

BC14

Almighty God,
Through this scripture I am reminded that I am loved and known by you and are pleased with me. I am thankful for the revelations and ask that you always walk with me each day. As I listen to your word, I know that I have a purpose and that you have set a goal for me. I pray for unapologetic trust in your word.
Amen

Message from Dr Coughlan, Principal

Friday 15th January 2021

“Remember the past with gratitude. Live the present with enthusiasm. Look forward to the future with confidence.” St John Paul II

We are now two weeks into the new school term and Christmas already feels like a distant memory; so much has changed in such a short space of time. Remote education is in full swing and we continue to support children of critical workers with onsite provision. Our students have engaged brilliantly in both live lessons and the other work that has been provided for home learning.

Our teachers are continuing to work hard to develop their understanding of new technology and software. We are finding increasingly engaging ways of delivering live lessons and feeding back to students; we remain resolute in our desire to provide a high quality experience for all. The school has united not only as a Community of faith but also as a powerful learning community; our young people should be immensely proud of their work. My sincere thanks to all our families for the support they are providing at home.

For those students who were due to undertake public examinations we recognise the disappointment many of you will feel and perhaps even a sense of injustice. We know that some of you may be feeling anxious or worried for the future as a consequence of the decisions that have been made. If you have concerns, staff are available to provide support and reassurance and I would urge you to contact the school. In this period of uncertainty we find ourselves in, I would encourage everyone to remember the gift of ‘understanding’ and also to put to good use the gift of ‘knowledge’ as you continue to learn.

There will be a public consultation launched imminently so

students, parents/carers and all involved in education can have their say on the proposals from Ofqual; I encourage people to respond to this. Once we have further clarity on the plans around assessment arrangements for the remainder of this academic year, we will share this information. As a school we will continue to work hard to give our young people every opportunity to achieve their full potential and I know this will be reciprocated by our students in their home learning.

In the unique situation we are in we recognise the impact of additional screen time, the lack of routine, the shorter days and the combined effect this, and many other factors, can have on our wellbeing. Next week we will be holding a ‘wellbeing afternoon’ on Friday 22nd January during periods 4 and 5. During this time there will be no live lessons and there will be no expectation for work to be completed. We would really like to encourage students (and families, if possible) to use this time to purposely relax. Further information on this will be shared in a separate communication.

We continue to remain resolute in offering mass asymptomatic testing to our school community and staff and critical worker students have begun this process this week. Our mission statement speaks of how we give glory to God in our service to others. We continue to live out this mission by recognising the individual and collective social responsibility we have to protect all within our communities by stopping the wider transmission of this virus.

We hold in our thoughts and prayers all those affected by this pandemic and all those working so hard to support people affected by it.
Best wishes to all our families.

Book Podcasts

Every newsletter brings an opportunity to remind parents and students of the immense benefits of reading for pleasure and to encourage everyone to read or listen to an audio book. That done, have you ever considered listening to a book podcast?

In the same way an audiobook can have great value, there are plenty of interesting book podcasts to suit all ages and interests available on the internet. It is not necessary to have already read the book.

Typically, a podcast show releases a regular schedule of podcasts, but you can look back on past podcasts to find one of interest. During the podcasts, the host usually interviews the author, perhaps with other writers and they may discuss how the author works and develops the character and plot lines. Sometimes they discuss complicated topics and talk about the books in depth; it exposes the listener to ideas whilst the more complex material improves cognitive function and develops emotional areas of the brain.

Listening to an audiobook or a podcast differs from reading. Reading requires active engagement and purpose, but listening to the human voice, which is in itself an emotionally beneficial experience, requires less cognitive power. Thus, it is easier to absorb more complicated information. It also releases creativity, critical thinking and builds knowledge: hugely beneficial in developing interesting, well-rounded people.

Lockdown could be the perfect time to explore podcasts, unlocking the imagination and doing some ‘brain growing’.



Please be reminded of the following resources that we signposted earlier in the academic year. The table below includes a list of resources that we have used and continue to do so, as part of our teaching and practice.

All these resources are free to use and provide appropriate content for a range of age groups.

