

BC NEWS



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we enter the season of Advent it is a time of great preparation for the joyful arrival of our saviour and provides an opportunity for reflection on the past year.

At such times our thoughts naturally turn to those for whom Christmas will be more difficult this year and we particularly think of all those caught up in conflict, those persecuted for their beliefs, those that have recently lost loved ones and those for whom Christmas will be a lonely time this year. We remember all of them in our prayers.

Our young people continue to inspire us and embody our mission statement. All too often we read in the press negative portrayals of teenagers and the challenges they bring. Sadly, we don't often hear the good news stories. So, in our Year of Character, I want to tell you about some of the many wonderful things our young people have done this term.

Our Remembrance event took place in early November; it was just brilliant. A very moving, prayerful, reverent and reflective evening. It was great to see so many familiar faces popping into the church just to spend some time quietly reflecting and contemplating the impact of lives lost, in often tragic circumstances. A huge well done to our Arts Hub team and all the departments that contributed to this event. Of course, at the heart of the evening were our superb students. They sang, they performed, they recited poetry, they led prayers and reflections and they were quite outstanding ambassadors for our school.

Our Wednesday afternoon community Tea Party has relaunched and was a huge success with large numbers of people attending from our local parishes. Our sixth formers led bingo, played Irish music and baked cakes for the event.

Students have also supported a local Dementia Café and cleared and tidied the Peace Garden. We have been working in partnership with Fox Hollies School and a number of our Year 9 students have visited the school to work with their young people.

Social outreach remains at the heart of our work as a Catholic school and we have continued to collect for the local foodbank and made significant contributions to St Chad's Sanctuary and Fr Kurapati's community in India.

Once again, we 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 and several other Catholic secondary schools, we have collected a huge number of gifts to give out. Irish TV will be filming students and staff at the official handover at St Anne's, Digbeth.

All of these wonderful acts of kindness, and the many other unseen acts of kindness give us great pride in our young people.

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. I congratulate all of our students for their hard work in lessons and outside of lessons across the autumn term.

At the end of term, we will be saying farewell to Mrs Brown in Science, who has been promoted to a SENCO role at another school; we wish her well.

Christmas also provides us with that wonderful moment to say thank you. So thank you to our wonderful cleaning team, our caterers and our site team for all they do for our school. Thank you to our wonderful teaching and support staff for living out their vocations in such an inspiring way and thank you to our magnificent young people and their families for all the joys they bring to our school community.

I hope you enjoy reading our Christmas newsletter and we look forward with great hope and joy to 2023.

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

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

It has been an incredibly busy start to our 'Year of Character' and we are delighted with all the efforts of our students who continue to display such amazing examples of acts of Character in line with our Catholic ethos and mission statement.

Chaplaincy

We are delighted to have Ellen Turner join us this year as a Junior Chaplain. Ellen has settled into school life superbly and her skills and talents are helping us to develop the use of our Chapel.

This is providing opportunities to invite children to the Chapel to prayer, sing, discuss their faith and from this we are building a strong and vibrant chaplaincy team.

As part of encouraging students to reflect on their faith, we have introduced the 'Pause for Prayer' initiative. This enables students to complete their units of work in Religious Education by taking time in prayer and reflection to make connections between what they have studied and how this might impact on their life going forward.

We have also used Lectio Divina as a powerful opportunity to pause and reflect upon the power of scripture. This time enables students to come away from lessons and take time to be still and develop a deeper understanding of scripture. We very much look forward to developing further opportunities for students to take time to pause and reflect amongst the business of school life.



Commit to Character

During our 'Year of Character' we are delighted with how our students are working so hard to focus on their character and displaying so many examples of living out our gospel values.

Our wall of character is building up nicely and offers opportunity for the community to share and celebrate examples of the outstanding character on display from our students.

Across the year groups we have embedded fantastic initiatives to encourage students to display character and during assembly time we have opportunities to reward students with their year group for their acts of character.



Half Termly Virtues

Alongside our yearly focus on character virtues, we are specifically focusing on two virtues each half term. During the first half term we focused on Compassionate and Loving and this term our focus is Faith-filled and Hopeful. Collective worship each Monday focuses on sharing Biblical examples of these virtues and allows students the opportunity to begin the week by considering these virtues and how they might apply them to their own lives.

WHAT DO THIS TERM'S VIRTUES MEAN?



Compassionate means:
feeling or showing sympathy and concern for others.

Loving means:
feeling or showing love or great care.

Mass

Throughout this term we have been able to celebrate Mass each Wednesday with a different class. With the support of our chaplaincy team, we have been able to introduce song to our Mass and students are increasingly taking the initiative in leading the prayer and preparations.

We were also delighted to bring the whole school to Mass to celebrate All Saints Day and we look forward to ending this term with our celebration of our Christmas Mass.



Chapel Band

With the support of a former student Shalana Shaji and our junior chaplain, we have formed an ever growing chapel band. This group of students meets weekly to share their faith through music. The confidence within this group is rapidly growing and they have now begun to record tracks that can be shared and played during Mass and collective worship.



St Chad's Sanctuary

Between September and November we challenged our students to come together to collect items to support St Chads Sanctuary. Once again our students displayed incredible compassion and generosity and we were able to bring some students to St Chads to help pass on the donations and to have a tour of the sanctuary to see who and how our contributions are helping.



Retreats

After two years of disruption caused by Covid, we are delighted to see the return of retreats for our students. In September our Year 10 students were able to spend time at Soli House and begin their KS4 journeys by taking time, in a beautiful area, to gather a sense of meaning and purpose.



Furthermore, in November we were delighted to bring 45 students from years 7 and 8 for a three day retreat at Alton Castle. Students had a fantastic time in a beautiful environment where they were able to explore their faith in such beautiful surroundings. We are very much looking forward to nurturing these students, with opportunities to continue to grow and share their faith within the school community.

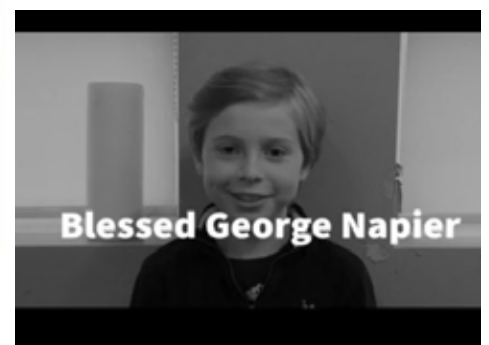


Collective Worship

Collective worship continues to be an integral part of our daily routine. Collective worship this year has evolved to include the gospel message from each Sunday, alongside a link to scripture that relates to our termly virtues.

Increasingly, we are looking for opportunities for students to lead acts of collective worship. We were so pleased with the video our chaplaincy team made to celebrate the feast of Blessed George Napier and it was wonderful to share this as an act of collective worship across the school community.

We are looking forward to the Christmas reflections and Advent challenges that students have created and these too will be shared across the school as forms of prayer and worship during advent.



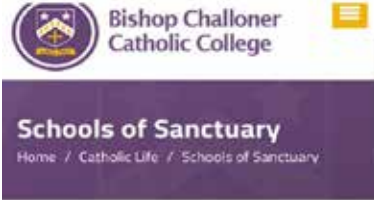
Sacred Spaces

After the success of last year, we are delighted to re-launch our sacred spaces initiative. Sacred Spaces allows form groups to come together to design a space in their room to focus on prayer and worship. Students are encouraged to work together to plan their space and to bring in candles, statues etc and to be as creative as possible. This space gives students opportunities to take ownership of their room and focus their prayer towards a sacred place within the class room. We look forward to seeing the creative and prayer spaces that students design this year.



School of Sanctuary

The School of Sanctuary award continues to be an important area of focus for our school this year. Schools of Sanctuary epitomise the gospel values of our community and we very much hope to be in position to apply for the award later in this academic year.



Here at Bishop Challoner Catholic College we have made the commitment to work towards becoming a School of Sanctuary.

We recognise the call of Pope Francis, who reminds us "The Gospel calls us to be neighbours of the smallest and most abandoned."

The philosophy of Schools of Sanctuary is wholly consistent with our mission statement and we



We have dedicated a place on our school website to showcase examples of our work in this area and throughout the year, we will continue to develop opportunities for our students to participate in acts that show solidarity for disadvantaged people in society. We continue to explore opportunities to develop a whole school curriculum that offers opportunities to develop concern and compassion for the less fortunate in our world.

Advent

As we enter the season of Advent, we are spending this time reflecting on the importance of Advent as a time of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

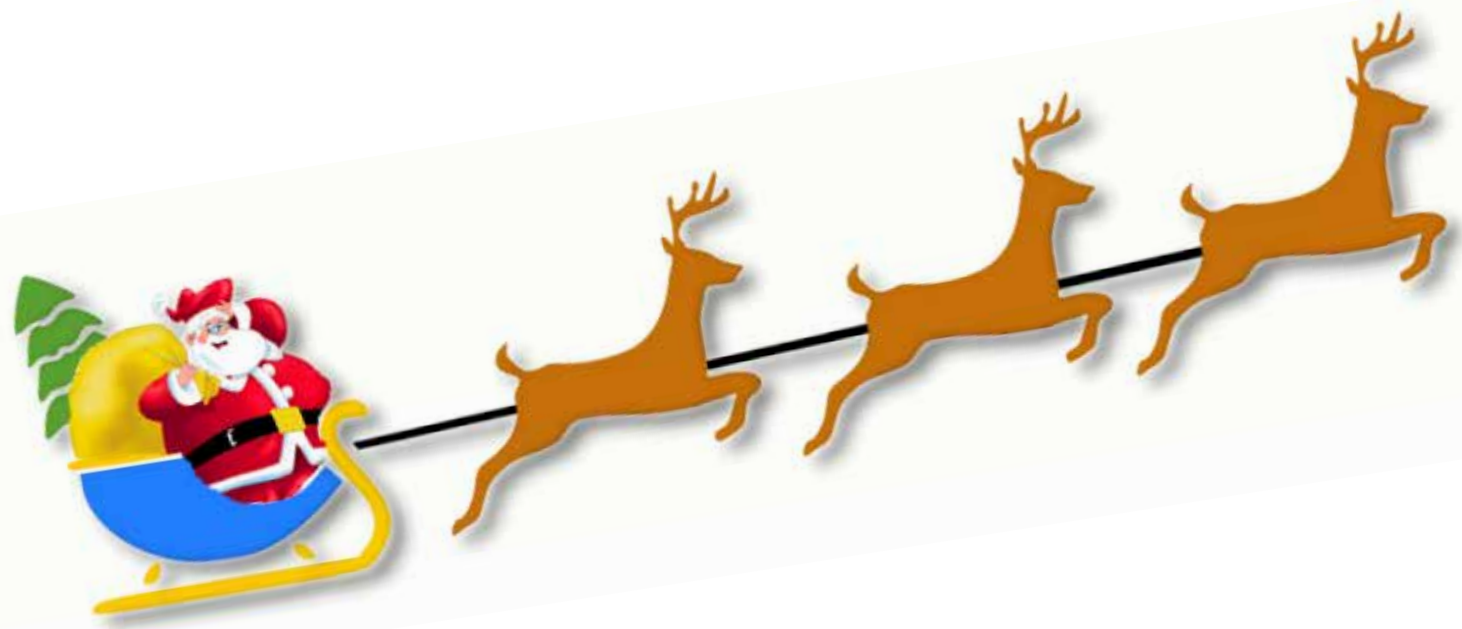
Our crib has been beautifully arranged by our sixth form chaplaincy team and this offers a beautiful daily focus for our students.

Our collective worship across Advent includes a daily Advent challenge that enables students to consider a daily act they can participate in as a spiritual challenge and the chaplaincy team have also offered staff and students the opportunity to participate

in the Rosary club each Wednesday morning.

During Advent all students have had the opportunity visit the chapel with their class to participate in an Advent service. This provides students with the opportunity to take time out of the class room to pray, reflect and focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

Additionally, we are extremely grateful to Fr Mario for the time he gave each Wednesday across Advent to offer students the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.



Religious Studies

Liturgical Season

We are currently in Advent, where we focus on the arrival of our Lord and Saviour. Each week we rejoice in the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that accompanies our anticipation of His birth.

The culmination of the season of Advent is the Nativity, where the prophecy of the messiah is fulfilled.

Students in key stage 3 have had the opportunity to reflect on the meaning and message of Advent. We have had examinations of conscience in the chapel and been offered the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation which bring us closer to God.

Lessons in RE have included the Christian meaning of Advent and Christmas as well as learning about how Mary, Joseph and Jesus were refugees. This enables an opportunity for students to connect to current social issues and be a part of our School of Sanctuary Mission.

Together this Advent, let us take a moment to reflect on the many blessings of the season.

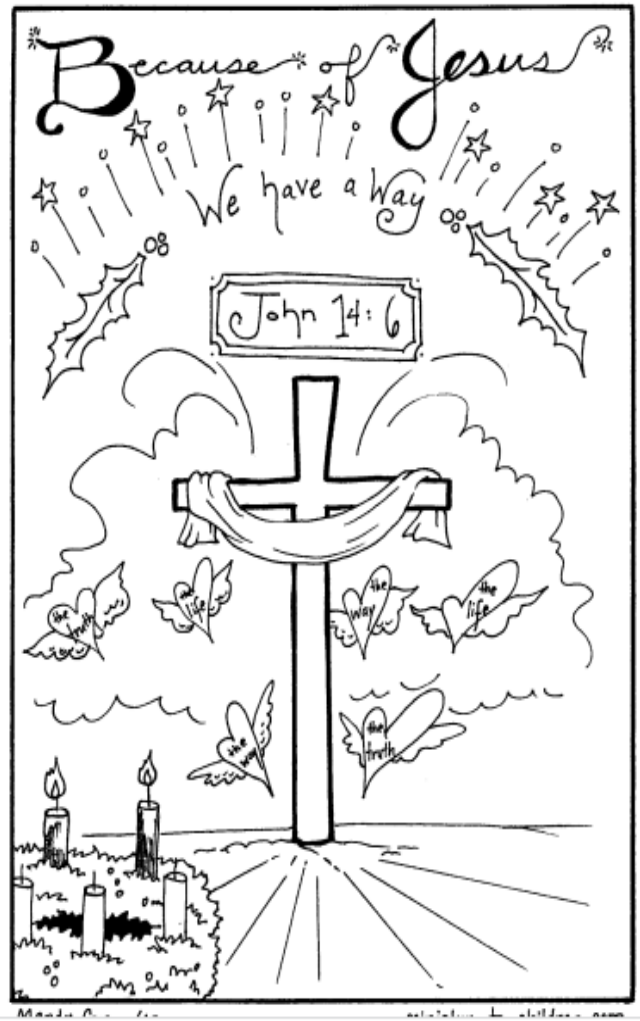
Let us pray:

God of hope, we cling to you, for you renew the face of the earth.
Through the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus, we follow you on the path of dawn.

