a beautiful service in our chapel. These retreats continue next week when we look forward to welcoming pupils from St Mary's and Our Lady's primary schools.

Last weekend, our Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh participants were navigating the Welsh hills as part of their Bronze Award. It was lovely to hear such positive feedback from staff at the venue and members of the public about their behaviour, teamwork, and determination. They represented our school brilliantly.

We also continue to benefit from the generosity of our wider community through our programme of guest speakers. This week, Mrs Couper, one of our parents, spoke to Year 12 pupils about her career in pharmacy, and Dr Onyeka Okongwu delivered an inspiring talk to our Golden Key pupils about her career in law. These opportunities broaden our pupils' horizons and help them understand the many pathways available to them.

Next week, our Year 10 pupils will embark on their work experience placements, ranging from local primary schools and care homes to engineering companies and other local employers. This is a vital week in preparing them for the world beyond school, helping them develop confidence, independence, and a deeper understanding of the workplace.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community. I wish all our families a restful and positive weekend.

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

Kind regards,

Lorraine Henderson - Acting Headteacher

Tim Beesley - Executive Headteacher

Family and Community



Family and Community

Catholic social teaching emphasizes that the family is the foundational social unit, and individuals have both a right and a duty to participate in community life for the common good.



Important Dates

- 22nd – 26th June – Year 10 Work Experience
- 23rd June – Year 10 Geography Fieldwork
- 24th June – Year 7 RE Trip to Gallery/Mosque
- 25th June – Year 13 Prom
- 29th June – 3rd July – Year 12 Work Experience
- 29th June – Year 8 Vaccinations
- 30th June – Year 11 Prom
- 8th July – Presentation Evening – Award Winners and family
- 8th July – Duke of Edinburgh – Gold and Silver Final Expedition
- 17th July – Last Day of Term (School reopens Wednesday 2nd September)

Term-Time Holidays

Please Read Before Booking!



Thinking about a family holiday?

We understand that family time is important, and holidays create wonderful memories. However, we strongly advise parents and carers not to take holidays during term time, as this can have a significant impact on children's learning, progress, friendships, and attendance.





Holiday Request Forms

If you are planning to take your child out of school during term time, a Holiday Request Form must be completed and submitted to the school in advance. Forms are available from the school office.





Calling in Sick While on Holiday

We have recently seen instances where children who are actually on holiday are reported absent due to illness. Please do not call the school each day reporting your child as sick if they are on holiday.

This:

-  Wastes valuable staff time.
-  Results in unnecessary welfare phone calls.
-  May lead to home visits being arranged to check on your child's wellbeing.
-  Causes concern for staff who believe a child may be unwell or at risk.

If the school becomes aware that a child reported as sick is actually on holiday:

-  Attendance marks will be amended accordingly.
-  The absence may be recorded as an unauthorised holiday.
-  A referral for a Penalty Notice (fine) may be submitted to the Local Authority.
-  Parents/carers may be asked to provide evidence that the child was not on holiday during the period of absence.

Every Day Counts!

Missing school means missing important learning opportunities. Even a few days away can make it difficult for children to catch up with lessons and classroom activities.

Thank you for supporting your child's education and helping us ensure that every pupil has the best possible chance to succeed.

 **Presence - Participation - Progress!**



EPCHS ART EXHIBITION

SUMMER 2026

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE

TIME: 10AM-3PM

EPCHS, ST JOSEPH'S HALL



You have been invited to the EPCHS summer Art exhibition 2026.

Immerse yourself in a whirlwind of creativity at its finest. From serene landscapes to thought provoking illustrations, this year promises to showcase an array of talent, leaving you inspired.

