

THE EPOCHS

BEACON

The weekly round up of school life

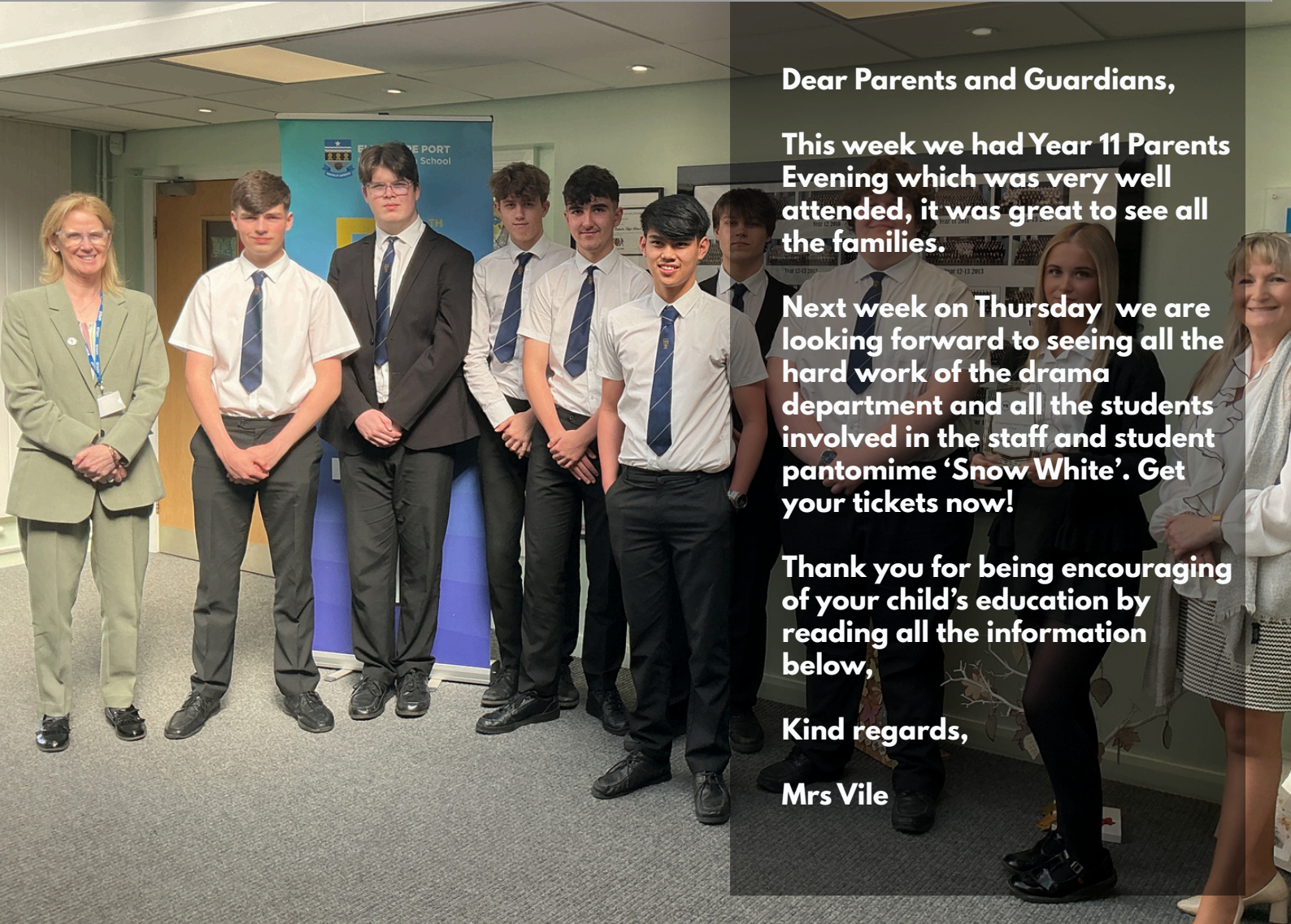


READY - RESPECTFUL - SAFE - KIND



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

HEADTEACHER MESSAGE



Dear Parents and Guardians,

This week we had Year 11 Parents Evening which was very well attended, it was great to see all the families.

Next week on Thursday we are looking forward to seeing all the hard work of the drama department and all the students involved in the staff and student pantomime 'Snow White'. Get your tickets now!