Enlightened by your love and wisdom, help us to lead each other and all creatures back to your open arms. Amen
A Prayer from CAFOD. Amen.

Our community parishes offer the opportunity to be present with God through Advent, Nativity and Christmas services. Check out your local parish website for Mass timings.

Enclosed is a moment for mindfulness, as we take time to be present with God let us reflect on our actions and choices, consider how we be present for ourselves, each other and God this Advent.



Key Stage 3

At the end of their current unit, Year 7 and 9's will have completed an Assessment. What this means in Religious Education is that students will be assessed on the skills needed for success throughout the subject: Knowledge, Contextualisation, Communication and Analysis. These skills will be in conjunction with learning from each subject this academic year.

Students will be provided with revision materials, sessions and reminders by their classroom teachers on the lead up to the assessments. This will allow students to build on good study habit practices, positive motivation for practicing written responses and applying subject knowledge in different ways to better support long term memory. An excellent way for us to celebrate in our Christian Characteristics during our Year of Character.

Retreats

This term, Year 7 & 8 have had the opportunity to return to overnight retreats with Kenelm Youth Trust at Alton Castle. We are delighted to have been able to offer students a chance to bond, spend time with God and reflect on the persons we have become and would like to be.



Year 7

This autumn, our Year 7's had units on 'Creation and Covenant' and RSE – 'Who am I?', they are continuing their journey in Christianity as we delve into 'Promise & Prophet' especially exploring elements of our Catholic identity.

This segment of the spiral curriculum is to set students up for motivation success, building on prior knowledge whilst instilling core values, beliefs and teachings that will continue throughout KS3 and into KS4.

Year 9

Year 9 have been exploring philosophical questions throughout their units and especially building on their application of contextualisation, analysis and evaluation throughout. Not only have they considered the constructs of Justice, they have been contemplating opinions on the Value of life. We challenge our students to consider different perspectives, review religious beliefs and teachings and evaluate opinions for society today.

In addition to Pause for Prayer our key stage 3 students have had the opportunity to examine their conscience and participate in the Sacrament in Reconciliation.

Year 10

We have concluded the first theme of our journey in Catholic Theology for our GCSE, Origins & Meanings. Our exam board is EDUQAS and we are following Route B- Judaism in conjunction with the Birmingham diocese.

Our year 10's showed exemplary resilience in their assessment which challenged them to apply their contextual knowledge to questions regarding beliefs, faiths and actions. Students showed application through description, explanation and evaluative judgement in their writing skills. In this year of Character we celebrate the many journey's our students have and continue to be on.

Students are now beginning their RSE sessions on 'Authentic Freedom' where we consider our beliefs, values and attitudes as we learn more about being fully loved and cared for by God who wants the very best for us always. When we return in the new year our students will continue with our second theme in GCSE- Good and Evil.

A Level

It has been a joy to have such a happy, dedicated and thoughtful year 12 cohort who have started their studies.

We have been learning about situation ethics and utilitarianism in Ethical theories; along side arguments for the existence of God and we have done challenges for religious beliefs.

Students have been learning how they can thoroughly outline ethical theories and philosophical arguments as well as evaluating their effectiveness, persuasiveness and overall impact.

We continue to share in and celebrate the resilience and dedication of our year 13 cohort as they review their course content and prepare for their mock examinations in the new year. They are focused on refining our skills in investigating and critically analysing questions, arguments and ideas to then delve into analysis of their connective natures.

Year 8

To date students have studied: 'How do I find happiness & fulfilment' and have moved into 'Why might there be suffering'. We have been reflecting on how our subject is a living, breathing part of who we are as people. Students have had the opportunity to Pause for Prayer in the chapel and consider how what we have learned is a part of our choices and actions in life. They are currently focusing on the liturgical season on Advent, with emphasis on Jesus as a refugee and the nativity as this is an important time of year in our faith.



Year 11

Congratulations to our Year 11's who have just finished their Mock Examination window. They showed resilience, kindness and dedication as they reflected on their learning and applied this to the examination techniques and writing skills. A testament to who they are as individuals, each unique and truly treasured by God. Our students have the final theme to complete from their GCSE specification – Sin & Forgiveness.

Year 12 & 13 Core RE

It has been a delight to teach our sixth form students and continue to share in the light of our faith as they embark on their academic studies. We have been studying the importance of Human Dignity- a key element of Catholic Social Teachings, in the light of the encyclical Pacem en Teris. Being able to recognise the human element within our world, the importance of standing up for the vulnerable (another Catholic Social Teaching) and exploring the way our faith is ever present in our society.

Our students have taken time to reflect on choices and their impact in their most recent assessment.

English

Debate Mate



Debate Mate is off to a great start this year! We took sixteen Year 7 students to the annual launch event at the University of Birmingham, where they learned more about the benefits of learning to debate and then watched a demonstration. Two of our students were selected to ask questions to the debate teams and did so eloquently and were very enthusiastic. The first Debate Mate session in school was a huge success, with a high turnout and all year groups across year 7 to 10 represented! We anticipate a fantastic debating season this year, and look forward to providing further updates.

Paired Reading

The Paired Reading programme is running again this year, with a group of Year 9 students on a Tuesday and a group of Year 10 students on a Thursday. The programme supports students with their reading by pairing them with a Year 12 mentor or a trainee teacher. Students have been identified through their NGRT (National Group Reading Test) and their P3 reading scaled scores. This year, we have a committed group of Year 12 students who are mentoring our readers. In December this year, our mentors have the opportunity to be trained formally in reading mentorship through the Reader Leader programme, run by the Literacy Trust. This one day training session will provide our mentors with some invaluable skills to support the Paired Reading programme. This is all made possible through the commitment of our fantastic librarian, Ms Newton, who runs the programme so enthusiastically.



Trips

2022-23 is going to be known officially as the Year of the Trips in English!

We start off in November with a Year 11 trip to watch *An Inspector Calls* in Birmingham. As one of the studied texts at GCSE, this will provide our students valuable insight into the stage directions and production features of Priestley's most famous play.

Next up we have Year 7 - 130 of them in fact - who are going to watch *A Christmas Carol* in Coventry! Our lucky Year 7 students are currently reading the classic Christmas ghost story in lessons and jumped at the chance to watch it performed on the stage.

February 2023 sees trips to see *The Tempest* performed at The Globe in London for our Year 8s, who will be studying it concurrently, and also *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Duke of York theatre in London for our Year 9 students who will, again, be studying the play in lessons.

We have, of course, saved the most dramatic until last: *Romeo and Juliet* with our Year 10s, who study the play as part of their GCSE curriculum. There is a joke in there about stropky teenagers but I shall not make it today!

Alongside these incredible visits, we have two trips in Sixth Form with Year 12 going on a residential to Ireland to soak up some of that famous Irish literary culture, and also a trip to London to watch "*A Streetcar Named Desire*".

So, chances are, if you're looking for the English Department this year, we're out!

Key Stage 5

There have been a couple of opportunities for student enrichment recently with the senior maths challenge taking place and with taking part in the BBC STEM TV Programme Finance event. The senior maths challenge comprises of 25 multiple-choice problems to solve with both year 12 and year 13 participating in this national competition. Our students achieved 22 bronze, 7 silver and 1 gold award. The BBC TV Programme Finance event was an interactive workshop looking in where the money come from and how it was spent, looking at the key skills of critical decision making and budgeting.

Our Year 12 and 13 A-Level mathematicians undertook the "Senior Maths Challenge" at the beginning of October. Papers were completed online rather than on paper, and it lasted 90 minutes. The maths department entered all our A-Level mathematicians each year, to ensure everyone gets the opportunity to compete.

This year, the results came out at the end of October. In Year 12 there was:
1 silver certificate, 11 bronze certificates and lots of certificates of participation. Congratulations to Finnian T who got the best in Year 12.

In Year 13 there was:
1 gold certificate, 6 silver certificates, 11 bronze certificates and a further 10 certificates of participation. Particular mention to Matthew J U (who got the best in school), and also to the silver certificate holders: Vania A, Daniel C, Leane C, Oliver C, William R and James S.

Maths Challenge

This week we have had 10 of our most keen mathematicians went over to Cardinal Wiseman Catholic College to compete with other local Catholic schools. The two teams enjoyed the challenge and did the school and department proud.



Dragon Quiz

Just before half term, our 9XY1 mathematicians took part in a "dragon quiz" organised by the AMSP (Advanced Mathematics Support Programme). This interactive, online quiz involved teams of 4 working together to solve mathematical problems and answer maths questions, collecting a virtual "dragon" for each correct answer.

The competition was very closely fought, with all teams achieving at least 10 dragons, and two teams achieving 13. In a countback, Thomas, Danait, Keeley and Jack came out on top - very well done to them!

The AMSP are proposing to run a similar quiz at Christmas and we look forward to it!



Timestables Rockstars

During the first half term of this academic year, we sent two teams from Y7 out to compete in the yearly timetable rockstars competition at St Edmund Campion. All students had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed the day. One of the teams finished second overall which is a fantastic achievement, well done Year 7!



Primary Outreach & Tolkien Maths Cluster

Last week our primary visitors took part in a team crossnumber our second gifted and talented session, which ended in a very close result! We had 20 students from 7 primary schools, all of whom worked really hard and played very fairly.



Maths Drop In

We have continued to run the Key Stage 3 homework club every Wednesday. There continues to be a great uptake in the drop in and often we have a full classroom of students utilising the facilities on offer. The drop in provides students with a space to get support from teachers if they are struggling with homework or if they don't have access to the internet at home, a space for them to complete their homework.

Trips

The Paris trip is set to go ahead in July 2023. Student sign up opened at the end of October, and the department is hoping to take 40 Year 8 students to the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, Montparnasse Tower, a River Seine cruise and, of course, Disneyland Paris.

Christmaths Day

We were delighted to once again open our doors for our annual Christmaths day. All 11 of our Tolkein Cluster schools were in attendance (55 students) and really made the day an occasion to remember. Our fantastic year 9 maths leaders designed some brilliant games and challenges for the students in attendance to engage in, from a mathematical interpretation of Cluedo, to using maths to decorate model houses! Thank you to our leaders and to our Tolkein partners for once again making this event a highlight of our year. A special mention to St Catherine's who were our Christmaths champions this year. We are already looking forward to next year's event and can't wait to welcome back all of our partner schools.



Academic Coach

Our academic coach has been working in mathematics supporting students from KS3, KS4 and KS5. This has been a combination of one-to-one and one to small group support. The students working with our academic coach have been identified through the use of data as well as teacher recommendations, as students who would benefit from additional support. Our academic coach has been working on a timetable rota than ensures students are only ever removed from one lesson once every half term. He has also been offering in lesson support working alongside targeted students who require more one to one support within lessons.

Science Curriculum

Since September, students have been working their way through the curriculum.

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.

Slapton Sands

During September, Miss Mayor took Year 13 Biology students to Slapton Ley Field Centre. The students stayed for four days in South Devon, carrying out a range of field techniques and studies. The students visited East Prawle, where they carried out rock pool investigations followed by examining the zones on the beach. The students compared many different species including limpets on the rocky shore line in an exposed and sheltered beach.

All students demonstrated excellent practical and team building skills throughout the trip. 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, where the students were able to use their bat detectors to locate the bats and investigate their behaviour. They also had the opportunity to observe the Kingsbridge Estuary on paddleboards, which was an amazing experience for all.

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 Ley 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 21st September we had a very successful Open Evening. Demonstrations by students and staff proved to be being very popular with all our visitors. Years 7-9 students 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 students were on hand to demonstrate some of the GCSE and A Level practicals covered in their courses. On the 9th 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 students 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 students carried out seasonal experiments in science club, including making sparklers and a Chemis-tree!

Year 7

At the end of term we will be saying good bye to Mrs Brown who is moving to pursue a new role as SENCO. The Science department and the whole school want to thank her for all her hard work over the years. We all wish her the every best of luck.

PSHE Curriculum

It has been a very exciting term and the PSHE curriculum for Key Stage 3 is fully underway and impacting the lives of our students across the board. Year 7 are close to completing their initial project on Healthy Living. This has covered physical health, mental health, and healthy eating. It has also explored what healthy friendships look like and promotes our extensive extracurricular programme to ensure our new Year 7s are experiencing community life to its fullest.

Year 8 have absolutely relished in learning about Law and Order. They have explored what the Youth Criminal system looks like and compared this to what happens when laws are broken and adults have to go to court. In lessons, they have explored what a jury would do and also completed role play exercises practicing restorative justice.

Year 9 lessons are a hive of activity and as part of our preventative curriculum we are focusing on the damaging and dangerous affects of alcohol, drugs, smoking and vaping. Students are taught the current laws around these areas and also how they can affect us physically, mentally and socially. The impact on students in lessons is reflected through their questions, insight and the awareness campaigns that they have created. Students are focused and show real maturity around the sensitive nature of the content. One Year 9 class also had visit from our School Liaison Officer, PC Tom Dale who delivered a workshop on County Lines and Crime. Year 9 students were engaged and definitely had their eyes opened to how to avoid any gang affiliation.

Year 11 Personal Development Day

Year 11 had their Personal Development drop down day just before half term and feedback was really positive, showing that students had an insightful and reflective experience. We kicked off with the powerful Precious Lives Presentation from Rob Pedley – an ex-serving police officer who spoke so passionately about knife crime and how to protect ourselves in today's society. The entire year group were deeply engaged in his autobiography and absorbed the important messages that he delivered.

Students then went off to classroom based sessions which ranged from Drug Awareness and the Realities of Social Media to Revision Techniques and Money Matters. The materials were carefully orchestrated around the needs of the Year group, in an ever-changing society. Students enjoyed the variety and pace of the day and the impact was shown through challenging yet positive discussions around issues such as the reality of social media influencers.



