

26-06-26

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,

It was a pleasure to join our Year 13 students on Thursday evening for their prom at Brook Hall Hotel. They were a credit to themselves and to the school, and it was wonderful to celebrate their achievements as they prepare for their next steps. We wish each of them every success for the future. We now look forward to celebrating with our Year 11 pupils next week at Thornton Hall Hotel.

It has certainly been a hot week in school due to the heatwave, but both staff and students have coped admirably. Adaptations to some lessons, the option to wear PE kit—of which pupils have looked very smart—and regular reminders to stay cool and hydrated have all helped ensure learning continued smoothly.

Our Year 10 pupils have spent the week on work experience, gaining invaluable insight into the world of work and developing skills that will support them in their future pathways. Next week, it will be the turn of our Year 12 students to take part in their placements. Congratulations also to our new 6th Form Leadership Team that was appointed last week. I have no doubt they will be an asset to our school community.

Year 7 enjoyed a fantastic trip to Liverpool, visiting a local mosque and the Walker Art Gallery. Staff at both venues were full of praise for how respectfully and maturely our pupils conducted themselves.

The Golden Key Society welcomed another guest speaker this week, a current master's student from the University of Sheffield. We are grateful to him for sharing his journey and inspiring our pupils. We also continued to welcome Year 4 pupils from our feeder schools as part of our ongoing transition events.

Congratulations go to 2 of our students this week - one of our talented Year 8 pupils has been selected for the Under-14 Cheshire Schools Football Association team and one of our Year 12 students has been selected to represent Cheshire at the English Schools National Athletics Championships in Birmingham in July. We wish you both the very best in your sporting endeavours.

A reminder that this Saturday we are hosting our Art Exhibition in St Joseph's Hall from 10am–3pm, showcasing the creativity of pupils from Years 7–13. All are warmly welcome. We also have a small number of tickets remaining for this year's musical production, *Sister Act Jr*. It would be wonderful to see families supporting our talented drama and music students. Well done to everyone involved in preparing both of these exciting events.

Have a lovely 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

- 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





Year 7

LIVERPOOL TRIP



A group of year 7 pupils visited a mosque and the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool on an RE trip on Wednesday. They explored the mosque, listened to a talk about Islamic worship and played games. In the gallery, they looked at the many paintings which represent faith in many different ways.

It was an enjoyable day for all those who attended, and all pupils represented the school very well.

Head of Year HEROES



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

We're celebrating for reasons such as:

- ✔ Super achievement on Sparxs Reader
- ✔ Achievement points this week and excellent attendance
- ✔ Amazing effort in reading canons

We are also celebrating the students who have recently achieved our Exceptional School Award, earning their certificate and badge after reaching an incredible 4,000 achievement points!

This fantastic milestone reflects their consistent hard work, dedication and positive contribution to school life. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them!

Well Done to ALL!

Introducing

EPCHS^{6th} LEADERSHIP TEAM

Congratulations to our newly appointed Sixth Form Student Leadership Team!

We are delighted to announce our new team of student leaders, including our Head Students, Deputy Head Student, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Leaders, Golden Key Coordinator, Social and Team Building Leaders, and Wellbeing Leaders.

These students have shown dedication, leadership and a real commitment to our school community. During the selection process, all of them were so positive about contributing to the school community by supporting each other, younger students and staff that we decided to give every one of them a leadership role.



We know they will be excellent role models and make a positive difference throughout the coming year. We look forward to seeing all they achieve in their new positions. Congratulations to every student involved!



Careers

INSPIRING TALK FOR GOLDEN KEY STUDENTS

The Golden Key Society was delighted to welcome Kai Stratton-Symes, a former student of The Whitby High School, who grew up in Ellesmere Port and is now completing a Master's degree at the University of Sheffield.

Kai spoke to students about education, opportunity and belonging, sharing his experiences of university life, studying abroad, imposter syndrome, research, and navigating ADHD. His story was a powerful reminder that ambition and academic potential can come from any postcode.

The session encouraged students to see that success is not about having a perfect path, but about curiosity, resilience and the confidence to take opportunities that may once have felt out of reach. Kai's visit forms part of the Golden Key Society's wider work to raise aspirations, build cultural capital and help students see ambitious futures as possible.

