

05-06-26

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 has been a pleasure to welcome everyone back following the half-term break. It has been wonderful to see our pupils return refreshed and ready for the final stretch of this academic year. Our external examinations have continued this week for Year 11 and Year 13, and I would like to commend pupils for their excellent attendance at lessons and intervention sessions. Their commitment during this crucial period is impressive and will undoubtedly support their success this summer.

Today marked an important milestone for our Year 11 pupils as they began their study leave. After completing their English exam this morning, we were delighted to celebrate with them through the traditional shirt-signing event. We now look forward to welcoming them back for and remaining exams they have and for their Leavers' Assembly on 16th June, which is always a memorable moment in the school year.

It has also been another busy and inspiring week in school. On Wednesday, a group of our Golden Key members delivered a thoughtful and articulate presentation to both myself and the CEO of our Trust. They spoke confidently about the issues they face and the solutions they have developed. Their maturity, insight, and presentation skills were exceptional, and they represented the school with real distinction.

That same evening, members of the Golden Key Society attended the prestigious Mayor Making ceremony for the incoming Mayor of Ellesmere Port. This was a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to be part of an important civic event, and they conducted themselves with great pride and professionalism.

I would also like to congratulate our pupils for their remarkable fundraising efforts. Thanks to their generosity, a ten-year-old pupil in Malawi will now receive life-changing hearing aids. This act of compassion and global citizenship reflects the very best of our school community.

Finally, excitement is building for our summer musical production of *Sister Act*. Tickets are now on sale, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our Drama and Music departments, as well as all pupils involved, for their hard work, creativity, and commitment. I have no doubt it will be a fantastic performance and a highlight of the summer term.

I wish all our pupils and families a positive and productive week ahead as we continue through this important final half term.

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

- 14th/15th June - Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Final Expedition
- 16th June - Year 11 Leavers Assembly (Parents have been invited by email)
- 22nd - 26th June - Year 10 Work Experience
- 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)



Golden Key Students MC at Mayor Making Ceremony

Our Golden Key students were given the honour of MCing the Mayor Making Ceremony this week, after impressing the incoming Mayor, Councillor Jon Stockton, with their confidence, professionalism and public speaking skills. Councillor Stockton and Beverly Stockton recently visited us to hear students audition for the role. The standard was so high that a wider group of Golden Key students were also invited to attend the ceremony as the Mayor's guests.

The Golden Key Society is a school-led enrichment programme designed to open doors for high-potential students through public speaking, debate, leadership, mentoring and community engagement.

Taking part in such an important civic occasion is a significant achievement for the students and reflects the growing impact of Golden Key within the local community.



Golden Key Students Visit London for ESU Mace Finals

Three of our Golden Key students were generously sponsored by The English-Speaking Union to travel to London and watch the prestigious ESU Mace Debating Finals. After a whirlwind tour of the capital, including a ride on the London Eye, students had the opportunity to watch some of the best young debaters in the country compete.

The experience confirmed what we already know – our students are debating at this level! They returned inspired, equipped with new techniques, sharper strategies, and even greater determination to reach the finals themselves next year.

It was a fantastic day of culture, aspiration and oracy, and we are incredibly grateful to the English-Speaking Union for making it possible





Following our fundraising efforts at Advent, we were hoping to buy a braille machine for New Dawn School in Malawi. Unfortunately, the funds we raised were not quite enough to purchase a Braille machine. However, after several discussions with the school, an alternative and equally life-changing use for the money has been identified.

Thanks to our fundraising efforts, a 10-year-old girl named Tegan, who is profoundly deaf, will now receive hearing aids. This will make a huge difference to her education, enabling her to engage more fully in lessons, communicate more effectively with others, and access opportunities that were previously out of reach.

This incredible outcome would not have been possible without the generosity and support of everyone who contributed, so thank you.

We are immensely proud to have played a part in transforming a young person's future and hope to continue supporting New Dawn School through future fundraising initiatives, helping even more students access the education and opportunities they deserve.

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.



Huge congratulations to our former student, Cameron, on achieving his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award!

This prestigious achievement is earned through years of dedication, volunteering, resilience and hard work, with the foundations of that journey beginning here at EPOCHS. We are incredibly proud of the confident, mature young man Cameron has become and all that he has accomplished.



Wishing him every success for the future—we know he has a bright future ahead!