Resource	Link
NSPCC Online Safety – huge repository of guidance and advice around many topics related to online safety and talking to children about it.	https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/
UK Safer Internet Centre – source of information for children, parents, carers and teachers. Activities and resources can be downloaded for free.	https://www.saferinternet.org.uk
Think U Know – Online safety learning resources which cover ages 4-14+. Also, resources for parents and carers are available.	https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk
Internet Matters – Resources for ages 0-14+ in relation to online safety and the use of devices.	https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/
Common Sense Media – provides insight into media (tv, film, games and apps) allowing for a understanding of appropriateness for age.	https://www.commonsensemedia.org

Chaplaincy

Notable Dates

We will be marking these days with prayer, reflection and resources sent out via class charts, chaplaincy twitter, sway page and the school website

January 10th - The Baptism of the Lord

January 20th - St Sebastian Feast Day

January 25th - The Conversion of St Paul

January 31st - St John Bosco Feast Day

Virtual Youth Group

We have been meeting each week with our Virtual Youth Group! This occurs virtually and will be every Wednesday from 6:30 pm-7:10 pm. It will be an interactive session with games and times of reflection and pause for prayer. Last week, our session on the 6th January, was about the Epiphany of Our Lord. We have times of icebreaker games, reflection, small group time and discussion. Students can register interest by emailing the Lay Chaplains at staff-chaplains@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

Health and Wellbeing Staff Pledge

The arrival of the New Year signifies a fresh start and offers a brilliant opportunity for setting some health and well-being goals after the indulgence of Christmas. If you are in need of a bit of inspiration why not click on the Staff Pledge tab on our website to see what Bishop Challoner staff are doing to try to improve their physical health and mental well-being. The virtual wall is updated regularly to inspire each other and to share success. New year is a good time to create good habits rather than give things up. While most people are at home presently, why not try encouraging the whole family to join in.

Virtual Sixth Form Drop in

This is a new initiative for sixth formers to meet with the chaplaincy team each Wednesday P5. The Lay Chaplains will be guiding sessions of personal, spiritual and leadership development. This session will be weekly and start on the 20th January with an introduction session. The sessions will allow you to attain in-house certificates in leadership and development for each completed sections. If you would like more information, email the lay chaplains

Keep in touch

Twitter: @BC_Chaplaincy Sway Page: <https://sway.office.com/Ofd7UAEWiHkHrxA2?ref=Link&loc=play>

Daily Prayers: <https://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/daily-prayer-and-reflections>

Powerful Prayers: <https://www.bishopchalloner.org>.

Teaching School Update

We are very excited to continue our online recruitment for trainee teachers ready to join our School Direct / PGCE in September 2021. If you would like to join us for a free information session at 10 am on Wednesday 20th January, then just email us to book a place - teachingschool@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk. The session is an informal way to find out more about training to be a teacher (Secondary and Primary) and is your chance to ask any questions. We hope to meet you online soon!

Health and Wellbeing during remote education

Please visit the school website to view a letter from Mrs Nutt and Mrs Breen regarding students' Health and Wellbeing during remote learning.

<https://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/>

Sports Updates

As the country continues to remain in this lockdown period, the Bishop Challoner PE department have provided various physical and theory challenges/activities for students to take part in. We strongly encourage all students to continue to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle and also have some fun when taking part in some of the activities that we have set.

At the beginning of week 1, the Physical Education teachers of students at KS3, uploaded a PowerPoint which included a range of physical challenges such as 'standing long jump', 'keepy ups' and 'skipping'. These challenges can be completed in your normal lesson time for PE and as many times as you can throughout the week.

We would also like to see what challenges or exercises you can come up with! Some teachers have asked students at KS3 to think of and complete their own exercise, activity or challenge. This could be something as simple as how long could you hold the plank for? There will be some prizes up for grabs for the best ideas so please have a go at this and be creative! Please upload any videos or pictures of you completing any of the challenges to Class Charts or tweet us @BCPEDepartment. So far, we have seen some excellent attempts of students completing all three of these challenges. Well done and keep it up!

Alongside the physical challenges that students have been set, there will also be some Physical Education theory work for all students at KS3 to complete. Every week, your Physical Education teachers will be uploading a theory task to Class Charts. In week 1, the theory challenge focused on 'Exercise and Health' and in week 2, the focus is on 'Sport and Fitness Analysis'. Students are required to follow the instructions in the booklet, complete the questions and then upload the work to Class Charts. This is a great opportunity for students to explore the theory side of Physical Education and develop an understanding of health and well-being.

The PE department have been incredibly impressed with some of the answers that students have already produced, so a massive well done and thank you for your hard work. In the next coming weeks, more physical and theory challenges will be set with each one having a different focus, so look out for these!