The exhibition will include:

- Artwork from all Year 11 cohort
- Year 10 mini sketchbook exhibition
- Selected KS3 final pieces
- KS5 – Sculptures/sketchbooks
- KS2 Primary pop-up exhibition
- Market installation documentary
- Interactive workshops led by Art scholars
- Public voting/Awards
- Catering- Provided by our very own catering team at EPCHS

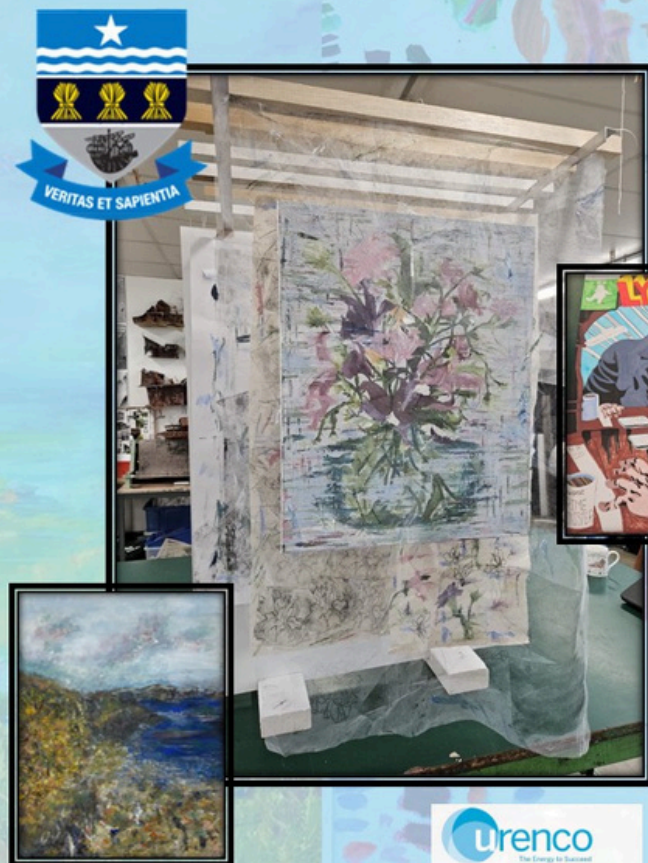
We look forward to welcoming you to celebrate our students and their success with us.

Date: Saturday 27th June

Venue: Ellesmere Port Catholic High School, St Joseph's Hall

Time: 10am – 3pm (Drop in at any time)

Sponsors: Urenco



The Year 10 geographers enjoyed an action-packed field trip to Loggerheads Country Park as part of their rivers investigation. Set in a beautiful natural landscape, the visit provided the perfect outdoor classroom for students to bring their learning to life.

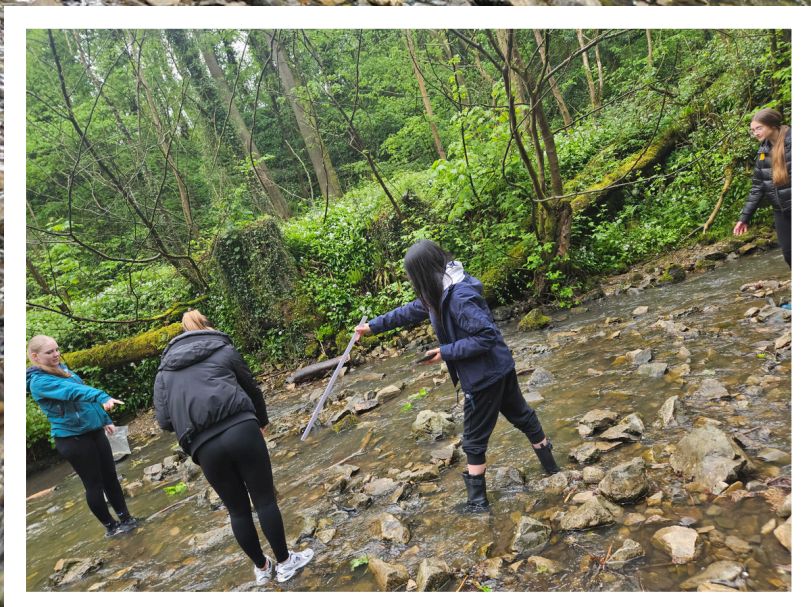
Throughout the day, students worked collaboratively to collect real geographical data, developing valuable fieldwork skills and deepening their understanding of river processes. Mr Hughes found many opportunities to relate the outdoors to the classroom.

