

BC NEWS



Dear Parent/Carer,

This week marks the end of a very successful autumn term for Bishop Challoner Catholic College. Our school community has achieved so much these past few months against the backdrop of the ongoing pandemic. Every day our mission statement is lived out across the school with multiple examples of our students fulfilling their potential in their academic, moral, spiritual and personal pursuits.

Remembrance has been a theme that has united our school community this term. Our Remembrance event on November 11th to commemorate "The Fallen" was both deeply moving and extremely poignant. A series of art showcases framed the evening. Hundreds of visitors attended the event, including many former students and staff, as well as members of the local community. It is hard to put into words how moving each instalment was. Instalments included: a collection of items from those that have gone before us; a live extract from War Horse performed by our students; spoken word performances in the library; a rendition of the Last Post on the Tuba; a musical showcase of war time classics; a showcase of clothing and other historical items. The event was so carefully and thoughtfully crafted with input from a huge number of students, staff and department areas. We continue to remember in our thoughts and prayers those members of our school community that have gone before us.

In October, we received our Section 8 Ofsted inspection. We are delighted with the report and it can be viewed via the school website. This was a wonderful celebration of the work of the school. Congratulations to all students and staff and sincere thanks to our parents and carers for their ongoing support. I also congratulate Mr McGurran for leading John Henry Newman Catholic College, the school we are privileged to sponsor, through their own highly successful Ofsted inspection in November.

Social outreach remains at the heart of our work as a Catholic school and is a key facet of our "Year of Giving". We have continued to collect for the local foodbank, made significant contributions to St Chad's Sanctuary, Fr Mario's community in India and, at the end of term, a number of staff volunteered at SIFA Fireside cooking and preparing meals for the homeless.

This year we have taken a break from our usual Shoebox collection and instead have been working with the Birmingham Irish Association to purchase toys to give out to those in need within our community. Working in partnership with a number of our feeder primary schools, we have collected a huge number of gifts to give out. On November 26th Irish TV visited the school to film staff and students and we put on a special, Irish-themed, Bishops Got Talent event. Once again, our collection is dedicated to the memory of Colm Smyth a former member of staff. This humble charitable giving shows the true power of what a strong family of Catholic schools can do when they unite together to serve the Common Good.

Our examination groups have been working exceptionally hard this term. Year 11 have just completed their mock examinations and Year 13 will begin their mocks in the New Year. We continue to offer study support sessions to both year groups. All being well with COVID, we look forward to public examinations returning in the summer.

Our basic-needs new build continues and you can now see significant progress with the brickwork at the front of the school. The internal work is all but finished. The canteen has been extended and now gives an excellent experience for our students. Both the ground floor and upper floor toilets are complete. The large staircase by the art rooms has now been removed to open out the corridor. We have a new SEND office and work on the link bridge is nearly complete. This will connect the maths block with the upper corridor, improving circulation around the school.

At the end of term, we will be saying farewell to Mrs Moreton who has provided superb cover to our Technology department over the past few years and to Mrs Tahir who has been part of our Geography team for the past five years. We wish them both well.

Finally, and most importantly, our young people have been, once again, absolutely magnificent across the course of this term. For the first time in a couple of years, the school feels "back to normal". Our Year 11 and Sixth Form have been exceptional role models to our younger students and there is a great atmosphere around the school. The library is open to all once again, our clubs are thriving, fixtures have returned and trips have resumed; long may it continue.

I hope you enjoy reading our Christmas newsletter and we look forward with great hope and joy to 2022.

Wishing you and your families a very happy and Holy Christmas,

Dr J Coughlan
Principal





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Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Catholic Life

'The Advent wreath, with the progressive lighting of its four candles, Sunday after Sunday, until the Solemnity of Christmas, is a recollection of the various stages of salvation history prior to Christ's coming, and a symbol of the prophetic light gradually illuminating the long night prior to the rising of the Sun of justice.'

(See: Malachi 3:20; Luke 1:78).¹ Directory on Popular Piety & the Liturgy N.98

Advent

The wreath can be the focal point in the home during the journey of Advent; the lighting of the candles (representing Hope, Peace, Joy & Love) being part of the family meal, prayerful reflection and conversations throughout Advent-tide.

In the season of Advent we are encouraged to reflect upon and shine through the qualities of hope, peace, joy and love as we await the blessed arrival of our Lord and saviour.

Students were invited to return to the meaning of advent culminating with an examination of conscience and the opportunity to have the sacrament of reconciliation. Father Kurapati was present in the last week of term for reconciliation and an Advent Mass, held at St. Dunstan's Church.

St Chad's Sanctuary

Our second donation was delivered to St. Chad's this term. We were able to provide over 30 boxes of adult male clothing/accessories. Our Chaplaincy team were present to live out our faith and be a part of His living love on earth.



In our year of Giving, Bishop Challoner has been steadfast in our dedication to social outreach.

Food Bank

Our community has continued to demonstrate solidarity in its unwavering support for families. Our donations for the foodbank continue to grow.

Staff are also gathering donations for Christmas meal items. The Parable of the Sheep & Goats reminds us 'for when I was hungry you fed me'; as disciples we continue to try and live out our values.

Sacred Spaces

Our students have been engaging in form time to create a space where reflection, prayer and mindfulness about our vocation, mission and ethos can take place. Our form Chaplaincy Champions have been leading in transforming an area in their form room and planning on using it reverently in our daily prayers.

Emmaus

As we continue to nourish our faith, much like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, our working group has continued to meet to share in our faith and celebrate our faith in action throughout the school community.

Christmas Toy Appeal

We were delighted to have representatives from the Birmingham Irish Association present this past week. They were grateful for our enthusiasm in supporting local families. Our Year 7 School Council enjoyed being able to help select the toys that children would be opening.

Sifa Fireside

Bishop Challoner Staff have volunteered to support SIFA Fireside in Birmingham this advent-tide. Our volunteers will be helping provide hot meals for the homeless and those in greater need. During the last week of term, staff will be giving their time and support in the preparation of the donations of warm meals.

Chaplaincy Champions

Our Chaplaincy team has been partaking in several whole school initiatives. In each of our forms, our Champions have been envisioning, planning and developing sacred spaces, prayer and reflection.

Additionally, our Champions are teaming up with the Eco-warriors to live more simply as we live our Genesis 2:15. Together this December we are planting trees.

Please take a look at our Chaplaincy page @BCChaplaincy to keep up to date with the Catholic Life of the school.

Religious Studies

In Religious Studies, during the season of Advent (alongside our preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation) our Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students will participate in a Nativity focus and prayers in conjunction with the anticipated arrival of our Lord and Saviour.

Our studies this term include:

Year 7- Why the Universe Exists

An exploration of our origins and meanings. A reflection on our purpose and analysis on different perspectives on the creation and existence of the universe.

Year 8- Why do Christians Suffer

A recognition of the impact all suffering has on mankind with a reflection on the suffering shared by disciples.

Year 9- What is the Value of Life

Consideration of when life begins, its properties and purpose. Pupils consider how life should be treated in all respects, whilst examining the potential ramifications on poor treatment. Rooted in Imago dei and building from God's gift of love and life for us all.

Year 10- Component 1: Origins & Meanings

In our GCSE's, Year 10 have completed their first assessment to review our comprehension and analysis skills on how life & the world were created, from different perspectives. Our unit continues to explore the purpose and meaning for mankind, with critical analysis on the impact different viewpoints have.

Year 11- Component 2: Life & Death

Year 11 are currently preparing for an assessment. They are encouraged to see the wider picture that encompasses impacts on beliefs and teachings.

In their current unit we continue to explore the value of life, rooted in its sanctity and its treatment (including, but not limited to, Catholic Social Teaching and CAFOD). As well as analysing the consideration of judgement as a part of the afterlife and its influence on behaviour now (Eschatology).

Philosophy, Ethics and Christianity

In A-Level our pupils continue to explore, in detail, theories that scholars have established on the bigger questions of life; who we are, why we are here and how we can behave. Year 13 students will be completing mock examinations in the new year.

Science

Curriculum

Since September, students have been working their way through the curriculum and it has been great to see the Science department back to normal with COVID restrictions only having a minimal impact on the day-to-day teaching.

This term, Year 7 students have been taught the following topics:

- Cells, tissues, organs and systems
- Mixtures and separation
- Energy.

Year 8 students have studied the following:

- Ecosystems
- Atoms, elements and molecules
- Sound

Year 9 students have been taught the following:

- Breathing and respiration
- Unicellular organisms
- Chemical reactivity
- Rocks and their uses
- Energy transfers
- Earth and space
- Static electricity and electromagnets

Both Year 10 and 11 students have been continuing through their GCSEs, whether that is Combined Science or the three Separate Sciences. Year 12 have made a very encouraging start to their A Level courses.

The Science page on the Bishop Challoner website has been updated. It now enables all key stage 3 students and parents/carers to have access to summary sheets for each of the topics taught. These sheets are a great help when revising for tests and now can be accessed remotely by all.

Y13 Slapton Sands Field Trip

During September, Miss Mayor took Year 13 Biology students to Slapton Ley Field Centre. The students stayed for three days in South Devon, carrying out a range of field techniques and studies. The first day they visited East Prawle, where they carried out rock pool investigations followed by examining the zones on the beach. The students demonstrated excellent practical and team building skills throughout the duration.

The following day, they completed a succession practical to investigate how different plant species changed from the shoreline to the shingle ridge and beyond. During the evening, they investigated the local bats; the students were able to use their bat



detectors to locate the bats and investigate their behaviour.

On the final day, the students carried out their own investigation into how abiotic factors changed on the Slapton Shingle Ridge. Here, the students were able to use a range of probes and metres to measure how abiotic factors changed.

The students further developed their practical skills and were able to complete many of their practical assessments while in Slapton. The Year 13s were excellent in their approach and attitude throughout the trip. The students impressed the Slapton Sands staff and excelled in every activity they took part in.

They were a pleasure to take on the trip and represented the school as excellent role models. Well done Year 13 Biologists!



Open Evening

On Wednesday 22nd September it was good to be back to normal and be able to show perspective pupils around the Science Department. Demonstrations by pupils and staff proved to be being very popular with all our visitors. Years 7-9 pupils showed visitors how to carry out flame and pH tests; acid and alkali reactions. Electric circuits and microscopes were also available for people to have a go at using. Year 10,12 and 13 pupils were on hand to demonstrate some of the GCSE and A Level practicals covered in their courses. On the 10th November, the Sixth Form Open Evening was also a big success and a great advertisement to the public to show the excellent A level provision at Bishop Challoner.



Science Club

We have been really happy in the science department to welcome Year 7 pupils back to science club in the autumn term. This year's science club attendees are a conscientious and enthusiastic bunch, who have participated in practical investigations and activities as curious young scientists. Since September, Year 7 have extracted DNA from strawberry tissue and made their own copper sulfate crystals using Bunsen burners. In the lead up to Christmas pupils carried out seasonal experiments in science club, including making sparklers and a Chemis-tree!



Revision guides

A reminder that pupils can buy revision guides on Schoolcomms or directly from Mrs Shore any time throughout the year. Once paid for, books need to be collected from Mrs Shore's office.

Staff

During half term, Miss Start got married and now is Mrs Coley, big congratulations from everyone.

We are also looking forward to welcoming back Miss Ghoris in January after her maternity leave.

So, it has been another busy term but well worth it to see all pupils back in school, fully embracing opportunities available to them.



Maths

Maths Trips

Mr Bloxidge took 4 Year 12 students out on a “Maths Inspiration” event on Friday 19th November. It was held at The Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham. The event was excellent and engaging; the students listened to a variety of lectures led by mathematicians, statisticians and musicians!

They heard from the first person in the world to know that there was a viable covid vaccine, and a particular highlight was the last speaker, Ben Sparks. He did a presentation based on Sting’s song “The Shape of My Heart”; as Sting sang about a gambler finding beauty in the “hidden laws” of probability that govern poker. The speaker proceeded to win £1 off a member of the audience! Who knew that there was so much maths in a classic Sting song?



Senior Maths Challenge

Our Year 12 and 13 A-Level mathematicians undertook the “Senior Maths Challenge” at the beginning of November. It was sat online, with students using laptops to participate. The challenge involved multiple-choice questions, with five possible answers. The possible answers include common misconceptions. It was a very challenging paper!

Particular congratulations to: Mathew J U, who progressed onto the next round of the competition. Well done also to the following students who got silver certificates: Tom C, Phoebe H, Emily P, Adam B, Owen F, Oliver C and Sam B. Well done to the following students who got bronze certificates: Anoop K, Anne-Mary J U, Ahmet G, Shawn A, Julia K, Joseph McC, Victor B, Daanyaal Z, Dillon R, Lauren R-B, Brandon K, Sam R, Isabella B, Joseph B, William R, Dan C, Malachy M-T, Simon E, Molly J, Daniel G, Ronan P, Vania A, Maddie Mck, Harley N and Chris W.