Assemblies & Form Time

The assembly and form resource programmes are well underway and they are a rich curriculum of Personal Development, Safeguarding, Preventative and Cultural themes. Each week, two resources are created; one to be presented live in assembly and the other is pre-recorded and delivered in tutor rooms. This academic year we have already covered topics ranging from Remembrance Day, Careers and the Word Cup to World Kindness Day and UK Parliament Week. Each resource is current in terms of social and political accuracy and they also run parallel and enhance our Bishop Challoner Character Virtues. For example, when looking at Knife Crime and promoting safe choices, our students are reminded of 'diligence' and making wise choices. Alongside the programme we are also delighted to

have had visitors speak to some of our year groups already this year. Year 11 welcomed our Samaritans volunteers as they spoke to them about tips for coping with exam stress and balancing the demands of their school year. Year 7 were also very engaged in a brilliant assembly led by Paula Shorthouse from West Midlands Travel Police – this was also Paula's milestone of speaking to 100,000 students.

UK Parliament Week – Our New Prime minister

November 14th – 18th

Prayer:

Lord, bless the UK with good leaders, full of the Holy Spirit, and full of God's wisdom to lead the country. Let them know God's truth, righteousness, justice, compassion and help them live out the biblical moral values.
Amen



Black history Month

We celebrated Black History month throughout the whole of October, promoting the theme of 'Actions not Words' with a wonderful trail for PSHE classes within their lessons. Influential figures who have profiled throughout history were displayed throughout the school and students had 20 questions to answer. Assemblies looked at the history of this celebration and honed in on two sportsmen – Walter Tull and Marcus Rashford. Of course, we linked these two remarkable men to our own character virtues, focusing on how they showed love and compassion. In Year 10 one of our students even stood in the shoes of the Head of Year and delivered this assembly in front of 200 peers! The theme continued during form times where we linked to Cultural Literacy and explored Birmingham based artists from Lenny Henry to Birmingham Royal Ballet's, Celine Gittens.


What qualities do both Tull and Rashford have that can influence us?

Both Walter Tull and Marcus Rashford have shown:

- Resilience
- Courage
- Confidence
- Kindness
- Love
- Compassion

Can you show these character virtues by:

- Demonstrating equality through being kind in your actions and words?
- Standing up and reporting if you see inequality to any member of staff?
- Respecting the fact that everyone's background is different in our community?
- Supporting our school charity collections for St Chad's Sanctuary?



Celine Gittens


- Birmingham Royal Ballet (BRB) Dancer, Celine Gittens, has made Birmingham her home despite being born in Trinidad and later living in Canada.
- The Principal Dancer was at the forefront of the live Commonwealth Games handover routine and has led many of the company's performances.
- Noted as one of the young talents in the arts, Gittens met the Queen at Buckingham Palace in 2011 and also performed for Prince Charles.
- The BRB perform all over the world but their home is at Birmingham Hippodrome.




Malorie Blackman

"Because my mum and dad brought me up to believe that people are different but equal. And that I should treat everyone, no matter who, with the same respect I'd like to be shown."

Born in London to Barbados immigrants, Blackman has written numerous best-selling books such as "Noughts and Crosses" and "An Eye for an Eye."



Anti-Bullying Week

High profiling Anti-Bullying week was definitely on our agenda this November. This year's theme of 'Reach Out' was explored during form time where students created affirmations and suggestions for anyone who feels that they need help. We used their artistic creations to make a display in the foyer and it was wonderful to see students reading the advice of their peers and encouraging and promoting kindness. Throughout PSHE lessons, we also explored the different types of bullying and how to tackle situations and receive help. Students really enjoyed creating anti bullying posters. The assembly that was delivered to all year groups was universal in its message and showed that bullying is not accepted or tolerated and encouraged students to reflect not only on 'reaching out' as a victim but also as a bystander.



Fox Hollies

I am delighted to share with parents and carers that 11 amazing Year 9 students are embarking on the Fox Hollies programme. We had our initial disability training session from Teresa Fadden and have spent the last two Tuesday mornings at Fox Hollies working in 5 different classrooms. It has been humbling to observe our students form positive relationships with the students and also talk so enthusiastically about the vital work experience that they have gained there. They never want to get back on the mini bus to come back to Bishop Challoner because they are enjoying the work that they are doing there so much.



School Council

Last, but certainly not least, is school council - which is on fire this year! We have already held two Year Councils and every single form has committed to one charity event throughout the year. We have met as a whole council for our initial meeting and discussed safety and we have also met to look at how we can try to reduce the amount of traffic on Institute Road and neighbouring roads. This exciting workshop was led by Alice Dale from Mode Shift and the school council are now working in teams to survey the impact of cars outside our school. They are a wonderful cross-sectional representative of our community and as the image below shows, work together, regardless of age, for the common interest of trying to make improvements to our school and wider community!



Geography

Year 7

As an introduction to Geography, Year 7 began the term focusing on local Geography within Birmingham and then will broaden their learning to look at 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 with 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 students teaching each other about waterfall formation. Subsequently, 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 10

Year 10 have made a positive start to the year and are currently working on the first topic 'The Living World'. Within this unit of work, they have been studying important global issues such as deforestation of the Malaysian rainforests and desertification in the Thar desert. Students have recently completed a mid-unit assessment for the topic the results of which are showing good progress across the cohort so far. All Year 10 students have been provided with a BCCC Geography revision guide and are being introduced to revision strategies.

for their recently completed mock exam. Revision grids, revision checklists, BCCC revision guides and practice exam questions have also been issued to students to ensure they have all the required resources to give them every chance of success in their final exams. We have been delighted by the number of students seeking additional guidance and would like to remind all students that they are welcome to attend intervention sessions. A number of our students have also expressed a desire to study Geography at A level which is pleasing to see.

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 a report style writing, raps and poems, letter writing and extending Point Evidence Explain Paragraphs. We have really enjoyed recording some of the student's raps which you can listen to on our twitter account.

Year 11

Year 11 are now working hard on covering the content for the final exams and have shown great dedication in their preparation

Key Stage 5

Year 12 have made a positive start to their A Level Geography and have been demonstrating their independent learning skills to support what they are learning in the classroom. The students are currently exploring the topic of 'Natural Hazards' for their physical component and 'Global Systems and Governance' for the human component of the course. They will shortly be completing progress check assessments whereby they will be applying their understanding of the units so far to exam questions.

The department continues to be very impressed with the dedication shown by Year 13 to their studies, especially their NEA investigations. The students have used the available resources to independently complete significant sections of their NEA and have shown great resilience in meeting the deadlines. We have enjoyed reading the sections they have submitted so far and are looking forward to receiving the completed investigations.

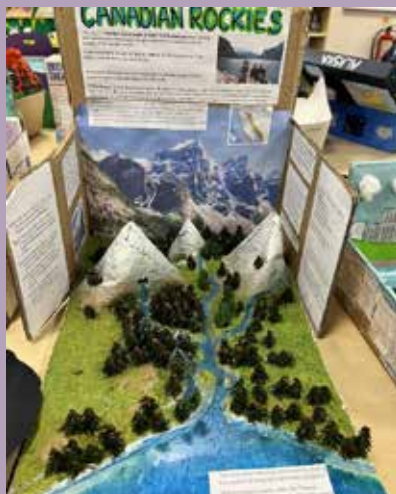
Trips

This term our year 11 students have visited Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire to collect data on the River Ashbrook to investigate how the river changes as it flows downstream and whether it matches the Bradshaw Model. The trips were a success and students were a credit to the school in their mature conduct on both of these visits. In lessons now we are currently analysing and evaluating our primary data collection results in preparation for the unit 3 final exam.



Bishop's Got Talent

Year 7 were set the challenge of creating a 'Landscape in a box' whereby they chose an inspiring landscape and used a range of resources to create it in a box. Alongside their landscape they were asked to describe their location and the geographical features that were present. The landscape in a box idea aimed to bring together students' Geographical understanding whilst also providing an opportunity for research, creativity and independent learning. Year 7 have showed fantastic enthusiasm for this and the completed projects were outstanding. The creativity and hard work that has clearly gone in to making these landscapes was truly phenomenal. Staff and students joined together to celebrate the masterpieces and helped to select 10 overall winners. Congratulations to: Bo, Luke, Florence, Amelia, Herbie, Nell, Antoni, Jasmine, Mohammed and Jacob! Take a look at our twitter: @BCgeogdept for more photographs of the work produced. Well done Year 7!



History

A Christmas Story from the Past

As some of us sit down to watch the World Cup this winter, it is fitting to remember the unifying role that football can have (especially with the controversy surrounding the host nation).

The year 1914 saw the Christmas spirit manifest itself in the most unlikely of places—a World War I battlefield. Starting on the evening of December 24, scores of German, British and French troops in Belgium laid down their arms and initiated a spontaneous holiday ceasefire. The truce was reportedly instigated by the Germans, who decorated their trenches with Christmas trees and candles and began singing carols like “Silent Night.” British troops responded with their own rendition of “The First Noel,” and the weary combatants eventually ventured into “no man’s land”—the treacherous, bombed-out space that separated the trenches—to greet one another and shake hands.



According to accounts from the men involved, the soldiers shared cigarettes and pulls of whiskey, and some exchanged Christmas presents with men they had been shooting at only hours before. Taking advantage of the brief lull in combat, some Scottish, English and German troops even played a pick-up game of soccer on the frozen battlefield. The truce was not sanctioned by the officers on either side, and eventually, the men were called back to their respective trenches to resume fighting. Later attempts at holiday meetings were mostly forbidden, but as the war dragged on the “Christmas Truce” would stand as a remarkable example of shared humanity and brotherhood on the battlefield.

Black History Month

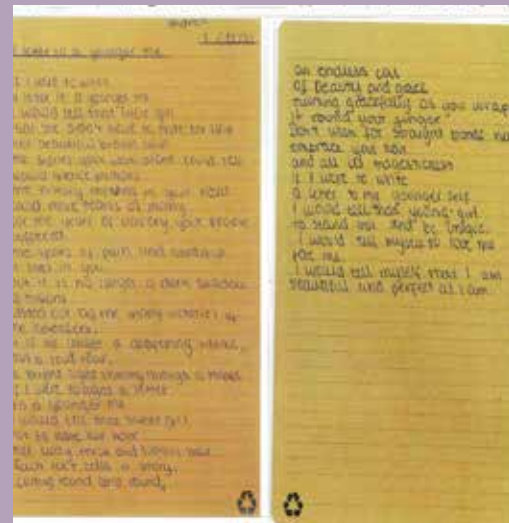
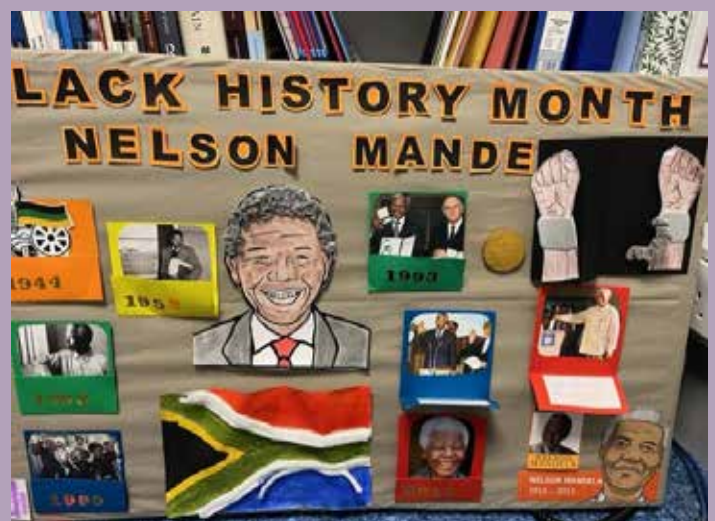
We began October by promoting a competition for Black History Month across KS3. We received hundreds of entries from students. There was a huge range of entries, such as short films, paintings, Lego creations and poems. Below are some images of some of the amazing work students produced to honour this important event. Congratulations to our top 3 entries, judged by Dr. Coughlan:

1st Place: Andrea, Year 9

2nd Place: Taeden, Year 7

3rd Place: Nigel, Year 7

Dr. Coughlan also wanted to commend the work of the following: Ella Louise, Year 9. Caragh, Year 8. Beatrice, Year 9. Kaitly, Year 9. Grace, Year 9. Aleena, Year 9. Caolan, Year 8. Ameli, Year 7. Koj, Year 9. George, Year 7. Isabelle, Year 9.



Bishop's Got Talent History Bingo

Early November saw the History Department host the school's BGT event in which students played History Bingo in the library. The event was very lively and students enjoyed learning about key figures from history as well as being rewarded for this by earning themselves some sweets in the process. Thank you to our Year 12 students: Gwyneth Goodwin, Josephine Williams, Aisling Murphy, Kaci-Mai Blundell and Beatrice Kirkland, who helped to host this event by researching the key historical figures and supporting students who were playing. Student feedback on this event was very positive with requests we do it again but this time over lunch so they could play for even longer!



Holocaust Speaker

On the 15th of November the school welcomed Lesley Urbach, a Holocaust speaker from the organization Generation2Generation. She presented her family's story to the whole of the Year 9 cohort in the auditorium. Her presentation included video clips and recordings of her mother and aunts experiences of life in Nazi Germany as well as the tragic story of how her Grandfather and Grandmother were murdered in death camps. We were delighted to be able to provide such an emotive and gripping narrative to the students. We believe it will serve them well in their studies of the Holocaust and with any luck the experience will stay with them well into adulthood.



Computer Science and ICT

Birmingham TechWeek

In October we took students from Bishop Challoner to Birmingham's TechWeek to experience the latest in software and hardware innovations, that Birmingham has to offer. The students had a great experience engaging with emerging technology.



Open Evening

Bishop Challoner's open evening was once again a massive success, but this is only possible thanks to the hard work and commitment from our students. A huge thanks to all the students who helped in the computing department, we couldn't do it without you!



CyberFirst Competition

Having been victorious last year, we have once again entered numerous groups of key stage 3 girls into the national CyberFirst Competition. As always, we have been blown away by their commitment and dedication to cryptography, code breaking, and puzzle solving.