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:

- ✔ Being a kind, polite and courteous student
- ✔ 100% attendance, excellent attitude to school
- ✔ Excellent behaviour



UNIFORM

Reminder



Our school uniform is a very important part of our identity and helps to create a strong sense of community and pride within the school. Wearing the correct uniform smartly helps students feel part of the EPCHS family, promotes equality, and encourages a positive attitude towards learning.

We ask all students to wear their uniform with pride and ensure that every item, including shoes, is in line with our school uniform policy.

Appropriate footwear is an essential part of the uniform, not only to maintain a smart appearance, but also to ensure students' safety throughout the school day. Shoes should be plain black, sensible and flat, as well as strong and suitable for a busy school environment.

By maintaining high standards together, we help create a focused, respectful and professional environment where all students can thrive.

For more information, please visit [EPCHS Uniform Information](#)



Department
for Education

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School Planning Application

Planning Application Coming Soon

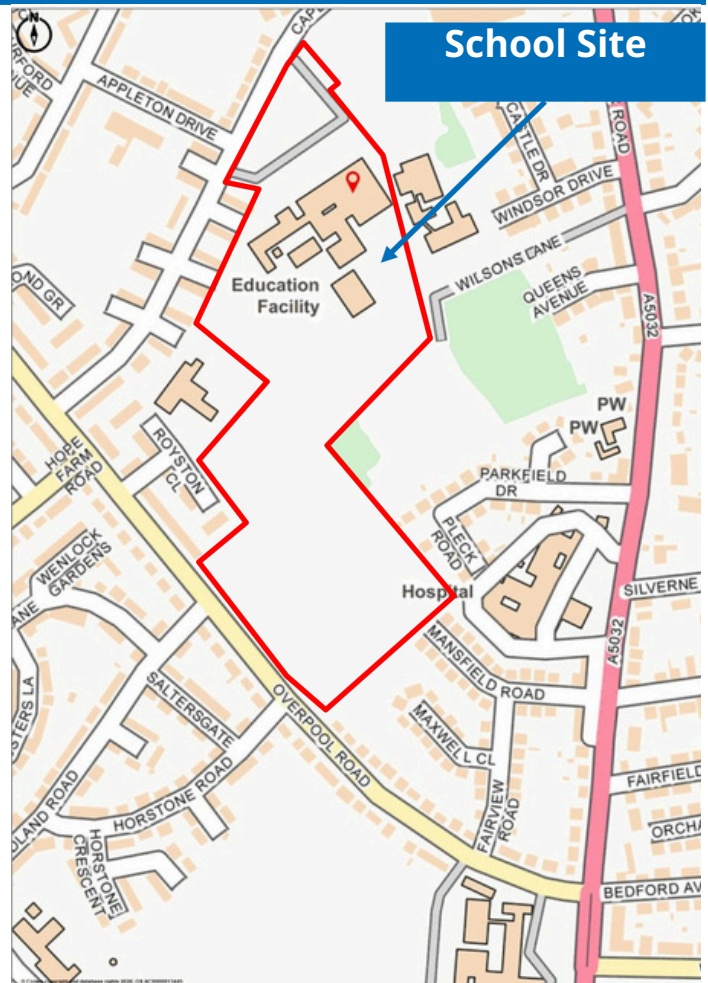
We are excited to let you know that a planning application will soon be submitted for the redevelopment of Ellesmere Port Catholic High School. This welcome redevelopment will deliver significantly improved educational facilities for both the school and the local community.

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

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

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



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 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



Thank you for your cooperation.

Trust Job Vacancies



**Our Lady
Help of Christians**

Regional Schools Finance & Business Partner

For our Ellesmere Port & Chester Academies

‘Providing an inspirational, outstanding Catholic education for all the children and young people in our schools.’

Honourable purpose / Respect / Co-operation/ Compassion/ Stewardship

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Academy Trust

Tel: 01625643039

E-mail: enquiries@olhoc.org.uk

‘A family of schools who work together, share together and care together.’

Salary: Grade 10 (£41,771 - £48,071)

Hours: 37

Contract type: Permanent, Full Time and Full Year. (Part time hours would be considered)

Reporting to: Trust Finance Manager

Closing Date: 08 June 2026 12pm

Interviews to confirmed

The Trust Hub Manager provides financial and H&S support to School Business Managers and Leadership within each of our schools in Ellesmere Port and Chester areas, with the post holder living within a commutable distance. This position is seen as crucial in fulfilling each school’s financial and compliance responsibilities and will play a central role in the financial stability and success of each school.