Paris

We have a Maths trip planned for Tuesday 28th June – Friday 1st July 2022, for Year 8 and Year 9 students. We will visit Paris for four days. This includes a visit to Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, which is the largest Science museum in Europe and has a section devoted to mathematics. There are also opportunities for students to experience some of the cultural aspects of France, including a tour of Paris, a River Seine cruise and the opportunity to climb Montparnasse Tower. There is also a scheduled visit to Disneyland, Paris. This has been a hugely popular trip in the past, and this year was no different. The trip numbers have had to be extended due to popular demand!

Primary Outreach

We have held one Primary Enrichment maths session in 2021. Nine Tolkien cluster schools sent three Year 6 pupils for this event. This was supported by our Year 7 students helping on the day. Brilliant attendance, and brilliant all around!



Christmaths

Bishop Challoner’s annual Christmaths event took place on Thursday 9th December, led by our Year 9 Maths Ambassadors. The children, all from Y5, will take part in a day of Christmas themed maths activities all designed and delivered by our Year 9 Maths Ambassadors and supported by Year 7 students. Year 9 have been creating exciting games such as fraction/decimal/percentage UNO.



Mince Pies

The Christmas family are very particular about mince pies. At every meal over the holiday season all the Christmases eat some mince pies.

Father Christmas always eats more mince pies than Mother Christmas but never eats more than half the mince pies.

Mother Christmas always eats the same number of mince pies as both Christmas children together and the two Christmas children always eat the same number of mince pies as each other.

At their last meal they ate 23 mince pies altogether.

How many mince pies did Father Christmas eat?

English

Remembrance Service

On the 11th November, as part of the school's remembrance and reflection event, we were lucky enough to be joined by a published spoken word poet, Leah Atherton, who read her fantastic poetry alongside one of our very talented student poets, AJ F. AJ read poems with themes of remembrance, war, identity, belonging and race. The audience were thoroughly impressed by her mature and moving performances which made up the last 'station' on the remembrance trail.

Unknown

*Not even a name on those walls,
But I fought in the world war,
Dragged from my home country to fight for their cause,
Pushed me around as if I had strings,
Like I were the puppet and them the master,
Does that sound like a familiar thing?*

*With no training and old gear we were let loose on the front,
And of the litter, I was the runt.
Their shouts and cheers that war was great,*

*Until they appeared and fell where they lay...
I say they met their fate.*

Four. *The years we spent away from home.*

Three. *Over three thousand recruited from France alone.*

Two. *Two hundred thousand fell in rows.*

One. *Over one hundred years ago.*

Zero. *The number of names on those walls.*

*We were forced to fight for their country,
And they watched us fall.*

AJ F, Year 11



Creative Writing Club

Remembrance Evening is one of those events where we, as a school, really shine. Our commitment to the community and our year of service is writ large throughout the myriad events and activities that take place. A particular highlight - and a first this year - was the involvement of Student Writes, the creative writing club. For three weeks we focused and wrote on the theme of memory. Alongside this, we selected some particularly poignant poetry from famous poets ranging from WW1 to the modern day. There were some truly incredible submissions, and the night of the performances was a huge success. We drew large crowds, lots of applause and many tears. An unforgettable experience for all involved.

Fingers on the Buzzer!

Our resident quiz fan, Mr Robinson, was back on the television last month, trying to cement his position as Bishop Challoner's most famous teacher. As a result of currently undertaking a part-time Master's degree at the University of Birmingham, he was eligible to represent their team on the perennially-popular BBC2 quiz show University Challenge. It is safe to say that his quizzing reputation is safe, after he and his Birmingham teammates walloped the University of Sussex by 245 points to a meagre 10.



Mr Robinson contributed a large number of those points, answering more 'starter' questions correctly than any of the other seven contestants, including questions on, amongst other things, the Andes, the Hundred Years' War, Virginia Woolf, the Carnival of the Animals and the Biblical book of Joshua. To see how he and his teammates fare in the Second Round of the programme, tune into BBC2 at 8.30 on December 13th; the competition is sure to be rather tougher next time round!

Book Fair/Library Lessons

Last week was the annual Scholastic Book Fair, hosted by the Bishop Challoner school library. Reading for pleasure is transformative for academic progress and wellbeing and the pop-up book shop proved valuable in enabling our students to peruse and purchase books from a wide assortment of titles. During the course of the week, each KS3 English class visited the library for 15 minutes at the end of a lesson to explore the Book Fair. By the end of the week, £271 had been spent on different books, a commission from which will go directly to the Bishop Challoner school library from Scholastic.

On a broader scale, this academic year has also marked the start of fortnightly library lessons for KS3 English classes. The space itself affords valuable opportunities for group work, while immediate access to a wealth of texts has proved beneficial when searching for inspiration to write creatively. Though we have only recently started our library lessons, they have quickly become a regular highlight for teachers and students alike.

Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils Programme

This term, we have launched our Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils Programme in conjunction with Cheltenham Festivals. A group of 15 teachers from a range of subjects have agreed to be part of the programme. The very latest Young Adult fiction has been judged by a panel of experts at Cheltenham Festivals and selected for us to read and review across the year. In our first meeting last week, we launched our book for this term which is a novel by Alex Wheatle called Cane Warriors which would be suitable for Year 9 and above.

The novel, set in Jamaica in 1760, is based on historical fact. Told through the perspective of Moa, a 14 year old who has grown up working on plantations as a slave, this gripping novel not only highlights the importance of this history but also the challenges of a 14 year old trying to make sense of the world around him. The novel sees him becoming embroiled with the Easter Slavery rebellion, led by the charismatic leader, Tacky. Tacky and his followers started the revolt that saw numerous plantations being overthrown and burnt to the ground with enslaved persons being set free.

The Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils group are all reading along with other staff who are reading it independently. We are promoting it in Year 9 so students will also get the opportunity to read the novel. On the 7th December, the Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils Group will meet to review the book and share our thoughts with Cheltenham Festivals and the wider network of schools across the country getting involved with this programme. At this meeting, the second book will be revealed to the group to read. The aim of this programme is to promote reading for pleasure across the school but also to allow us to tap into the very latest, high quality young adult fiction, in order to engage our students.

PSHE

Curriculum

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum continues to promote Personal Development throughout all year groups. As Year 7 draw to a conclusion on their Health project, they have all explored how we can adapt our lifestyles to incorporate healthier choices. The project has examined diet, wellbeing, fitness, sleep and hygiene; students have created personal health plans that they have been trying to live out on a day to day basis! We are due to start our Citizenship project in the New Year, where students learn about the imperative work of the United Nations and develop an understanding of our Human Rights. Year 8 have been learning about The Justice System, exploring Law and Order in the UK.

They have ascertained knowledge on the process of what happens if someone breaks the law, understand the process of arrest, what happens in court and have taken part in a mock trial. Finally, Year 9 are taking part in our preventative curriculum, looking at the detrimental effects of alcohol, drugs, smoking and vaping. Students have acquired knowledge on key terms, NHS guidelines and the difference between prescription and illegal drugs. PSHE lessons continue to signpost support both inside and outside of school, in all lessons.

My Personalised Healthy Life Plan

What to focus on	What to do to reach it	My goal	How to get there

What is appropriate in my plan...
NOT OK = "I'm not happy with my stomach so I am going to eat just two meals a day" - this is negative self image

You don't need to show fellow students your personal plan - this is for you only and you should only share it if you feel comfortable to.

You will have 2 weeks to achieve your aims and will need to refer back to this in 2 weeks.

You will be required to show me your sheet on the way out today; you must put it in your bag and take it home to complete your plan.



Assemblies & Form Tutors

The Assembly and Form Time programme continues to run successfully for all year groups at Bishop Challoner. It has been wonderful to welcome students back for a weekly, face to face assembly throughout the most part of the Autumn term. A particular highlight from this term was the 'Green Jobs' presentation which gave students a window into what type of careers they may wish to consider, promoting our COP 26 mission to cap the rising temperatures.

Form Resources continue to be rolled out weekly, complementing our PSHE curriculum, with a recorded presentation. These follow a varied programme, a particular highlight was last November's Remembrance presentation. This focused on the atrocities of World War one and two, but also incorporated work from our wonderful Remembrance event that we held last month, making it even more personal for our students. The Form Time resources not only cover aspects of Spiritual Life and Cultural Literacy, but they form a part of our preventative and reactive curriculum. An example of this was October's County Line Awareness week, where students all had a custom made presentation that provided them with essential knowledge for their own personal safety.

Careers Assembly: Thinking about Green Careers



Careers SMART
 Bishop Challoner Catholic College



See the big picture

Learning outcome: Exploring and responding to the relationship between career and the environment

Year 11 Health Day

Just before the October half term, Year 11 were all involved in a drop day down day that focused on important aspects of their Personal Development. We welcomed Jean Nutt from Soroptimist International to kick start the day with her presentation 'Loves me, Loves me not' which talked about teenage relationships and harassment. The rest of the day looked at Money Matters, Drugs and Alcohol Awareness, Coping with exam stress/ revision and finally, Interview Techniques.

All of the workshops were a huge success and feedback from the Year 11s was extremely positive; in particular students found the Money Matters session that they undertook with their Math's teachers to be the most useful of the day. We have also welcomed Ray Douglas to Bishop Challoner this term, from the organization 'Prevent', to talk to our Year 11s and Year 10s with his inspiring presentation 'Minus Violence'. Ray was unable to join us for our Health Day, but his talks this month were powerful and left our students empowered to say 'no' to crime and take personal responsibility.

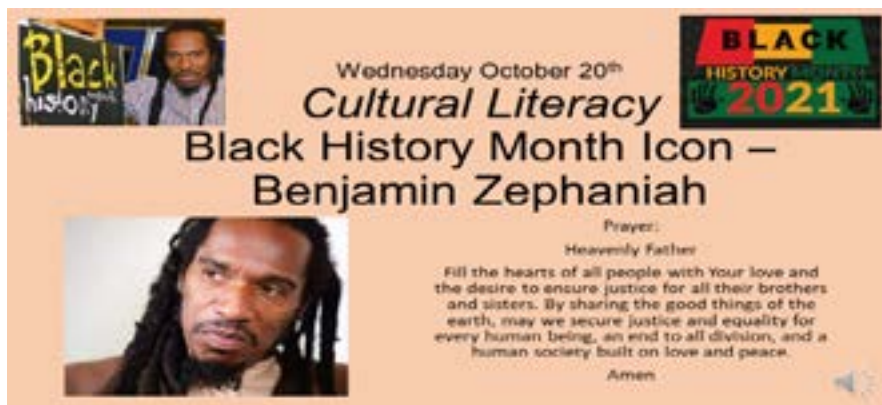
Student Voice

School Council has had the opportunity to meet in both its Year Council and Whole School Council contexts this term. Heads of Year from 7 all the way through to 13 joined together with representatives from each form group to discuss an agenda around school safety and the Year of Giving. It was inspiring to collate together the minutes from all of these meetings and put forward the student voice for our Whole School meeting with Dr Coughlan. Important issues were brought forward and inspiring ideas for our whole School Year of Giving.

Students have also been invited to enter a whole school competition for 'My Voice'. Inspired by the work of the afore mentioned Ray Douglas, the completion closes on December 11th and a winner announced in the last week of term. Students were encouraged to consider aspects of safety in society and create a response as either a piece of art work, poster, poem or song. There has been a great response to the competition and students have so far created work that talks about beating bullying, organized crime and preserving the environment.

Anti-Bullying Week and Black History Month

Black History Month was celebrated in October at Bishop Challoner through an amazing Assembly, within departments and also during Form Time. Whist the Assembly focused on the history behind this celebration and highlighted key Black figures in society and celebrated equality, the Form Resource focused on some of our local cultural capital. Celebrating the work of Handsworth's own Benjamin Zephaniah, we continued with the theme from the previous week's 'Green Future' and listened to a recording of him performing his poem about the future of our planet. This resource was wonderful for the students, as they could identify with the poet's heritage and how he made his political mark in their home city.



Continuing from our Black History celebration, November also saw Bishop Challoner raising awareness of Anti-Bullying Week. All students had an Assembly that introduced this year's theme of 'One Kind Word' encouraging us to spread kindness and create a chain reaction. We joined in with National 'Odd Socks Day' on Monday 15th November, where students and staff alike wore odd socks to promote the fact that we are all different and we celebrate our uniqueness! It was great to see students (and staff) from all year groups joining in and raising the profile of Anti-Bullying week. Within PSHE lessons, students created 'kindness' affirmations for all their class mates and the theme continued in the Form Resource which looked at the detrimental effects of bullying and what we do at Bishop Challoner to stop it. By promoting kindness across our community we look to change the outlook of everyone!



Breakfast with the Principal

Heads of Year nominated two students from each year group to attend a 'Breakfast with the Principal' in November. Their nominations varied from making a really positive start to the new academic year, to the fact that they contribute greatly to school charity work. Students enjoyed sitting with Dr Coughlan for an informal breakfast in the library, to celebrate their success on a wonderful term!