We are extremely proud of all our girls who entered and are delighted that one of our teams of 4 have qualified for the Final of the CyberFirst Girls Competition which will be held on the 4th February 2023.



VR Web3 Other World Trip

We were fortunate to take a group of year 12 students to a VR experience in Birmingham City Centre on Friday 2nd December.

All the students had a fantastic time and enjoyed the emerging technology experience that they had.



Bletchley Park

The now annual trip to Bletchley Park took place on Monday 5th December to allow a new set of year 8, 9, and 10 students to experience computer science history. The trip has students explore the museum at Bletchley to uncover the important yet covert computational and maths work that help shift the direction of World War 2. Whilst there, students take part in interactive experiences, explore hands on an Enigma Machine, and get to explore the grounds of this famous place.



Robotics Masterclass

On 30th November, lecturers from the University of Birmingham, visited Bishop Challoner to deliver a bespoke robotics session to our key stage 3 students. As part of this session, the lecturers brought in physical robotics kits to allow the students to get a hands on experience with physical computing. We are really grateful to the university for bringing in these resources and supporting us as a department / school.



Extra-Curricular

The department is consistently amazed and impressed by our student's commitment to the extra-curricular clubs that we offer. A reminder of what they are:

If you are interested in any of the clubs, please speak to your computing teacher.

Club	Day/Time/Location
Robotics Club	Monday / 3:10-4pm / MC2
Drone Club	Tuesday / 3:15-3:45pm / Dojo
Girl's Cyber Security Club	Wednesday / 3:10-4pm / MC2
Digital Art Club	Thursday / 3:10-4pm / MC1



Year Group	Activity Overview
Year 7	Robotics – students have been exploring coding through the perspective of robotics.
Year 8	Data representation – students have spent the last half term exploring how computers store information in binary.
Year 9	Data representation – students have spent the last half term exploring how computers store information in binary.
Year 10	The computing group have begun their GCSE journey by exploring searching and sorting algorithms, data representation, Boolean logic and data types.
Year 11	Students have been preparing for their mocks which they sat in December.
Year 12	Students have been exploring data structures and object orientated programming.
Year 13	Students are currently preparing for their mock exams in January 2023.

Art & Design

A Service of Remembrance

Last year, Bishop Challoner Arts Hub created a celebratory Arts event that explored, celebrated and commemorated memory in all 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 was a truly powerful and memorable evening.

This year, to commemorate Remembrance Day 2022, the vision was to create a more intimate experience for our community in the form of a 'Service of Remembrance'. This involved collaborating with St Dunstan's Church along with the many departments at BC to ensure the vision was realised successfully. This year's theme reflected on the value of 'service', remembering all those who have served and sacrificed, with soldiers, sailors, airmen and women represented, together with members of the emergency services and civilians, ensuring that no-one is forgotten. The event also included a special tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, who was the Royal British Legion's Patron for 70 years.



The school entrance marked 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 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.



Following on from the school entrance, the sublimation printed plaques were positioned on the railings along the pathway to St Dunstan's Church. At the entrance, Sophie Fothergill, Year 12 student and trombone player, performed The Last Post which was heard across Institute Road and beyond.

On entering the Church, the programme led you on an intimate journey of discovery through art and performance starting with a mixed media sculpture created by the Art department. Working with students' mixed media studies of poppies, birds and maps, this draped fabric was printed and embellished by hand. This year, the focus for the art department was realising the concept of '255 doves in flight'. The laser cut acrylic doves installation acts as a quiet and still entity to represent and remember the 255 British personnel who sadly lost their lives in the Falklands War.



The 'service of Remembrance' began with an opening prayer by Father Phillip. This was followed by reflective songs performed by vocal ensembles, including KS3 and KS4 students, a dramatic performance about the Falklands War Monologue based on the experiences of a WW2 nurse, Year 10 Performing Arts presented the poem, 'I Am Nurse', Year 11 Performing Arts presented poetry focusing on heroic nurses during COVID-19, followed by a rendition of the 'Last Post' performed by Sophie Fothergill. The service was emotional, respectful, and extremely poignant.

The powerful dramatic and poetry performances remembered the physical, mental, or emotional injury and trauma and the absence of time without family. The performance focused on the 40th anniversary of the Falklands conflict, reminding us of those who have suffered in all conflicts, past and present and those who experienced loss.



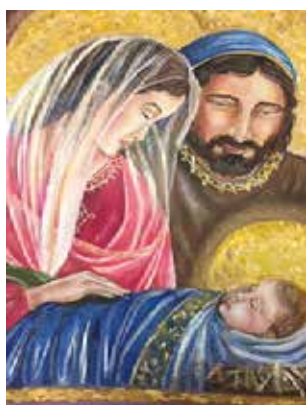
Following on from the dramatic performance in the church, was a series of spoken word performances by our year 12, young poet, AJ Finch. Reading from her book, you had a glimpse into her intimate and dynamic performance style. This was an exciting opportunity to hear and see from a future BC poetry star!

The large-scale Falklands War installation was positioned at the end of the trail to enable time for contemplation and reflection. The art installation includes 30 boxes which represent 30 soldiers in the Midlands and surrounding areas who lost their lives during the Falklands War. Each box contains a Mass card, handmade copper poppy, printed flower or plant study representing memory and loss and an ID tag. The boxes are surrounded by goose feathers to symbolise trust, honour, strength, belief, wisdom, power and freedom. It was lovely to bring the evening to a close by stepping back in time, enjoying tea and wartime cake, kindly baked by BC staff, whilst listening to renowned wartime songs, such as Dame Vera Lynn's *The White Cliffs of Dover*, *We'll Meet Again*, and *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square*, performed by Ilana Midgley-Smith, Erin Haran-Lewis and Robyn O'Donnell.

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 this year.

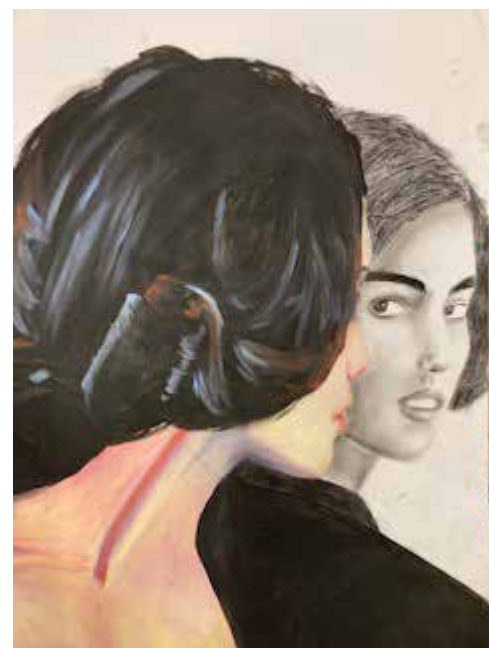
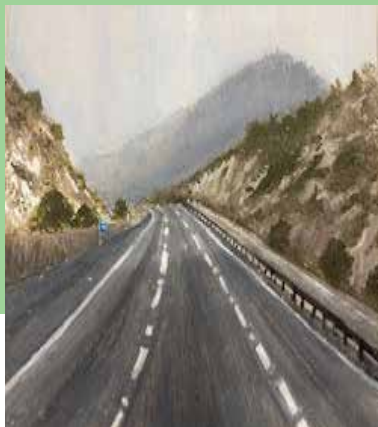
Artist in Residence

This year Shalana Shaji is our Artist in Residence. She will be working with us on several commissions and larger community projects with support throughout the year from her sister, Shalet Shaji who is currently studying an Art foundation course. Shalana has produced an exceptional watercolour pencil study for the Christmas card commission alongside supporting the chaplaincy team. Further commissions include: a large-scale self-portrait in oil for the Artist in Residence gallery space, working on the 'character virtues' project and community arts projects.



A Level Fine Art

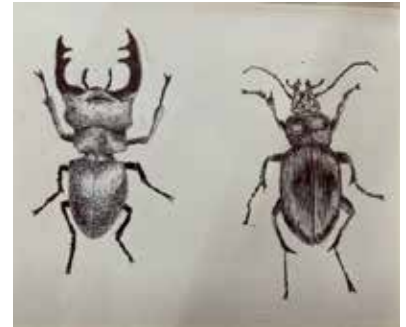
Our A level and GCSE students have excelled themselves this year in Fine Art, producing a series of diverse outcomes. The concepts explored get more expressive and confidently executed each year. The boundaries are continually being pushed with students working on diverse scales and utilising mixed media, material and surface. Plaster board, latex, cereal boxes and ceiling tiles are just some of the materials being explored. Themes for concept development include: 'interior and exterior space', 'urban decay and regeneration', 'masculinity', 'significant events', and 'windows'.





Key Stage 3 Art - Year 7

To kickstart Year 7's experience of the wonder that is art at Challoner, they have been working with new and exciting materials and techniques they may not have experienced before. They have been exploring the expressive mark making of Vincent Van Gogh using stick and ink and creating some realistic pepper drawings to get the hang of drawing accurately! So far, all of the students' work has been monochromatic, focusing on building their understanding of the formal elements – line, shape and proportion, tone, and texture – and there has been tremendous progress since their start at secondary school!



Year 8

Year 8 have been exploring memorial and commemorative artwork across this term. Their creative journey began by being introduced to 'The Shoes on the Danube' sculpture in Hungary, and how shoes are a symbol for Holocaust memorial. We have discussed the power of public art to tell stories and commemorate history, so that those events are not repeated. They have been incredibly mature and engaged during such an intense project, and we are so impressed with their commitment to creating high-quality work as response to these themes.



Year 9

Year 9 have been travelling through time through their artistic studies. They began with an in-depth study of the Italian Renaissance, focusing on the importance of Leonardo Da Vinci's anatomical studies to the world of engineering and medicine. They have each created strong realistic drawings in various materials of said anatomy studies, embedding their understanding of how science and art harmonise. With a focus on art's place in history, students can see how art constantly comments on wider societal issues, and they can form sophisticated interpretations of art. Recently, the students have been introduced to Impressionism and, more closely, the work of Claude Monet. Through watercolour painting, students have built their understanding of how movement can be portrayed within a painting, including the Impressionist style of brushstrokes and varying vibrancies of colour to portray weather and light changes. Next, we will delve into Van Gogh's world by painting with acrylic, the emotion of Expressionism using charcoal and oil paint for Kathe Kollwitz – and more as we reach current conceptual art.



Art Club

Art Club is in high attendance this year, with approximately 20 students across Key Stage 3 attending every week. Each week there is a new process available for them to sink their teeth into, including creating work for live briefs such as Inktober, where students use one-word prompts (this year, we had words like crabby, bat and scurry!) to create an unusual piece of artwork, Christmas printmaking, and unique processes like abstract tinfoil mono-printing! Students enjoy themselves and bring enthusiasm and energy to Miss Neal's room each week! We cannot wait to watch them grow into exciting and individual artists and expand on their Challoner education. Nigel T's "Crabby" for Inktober, using stick and ink.



Bishop's Got Talent - Art

Art's Bishop Got Talent event was an absolute hit! Students from all year groups got into the festive spirit by designing and creating their own Christmas cards using a range of materials – including laser cut motifs, paper collage and mixed media. The results were exciting and creative cards that each student (and some staff members!) could take home with them. The library was full to the brim with excited members of the Challoner community, really proving the power of Art to lift spirits and provoke expression!



Product Design

Year 7 Festival Lights Project

Year 7 feel a great sense of achievement when they complete their circuit board for their LED festival light. It requires the hand soldering of components such as LEDs, battery holders and switches to a circuit board and for many is their first experience with electronics. The second phase of the project involves them designing a screen for the light and then converting it to a CAD file using 2D Design. This enables their screens to be laser cut and etched in acrylic. This is a very popular project which allows both an opportunity for the development of hand and computer based skills.



Year 8 Pewter Casting

We are continuing with our pewter casting project in year 8 as this provides an opportunity for students to exercise their creativity whilst developing their spiritual formation through their understanding of the Saints after which our forms are named. Students select a Saint they wish to know more about and research their lives. They then explore how each Saint's virtues can be communicated visually by generating a range of ideas for a badge which can be worn by students to identify the form they belong to. They build upon their knowledge of CAD developed in Year 7 to design a casting mould using 2D Design and these are laser cut in MDF. Students get to cast their own badges using the brazing hearth and this is always a highlight, particularly with the range of PPE that must be worn when working with heat. Casting with the current class is due to begin next week and there should be some very impressive badges based upon the quality of their mould designs.



Year 9 Train Station Design

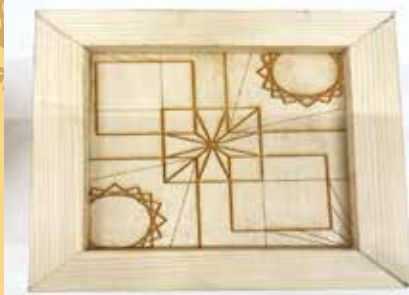
Year 9 have been exploring different methods of ideas generation in order to try to focus on creativity and innovation when designing. They have used sketching, collage, and lots of modelling to explore form and shape, translating 2D ideas into 3D whilst taking inspiration from architects such as Zaha Hadid, Frank Gehry, Santiago Calatrava and David Adjaye. The project culminates in the manufacture of a scale model of their concept for the new train station in Kings Heath which is due for completion next year. The project is successfully helping students to develop their modelling skills which will be of great benefit to those taking GCSE D&T where prototyping carries a large section of the marks in the coursework unit.



Year 10

Year 10 have started the GCSE course with an introduction to a range of workshop hand and power tools whilst learning about the working properties of timber. They have manufactured a small storage box using pine which has required the construction of a five different types of wood joint. The lid component requires them to produce a 2D Design vector file of a repeat pattern which is laser etched into plywood.

They have researched the multidisciplinary Emirati designer Aljoud Lootah for inspiration who takes her ideas from the traditions and cultures of the Emirates. This project has allowed the students to develop their knowledge and understanding of timber as a material through practical investigation and will prepare them well for the GCSE theory exam where material properties, manufacturing processes and knowledge of contemporary designers are tested.



Textiles

Key Stage 3 Textiles

The 7 students have been working on the pen pot holder project, using Design Movements as inspiration for their designs. This term they have focused on using shapes, patterns and colours from their chosen design movement such as Memphis to create a pattern repeat, this has then been drawn up on their netbooks using 2D design software and will be sublimation printed onto their pen pot.