Thank you for being encouraging of your child's education by reading all the information below,

Kind regards,

Mrs Vile



Secondary School of the Year
WINNER

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School

Dignity of the human person

We believe that every person has inherent dignity, and every life is sacred. The innate dignity of each person is the foundation and inspiration of our vision for a just and compassionate world. We see the image of God in every person, no matter their circumstance.



**Dignity of
the
Human Person**



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School is proud to be awarded the prestigious Artsmark Gold Award! 🌟

Artsmark, accredited by Arts Council England, is the only creative quality standard for schools and has been celebrating arts and cultural education for 20 years. It places creativity and wellbeing at the heart of the curriculum, ensuring every young person can access a diverse, high-quality cultural education.

To achieve this award, EPCHS developed a broad and ambitious arts curriculum, supported by a whole-school plan that champions creativity across every year group.

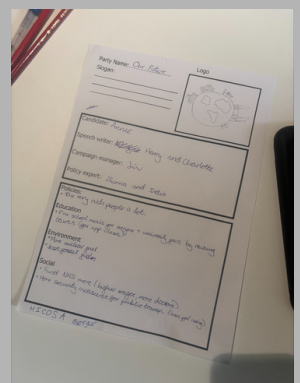


6TH FORM LONDON TRIP

Last week 6th Form went on a trip to London. Pupils had a long day starting at 5am!

They visited Parliament; even watching a real debate in the House of Commons. They then created their own political parties and manifestos. In the afternoon, they got to go on the London Eye before watching Hamilton in the Palace Theatre which was a fantastic watch for the everyone but especvially for the History and Politics students who study many of the central themes.

It was a tiring but fantastic day had by all.



CHAPLAINCY *news*

This week was Red Wednesday. Mr Parrin's form, 9 Martin, lead a beautiful Celebration of the Word to pray for those people in the world, who are persecuted because of their faith.

November is the month when we pray for the Holy Souls. If you would like us to pray for someone in your family who has died, then please pass their name to Angela in B11. They are remembered each breaktime during the Rosary.

Next week in school we will launch our Advent appeal which is to raise funds to buy a Braille machine for a school in Malawi. Ms Lamb has made a beautiful display of artefacts from Malawi in the Chapel. Please pop up and have a look.



WARM CLOTHES DONATIONS

Please remember that we are collecting for people in our community who need clothes. We especially need coats, shoes, blankets and toiletries. Try to have a sort out at the weekend and bring any donations to Angela in B11. They make an enormous difference to people. They are currently in need of woolly hats and gloves so if you have any, please pass to Angela in B11.



SINGING WILL TAKE PLACE IN B11 ON A TUESDAY LUNCHTIME AND ON THURSDAY IN MUSIC. IT'S TIME FOR OUR CHRISTMAS CAROLS. PLEASE COME ALONG.

COMMUNITY

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

THERE IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO LUNCHTIME MASS ON A FRIDAY AT OUR LADY STAR OF SEA PARISH. SEE ANGELA IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SIGN UP. A CONSENT FORM WILL NEED TO BE FILLED IN.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT 6TH FORM

On Monday we had Michael from Bank of America in school with our year 12 students to deliver a presentation about career opportunities and apprenticeships.

On the same day PC Richard Woodward, Road Safety Education Officer was in with Yr 13 to talk to our students about driving safety.



READING NEWS

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School



Students in your classes have read

1056 books

this year in Sparx Reader, well done!

Sparx Reader

sparxreader.com

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School



Students in your classes completed

1391 hours

of careful reading this year in Sparx
Reader. Great effort!

Sparx Reader

sparxreader.com

**So far this year students at EPOCHS have finished
over 1,000 books and have logged nearly 1,400
hours of reading! Well done!**

GOLDEN KEY SOCIETY



Once again our 6th form Golden Key Students showed the world what EPOCHS is capable of!

Facing strong opposition from The Kings School Chester, our students impressed judges with their thoughtful arguments, confident delivery, and exceptional teamwork.

This round centred on the motion "Short Haul Domestic Flights Should Be Banned," a topic that sparked lively discussion. Our team stood out for their clear structure, well-researched points, and poised responses during the rebuttal stage. Judges praised the trio for their 'Flawless Delivery', 'confidence' and 'use of humour' to engage the audience, while enhancing their argument.

Preparation for the event began months ago, with the students' dedicating lunchtimes and after-school sessions to researching, practising delivery techniques, and running mock debates. The team are grateful for all of the Golden Key Society for the support with their preparation. With a special thanks to Mrs Clarke for being the driving force behind such an important opportunity and the creator of 'Dave'.

Their achievement highlights the value of critical thinking, communication, and confidence! We look forward to seeing what they accomplish next!