Geography

Year 7

As an introduction to Geography, Year 7 began the term with a newly designed unit of work called Birmingham and the United Kingdom. This unit of work integrates an introduction to Geographical skills such as grid references, compass direction and scale whilst also developing a sense of place for the country in which we live. The Year 7 Geographers enjoyed using maps of the local area to demonstrate the skills they have developed and engaged in paired and group competitions. Students have explored important geographical concepts such as river systems, coastal erosion, migration and glaciation.

The unit of work enables the students to demonstrate their knowledge in a range of ways including creative writing, describing and explaining patterns and group debate. Year 7 have also had an opportunity to 'become the teacher' using a flipped learning approach with the outcome of them teaching each other about waterfall formation. After half term, Year 7 will be moving on to investigate the global superpower and the world's fastest growing country, China. Students will be exploring China's rapidly changing human environments and also learning about China's rich physical environments. This place of study has proven to be thoroughly engaging for the students and sparks curiosity and discussion.



Year 8

Year 8 will shortly have completed the first country study of Russia. Throughout the term they have studied the vast diversity in the physical



landscape of the country and have used this to explain patterns in population density. They have also demonstrated their ability to evaluate topical issues such as pollution through extended writing as well as participating in class debates over Russia extracting oil in the Arctic. Subsequently, Year 8 will be moving on to explore the fascinating Newly Emerging Economy, Brazil. From learning about the Brazil's amazing physical features like the Amazon River and rainforest, to analysing why people are moving from rural areas to major cities such as Rio de Janeiro, the Brazil topic of work is always a popular choice with our students. Students will also be shortly learning about the impacts of Brazil hosting the Olympic Games, and consider the many social, economic and environmental influences that events like these may bring to a nation.



Year 9

Year 9 students are currently learning about the world's leading superpower the United States of America. Students have been investigating a range of Geographical concepts throughout the unit of work including Physical factors such as the formation of the Rocky Mountains, the risk of volcanic activity in Yellowstone National Park and the formation of hurricanes. They have also investigated the USA's interesting and continually changing human environments, from mega cities like New York to urban regeneration in areas like Detroit. This unit has really helped develop students' Geographical understanding of a variety of key concepts and has enabled them to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding in a range of ways such as a report style writing, raps and poems, letter writing and extending Point Evidence Explain Paragraphs.



A Level Geography/Biology Trip to Slapton Sands

Last half term some of our A Level Geography students joined the Biology department on a trip to the very picturesque Slapton Sands in Devon. Students learnt about the formation of this coastal landscape and practised hugely beneficial fieldwork and data collection skills



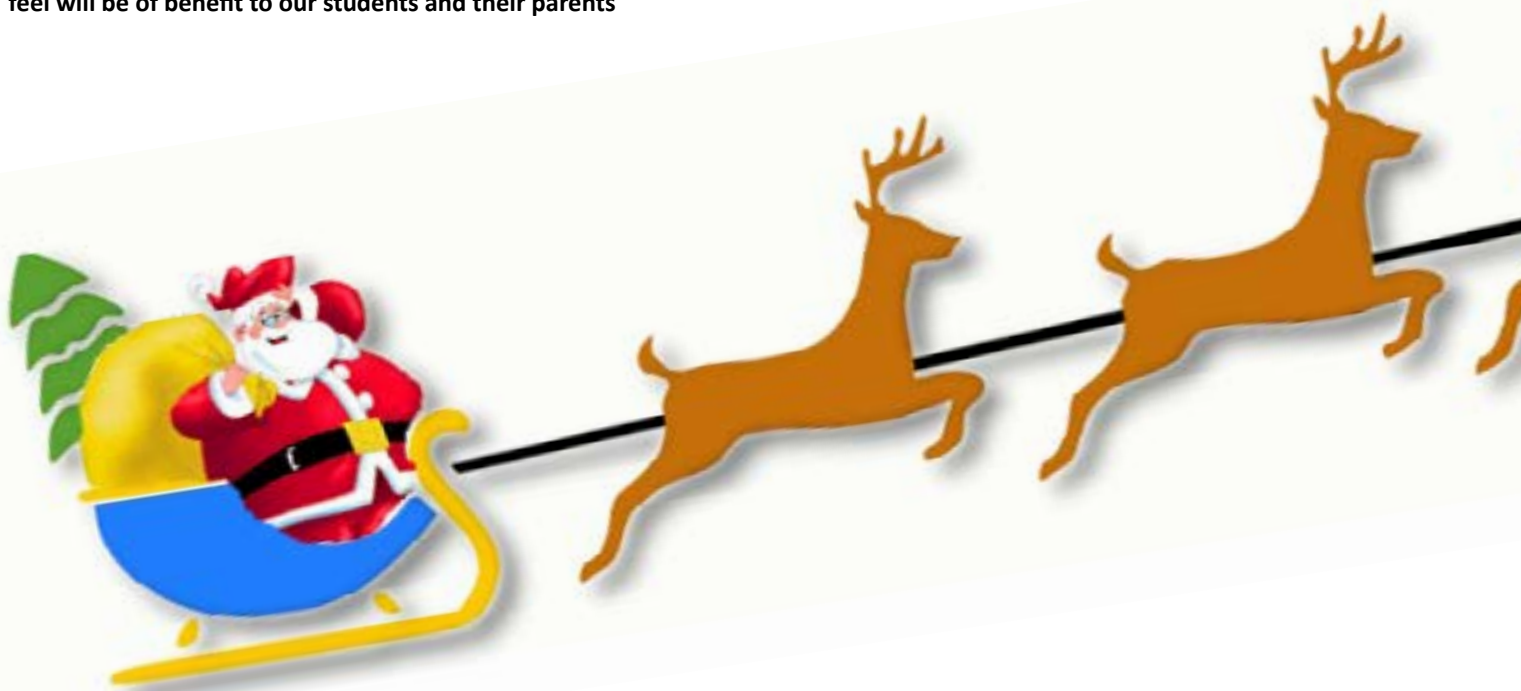
GCSE Geography Trip to Carding Mill Valley

Having missed out last year on the Iceland trip and normal fieldwork opportunities that are such important aspects of the Geography curriculum we felt it was really important that Year 11 students should have the opportunity this year to carry out some external fieldwork. In October we took students to the National Trust's Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire to investigate how the River Ashbrook changes along its cross profile.



Twitter:

Please follow us on [@BCChallonerGeogDept](https://twitter.com/BCChallonerGeogDept). Here we will be sharing updates on the department and any relevant posts that we feel will be of benefit to our students and their parents



History

A Christmas Story from the Past...

Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's consort, is usually credited with having introduced the Christmas tree into England in 1840. However, the honour of establishing this tradition in the United Kingdom rightfully belongs to 'good Queen Charlotte', the German wife of George III, who set up the first known English tree at Queen's Lodge, Windsor, in December, 1800. Legend has it that Martin Luther, the religious reformer, invented the Christmas tree. One winter's night in 1536, so the story goes, Luther was walking through a pine forest near his home in Wittenberg when he suddenly looked up and saw thousands of stars glinting jewel-like among the branches of the trees. This wondrous sight inspired him to set up a candle-lit fir tree in his house that Christmas to remind his children of the starry heavens from whence their Saviour came.

When young Charlotte, in 1761, came over to England to marry King George, she brought with her many of the customs of setting up a yew branch in the house at Christmas. But at the English Court the Queen transformed the essentially private yew-branch ritual of her homeland into a more public celebration that could be enjoyed by her family, their friends and all the members of the Royal Household.

Queen Charlotte placed her yew branch not in some poky little parlour, but in one of the largest rooms at Kew Palace or Windsor Castle. Assisted by her ladies-in-waiting, she herself dressed the branch. And when all the wax tapers had been lit, the whole Court gathered round and sang carols. The festivity ended with a distribution of gifts from the branch, which included such items as clothes, jewels, plate, toys and sweets.

In 1800, when the first 'real' English Christmas tree appeared at court.

That year Queen Charlotte planned to hold a large Christmas party for the children of all the principal families in Windsor. And casting about in her mind for a special treat to give the youngsters, she suddenly decided that instead of the customary yew branch, she would put up an entire yew tree, cover it with baubles and fruit, load it with presents and stand it in the middle of the drawing-room floor at Queen's Lodge.

By the time Queen Charlotte died in 1818, the Christmas-tree tradition was firmly established in society, and it continued to flourish throughout the 1820s and 30s.



Black History Month

In October, Black History Month is celebrated across the world. Bishop Challoner History Department marked this by asking Key Stage 3 students to present a piece of work about artefacts of African or Caribbean heritage. Dr Coughlan has since judged the entries – congratulations to our winners who will receive prizes in due course! Here are some examples of just a selection of the impressive pieces submitted.



Year 7

From joining us in September, our Year 7 students have settled in to life at Challoner remarkably well. In history lessons, they have been making a study of early settlers to Britain and exploring how historians do the hugely important job of studying the past. Having been introduced to some important historical skills and concepts, they have embarked more recently on an exploration of Norman England, looking first of all at the situation in the country just prior to the Norman invasion and finding out about the contest for the throne brought about by the death of Edward the Confessor.

They then moved on to look in depth at the Battle of Hastings, one of the most significant events in the whole of English history, and have recently completed their first key piece of assessed work in response to the question 'Why did the Normans win the Battle of Hastings?' We have since moved on to looking at William's great-great grandson – Henry II and the notorious murder of Thomas Becket.

KS4 & KS5

Year 10 have made a really positive start to their GCSE studies. The cohort have shown good understanding of complex concepts through their assessed work. Students have been learning about Hitler's rise to power and how he consolidated his power from chancellor to dictator. To support Year 10 with the extra workload GCSE history requires, the department have begun to run a drop-in session after school. We are pleased with the initiative many of our students have shown by attending these drop-ins.

Year 11 continue to rise to the challenge of GCSE. They have been preparing for their mock examinations with the purchase of revision guides and they have really embraced the most recent topic: Crime and Punishment through time. Overall, they have engaged brilliantly with this topic, and it is evident they are finding the change of content interesting.

Our KS5 students are showing real promise. Year 13 have been working hard on their independent studies, with topics ranging from the European witch-craze to the fall of Tsardom in Russia. We are also really pleased with our Year 12 cohort. They are so enthusiastic and determined to do well. We look forward to good things from them.

Year 8

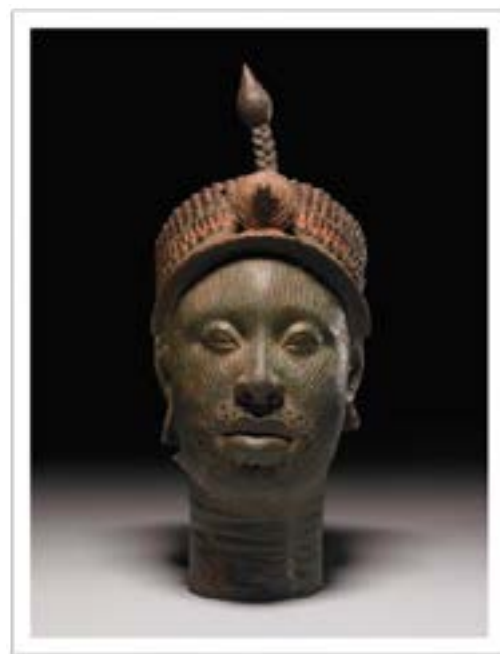
Since starting their Year 8 history journey in September, students have been learning about how life in Britain progressed during Roman times before going on to explore the causes and consequences of the Industrial Revolution between 1750 and 1900. They have been building on the knowledge and understanding of events, personalities and processes gained in Year 7 and developing their ability to demonstrate important historical skills.

They have recently completed an extended piece of writing about the causes of the Industrial Revolution. More recently, Year 8 have been looking at the impact of the Industrial Revolution – on people's lives, on living conditions, on children and on women. We are also investigating the impact on the local area and Birmingham. Year 8 will have the opportunity to go to the Black Country Living Museum after Christmas which we are sure students will thoroughly enjoy!

Year 10

Year 9 have made a positive start to History this year dealing with some controversial and difficult topics. They are now investigating the question of "How could the Holocaust have been allowed to happen?" They have studied the emergence of anti-Semitism and how Hitler managed to gradually gain full control of Germany. The Holocaust is an incredibly complex topic and one that our lessons are designed to explore in great depth to ensure misconceptions are addressed.

At the end of this unit they will be set the question of whether Hitler was wholly responsible for the Holocaust in order to provoke a developed and considered response from students about the concept of 'blame'. This can be a difficult topic to study, yet Year 9 have handled and continue to handle this subject with extreme sensitivity and maturity. In the New Year, they will have the opportunity to hear from the son of a Holocaust survivor – a rare and thought-provoking experience which we have no doubt Year 9 students will approach with respect.



Computer Science and ICT

Key Stage 3 Computing

Our year 7 computing groups have continued their journey into block-based programming, exploring the fundamentals of computer science and what it means to give precise and unambiguous instructions. They've explored this from both a theoretical and practical sense, making use of the netbook devices in and out of lessons to engage with the code.org platform. They have sat assessments during November, which will be used to gain further understanding of their knowledge in fundamental programming skills.

