



BC Autumn News





Message from Dr Coug

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Year of Challoner is in full flow as we celebrate our Platinum Jubilee and 70 years of the school. I was thrilled to receive a communication from John Welford the son of the very first headteacher of the school, who was also called John Welford. John has very fond memories of the school and we look forward to meeting him in the New Year. Just last week we had a wonderful Mass of celebration with our Year 7 and 8 students, together with our tea party regulars and past students that attended the school in the '50s and '60s. Please look out for extracts from the very first school magazines that are being shared through our social media channels as well as pictures and images from the archives. There are a multitude of other events to celebrate 70 years of Challoner planned across the academic year and we have a very special celebration event taking place in April.

Catholic life continues to thrive in the school and we are absolutely blessed to have the support of Fr John and Fr Toby our new Chaplain. Groups of students attend Mass each Wednesday with students from St Dunstan's school. This term we have held two fantastic retreat days, one for Year 7 and one for Year 8 and both retreats ended with a "teaching" Mass celebrated by Fr Toby. In November, we celebrated Red Wednesday in solidarity with persecuted Christians across the world and in the process supported Aid to the Church in Need. Students and staff attended Mass at St Chad's Cathedral.

Our students continue to live out the mission of our school in such a variety of positive ways. 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 again filmed students and staff at the official handover at St Anne's, Digbeth.

We are exceptionally proud of our sixth form students and staff who raised over £1,000 for a local hospice by undertaking a Rudolph run in King Heath park in December. Many an antler and Christmas jumper were on show and we even had a guest appearance from, not one, but, two Father Christmases!

Students continue to support the local Dementia Café and host a regular tea party for local parishioners. We have continued to collect for the local foodbank and made significant contributions to St Chad's Sanctuary.

All of these wonderful acts of kindness, and the many other unseen acts of kindness, give us great pride in our young people. In November we celebrated World Kindness day and asked staff to look out and praise students who displayed a kind attitude.

This year our Remembrance event focussed on the Windrush generation. We projected images and music onto the Sports Centre and wonderful sublimation printed images have been placed at the front of the school. Our usual poppy display was showcased. It was, once again, a very moving tribute.

For the first time, we held an excellence exhibition to display some of the brilliant work produced by our young people. We recognise that there is magnificent work being produced across the school every day, as our students share their talents and we wanted to showcase some of this. Work from all subject areas was displayed as part of both our whole school and sixth form Open Evenings. The Excellence Exhibition was a huge success and no doubt will become an annual fixture.



hlan, Principal

Work has begun on creating our new Virtual Reality room with support from Kabuni. This will be transformational once in place and works should be complete this term.

We have had some incredible team and individual sporting success this term. Across the past few months students from the school have competed at the British Championship Kickboxing Tournament, had trials for Team GB in synchronised swimming, attended a goalkeeping training camp for future Lionesses and represented England Women as part of the U15 UEFA Development Tournament. Well done to all our young people who represent our school and their own clubs in such a wide range of sports and at such a high level.

I have been extremely impressed with our examination groups this term. The commitment shown to their studies is hugely impressive. Year 11 have just completed their mock examinations and Year 13 are beginning mocks now. I am confident that our students will achieve their full potential next summer and they should be congratulated on their exemplary work.

We have had several staff nominated and winning prestigious awards this term.

Mr Ebrahim was nominated for the Global Teacher Prize and finished in the top 50! He attended an awards evening in Paris in November and met Stephen Fry. Typically, around 8000 applications are made to the Global Teacher Prize each year.

Our very own Mr O'Connor was also nominated for the Birmingham Awards Contribution to Education and he won this category. He was presented with his award at an event at Villa Park.

In November, Mrs Sarcevic attended an event in London to collect her Silver Pearson National Teaching Award for best new teacher.

We are extremely proud of Mr Ebrahim, Mr O'Connor and Mrs Sarcevic and all our staff who work so hard for our school.

Of course, the introduction to this newsletter can never do justice to the brilliant work going on across the school, and so I hope you enjoy reading our wonderful newsletter.

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

Chaplaincy

We are delighted to see the continued expansion of The Chaplaincy Team as we began the year with recruiting new Year 7 students to join the team of students that developed across the last academic year.

Our team began the year in style by reflecting on and writing prayers about God's gift of peace the mark world Peace Day, alongside leading a cake sale with great confidence to raise money for our schools charity work. We are extremely proud and excited by their leadership skills and desire to live out their faith and we look forward to watching the team flourish as the year progresses.

It was a privilege to take members of our chaplaincy team to St Chads Cathedral, where they celebrated the chaplaincy commissioning Mass. Students enjoyed the day, especially when they managed to meet Archbishop Bernard Longley and asked him for his autograph. Students were encouraged to see this as an opportunity to consider how and why they can be inspired going forward to help support and lead the Catholic life of the school.



Wednesday Parish Mass

Since September we have greatly enjoyed joining St Dunstons School and parish for the celebration of weekly Mass at St Dunstons church. Students have attended Mass in their class groups and it has been a beautiful experience to allow our students to share their faith with the local community. So far this year all Year 7 and Year 8 classes have attended a Wednesday parish Mass and we look forward to bringing students from all year groups to participate in this opportunity. As the year progresses, we look forward to seeing our students lead worship and singing at Mass in on opportunity to share and celebrate the faith of our community.



St Chad's Sanctuary

Across the academic year 2023 /24, our community will continue to raise money and organise collections for St Chads Sanctuary. Students and staff have began the process of organising and leading events as we strive to live out our mission statement 'We give glory to God through our service to others'.

An example of student leadership was demonstrated by 8 Luke who raised £50 for our St Chads Sanctuary whilst keeping fit on their charity run. We look forward to further examples of our students living out Catholic social teaching as they continue to support and serve those less fortunate

in our local community.

To conclude our half term, we were delighted to provide students with the opportunity to visit St Chads and to help deliver our extremely generous donations from our students and staff. Students clearly enjoyed and were moved by the opportunity to see where their donations go and how our support helps those who need support in our community. We look forward to providing students with further opportunities to visit St Chads as the year progresses and we come together to share further donations.



Tolkien Award

We are very excited to re-launch our Tolkien award this year, with these fantastic booklets that support students on their journey towards completing the bronze and silver awards. Our booklets guide students towards how they can successfully achieve each award, whilst encouraging students to understand the links between completion of the award and the development of their faith and virtues.

During September we presented the booklets to the headteachers across the Tolkien Partnership and our chaplaincy team are highly excited to begin working with our primary cluster to support students in completing their awards.



After launching our Tolkien award, we have begun providing opportunities for students to achieve the award in both our own school and for primary students in our Tolkien cluster. Students in Year 7 enjoyed the opportunity to fulfil some stewardship tasks as they took to Kings Heath high street to lead a litter pick and to celebrate the creation and community on our door step.



Assemblies

The additional time allocated to form this year has allowed us to spend a longer period of time in prayer and reflection during assembly time. In ks3 assemblies students have responded extremely well to arriving to assembly listening to powerful music and watching the candle being lit as part of the prayerful atmosphere.



It has been great to see the return of more face to face assemblies with the sixth form this academic year with the use of the common room to lead assemblies as a community of faith. The sixth form team took the lead on designing and writing a new sixth form prayer, centred on the person of Oscar Romero. Year 12 assembly focused on the life of Saint Oscar Romero whilst reflecting on our sixth form prayer as we considered how prayer can support us as we progress across the journey of Year 12 and 13. We look forward to developing sixth form assembly programme across the year, providing important time for reflection and formation across the year.



A powerful feature of assemblies this year has been the moment where students take a lead on sharing the 'Going forth' message from each assembly. We are delighted to see students confidently taking ownership of the message of the assembly and sharing with their peers what we should take forward from each assembly. We look forward to seeing the development of students leading prayer across the year.



Prayer Spaces

This year we have continued to encourage students to take ownership of their prayer spaces in form rooms. Our chaplaincy team have visited all forms across ks3 and lead examples of how to create and maintain a prayer space. We have been delighted to see wonderful examples across areas of the school where students have used their creative skills to produce spaces for reflection and prayer in their classrooms.



Year 7 Retreat Day

Year 7 retreat day provided a fantastic opportunity to bring our new students together in a day of prayer and reflection. Students had the day off timetable and focused their minds on the school prayer and what the words might mean for their journey in Bishop Challoner Catholic College. Student engaged in four workshops across the day and it was lovely to conclude our day with the celebration of Mass, led by Fr Toby.



Catholic Life Inset

Our half term began and concluded with Catholic life inset. On our first day of term, we began inset with prayers and reflection on the distinctive nature of the Catholic school.

On the final day of half term, we were delighted to welcome Raymond Friel to our community where he led a powerful inset on The Catholic life and mission of the school. Staff were overwhelmingly inspired by his message and we look forward to developing a curriculum and a community that further supports the mission of our school as we progress through the year.



Year 8 Vocations Day

Building upon the foundations of their Year 7 retreat last year, we were delighted to lead a Year 8 vocations day at the start of this half term.

Students were provided with a day of reflection and prayer, which included powerful talks from our four visitors who shared their examples of finding and living out a vocation.

The day concluded with the celebration of Mass, where Fr Toby shared his sense of vocation and asked God to help guide our students toward finding who and what God has called them to be.



Stories of Hope and Home

During the autumn term we were delighted to welcome Stories of Hope and Home to our school, where our students had the opportunity to listen to powerful testimonies from asylum seekers who have become refugees due to horrific circumstances in their home countries. Students met Hamida who is an asylum seeker from Libya. She gave Year 9 a very eye opening account of working as a lawyer in Libya, fighting for environmental rights.

These visits have helped students understand the significance of Catholic social teaching and to foster a sense of compassion and love for our neighbour. We look forward to more visits as the year unfolds.

Red Wednesday

During November we were delighted to mark Red Wednesday in our community of faith. Students were delighted to get the opportunity to visit St Chads to celebrate Mass, where we joined other schools in praying for persecuted Christians around the world.

The following day our school continued to mark the event with students wearing items of red with our uniform, whilst joining a live stream led by Archbishop Bernard Longley who spoke passionately to students about the importance of breaking the silence and uniting with Christians across the world.



Sixth Form Mass

We were delighted to bring all our sixth form students together at St Dunstan's church to celebrate Mass together. Our Mass led on from assemblies this year where we have reflected on life as a vocation and taking time to support students in discerning what their vocation might be. We celebrated a beautiful Mass and it was really powerful to bring our sixth form students together in time of prayer and reflection. We look forward to sharing more opportunities for community reflection together across the new year.



National Youth Sunday

We were delighted to mark National Youth Sunday (26th November) by taking our Alton Castle students to St Dunstan's Mass where we led the readings, prayers and music.

We were also delighted to see our Year 12 students begin their preparations for their Lourdes pilgrimage by attending and selling the amazing cakes they made as part of their fundraising for their trip in what was a wonderful community event.



Alton Castle

We were delighted to provide students from years 7 and 8 with the opportunity to participate in Alton Castle residential retreat at the end of November. Students were provided with opportunities to engage in meaningful prayer and reflection, whilst also having the opportunity to take part in low ropes, biking and trekking. Students concluded their residential with the celebration of Mass and a disco as they concluded an experience they will never forget.