ELLESMERE PORT
Catholic High School

What's on? Year 7

#MakeltCount

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

These have now been updated for the new term and can also be found at www.epchs.co.uk/extracurricular-activities/

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am. Wellbeing drop in (C19)	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am
Lunch	Crochet club (C1) Youth SVP (chapel)	Singing club (chapel) Spanish film club(B3)	Golden key society (C18)	Geogglebox club (B8) Art club (E2 Week A and E3 Week B)	BSL (C19)
After School 3:15 till 4:00 Unless otherwise stated.	Homework club (library). Basketball	Homework club (library). Gardening club (C12) Spanish homework club (B2) Football (boys) Netball (girls)	Homework club (library) Badminton. Rugby (boys) 10:10 (chapel)	Homework club (library) STEM club (B9). Football (girls). Basketball	



ELLESMERE PORT
Catholic High School

What's on? Year 8

#MakeltCount

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am. Wellbeing drop in (C19)	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am
Lunch	Crochet club (C1) Youth SVP (chapel)	Singing club (chapel) Spanish film club(B3)	Golden key society (C18)	Geogglebox club (B8) Art club (E2)	BSL (C19)
After School	Homework club (library). Basketball	Homework club (library). Gardening club (C12) Spanish homework club (B2) Football (boys) Netball (girls)	Homework club (library) Badminton. Rugby (boys) 10:10 (chapel)	Homework club (library) STEM club (B9). Football (girls). Basketball	



ELLESMERE PORT
Catholic High School

What's on? Year 9

#MakeltCount

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am. Wellbeing drop in (C19)	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am
Lunch	Crochet club (C1) Youth SVP (chapel)	Singing club (chapel) Spanish film club(B3)	Golden key society (C18)	Geogglebox club (B8)	BSL (C19)
After School	Homework club (library). Basketball	Homework club (library). Gardening club (C12) Spanish homework club (B2) Football (boys) Netball (girls) Year 9 Art Scholars Club	Homework club (library) Badminton. Rugby (boys) 10:10 (chapel)	Homework club (library) STEM club (B9). Football (girls). Basketball	



ELLESMERE PORT
Catholic High School

What's on? Year 10

#MakeltCount

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am. Wellbeing drop in (C19)	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am
Lunch	Crochet club (C1) Youth SVP (chapel)	Singing club (chapel)	Golden key society (C18)	Geogglebox club (B8)	BSL (C19)
After School	Homework club (library).	Homework club (library). Gardening club (C12) Spanish homework club (B2) Football (boys) Netball (girls)	Homework club (library) Badminton. Rugby (boys) 10:10 (chapel)	Homework club (library) STEM club (B9). Football (girls). GCSE PE intervention. Basketball	Basketball



ELLESMERE PORT
Catholic High School

What's on? Year 11

#MakeltCount

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am. Wellbeing drop in (C19)	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am
Lunch	Crochet club (C1) Youth SVP (chapel)	Singing club (chapel)	Golden key society (C18)	Geogglebox club (B8)	BSL (C19)
After School	Homework club (library).	Homework club (library). Gardening club (C12) Spanish homework club (B2) Football (boys) Netball (girls)	Homework club (library) Badminton. Rugby (boys) 10:10 (chapel)	Homework club (library) STEM club (B9). Football (girls). GCSE PE intervention. Basketball	Basketball



ELLESMERE PORT
Catholic High School

What's on? Year 12 and 13

#MakeltCount

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am. Wellbeing drop in (C19)	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am	Breakfast in the canteen. Library open from 8am
Lunch	Crochet club (C1) Youth SVP (chapel)	Singing club (chapel)	Golden key society (C18)	Geogglebox club (B8)	BSL (C19)
After School	Homework club (library).	Homework club (library). Gardening club (C12) Spanish homework club (B2)	Homework club (library) 10:10 (chapel)	Homework club (library) STEM club (B9). Basketball	

DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Get ready for a brilliant staff-and-student panto — a modern twist on the classic Snow White, complete with added Scouse sparkle!



Thursday 27th November, doors open at 6:45pm, with a prompt 7pm start.

Tickets are just £4 per person.

Go to www.ticketsource.co.uk/epchs to book!

Come along and let us entertain you — it's a show you won't want to miss!