In our year 8 computing groups, students have been engaging with advanced block-based programming skills such as variables, functions, and nested loops; this builds upon the knowledge that they would have gained this time last year when they were in Year 7.

Like their Year 7 peers, Year 8 have also completed assessments during November to allow us to paint a picture as to their understanding of programming on their journey so far through key stage 3.

Since September our Year 9 students have been engaging with data representation; a follow-on from previous year's work where they have looked at binary. In these lessons they have explored binary conversions, hexadecimal conversions and the reasons why we use it, how computers represent images using binary, and defined key terms such as resolution and colour depth. They also completed an assessment in November which will be used to gauge their understanding of this very important topic. Those students in Year 9 who choose to continue their computing journey in Year 10 will engage with this topic during their GCSE years.

KS5 ICT (Level 3 BTEC)

They are now conducting work in preparation for the Unit 1 exam on the 24th of January-this is an external exam. In lesson they are engaging with past paper materials to ensure the correct approach is taken.

The year 12 group is currently split between Unit 2 and Unit 3. In Unit 2 they are exploring databases (Microsoft Access) and recently began engaging with past paper materials to ascertain a feel for the type of questions they will be asked. In Unit 3 they are exploring how businesses make use of social media and will soon be creating their own social media campaign for a given made up client.

KS4 Computer Science

The year 11 GCSE computer science group have continued their work to ensure full curriculum coverage and that they are exam ready. They will be undertaking past papers as part of the Year 11 mocks.

The 2 year 10 computing groups have continued their journey into the specification and the course, and are currently looking at sorting and searching algorithms alongside Boolean logic. They recently completed internal assessments for which the results are pleasing and indicate good progress is being made by the students.

Key Stage 4 ICT (iMedia)

The Year 11 group are going to be completing a unit known as R085 which will introduce them to web design and allow them to acquire practical experience of designing a website for a client. They have also been re-entered for the R081 exam in January to allow them an opportunity to improve on their banked grade.

The year 10 groups have continued exploring the R081 content whilst also practically engaging with the R082 extended task. The latter see students creating a digital graphic for a given client brief, in this case they are producing a vinyl record cover for an imaginary band.

KS5 Computer Science

The year 13 computer science group have recently completed several assessments to allow them to ascertain where their strengths and weaknesses currently are. In the approach to the Christmas period the group are reengaging with their programming project work (due May 2022) to secure a high grade in this aspect worth 20%. The year 13 group will sit two papers as part of their mocks in the January window.

The year 12 group are continuing their journey into the beginning of the curriculum and are currently looking at programming techniques with Mr Ebrahim and A-level pitched Boolean logic with Miss Zenkic.

Year 8 – Amazon Assembly

On the 25th November, all of year 8 took part in an assembly where a representative from Amazon spoke to them about careers and the paths that a qualification in technology can provide. The assembly was well received, and we hope that many students have been inspired to consider computer science as they progress through year 8 and beyond.



Bletchley Park Trip

On the 1st of November the Computing Department and Year 8 students visited Bletchley Park. This visit was to highlight computer science and its role in the world war. To complement our current topics of study such as codebreaking and cryptography in the classroom.



Extra-Curricular Activities

We are once again offering a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities for our students:

- Monday – Drones Club
- Tuesday – Robotics Club
- Wednesday – Girls Cyber Security Club
- Thursday – Digital Art Club

All our after-school options have proved immensely popular with our students since we return to school in September. The Drone Club has really “took flight” and grown in popularity amongst our students and indeed our staff.

The Robotics Club sees students engage with the Lego Education Spike Prime sets with which they create robots that use various sensors to perform a wide variety of activities and tasks. It is great fun seeing the students explore their creative side whilst also engaging with such an important aspect of computing in artificial intelligence and robotics.



The Girl’s Cyber Security Club has been a real success and it is extremely pleasing to see so many young female potential computer scientists engaging with the subject. We really hope that the students are inspired and go on to choose the subject at GCSE and help address the imbalance that unfortunately exists.



The Digital Arts Club has been a real success in allowing our students to engage with industry standard software, which graphic designers and animators use as part of their day-to-day work.



Cyber First Competition

On Monday 29th November the CyberFirst Girls Competition online qualifier has opened. The competition is aimed at Year 8 girls in England with the view to influence more girls when choosing their GCSE subjects. Each school can enter as many teams as they want, maximum of 4 girls in each team.

The competition gives the girls the opportunity to discover the exciting world of cyber security and win prizes along the way. We have eight Year 8 girls who have been attending the Cyber Security for Girls Club since they were in Year 7. They have formed two teams and started to complete the challenges. Well done to Tia, Harriet, Ella-Louise, Mary Jo, Andrea, Giovanna, Catherine and Amy for taking part in the competition and their commitments. Find out more about how the teams are getting on in the competition by following the computing department twitter at @BishopChalCom

Physical Education

PE Curriculum

During the Autumn Term, a wide range of sports have been taught in PE lessons. Students have completed units of work in football, handball, badminton, basketball, volleyball, swimming, gymnastics and table tennis. Some students have also had sample sessions in boxing and squash.

Year 7 girls have recently been creating group balances in gymnastics.



Athletics

It has been a great half-term for athletics as both of our Y7 and Y8 Boys and Girls athletics teams managed to win the School Games indoor athletics competitions, beating multiple other schools. We are looking forward to competing in the Birmingham School Games Finals in March 2022.



PE BGT Event

A number of students have recently participated in the PE 'Bishops got talent' event! In front of a large audience in the sports hall, students performed their gymnastics skills which included trampoline routines, floor performances and a range of gymnastics flips off a trampet and springboard. We congratulate all of the performers and thank you for your effort and enthusiasm during this event. Well done!



PE Reward Trip

On Wednesday 3rd of December, a group of students from Year 7, 8 and 9 had the opportunity to enjoy a trip to Mr Mulligans as a result of earning 'Lady of the Lesson' and 'Man of the Moment' in their Physical Education lessons. 'Lady of the lesson' and 'Man of the Moment' are awarded based on a student's engagement, punctuality and enthusiasm in their Physical Education lessons. Well done to the students who earned this award and who were selected to go on this trip, it was thoroughly deserved.



Active Girls Event

On the 3rd of Decmenber a group of girls from year 7, 8 & 9 took part in day of sporting activities at the brand new Doug Ellis Sports Centre. The girls sampled a range of different activities which were delivered by students of BCU.



Art & Design

Year 7

Year 7 students have been exploring how to depict tone and texture using a range of drawing techniques. Working with different mark making methods, students have worked with pencil mostly, building their skill level and confidence after a stunted previous Art education due to the pandemic. We have seen an increase in both their enthusiasm and technical abilities over the last few months, and have proved they can work with pen when drawing too – again, something that proves confidence.

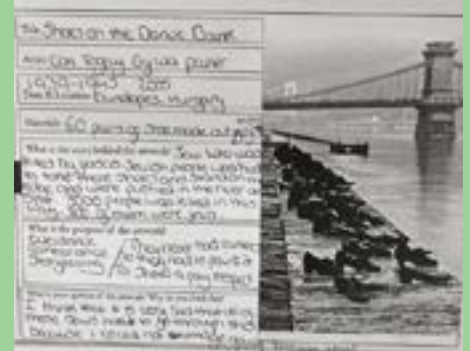
They have just begun to work with stick and ink, which supports scaffolded learning as perfectionist tendencies are broken down with the nature of the material's process. They have been researching Van Gogh's style of sketching in-situ, quickly and with expressive line. Students in Year 7 seem to be enjoying their Art lessons, and taking a lot on board each lesson.



Year 8

Year 8 students have been exploring memory and the purpose of public installation artwork as memorial. Taking inspiration from the sculpture 'Shoes on the Danube', they completed tonal studies of shoes using a variety of materials, working on recycled surfaces. As a class, they discussed how symbolism is embedded into art, and that metaphors of shoes can evoke the feeling of empathy towards others.

They have since explored other types of metaphor within Art, including feathers as symbols of lost loved ones and butterflies as symbols of freedom. They worked with stick and ink, as well as pen, to recreate soft textures (which was tricky, considering the bold and harsh materials they were working with!) Since this, Year 8 students have been working with watercolour paint to create mixed media bird studies, taking inspiration from contemporary illustrator Abby Diamond. It was through these studies that students experimented with harmonious and contrasting colour palettes, as well as blends, bleeds, washes and splatters.



Year 9

Year 9 students have time-travelled into the late 1800s to France, exploring – in detail – the work of Claude Monet. Working with watercolour to embody his Impressionistic style, students have been introduced to the importance of building layers of washes in light to dark shades, building up an image from an under-painting to a detail heavy landscape. They have worked hard to focus on building confidence when ‘drawing with a brush’, making sure that they find the balance of speed painting – just as the artists did when working ‘en plein air’, and being careful to observe small details. We are fortunate to have strong artists in Year 9, and are hopeful that our subject will be popular with them when it comes to choosing GCSE options.



Year 10

The experience of our current Year 10 GCSE Art students has been intensely focused on recovery curriculum, especially since the last uninterrupted year of study they completed was Year 7! During the first term of their GCSE journey, we have made sure students are



introduced to a range of materials, techniques and processes, yet with appropriate scaffolding to the lessons that they feel supported in new, unexplored territories of oil paint, mixed media and mature landscape, architecture and natural form studies. They have shown varying levels of confidence during this time, but are starting to stand on their own two feet when it comes to particular elements of the work. It is important that these students are continually supported during this first year of GCSE study, as well as inspiring them to be independent learners within their own individual artistic journey. All that being said, students have produced some strong work so far, and we’re excited to see what they do next!



Year 11

Year 11 students have proved their resilience and passion for the subject by working tirelessly on building an exciting coursework portfolio inspired by the theme of ‘Figure, Portrait & Identity’. Working with a wide range of materials, including (but not limited to) oil paint, watercolour, chalk, pen, graphite and charcoal, acrylic and coloured pencil, students have each individually explored the set theme with curiosity and maturity, individually building an impressive body of work – especially considering how their studies have been disrupted during the pandemic.

The subject seems popular for Alevel, with a large number of students (and external prospective students) attending the Art department’s showcase at the Sixth Form Open Evening. Each lesson, we are impressed with the willingness from these students to engage with their work, and drive to produce high quality and dynamic work. We cannot wait to see what they create in their mock exams, as well as during the rest of the development and resolution stages of their coursework project.



Year 12 & Year 13

A level Fine Art students have been working on large pieces during the last month or so, embedding their confidence to work to a bigger scale. They each have very different visions of what they want their work to embody, explore and represent, with studies broadening across portraiture, still life, figure, landscape and more surrealist subject matter. They have shown dedication and insightfulness with their work, proving their commitment to their artistic studies as not only as creative outlet, but as serious prospective career and further study exploration. About a third of the large Year 13 class (25 students in total) are applying for Visual Art based degrees, which is fantastic to hear. All Alevel students will be travelling to London in December for their Gallery study trip, visiting The National Gallery, Tate Modern and Saatchi Gallery. We look forward to what they produce during their controlled assessments before Christmas, as well as across their coursework portfolio.

It should also be noted that our Year 12 students were incredibly supportive during the preparation of and live performances for our Arts Hub Night of Remembrance. They volunteered as Tour Guides for members of the public, as well as installation assistants. We are so grateful for their involvement and high spirits during the whole experience!



Art Club

Art Club members have been working hard to produce hand drawn studies of poppies, which were installed as a curtain-style installation as part of the Armistice Day Remembrance event. Working with specialist red paper and stick and ink, each poppy was then embroidered together so that each poppy was showcased in a still – yet bold – statement. Next, students will be helping to create work to sell at our Christmas Fayres as a charity fundraising opportunity, as well as a showcase of the exciting work that we produce at Bishop Challoner.

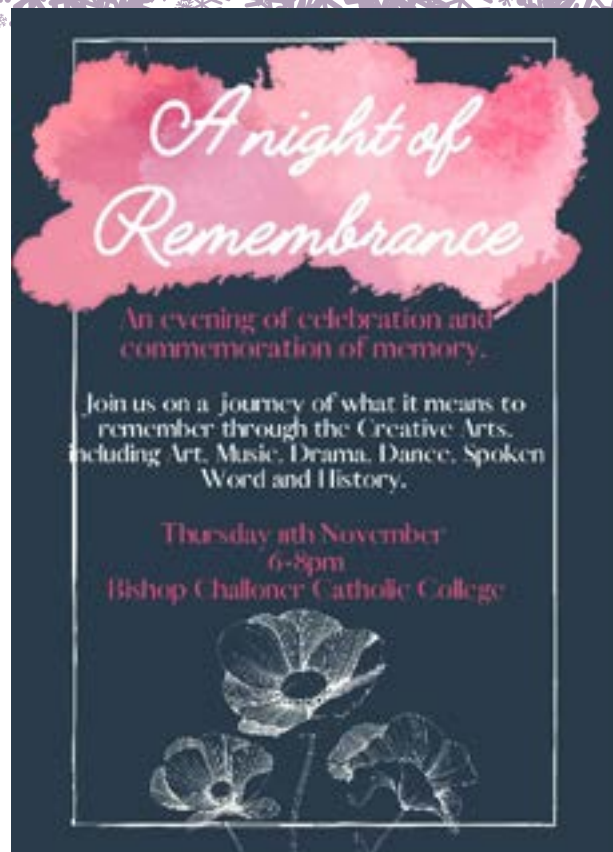


Arts Hub

'A Night to Remember'

To commemorate Remembrance Day, Bishop Challoner Arts Hub decided to build on the success of the previous 6 years of 'Remembrance' installations by creating 'an evening of celebration and commemoration of memory'. The vision was to create a celebratory Arts event that explores, celebrates and commemorates memory in all of its forms - a journey of what it means to remember told through a promenade theatre-style trail, experiencing art installations, live musical, dramatic and spoken word performances from some of our most creative students and local artists.