Reconciliation Services

During Advent we were hugely grateful for the time Fr Toby and Fr John, alongside with our visiting priests, gave over two days to allow students from all year groups to have the opportunity to attend confession. The dedication of our priests allowed for us to offer confessions over two separate days and we were delighted with the students who took the opportunity to prepare for Advent through the gift of reconciliation.

Community Mass

On Wednesday 13th December, we look forward to celebrating our community advent celebration Mass with students and members of our local community. Members of our tea party celebrations alongside our students will gather to celebrate Mass together. Furthermore, we look forward to celebrating Mass with our Year 9 and 10 students on the last day of term as we conclude the school term.

Religious Studies

Liturgical Season

During Advent we focused on the arrival of our Lord and Saviour. Each week we rejoiced in the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that accompanied 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 had the opportunity to reflect on the meaning and message of Advent. We had examinations of conscience in the chapel and offered the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation which bring us closer to God.

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

Advent allowed us to take a moment together to reflect on the many blessings of the season.

Let us pray:

God of hope,

We cling to you, for Your 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

Our community parishes offered the opportunity to be present with God through Advent, Nativity and Christmas services.

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.



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 for 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 of us to celebrate in our Christian Characteristics in this Year of Character.

Since September we are delighted to have been able to offer an In-House Retreat for Year 7's focusing on the Person we wish to be and for Year 8 a focus on Vocations.

It was a delight to see our Year 7's bonding as the newest members of our community. They were able to learn more about themselves and their connection with God. It was a pleasure to celebrate Mass as a year group with Father Toby at St. Dunstan's.



A photo of our Year 7's featured above learning about our community during their retreat. The Year 8 Retreat focusing on Vocations was fantastic- they rather enjoyed spending time meeting new visitors and being able to learn more about how faith has played a part in another's life. It was a joy to celebrate Mass with Father Toby at St. Dunstan's.



Retreats

During the autumn term Year 7 & 8 will have had the opportunity to visit Kenelm Youth Trust at Alton Castle for an overnight retreat at the end of November. We were 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.

A beautiful reflective moment when we said the Our Father together as a little Robin sat with us for the whole prayer.

Our Year 7 and 8 students having a moment learning about God creation and taking some time in nature.



Year 7

Year 7 had units on 'Prophecy & Promise' and RSE – 'Who am I?', they are continuing their journey in Christianity as we delve into 'Creation & Covenant' 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 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.

Year 10 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 Good and Evil, which will fulfil the second half of the first component that students study. When we return in the new year our students will begin 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.

A Level

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.

Year 12

Year 12 have been studying Morality Ethics, which includes considering the implications of choices made by science, governments and different perspectives from religious and non-religious views. This has allowed for analytical thinking and discernment.

Year 8

To date students have studied: 'Creation & Covenant' and have moved into RSE 'Created & Chosen', where we learn more about how each of us is unique and cherished by God. Students will then move into 'Prophecy & Promise'. This segment of the spiralled curriculum will reflect on how prophecies developed and link directly with Christ.

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. Students will be moving into RSE 'Search for Love' where we will focus on how each of us is loved and how love is a special part of all relationships.

Year 11

Year 11 have finished the Life and Death unit of Component two, leaving Sin & Forgiveness remaining. We will continue to foster and celebrate resilience, kindness and dedication as they reflected on their learning and apply this to the examination techniques and writing skills.

Our students have the final theme to complete from their GCSE specification – Sin & Forgiveness. Giving us time to revise and practice writing techniques.

Year 13 - Liberation Theology

Looking at injustices that jeopardise a persons' dignity and how we can respond to them using the Gospel message.

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

A-Level Philosophy, Ethics and Study of a Religion

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

We have been learning about – situation ethics and utilitarianism in Ethical Theories; alongside arguments for the existence of God and challenges to religious beliefs in Philosophy

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 their skills in investigating and critically analysing questions, arguments and ideas and examining their connective natures.

English Spelling Bee

English's 'Bishop's Got Talent' Spelling Bee took place on Monday 20 November. With Mrs Hodges brilliantly leading the way, 12 students stood up in front of an impressive crowd to demonstrate their spelling skills. Well done to Exaudi Makisi our reigning champion!



KS3 Book Club

Since September, Book Club has been regularly meeting and is made up of a mixture of old and new members joining us to read. Over this year, we aim to grow the club so that more students become engaged with reading books that they wouldn't normally pick from the shelf. We have hopes that we can grow the club with a greater range of students joining and immersing themselves in the fictional worlds we are reading about.

Unlike last year, we decided to vary our approach, by reading the same book with the club as staff were reading in the 'Reading Teachers, Reading Students' initiative. We wanted to be able to go back to the group and tell them what students actually thought of the book, rather than just relying on our assumptions of what we think students would say about the book.

Book club is currently reading *The Blackthorn Branch* by Elen Caldecott, which is a fantasy book about Welsh mythology. Immediately the book captured our club's attention with its bright and bold book cover, however it held little information about the contents of the book. As a group, we began reading the book and were immediately fascinated with the interesting beginning which immediately threw us into the action. We are currently at the halfway point of the book and are receiving positive reviews from the students in Book Club. Their predictions of what is going to happen are extremely imaginative and bold. It is lovely to see how involved they become with the books we are reading and to see their love for literature and reading grow.

Creative Writing

Since the beginning of the new school year, it has been brilliant to see an influx of new members attending Creative Writing Club, which runs for 45 minutes every Thursday. Our newest members are largely KS3 students, with a few returning KS4 students looking to improve their creative writing skills too. We now welcome around 15 consistent members, but always provide the opportunity for any students to come along as little or as often as they like. We began the year with our traditional "Spin the Wheel for a Title" randomization activity, where students each put forward a key word to be written about. This allowed the students to find out more about each other, especially new members, based on the words being put forward.

We have also had a go at rewriting Billy Joel's classic *We Didn't Start the Fire* song, brainstorming more recent global events and putting them together for students to form their own song lyrics. They then had the opportunity to perform their creations, and I was incredibly impressed with both their writing and their singing! Most recently, some of our members used the final few weeks of the half-term to develop short stories to submit to our first Young Writers competition of the year; their brief, in line with the month of October, was to write the spookiest ghost story in just 250 words. For the second half of the Autumn term, members will now be turning their attention to fantasy writing, using picture prompts and working on using descriptive vocabulary to create the ultimate fantasy setting.



Othello Reading Group

“What from the cape can you discern at sea?”

With the action of the play having shifted from Venice to Cyprus, the first line of Act 2 of Othello – spoken by Montano – might seem inconsequential: a scene-starting question from a secondary character. Yet, as happens so often in Shakespeare, the apparently insignificant speaks to the heart of the play. For what is Othello but an exercise – both for its characters and its students - in looking and trying to work out what you see?

This, fundamentally, is this mission of the Othello Reading Group. To look carefully at the play, perhaps from a new perspective, in the hope of seeing with fresh eyes. Every two weeks, a group of 6th form English Literature students and English Department staff meet to share the reading of a piece of critical writing on Othello as a springboard towards discussion of the play.

Our first meeting of the year considered the chapter on Othello from Greg Doran’s recent book ‘My Shakespeare’. Doran is one of the country’s most respected theatre directors who spent a

decade as artistic director of the RSC. It was fascinating to see the play from the perspective of a theatrical practitioner with the reading including especially interesting insights from Doran’s late husband Anthony Sher on his approach

to understanding and playing the character of Iago. The term’s second meeting considered a character too often overlooked in thinking about the play: Bianca. The group returned to the text of the play and took a ‘close reading’ approach in an attempt to understand who Bianca actually is. Often described in study guides as a ‘prostitute’ or ‘courtesan’, Bianca is typically read as little more than a plot device or contrast to Desdemona’s chastity. Nevertheless, like Montano peering out into the Mediterranean, the group discovered that discerning the truth can be a challenging business.



Maths

Key Stage 5

There have been opportunities for student enrichment recently with the senior maths challenge having taken place and a couple of trips approaching. Some of our Year 12 students have attended the Maths Inspiration show at the Crescent Theatre and the Maths Excellence day at Aston University.

Year 12

Our Year 12 cohort performed particularly impressively! There were also 12 bronze certificates: Daniel C, Ciaran G, Lucas H, Charlie H, Jayden J, Eric K, Caitlin L, Samuel L, Harley L, Szymon O, Nedim S, Tyler T.

There were five silver certificates: Callum B, Finn C, Broklen K, Aliabbas M and Daniel Z, and two gold certificates! Joe B scored 112 to achieve the best in school, and marginally pipped Adam A-N to the post, who scored 111. Both Joe and Adam have been invited to participate in the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1 - something that nobody in the school has achieved before! This is an incredible feat, and they will now need to complete a 3.5 hour paper!

Catholic Games Timestable 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 narrowly missed out on a top three finish, coming in fourth. Both teams performed commendably.



Year 13

12 bronze certificates: Lucy B, Eben D-M, Joe H, Kyan K, George L, Ben M, Shania M, James P, Jericho S, Surya T, Finnian T, and unbelievably one unnamed participant.

There were two silver certificates: Cormac O and Roman W, and then a silver and best in year to Ruby Raven! She has also entered the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls and received a merit – one of the best results we’ve seen from the MOG in years.

Year 10 Maths Challenge

This half term we had 10 of our most keen mathematicians going over to Cardinal Wiseman Catholic College to compete with other local Catholic schools. We eagerly await the results of the day and the students who went out to represent the school had a marvellous day.



Primary Outreach and Tolkien Maths Cluster

This year maths have hosted two events involving year 6 students from the Tolkien cluster primary schools. 26 students have taken part in maths activities requiring them to problem solve, work as a team and stretch their mathematical knowledge. Students work in teams of a mix of students they know already, and students from other schools, helping them to practise their social and communication skills. We look forward to a further 4 events throughout the year.



Maths Drop In

We have continued to run the Key Stage 3 homework club every Thursday. 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.

Senior Maths Challenge

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 enter all our A-Level mathematicians each year, to ensure everyone gets the opportunity to compete, as well as ensuring that students who would not put themselves forward for such a challenge do not get a choice, thus removing the fear of not being good enough. There are often surprising results, with students doing better than anticipated.

The maths department would like to congratulate Joe B and Adam A-N for being successful in the Senior Maths Challenge, and qualifying to take part in the British Mathematical Olympiad competition. This is an impressive feat, with only the top 2000 students nationwide invited to take part. Their commitment to this exam was commendable. Well done!

ChristMaths Day

This successful annual event took place on Thursday 7th December and was led by Mr Sarcevic, together with Year 9 Young Maths Leaders and some Year 7 students. We had 55 Y5 students from 11 primaries joining us for a day of festive activities designed and led by our Y9 Maths Leaders. The activities were designed to develop their problem solving skills, combined with encouraging their communication and teamwork skills. It has also offered them another way to express and develop their enjoyment of mathematics. All of the primary schools who attended had a fabulous day and this was all thanks to our wonderful students who designed and lead all of the activities. Finally, a huge congratulations to the overall winners, St Catherine's Catholic Primary School.



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 Triple Science.

Year 12 have made a very encouraging start to their A Level courses and Year 13 continue to work hard towards their individual goals.