Year 8

In year 8 students have been experimenting with applique and hand embroidery as part of the sports arm band project. They have each produced a sample of these techniques which has helped to improve their sewing skills and the use of basic paper patterns. They have tried to use a range of embroidery stitches on their samples including running, cross and seed stitch.



Year 9

Year 9 students are working on a wall hanging project linked with their identity, they have focused on producing a range of printed samples including screen, block and transfer printing which will be used to produce their final wall hanging. This term they have started using a seam allowance tool to help with the accuracy of hemming their fabric, this also helped them to understand the importance of working within a tolerance.



Textiles Club

Textiles club have been producing some autumn themed products this term. They have produced pumpkins and autumn leaves from recycled fabrics and are currently working on a Kitten door stop. The members of textiles club range from year 7 to 9 so some students are just starting to learn about using paper patterns and sewing on the machine whilst others are improving their skills from last year.



Food

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Students in year 7 have settled in well to the routines and procedures in the food room. They have eagerly learnt about working in a professional and hygienic manner. They continue to improve their practical skills through a variety of food products. Students initially practised knife skills as they will be used throughout practical sessions where they designed and made a healthier lunch box incorporating all food groups.

They then worked in teams to research the principles of the Eatwell Guide and then used the knowledge gained to create an Eatwell guide inspired pizza. Students are encouraged to evaluate their work considering the place of evaluation in new product development as well as sensory attributes of the product. Throughout practical tasks they learn how to use the oven and control temperature to ensure food is cooked and safe to eat. They have begun to consider provenance of food commonly eaten in the UK and where it comes from eg, if it is grown, reared or caught as well as seasonality. They are starting to think about the environmental impact of their products.



Year 10

They are two groups of students' doing the NCFE Technical Award in Food and Cookery. The course consists of seven content areas. The course aims to focus on the study of food and cookery and to provide opportunities to acquire a range of practical and technical skills. To complete the course students will sit a 1 ½ hour external examination and complete 16 ½ hours of controlled assessment. Students embarked on practical skills by jointing a whole chicken and freezing it into parts ready to make a variety of dishes such as BBQ drumsticks and wings, stock and Biryani. They have focussed on basic skills such as weighing, measuring and baking when making Victoria Sponge, Swiss Rolls and bread products. Throughout the making process they also investigate the functions of ingredients, food provenance and food science.

The students paid a visit to the school canteen to look behind the scenes and to help them to identify pieces of catering equipment accurately and to understand how to use, handle and clean different equipment correctly. It afforded the opportunity to ask questions of the staff about hygiene and safety procedures as well as careers in catering and to see what they have learnt put into practice.

Year 8

Students in year 8 continue to build on skills mastered in year 7. Many students are now confident and competent in the use of much small scale equipment in the food room. They have learnt about cross contamination worked with high risk products such as beef and chicken to put theory into practise. They continue to consider the impact of their food choices and how it impact the environment including food packaging. Many of the dishes made in year 8 focus on the use of left-over food and the reduction of food waste. This enables students to consider social issues around such as food banks, food security and composting.



Year 9

Year 9 students using skills and knowledge learnt in years 7 and 8 to make more complex products with confidence and precision. They made Bakewell tarts where they baked pastry 'blind' and then filled the case with jam and sponge; icing and a cherry were used for garnish to give them a professional touch. Year 9 students enjoyed a visit from Animal Aid. Animal Aid is a charity that campaigns peacefully against all animal abuse, and promotes a cruelty-free lifestyle. The 'drum- assisted' presentation focussed on the environmental impact of animal farming and how what we eat has a huge impact on the state of the planet and the survival of species all over the world. The students were involved in lively interesting debate where issues were dealt sensitively. They had the opportunity to try vegan style foods such as burgers, chicken bites and sausages.



Year 11

Congratulations to Year 11 who have now completed their external examination in the summer gaining an excellent set of grades: 8 level 2 distinctions, 12 level 2 merits, 4 level 2 passes and 2 level 1 passes. They are completing their controlled assessment which involved building up a portfolio of work that will inform what two-course meal they make for a specific client in their final assessment. The meal must be nutritious and show consideration to local produce and British cuisine. They are busy practising technical skills in readiness for their practical assessments. Here they can be seen using the pasta-machine to make pasta sheets and then practise making spaghetti, tagliatelle and farfalle by hand.



MFL

European Day of Languages

Back in September, we celebrated European day of languages, which took place this year on the 26th September 2022. To celebrate this event, we organised a Bishop's Got Talent in the library where many students from years 7 and 8 got together to celebrate their home spoken languages.



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.

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!

Year 8

Year 8 have started a new scheme of work this year with a greater focus on phonics (sounds and pronunciation). They have been regularly practicing their nasal sounds “in” “on” and “en” in lessons. They have also been learning about francophone celebrations, such as “la fête de la musique” which takes place yearly in June.

In their recent mid-term assessment, students wrote a text in French which was read out to them. They were tested on their ability to make links between the sound and the spelling of words they were familiar with. This will be a new feature of the new GCSE examinations starting in 2024.

SFC danX	a animal	i midi	eu deux	e je	au gauche
u tu	ou nous	SFE timide	é écrite	en/an enfant	on Non!
ain/in train	ê/è tête	ai vrai	oi voit	ch chercher	ç/soft c ici
qu question	j/soft g jour	-tion Attention!	ien bien		

Year 9

Year 9 have been learning to talk about family and friends relationships. In this key topic they have learnt how to manipulate reflexive verbs in French, such as in the sentence “je m’entends bien avec mon frère”. They have also been able to revise the use of present tense, and also they have revisited the complexities of present tense verb endings with -er, -ir and -re verbs.

In their recent P3 assessments, students were tested on their listening skills, reading skills and finally the vocabulary and grammar that they recently learnt.

It is a good reminder that students should be encourage to spend 15-20 minutes weekly, going through the vocabulary lists they have been learning.

Year 10

Year 10 have recently finished the topic of "local area". This new GCSE topic introduced a new level of range of vocabulary, which is closer to the GCSE level. We are very pleased with the engagement and progress that all our students are making. Before they sit their very first GCSE French formal assessments, our students will learn to talk about charities, and finally they will learn to discuss how they try to keep a healthy lifestyle.

French Pen pal exchange with school in Switzerland

Following on from the success of previous years, we have continued our French Pen pal initiative in year 10 again this academic year.

Around 50 students have been assigned a student of the same age in Switzerland. This created a real buzz in French lessons as students focused on responding to their English letters in written French. It has made communication in another language appear relevant and purposeful to them and allowed them to put all their linguistic knowledge into producing these letters. We are excitedly awaiting the responses- which is a new experience for some of the students who are not accustomed to sending and receiving letters!



Year 11

Well done to all year 11 students for completing their December 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:

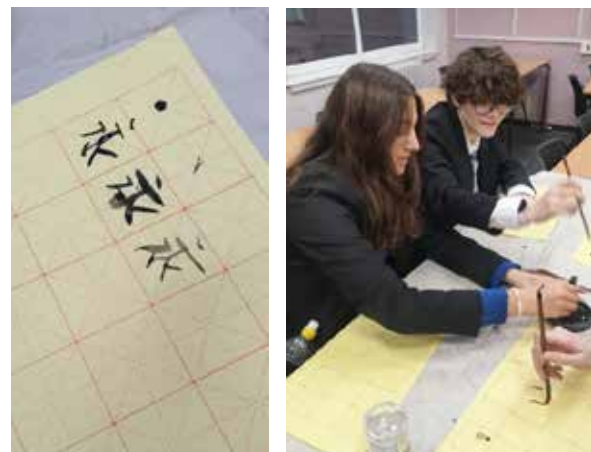
- French revision guide
- French workbook
- French Practice Paper Plus



Mandarin Club

During the Autumn term, students from Year 10 have been participating in languages club with Mrs Tan. They have learnt about Chinese Clothing, Food, different Chinese brushstrokes, Greetings, Numbers, different hierarchy in conversational Mandarin and all about the Chinese lunar calendar.

Saoirse, Darragh, Ellie and Finnbar recently have learnt the art of Calligraphy.



Film Club

We are running a French film club on a Friday from 2:40 until 3:30, every Friday in L4.

This club is aimed at year 10, 11, 12 or 13 students who are interested in French, films or both. Students do NOT have to study French to attend. Just turn up.

We recently watched the films Persepolis about the life of a young girl during the Iranian revolution of 1979.

We also watched OSS117, a French parody of James Bond, with the actor Jean Dujardin.



Physical Education

Extra-Curricular

There has been a big push on extracurricular this year, we feel as a department it is essential that students have exposure to a range of different sports to develop knowledge and key fundamental skills. Students have the option to participate in clubs everyday Mon- Fri AM and PM, ranging from athletics, basketball, netball, badminton, dodgeball, football and tchoukball. Averaging over 150 students at clubs across the week with basketball and football hosting 50 students.



World Cup Tournament

Over 120 students from year 7 and 8 competed in the Bishop Challoner World Cup Football tournament. An excellent standard of football was on display in both the boys' and girls' competitions. Well done to all students who took part, and congratulations to the four winning teams.

Leadership

There are 10 PE leaders from year 8 who have been on 3 trips to help with Leadership events.

These students were selected in PE for their outstanding effort and always showing the character virtues of respect, trust and always offering to help. They have been excellent in leading activities for Primary and Secondary students across these 3 events. Some of the activities they have led have been basketball shooting, parachute game, curling, multi skills and an athletics event.

These students have made new friends with students from a variety of different schools which is beneficial for improving social skills, communication, and confidence. These students have now gained a panathlon badge and certificate alongside their school games bronze and silver awards. In March students are signed up for their school games gold award where they must lead a county event. Upcoming trips

Trips - Italy Skiing

Following a successful International Ski Trip to Prato Nevosa in 2020, we are taking 36 students in Year 8 and 9 to Bardonecchia Ski Resort in Italy in March 2023. This exciting trip will give students the opportunity to develop and explore new skills and activities on the Ski slopes. On this trip, students will receive a 5 day lift pass with hire of skis, boots and poles and will have the opportunity to Ski for 5 full days. Students will also participate in exciting activities such as Alpine Coaster, Pizza Night, Quiz Night, Movie Night, a Disco tour and they will have Ski trip hoodies. We are very much looking forward to March and we can't wait to see the students learn and develop their skills, but above all, have fun!

Athletics Success

Year 7 and 8 boys competed in the School Games Indoor Athletics event which was held at Billesley Tennis Centre. The team from year 7 showed great character and determination, and just missed out on first



place, finishing second to Wheelers Lane. After winning last year, the year 8 team were defending their title, and started confidently by winning their first race. The boys put in some great performances in both their track and field events. A thrilling finish ended with beating Camp Hill Boys School to first place by a single point. The year 8 win puts them through to the Birmingham finals, where they will compete for the regional title at the University of Birmingham.

Year 7 girls won the Bishop Challoner school games Indoor Athletics competition!! They have progressed into the final of the Birmingham school games indoor athletics comp taking place in March. The Year 8 girls who were also competing finished in a respectable 3rd place after facing very challenging opposition.



Porto

Following on from previous successful tours to Villarreal, Valencia and Inter Milan, a group of students from Years 7 & 8 will be travelling to Portugal to visit another of the world's leading football clubs. This exciting tour will give students the opportunity to train with the expert professional youth coaches from FC Porto. The trip will include a variety of activities over 5 days from training sessions, access to facilities, behind the scenes access and tickets to watch an FC Porto game.



Performing Arts

The autumn term has flown by and it is difficult to believe we are already enjoying the Christmas celebrations here in the Music and Performing Arts departments. The year got off to a musical start with a number of events lined up, including a Primary Concert (unfortunately postponed from during July's heatwave) and a Bishop's Got Talent musical showcase. We were thrilled to see so many Year 7 students sign up for musical tuition and expressing an interest in extra-curricular activities, and with some experienced performers joining the school as well as keen beginners.

Instrumental Lessons

There has been a huge uptake in instrumental lessons in Year 7 and the total of students now receiving weekly instrumental tuition is now more than 80, with some instruments having a long waiting list due to popular demand. We are always delighted to see students from primary schools continuing with their musical lessons and already our Year 7 instrumentalists have been involved with musical performances and rehearsals. Our instrumental teachers from the Music Service are supporting our students in preparing for their GCSE Music performances, taking their graded exams, and giving them performances opportunities at external venues, and some students are learning up to four instruments! We currently offer woodwind, brass, strings, keyboard/piano, guitar, drum kit and steel pan lessons for our students.

Bishop's Got Talent

The music department hosted the first BGT of the academic year with our popular annual 'New Kidz on the Block' event, showcasing the new musical talent in Year 7. This year's performers included Nigel, Grace and Lexie on clarinet, William on piano, and Ailish on violin. Some of these players are regular attendees at BC Band who rehearse weekly to develop their ensemble skills. As always, the audience were welcoming and supportive towards our players.



Primary Showcase

Our annual Primary School Showcase Event took place on Thursday 20th October to a live audience consisting of parents/carers and staff members from the various schools. When the primary school children arrived they were welcomed by Performing Arts leaders who kept them entertained until they were ready for a technical rehearsal. In total, eight soloists from various schools (including Bishop Challoner) performed on their instrument(s) of choice, with the concert culminating in the Giant Choir, which involved students from every school performing the song, which was specifically composed for them, I Believe In You. The joy on the faces of all involved was an absolute delight to witness. Well done to all involved!



Drama Club

Following the success of last year's drama production of Cluedo, Drama Club started up again in September with many new faces joining us. To prepare for this year's Remembrance Evening event, Mrs Jethwa and her drama club members discussed and explored the fact that this year is the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War, and made this event the focus on a performance piece. In the drama presentation, students read out emotional monologues sharing the thoughts of soldiers and their families involved in the Falklands Conflict.

The drama was underscored with a gentle guitar accompaniment from Finn in Year 12, and in between each monologue, Molly, a Year 10 student, sang Another Man's Cause by The Levellers, the lyrics mention the Falklands crisis and other conflicts. The students performed beautifully and created a wonderful, reflective atmosphere.