This type of event is a huge risk due to the element of freedom it requires but it was an absolute success.



The school entrance was the beginning of the trail with a sculptural installation created by Art and DT in the school grounds. The large soldier silhouettes represent those lost in WW1 who lived on Institute Road; the small soldiers in the ground each represent a fallen WW1 Soldier from the local area. The large scale wall hung poppy includes a staggering 800 poppies, carefully handmade by staff and students using acrylic. This is a key showcase piece which takes centre stage year on year on the façade of our sports hall. The central button incorporates the John McCrae poem, 'In Flanders Field', which is laser engraved in the centre with the names of the fallen war heroes originating from Kings Heath and Moseley, engraved around the edge of the circle.



Our large poppy sculptures represent remembrance of different lives lost during wartime, including people of colour (black poppy), conscientious objectors (white poppy), and animals (purple poppy). Red poppies are a symbol of remembrance across the world. This was supported by a powerful video projection of musical and dramatic performances by BC students and St Dunstons pupils, projected onto the sports hall façade adjacent to the large scale poppy. This insightful installation is always met with interest and admiration from the wider school community, as members of the public pass by and take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices made, and still being made, towards a better future.



The marquee, situated in the front playground, housed an installation created by Textiles and Product Design, exploring how ordinary objects and clothing can hold memories and stories of our lives. Each item of clothing featured information about their owner, as well as other possessions. Small hand formed card houses cast shadows of scripture across the space; symbolising God's vision of reflection. A musical projection created for the centenary in 2018 showed students performing pieces with their chosen instrument.



Artist and alumni Carmela Hodgson also exhibited work as part of her collaborative 'Round Lemon' surrounding memory.

Musical performances by past student and Tuba player Morgan Hart who performed The Last Post could be heard across Institute Road. Pianist and Year 13 student, Seth Garrett, played a medley of pieces in the quad area to welcome guests inside where singers from Bishop Challoner's impressive musical community performed live in the Auditorium. This included songs from wartime, as well as the musicals.



The foyer housed a mixed media sculpture, created by the Art department. Working with students', mixed media studies of poppies, birds and maps, this draped fabric was again printed and embellished by hand and acts as a quiet and still entity that takes inspiration from the artwork 'Weeping Window'.

The Art installation continued into the atrium where the latest Art piece, which includes possessions and photographs of lost loved ones of our School Community was installed. The delicate Perspex boxes float across the wall containing personal objects and treasures of loved ones. Each tag, gives an insight into the person these objects belonged to and reflect on what our legacy may be. The large scale artworks created by our A level Art students, explore memory and family relationships. Displays and photo albums created by the History department focus on Birmingham through time, as well as those whose lives have been effected by war with each album focusing on the symbolism of the red, purple, white and black poppies

Students across Year 7, 8 and 9 have dedicated hours of time, working hard to devise a piece of theatre inspired by War Horse, working with movement, voice and character development. They performed a short scene that the students felt depicted some of the most challenging moments of the soldiers' lives. This was such a powerful performance with the community commenting on the talent of our pupils.



Following on from the dramatic performance in the dance studio, was a series of spoken word performances by key stage 3 pupils surrounding memories. This was supported by performances in our final space, the library, by celebrated spoken word poet Leah Atherton who closes the trail. Reading from their books, you had a glimpse into their intimate and dynamic performance styles. Year 11 poet AJ Finch-McNeil also debuted her devised works. This was an exciting opportunity to hear and see from a future BC poetry star!



The Arts have always found opportunity to celebrate, reflect and evoke feelings, spark ideas and tell stories. At Bishop Challoner, we pride ourselves in championing the Arts through innovative and exciting exhibitions, shows and events. This is an exciting start to one of the many Arts Hub experiences and events to be shared with the community.



BC Arts Hub Events : Markets and Exhibitions

BC Arts Hub have been totally committed to putting Bishop Challoner School on the map by scheduling a series of events to share with the school and wider community. In September, we exhibited work by our fantastically skilled A Level artists in the community arts space, Art Rooms. The private view was an absolute success with fellow artists, families, BC staff, governors and the public attending the opening. Work has been extremely well received with a number of the public continuing to make contact with us for information about future events and the possibility of purchasing Artwork.



Arts Markets followed with Mosely Hive Market, in collaboration with Carmela Hodgsons, 'Round Lemon' arts collaborative in October and more recently, All Saints Market for the Kings Heath Christmas Lights switch on. Students alongside our BC artist in residence, Nancy Houston and the Art and Dt department committed to making arrange of products to sell including: sublimation printed coasters, mounted prints, Monet and Van Gogh framed hand painted tiles, Christmas decorations, tote bags and much more. Both markets were well received by the public and well and truly showcase the ambition and talent of BC Arts Hub.



Textiles

Tolkien Primary CPD embroidery workshop

In October, Bishop Challoner Art and Textiles teachers, Miss Swingler and Mrs Dane ran a CPD embroidery workshop for a group of 20 primary school teachers.

The workshop centered around the work of artist, Vincent Van Gogh. The teachers looked at his expressive brush strokes in the painting "Starry Night" and recreated this with back stitch and seed stitch on even weave fabric in a 8cm embroidery hoop. The teachers really enjoyed the workshop and took home embroidery supplies to complete their hoop at home. Mrs Dane has been contacted since by one teacher who has now taken up embroidery as a hobby!



Textiles club

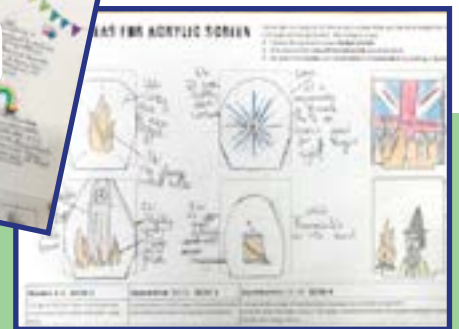
Textiles club will be starting a new embroidery project inspired by the Tolkien workshop. This workshop will be used as a project with Textiles club after Christmas, exploring other art movements such as Impressionism and Pointillism, looking artists such as George Seurat. We will also be looking at up-cycling and recycling old clothing into new products and fashion in the New Year.

Product Design

Year 7 Festivals Nightlight

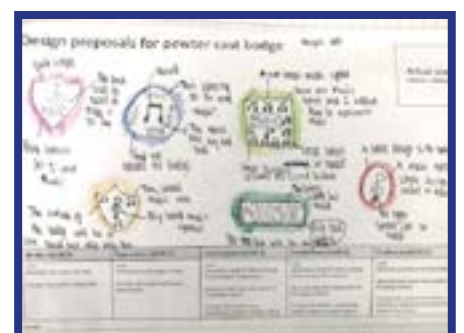
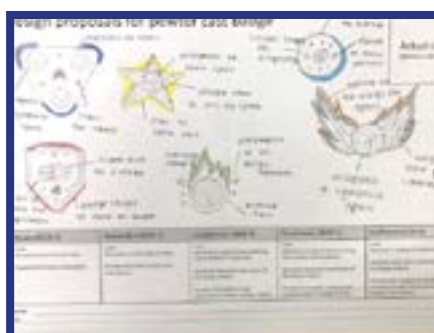
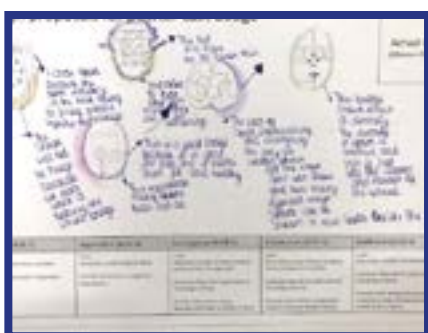
This term, in product design, year 7 have been developing their research and design skills with a focus on electronics. The pupils have been given a brief to design and build a 'Festivals' inspired light. We began by researching different types of festivals before narrowing down a chosen theme. This theme then developed into a finalised design.

Throughout this term we have also looked at circuits, building a circuit a using soldering irons. The pupils used their new knowledge of electricity and components to build a colour changing LED light. We looked at safety precautions when using a soldering iron and how to be successful with this new skill. The pupils have now finished their products with final designs being laser cut. They have spent the last couple of lessons building their final lights and the outcomes have been spectacular, just in time to take home for Christmas.



Year 8 Pewter Cast Badges

This term, year 8 have been developing their skills and knowledge of working with pewter. They have been given a brief to design and make a 'House Badge' for a secondary school and the badge must have an inspirational theme. The pupils have carried out some initial research into working with pewter and the differences between casting in industry and casting one off designs in school. We have taken the initial research and design ideas through to finalised badge designs. CAD (computer aided design) has been used to create the mould for the pewter badge before pupils pour the molten pewter. The badges will be ready to take home for Christmas.



Year 9 Kings Heath Train station

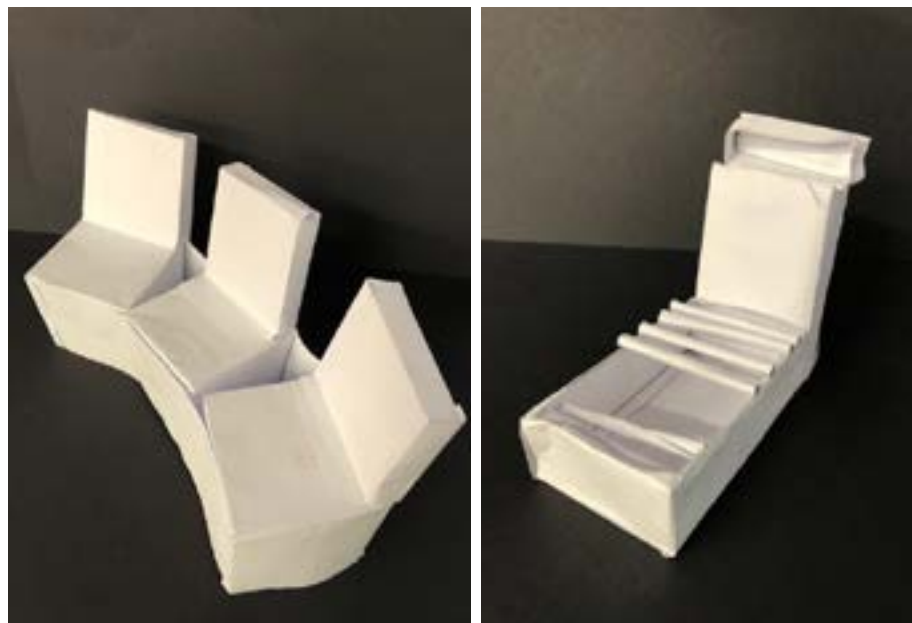
This term Year 9 have been looking at architecture. The pupils have been focusing on the process of researching, planning and developing finalised designs for a new train station in Kings Heath. We began by researching a number of key architects, looking at why they are iconic and what specific qualities their designs have. From this the pupils were able to focus their own design ideas based on one of these key architects. Included within their initial research, we also looked at inclusive design and the importance of this when planning an architectural build. This included developing the pupils' knowledge of disabilities and how designers must consider all users when creating new products, buildings and public spaces. The pupils have taken initial concept ideas to finalised designs and are now working on a cardboard model of their final design.



Year 11

Year 11 have been working on their NEA project. Before the summer, they began researching their chosen brief and have carried out some initial research. The pupils are focusing on solutions for storage, outdoor furniture and keeping fit and active. Client questionnaire and profiles have been carried out and this has helped focus product analysis ready for the design process to begin. Since September the pupils have begun to focus their research further and used this to start developing their final designs. They have sketched initial ideas and are now creating paper and card models of three final designs. These models will help to inform the development process for their final products.

Year 11 are currently in the middle of their mock exams. We have been going through the core principle, specialist knowledge and design process, relating to timbers in preparation for their upcoming exam.



Next Year...

Next term in Product Design, we will be focusing on sustainability in all projects from year 7 through to GCSE. We will be looking at building the pupils knowledge of sustainability and the use of renewable and recyclable materials in each project we do. This will not only develop their skills in preparation for the GCSE but also build their understanding of the wider issues relating to global warming. DT club.

In DT club this term we have been looking at woodworking skills. We have taken simple designs through to completion with the development of using hand tools to create ornaments. We have been using coping saws and hand files to produce simple wooden shapes. We have also been looking at the laser cutting process, developing designs using 2d design. These skills will be combined in the final two weeks of the year to produce Christmas ornaments ready to take home for all the family to enjoy.