Open Evening

On Wednesday 20th September we had a very successful Open Evening. Demonstrations by students and staff proved to be being very popular with all our visitors. Year 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 Wednesday 15th 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. Over the years we have attracted more and more external students to studying A Level Sciences so we hope to keep building on the popularity these subjects have for students both inside and outside of Challoner.



Science Club

This year we have a varied group of enthusiastic young scientists who have been attending science club every Wednesday. Whilst science club is primarily aimed at Year 7, it has been lovely to have a number of Year 8 students return and continue to attend, and we have had new students attending in increasing numbers since September.

Science club provides an opportunity for students to extend upon their learning from lessons, and participate in fun practical activities. From October to December, we focus on seasonal activities; before Christmas, students will make acid and alkali chemis-trees and chromatography baubles to decorate the lab! The photos below show the results of the session where students grew their own copper sulfate crystals, and of Bonfire Night science club where they made their own sparklers!

A big thank you to Cormac in Year 9 for volunteering at science club as part of the Duke of Edinburgh award, to all of the members of the science department who volunteer to run science club each week, and to our wonderful students for having such enthusiasm!



Year 13 Slapton Sands

The Year 13 Biology students visited Slapton Ley Field Centre in South Devon. The area is a National Nature Reserve and a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). The students stayed for four days and, carried out a range of field techniques and studies. The students visited East Prawle, where we carried out rock pool investigations followed by examining the zones on the beach. The students compared many different species including limpets on the rocky shoreline in an exposed and sheltered beach. All students demonstrated excellent practical and team building skills throughout the duration. The following day, we completed a succession practical to investigate how different plant species changed from the shoreline to the shingle ridge and beyond. During the evening, we investigated the local bats, where the students were able to use their bat detectors to locate the bats and investigate their behaviour.



We also had 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 and thank you to the staff that supported the trip. These included S Jameson and D Woodbridge.



London Science Trip

On Friday 29th September, ninety-three Year 8 students visited the London Science Museum. This was an opportunity to explore various scientific concepts and engage in interactive learning experiences. One of the highlights of the visit was the IMAX theatre, where students watched a film on the International Space Station (ISS). The film provided a captivating insight into the daily lives of astronauts aboard the ISS, their experiments, and the challenges they face in space. Additionally, the students had the chance to interact with the museum's exhibits, further enhancing their understanding of scientific principles. The museum's exhibits included interactive displays on electricity, magnetism, forces, and motion. Students had the opportunity to generate electricity, manipulate magnetic fields, and observe the effects of different forces. These activities not only reinforced learning, but also provided a practical understanding of scientific concepts. Thank you to all the staff that supported the trip ensuring the trip ran smoothly and was an enriching experience. The staff included D. Woodbridge, J Jones, H Ghoris, A Bibi, O Khitab, and Y Jones. All the students enjoyed the trip and were an asset to the school. This trip not only complemented the curriculum, but also ignited a passion for science among our students.



Personal Development

Year 7

The academic year has exploded to life as students explore Health, Wellbeing, Personal Safety and Citizenship. Year 7 have settled into secondary school life and their lessons in PSHE have been designed to complement the transition process and welcome them to our Catholic community. Students have enjoyed delving into themes such as resilience, friendships, health and wellbeing and healthy lifestyles. With an ear to the ground, pupil feedback has been great – especially the lessons on how to live out a healthy lifestyle!

Year 8

Year 8 have started the year by looking at the Criminal Justice System and have been studying age related laws and the process of law enforcement. Highlights have certainly been our re-enactments of a restorative justice scene and a thought-provoking debate on the powers of the police in the UK. We look forward to consolidating this learning as we continue to study the Human Rights Act and the Equality Act of 2010. I must congratulate Year 8 for the mature way in which they have approached this Citizenship themed scheme of work.

Year 9

The whole of Year 9 have had the most amazing start to PSHE, exploring Health and Wellbeing through our awareness sessions on drugs, alcohol, smoking and vaping. The lessons have been designed to be informative, educational and offer students the opportunity to understand the facts, NHS guidance and the legalities around these sensitive subject areas. Using case studies as the vehicle to exploration, students have covered a broad scope of learning opportunities within a safe and controlled environment, culminating in an awareness campaign project that they are currently working on. The subject matter was further explored when Aquarius – a Midlands based charity who help people and communities overcome the harms caused by alcohol, drugs and gambling – presented interactive and informative workshops to all of our Year 9 students back in October. These workshops secured the learning that was already taking place in the PSHE classroom, and the hands-on approach was really welcomed by our cohort. We also had Rob Pedley MBE visiting us on the same day and he delivered one of his interactive workshops which he runs in affiliation with the West Midlands Police Violence Reduction Unit. Rob reached out to educate our students about violence and county lines and how we can help to protect ourselves in today's society.



Assemblies and Form Resources

Personal Development continues to thrive through our enriching and diverse assembly and form resource programme. This is delivered weekly to all year groups, in each key stage. Assemblies this year have been delivered by Heads of Year and at all times are relevant to key national and world events and have a strong Catholic ethos. Starting with collective workshop and ending with a 'Going Forth' message, the assemblies are rooted in biblical stories and share our mission statement and our desire for students to exhibit the Bishop Challoner character virtues. Examples of topics that have been covered already this year are; World Mental Health Day, Remembrance, Respect and Anti Bullying Week.

The Form Resource programme continues to develop successfully, each academic year. Utilising our very important student voice feedback, the presentations, which vary from a cultural literacy focus to essential safety and other national days and celebrations, now incorporate an interactive activity for students to engage with. An example of this are when we looked at the Israeli and Palestine conflict. Students were presented with factual; age appropriate material and

the focus then turned to the message of Pope Francis and his call for prayer.

Students engaged in writing their own thoughts and prayers and these were collated and displayed in our school chapel. Cultural topics have included the Birmingham back-to-back houses, the Years of Bishop Challoner and we have also focused on Gambling and Gaming awareness and Disability Awareness Day to name but a few! Sixth form also have an additional form time curriculum which is new for 2023 and have sessions orientated around further education, careers and finance. These are further enhanced by accompanying booklets, and feedback is very positive. Their current focus is on Higher Education funding and is responsive to the current financial climate.



Black History Month

October welcomed the celebration of Black History Month and this year it was a key focus across every curriculum area of the school. Launching with a wonderful assembly for all year groups, the emphasis this year was 'Saluting our Sisters' and paid honour to the work of black female figures across the centuries. From Saint Josephine Bakhita to Alex Scott MBE, a tribute was paid to the contributions these women have made to society. This theme continued with a Black History Month trail across the school building, where students were asked key questions about 15 women and had to find the answers. During form time, students listened to the unique story of George Saunders who was a tailor from St Kitts and established his own business here during the 1970s, in our very own back to back houses on Hurst Street. In Religious Education, the lessons were centred around black saints and in mathematics, students researched black mathematicians who have had an impact on their subject. Each department contributed to our display in the foyer; a wonderful snapshot that salutes our sisters and cultural diversity.



Year 11 Personal Development Day

Year on year, the Personal Development days receive such high praise and positive feedback from our students. The day for Year 11 in October, was a roaring success and enabled our GCSE cohort to take a day away from their academic studies and touch base with issues in the world around them. Commencing with the most powerful presentation from 'Stand against Violence', we listened intently to the presenter, Michelle, as she shared with us the true story of a young man from Devon who lost his life the day before his 18th birthday due to an unprecedented attack.

The talk was hard hitting but spoke volumes about personal safety and choices in life. Michelle was very complimentary of our students and commended their attentiveness, maturity and thoughtfulness. The rest of the day was spent in classrooms exploring money matters; the impact of drugs and vaping; and well-being. The varied nature of the day exposed the students to so many societal issues, and feedback on the workshops was fantastic from both staff and students, alike. A wonderful conclusion to the day was the well-being session that involved ways of dealing with stress and culminated with our beautiful stone paintings that are now displayed in the chapel. We very much look forward to hosting Personal Development days for the rest of the school!



World Kindness Day

'Being kind' was the theme we used to launch Anti Bullying Week. Students engaged in a form activity in the previous week that looked at the concept of kindness and how this is part of the Bishop Challoner character virtues. They were told that teachers would be looking and listening out for acts of kindness, no matter how small.

Throughout the week, nominations came flooding in for students from every year group and it was enlightening to read how selfless and kind our Bishop Challoner students really are. From tidying up classrooms without being asked, to helping others with classwork, all nominated students received a 'kindness slip', and two amazingly kind students were also rewarded with a kind gesture from staff. The concept of being kind will continue throughout the year! Staff members were also acknowledged for their selfless acts of kindness!



School Council

School council is an imperative part of our student voice programme and students have already had a year council meeting with their Head of Year and a whole school council meeting with Dr Coughlan. Bringing so many ideas to the fore front, students are underway with charity projects and school improvements, alike. It has been wonderful to see the inspiration from the council members and their feedback to peers. This has manifested in a real drive for our school's focus on the Year of Challoner and jubilee celebrations. Students are keen to work together, hold charity events and live out our mission statement by giving service to others. Exemplified through sponsored jogs, cake sales and ice cream sales (back when the weather was warmer), candy cane grams and chocolate hamper raffles, we have already started fundraising for St Chad's Sanctuary and some of our students have even had the privilege of being able to deliver our Sanctuary collections. We now have 5 charity ambassadors through our school council, and we are excited to see what else we can achieve this academic year!



Upcoming Projects

As we move forward, it is wonderful to announce that our Fox Hollies project will commence very soon and 13, Year 9 students will take part in the most enlightening exchange programme with our Fox Hollies friends. This project has run for many years and this year promises to be just as special as it always has been. We started this project with disability awareness at the end of November and look forward to our visits to Fox Hollies in the New Year.

We also embrace the next stage of the Mode Shift Active Travel award scheme, in search for transport and traffic solutions in our school's locality. This was a huge success last year and we can't wait to start it again with our 9 Active Travel Ambassadors. The first meeting evaluated last year's work and we can't wait to drive a new programme that promotes a healthier and more environmentally friendly approach to school travel!



Geography Year 8

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 studied the important global issues such as deforestation of the Malaysian rainforests and desertification in the Thar desert. Students have completed a mid-unit assessment and have demonstrated a range of revision skills such as summarising knowledge, practicing perfect paragraphs reviewing past exam papers. All Year 10 students have been provided with a BCCC Geography revision guide.

Year 11

Year 11 are now working hard on covering the content for the final exams and are preparing well for mock exams which are currently taking place. Revision grids, revision checklists and practice exam questions have been issued to students to ensure they have all the required resources to give them every chance of success in their final exams.

Within our current topic of study: The Changing Economic World, we have been exploring strategies to reduce the development gap such as aid. Students have been inspired by the impact aid can have on communities and chose to raise money to buy goats for lower income countries. Our Year 11s raised enough money to buy three goats which will have a long term and sustainable impact on the community.

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.

Over the past few weeks, Year 9 have shown their dedication to revision and have been trialling a range of revision strategies for their KAP4 such as blurting, mind maps and flashcards. We are very proud of the hard work students have shown in their preparation for these assessments.

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 'Changing Places' for the human component of the course.

Year 13 continue to show their dedication to 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.

Trips

During the autumn term Year 11 students visited Longbridge to collect data on the regeneration of the local area. The aim of the fieldwork is to investigate whether the regeneration undertaken by St. Modwen has improved the area socially, economically and environmentally. The trips were a success and students were a credit to the school in their mature conduct on all 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.