This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced finance manager to join our growing Trust as Regional Schools Finance & Business Partner. The successful applicant will initially work across existing schools in the area providing financial, H&S compliance, HR, and administrative support. As the Trust continues to grow the number of schools will increase. The official work base will be a local school dependent on home location, with regular visits to all schools within the hub area.

The post holder will be an experienced individual and will have a successful track record of working within finance and hold the relevant finance qualifications. The role will involve the production of monthly management accounts, the preparation of accurate and timely finance reports to the Trust, Headteachers and Local Governing Bodies, assist in the setting and monitoring of school budgets and liaising with school

administration staff in the management of all school contracts and health and safety requirements. They will need to establish and maintain good working relationships and identify and provide training to school administrative and support staff as required.

What we offer:

- A competitive salary and option to join the Local Government Pension scheme
- Professional development opportunities to further enhance your career
- A supportive and collaborative working environment
- Access to an Employee Assistance Programme including access to high street discounts

The successful candidate will:

- Have significant experience of working in finance and be AAT3 qualified or an equivalent qualification
- Have experience of working within educational finances
- Be able to work independently and with initiative
- Have excellent communication skills
- Have a good working knowledge of Microsoft programmes such as Excel and Word.
- Have a professional manner and be flexible in their approach
- Hold a full UK driving licence and be willing to travel

To Apply:

Please apply using the application form which can be found at www.olhoc.org.uk

We understand and want to support a healthy work – life balance, we welcome applications from candidates who require flexibility.

We are committed to diversity and inclusion and therefore welcome applications from all suitably qualified and experienced people.

Applications should be sent to the Trust Finance Manager on the following email. If you would like to arrange an informal discussion regarding the role please contact Becky Sidebotham, Trust Finance Manager. B.sidebotham@olhoc.org.uk

Our Lady Help of Christians is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and an enhanced DBS check with Child Barred List check.

All posts are offered subject to agreement to sign the Catholic Education Service contract of employment with Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Academy Trust. We are committed to equality and welcome applications from all sections of the community. This role is not reserved and there is no requirement for the post holder to be a practising Catholic but should uphold our principles and values in all aspects of their employment.

CHAPLAINCY *news*

This week, the last of the Year 7 students have been visiting the Chapel to learn about Pentecost. They have been playing party games to celebrate the birthday of the Church.

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

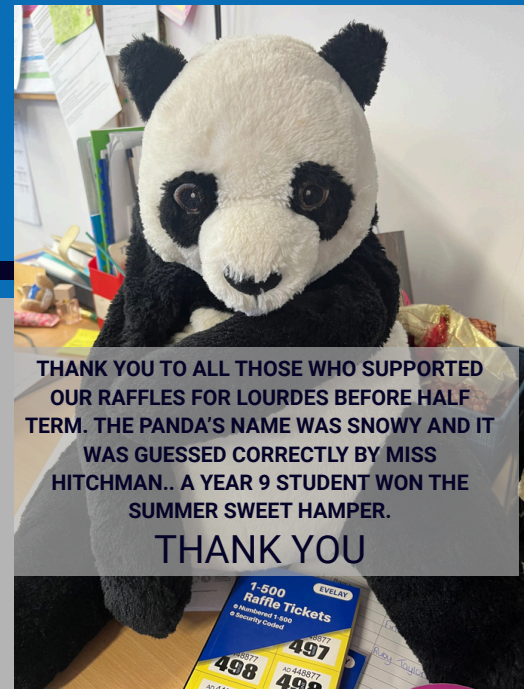
ROSARY IS SAID EACH BREAKTIME IN B11. PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO COME ALONG. PLEASE JOIN US.

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.

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.



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**



ELLESMERE PORT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ADRENALINE DEVICES

Adrenaline is for the immediate treatment of anaphylaxis, which is a serious allergic reaction. If in doubt, use an adrenaline pen. Delaying treatment for anaphylaxis causes more harm than giving adrenaline when it's not needed. Adrenaline is a safe substance that is naturally produced in our bodies. Adrenaline devices are single use, and it's important always to carry two rather than just one.

WHEN TO USE

AIRWAY: Symptoms include swelling in the throat, tongue or upper airways; tightening of the throat; a hoarse voice; and difficulty swallowing.



BREATHING: Symptoms include persistent cough; sudden onset of wheezing; breathing difficulty; and noisy breathing.