Food Studies

Food Bank

Our school food bank collections started on 8th November and runs until 13th December 2021. Last Christmas we gave the single biggest ever donation to the food bank! It has started earlier this year to allow for an earlier delivery to the foodbank so that plans can be made for families who rely on them well in time for the festive season. Nearly eight thousand three-day emergency food supplies were given to people in crisis in our local area last year including 3,356 for children. The food bank are in urgent need of certain items such as tinned ham, tinned salmon, tinned peas, tinned carrots, tinned potatoes, ready-made tinned or packet custard before 3rd December for Christmas delivery so a separate foodbank collection was launched for staff only for these specific items.



Key Stage 3 Cookery Club

The Key Stage Three cookery club is now well under way with mainly enthusiastic Year 7 students'. They are practising many skills such as biscuit and pastry making, shaping, forming and baking. The aim is to make exciting products that are not normally made in curriculum time. It is an opportunity for the students to make the products that require more precision, skill and time. The club will continue to run throughout the academic year where it will be offered to new members each term.



KS3 Curriculum

Students in Key Stage Three have had a very busy term with many lessons having a practical element to them. Year 7 students are now skilled when using knives and have made, fruit fusion, wraps, crumble using seasonal apples, muffins and a healthier alternative to chicken and chips; chicken goujons and spicy wedges. They are beginning to work more independently as they become for competent and confident in the food room. Some year 7 students had the opportunity to be an Environmental Health Officer to mirror industrial practice where they gave other students' in the group and hygiene rating for their work during the practical where they had to demonstrate safe and hygienic working practices.



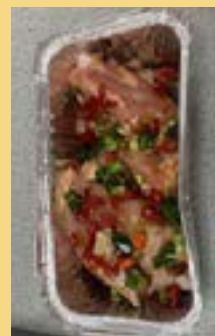
Year 8 have been putting theory into practice where they have been working with high risk foods such as meat and chicken and have made Bolognese where some students' opted for meat free, stir-fry, chicken fajitas, focaccia and a tray bake. They are now competent when using knives and are able to make parts of dishes without instruction. Working in pairs many have mastered the meaning of quality control are able to make two identical products.

Year 9 students are becoming skilled, confident and competent practitioners when using equipment and ingredients in the food room. They have made chilli- con – carne, calzone, tikka masala and a traybake. Students are always given the opportunity to do a vegetarian or vegan option when meat or poultry is used.

Year 10

Students at key stage 4 are doing a vocational course: WJEC Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering. Year 10 are working on unit 1 where they are prepared for the external examination next summer. The students will develop knowledge and understanding of how hospitality and catering providers operate; issues relating to food safety, the environment in which the industry operates, how they meet health and safety requirements and how food can cause ill health.

They have two opportunities to sit the paper; June in Year 10 and again in Year 11. Early signs are promising as most students have achieved excellent test results thus far in their assessments. There are four learning objectives in unit one. They have completed learning objective four and are now working on learning objective one. In preparation for their practical assessment for unit 2, the students are practising their practical skills. They have jointed a whole chicken and frozen it in separate pieces to enable them to make a variety of dishes such as BBQ chicken, chicken kiev, chicken stir-fry and chicken stock which was then made into a soup.



Year 11

Congratulations to Year 11 who have now had their Teacher Assessed Grades confirmed from the examination board which they should have sat in June. They have achieved one Level 2 distinction, five Level 2 merits, eight Level 2 passes and three Level 1 passes. This accounts for 40% of their overall grade. They will now focus on the completion of Unit 2; the controlled assessment where they will make a two-course meal.

They will consider the nutritional needs of various groups of people and choose two to cook a meal for. This will afford them the opportunity to showcase the skills that they have gained over the last two years and to apply their knowledge of nutrition. Since September they have made lasagne (where they made their own pasta and roux sauce), a Bakewell tart, an English Trifle (where they made the sponge and real custard). They are now practising side dishes to serve with their main course where they have made hassle-back potatoes, fondant potatoes and piped potatoes onto Shepherd's Pie. They will carry out their practical assessment in February.



Eco

A new Eco group from all years 7 – 10 has been set up to help maintain and improve green areas on site and in the local and wider community. The eco group will carry out jobs such as weeding and clearing of the vegetable plot, the 6th form area and peace garden and some low level pruning of established plants. The Chaplaincy team are supporting the group too as part of their pledge to be good stewards of the earth in response to Pope Francis' invitation in 'Laudato Si' to "work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us".



The Eco group will also work in the wider community; one of the first jobs is working with an organisation called 'Birmingham Trees for Life'. They are a charity that has been established for 15-years and plants trees in Birmingham's parks and open green spaces. They have already planted 95,000 trees in Birmingham and they continue to strive to do more. They work with schools, colleges and the local community by inviting them to plant trees through the tree planting season from November to March.

The group have planted trees at Selly Oak Park on the morning of 2nd December. The event took place across a large open area with lots of space for social distancing and lots of fresh air and exercise. Tree planting events are good for physical and emotional wellbeing and it will allow students to become part of a tree planting legacy, improve their local environment, empower them and nurture civic pride. Birmingham Trees for Life are working towards planting their 100,000th tree in Birmingham this season and we will be part of this wonderful milestone.



Green Tree Schools Award

Through the Woodland Trust we have registered for the Green Tree Schools Award. This is a whole school initiative. The Green Tree Schools Award encourages outdoor learning and inspires students about trees, woods and wildlife. The aim of the award is to encourage students to take part in fun, practical projects while helping the environment and improving our grounds. The students can earn certificates in recognition of their achievements and a special plaque to display in school. Students will be rewarded for doing environmental projects such as tree planting (Birmingham Trees for Life), recycling or think of ways of conserving energy and implementing them. Staff and students alike will be encouraged to take part.

As part of lessons students will design posters to create awareness (Design Technology and Art), write an article for the school newsletter (English), the students will visit a local wood such as Moseley Bog and learn about wildlife and habitats with a hands-on investigation (Science) or use the experience to inspire a piece of creative writing or art. Students can collect points for each activity they complete, progressing through bronze, silver and gold levels up to the prestigious platinum award.

Through the Woodland Trust we have also applied for tree packs. The Trust want to make sure everybody in the UK has the chance to plant a tree and so they are giving away hundreds of thousands of trees to schools and communities. Their aim is to help the UK reach its 2050 carbon net-zero target by planting thousands of the trees with the help of local communities. As well as benefiting our school and wider community, the free trees will count towards these incredible nationwide projects: 'The Queen's Green Canopy which marks the Platinum Jubilee of Elizabeth 11' and 'The Big Climate Fightback', an initiative to get the UK in planting 50 million trees to help combat the climate crisis.

MFL Year 7

Year 7 have started their French learning journey this term with the key rules of pronunciation in French, introductions in French, classroom language, dates and numbers and basic opinions. These topics have also allowed students to explore some cultural differences between Britain and Francophone countries such as the custom of "faire la bise" – the culture of kissing on either cheek when greeting a friend.



Year 7 students are also making excellent use of the netbook scheme by using Quizlet to practice vocabulary for regular vocabulary tests. Quizlet Live also allows the students to compete against each other with French Vocabulary matching quizzes – a great hit with all students!

Not only have the Year 7 students been using netbooks for independent French practice, but the students have actually completed P1 Listening and Reading assessments using Microsoft Forms. This allows the students to get feedback on these assessments much more quickly and the results can be reviewed more easily.



Year 8

During the last few weeks, Year 8 have been building upon their knowledge of talking about the different kinds of media (TV, Film, books, online activities) they use in their daily life. This is now progressing from talking in the present tense to being able to talk in the past tense. The lessons have been linking and building upon their knowledge in order for them to be examined in their end of module assessments this week.



Some students have been using their own dice to start writing longer, more complex sentences in French.

Students are now moving on to learning all about Paris in a topic entitled "Paris, je t'adore"



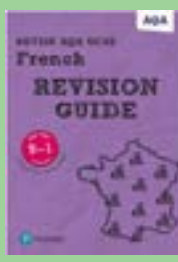
This a cultural topic but it is also pivotal to students progress as they will be assessed on this when they sit their T1 assessments in the new year.

Year 11

Well done to all year 11 students for completing their first proper GCSE mock examinations. These included a speaking exam in November, and 3 more papers in December (Listening, Reading and Writing).

If you still haven't had a chance to purchase a revision guide, there are still a few available. Please visit SchoolComms to order it. We have 3 available for sale for £3 each:

- French Revision Guide
- French Workbook
- French Practice Paper Plus



Year 9

Year 9 have covered their first topic about introducing their family, talking about friendship and physical description. Starting with this unit allows students to build on prior knowledge from Year 7 and Year 8 and begin Year 9 in a positive and more accessible way.

Year 10

Students have recently been learning about French charities (Les Restos du Coeur, Médecins Sans Frontières, la Croix Rouge, Sidaction).



Some students are also taking part in a pen pal exchange with a school in Switzerland. We have recently received our first letters and are in the process of responding. If the experience is positive we are hoping to extend this project, to include more students.

Extra-curricular

The language club on Thursdays has been very successful, with pupils exploring a different language and culture each week. So far, pupils have enjoyed painting their Chinese names in Mandarin calligraphy style, learning about some of the strangest festivals and traditions that take place in Spain, making Japanese origami cranes and learning sign language greetings in a silent environment with noise cancelling headphones.



Pupils have even introduced basics of their home languages- Polish and German- to the rest of the attendees, with some historical facts and cultural quizzes thrown in.

It is not too late to join the languages club. Please speak to Miss Crutchley and join us on a Thursday 3:15 - 4:00pm in L2.

Yr 12 Mandarin Enrichment Club

Sixth form students have started Mandarin Enrichment Club with Miss Crutchley, looking first at China's customs and celebrations, ethnicities

and dialects, and fascinating history to understand the heart of this language. We will progress into spoken conversation and written pieces, with further exploration of the Chinese culture.

KS5 Film club

Every Tuesday (Week 1), we are showing Year 12 and 13 French students a French film. So far they have watched Au Revoir Les Enfants, and La Vie En Rose.

If you are in KS5, you can join us too on a Tuesday week 1 in L2. The films have English subtitles, you do NOT have to study French A-Level to join us.

Performing Arts

Instrumental Lessons

We have been delighted to see so many Year 7 students taking up instrumental lessons with our Music Service staff and equally pleased at how many students are continuing with their musical tuition this year. Students from all years are attending their weekly lessons and making great progress in their instrumental journeys, and we wish every success to students who are taking instrumental exams this term.

The autumn term has seen a very welcome return to extra curricular activities, rehearsals and live performances, all of which have been enthusiastically embraced by our students and staff.

A Night of Remembrance

On November 11th our school held a Night of Remembrance, a poignant event where audience members from the school community and the general public could experience art, music, drama and spoken word, all with the theme of commemoration and memory. Our musicians were absolutely exceptional at this event, both in terms of their performances and also their total willingness to be involved.



Our Year 12 pianist, Seth, played ambient music on the piano in the quad as the audience moved through the 'promenade' performance, and a range of students, past and present, performed their own choice of song based on the theme of 'memory'. They did this stood behind a gauze and well 'back-lit' to create a sense of distance between them and the audience and it was truly moving to behold.

As well as Olivia, Emily and Lauren (GCSE and A level music students) we also welcomed former Performing Arts students Fiona Breslin, Louis Simmonds and Holly Young, whose vocal performances were both outstanding and extremely poignant. In addition to these former alumni, Morgan Hart returned to Challoner to perform on his tuba as people entered the school. Morgan is an exceptional musician in his second year studying performance at Birmingham Conservatoire and played for 2 hours outside - he was truly phenomenal!

The Key Stage 3 drama club worked so hard to create a wonderful and poignant performance for our Remembrance Evening. Using the story of War Horse as the stimulus, the amazing ensemble of 18 blended dialogue, music and poetry to create a visual spectacle. The short presentation was a debut for many of our Year 7s and they performed with focus and reverence; providing a realistic glimpse into the lives of our World War One soldiers. On the evening, the company performed on a constant rotation and they must be commended on their professionalism. The audience felt sombre, yet amazed by the hard work of this wonderful group of young students.

Huge congratulations also need to be extended to the dancers and Primary students for their work on the Remembrance Event, from

Bishop's Got Talent

In October we held our first Bishop's Got Talent event of the year, showcasing the talent of 'new' students – some new to the school in Year 7, some in Year 10 who are new to the GCSE course. We definitely hosted one of the most supportive audiences the library have seen, who applauded and cheered for our performers.

The performances included We Sing, our show choir, singing 'This Is Me' from The Greatest Showman, directed and accompanied by Mrs Choudhury, George in Year 10 covering Arctic Monkeys on guitar and vocals, and Jessy in Year 7 who sang a memorable version of 'Reckless' – and almost got mobbed by fans afterwards! Robyn sang 'Burn' from the hit musical Hamilton, Cormac played the violin beautifully, and it was wonderful to see students from all years attending a live event after the restrictions of last year.



the youngest students who came from St Dunstan's in Year 1 to our incredible Sixth Form and everyone in between: the students did us proud. Despite very limited rehearsals the students created a lyrical piece of dance, performing emotional scenes portraying the circumstances people would have faced, such as evacuation and husbands going to war.