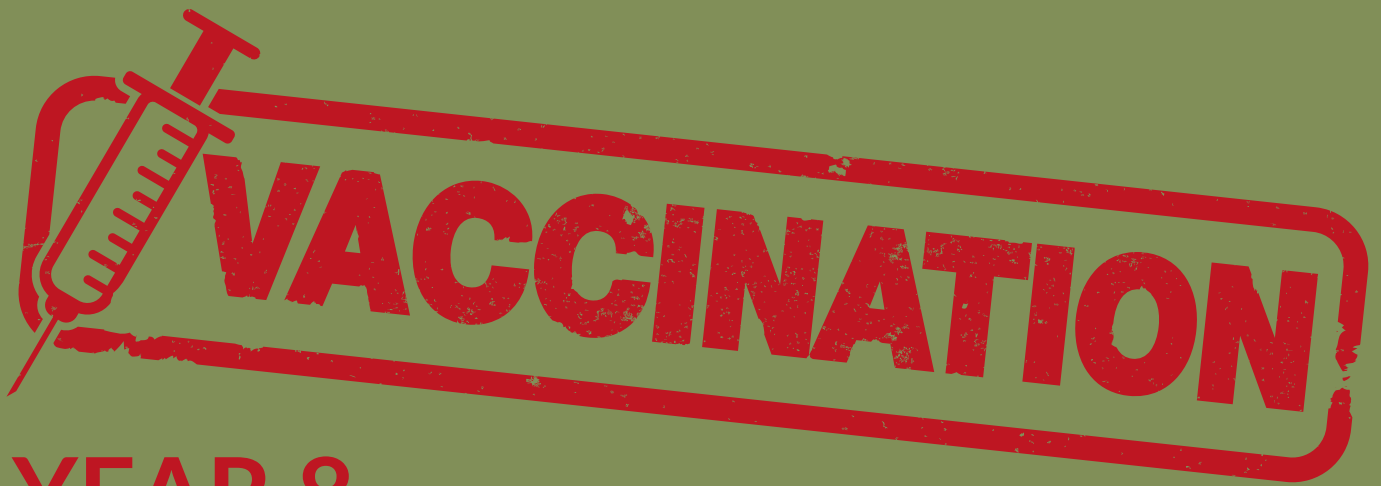
Thank you Kai!

WE NEED YOU!

TALK ABOUT YOUR CAREER!

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE!





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

**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.

"July is a blind date with summer"

- Hal Borland



YEARLY ROUND UP

Across this year, students at EPCHS have borrowed...

- 223 non-fiction books
- 1,523 fiction books!

For a total of...

1,746 books borrowed from EPCHS library this year!

Our favourite genres

were...

1. Humour (158 books borrowed)
2. Fantasy (129 books borrowed)
3. Graphic Novels (96 books borrowed)
4. Adventure (95 books borrowed)
5. Classics (50 books borrowed)



"July is a blind date with summer"

- Hal Borland

YEARLY ROUND UP

Across this year on Sparx, EPCHS students have read...

2,929 Books!

Across...

4,364 Hours!

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School



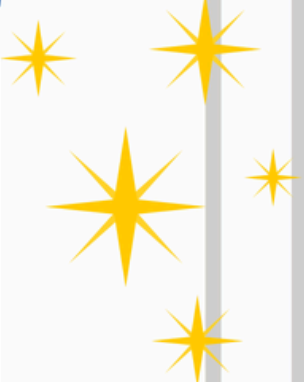
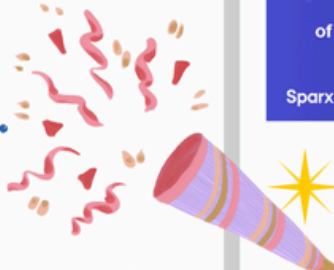
Students in your classes completed **4364 hours** of careful reading this year in Sparx Reader. Great effort!

Sparx Reader

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School



Students in your classes have read **2929 books** this year in Sparx Reader, well done!



We are delighted to share that one of our Year 8 students has been selected to represent the U14 Cheshire School Football Association next year. This is a fantastic achievement and a tremendous honour, reflecting his hard work, dedication and talent.

We are incredibly proud of him and extend our congratulations to him and his family on this well-deserved success.

#Selected



Cheshire U14



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

CHAPLAINCY *news*

This week we welcomed Year 4 from Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Marys of the Angels 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.