KS4 students and core PE groups also have the opportunity to participate in and challenge themselves to complete various activities. Please look out for a PowerPoint that will be uploaded to Class Charts, containing weekly challenges for you to have a go at!

Stay safe and have fun completing these activities.

Sixth Form

Remote learning

A huge congratulation to the students on their response to being back in the challenging situation of remote learning. We have been so impressed with the engagement of Years 12 and 13 in live lessons, and also in the quality of work that is being submitted.

A reminder that if students are having any difficulty accessing remote learning for any reason they should contact their teachers, a member of the Sixth Form team or, if it is a specific issue with IT they should also copy in the IT helpline into any communication. <https://bc-netbooks.bcweb.org.uk>

Awarding of Grades

We appreciate that students, particularly our Year 13 students, are anxious about how their A Level and vocation grades will be awarded in the summer. Please see below the statement that we have issued on the school website.

Following the announcement made by Gavin Williamson today (6th January), the exact process of awarding GCSE, Vocational and A level grades is still not clear and further guidance is yet to be published.

The examinations regulator, Ofqual, are drawing up proposals for an alternative way of deciding qualification grades and they will be discussing alternative arrangements with the Department for Education. Ofqual have said that clarity will be provided as soon as possible

In the meantime, teachers at Bishop Challoner are not

in a position to provide details to individual students

or parent/carers regarding the awarding of GCSE, Vocational and A level grades this year. We will provide more information on the awarding of qualification grades once Ofqual publish their guidance.

Covid-19 testing in Schools

If you have not either given or refused consent for participation on Covid-19 testing in schools, please can we encourage you do to do so, to enable us to plan for your eventual return. Students over the age of 16 can complete them for themselves, having discussed it with their parents/carers if under 18.

A potential benefit to students who are tested is that, in the event of a student contracting Covid-19, the close contacts in their class will be tested daily in school, rather than having to self-isolate, and thus they will avoid missing more face-to-face learning.

Opportunities Bulletins

Click on the links below to keep up to date with opportunities in further education, apprenticeships and much more.

Yr11 Opportunities Bulletin page

<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/about/careers/year-11>

Sixth Form Opportunities Bulletin page

<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/sixth-form/enrichment/sixth-form-opportunities>

Library page - <https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/library>

Science revision guide

If pupils have bought revision guides already but did not collect them before the Christmas holidays they can contact Mrs Shore:

e.shore@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk.

Individuals will then be contacted when they are available to be collected from reception.

Live Lesson Attendance/Behaviour

Live lesson attendance and any concerns regarding behaviour/conduct during live lessons is being monitored. Behaviour logs will be recorded and contact is being made by staff where required. Engagement on the whole has been exceptional and we would like to congratulate students on their diligence and hard work.

Absence Reporting and Covid-19

Even if your child is not attending school please ensure you contact school if your son/daughter is not well. Calls should be made each day they are absent.

If your son/daughter is required to self isolate in line with government guidance. Please keep school informed of any progress regarding testing.

If your son/daughter is confirmed positive please inform the school immediately. (results@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk)

FSM Vouchers

FSM voucher codes to cover w/c 4th and 11th January will be sent today. Voucher codes to cover the next two weeks will be sent w/c 25th January. If you have any queries please contact Mrs Houldcroft at school on 0121 444 4161.

Goodcrest Croft Surgery

We understand Goodcrest Croft Surgery is due to close in March. If you are currently a member at this surgery please remember to inform the school when you re-register with another surgery.



Follow us on Twitter

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

National lockdown: stay at home

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is spreading fast.

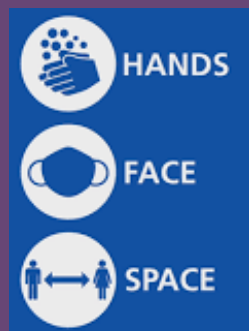
Do not leave your home unless necessary.

1 in 3 people who have the virus have no symptoms, so you could be spreading it without knowing it.

CORONAVIRUS: PUBLIC INFORMATION

There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other

Wash hands - keep washing your hands regularly



Cover face wear a face covering in enclosed spaces

Make space stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

For guidance on the new National Lockdown from 5th January 2021 please follow the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

If you have symptoms (high temperature, a new, continuous cough, loss of, or change to your sense of smell or taste) - get a test. Do not leave home for at least 10 days if your test result is positive.

If someone in your house has symptoms, stay at home until they have their test results. If they are positive you must stay at home for 14 days from the first day of symptoms.