History

Christmas celebrations of the past...

Medieval people really let rip with twelve full days of Christmas festivities, reaching a crescendo on 6 January, 'Twelfth Night', when presents were exchanged. These celebrations commemorated Christ's birth and the name Christmas (Christ's Mass) is first recorded in England in 1038.

Boisterous medieval festivities were directed by a Lord of Misrule, whose word was law. The Christmas games he ordered could be rough; among the tamest was 'Hot Cockles', where blindfolded victims had to guess who'd slapped them from behind. If the guess was right, the slapper became the victim.

Tudor Christmases were even more full-on than medieval, but were a tad less boisterous, at least at Court. On Twelfth Night (6 January) a bean was baked into a cake. The person who got it in their slice became 'King of the Bean', or if it was a woman, she chose her 'King', and everyone had to imitate him. When he drank, they drank; if he coughed, they coughed. Henry VIII and his friends liked to dress up as Robin Hood's Men or Moors, and you had to pretend not to recognise them.

The Christmas we know today took shape in Victorian times, when the rowdier celebrations of earlier periods were toned down into a quieter family-focused festival. Queen Victoria and her beloved Albert, with their nine children, played a big part in these changes. The Christmas trees Albert popularised from his native Germany in 1840 rapidly caught on, as did decking them with lights and presents, by now given on Christmas Day itself. Victorian children's presents were usually quite modest, such as sweets, nuts or oranges, although wealthier kids might hope for a gift echoing the latest technology, such as a toy train. 'Christmas Box' tips to servants and tradesmen were left until 26 December, hence called 'Boxing Day'.

Many other now-familiar elements of Christmas also originated in this period, including printed Christmas cards, Christmas crackers, and eating turkey (instead of the traditional goose) and Christmas pudding. Even 'Santa Claus' and his reindeer sleigh first came here from America in the 1870s.

Black History Month

We began October by promoting a competition for Black History Month across Key Stage Three. We received hundreds of entries with some making use of video, music and the game Minecraft to showcase their tributes to Black History Month.

The theme this year which was 'Saluting Our Sisters'.

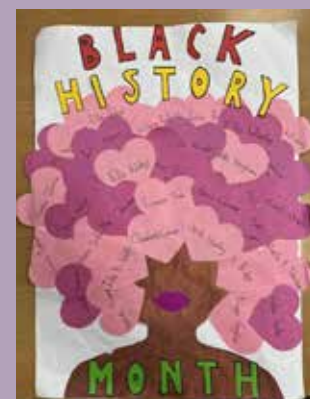
Students produced outstanding work which were celebrated and the winners were awarded a voucher by Dr Coughlan.

Congratulations to the winners:

Year 7 - Ryan H, Luke B & Caelen K

Year 8 - Jasmine M

Year 9 - Caolan M



Bishop's Got Talent

Early November saw the History Department host the schools 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. We were helped by four of our delightful 6th form students who diligently researched the individuals and took a lead role in running the event in the library. Student feedback was very positive and excitement was audible.



Upcoming Events

The new year sees a number of exciting and informative events coming up in the history department. There will be a speech from a relative of a Holocaust survivor for Year 9 students. Year 10 and Year 11 will be travelling to Berlin in February to learn about Nazi Germany and the events of the Cold War. Year 10 students will be going to the theatre to watch 'Hitler on Trial'. Finally, two Year 12 students will be visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau as part of the Lessons from Auschwitz Project.

Physical Education

We are thrilled to share some exciting updates from our talented students in various sports activities. The autumn term was packed with memorable matches, incredible victories, and commendable sportsmanship.

Football Triumphs

Our Sixth Form Football team kicked off the season with a resounding 3-0 victory against Kings Norton, showcasing their skill and teamwork.



U13 Girls Football

The U13 girls team have made us proud by securing their place to represent Birmingham City Football Club at the EFL regional finals. Their outstanding performance in today's local competition at West Hills included an impressive record of 9 games played, 9 victories, and an astonishing 50+ goals scored with none against. Congratulations, girls!



Year 7 Girls Football

Special mention to our Year 7 girls' football team for a thrilling 3-2 victory against local rivals Swanshurst.



Year 9 Football

The Year 9 football team clinched the Kings Norton League title, defeating UoBS 3-0 and Priory 2-0. Well done, lads!

Netball

Our Year 7 netball team faced a close match against Selly Park girls, narrowly losing 4-5. Despite the defeat, the girls displayed exceptional effort and sportsmanship.

The Year 7 and 8 Netball teams participated in a tournament at The University of Birmingham School, showcasing their skills and enthusiasm.

In a challenging round 2 of the Birmingham Cup, our Year 7 girls played against Aldridge, giving it their all in a very close game with the final score standing at 6-5.

Our Seniors netball team dominated with a 13-4 victory against St Thomas Aquinas. Special recognition to Daisy H, named Player of the Match.

Y8s celebrated victory in the Secondary School Games Netball competition, going unbeaten throughout.

Y9 and Y10 netball teams demonstrated their prowess in matches against St Thomas Aquinas and Priory, respectively.

Despite a loss in the Y7 Netball game against Edgbaston Priory, our girls were overjoyed as they achieved their highest goal tally of the season.



Other Sporting Highlights

Year 7 and 8 school games basketball saw a phenomenal win, scoring an impressive 48 points.

The Sixth Form team experienced a tough match in the West Mids Cup, losing 6-1 to St Peter's, Wolverhampton in the last 16. Jack Court scored the lone goal, and we applaud the team for their efforts.

Outstanding Individual Performances

In a memorable 7-1 win at Gospel Oak, the Year 9 boys, led by Terence B with 2 goals, showcased exceptional teamwork.



Our heartfelt appreciation to Aira for umpiring and a big shout-out to Daisy H and Esther T for their outstanding coaching to the Year 7 netball team.

Our very own Lottie M attended a future Lionesses goalkeeping camp with Mary Earps, what a fantastic experience!

As we wrap up a successful term, we thank all our students, parents and staff for their dedication and enthusiasm. Wishing everyone a joyous holiday season and a fantastic start to the new year!

Computer Science & ICT

Enrichment Opportunities

In our computing department, we offer a diverse array of after-school clubs that have gained immense popularity, especially among Key Stage 3 students. These clubs include Robotics, Digital Art, and Cybersecurity for Girls.

Additionally, the Drone Club will make a comeback in 2024—stay updated on dates and venues by following our Twitter account. The excitement surrounding these clubs fuels our commitment to reinstate and broaden these engaging opportunities.



University of Warwick's ESport Center

On October 25th, 2023, we organised an excursion for a group of 25 Year 9 students to the University of Warwick's ESport center, a unique facility in the country. During this visit, students engaged in brand development, creating their own ESport logo and brand, working collaboratively and presenting their products to peers. Teams also participated in various competitive activities. The feedback received from both students and teachers was exceedingly positive, with many students deeming it their most enjoyable school trip. They expressed eagerness to revisit, and we captured some memorable moments.



Computing in Primary Schools

The Computing Department remains dedicated to supporting computing curricula in our local primary schools by offering workshops and valuable resources. We strongly believe in fostering an early interest in the subject and sustaining it through various strategies. For instance, our students actively engage in creating computing display boards for events, showcasing their involvement and subsequently designing and assembling the boards. Additionally, they take the lead in crafting computing activities for events like Computing Day, where they not only design but also deliver these activities to younger students, aiming to inspire and engage them in the world of computing.



Open Evening

Besides workshops and display boards, we involve our students for open evening events. At the beginning of the academic year, our students conducted teaser sessions for prospective primary students. These sessions, featuring robotics demonstrations and hands-on drone flying experiences, significantly enhanced the visiting students' experience, making their visit more memorable and interactive.



Volleyball Club

Apart from our involvement in computing, we actively contribute to various other school activities. This year, Mr. Ebrahim leads both the school volleyball club and a separate session tailored for experienced players. The Wednesday morning volleyball club welcomes students of all ages, while the Thursday sessions cater to more seasoned players, drawing significant interest, particularly among Year 11 students.



CyberFirst

On Monday 20th November, computing took a group of Year 8 girls, accompanied by previous CyberFirst winners and finalists from the past two years, to kick off CyberFirst at Aston University. It turned out to be a success—we entered 6 teams, a significant accomplishment in itself. One team, in particular, showed incredible commitment. They even came into school on Sunday to work on the challenges.

We are thrilled to share that one of our teams scored 5787 points, the highest ever in our CyberFirst history. Collectively, the teams scored around 16,000 points—a fantastic achievement. Hopefully, events like this will inspire more girls to consider studying computing and pursuing careers in technology.



San Francisco

The Computing department is thrilled to announce the organisation of the trip to San Francisco in July 2026, tailored for current Year 8 and 9 students who will be in Years 10 and 11 respectively by then. This early planning allows for better management of trip costs over an extended period, ensuring that every student can seize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The detailed trip letter will be distributed to Year 8 and 9 students after the Christmas holiday. It's highly recommended to collect a copy promptly, as this trip is incredibly popular and spaces tend to fill up swiftly.

The Computing Department remains committed to providing a comprehensive and engaging curriculum, addressing gender imbalance, and fostering a culture of innovation and digital literacy among students through varied learning experiences and competitions.



Amazon AWS

Recently, an Amazon AWS ambassador visited our school to inaugurate the Amazon App competition designed for Year 8 students. This thrilling computing event aims to ignite enthusiasm and curiosity among young minds, encouraging exploration in the field of computer science. Follow the Computing Department's Twitter account to stay updated on the incredible ideas and innovations of our students, geared toward enhancing the quality of life in their communities.



Football Coach

Mr. Ebrahim assumes the coaching responsibilities for the Year 8 and Year 9 girls' school football teams. These dedicated teams undergo training sessions every Friday morning and engage in matches against other schools and regional teams. The football initiative has garnered immense popularity, especially among Year 9 students, many of whom wouldn't otherwise have the chance to participate in extracurricular football outside of school.



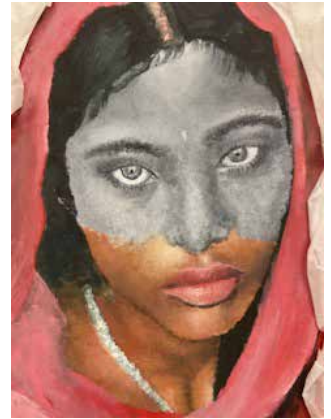
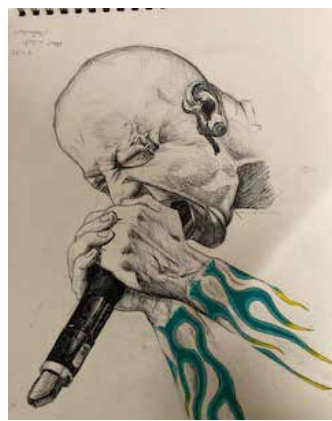
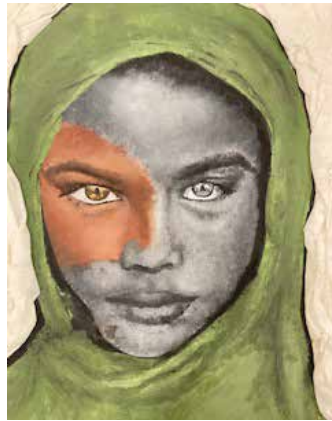
Outstanding New Teacher

During the summer term of the previous academic year, Mrs. Sarcevic was nominated for a Pearsons National Teaching Award in the 'Outstanding New Teacher' category. She received the silver award, a celebration held at school during National Thank a Teacher Day in June. Her achievement was further acknowledged on November 25th at a special ceremony in London where she received her reward and connected with other nominees. The computing department and the entire school extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Sarcevic for her exceptional dedication and work.