Our Year 10's performed the famous poem "In Flanders Fields" in front of the chilling background of the trenches. Dance club lightened the mood with a lindy hop dance to Boogie Woogie Boy. All the videos have been shown on our Twitter feed and were projected on the front of the school building on the evening of the event.

Key Stage 3

The music staff are very impressed with how positively the Year 7s have started the music course at Bishop Challoner. Having explored the instruments of the orchestra and musical elements, they have begun to develop their keyboard skills and to read a simple musical score, and we look forward to hearing the results of their first composition this term.

Year 8 students have studied the history of Blues Music and have rehearsed and presented the 12 Bar Blues on the keyboards. Following on from that they are developing their confidence in improvising, working towards a short performance using Jazz-style improvisation.

Year 9 are continuing with their Pop and Protest Songs. Having written lyrics based on a topical issue, they are now composing and rehearsing in small groups, preparing to record their finished song in our recording studio!

Performing Arts

In Performing Arts at Key Stage 4, our Year 10 students have been exploring the opportunities in the Performing Arts industry, studying the roles of the production and creative teams in putting on a professional musical. This has included the study of different genres within musical theatre, in the form of research and practical work; they have been an absolute pleasure to teach and we look forward to witnessing their development as performers and practitioners in future months.

Our Year 11 Performing Arts students have been rehearsing for a performance of existing repertoire from Matilda: The Musical. This involves integrating the arts forms of singing, dancing and acting and we have seen many of our students really committing to this, performing brilliantly in their final assessment last week!

Christmas Show

Due to COVID restrictions, this year, we decided to do something a bit different with the Christmas Show; it was therefore staged at The Kingsway in Kings Heath on Wednesday 8th December.

This venue was chosen due to the fact that it is an outside space with a covered area for performances. The show consisted of students from all year groups in the school singing, dancing and instrumentalists, as well as a visit from Father Christmas and Olaf!

The venue itself looked extraordinarily festive and members of the school and wider community ran stalls to sell their Christmas crafts and festive fayre. A massive thank you to all who supported A Kings Heath Christmas and to all performers for sharing their wonderful talents with us - we are very proud of you!

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

GCSE

In Year 10, students are learning the rudiments of musical theory which will support the appraisal component of their GCSE course. This is a challenge to some students but we are pleased with how they are applying themselves to this level of musical theory. The class have also had a taster of performing as part of an ensemble, presenting a class performance of 'Skyfall' on keyboards.

Our GCSE Music cohort are working through the set works on the extremely varied syllabus, which covers Beethoven, Queen, and John Williams, frequently revisiting previous works studied and using the revision resources they produced themselves to consolidate their learning. These Year 11 students are also working hard to plan and develop their own compositions as part of their coursework, and many of the students have approached this with enthusiasm and creativity. They are also rehearsing independently to prepare a performance which will be recorded this term in the studio, also as part of their coursework.

Dramatic Studies

In Key Stage 3 in Dramatic Studies, students have been exploring the topic of musical theatre: Year 7 have worked on Annie, Year 8 have been looking at Matilda and Year 9 are exploring Grease.



School Games and PE & Sports Premium Programmes

Mr McDermott, School Games Organiser (SGO), continues to work alongside the PE department to support schools and young people to be physically active and maintain a healthy, active lifestyle. We are very pleased to say that we have started to organise face to face events, competitions and meetings again and it has been a very busy term. Please see the list of the local schools we work with in our School Games and PE and Sport Premium programmes.

We also work with these other schools across the city on our Extended PE and Sport Premium Programme.

- Corpus Christi
- Ark Tindal
- St Mary's
- Harborne Primary
- Clifton
- St Francis
- St Anne's
- Holy Family
- St Teresa's
- Bournville Village

School Games

All 38 local schools have received a calendar of sporting events, festivals and competitions they can enter this academic year. We have now run 26 events and training courses etc. for the autumn term. There are many more events planned for 2022, including boys basketball, boys and girls badminton, boys and girls handball, Y1-2 multi skills festivals and some Commonwealth Games events, which are yet to be confirmed.

- Billesley Primary School
- Queensbridge School
- Bishop Challoner Catholic College
- Reach School
- National Institute of Conductive Education (Red Boots)
- Springfield Primary Academy
- Christ Church Secondary School
- St Alban's Catholic Primary School
- Colmore Infant School
- St Bernard's Catholic Primary School
- Colmore Junior School
- St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School
- Fox Hollies School and Performing Arts College
- St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School
- Heath Mount Primary School
- St Edward's Catholic Primary School
- King David Junior and Infant School
- St John and Monica Catholic Primary School
- King Edward's School
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

- King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys
- St Jude's Catholic Primary School
- King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls
- St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School
- King Edward VI High School for Girls
- Swanshurst School
- Lakey Lane Junior and Infant School
- The Dame Ellen Pinsent School
- Moor Green Primary Academy
- The University of Birmingham School
- Moseley Church of England Primary School
- Uffculme School
- Moseley School and Sixth Form
- Whealers Lane Primary School
- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School
- Whealers Lane Technology College
- Park Hill Primary School
- Woodthorpe Junior and Infant School



Sixth Form

Open Evening

Our Sixth Form Open Evening that took place on Wednesday 10th November was a great success. Year 13 students acted as guides and Year 12 students worked in departments, demonstrating A Level/vocational learning. Visitors spoke in glowing terms about our students, who really did us proud. A special well done to Emily and Freddie who delivered two great talks to parents/carers, on behalf of the student leadership team.



Year 13 University Applications

Year 13 have worked hard getting their UCAS applications prepared. More and more are being sent off each day for consideration and some students are already receiving offers. Others are being called for interviews in the New Year. If any student (or parent/carers) has any questions at any stage in the process, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Colgan, Miss Darby or any of the Sixth Form team.

Applications for entry to Sixth Form - September 2022

We are delighted with the number of applications we have already received from our current Year 11 and from students at other local schools. This will ensure that their application will be amongst the first to be dealt with and they will be invited to discuss their application with a member of the Sixth Form Team early in 2022. If you have any questions or difficulties in completing your application, please get in touch with Mrs Taylor: j.taylor@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

Student Leadership Team

We have recruited a number of Year 12 and Year 13 students to our student Leadership Team. They will meet regularly with Heads of Year and the Sixth Form team, to provide student voice, take a lead in charitable undertakings and events such as prom, as well as representing the school at public events.



Year 12 Opportunities

Year 12 have had an assembly which focussed on the importance of gaining skills and experiences this year, which will enable them to stand out in future university/apprenticeship and job applications. There is a huge selection of masterclasses, university visits, summer schools and work experience opportunities. These are communicated to students through form time and via the Opportunities Bulletin. We are delighted to see how many students have already signed themselves up!

Year 13 Mocks

Year 13 Mocks run from Monday 10th January- Friday 21st January. Timetables, content guidance and independent study materials have been issued and are on the website. We are keen to ensure that this is a positive experience for students and Mrs Healy has been running revision tutorials for any students who feel they need additional support in this area. Although we are still working towards public examinations in the summer, in the unfortunate event of schools being required to issue Teacher Assessed Grades once again, the results of these examinations would form part of the evidence base. It is, therefore, most important that students prepare as well as they are able and are present for these examinations in January.

Sixth Form Alumni in the Media!

We have been very excited to spot former Bishop Challoner Sixth Form students in the media this term.

- Jenny M has had an article published in the Independent this week.
- John C. was spotted on TV, at a conference, sitting between Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak.
- Ryan G and James G part of the successful Greidy's Wings and Strips who have just been awarded Winners of BBC The Food & Farming Awards 2021 for Best Streetfood.

We love hearing how our formers students are progressing so please keep us informed!

Instagram: [bishopchallonersixth](#) Twitter: [@BCCSix](#)

Careersmart Round Up

Year 12

It has been a fast and furious term for the Careers team. For the first half term, Year 12 focused on all topics relating to progression on a Wednesday afternoon. This included the launch of Unifrog with students who had joined us, weighing up their full range of Post 18 options, careers research, setting individual goals and understanding the variety of super-curricular activities that are available to them to enhance future applications. They also explored the link between the subjects they are currently studying and the potential pathways these could open up to them. Year 12 have work experience to look forward to in the summer term (Monday 11th July – Friday 15th July 2022) and more progression related lessons to help prepare them for Year 13 and the decisions that lie ahead of them.

Year 13

Year 13 continue to make competitive UCAS applications, applying to universities up and down the country, as well as some high quality apprenticeship applications. The UCAS deadline is 26th January 2022, but the volume of apprenticeship applications will increase in the Spring and Summer terms. Students have access to ongoing support with both the UCAS and apprenticeship (and employment) applications from the Sixth Form team.

Apprenticeship Fair

The Apprenticeship Fair took place on Wednesday 17th November. It was the first face to face careers event we have had in school for almost two years now. The auditorium was buzzing. The students who attended, from Year 10-13, all had an interest in the apprenticeship route and it was clear that they were keen to talk to the employers, colleges and training providers who were in attendance. We were delighted to welcome back a former student, Louis Simmonds, who represented the University of Law. It was inspiring to see our students engaging so maturely and professionally with our visitors. I sincerely hope we can continue to deliver, in-person careers events as planned next term. As well as the Careers Fair, there will also be a packed Pathways programme of events for Year 9 next term as they prepare to make their KS4 subject choices. In addition, Year 7 and 8 will begin their careers planning with the help of Unifrog, and, of course, we will be celebrating National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week. Another exciting term to look forward to!

Key Stage 4

The work experience programme has also been launched with Year 10. Their placements will be taking place between (Monday 4th - Friday 8th July 2022) as it stands. In addition, Year 10 have been re-visiting Unifrog and considering the careers that may be a good match for them, based on personality and interests.

Meanwhile, as Year 11 approach a crucial time of making applications to their preferred Post 16 providers, they have been reflecting on the pros and cons of their pathway options, the differences between A Levels and BTECS and crucially, which will be the most suitable pathway for them, given their longer term goals and preferred style of learning. Careers interviews have continued this half term.

Mrs Colgan has met with students from all year groups to discuss topics such as work experience, Post-16 options and Year 9 pathways. She has also had some great questions and discussions about apprenticeships following the apprenticeship fair. Year 11 interviews have finished for the year while students are sitting their mock exams. They will continue in the new year. **As always, if you have any questions about careers, you can contact Mrs Colgan (Careers Adviser) on: e.colgan@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk**

Parent Zone

For information on how you can help support your child to navigate decisions about their future choices, please check out the Parent Zone section of the Careers Hub on the Bishop Challoner website. I would welcome any suggestions of resources that you would like to see on there.

Partnership

Finally, we are always looking for new organisations to work in partnership with, to either attend our Careers events or to offer work experience placements. So, if you know anyone who could help and would like to get involved, please do get in touch with me on e.darby@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

On behalf of the Bishop Challoner Careers team, I'd like to wish you a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year!



Library News

"The aim of the library is to create the environment and facilities where students and staff may read, study and seek information."

Scholastic Book Fair

We had a very successful BookFair with our students buying over £300 worth of books. Thankyou to everyone who came along and bought a book – all sales earnt us commission we can use towards books for the school library.



Book Buzz

BOOKBUZZ books are here!! – ALL our Year 7 students had the opportunity to choose a free book at the start of the school year as part of the BookBuzz scheme. These all arrived mid-November and we've been handing them out to a very excited year-group over the past couple of weeks. As an added bonus the books are being incorporated into a series of lessons currently being planned by the English Department.

Bookbuzz

BookTrust

To find out more about the BookBuzz scheme visit:

<https://bit.ly/3Fnxl0z>



IntoFilm Club

Our Friday film club is proving extremely popular at the moment. It could be something to do with wet weather but despite this we're very pleased to have 27 members who have recently enjoyed a showing of Disney's ONWARD. Members have then been encouraged to log on to the INTOFILM.ORG website and write their online reviews.

INTO
FILM
CLUBS

It's early days but we're hoping to run some film club activities next year and maybe a cinema trip for our more active members...watch this space for more details!!



Reading Teachers - Reading Pupils

Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils (RTRP) ignites a love of reading in teachers and children. Set up in 2016, the national network of teachers reading groups aims to inspire reading for pleasure because research shows that children who read for pleasure experience high levels of well-being, engage in learning and are successful in life.

Here at Bishop Challoner we are excited to be part of such an important initiative and hope that by reading titles aimed at young adults we can create a culture of reading for pleasure both at home and in school. The first book we were given was Cane Warriors by Alex Wheatle – a powerful story of sacrifice, courage and hope based on true events. We can't wait to introduce it to our Year 9 students.

Paired Reading

This initiative is going from strength to strength with students from Years 9 & 10 taking part every week mentored by either a trainee teacher or Sixth Form student.



