

# BC14

Almighty God,  
Guide me each day that I may not use my time  
to consider and hesitate but be positive in my  
goals and pursue them. Grant that I may have the  
strength to hold each day precious and live it in  
your name. We call to mind those who we have  
lost and pray for their souls and keep them safe  
in your love.  
Amen.

## Message from Mr Hetherton, Senior Vice Principal Friday 6th November 2020

A year ago I wrote an introduction to our newsletter that talked of November being a month of remembrance and a time that we can give thanks to God our Father for all of our loved ones who have gone before us. One year on I cannot help but reflect on the past year and to consider where we stand today and the challenges that we continue to face in dealing with a global pandemic, that twelve months ago seemed a million miles away. For many of us, myself included, 2020 has been a year where we have had to come to terms with the loss of family members and close friends – people that have had a real impact and influence on our lives. Although November is a month where we remember the past, as difficult as this may be to consider, we should try to remember that the month of November also asks us to embrace the present, and to look forward to the future with a renewed sense of hope, optimism and faith.

Notwithstanding the national lockdown, life at Bishop Challoner remains busy with activities that are wide ranging in their appeal and a



reflection of the dynamic nature of our community. Today marks the deadline for the school's annual Shoebox collection with boxes being assembled and stacked as I write! This year our collection is in honour of Colm Smyth, a much loved and highly respected member of our support staff who sadly passed away earlier this year. Colm was a huge advocate of our Shoebox collection over many years of service at Bishop Challoner and we are both delighted and incredibly proud to honour his memory in continuing to support a cause very close to his heart. Rest in peace Colm.

Next week we have our virtual 6th Form Open Evening and we are very excited at the prospect of celebrating the successes of our 6th form both with our own Year 11 students and Year 11 students from other schools. Although very different to previous 6th Form Open Evenings, it promises to be a great success and I would like to thank the 6th form team for their tremendous work in organising the evening and for their flexibility in responding to the necessary changes this year. Just before

the half term break I was thrilled to witness some of our Year 7 students participate in our, socially distanced, Bishop's Got Talent event in the library. Acts ranged from piano playing to a celebration of Indian music. Had you been lucky enough to see it, you would have been hugely impressed by the range of talents on display and marvel at the confidence of our young people. It was a hugely uplifting experience to end what was a long half term and I would not only like to thank those Year 7 students involved, but also Mrs Choudhury, Ms Hughes and Mr Pegg for their work behind the scenes to make the event the success that it was.

During the summer, whilst travelling on what was an eerily quiet tube in London, I read a verse displayed on a wall in Covent Garden station. It was a piece that not only captured my attention, but also articulated many of the feelings I had then and continue to experience now. Time to be Slow was written by John O'Donoghue, an Irish author and priest. As an author he is best known for popularising Celtic spirituality.

*This is the time to be slow  
Lie low to the wall  
Until the bitter weather passes  
Try, as best as you can, not to let  
The wire brush of doubt  
Scrape from your heart  
All sense of yourself  
And your hesitant light  
If you remain generous,  
Time will come good;  
And you will find your feet  
Again on the pastures of promise,  
Where the air will be kind  
And blushed with beginning*

As we move into the second half of the autumn term, and a second national lockdown in six months, let us strive, as a community, to remain strong together, to accept the challenges that stand in front of us, but to also look forward to the better days that lie ahead. Hope, optimism and faith, words often associated with the month of November, will, I am sure allow us all to find our feet and to begin again.

## Book Clubs

During my drive home from work, I often listen in to a radio book club. I enjoy listening to the readers' thoughts and comments as they unravel and dissect the story. The participants talk about the fictional characters of the book, and how they relate to them, the unexpected twists and turns of the plot and their their views on the author's portrayals and intentions. The reviewers are intelligent and articulate and they mostly enthuse about the book. I find it interesting and inspiring.

Year 8 students who attend the after school Carnegie book club equally discuss and enthuse. They rhapsodise about book presentation, page colour, book content, storylines, characters, genre and anything else that interests them. It is so refreshing to witness the joy, connection and bonding that reading can bring to a group of individuals. If 'Lockdown' brings a change of routine and possibly a little more time for reading, discussing books with friends or family, can give enjoyment and bring connection. We surely all need that at this difficult time.



National Online Safety is a great platform and resource that strives to “empower teachers, school staff, parents and carers with the knowledge they need to keep children safe online”. As part of this, they produce free weekly guides aimed at parents and carers to inform them of recent updates and issues that have come into play. Recent updates include Among Us; League of Legends; Tellynym; and Amazon Alexa.



The entirety of their catalogue of guides can be found at the following link:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>

# Sports Updates

## Curriculum Changes

At the start of this academic year, amendments had to be made to the PE Curriculum in order to comply with National Governing Body guidance, guidance from the DfE and the School/PE Department risk assessment with regards to what sports and activities were suitable/safe for students to take part in. As a result of this, students took part in seven successful weeks of Badminton, Mini-Tennis, Table Tennis, Foot Rounders, Gymnastics and Fitness. The PE department have been extremely pleased with the attitude of students in KS3 and KS4 as they all showed excellent understanding, perseverance and maturity throughout the 7 weeks by working together to ensure that we could still enjoy PE lessons in a slightly new, adapted and safe environment.