Art and Design

Key Stage 5, A Level Fine Art, Year 13

Year 13 Art students are working on the development stages of their Component One journey. Oil paint, wax, translucent surfaces, latex and fabric are just a selection of the materials they have been exploring on diverse scales from A6 to A0. They will be completing final pieces over the coming weeks to resolve their project journeys. Approaches to concept themes are varied with students producing installation pieces made up of paper and cardboard structures combined with organic forms such as moss and tree branches, sensitive mixed media drawings as a response to 'The Holocaust' topic and large scale experimental layered mixed media boards inspired by a recent trip to Berlin which focus on cultural identity in European Cities.



Year 12

Year 12 students have been exploring a range of media including drawing, painting and printmaking in the style of contemporary and traditional artists, building up their skills of different techniques. They have been exploring the work of artists across history, notably Vermeer, Renoir, Kollwitz and Kruger by creating artist studies in a range of materials. All A level students will be travelling to London in December for their Gallery study trip, visiting The National Gallery, Tate Modern and Saatchi Gallery. They have begun their independent coursework project exploring their own individual themes, including 'moments in time', 'fragments', 'self identity' and 'built landscape'.



KS4 GCSE Fine Art

Year 11 have also followed Year 13 with successful journey development in sketchbooks and portfolios as they prepare for their Mock exams. They have demonstrated real commitment this academic year with sketchbooks being highly developed and imaginative. It has been so rewarding to see such a mature approach to the Year 11 project with students choosing to pursue personal and creative journeys independently. There has been an increase in scale this year with students clearly being informed by the A level outcomes on display in Art rooms and in the wider school spaces. Working with a wide range of materials, including (but not limited to) oil paint, watercolour, chalk, pen, graphite and charcoal, acrylic and coloured pencil, students have each individually explored the set theme with curiosity and maturity, individually building an impressive coursework portfolio. We cannot wait to see what they create in their mock exams!



Year 10



Key Stage 3, Year 7

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



Year 8

Year 8 students have been exploring memory and the purpose of public installation artwork as memorial. Taking inspiration from the sculpture 'Shoes on the Danube', they completed tonal studies of shoes using a variety of materials, working on recycled surfaces. As a class, they discussed how symbolism is embedded into art, and that metaphors of shoes can evoke the feeling of empathy towards others. They have since explored other types of metaphor within Art, including feathers and birds as symbols of lost loved ones. Since this, Year 8 students have been working with watercolour paint to create mixed media bird studies, taking inspiration from contemporary illustrator Abby Diamond. It was through these studies that students experimented with harmonious and contrasting colour palettes, as well as blends, bleeds, washes and splatters.



Year 9

Year 9 students have started their time travel journey through Artistic Movements. Beginning with Da Vinci's anatomical studies, working with pencil, pen and print, students have looked closely at how to create realistic details using different mark making techniques. They have since explored the expressive colours and brushstrokes of Claude Monet, working with watercolour to embody his Impressionistic style.



Students have been introduced to the importance of building layers of washes in light to dark shades, building up an image from an under-painting to a detail heavy landscape. They have worked hard to focus on building confidence when 'drawing with a brush', making sure that they find the balance of speed painting – just as the artists did when working 'en plein air', and being careful to observe small details. We are fortunate to have strong artists in Year 9, and are hopeful that our subject will be popular with them when it comes to choosing GCSE options.



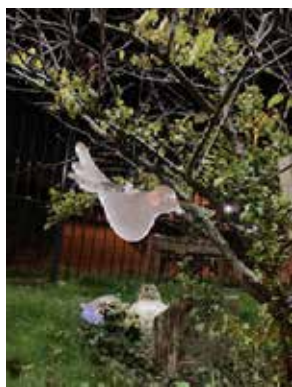
Art Club

Art Club is as popular as ever this year! Students across Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 attend each week to work on 3D projects, learning to knit, build puppet mannequins, create prints with natural forms collected from around school and, of course, creating small sketchbooks to fill with their Inktober drawings! All students are welcome to attend Tuesdays 3:20 – 4:20.



BC Arts Hub

This year, to commemorate Remembrance Day, The Royal British Legion are remembering and honouring significant anniversaries united by the theme of 'Service'. 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush. BC Arts Hub continue to build on the yearly Art installations, performances and projections by exploring the connections between the Armed Forces and the Windrush Generation, and mark their service and the part they played in rebuilding post war Britain. The focus was an outdoor photography display of historic Windrush images supported by the large soldier silhouettes, poppy sculptures and wall hung poppy piece. Installations were complemented by projections of musical and dramatic performances on the façade of the Sports Centre for the community to experience. This was further enhanced by an installation of acrylic doves and a fabric wall hanging, handcrafted by Bishop Challoner students, on display in St Dunstons Church for the Remembrance Mass.



Product Design



Year 7

Throughout this autumn term, Year 7 students in Product Design actively engaged in a hands-on and environmentally conscious project. The project revolved around repurposing discarded plastic bottle caps, into innovative and eco-friendly products.

The students initiated the project by collecting a minimum of 30 plastic bottle caps, which are often overlooked contributors to environmental pollution. They then melted these bottle caps down, creating a vibrant plastic sheet that forms one half of their device holder, crafted entirely from 100% recycled materials.



The focus on recycling and sustainability has offered these students a unique opportunity not only to explore their creativity, but also to gain a deeper understanding of the impact that everyday disposable items can have on the environment. We have placed a collection bin in the canteen and also in a Café on Kings heath High Street in the hope that we can help to turn waste from our local community into desirable, functional products. We will approach further businesses to enlarge our collection pool as one class alone will get through up to 1000 tops. Please help us by collecting HDPE tops (polymer recycling symbol No2) and sending into school with your child who can then drop them into the D&T department.

Through lessons and discussions, the Year 7 students have gained insights into the origins of plastic and its detrimental effects on the environment, wildlife, and ecosystems. This knowledge has not only hopefully heightened their environmental consciousness but has also inspired a sense of responsibility to make sustainable choices in the future.

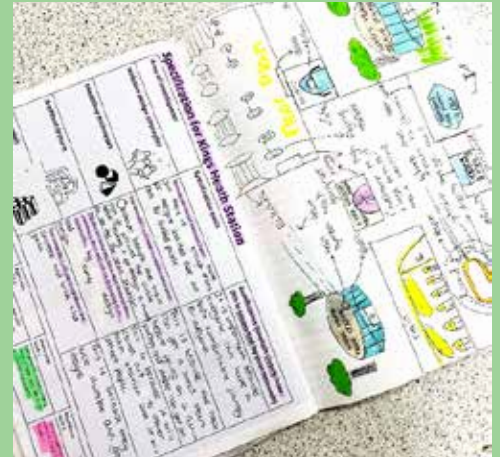
Year 9

During the autumn term Year 9 students embarked on an exciting and visionary project centred around the design of the new Kings Heath train station. With a focus on inclusivity and accessibility, the students delved into the principles of universal design, ensuring that their creations were not only aesthetically pleasing, but also catered to the diverse needs of all commuters.

Drawing inspiration from renowned designers and architects, they learned how innovative and thoughtful design can enhance user experience and contribute to the overall well-being of the community.

On 12th December four classes were visited by architect Daniel Cosier from the firm AFL architects who gave a very informative presentation to students about what it is like to work in the profession as well as introducing some of the amazing projects his firm have worked upon such as the World Cup Stadium in Qatar. It is fantastic to be able to provide students opportunities to meet face to face with professionals from industry; broadening their understanding of jobs within the creative sector and inspiring them consider careers within these fields for themselves.

Equipped with a newfound understanding of materials and their properties, Year 9 students made informed decisions regarding the selection of materials for their designs. This research-informed approach ensures that their creations not only meet aesthetic standards but also adhere to practical considerations, sustainability, and durability.



Designers and Makers Showcase

As part of our drive in D&T this year to expose our students to industry, broaden their understanding of D&T related careers and inspire them to become the designers and makers of the future we are opening our doors on 20th February to representative from a wide variety of creative fields. We are reaching out to parents, local businesses, Birmingham based artisans and Universities amongst others to come and show our young people what they do, why they do it and how they got there. We are planning for a hybrid event which will include a careers style Fair in addition to a carousel of workshops which will wet students appetite and leave them inspired through seeing and talking about how creativity and innovation is providing so many exciting career opportunities. This event will be focused on Y8 at a time when many students will begin the process of identifying the GCSE options which are most appropriate for their individual strengths and areas of interest.

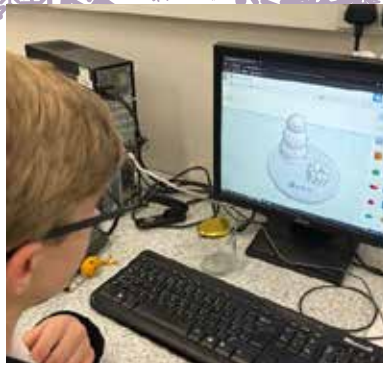
Year 10

Our two Y10 GCSE classes had fun turning a piece of plywood into this cute reindeer decoration in their lesson on Monday. The short focused practical task required students to work with precision and accuracy when following a template to create all three parts of the product from one piece of plywood sheet. A range of skills were practised such as cutting, filing, sanding and drilling. Practical skills are assessed as part of the NEA which students commence in June of Year 10 and submit in the spring of Y11, comprising 50% of their final GCSE grade. We think you'll agree these outcomes wouldn't look out of place on the shelf of some well known retailers! Great work Y10, keep it up!



STEM Club

At the end of the autumn term STEM club students designed Christmas figurines using the 3D modelling software TINKERCAD. These were 3D printed and students encased them in glass jars with glitter and a water/glycerin mix to create their very own snow globes!! It has been a pleasure to watch each student design and build their festive creations; each one is highly unique and demonstrates how creatively participants have approached this challenge! Well done to all involved!



Year 8 VR Experience

On 10th November Year 8 took part in the 'Casting My Future' Virtual Reality experience and careers talk during their D&T lesson, providing an insight into the world of Cast Metals Engineering and highlighting the many career opportunities within the industry. Through the use of VR headsets and their mobile phones students were able to take a walk around a casting factory, seeing the different stages of the process from CAD design of casting moulds to the heating and casting of the raw materials on the factory floor. This helped to put students learning into context as the class have been learning about pewter casting and have designed pieces of jewellery which they will cast in school using laser cut moulds.

In D&T this year a key focus is provide students with more access to industry professionals and to help them see the relevance of their learning in the classroom to the world of work. We have worked closely with Miss Darby to foster more industry links and are delighted that we were able to provide such a positive experience for Year 8 through pursuing an industry contact.