Loggerheads Country Park

YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY

To make the experience even better, we were treated to fantastic weather, which meant everyone could fully enjoy the activities and surroundings. It was a memorable and rewarding day that truly showcased geography in action.

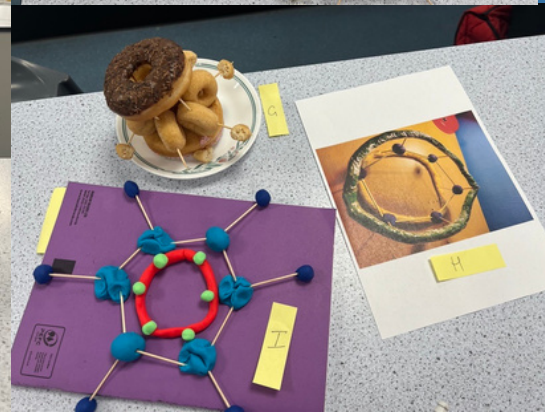
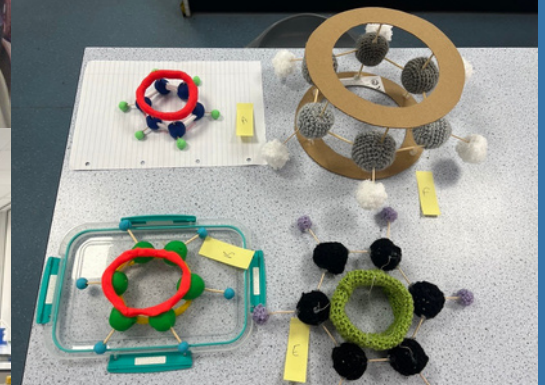
Mrs Young was delighted not to have fallen over this year- although many students did end up with soggy socks, despite wearing wellies!



Year 13 CHEMISTS

Y13 Chemists made some amazing benzene models for homework!

Benzene is an aromatic hydrocarbon that we study at A level that has its own type of bonding due to the delocalisation of electrons represented by the rings above and below the planar hexagonal carbon frame. The models were assessed on accuracy and innovation and are now displayed in C13. (Apart from the edible one which was shared and consumed!)



Duke of Edinburgh Award

BRONZE FINAL EXPEDITION



This week, our Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award pupils completed their assessed expedition in North Wales, taking on an unforgettable two-day challenge across the beautiful Clwydian Range.

Throughout Sunday and Monday, students demonstrated tremendous determination, resilience, and teamwork as they navigated many miles along the Clwydian Way. Their expedition concluded with a fantastic final climb to the summit of Moel Famau, where they finished their journey with a real sense of achievement and pride.



The pupils involved were an absolute credit to the school, themselves, and the staff who supported the expedition. Along the route, many members of the public commented positively on the students' behaviour, manners, and attitude. Every pupil rose to the challenge, showing maturity, perseverance, and a willingness to support one another through difficult sections of the walk.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

BRONZE FINAL EXPEDITION



This has been the largest Bronze DofE cohort the school has ever run, and we are incredibly proud of how successful this year's programme has been. The expedition is only one part of the award, and students have already invested a huge amount of time and effort into developing themselves through the volunteering, physical, and skills sections. These experiences help young people build confidence, independence, leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills that will benefit them for life.

Spending a couple of days outdoors, carrying everything they needed, navigating unfamiliar routes, and working together as teams gave students the opportunity to develop resilience and self-belief while creating lasting memories with their peers. The expedition highlighted not only their physical endurance, but also their ability to cooperate, encourage others, and overcome challenges together.

With the expedition section now complete, students will continue working towards having the remainder of their award signed off over the coming months. We hope many of them will continue their DofE journey next year as they progress on to the Silver Award.

Congratulations to all involved on what has been a fantastic achievement.



INSPIRING TALK FOR SIXTH FORM STUDENTS



WE NEED YOU!

TALK ABOUT YOUR CAREER!

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE!



Last Friday, we were delighted to welcome Fiona Couper, parent of one of our Sixth Form students and Chief Pharmacist and Associate Director for Medicines Optimisation at Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, to speak with our Sixth Form.