Remembrance

This year's Remembrance Evening event was huge for us and involved a large number of our students from all key stages. The Performing Arts department decided to bring together a collection of stories, poems, monologues and songs to mark different areas of Remembrance. This year these topics included the Falklands War, which inspired a piece performed by Drama Club with musical accompaniment from our talented musicians, as well as the topic of 'service'. Exploring this theme, we presented a tribute to nurses from WW1 to present day including those who worked tirelessly during the Covid pandemic, the lives lost, and the service given.

Kaliyah, one of our Sixth Form students, performed a monologue from a nurse from Smethwick during the war who worked at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Our Year 10 Performing Arts BTEC students, performed a poem explaining what it takes to be a nurse, and the Year 11 students devised and presented a piece about the many struggles during Covid. All of the pieces were incredibly moving, and it was wonderful to remember these wonderful people at this dedicated event. Our choir also performed two beautiful pieces: Photographs, which was performed to a backdrop of visuals remembering our service men and women, and You'll Never Walk Alone, made recently famous by Captain Tom during the pandemic. In the year we mourned our Queen, a legendary monarch who showed impeccable service until her last days, we felt we could not host this event without a fitting tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth.

Our Key Stage 3 performers delivered an emotional poem about the Queen and following that we heard a rendition of God Save The Queen and The Last Post on trombone from Sophie in Year 12. The evening was a poignant way to remember and took place in St Dunstan's Church where the performers were surrounded by candlelight, art installations and visuals of poppies, and highlights from previous years. The whole event ended beautifully in the study centre where Robyn (Y8), Erin H-L (Y8) and Ilana (Y9) performed vintage classic songs around the piano and wartime cakes were served.



Key Stage 3

Key Stage 3 music lessons continue to provide students with the chance to compose, improvise, perform and discover a range of musical genres. Our Year 7 students have spent time learning about the many instruments of the orchestra and beyond, and are now beginning to learn and use musical terminology with confidence as they begin their first Binary Form composition on keyboards. Year 8 students have recently learned to perform in a Blues style, playing the 12 Bar Blues in time with a beat following an extensive investigation into the story of Blues and its social and historical roots. The Year 9 students have enthusiastically embraced the topic of Pop and Protest Music, creating their own meaningful songs about a particular topic they feel strongly about, writing their own lyrics and finally recording their work in the recording studio. It's a popular topic among the KS3 students and the teachers love learning about what issues get our students motivated to make a change – and then stepping up to the mic to present their song.

GCSE

Our GCSE cohort at Y11 are busy working on their coursework in and out of school time; they are working on composing a piece of music in a style of their choice, writing lyrics, recording backing tracks, notating their melodies. Additionally, they are rehearsing at home towards a solo performance of at least a minute long which will be recorded as soon as they are ready. This year we will have a range of performances, from electric guitar to drumkit, from violin to voice. We are pleased to see them working independently and with their instrumental teachers towards their final performance. In lessons the Year 11s are now studying two challenging pieces of Instrumental music from the Classical and Baroque periods.

The Year 10 class are following a newly developed scheme of work which offers an overview of the principal musical terms which are needed at GCSE level, such as harmony, texture and melody, and each week we explore and define these terms with musical examples, practical tasks, and listening activities. They are also learning the fundamentals of music theory to support them in their analysis of the set works. They have made a positive start to the course and look forward to hearing more of their performance and composition skills as well as their analysis skills.

Christmas BGT

Many of these performers took to the stage again for our Christmas BGT event on the last full day of term. They played popular festive songs and carols in the library at breaktime, and then reprised their performances to a wider audience at our Tea Party. The Tea Parties, hosted by our Sixth Formers, were placed on hiatus due to Covid but have recently started up again; older residents from the local community join our sixth formers for cakes, bingo, tea and a chat, and this time they enjoyed some festive musical entertainment too!

Mr Wertz is a new addition to our music team, visiting weekly to teach piano and keyboard and to run Keyboard Club. He has assembled a dedicated group of keyboard players so far this term, from all key stages, and the group have been rehearsing a performance of 'Lean on Me', developing chord and melody performance skills as well as addressing the challenges of playing in a group. We look forward to their first performance, most likely at the Spring Soiree.

Dramatic Studies

The start back to Dramatic Studies has been a positive one, focusing on our musical theatre schemes of work. Year 7 started with the musical Annie and students have been learning about facial expressions when performing and have all begun to use props in their performances, such as cloths to clean the floors whilst performing Hard Knock Life. The students will perform this musical number to camera later on this term. Year 8 have been lucky enough to start work on Revolting Children. We have looked at the plot of Matilda and how the story evolved from a book, turned into a film, then a musical, and now a film adaptation of the musical. Finally our Year 9 students have looked at the Glee version of the song Grease Lighting from the musical Grease. As well as performing some of the famous choreography, students have been researching job opportunities in the industry both backstage and front of house, including some of the lesser known roles such as wig mistress.

Performing Arts

Year 11 BTEC Performing Arts students have spent this half term working towards their Component 2 Unit. The musical chosen for this unit is Matilda and the students have been learning various songs and dances from the musical ready for their final performance. They were also pushed outside of their comfort zones when being asked to learn and perform a monologue in role as Miss Trunchbull. These Year 11 students also took part in our Remembrance event, showing their drama and music skills.

BC Band

This year we have resurrected our BC Band – a place for any instrumentalists of any key stage and at any point in their musical journey. Led by Miss Hughes after school on Thursdays, the band are working on their ensemble and sight reading skills and are currently preparing some festive pieces ready for some Christmas performances. The band is dominated by Year 7 performers including Zac on Cello, our clarinet trio (Nigel, Lexie and Grace) and Ailish on violin. You will also see BC Band perform later on in the year at the Spring Soiree.



Dance Club

Dance Club has had a slow start back as many of the students have been rehearsing for the Remembrance Evening event and our Christmas show. We did however still manage to learn a small section of choreography from the musical Hamilton.

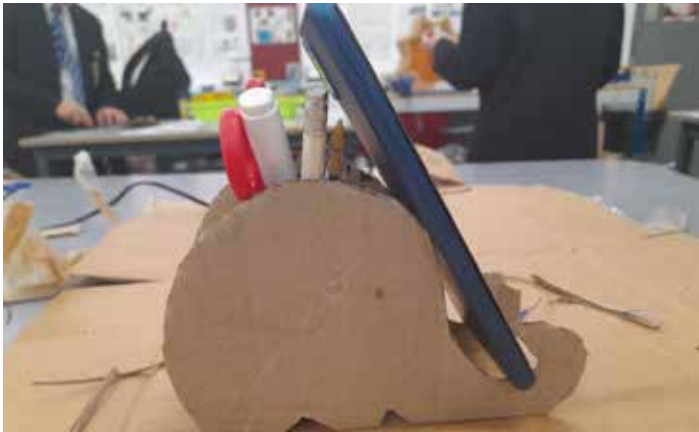
True Meaning of Christmas

The day after the Remembrance Event, we began rehearsing for our Christmas event, The True Meaning of Christmas – by Candlelight at St Dunstan's Church, students began rehearsing a dance to Oh What A Glorious Night. They practised extensively to prepare for the candlelit evening which told the Christmas story and provided an opportunity for our audience and attendees to sing carols; students also presented a selection of Christmas songs and dances and as always, for many, it was the real start to Christmas.

STEM

Phone Stands

It is fantastic to see our gender split at STEM club is now 50:50 and we have had many new enthusiastic members from our Y7 cohort. This term we have worked on a range of short projects which have provided lots of opportunities for hands on experimentation with a range of materials and technologies. Students learned about the benefits of modelling and prototyping through the design and make of laser cut phone stands which required them to research the best viewing angle for their electronic devices. They had an introduction to the CAD program 2D Design and learned how to create a vector file that could be used to program the laser cutter in order to manufacture their stands.



Year 11

Meanwhile, Year 11s have focussed on newspapers, including a 'depth study' of The Sun considering how ownership, technology and regulation have influenced the tabloid in recent years. Ahead of the December mock, students explored the video game Fortnite; they considered how it appealed to particular audiences, as well as ways in which the game's producers were able to generate revenue. It won't surprise you to learn that some students had significant prior expertise in this text! Study sessions are being used for students to work on their Non-Examined Assessment: designing and creating a DVD cover and film poster for a film of their invention in either the sci-fi or rom-com genres.

Some students used their new confidence with the program to design their own keyrings which were laser cut in materials such as plywood and acrylic. In the lead up to Halloween students experimented with programmable crumbles to drive various outputs such as motors and LED's. They designed and made windows for a haunted house which used light and movement to create animatronics.

Advent Calendars

As we approach Christmas, the group are designing and making their own advent calendars. They are developing their CAD skills further by designing both a laser cut mould for the polymer tray and also the cardboard outer packaging for the calendar.

They have learned about the benefits of thermoplastics in their ability to be formed multiple times by applying heat and have had a go at using the vacuum former to form High Impact Polystyrene sheet. They enjoyed moulding their own chocolate and learned how to use vibration to remove air bubbles and achieve a flat surface on the formed chocolate shapes.



Remembrance

STEM Club also made a valuable contribution to the Remembrance Event by making 30 copper poppies which were placed in individual acrylic memory boxes dedicated to the 30 soldiers from the West Midlands who lost their lives in the Falklands War. Each flower was made with a great deal of care by cutting and texturizing copper sheet which was then burnished using the gas torch, giving a unique coloured hue to each petal.



Media Studies

Anyone who doubts the relevance of Media Studies need only look at the current state of British politics to appreciate the utmost importance of understanding and navigating the messaging that surrounds us in the contemporary media. It is somewhat remarkable to reflect that our students are now on their third Prime Minister since schools returned in September. By contrast, my own secondary school career was encompassed entirely by the premiership of Tony Blair. Whilst exam specifications attempt to keep up with the pace of change, front pages dealing with the Brexit referendum and Theresa May's troubles with Parliament already seem to be relics of recent history.

Year 10

Our Year 10 cohort, in the first half term, completed a revised and updated 'Introduction to Media Studies' course: a six-week unit that aims to equip students with the fundamental skills and knowledge of the media to effectively engage with the GCSE course content. Year 10 students have now embarked on the GCSE set texts, starting with print advertisements for This Girl Can and, suitably for the festive season, Quality Street.

Year 11

Meanwhile, Year 11s have focussed on newspapers, including a 'depth study' of The Sun considering how ownership, technology and regulation have influenced the tabloid in recent years. Ahead of the December mock, students explored the video game Fortnite; they considered how it appealed to particular audiences, as well as ways in which the game's producers were able to generate revenue. It won't surprise you to learn that some students had significant prior expertise in this text! Study sessions are being used for students to work on their Non-Examined Assessment: designing and creating a DVD cover and film poster for a film of their invention in either the sci-fi or rom-com genres.

A Level

Building on an excellent set of A Level exam results in the summer, the subject continues to be a popular choice at Key Stage 5. Year 12 students recently finished an introductory unit that equipped them with the critical approaches and theoretical foundations to take forward throughout the course; the group is now looking at the British social realist film 'I, Daniel Blake' with Mr Welch and Janelle Monae's music video for 'Turntables' with Miss Lloyd. Year 13 students continue to work on their music marketing Non-Examined Assessment (a music video for a new artist and accompanying magazine spread) whilst studying the television, magazine, and online media units for Component 2 of the A level.

Business

Two vocational Business groups (40 students approximately) sat an external exam on the 25th November. This exam accounts for 40% of their final mark in their Level 1/2 Award in Business and Enterprise. The students have been working hard to prepare for this exam having undertaken a full mock exam as well as their mini-mock earlier this term. We look forward in anticipation to the results in February. In December we receive the 'brief' on which the students have to write a business plan with respect to a chosen business that will account for 60% of the student's qualification.

All classes have been sitting formal assessments, having completed one or more units of work since the start of the new academic year. The results of the assessments already sat, look encouraging, and we are optimistic that the remaining assessments will be equally pleasing.

Thomas Collins joined the department in September as an Associate Teacher from Birmingham City University. Thomas spends each Monday at university and then the rest of the week at Challoner. It has been a busy term for Thomas as he starts his teacher training. At the recent sixth form open evening there was a lot of interest for the Business courses we have on offer at Challoner. These are: GCSE Business, Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Business and Enterprise, A level Business, Level 3 Cambridge Technical Award in Business. We are optimistic that we will again have a good uptake of our courses in KS4 and KS5 in September 2023.

With all of the turbulence in the world and the economy it makes for a fascinating backdrop to a lot of the topics that we cover in our courses and the students always have interesting things to say and are eager to learn about the world around them and how it affects businesses and people.

Sixth Form

Mock Exams

Year 13 have been issued with their mock exam timetable for their January 2023 mocks. All subjects have provided students with topic guidance for these important assessments and this can be found on the school website. Students should now ensure they fully prepare for these mock assessments and use the Christmas break to finalise their revision.

UCAS

Year 13 students have been working hard on their applications for further education places. It is fantastic to read the personal statements of our students and to see the brilliant next steps many of them are hoping to take once they leave us in the summer. Any outstanding applications need to be uploaded as a matter of urgency by students and they should see Miss Darby if they have any final questions or concerns. A really exciting time ahead for our Year 13 students.

Top Tips

- Make a realistic revision timetable – think about when your study periods are.
- Break down information into manageable chunks using techniques that are proven to work such as making flash cards, mind mapping topics and bullet pointing notes.
- Test yourself using revision guides, knowledge organisers or past paper questions.
- Keep each revision session short. Short 25 - 45 minute bursts of revision can often be more effective than working for hours on end without taking a break.
- Look after our health – drink plenty of water, aim for 9 hours sleep a night and try and get regular exercise like going for a walk in between studying.
- Build time into your revision timetable for you to relax and reward yourself for your hard work.



Open Evening

We are delighted with how our Sixth form students helped welcome prospective students to our Sixth Form during our November open evening event. Year 13 students acted as guides for our visitors and Year 12 students supported subject areas in helping explain to students what courses are like to study. All students were a credit to our college.

Anyone that has any queries about applying for our Sixth form should see Mr Mullins – Head of Sixth Form.

Here is the link to our new prospectus for 2022 -2023 and a QR code for the application: <https://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/sixth-form/applying>



Study Periods

All students in school have periods on their timetable where they do not have a lesson called a study period. We are really keen for students to use this time wisely and to engage in studying for their chosen A Level or Vocational courses. All subject areas have provided fantastic resources to support students outside of lessons and students should now be accessing these resources on a daily basis to stand the best chance of having success in their subjects. Here is a link to these resources:

<https://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/sixth-form/sixth-form-curriculum/study-periods>

Fundraising

Sixth Form students this term have been fantastically supporting the charity St Chads Sanctuary. Students have been bringing donations into school and many have really supported this wonderful local cause in supporting asylum seekers who have recently moved to Birmingham.