Food

Year 7

During this first half term Year 7 students learnt about routines and procedures in the food room. They have learnt about working in a professional and hygienic environment and enjoyed learning how to cook in this way. They are improving their skills by carrying out a variety of practical lessons using a variety of ingredients. The students have learnt to use knives safely to create a fruit salad and a healthy wrap, which covers all of the Eatwell guide. They have worked in teams to research and learn about the Eatwell guide, which will help them with many future tasks and projects in food. The Year 7 students have also carried out evaluations of their making skills and the food they have produced. They are taught the difference between preparation skills and cooking skills, which they can carry through up to GCSE.



Year 8

Year 8 students continued to work on the skills they developed throughout Year 7. They are more confident now in using small scale equipment, especially using knives. They have learnt about food safety for example cross contamination and cooking with high risk ingredients such as chicken. Year 8 have also began to learn about vitamins and minerals and the importance of the 7 different food groups. They have learnt about which food provide each vitamin and how to stay healthy. Many of the practical lessons during Year 8 focus on refining their preparation skills and working with ingredients that require good knife skills. This will help them to understand how to break down a recipe and amending to fit different requirements.



Year 9

During this first half term, Year 9 continued to build on the skills developed in Year 7 and Year 8. They are now able to cook with more confidence and precision. They have learnt about the dangers of not following food safety procedures and what this could lead to in a professional setting. This in turn helps them to build on their own food hygiene and understand its importance. They have also continued to evaluate their preparation and cooking skills and are able to say, with confidence, how each skill is performed and its suitability. Year have continued to develop the understanding of the food groups and are now independently able to explain each with examples, helping them to make healthier choices.



Textiles

Key Stage 3

Year 7 students are improving their basic textiles skills in a new project based on a 'Quiet book'. Each pupil will design and make a page from the alphabet which will be put together as a whole book when completed. They have learnt a range of skills including Hand embroidery, Applique and Machine stitching.



In Year 8 students have been really successful in developing their skills in Applique and hand embroidery by making different samples and focusing on layering of fabrics as well as backstitch, running stitch and blanket stitch.



Year 9 students are working on a wall hanging project linked with their identity, they have focused on communicating their design ideas through sketching and the use of 2D design to produce a stencil for screen printing.



Textiles Club

Duringt the autumn Textiles club worked on producing a fully lined 'Bum bag' with a zip fastening. They used 2 coloured fabrics to make a statement lining in their bags and contrast zips. In the lead up tio Christmas they also made some Christmas themed products to sell at the show for Arts Hub.



MFL Le mois de l'histoire des Noirs – Black history month

To celebrate Black History Month in October, Year 7 and Year 8 classes looked into the Haitian and Louisiana French Créole history, culture and language. Students designed a poster. The department was overwhelmed with the great interest that this project created and we received some outstanding posters and designs from many of the students, some of which were displayed in the foyer alongside work from other departments.



Le département de langues à Bishop Challoner célèbre



European day of languages

European day of languages has gained its place on the calendar and as we do every year at Bishop Chaloner, we celebrate the languages and cultures of those in our community. This year the languages ranged from Polish, Spanish, Arabic, Cantonese and Mandarin, Lingala, Malayalam and many more! We thank the Year 7 and 8 students who came to the library to showcase their talents on Tuesday 26th September for our yearly Bishop's got Talent. All other year groups had the opportunity to do some activities in form, looking at where our Bishop Challoner communities come from in the world and guessing the language spoken.



Year 7

So far this year, our cohort of Year 7 students have learned the basics of French. They have studied, introductions, greetings, numbers and the alphabet. This readied them to start our curriculum for this year, a modified version of the NCELP scheme of work. They have focused on sounds of the language, describing themselves and describing others. They have sat their first Assessment for learning and have produced several outstanding pieces of work. As we build up to Christmas, they will be continuing to learn the new sounds of the language and culture surrounding Christmas celebrations in France.

Year 8

Use of IT in lessons

In Year 8, Homework is going through a technological revolution. The NCELP course allow students to complete homework which involves listening, reading, spelling, grammar and speaking. The use of netbooks also allows the recording of this homework to be completed through Microsoft Forms. This has two advantages: no need for paper resources and the marking is much quicker, thus allowing the students to receive much more rapid feedback for their efforts. The students are also gaining valuable IT skills which could serve them very well in future studies or careers. Following the success of this trial, we will be rolling it out to our Year 7 students who also study the NCELP course.

KS4 Revision Guides

If you would like to purchase a French revision guide at a discounted price, they will be available on SchoolComms from January for the price of £3.80 each.

There are 3 available: Please speak to a member of the MFL department for more information.



Performing Arts

The Music Department has so far this year been filled with musical collaborations, instrumental tuition, songwriting and recording, and artistic exploration, setting the tone for another year of musical success.

Bishop's Got Talent

Our first Bishop's Got Talent event this year was the perfect showcase for some of our newest musicians at join Bishop Challoner. A range of instruments and genres were represented at this break time event, which drew a large and appreciative audience and generated a lot of interest in instrumental tuition. From Year 7, Markas and Akeme are already talented pianists and performed superbly at the event, and Noah G played a beautiful guitar solo. Holly rocked out on the drums and our two recorder players, Larea and Dilara performed a lovely duet. Preston played a saxophone solo to rapturous applause and they all played confidently in front of their peers, something which should be commended.



Tea Parties

The Tea Parties, which take place in the Common Room, organised by Miss Mayor, are a wonderful example of students being involved in the wider and local community, offering their time, talents and kindness with visiting elderly residents of Kings Heath. Alongside the refreshments, food and bingo, there is musical entertainment and December's event naturally had a festive theme. The BC Woodwind Ensemble and soloists played their repertoire from the Christmas BGT, and the vocal ensemble performing Silent Night. There is always a warm sense of community at these events and we are always proud of how our students take part both musically and socially.

Christmas BGT

Another annual tradition in our Music Department is the Christmas Bishop's Got Talent, where a selection of our musicians help get us all in the festive spirit with Christmas music. The library was packed out with students and staff who came to support our performers, accompanied by Mrs Choudhury and Miss Hughes on piano. The BC Woodwind Ensemble (Zac, Sophie, Christian, Nigel, Lexie, Isla and Grace) began the event with a couple of Christmassy numbers before the Woodwind Trio (Nigel, Zac and Sophie) played Carol of the Bells superbly. This was followed by some very brave solos – Zac on recorder, Nigel on clarinet, and Sophie performing a very advanced solo on the flute, Winter from Vivaldi's Four Seasons. To close the event, the Vocal Ensemble sang a beautiful rendition of Silent Night. The students performed so well and this was a lovely display of how music can bring people together – especially at Christmas!



Year 7

We have been very impressed with the strong start our Year 7s have made in music. In their first term they begin their journey as keyboard players, learning the basics of the instrument and playing melodies fluently and accurately. Through independent practice and whole-class playing the classes are making good progress, developing skills as both solo and ensemble players. They are also learning about the instruments of the orchestra and how they are played – as well as what it takes to be a musician.

Year 8

Year 8s have been looking at the social, historical and musical background of Blues and Jazz music, and have learnt to play the 12 Bar Blues, the backbone of all Blues Music, on keyboards. They are now beginning to learn about improvisation, not an easy skill, which is at the heart of Jazz so they can play authentic music in these genres.

Year 9

Year 9 lessons are the epitome of creativity this term! After doing extensive research and mature discussion, students assembled in their own small groups, decided on a topic they felt strongly about and wrote their own protest song. After writing thoughtful and impactful lyrics, each group spent time in the recording studio with our technician Jason to professionally record their songs. The results have been very inspiring, with some students truly rising to the challenge and channelling their inner pop and rap stars!

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, musical analysis and appraisal reaches new heights. Our Year 10 cohort have made an extremely encouraging start to the GCSE course, and have spent the first few months of this term broadening their musical theory knowledge as well as exploring the key musical features which underpin the GCSE course. This week they start their analysis and appraisal of the eight set works that they study over the two years, and their enthusiasm and musical aptitude so far is making lessons very enjoyable.

Year 10 & 11

The Year 11 musicians are dividing lesson time between analysing the remaining set works for their listening exam in the summer, or preparing their coursework. Most students are in the process of recording their first of two compositions, which are worked on in and out of lessons, and their solo and ensemble performances. This year's cohort are presenting performances on voice, piano, classical and electric guitar, and drum kit, and their compositions range from a Classical-style ternary form piece to a musical theatre song, a club dance remix and guitar solo for an art installation. We are pleased with how well students have communicated their artistic ideas with us and have been proactive in terms of choosing their pieces and rehearsing independently to ensure confident, polished performances.

Year 11 have made a fantastic start to the year in Performing Arts and have already recorded two performances for their GCSE exam. They keenly took on the roles of Matilda, Ensemble and Mrs Trunchbull to create a performance piece based on the hit West End musical Matilda, which was full of characterisation through the three art forms which musical theatre encapsulates: drama, dance, and singing. We are extremely proud of their work so far and we are all looking forward to starting their 3rd and final unit of work in January.

Year 10 have also begun their journey of exploring the musical theatre genre and are focusing their efforts on learning choreography from the musical Hairspray.

Vocal Ensemble

Our vocal ensemble has welcomed a new cohort of Year 7 students to the group, who have been to each rehearsal consistently since the beginning of term. Their levels of enthusiasm are unparalleled and, along with our longer-serving members, have enjoyed learning and performing material ranging from Don't Stop Believing by Journey to numbers from High School Musical! The singers spent time rehearsing for our special Christmas Mass and joined Mrs Choudhury to lead singing practices in Key Stage 3 assemblies to prepare for this.

Dance Club

It has been great to see the return of Dance Club on Tuesdays after school. A small but dedicated group of Year 7s, who started with little or no experience, are working hard to develop their flexibility and are exploring choreography used in the film 'Barbie'.

We have already formed a strong music cohort in Year 7 and we are delighted to see some musical students keen on developing their ensemble skills by joining BC Band. Joined by some more experienced students in higher years, the band rehearse on Thursdays with Miss Hughes and are learning how rewarding (and tricky) it is to maintain your part when others around you are playing different notes and sounds! When it all comes together, of course, it sounds lovely, and BC Band are currently rehearsing some music to perform in next year's Spring Soiree and future BGT events.

Irish Music

Jobe Sullivan, a local Irish musician, has been working with our school for a few months now to introduce students to the joys of traditional Irish music and instruments. A core group of musicians meet weekly with Jobe in school to learn the mandolin and the banjo, and their hard work and ensemble skills have led them to perform in school events and for the wider community, such as with Dementia patients at local community centres. Their repertoire took on a distinctly festive and wintry feel as the students prepared for the Christmas Tea Party, and for their debut local performance.

Exposure to live music is such a vital part of engaging with music, so Jobe and Miss Hughes took our Irish musicians to St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School to give them the opportunity to see and hear some live music. Once the performers had finished, the primary students were able to play some of the mandolins, drums and banjos which Jobe had brought along. We look forward to some of these students continuing their Irish musical journey when they are old enough to be Bishop Challoner students.

Christmas & the New Year

Sophie performed her solo one more time this term as students entered St Dunstan's Church for Christmas Mass, and the vocal ensemble led the carols during this reverent and peaceful time for reflection at the end of term.