Due to the guidance now changing, we are happy, confident and excited to welcome back more Invasion Games into our PE Curriculum for the new half term. Students in KS3 and KS4 will now take part in seven weeks of Football, Basketball, Handball, Tchoukball, Netball, Benchball and Dodgeball and will also now be able to start using our offsite facilities at the newly named ‘Irish Centre’! Due to restrictions within the guidance regarding some of these sports, we ask that all students show the same understanding, perseverance and maturity that was shown during the last half term to ensure that this half term of PE is just as successful as the last one.

## Extra-Curricular Clubs

In response to the announcement made by the Government with regards to the second lockdown, and in compliance with guidance from the DfE - before and after school clubs in PE will unfortunately no longer be running until the second lockdown ends. We appreciate that this news is disappointing, especially after so many students have been attending Extra-Curricular clubs, but we look forward to welcoming back students when the second lockdown ends. In readiness for the return of PE Extra-Curricular Clubs, included below is the PE Extra-Curricular timetable for Autumn 2. We encourage all students to look at this before the return of clubs, to see when you will be able to attend. All students will still be kept in year group bubbles, but we will be offering clubs that relate to the changes made to our PE Curriculum.

	AM- 7.45-8.25	PM- 3.20-4.15
Monday	<b>7RC</b> Miss Hunter & Miss Shirley	<b>9X</b> Mr Wilson & Miss Shirley
Tuesday	<b>7B</b> Miss Beall & Mr Malley	<b>8Y/ 10Y</b> Miss Ellis & Mr Moreira (Mr Noone cover)
Wednesday	<b>8X</b> Mr Wilson & Miss Smyllie	<b>7RC</b> Miss Hampson & Mr Malley <b>Boxing club- Mr Noone (Off site 3.30-5)</b>
Thursday	<b>7B</b> Mr Moreira & Miss Smyllie	<b>10X (sports hall only)</b> Mr Moon
Friday	<b>9Y (sports hall only)</b> Miss Beall (wk 2) or Miss Hunter (wk 1)	None

## Teaching School Update

Have you, a friend, or a relative ever thought about training to be a teacher? If you’d like to look into it, why not sign up for one of our free, online information sessions? As one of the largest School Direct Training providers in Birmingham, we offer training in many subjects with a range of local Universities. The next one is Wednesday 11th November, from 2-3pm. You will need to have a degree in a relevant subject, along with Maths and English GCSE Grade C or above. Primary and Secondary places are available to start in September 2021. Email us now at [teachingschool@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:teachingschool@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk) or have browse on our website - [www.bctsa.org](http://www.bctsa.org)

## B30 FOODBANK

# HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

### Urgent items needed:

- Tinned spaghetti
- Long life milk (blue)
- Jam
- Macaroni cheese
- Tinned tomatoes
- Long life fruit juice
- Tinned rice pudding
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Size 7 nappies

**Collecting between  
Monday 9th November  
and  
Friday 11th December 2020**

# Chaplaincy

In Chaplaincy, we are allowing students to pause for prayer and reflection in many ways. During the Month of November, we are called to pay particular devotion to the remembrance of the Holy Souls.

## All Souls & Saints

Prayers and light displays will take place from last weekend across the country. At Bishop Challoner, we join in solidarity in commemorating the lives of those who have gone before us. Our Forms are sharing the names of those whom they hold dear in their hearts and those names are displayed in a light display nearest the tabernacle in our chapel. Each week in November prayers will be had in memory.

Pope Francis reminds us all 'to be Saints' and in coming together for such moments, we can continue to live up to this call.

## November 11th- Remembrance Day

Our school continues to support the memorial of the moment when hostilities formally ended during World War 1. The memorial display, poppy's worn and moment of silence continue to mark such a momentous occasion. The Chaplaincy team invites all to partake in an extra moment of reflective prayer, for those who need it most now and then.

## Examinations of Conscience

With Advent around the corner, the opportunity for confession commences in preparation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. During November sessions on examining our conscience, reflecting on our choices and wishes for self-betterment are offered. Students will have the opportunity to pause for prayer and reflection about who they are, and the person God calls them to be. Our School Community Priest, Father Mario, will be offering confessions during the season of Advent.

## Friday, Nov 6th- Year 7 Retreat- Beginnings

On Friday 6th November. our Year 7's partook in a 'New Beginnings' reflective journey with their forms. The Chaplaincy team and Religious Studies department facilitated a mindful morning on personal growth and faithful strength bringing our community closer together. The retreat culminated with a liturgical service held virtually by our school community Priest Father Mario.