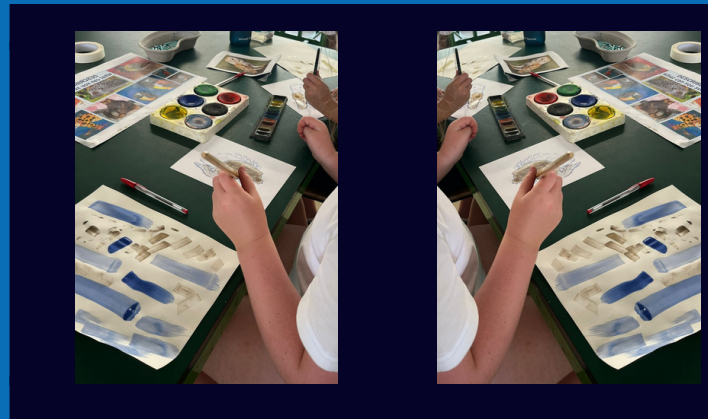
Our 10:10/ SVP group meet every Wednesday afternoon in B11 at 3.15pm. Please come along and see what we do.



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.

COMMUNITY



NEWS

for your information



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:



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)

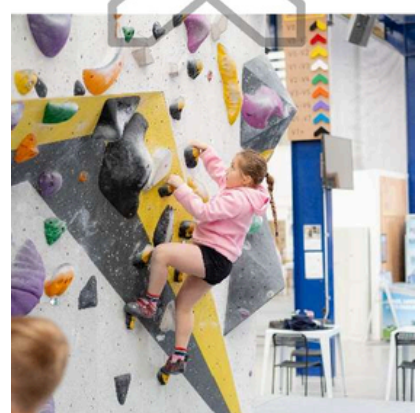
Need to know:

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



Tel: 0151 305 6868

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

British Cycling

An exciting opportunity for students

We are running a series of Talent ID Open Testing Days this summer for young people aged 12–16, giving them the chance to try track cycling and potentially be identified for future development opportunities.

Talent ID OPEN TESTING DAY

Bradford
30th July

Manchester
6th August

Derby
23rd July
13th August

London
20th August
27th August

You must be 12-16 to apply

Be eligible for a British Passport

Currently not involved with track cycling as part of a club or team

Those successful go on to join British Cycling's Talent Development and Performance Pathways

Want to get involved?
Scan the QR code to sign up!






We'd love to invite you and your young people to join us for PRESSURE ! A brand-new hip-hop youth theatre production from 20 Stories High; written and directed by Paislie Reid with 20 Stories High Youth Theatre celebrating our 20th birthday.

The pressure is building... and the question is: who will be there when everything falls apart?



Everyone's carrying something. The pressure to fit in. To stand out. To keep up.

Join us for three nights only as young people navigate the realities of growing up today — and discover what happens when the pressure becomes too much.

 Date: Thursday 23rd – Saturday 25th July 2026

 Time: 7:30pm, Approx. 1 hour 15 minutes

 Venue: Unity Theatre, Liverpool, L1 9BG

Friday 24th July features a special curtain-raiser from our Nu Noize participants, followed by a Post Show Jam.   ✨ with one night of BSL interpretation (TBC)

 Book your tickets now via Unity Theatre:  

<https://www.unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk/whats-on/20-stories-high-youth-theatre-summer-show-2026/>

Suitable for ages 13+

Contains strong language and themes including addiction, violence, knife crime and mental health.

Part of 20 Stories High's 20th birthday celebrations — come and experience urgent stories, bold voices and unforgettable theatre.



NEWSLETTER

June 2026

[Your June Parent Carer Forum News is Here- Click here!](#)

Cheshire West & Chester

HAF

Holiday Activities & Food



Funded by
UK Government

FREE

SUMMER

HOLIDAY

CLUBS

for children eligible for free school meals **across West Cheshire**



Scan me

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

Please scan the QR code or follow this link
<https://eequ.org/hafcheshirewestandchester> to
book your child's place



KEEP UP WITH ALL THE HOLIDAY FUN ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

_cheshirewest and **EdsentialUK**

Cheshire West and Chester Council and **EdsentialUK #HAF2026**

If you would like help booking please call 01244 977394 or email HAF@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



Game ON!

3 Wards

Community

SPORTS

JULY 30-AUG 20TH



FAMILIES & YOUNG PEOPLE



ROUNDERS



BASKETBALL



RUGBY

Get ready for a summer full of fun, friends, and sports!

Come and participate in a thrilling lineup of free sports activities including football, rounders, cricket, basketball, boccia, rugby and multi sports

Spots fill fast - Sign up today for a summer they won't forget!