This year all Year 7 students are invited on a trip to Symphony Hall to experience the wonders of a live orchestra. This special concert is hosted by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra each year, designed to introduce the various orchestral families to KS3 students and to demonstrate the power of live music. The trip is live on Schoolcomms and places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Students in Year 7 have been learning all about the instruments of the orchestra in their music classroom and this trip gives our students the opportunity to see them being played live by expert musicians; it may inspire more budding instrumentalists!

Business

We have had a busy start to the academic year with new classes and a new teacher in the department. In addition, some of the courses specifications have changed and this has all made for an intense first term. We welcome Mr Broadbent to the Business department. Mr Broadbent is teaching one group of 'Business and Enterprise' students in year ten. The numbers opting for Business continues to be very healthy for an 'open' option subject. In year ten we have two groups of GCSE (9-1) students and three groups of Business and Enterprise students.

All classes have been/will be 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. At this time of year it is always interesting to analyse how differently students adjust to new courses and new teaching group dynamics, often it is a good challenge for students and teachers alike.

As a department we are writing the 'Department Days' as part of the school's SCITT programme to start in September 2024.

As well as teaching and assessment, the department are also involved in writing UCAS references for a number of our Year 13 students. This has involved holding meetings with the students and analysing their personal statements. It is nice to hear the students' ambitions and thoughts about what they want to do with their lives in the future. Many of the students are looking at taking their Business and Economics learning to the next level, which is particularly rewarding for us as a department.

On the 15th November the sixth form open evening was held, where we showcased what it would be like to study Business courses in our sixth form. We hope to attract many students from our current Year 11 as well as many external students from other local schools. In the new year we are looking forward to see how well out Year 13 students do in the mock examinations; as well as looking forward to the Year 9 pathways evening, where Year 9 see what is on offer at KS4 in the Business department.

Sixth Form

Catholic Life in the Sixth Form

The Sixth Form has now developed its own unique prayer. Our prayer links to the whole school prayer and follows the teaching of Oscar Romero who was Archbishop of San Salvador until he was sadly assassinated in March 1980. The Archbishop was well known for his courageous efforts and support of the poor in a time where corruption, social injustice and criminality was rife in the country of El Salvador. Our Sixth Form motto 'Aspire To Be More' and prayer now reflects the teachings of Oscar Romero. Our Sixth Form community prays together in morning and afternoon form time and brings glory to God through our service to others.

Lord, We follow the teachings of Oscar Romero as we pray, asking for the courage to 'Aspire not to have more, but to be more.'
We take these teachings as we strive to see you in all things, in everything we do, and with your help, we will do it for you.
In Jesus' name. Amen

Rudolph Run

Year 12 fantastically raised over £1000 for the Birmingham Hospice through carrying out a sponsored run at Kings Heath Park. The event was a fabulous example of how our students and staff come together to support the needs of our local community. We are really proud of the efforts of our students here.



Oxford University

In October 30 students went to Oxford University to find out more about life at the university and the application process. An inspirational trip for our Year 12 students with a number of students now determined to put in strong applications to some of the leading universities in the country.



Year 13 Mocks

Year 13 mock exams will take place between Monday 15th January 2024 and Friday 26th January 2024.

Students have been issued with a mock exam timetable, topic guidance from their subjects areas and have been given advice on how best to prepare for these important assessments.

Please [click here](#) to view this information on our website.

UCAS

Year 13 students have been busy writing personal statements and applying for university through UCAS. We have been delighted by the high quality of the personal statements students have been producing and are excited hearing about students exciting plans for the future. Year 13 students have all been assigned a designated tutor who will read their personal statements and also meet with them before writing a personalised reference in support of their application.

The final deadline for UCAS application is 31st January 2024.

Law and Criminology Judge Talk

Year 12 students recently had an inspirational talk from a judge who came in and spoke to students about how to best pursue a career in this area. Students asked brilliant questions and many are now arranging work experience placements in this field.



Enrichment

This term students have already enjoyed a range of enrichment opportunities including a talk from visiting speaker from Aston University. Students have been enjoying a wide range of enrichment choices including basketball, badminton, students using the fitness suite and students playing dodgeball. The Duke of Edinburgh award has also proven to be a hugely popular choice and many students this year are working towards their bronze, silver and gold awards. Other opportunities include the senior tea party, an internship program, the community action group and knitting and board games in the school library.

Cambodia and the International Student Committee

We will be taking a group of 14 Year 12 students to Cambodia next year for a once in a lifetime experience. Students are currently applying to be considered for the trip. Students will be forming an enrichment group called the International Student Committee, where they will be learning about the United Nations development goals and learning about the importance of global citizenship. In Cambodia students will be delivering community development initiatives mostly based around two primary schools outside of a city called Kong Batteredbang and will also have the opportunity to see some of the amazing sites that Cambodia has to offer and learn about its fascinating history and diverse geography.



Work Experience

Year 12 have recently been introduced the work experience process and how they can go about securing high level placements in the summer term. Students have been introduced to Unifrog which offers excellent guidance into the types of experience needed to get into particular careers or university courses. We have also showed students how personal branding can also help them build up a portfolio of experiences and achievements and how this can be hugely beneficial to them in the future. Students have been shown examples of students who have secured high level work experience placements such as Aiden I (Mercedes F1 team) and Sophie F (working alongside Jess Philips the Labour MP for Birmingham).

Case study - Aiden

- Used LinkedIn last year to identify F1 contacts
- Resulted in an amazing week at F1 on work experience in Year 12.

"I was lucky enough to get my work experience placement at Mercedes. LinkedIn has helped me meet some inspiring people who have helped me answer questions I would otherwise not know who to ask. Making these meaningful connections is great, as people begin to learn more about you they are more likely to recommend you for exciting placements and share their insights with you. Since my placement, I have used the app to keep in touch with mentors from my placement, as well as explore new opportunities and connect with people in the industry. Representing yourself here unlocks prospects I never thought were possible."

Applications

Applications to our Sixth Form are now open and we are delighted that many Year 11 students are deciding to apply for our Sixth Form. Students should apply as soon as possible through our website if they have not already done so. We will now be meeting with students to discuss their applications further and invite them to taster sessions for the courses they have selected.

Media Studies

On 15th November, the national 'Advertising Unlocked' day was organised by the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. We were delighted to be paired with a local advertising agency, Big Cat, in Birmingham City Centre, who warmly welcomed a group of Yr 12 and 13 A Level Media Studies students to their offices.

During the course of the day, the students were introduced to a range of careers within advertising, meeting graphic designers, PR professionals, account executives, and the CEO. They were given small group question and answer sessions, as well as talks on different entry routes their employees had taken into their careers.

The highlight of the day - other than the two resident office dogs! - was the practical task given to the students. They had to work together in small groups, advised by Big Cat's employees, to create an advertising campaign idea, including print and social media, to pitch in the afternoon to the CEO. The students' ideas for advertising Converse trainers, Lucozade and a jacket to their own target demographic were impressively thoughtful and creative. The students' confidence in presentation grew and we received incredibly positive feedback on the ideas, skills and articulation of the students by the staff on the day.

Many came away with clearer decisions on where their Media Studies may take them beyond Bishop Challoner and all had an inspiring time getting a glimpse into city centre office life.



Bishop Challoner Sixth Form College

A LEVELS

Biology	Fine Art	Media studies
Business	French	PE
Chemistry	Further maths	Physics
Computer Science	Geography	Psychology
Core maths	History	Religious Studies
Economics	Law	Sociology
English literature	Mathematics	

Level 3 Vocational offer

WHEC Level 3 Applied Certificate in Criminology	Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Sport and Physical Activity
BTEC National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care	BTEC National Extended Certificate in Information Technology
Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Business	T Level in Management and Administration

OLC

"I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year."
Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*

Scholastic Bookfair

Our annual bookfair arrived last week and was very popular with our younger students. We sold over £250 worth of books which was fantastic. It was wonderful to see so many students excited about browsing and buying books.

Reading is alive and well at Bishop Challoner!



All on the Board

Introducing our new @allontheboard feature... Every day we feature a new quote/message/event for our students to discover. You can keep up with our daily @allontheboard messages as well as all the other events going on in the library via our library Twitter @BC_OLC

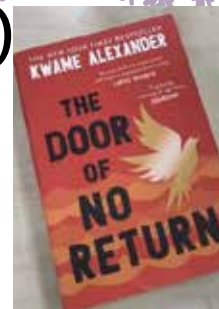
“The aim of the library is to create the environment and facilities where students and staff may read, study and seek information.”

Reading Teachers = Reading Students (RTRP)

Reading Teachers = Reading Students (RTRP) ignites a love of reading in teachers and children.

Set up in 2016, the national network of teachers reading groups aims to inspire reading for pleasure because research shows that children who read for pleasure experience high levels of well-being, engage in learning and are successful in life. Our current book is *The Door of No Return* by Kwame Alexander

You can find out more about RTRP here - <https://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/rtrp>



Rest and Recharge

The library can be a very busy space at break and lunchtimes with students doing homework, chatting with friends, playing games or just popping in and out to see what's going on. To give our quieter students the chance to recharge and take time out of the noise of school life we have introduced a quiet lunchtime every Tuesday.

(NO netbooks, arts and crafts activities and some calming background music)



Recycle & Re-use

We love recycling here at Bishop Challoner and our recent discarded book sale was one example of how we can encourage students to use this to get involved whilst also helping others. The book sale raised an amazing £41.20 which was used to purchase toys for our Toy Appeal.

Books that were beyond repair and destined for the recycling bin were given a new lease of life as Christmas decorations in our "Quiet Tuesday" lunchtime

Ebooks, audiobooks & online magazines and newspapers

This term we have continued to promote the benefits of e-books and other online reading resources to our students. All our students have been given information about an app called Libby.



LIBBY APP - Birmingham Public Libraries

To access their e catalogue (Overdrive) you just need to register via the link below: It will then give you access to the Libby App.

Once you have registered and receive a SELFREG number you just need to email enquiries@libraryofbirmingham.com and request an account.

It takes just a couple of minutes to do this and then you will have access to some great resources - new titles, trending titles, classics, non-fiction and over 1700 magazines - all FREE to borrow. <https://birmingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/JOIN>



Accessit

ACCESSIT – Check out our library dashboard to see what's new in our library.

<https://uk.accessit.online/bsh09/#!dashboard>



Why is reading so important?

Reading is the gateway to learning. It is the key to students' future academic achievement and well-being.

Here at Bishop Challoner we encourage ALL our students to develop a love of reading for pleasure. As well as access to a well-stocked library where students can borrow a variety of books including graphic novels, quick reads and non-fiction titles we also have timetabled lessons throughout the school week. These enable students to access books relevant to their studies.

E-books App

E-BOOKS APPS

e-books are a great way to access books, magazines and audiobooks. There are loads of great e-books apps around for you to access a huge range of resources.

KINDLE- The Kindle App has a selection of free books available including many classic titles. If you have Prime membership you can access even more titles via Prime Reading including magazines.

PROJECT GUTENBURG - Project Gutenberg is a library of over 70,000 free ebooks. Although, primarily US titles there are some interesting books to choose from.

OBOOKO – Free online fiction and non-fiction titles for ages 13+

ONLINENEWSPAPERS.COM – Thousands of newspapers listed by country and region.

ONLINEMAGAZINES – Thousands of magazines listed by category.



What should my child read?

We would encourage students to read titles that stimulate and strengthen their language and literacy skills.