Form groups have also this term been setting up ways to further support our whole school charities. Please look out for events such as the Easter Fair and a Year 7 disco that our students are in the process of planning for the Spring Term.



Student Leadership Team

Our student leadership group have met several times this year to feedback and give their opinions on things in college. We really believe in giving students a voice in our college and these students bring brilliant ideas and initiatives to our college.



Employment and Volunteering

We are delighted that we are able to employ a number of our Sixth Form students in part time work positions. This term we have recruited IT support workers, sports technicians and sixth form gardeners. Students have also volunteered to support younger students in our school with their reading in a fantastic paired reading initiative set up by Mrs Newton.



Enrichment

This half term Year 12 have started their enrichment choices.

This term they had the choice of Duke of Edinburgh Silver or Bronze award, Mooting, Basketball, Badminton, Dodgeball, Knitting, Book club, Board games, Senior tea party and Arts and craft Hub.

The activities have been very successful and students have enjoyed taking part in activities which are not academic and give them the opportunity to work with other students they don't study with.

Arts and craft HUB will be selling their products at the Christmas show at St Dunstan's on Wednesday 7th December.



School Community

This term we have been delighted to welcome our local church community into our Sixth Form and where students have hosted tea parties for our visitors. Our Year 12 students wonderfully planned and coordinated these events with the support of Miss Mayor. Students baked cakes, made sandwiches, played Irish music and arranged games for our visitors to enjoy. The students were just brilliant in their efforts and these events really brought a smile to everyone involved.



Character Education

Character education is the teaching of values or virtues that we use every day to make decisions. We want our sixth form students at Bishop Challoner to not only develop academically, but also help develop transferrable skills that will help set them up for later life. With this in mind students earlier this term set about looking at which character traits they could develop during their time here at college during a character reflection day. Students in Year 13 looked at what it meant to be cultured, resilient, focused, compassionate and respectful. All traits that we aim to develop in our students during their time at college.

T Levels Launch Event

On the 25th November we hosted our T-Levels launch event. The evening was a fantastic showcase of what these new qualifications can offer our students in the future. A talk by Team ITG a global digital marketing brand that will be working with the school in conjunction with the T-Levels was inspiring and demonstrated the exciting opportunities that a career in Digital Business Services may have to offer for our prospective students.



T-LEVELS

THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

Trips

Computing students enjoyed a trip to a virtual reality site in Birmingham called 'The Other World' where they learnt about how the technology was set up and what the future may look like in this growing sector for entertainment and education. A great experience for our Year 12 students



Keble College

Earlier in the term a number of Year 12 students went on a trip to Keble College which is one of the constituent colleges of the University of Oxford. Students listened to talks and had a tour of the famous campus. Some of our students have decided they would like to apply to this university in Year 13.



Debating Trip/Competition

Molly J and Daniel G represented our Sixth Form in a debating competition at the University Birmingham. The students were fantastic on the day and won the regional competition with their public speaking, critical thinking and persuasive debating skill sets. A great achievement by our students.

Slapton Sands

Earlier in the term Biology students went on a residential trip to the beautiful Slapton Sands in Devon. Students were investigating the local ecosystems within the area and conducting fieldwork for the coursework element of their course. A great trip organised by Miss Mayor for her A Level students.



Birmingham Crown Court and Police Museum

A Level Law students this term went on a great trip to Birmingham Crown Court to learn about legal proceedings and see what actual cases and hearings look like. Students engaged excellently in the events of the day.

A local judge also recently came into college to speak to our Law students about his career so far. A really inspiring talk for students considering a career in Law organised by Mr Knowles.



Careers

Careers Meetings

There has been a large focus on careers meetings this term, particularly for Year 11 and Year 13 students. Careers Advisers from Birmingham Careers Service have been working with our Year 11 students as they make their Post 16 choices. All Year 11 students will have at least one interview, but if your son/daughter has any concerns about what to do beyond Year 11 and has not yet had a careers meeting, please contact Miss Darby, Careers Leader, on e.darby@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk and she will arrange it for them.

UCAS

In Year 13, students are working hard to get their UCAS applications off before the 25th January deadline. Their work is paying off though, as students have received interview invitations for Cambridge University as well as several medical schools. We are both delighted and grateful that two of our former students, Yusef R and Angelo A-B have offered to provide these Year 13 students with the benefits of their interview experience at Cambridge university and medical schools respectively. They have done some general interview preparation and a mock interview with the students as they prepare for their interviews which will take place before Christmas. We wish all of our Year 13s all the best in applying for the post 18 pathway of their choice and hope that one day they will be able to support future Bishop Challoner students as Yusef and Angelo have done this year.

Library News

“We love to encourage our students to read while they’re at school and our library is a popular spot during the school day. With winter nights well and truly here what better way to spend the evening than cosying up on the sofa with a good book.

As well as being able to loan books from the school library our students also have access to over 2500 ebooks and audiobooks via our wheelers e book catalogue.”

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

<https://bishopchalloner.wheelers.co/>

If you’re not sure what to read with your child or just need a little inspiration take a look at the recommended books in the school reading list link below. A good selection of these titles are also available on the Wheelers e-book catalogue.

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-ks3-students/>

Reading is such a wonderful and easy pastime to share with your child and the benefits will ensure they have best start in their academic life and beyond.

TEN AMAZING BENEFITS OF READING BOOKS



- Strengthens your writing skills
- Improves your memory and focus
- Enhances your imagination
- Increases your vocabulary
- Expands your knowledge
- Stimulates your brain
- Boosts your mood
- Deepens empathy
- Helps you relax
- Lowers stress



School Games and PE & Sports Premium Programmes

Mr McDermott, School Games Organiser (SGO), continues to work alongside the PE department to support 38 local schools and young people to be physically active and maintain a healthy, active lifestyle. We also work with 10 other primary schools across the city on our Extended PE and Sport Premium Programme.

School Games Mark

All schools are encouraged to apply for 'School Games Mark', which is a self-review of each school's offer for PE, school sport and physical activity. The review takes place in the summer term and as the SGO, I am required to verify each award. Last year (2021-22), 26 out of 38 schools applied and the list of awards is below. Congratulations to all schools and we appreciate the time they took to complete the award, as it is a measure of their engagement with our School Games framework.

Primary and Secondary Sports Leadership

In September and October, we trained over 300 students and 50 staff from primary schools to organise simple, fun playground games that will help get more young people active in schools. All schools attended 1 day of training where they were shown a range of games and given instructions on how to make sure games are safe and how to make them harder/easier using the STEP (Space, Task, Equipment and People) principle. All students that attended have been awarded a new silver 'Primary Play Leader' badge and they will be awarded a gold badge in the summer term if they keep on volunteering their time.



School name	Award level
Colmore Junior School	Platinum
Billesley Primary School	Gold
Bishop Challoner Catholic College	Gold
King Edward's School	Gold
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	Gold
St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School	Gold
Dame Ellen Pinsent School	Gold
Uffculme School	Gold
Wheelers Lane Primary School	Gold
Wheelers Lane Technology College	Gold
Woodthorpe Junior and Infant School	Gold
Lakey Lane Junior and Infant School	Silver
St Bernard's Catholic Primary School	Silver
St Jude's Catholic Primary School	Silver
Christ Church	Bronze
Heath Mount Primary School	Bronze
Moor Green Primary Academy	Bronze
Moseley School and Sixth Form	Bronze
Park Hill Primary School	Bronze
Queensbridge School	Bronze
St Alban's Catholic Primary School	Bronze
St Catherine of Siena Catholic	Bronze
St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School	Bronze
St Edward's Catholic Primary School	Bronze
St John and Monica Catholic Primary School	Bronze
Swanshurst School	Bronze

We have also had a good response to local secondary schools providing students to act as sports leaders for events this term. Bishop Challoner, Christ Church, Moseley and Wheelers Lane have trained students in specific sports, such as football, athletics and table tennis and we have deployed and mentored these students to ensure they are proficient in their role and have a positive experience.

Twenty students from Bishop Challoner recently volunteered their time and supported a Y3-4 and Y7-8 boy's indoor athletics event at Billesley Tennis Centre. They took on a variety of roles, including time keeping, officiating and data entry. They did a fantastic job and they all received a gold 'Secondary Sports Leader' badge.



We have a good link with South and City College in Longbridge and we are also offering their students opportunities to volunteer at our School Games events. So far, their students have supported basketball, dodgeball and table tennis events and we appreciate their efforts to travel to venues on public transport so that they might have a positive experience.



School Games

All 38 local schools have received a calendar of sporting events, festivals and competitions they can enter this academic year. The table below also lists events and training courses etc. for the autumn term. There are many more events planned for 2023, including boys and girls basketball, Y1-2 multi skills festivals, netball, rounders and cricket.

15-Sep	HoDs meeting	Bishop Challoner House
20-Sep and 27 Sep	Y5-6 Playleader Training	Billesley Indoor Tennis Centre
21-Sep	Y5-6 Girls Football	Christ Church School
22-Sep	Teach Active' literacy/numeracy	Bishop Challoner House
22-Sep	Y5-6 Boys Football	Christ Church School
28-Sep	Y5-6 Basketball	Bishop Challoner Sports Hall
29-Sep	Primary PESSPA network meeting	Bishop Challoner House
04-Oct and 6-Oct	Y5-6 Playleader Training	Billesley Indoor Tennis Centre
05-Oct	Y7 Boys Football - A and B Team	Christ Church School
06-Oct	Y7-8 Girls Football	Swanshurst Girls
11-Oct	Y8 Boys Football - A and B Team	Christ Church School
12-Oct	Primary ECT Gymnastics course	Bishop Challoner Sports Hall (dojo)
13-Oct	Primary Tag Rugby course	Moseley Rugby Club
13-Oct	Y9-10 Girls Football	Swanshurst Girls
18-Oct	Y7-8 Boys Handball	KE Camp Hill Sports Hall
19-Oct	Y3-4 girls Gymnastics	Bishop Challoner Sports Hall (dojo)
19-Oct	Inclusive Sports Festival	University of Birmingham
20-Oct	Y9-10 Boys Handball	KE Camp Hill Sports Hall
01-Nov	Primary Gymnastics course	Bishop Challoner Sports Hall (dojo)
03-Nov	KS3 and KS4 Dance	Christ Church School
08-Nov	Y3-4 Dodgeball	Moseley School
09-Nov	Y5-6 girls Gymnastics	Bishop Challoner Sports Hall (dojo)
15-Nov	Y3-4 Sportshall Athletics	Billesley Indoor Tennis Centre
15-Nov	Y7-8 Boys Sportshall Athletics	Billesley Indoor Tennis Centre
21-Nov	U14 Boys Table Tennis	Moseley School
22-Nov	Y7-8 and Y9-10 Boys Volleyball	KE Camp Hill Sports Hall
28-Nov	U16 Boys Table Tennis	Moseley School
29-Nov	Y5-6 Sportshall Athletics	Billesley Indoor Tennis Centre
29-Nov	Y7-8 Girls Sportshall Athletics	Billesley Indoor Tennis Centre
30-Nov	Primary ECT Dance course	Bishop Challoner Sports Hall (dojo)
01-Dec	KS4 Boys and Girls Badminton	KE Camp Hill Sports Hall
07-Dec	KS3 Boys and Girls Badminton	KE Camp Hill Sports Hall
08-Dec	KS3 Boys Dodgeball	KE Camp Hill Sports Hall
13-Dec	KS2/KS3 para athletics	Billesley Indoor Tennis Centre

Going Green

This year, we have moved towards a more environmentally friendly system of working to ensure we print less documents and waste less paper. Entries for all competitions/festivals and primary professional development opportunities are now accessed via our Google Drive. This results in all schools seeing who has entered which competitions and may encourage some schools to enter more.

Pathway to Podium

Pathway to Podium is a programme to recognise and celebrate the commitment of Birmingham schools to PE, school sport and physical activity as part of a more enriched curriculum. The programme was developed by a range of partners including Sport Birmingham, Head Teachers and senior leaders from Birmingham schools, School Games Organisers in the city, and has the support of national partners including Association for PE and Youth Sport Trust. The programme is available for all primary and secondary schools across Birmingham and is designed as a vehicle to increase the opportunities for young people to be active for a minimum of 60 minutes every day.



It was great to meet with Jayne Piller @SportBirmingham and Mr McDermott @BCSGO today to review our Pathway to Podium #WJISPESSPA self-assessment. We are the first school engaged in the P2P initiative to score maximum marks. ⭐ This is a fantastic achievement by the school. 100

Recently, Woodthorpe Primary School became the first school in the city to achieve 100% on their self-assessment. As the tweets below demonstrate, a fantastic achievement.



Well done all. 100%!! Amazing achievement over the last few years and very proud to have been a partner with you along the journey. @BishopChalloner @SportBirmingham



Social Media

You can follow all our work on @BCSGO where we now have over 1350 followers.

Science Learning Partnership (SLP)

We have had an exciting start to the academic year, with an exciting and innovative programme of CPD opportunities for primary and secondary science teachers and technicians.

Our extensive programme of CPD events this term has consisted of the following:

- Radiation Protection Supervisor Training
- Primary STEM conference
- Secondary subject leaders conferences – across three venues in Birmingham, Coventry and Worcester
- Remote Physics Network – with Practical Training Days
- Leading Assessment, Tracking and Moderation in Primary Science
- Science in EYFS
- Primary Science Leads Development Programme

We are also running a strand of courses in collaboration with neighbouring SLPs including the North Midlands and Cheshire. All of our courses continue to be evaluated positively.

We are continuing our work with strategic partners and here is a list of partners we are currently working with (in addition to those based at Bishop Challoner):

- Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP)
- Birmingham City University
- University of Worcester

- Coventry University
- President Kennedy School, Coventry
- Sidney Stringer Academy, Coventry
- Tudor Grange Academy TSH, Solihull
- Origin Maths Hub
- Lawrence Sherriff TSH, Rugby
- Solihull Local Authority
- John Taylor TSH, Burton on Trent

Strategic partners host courses for us, provide facilitators and market our courses for us as well.