EPCHS PRESENTS A STAFF AND STUDENT PANTO

SNOW WHITE

AND SIX SCOUSERS

THURSDAY 27-NOVEMBER

DOORS OPEN 6:45PM

SHOW TIME 7PM

TICKETS £4

BOOK NOW AT
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/EPCHS/T-AAQRZNV



ATTENDANCE NEWS

If your child has an appointment please use the Arbor App to let us know. The instructions are below.

This makes the process smoother for both your family and the school.

Thank you for your cooperation.

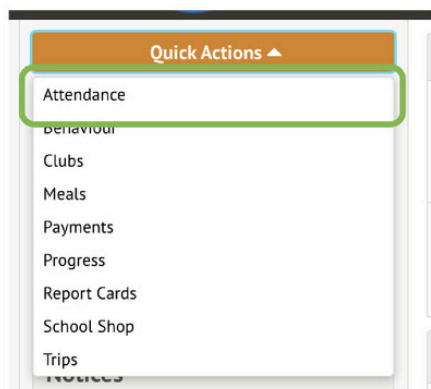
Student Absent?

Did you know you can quickly report that your child will be absent on the day via the Arbor App?

e.g. Unwell, Medical Appointment etc.



Need more help?
Scan the QR code above to view Arbor's help guide for logging an absence



Kim's page / Attendance / Summary

Recent Attendance for

Log Absence

Log Absence

This form lets you notify that [Student Name] will be absent today, Tue, 02 Jul 2024.
If you need to record an absence for a future date, you will need to contact the school.

Student: [Student Name]

Date: Tue, 02 Jul 2024

Absence start*: 09:00

Absence end*: 15:45

Reason*: Please provide a reason for the absence

Cancel Log Absence

Where possible we ask that parents use the Arbor App, but alternative methods are:

Leave a voicemail on our Attendance line:
0151 355 2373
(press 1 for Attendance and then press #)

E-mail the attendance team:
attendance@epchs.co.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS

National Online Safety

Tracking devices were designed to help people find lost belongings, but they've also opened the door to worrying forms of misuse. This week's [#WakeUpWednesday](#) explores how Bluetooth trackers like AirTags and SmartTags can be misused for stalking, bullying and invading young people's privacy.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TRACKING DEVICES

Bluetooth tracking devices like Apple's AirTag and Samsung's SmartTags have exploded in popularity, with millions sold each year. These small tools help people locate their lost items, but their discreet design has also made them attractive for more sinister purposes. From stalking to bullying, tracking devices present unique risks that trusted adults need to understand and address.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STALKING AND HARASSMENT

Because of their tiny size and unassuming appearance, tracking devices can easily be hidden in bags or clothing. They've been used to monitor individuals without their knowledge, with a lawsuit in the US labelling AirTags "the weapon of choice of stalkers and abusers". In the UK, use of tracking devices in coercive control and stalking cases reportedly rose by 317 percent between 2018 and 2023.

TOOLS FOR BULLYING

Tracking devices could allow bullies to follow or locate their targets even outside of school. This makes it difficult for children to find refuge, potentially extending the trauma of bullying into spaces – like home – that should feel safe and secure.

FALSE ACCUSATIONS

Because tracking devices are linked to user accounts, they could be misused to 'prove' ownership of someone else's possessions. Someone could, for example, plant a tracker on another person's belongings to falsely claim them as their own.

INVASION OF PRIVACY

These devices are designed to share location data with the user via other people's phones, which can unintentionally broadcast someone's movements without their consent. This makes them vulnerable to being monitored by strangers without realising.

DIFFICULT TO DETECT

Many tracking devices are designed to be discreet, but that also means they're easy to hide. Without proactive checking or the right tech to detect them, children and young people might not realise they're being tracked.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH FOR WARNING SIGNS

If a child's peers always seem to know their location – whether in person or hinted at online – it could be worth checking for tracking devices. Some, like AirTags, will eventually make a noise if separated from their owner. Listen out for a chirping sound.

CHECK LIKELY HIDING SPOTS

Common places where trackers may be planted include jacket linings, bag seams, pockets, or under bike seats. If you find one, take a photo of the serial number before disposing of it – this could help police trace the account it's linked to.

USE DETECTION APPS

Apple devices running iOS 14.5 or later will notify users of unknown AirTags nearby. Android users can install Apple's 'Tracker Detect' or the third-party app 'AirGuard' to scan for tracking devices from various manufacturers.