CIRCULATION: Symptoms include pale and clammy skin; dizziness; feeling faint; sudden sleepiness; tiredness; confusion; and loss of consciousness.



How to use an EpiPen adrenaline auto-injector

1. Hold the AAI in your dominant hand and tuck your thumb out of the way.



2. Remove the blue safety cap and have the orange needle sheath pointing towards the patient's thigh.



3. Hold the AAI approximately 10cm away from their outer upper thigh.



4. Jab the EpiPen firmly into the outer thigh and press until it clicks.



5. Count to 3 and then release.

1,2,3

How to use an Jext adrenaline auto-injector

1. Hold the AAI in your dominant hand and tuck your thumb out of the way.



2. Remove the yellow safety cap and have the black needle sheath pointing towards the patient's thigh.



3. Place the black needle sheath on their outer upper thigh and press until it clicks.



4. Count to 10, then release and rub the injected area.

1,2...10

How to use EURNeffy nasal adrenaline

1. Hold the device with the first and middle fingers either side of the nozzle and the thumb on the plunger.



2. Insert the nozzle fully into one nostril until your fingers touch the outside of your nose.



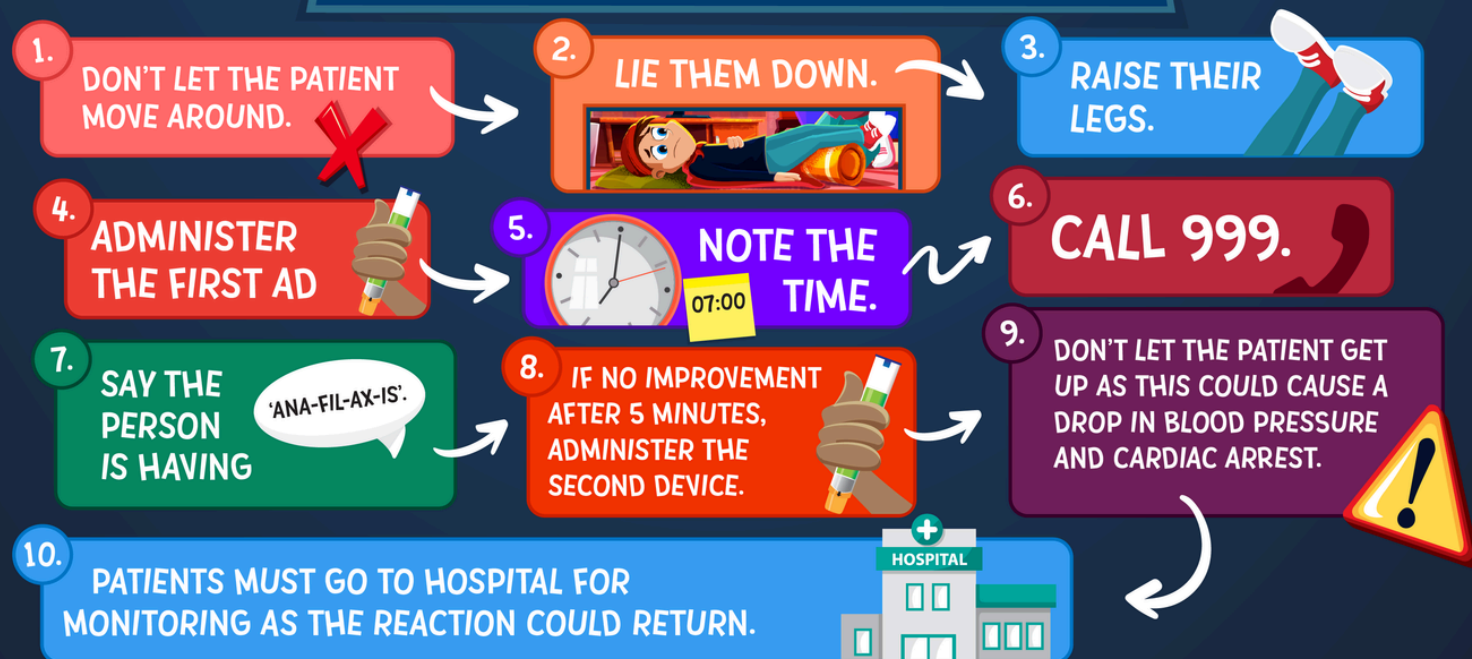
3. Press the plunger up firmly until it snaps and releases the medication.