Our sessions are a wonderful way to help our students improve their reading skills. Paired reading has been shown to be effective in improving reading attainment, an increase in self esteem and an improvement in speaking and listening skills.

Well done to everyone who is taking part both students and mentors!



ePlatform Reminder

ePlatform is a library lending system designed to make the borrowing and reading of eBooks as well as the listening of Audiobooks simple and enjoyable.

All our students can use this fantastic resource and have access to over 2000 titles either as a download or an audiobook.



To login students should use their usual computer username and the password - BCReading1!

Science Learning Partnership (SLP)

The Science Learning Partnership is in a strong position this academic year despite the continuing global health pandemic restricting face to face training events.

We made a great start to the term with our primary science conference in Wolverhampton attended by 53 teachers. Our keynote speaker was Jasper Green, Ofsted HMI Inspector for science and his talk about the science curriculum was very well received. We also streamed his talk online for those unable or unwilling to attend face to face. The hybrid model is well and truly established.

We have other exciting events planned for primary and secondary teachers this term including heads of science conferences in Coventry, Birmingham and Worcester – deliberately spread over our geographical areas to reduce travelling time and unnecessary mixing for teachers. We have 18 teachers booked at our Coventry event which is being run jointly with the university there, all three exam boards and the local STEM Ambassador Hub.

A very topical CPD opportunity taking place in January is our

Embedding Climate Change into the science curriculum day which Mrs Coley is delivering for us. The great thing about this CPD (apart from being on such an important issue) is that schools attending will each receive a bursary of £400 to cover the costs of teachers attending! We are very positive about the opportunity this has to embed the teaching of climate change in schools across the West Midlands.

Our CLEAPSS Radiation Protection Supervisor training courses, delivered by former Bishop Challoner teacher Mr Jones are also extremely popular. Our 2nd one of these has 21 teachers on it travelling from all over England including Sheffield, Doncaster, Buckingham, Slough and Cheltenham! We have therefore added more dates in February and March to keep up with demand. We are running other CLEAPSS courses for technicians as well.

Our primary packages of support are also proving popular with many schools signing up this. It includes 6 Zoom meetings in the year; 3 on science leadership and 3 on KS1/2 subject knowledge for the classroom teachers. It is also priced at £150 per school so offers superb value for money.

Teaching School (BCTSA)

Bishop Challoner Training School

Since the beginning of this academic year, the Training School has been operating a mixed model of online programmes and face-to-face events in the new training facility, Challoner House. Being able to meet our course delegates in real life has made a positive difference to how our programmes run. For our Leadership and Development programmes, teacher training and other meetings, being able to safely meet in person has been really helpful and a positive development from this time last year. The Team are working hard to ensure delegate safety at events, and we hope to continue in this way into 2022.

Teacher Training

Our new cohort of trainee teachers are coping really well with the amount of disruption that COVID-19 still brings to our lives. Our partner schools play an important part in this School Direct training programme, allowing our trainees to spend time with classes and class teachers in order to gain real 'hands-on' experience to complement their University days and sessions with BCTSA. In the Spring term, our trainees will switch schools for a 6-week period. This allows them to gain experience in a different school environment – a process that really enriches their teaching practice.

Applications for next year's School Direct programme opened in October, and applications are coming in for a range of Secondary subjects, and also for Primary. Our three University partners, Newman, Warwick and Birmingham City University, offer us a range of subjects that people can Train to Teach in – you can see what we have on offer by looking at our website: <https://www.bctsa.org/599/apply-for-school-direct>

There are some decent bursaries available for certain subjects to train to teach in 2022/23, depending on which subject you are looking to teach. You will need a degree in that subject, or a related subject, with a 2:2 classification or above, as well GCSEs grade 4/C or above in Maths, English (plus a Science for Primary teaching). Again details can be found on our website – or join us at a free information session to find out more.



Internships

We hope to bring you more news of our popular and successful Teaching Internship programme after Christmas. The DfE are planning to add Computer Science as a further subject to the previous Maths and Physics programmes that we have run for several years. The aim of the programme is to give current University undergraduate students in these subject areas a taste of life as a secondary school teacher, so we hope that they will 'train to teach' once they have graduated and join the teaching profession. We tell one Intern's journey into teaching in the News section of our website: <https://www.bctsa.org/607/blog/post/27/from-student-intern-to-teacher>



Professional Development Programmes

Our current Leadership programmes have now started for this academic year. We are happy to be working with 2 new partners for the NPQs. We have one programme with CEFEL (a Church of England/Catholic Partnership) and also a range of new NPQ programmes with the well-established Best Practice Network. Our facilitators come from Bishop Challoner and some of our other partner schools, and they are providing top quality training for our teachers in the Birmingham area. Some sessions are online, but others have been able to run successfully face-to-face.



New cohorts will be starting in February, so the team are actively recruiting to these programmes at the moment.



Train to Teach with Bishop Challoner



Join us at a free online information event
Wednesday 12th January 2022 4pm
Tuesday 25th January 2022 5pm
Thursday 10th February 2022 7pm

Book your place now:
www.bctsa.org/Train-to-Teach-Events

Bishop Challoner Training School Alliance
Institute Road, Kings Heath, B14 7EG

ECF - Early Career Framework

This 2-year long programme aimed at supporting new teachers as they start their careers, has now started and we have a large cohort of new teachers, as well as mentors on our programmes. This is a new initiative from the DfE, so all across the country newly qualified teachers have access to this extra support. We look forward to seeing how these programmes develop and feed into the general retention of teachers during those early years in the profession.



T-LEVELS

THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

Are you in Year 10?



What are T Levels?

In September 2023, Bishop Challoner Catholic College will be offering T Levels as a new choice after GCSE's, the T Level course will run alongside A Levels. The first T Level offered will be in Health, which will be the equivalent to 3 A Levels.

Future Careers

District Nurse

Midwifery

Paramedic

Speech and Language Specialist

T Levels are designed in partnership with employers and businesses to provide practical knowledge and skills valued by employers.

T Levels provide classroom teaching alongside high-quality 45 day industry placement.

Benefits of an industry placement

Working together with local employers will allow students the opportunity to gain valuable experiences of the skills, knowledge required and the essential employability expertise needed, when moving into the world of work.

What are my options after T Levels?

T Levels are welcomed by universities across the country, T Levels attract UCAS points which means they can be used for university entrance. For example "The University of Warwick welcomes the development of T Level qualifications as a technical route into Higher Education and believe they could be of particular interest to learners wishing to further their academic and professional development."

Alongside university entrance, T Levels can also be a stepping stone to higher-level apprenticeships and the working sector.

For more information
please click on the link below:
[T Levels the next qualification](#)

BC Wellbeing News

CHRISTMAS EDITION

December 2021

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" That's what the song tells us. But for some, Christmas can be a very challenging time. Perhaps this year more than ever.

Some of us will be finding the uncertainty of the current situation regarding new restrictions and new Covid variants very unsettling.

Perhaps someone special will be missing this year?

Money worries? Family tensions? Not everyone will be relishing several days in the house with their nearest and dearest.

We've gathered some great suggestions from various sources and put together our

TWELVE TIPS FOR CHRISTMAS

1. Accept that no-one's Christmas is really as perfect as it looks in the films. Be realistic about your expectations.

2. Don't forget the real meaning of Christmas. Make some time to go to Mass, go to a Christmas carol service or visit your local place of worship.

4. Maintain healthy habits: Drink plenty of water, get enough sleep, wrap up warm and get outside for some fresh air.

6. Do something for someone else without being asked. Help with the meal preparation, clean the bathroom?

5. Give the screens a rest #1 you don't need to be comparing your family's Christmas with airbrushed celebrity versions.

3. Give yourself some space. If it all gets a bit much, take a book somewhere quiet, do some mindfulness colouring or go for a walk.

8. Each evening, consciously think about, or write down, one thing you can be grateful for.

7. Make someone else happy by connecting with them. Drop a card through the door of an elderly neighbour? Write a thank-you note to a friend or relative?

11. Have a clear out-sort out things you no longer need. Can you donate some warm clothes, book/toys you no longer need to a local charity?

12. Don't hesitate to reach out for help if you need it (see links over the page).

9. Give the screens a rest #2 don't allow yourself to be bombarded with adverts encouraging you to spend yet more, before Christmas Day is even over.

10. Remember the people you miss in your own way: Talk about them. Display a photo. Hang a decoration on the tree in their memory.

The Samaritans
www.samaritans.org
24/7 365 days of the
year. Call for free: 116
123

Childline:
www.childline.org.uk
Call for free
0800 1111

SHOUT
If you are feeling low,
anxious, worried, lonely,
overwhelmed, consumed
with negative thoughts
text 'SHOUT' to 85258.

The Trussell Trust:
Stop UK Hunger.
Find a foodbank near you
www.trusselltrust.org

Kooth
an online mental
health community.
www.kooth.org

Women's aid
Domestic violence
support.
www.womensaid.org.uk
<https://chat.womensaid.org.uk/> For advice
and support, not for
emergencies.

**Remember: If you are worried
about the safety of yourself or
another person at any time call
999**

Wishing you a Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas!

Other BC News

Standards and Uniform

Please [click here](#) to find details of all required school uniform items. Standards checks, including uniform are conducted and where students are not wearing the appropriate uniform or meeting appearance standards they will be addressed.

The Parenting Contract, agreed and signed by parents and carers when children start at Bishop Challoner Catholic College states that parents and carers will 'Ensure that my child wears full school uniform and has full PE kit'. We ask that you continue to undertake this important responsibility in support of your child and the school.

Attendance and Punctuality

If your child is absent from school, a notification phone call needs to be made to the school on the first day of the absence and every further day that they are absent too. Upon return to school, a written note needs to be handed in to their form tutor, stating the reason for absence.

Please encourage your child to be at school by 8.30am to instil the important life skill of good punctuality.

The school attendance target is 96%.

Year 7- 95%
Year 8- 92%
Year 9- 92%
Year 10- 91%
Year 11- 91%
Whole School- 92%

Covid Testing

Onsite testing of Covid-19 will be undertaken for all students, where we have been given consent, in the first week of the new term.



Thanks to Playwaze Bishop Challoner now have a new 'Activity Finder' on our website which will help parents/carers and young people find sporting and physical activity opportunities in our area. [Click here](#) to begin searching for activities.

Flu Vaccination

Due to the immunisation team staff being redeployed to support the Coronavirus vaccinations roll out the date for whole school Flu vaccine has changed and will now be in January 2022.

Schoolcomms

Please ensure that your child's school meal account is topped up and there are sufficient funds available for them to purchase items at break and lunchtime if required. The easiest and quickest to top up is by using the Schoole Gateway app. You can download this on to your smartphone here- <https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login>

Mobile Phones

Please be reminded that mobile phones are NOT allowed to be used in school. Students found in possession of their mobile phone will have it confiscated and it will be returned at the discretion of their Head of Year/Senior Staff. In some cases, mobile phones will only be returned to parents/carers.

Important Dates

School open

Tuesday 4th January

Year 13 Mocks

Monday 10th January -
Friday 21st January

Bishop's Got Talent

Friday 14th January

St Sebastian Mass

Friday 21st January

UCAS Deadline

Wednesday 26th January

Feast Day of St Sebastian

Wednesday 20th January

St John Bosco Mass

Monday 31st January

Year 7 Character Day

Tuesday 8th February

Canteen Chinese Day

Year 7 Symphony Hall Trip

Wednesday 9th February

Year 11 Consultation Evening

Thursday 10th February

Year 7 Reward Afternoon

Bishop's Got Talent

Friday 11th February

Non Uniform Day

Year 7 Community Disco

Year 9 Natural History

Museum Trip

Thursday 17th February

School Closed - INSET

Friday 18th February

Half Term

Monday 21st February-

Friday 25th February

School Open

Monday 28th February

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**Would you consider
sponsoring our termly
Newsletters?**

If you kindly sponsor us, we will make sure that we advertise your business in our remaining 2 termly newsletters at Easter and Summer. We only require your advert to be sent by email to us and we will do the rest.

If you would like to sponsor our newsletter and support Bishop Challoner, please email:
Gerald Noone g.noone@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk
or call on 0121 4444161.

MathsHUBS
Central

**Teach
Computing**

F B C
FRIENDS OF BISHOP CHALLONER





Keep in Touch

Official School Twitter:	@BishopChalloner
Biology:	@BCCbio
Chaplaincy:	@BC_Chaplaincy
Computing Hub:	@BCCComputingHub
Computing:	@BishopChalComp
Design:	@BCCCDesign
English:	@BC_EnglishDept
FOBC:	@bc_friends
French:	@BC_MFL
Geography:	@BCGeogDept
History:	@history_GCSEBC
Library:	@Mrs F Library
Maths Hub:	@CentralMathsHub
Maths:	@BCMathsDept
PE:	@BCPEDepartment
Performing Arts:	@BCPAmusic/@BCPAPA4
School Games:	@BCSGO
Science Learning Partnership:	@CentralMidSLP
Science:	@BCSciDept
Sixth Form:	@BCCSix
Social Science:	@BCSocSciDept
Teaching School:	@bctsa_training