- MULTI-SPORTS
- COACHES
- OUTDOOR GAMES & TEAM CHALLENGES, WARDS SPORTS DAY AT THE END OF SUMMER
- SKILL-BUILDING, TEAMWORK & CONFIDENCE
- THURSDAYS 11-1
- SATURDAYS 10-12

For more information:
Call: 07708407405



The 3 Wards
Stanney: The Friends of Stanney
Wolverham: The Peoples Pantry
Central: Wellness Community Partnership

Supported by Youth Services



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 22 nd 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

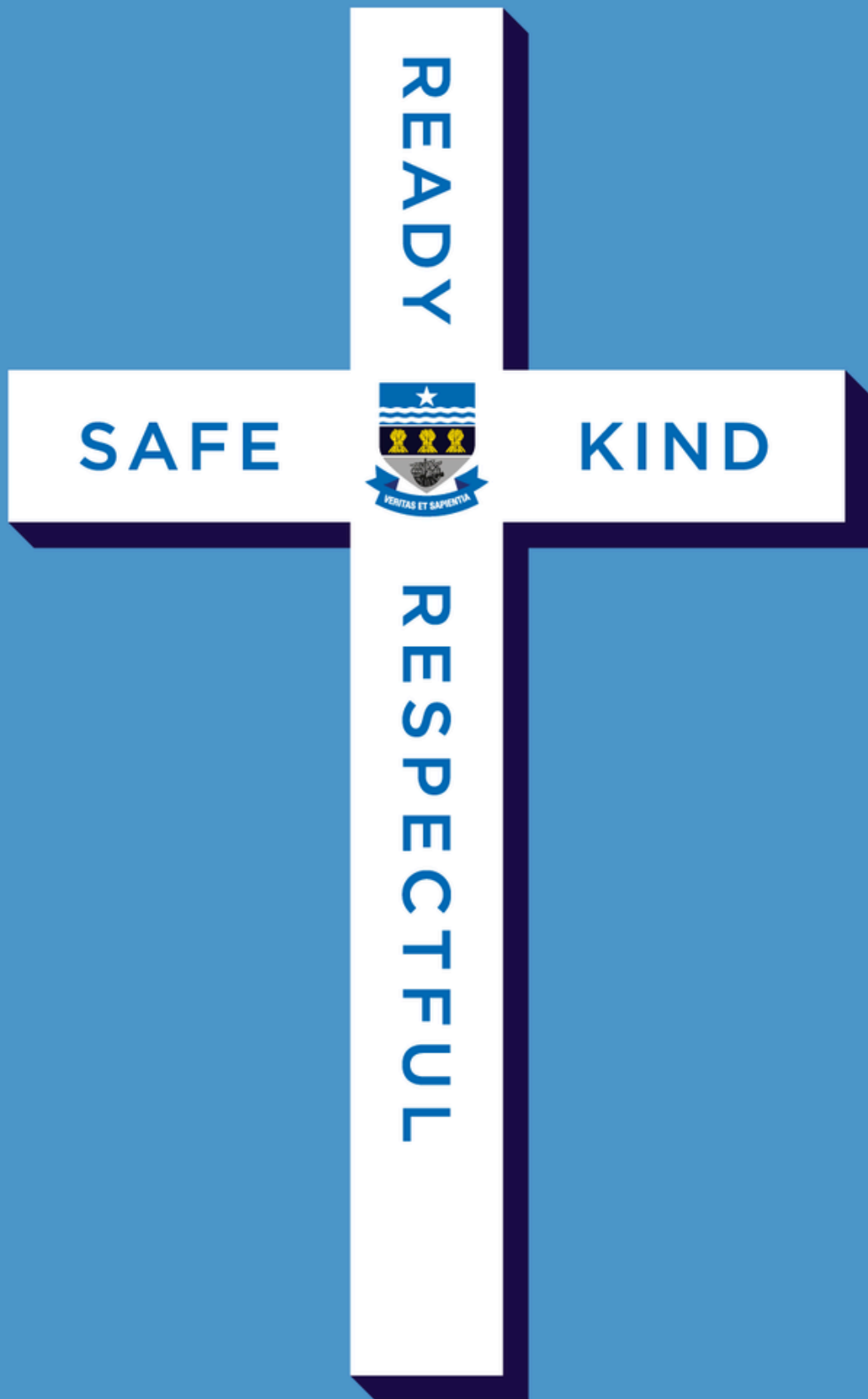
0151 355 2373

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