## Colm Smyth Shoe Box Appeal

We know that during this time there are people coping with bereavement and hardship amidst the coronavirus pandemic. We strive to provide support and joy to our brothers and sisters worldwide in the spirit of Pope Francis' encyclical Fratelli Tutti and in the arrival of hope and joy that springs eternal with the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Colm Smyth Shoebox appeal continues to bring joy to our community. This year, the shoebox appeal is in memory of Colm Smyth, his passion and joy for giving to others and how much he cared for this initiative and the school. "A true Irish gentleman who would stop and talk to friend and stranger, treating everyone as equal and would go out of his way for those in greater need. His infectious personality would lift the mood of any on the darkest day. A hardworking man, strong religious faith and in touch with reality."

The shoeboxes will be collected November 16th. Our sincerest gratitude to all for giving their very best to support such a wonderful act of social outreach. Matthew 25:40.

## Virtual Youth Group

We are relaunching Youth Group! This will occur virtually and will be every Wednesday from November 11th from 6:30 pm-7:10 pm. It will be an interactive session with games and times of reflection and pause for prayer. Students can register interest by emailing: [staff-chaplains@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:staff-chaplains@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk).

# Sixth Form

## Thank You

A big thank you to our students for their support of the new Common Room arrangements.

## Opportunities

There are some excellent opportunities coming up for year 12 and 13s from universities and medical schools. It is important that you have a really good look at each issue the opportunities bulletin.

## Virtual Open Evening

We look forward to welcoming prospective students to our Virtual Open Evening, which goes live at 6pm on Wednesday 11th November.

## Sixth Form Opportunities Bulletin

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

<https://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/sixth-form/enrichment/sixth-form-opportunities> (Every week)

<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/welcome/catholic-college/careers/year-11> (Every fortnight)

# Upcoming Events

Anti-bullying Week  
Monday 9th November

Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening  
Wednesday 11th November, 6pm

Year 11 PSHE Day  
Friday 13th November

Apprenticeships Fair (Y11/12/13)  
Wednesday 18th November

Year 11 French Speaking Mocks  
Wednesday 18th November-  
Thursday 19th November

## Attendance

Year 7 - 96%

Year 8 - 94%

Year 9 - 94%

Year 10 - 95%

Year 11 - 94%

Whole School - 94%

# Advertise with us...

## Newsletter sponsorship

If you were to kindly sponsor us, we will make sure that we advertise your business in our 3 termly newsletters at Christmas, Easter and Summer for a total of £150.

Use promo code (BC14) and we will put your advert for FREE in our fortnightly newsletter BC14 as a thank you for supporting our school.

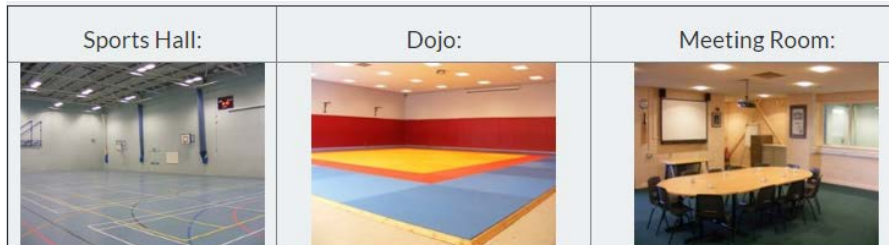
We only require your advert to be sent by email to us and we will do the rest.

We gladly accept BACS payment or Cheque depending on which is convenient for you and we will issue a receipt along with your copy of our Newsletter.

**Our Christmas newsletter deadline is Friday 4th December 2020.**

Please email Gerald Noone:- [g.noone@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:g.noone@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk)  
Tel:- 0121 4444161.

**Venue Hire For more information call: 0121 441 6103**



## 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 Restrictions from 5th November 2020 please follow the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

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.

## Absence Reporting and Covid-19

Please ensure you contact school if your son/daughter is not well and cannot attend. Calls should be made each day they are absent.

If your son/daughter is required to self isolate in line with government guidance work will only be made available via Class Charts when the school is informed. Please keep school informed of any progress regarding testing.

**If your son/daughter's is confirmed positive please inform the school immediately. ([results@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:results@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk))**

Don't take our word for it - check out the website stats and see the exposure your advert will receive. (figures quoted 1st Feb - 10th March 2019.)

- 46,167 page views to our website in one month!
- 2,330 actual views on newsletters!
- 11,500 tweet impressions

## School Fund and Match Fund

Please visit the school website for more information on School Fund contributions and Match Fund through your employer.

## Easy Fundraising

Our extra curricular and enrichment programme enriches the lives of young people in our school and gives them the opportunities to fulfil their full potential. Our programme runs 40 clubs per week ranging from book club to gymnastics.

Join easyfundraising and you can collect free donations for us every time you buy something online.

## Billboard Advertising

No need to pay the High Street prices for billboard advertising.

You could advertise to 2000 people a day at Bishop Challoner for a fraction of the price.

We are delighted to offer advertising space in our community areas, including our sports hall, function room and gym.

This opportunity is available for £40 per month. Please contact Laura on 0121 441 6103 or email:

[sportscentre@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:sportscentre@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk)