Fiona shared her inspiring career journey, from studying A Levels and attending university to becoming a senior leader responsible for managing a team of 32 staff and overseeing a significant medicines budget across the district. She gave students a fascinating insight into the opportunities, challenges and rewards of a career in healthcare and leadership.

We are incredibly grateful to Fiona for taking the time to visit us and for providing such an engaging and inspirational talk. Her experiences and advice will undoubtedly encourage our students as they begin to consider their own future pathways and aspirations.

UNIFORM AND PE KIT DONATIONS NEEDED

Can you help?

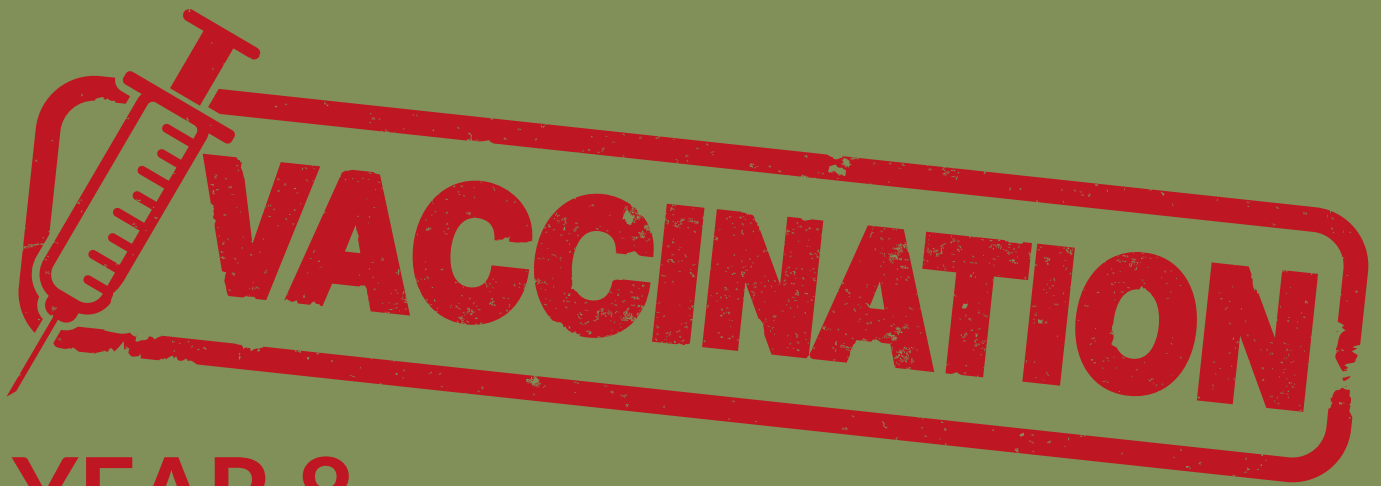


As our Year 11 students prepare to leave us, we are asking parents and carers to consider donating any school uniform including PE kit that is no longer needed.

Good-quality donated items will help support current students and those joining our school in the future, ensuring every young person has access to the clothing they need to thrive at school.

If your child has outgrown or no longer requires any EPCHS uniform or PE kit, please send it into school, it can be dropped off in Reception during any school day.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping us support our school community while reducing waste.



YEAR 8

We have received confirmation from the school immunisations team that they will be in school on Monday 29th June to vaccinate all year 8 students with the HPV vaccine.

Please find all the information about the HPV vaccine and consent forms on the email received on Friday 5th June.

If you have any questions in regard to consent or the vaccine please contact the immunisations team directly for further information on Telephone: 0333 3583 397 option 7, Option 2 OR Email: Imms.W-Chester-CW@intrahealth.co.uk



ELLESMERE PORT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENTS.....



— MAIN HALL —
7 PM
— 1ST JULY & 2ND JULY —
— 2026 —

SISTER ACT JR.

Get ready for a spectacular show filled with music, laughter, energy and unforgettable performances! Join us - expect dazzling songs, amazing choreography and plenty of feel-good fun as we bring this hit musical to life! Book your tickets now @ www.ticketsource.com/epchs

Head of Year HEROES



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

We're celebrating for reasons such as:

- ✓ Fully equipped and ready to learn
- ✓ Excellent Manners around school and commitment to learning
- ✓ Working hard in all lessons and respectful around school

Well Done to all our new 6th Form Leadership Team. More on that next week!