HAVE THE CONVERSATION

Talk to your child about what tracking devices are, what signs to look out for, and how they might be misused. Emphasise the legal consequences of using them to prank, harass, or monitor someone.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a seasoned technology journalist with bylines in Wired, TechRadar, The Guardian, The Evening Standard, The Telegraph, and The New Statesman. He specialises in consumer tech, online safety, and emerging risks in the digital landscape.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 19.11.2025

COMMUNITY NEWS

Heating bank

Heating Bank

We can help low-income households with their energy costs

Funds are limited for each application window and applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis

**To apply scan the QR code or visit
www.citizensadvicecw.org.uk/heatingbank**



**citizens
advice**

**Cheshire
West**



Registered charity number: 1128367

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

CONTACT US

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School, Capenhurst Lane,

Whitby, Ellesmere Port CH65 7AQ

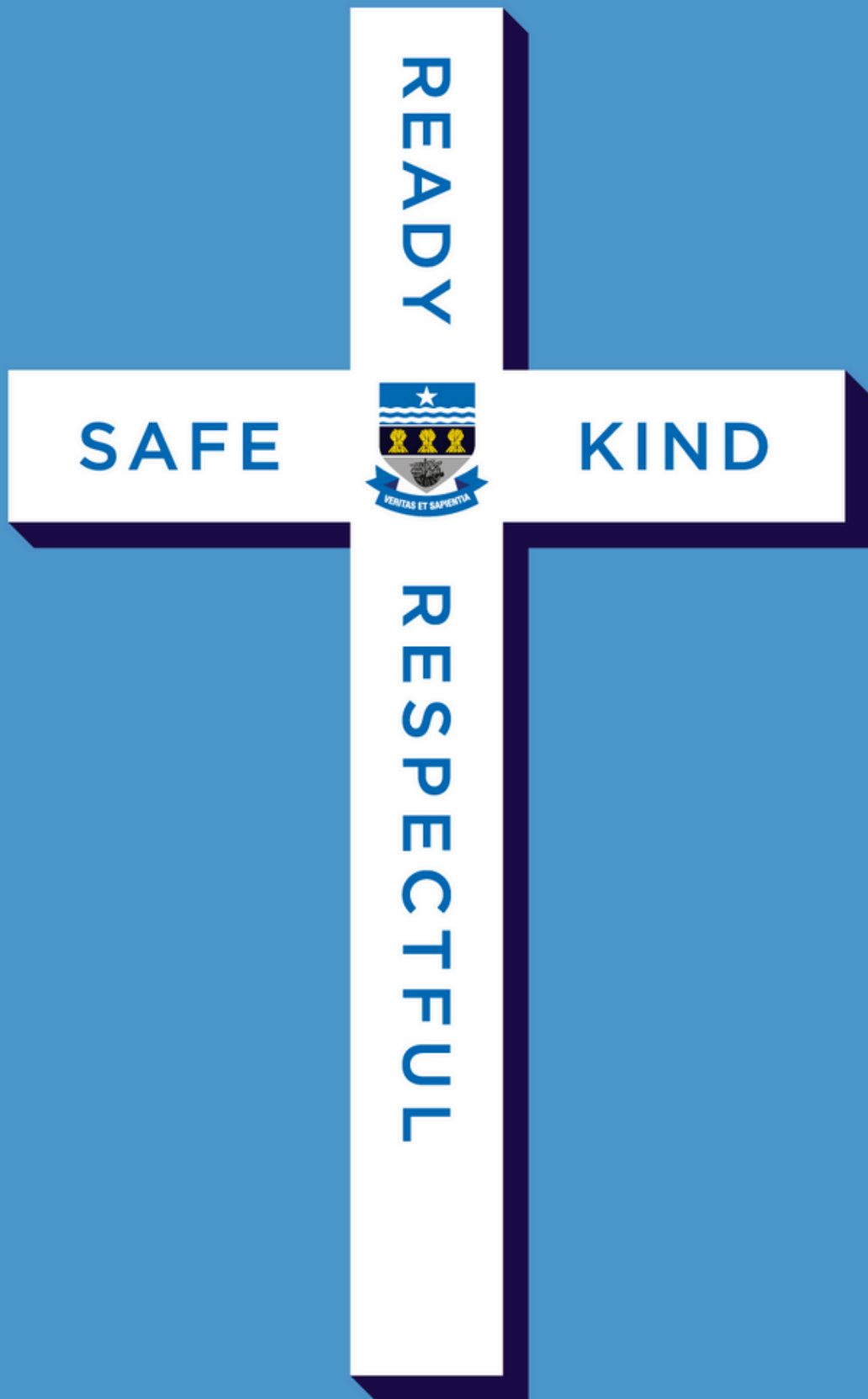
0151 355 2373

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