4. **DO NOT SNIFF:** Try not to sniff after administering the spray



ANAPHYLAXIS TREATMENT FLOW CHART:



Meet Our Expert

Anaphylaxis UK is the only UK-wide charity operating solely for the growing numbers of people at risk of serious allergic reactions and anaphylaxis. While there's no treatment or cure for anaphylaxis, we believe that by providing information, training and support, there's a brighter future for people living with serious allergies.



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

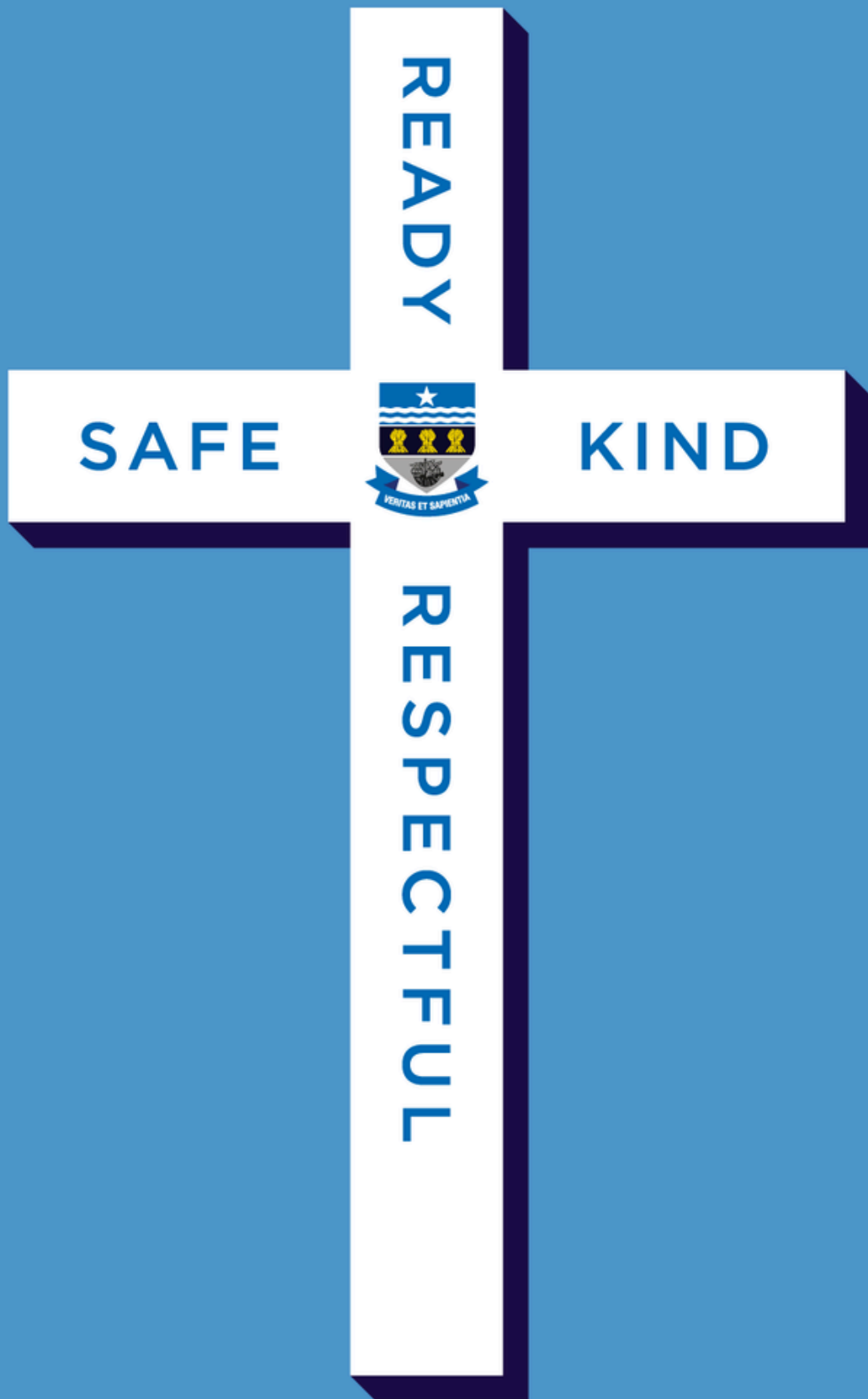
0151 355 2373

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