On Wednesday, Golden Key students had the privilege of welcoming Dr Onyeka Okongwu from Liverpool Hope University.

Dr Okongwu is a Senior Lecturer in Law, Director of the Liverpool Hope Law Clinic, and a qualified Solicitor and Barrister of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. Her work focuses on equality, discrimination, gender inequality, sexual harassment and fairness in the workplace, and she has represented clients in Employment Tribunals.

She spoke powerfully about her journey, the challenges she has faced, and the resilience needed to keep moving forward.

Her message to students was unforgettable: "There will be moments when you need to lie down, rest and gather your strength – but you must never stay down. You get back up, because your future is still waiting for you."

We are incredibly grateful to Dr Okongwu for giving her time so generously and for inspiring our students to think deeply about law, justice, resilience and the role they can play in making society fairer.



**GOLDEN KEY
STUDENTS INSPIRED
BY DR ONYEKA
OKONGWU OUR**

CHAPLAINCY *news*

This week we welcomed Year 4 from St Bernard's and St Saviours for the Retreat. We had a wonderful day playing games, painting, singing and praying together. Their mission is to do something simple that will follow in the footsteps of St Francis.



Our 10:10/ SVP group meet every Wednesday afternoon in B11 at 3.15pm. Please come along and see what we do.



ROSARY IS SAID EACH BREAKTIME IN B11. PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO COME ALONG. PLEASE JOIN US.

INVITATION TO MASS

If you would like to attend Mass at church on a Monday P3/ lunchtime, then please see Angela for a letter and put your name down. Fr Godlove will be delighted to see you.



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.

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.



PARENT

INFORMATION



Warm Weather and Hydration

As the weather gets warmer, we kindly ask that all students bring a named water bottle to school each day. There are a number of places for them to be refilled.



Thank you for your support.

HAF at Climbing Hut Ellesmere Port:

We are very happy to announce another successful grant from Edsential enables us to offer FREE holiday club places to young people aged 7-16 who access free school meals and live in the CWaC region. (flyer attached)

Need to know:

Holiday Club is suitable for those aged 7-16 years

Places are offered Monday - Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm

HAF places include lunch and snacks

HAF places are available for those who access free school meals, eligibility will be checked at booking.

HAF places MUST be booked via EEQU - register your interest now

Bookings open 10am 25/06/2026



HAF Climbing Activity Days for young people aged 7-16

Monday - Friday throughout the Summer Holidays 2026

Climbing, games and a healthy lunch 9.30am - 4.30pm

Climbing Hut Ellesmere Port and Edsential are working together to offer fully funded holiday club places to young people who access free school meals in Cheshire

West and Chester.



HAFSUMMER2026

Booking essential via EEQU:



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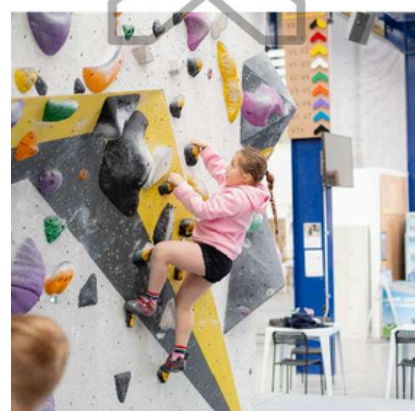
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Tel: 0151 305 6868

Climbing Hut, Unit 1 Olympic Park, Poole Hall Rd, Ellesmere Port

WELCOME TO ACTIHIRE IN ACTION

Welcome to Actihire In Action - our visual newsletter for school stakeholders, dedicated to showing you what's going on when Actihire are managing lettings in our amazing partner schools



HOLIDAY BOD'S INCOMING

Rob Paul Personal Training was in full flow at Ellesmere Port Catholic High School last week as the local community looked to get fit at his summer boot camp sessions.

Rob is a valued hirer at the school and uses over 6 hours per week in the school's fantastic gymnasium facility.