We'll also be running our popular Facilitator Development Programme again this term with the aim of developing facilitators across the region to deliver courses in their location. We have facilitators waiting to train across Birmingham, Redditch, Coventry and Solihull.

We look forward to updating you with our programme for the New Year.

Teaching School (BCTSA)

Bishop Challoner Training School

This academic year has started with more of a sense of normality, with trainee teacher sessions, Leadership Programmes and other training taking place face to face within our training venue, Challoner House. The Team is expanding and some of the focus is now on preparing for our SCITT in 2024 including subject experts within the school supporting this process. These preparations include writing training materials ready for when we become a Teacher Training Provider, having gained the accreditation to do so earlier this year. We are very excited about this new development, but the road is still long as we have lots to do!



Teacher Training - School Direct PGCE

This year, our trainee teachers have been able to enjoy face to face sessions right from the beginning of term. With strong trainees in both our secondary and primary cohorts, we are enjoying seeing them grow and develop whilst 'learning on the job' in the classrooms of our various partner schools around the region. This hands-on approach to learning, means that our trainee teachers can put into practice immediately what they are learning at University or from our expert team here at Bishop Challoner TSA.



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. We are already seeing a mix of career changers applying, as well as recent graduates and those in their final year of their undergraduate degrees. With our three University partners, Newman, Warwick and Birmingham City University we offer 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>.

The big difference this year for recruitment, are the increase in bursaries available for certain subjects to train to teach in 2023/24 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. Our School Experience Programme is proving popular again this year, where people thinking about teaching can spend a day in the classroom to help them decide if teaching may be the career for them. Dates for these days in the new year are also on our website.

Internship

We hope to bring you more news of our popular and successful Teaching Internship programme after Christmas. Last year, the DfE added Computer Science as an additional subject to the previous Maths and Physics programmes that we had run for several years. Going forward, they are also adding Languages and Chemistry to the subjects on offer. 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, and in fact one of our first recruits for Maths this year was a previous intern!

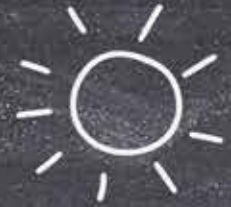
Professional Development

Our current Leadership programmes have now started for this academic year. As well as continuing to offer the current specialist and leadership NPQs we are now delivering the 2 new NPQs – the specialist NPQLL – Leading Literacy, and the NPQEYL in Early Years Leadership. Our facilitators come from Bishop Challoner and our partner schools, and they are providing top quality training for our teachers in the Birmingham area and beyond. Coupled with funding from the government this means that our programmes are very busy!

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

Early Career Framework

We are now into our second year of this new framework, which supports newly qualified teachers for the first 2 years of their working lives, as well as their mentors. We really hope that this intensive support will mean that retention improves and more new teachers will stay in the profession. We are pleased to have increased our facilitator team – a great opportunity for teachers to experience delivering to other adults for a change!



BACK TO SCHOOL?



JOIN US FOR A DAY IN SCHOOL
AND SEE IF TEACHING IS FOR YOU!

DATES COMING UP:
WEDS 4TH JANUARY
WEDS 25TH JANUARY



TO BOOK A PLACE, JUST FOLLOW THE LINK OR QR CODE:
[HTTPS://GETINTOTEACHING.EDUCATION.GOV.UK/TRAIN-TO-BE-A-TEACHER/GET-SCHOOL-EXPERIENCE](https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/train-to-be-a-teacher/get-school-experience)



BISHOP CHALLONER
Training School Alliance

BC Wellbeing News

CHRISTMAS EDITION

December 2022

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!"

We sincerely hope Christmas is a wonderful time for you and your families, as Christians around the world celebrate the Saviour's birth and people of all religions and none gather take time out from their busy lives to gather together for valuable family time. But we know that for some Christmas can be a very challenging time.

Perhaps this year, with the economic situation, finances are more of a worry than ever.

*Perhaps someone special will be missing this year?
Perhaps you anticipate family tensions?
Not everyone will be relishing several days inside, with their regular routine broken.*

We've gathered some great suggestions from various sources and put together our own 12 tips.

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.

3. Give yourself some space. Take some time out with a book, do some mindfulness colouring or go for walk.

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

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

6. Do something for someone else: Help with the meal preparation? Wrap some presents? Offer to collect some shopping for someone?

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 or spend some quiet time in prayer or meditation.

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.

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.

11. Before or after the bog day, have a clear out of things you no longer need. Can you donate some warm clothes, book or toys you no longer need to a local charity?

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

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?

FREE FESTIVE FUN

Enjoying time with loved ones should take precedence over spending. Whether you want to make a Christmas card for someone special, play party games, why not try some cost-free activities to fill your house with laughter?

The NSPCC has a wonderful selection of activities for families to enjoy. Why not take a look?

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/christmas-family-activities/>

Get outside for some fresh air and stretch those legs!

Mental Health UK have devised a winter walkabout- a scavenger hunt for everyone from the very youngest to the oldest in the family to enjoy.

Keeping Safe online

Over the festive period it is likely that children will spend more time using devices and engaging with the ever-changing online world. Keeping children safe can be an absolute mine field, and parents and carers do have a responsibility to be proactive in having open discussions with their children and in monitoring their online activity.

Below is a brief guide to help parents/carers navigate some of the online risks, whether your child is gaming or making other use of social media.

Gaming:

Online games can be a great way for children and young people to keep busy and stay in touch with friends and family, but it's important that they play safely.

Things to consider if your child games online:

- What is the age range of the game?
- Does the game allow them to friend and chat to others?
- Can they 'in-game' purchase?
- Are there scams?
- Do you know how to report a problem?

Also, if you have more than one child in your home, be aware that games suitable for one child to play or watch, may not be suitable for another.

Social Media:

Social media is great for connecting people together and sharing information. However, it can be a dangerous and daunting place for young people.

Things to consider if your child uses social media:

- Do you know the age they have to be, by law, to have the account? In most cases this is 13.
- Who is in their friend list or followers?
- What are they sharing on their account?
- Is their location made available?
- Who is contacting them via private or direct message?

Inappropriate images and comments can be very damaging to any young person and it is advisable to talk to your child and ask them to share the content of their social media accounts with you.

For more information, please take a look at the NSPCC's guide for parents/carers:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#guides>.

5 Ways to Wellbeing

Scavenger Hunt: Winter Walkabout

The 5 Ways to Wellbeing are a good starting point when thinking about ways to support your own mental health.

Going on a winter walkabout and looking for items listed on the scavenger hunt below is a great way of taking notice and being active!

Make sure to wrap up warmly! Why not take a flask of a hot drink with you for a warming rest stop during your walkabout?

Something soft

Something beautiful

Two different types of evergreen leaves

An icicle

A little robin red breast

A pinecone

Something covered in frost

Animal tracks

A winter flower

A sprig of holly

Bonus find! Bright bobble hats!
How many of the loudest, brightest bobble hats can you count on your walkabout? (Yes, your own bright bobble hat counts!)

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/
get-help/find-a-food-
bank/](http://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-food-bank/)

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

Women's aid
Domestic violence
support.
www.womensaid.org.uk
[https://chat.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!

Over 30 Work Groups, projects and programmes available in 2022-23.
All opportunities are FREE - sign up today to secure your place.



MATHSHUBS



CENTRAL

The Central Maths Hub, coordinated by the NCETM, brings together mathematics education professionals in a collaborative national network, to develop and spread excellent practice, for the benefit of all pupils and students.

If you are from Birmingham, Sandwell or Dudley, then we have professional and school development opportunities waiting for you.



Early Years / Primary



Secondary / Post-16



Leadership

Maths Hubs Professional and School Development Opportunities
2022/23

Discover fully funded subject-specific opportunities to support professional learning for teachers and development for departments and schools.

MATHSHUBS CENTRAL
@NCETM

NCETM
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS
Coordinators of the Maths Hubs Programme



Central Maths Hub
Challoner House
21 Institute Road
Birmingham B14 7EG
www.centralmathshub.com



@centralmathshub

Other BC News

Standards and Uniform

Students are required to wear the standard uniform of blazer, tie, white/blue shirt with black straight leg school trousers (not skinny or boot cut) or girls can wear a knee length black school skirt (not lycra or stretchy). Girls are also reminded that if they choose to wear a skirt, then they should wear plain, black, opaque tights. Students are reminded that black leather school shoes should be worn and that trainers/trainer style shoes are forbidden.

Please note that school shoes must be kept completely black.

In order to complement the smart school uniform we insist that students' hair is smart in appearance and that students do not have shaved/razored hair styles or lines/patterns shaved into the hair. Extreme changes of hair colour are also not permitted. The final decision as to whether a particular haircut/style is appropriate is at the discretion of senior staff.

Make up, nail varnish and jewellery are not permitted with the exception of one pair of plain stud earrings which may be worn.

Please note that lycra or stretchy skirts are not allowed to be worn. Students found to be wearing an inappropriate item of uniform may be asked to change this or in some cases parents/carers will be contacted and requested to bring replacement uniform to school.

We appreciate your support in ensuring that standards of uniform and appearance are maintained.

Attendance and Punctuality

Reporting Student Absence

All students are required to attend school/college on time every day. If for any reason your child is unable to attend, please ensure that the school attendance policy is followed, and their absence is reported before the START of the school day (8.40am) and on each day of absence. Please provide a reason for their absence and the likely length of absence, if known.

If your child is in Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 please call 0121 444 4161 and select OPTION 1.

If you receive a text message or phone call from school/college because you have not reported your child's absence, please contact us on the most appropriate number as detailed above as soon as you can. Please do not email staff to report an absence, this is not the procedure and your messages may be missed.

The school attendance target is 96%.

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

First Aid

Please inform First aid of any new medical conditions, investigations or concerns of your children using enquires@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk for the attention of First Aid or call the school main line and ask for first aid

Please ensure you inform the school of any change in emergency contact information such as new telephone numbers. It is extremely important we can contact you in an emergency.

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

With most students in school now owning mobile phones for use to and from school, it is important that they are also not a distraction to study. Students found with mobile phones during lessons and around the school will have them confiscated and they will be returned at the discretion of senior staff/Heads of Year. In more persistent cases, phones may only be returned to parents/carers.

Allergy Management

Bishop Challoner Catholic College aims to minimise the risk to students and staff with allergies, including those who are allergic to nuts.

It is vital that staff and parents/carers and students adhere to the Allergy Management policy, as we have both students and staff in school who suffer from allergies, including nut allergies.

Persons with allergies, including a nut allergy can suffer life-threatening consequences if they come into contact with allergens, including nuts, either through ingestion or through touch. Parents/carers, students and staff must not bring or send, any food into school either for packed lunches or for snacks/treats with nuts in (including sesame seeds). For example, the following items should not be brought into school:

- Packs of nuts
- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Cakes or biscuits made with nuts
- Nutella
- Muesli bars

Care should be taken when exchanging gifts, in particular at Easter, Christmas and birthdays. We appreciate your support with this important matter.

Important Dates

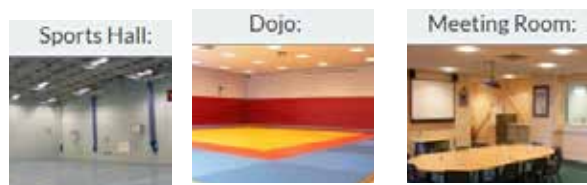
School open Tuesday 3rd January	BC Tea Party Canteen - Chinese Day Cisco Cyber Security, Y9 UCAS Deadline Wednesday 25th January	BC Tea Party Wednesday 8th February	Wear Green Day for Irish & Mental Health Thursday 16th February
Epiphany Mass Friday 6th January	Year 8 Assessment Window Monday 30th January - Friday 17th February	Y9 English Theatre Trip Y11 Parents/Carers Evening Thursday 9th February	School Closed Staff Inset Friday 17th February
Y13 Mocks Monday 9th January - Friday 20th January	Y10 & 11 Intermediate Maths Challenge Wednesday 1st February	Bishop's Got Talent Friday 10th February	School Open Monday 27th February
BC Tea Party Y12 English Trip Wednesday 11th January	KS4 Public Speaking Competition Friday 3rd February	Year 13 Assessment Window Monday 13th February - Friday 3rd March	
Bishop's Got Talent Friday 13th January	Year 12 Assessment Window Monday 6th February - Friday 17th February	Year 11 Practical Food Exams Monday 13th February - Wednesday 15th February	
Immunisations Y7, 8 & 9 Flu Y9 HPV UoB Robotics Lab, Y9 Monday 16th January	Year 7 Symphony Hall Trip Tuesday 7th February	Canteen - St Patrick's Day Wednesday 15th February	
10TER Penalty Shootout Wednesday 18th January		Half Term Monday 21st February- Friday 25th February	



Please remember to use easyfundraising every time you shop online! Over 7,000 brands will donate, so you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. These donations really help us out, so please sign up if you haven't yet. It's easy and FREE! You can get started at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bishopchallonercatholiccollege/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-n2

Facilities Hire for Parties and Events

For more info call Laura on 0121 441 6103



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.

Keep in Touch

Official School Twitter
@BishopChalloner

Careers
@BCCareersSmart

Chaplaincy
@BC_Chaplaincy

Computing
@BishopChalComp

English Dept
@BC_EnglishDept

Green Group
@educating_eco

History
@bchistory_

Music Department
@BCPAmusic

PE Department
@BCPEDepartment

Teaching and Learning
@BcTeaching

Makes
@bc_makes

Wellbeing
@BCCCWellbeing

Chess
@bccchess

Performing Arts
@BCPAPA4

Social Sciences
@BCSocSciDept

Biology
@BCCbio

Sixth Form
@BCCCSix

Art Dept
@BCChallonerArt

BFood Department
@BishopFood

Judo Club
@BCJudoClub

MFL
@BishopMfl

OLC
@BC_OLC

SGO
@BCSGO

Sports Centre
@BishopCentre

TSA
@bctsa_training

1-1 Maths
@BC11M1maths

Central Maths Hub
@centralmathshub

Central Midlands SLP
@CentralMidSLP

Geography
@BCGeogDept

Maths
@BCMathsDept

Friends of BC
@bc_friends

STEM
@STEMBC

Teach Computing Central
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