SUMMER NIGHT LETTINGS

You know we love a sun-set photo in our Actihire in Action Newsletter - especially in the summer months - and this one submitted by our Leisure Assistant Matthew Trower takes some beating!

An amazing sunset shot across the astroturf pitch over at Boston Spa Academy in West Yorkshire.



SUPPORTING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Konkani Cultural Association is one of the leading groups of Magaloreans (a small community in South West India) that have emigrated to the United Kingdom. They are based in Manchester and currently consist of more than 50 families.

The group hired the facilities at Lostock High School for their annual badminton tournament and were a pleasure from start to finish, even giving flowers to Actihire's Leisure Assistant as a thank you for working on the day.



LEISURE ASSISTANT AND..... ANIMAL PROTECTOR?!?

Well done to Oliver St Leger our Leisure Assistant at All Hallows in Macclesfield, who managed to rescue a goat stuck in wire fencing during one of his shifts in June.

Oliver spotted the goat trapped in the schools on-site petting farm area whilst on his lettings shift and managed to use wire cutters to rescue the poor animal who was safe and sound afterwards - talk about going above and beyond the call of duty!

FRIENDS UNTIL THEN END

One of Actihire marketing strategies involves digital ads served up to people who want to play sport casually and are looking for an informal way of booking to play with friends and family.

Our Leisure Assistant Ben Hirst captured this action shot of some friends playing badminton over in Chesterfield at Actihire partner school Netherthorpe school in May.



SUMMER SPORT LANDS IN BURTON-UPON-TRENT

Now that summer's here, the cricket season's well under way and lots of schools lettings programmes are now switching from traditional sports like football to both adult and junior cricket sessions instead.

Here's a photo of Dunstall Cricket Juniors getting ready for their season by hiring the sports hall at Paget High School in Burton-upon-Trent back in May.

Keep your eyes out for the next editon of our new visual newsletter in the new academic year - maybe your school facilities and lettings groups will feature!

Immediate help and support for young people



If young people are in need of immediate support please sign post, or help to access the following:

List of services: [Home Page - Directory of What Works](#)

Further services:

Koala North-West – Provides early-help family support, similar to a family intervention worker. Families can access this service without a referral to Children’s Social Care. Support is offered to families with young children.

School Nurse – Attends once a month and can support pupils with self-harm, exam stress, emotional health, low mood, healthy relationships, anxiety, body image, and issues relating to social media.

Cheshire Young Carers – A referral can be made if a child has additional responsibilities at home that are impacting their wellbeing or attendance at school.

Headspace is an easy-to-use app that helps make meditation and mindfulness simple. By spending just a few minutes a day on the app, users can learn practical skills to support their wellbeing. Headspace offers hundreds of guided meditations covering topics such as stress, anxiety, sleep, and focus.

Calm is an app that supports people experiencing stress and anxiety through guided meditations, sleep stories, breathing programmes, and relaxing music.

MindShift is designed specifically for teenagers and young people, offering tools and strategies to help manage anxiety.

Bereavement-specific bank of resources:

[Traumatic Bereavement - UK Trauma Council](#)

[Home SUPPORTING BEREAVED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE - Grief Encounter](#)

[Hope Again](#)

[About us - Amparo \(suicide specific support\)](#)

Family members in prison:

Banardo’s offer support for children and young people regarding family imprisonment: [Barnardo's | Children's charity | Barnardo's](#)

PSS offer support for anyone who has a relative in prison or in the past: [While their parent is in prison in Merseyside \(Prisoners' Families\) | PSS](#)

Post-16 help and support:

<https://www.talkingtherapies.cwp.nhs.uk/self-refer>

They offer self-referral to people aged 16 and over, registered with a GP in Central, South and West Cheshire.

The service exclusively offers evidence-based, short-term talking therapies designed to help with common mental health concerns, such as:

Low Mood

Anxiety or worry

Stress

Depression

TERM DATES 2025-26

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

Inset Day - Tuesday 1st 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
Half Term	
School Opens	Monday 2nd November 2026
Inset Day	Friday 27th November 2026
School Closes	Friday 18th December 2026
Christmas Holiday Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January 2027	

Spring Term 2027

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

Summer Term 2027

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

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

CONTACT US

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School, Capenhurst Lane,

Whitby, Ellesmere Port CH65 7AQ

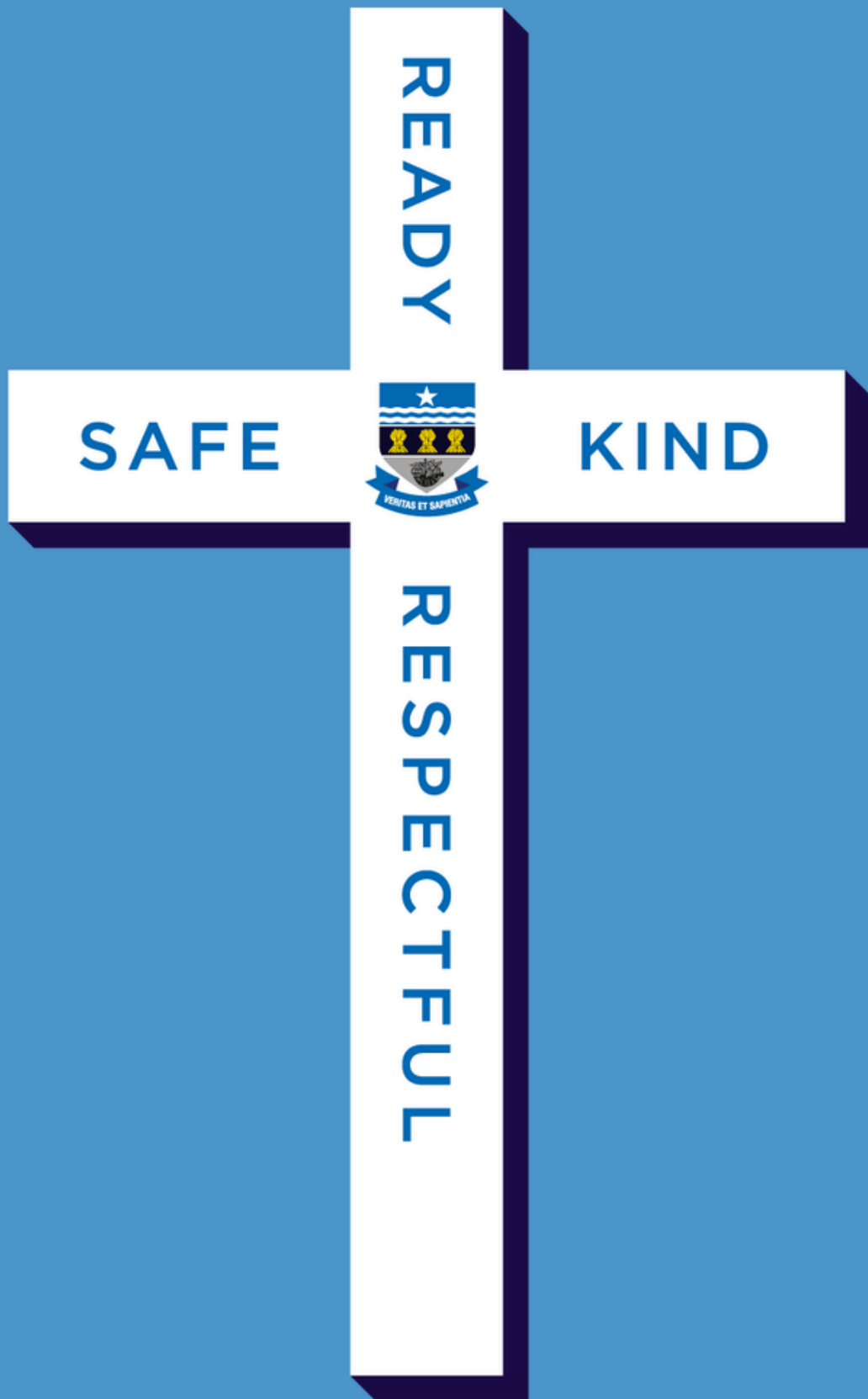
0151 355 2373

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