As long as they are reading every day for at least 20 minutes and trying out new texts and genres then we know that this benefits them in their reading journey.

For suggestions on suitable titles for your child visit:



What's new?

We love a new book and especially when they arrive just in time for the holidays. We try to cater for everyone's reading interests and we aim to provide a wide range of fiction and non-fiction titles of all abilities. If we don't have what you want in stock please do let us know and we'll order it in.

To find out what's new in the library you can search our library catalogue here:

<https://uk.accessit.online/bsh09/#!dashboard>

What's on in Birmingham?

Not all of our students are familiar with their local library and the vast array of local news and information they provide. To give them an insight into what's happening in their local area we regularly take a trip to our local library on Kings Heath High Street to collect some of the fantastic resources on offer and share them with our staff and students.



You can also find out more about what's happening in your local area at visitbirmingham.com



Opening Times

Monday - Thurs - 8.00am - 4.00
Friday - 8.00am - 2.30pm

School Games and PE & Sports Premium Programmes

Mr McDermott, School Games Organiser (SGO), continues to support 37 local primary, secondary and special schools and their communities to be physically active and maintain a healthy, active lifestyle. We also work alongside Mr Noone and the PE department to support 12 other primary schools across the city on our PE and Sport Premium Programmes.

School Games Mark

All schools are encouraged to apply for 'School Games Mark', which is a self-review of each school's provision of 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 (2022-23), 26 out of 37 schools applied and the list of awards over the last 2 years is below. It was great to see many schools achieving a higher award level from 2021-22 to 2022-23 and we appreciate the time they took to complete the award as it is a measure of their engagement with our School Games framework, We look forward to more applications in the summer term, so thank you and well done to all schools.

School name	Award level 2021-22	Award level 2022-23
Colmore Junior School	Platinum	Platinum
Billesley Primary School	Gold	Gold
Bishop Challoner Catholic College	Gold	Gold
King Edward's School	Gold	Gold
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	Gold	Gold
St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School	Gold	Gold
Dame Ellen Pinsent School	Gold	Gold
Uffculme School	Gold	Gold
Woodthorpe Junior and Infant School	Gold	Gold
St Bernard's Catholic Primary School	Silver	Gold
St Jude's Catholic Primary School	Silver	Gold
St Edward's Catholic Primary School	Bronze	Gold
Moor Green Primary Academy	Bronze	Silver
Park Hill Primary School	Bronze	Silver
Queensbridge School	Bronze	Silver
St Alban's Catholic Primary School	Bronze	Silver
St Catherine of Siena Catholic	Bronze	Silver
St John and Monica Catholic Primary School	Bronze	Silver
Wheelers Lane Technology College	Gold	Silver
Wheelers Lane Primary School	Gold	Silver
Christ Church	Bronze	Bronze
Moseley School and Sixth Form	Bronze	Bronze
St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School	Bronze	Bronze
King David	Bronze	Bronze
Lakey Lane Junior and Infant School	Silver	Bronze
Fox Hollies	NA	Bronze

School Games

It has been a very busy term with over 1100 young people from Y2-11 taking part in our School Games events. So far we have held events, including competitions and festivals, in boys and girls primary and secondary football, Y2-3 girls multi skills, Y7-8 and Y9-10 netball and KS2 SEND sitting volleyball.

We have adapted our School Games events to make them more inclusive and now follow a new model which clearly explains who our target audience is for each event. This has been shared with schools so they are all aware which students the event is aimed at and this helps to ensure those attending have a positive experience.



Total number of participants: **1138**

Gender	Ethnicity
Boys: 579	White (British or English): 523
Girls: 559	White (not British or English): 30
Others: 0	Mixed Race: 133
	Asian or British Asian: 222
	Black or Black British: 223
	Other: 0
Community	
Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND): 254	

Primary & Secondary Sports Leadership



In September and October, we trained over 330 students and 60 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.

We have also recruited, trained and deployed sports leaders from Bishop Challoner, Christ Church, Moseley and Swanshurst Girls Schools and these students have officiated at a range of events including boys and girls football and our Y2-3 multi skills event. We have also recruited and deployed students from South and City College to officiate at events, such as football festivals and a dodgeball competition.

Going Green

This year, we are continuing with our pledge to move towards a more environmentally friendly system of working and 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.

Social Media

You can follow all our work on 'X' @BCSGO where we now have nearly 1400 followers. Some examples are below.



Some of the AMAZING entries into our School Games Value poster competition! @BCSGO @BhamSchoolGames



@BPrimary children had a wonderful time at the @BCSGO Sitting Volleyball festival. Thanks to all involved, the children had a fantastic time trying out a new, fun activity. @ElliotFndtn



Moor Green Primary @moor_green · Oct 11

Well done to the girls who took part in a Multi-skills event hosted by @BCSGO yesterday. They had a fantastic time developing a variety of different skills such as throwing, catching and jumping! #workingtogether #alwayslearning

ourladyoflourdes @ourladyoflourd1 · Oct 26

Year 3 are delighted to have their picture taken with Team GB gymnast, Joshua Nathan. We will be looking out for Joshua at the Olympics. @OLOLPE @OLOLSPORTS @BCSGO @britgymnastics #bhamschoolgames

Queensbridge PE @QB_PEDept · Oct 12

Fantastic Y7 girls football t'mrnt hosted by @BCSGO @CCSecondary today! Fab to see everyone playing some top football #tekkers @qb_sch girls were amazing!! @Lionesses @BarclaysFooty @YouthSportTrust @YourSchoolGames

Woodthorpe J&I @woodthorpeji

Well done to our Y3/4 Sitting Volleyball team who travelled over to @BishopChalloner today to take part in a @YourSchoolGames festival organised by @BCSGO - they represented the school magnificently! Thank you to Ms Lodge for organising another great opportunity. #WJISPESSPA

Holy Family Year 4 @year_family

Our new play leaders in action

@BCPP_ @HolyFamilySchool #pehfb10

@stjosb30school @stjosb30school · Oct 17

Very well done to our Y3/4 girl's football team who took part in their first competition last night. They played so well together as a team, smiling throughout and hopefully having such fun will inspire them to keep playing and enjoying football @BCSGO

Science Learning Partnership (SLP)

We've had a very successful first term over the road at the SLP! We've continued to work closely with CLEAPSS, our Enthuse Partner schools, and our SPN coaches to great success. We're topping the SLP league tables for income- already at 76% of our annual income goals- and we've even had a visit from the newly appointed STEM Learning CEO, Séverine Trouillet (second from right)! She was especially impressed by our subscription packages for schools, considering us an example to other schools for their success.

One of our most exciting and popular courses this term has been Robot Wars, a course for primary science teachers to get students interested in engineering through- as the name suggests- fighting robots! The course will conclude at the end of the academic year with the battles themselves, letting students from schools across the West Midlands to compete for victory. We've also run courses for supporting students with SEND, run new CLEAPSS courses for ECTs and Technicians, and numerous other courses.



We've developed new Enthuse Partnerships with schools across Birmingham, providing up to £25,000 in funding and training for the following schools:

- English Martyrs' RC Primary School, Birmingham
- Bournville Village Primary School
- Greswold Primary School, Solihull
- Park Lane Primary, Nuneaton

Finally, we've continued to expand our work with some of the country's largest MATs, including Ormiston Academies Trust and Outwood Grange Academies, and we are in the process of organising CPD for Ark Trust and Academy Transformation Trust. We're pleased with these new partnerships and are continuing to organise training events in collaboration with them.

All in all, we've had a highly productive and positive Autumn term, and we're looking forward to what the rest of the academic year will bring!

Teaching School (BCTSA)

Did you know you can train to be a teacher in Catholic schools in our area, through the teacher training programme offered by Bishop Challoner Training School Alliance. There are teacher training places available in primary and secondary, with over 15 different secondary subjects covered, and 5 primary specialisms (Early Years, SEND, Maths, and PE, as well as general primary). BCTSA offer QTS only, or QTS + PGCE routes, as well as full time and part time roles. All information can be found on the website www.bctsa.org. Call 0121 441 6175 for a 121 call about how we can support you to apply and join our family of teachers.

To find the courses on the Department of Education Application site, visit <https://www.gov.uk/find-postgraduate-teacher-training-courses> and search for code 1K2.



Train to Teach Primary or Secondary

in schools across the West Midlands and Birmingham



Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

To find our courses and apply visit
www.gov.uk/find-postgraduate-teacher-training-courses.
Our code is 1K2

Professional and School Development Opportunities



Maths Hubs provide over 30 different school and professional development opportunities during each academic year for teaching and support staff in state funded schools. Further details are listed in the NCETM 2023-24 brochure. ([click here - MH Brochure 2023-24](#))



Recently published is the Maths Hubs Programme Annual Report for 2022/23. The report covers activity in all school phases from Early Years to Post-16, and hears from participants in a range of professional development programmes. It also includes a section dedicated to those who lead Maths Hubs' work, known as Local Leaders of Mathematics Education (LLMEs), and a wide variety of statistics showing the scale of the work during one year. ([click here - MH Brochure](#))

Are you employed in a school/college in Birmingham, Dudley or Sandwell?

If yes, then you are part of the Central Maths Hub.



All Work Groups, projects and programmes are fully funded by Maths Hubs Network, so are free to state funded schools.

Contact us:

W: www.centralmathshub.com

E: mathshub@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

Follow us: <https://twitter.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 pleated school skirt. 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 and boots of any kind are not allowed.

Our uniform requirements are complemented by a smart appearance and as such, hair styles that should not have a distinct contrast in length. Hair that is dyed must be of a natural hair colour and may not contain more than one colour. To avoid a health and safety risk, long hair must not impede vision or cover the face, except for a fringe which must not cover the eyes. Long hair must be tied up for practical lessons. Religious head coverings must be black and securely tied for practical lessons. Hair bands or accessories must be for functional use to secure the hair. Where hairbands are worn they must be black. Headwear that has religious or cultural purpose should be black. 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.

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.

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>

RSE

Year 10 and 11 will be engaging in their RSE units during RE lessons this half term:

Year 10 Authentic Freedom - Understanding that there are different beliefs, attitudes and values in the world and recognising our own.

Year 11 Self Worth - Supporting our own dignity in all relationships and understanding life cycles.

Attendance and Punctuality

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 your child is in Year 12 please call 0121 441 6113.

If your child is in Year 13 please call 0121 441 6144

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. Thank you for your co-operation.

The school attendance target is 96%.

Year 7- 94%
Year 8- 94%
Year 9- 91%
Year 10- 89%
Year 11- 91%
Whole School- 92%

First Aid Reminders

Please inform the school of any new medical conditions or investigations, this is extremely important in helping us to correctly support your child's medical needs in school. We also need current emergency contact details, if these have changed you must contact the school with new details for our records.

Emergency Contacts

It is imperative we have your current correct contact information on our systems. Please inform the school if anything has changed, especially telephone numbers.

Asthma

Asthma is a chronic long term condition, it can be well managed and in many cases some don't suffer severely, however if you have been diagnosed with Asthma even if you have it well managed you must carry an inhaler on you.

Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes

In order for your children to participate safely with Trips and offsite events including offsite PE, they must carry their medication with them. This is imperative for their safety and to avoid disappointment if unable to participate.

Other medications must be handed in to first aid or the trip lead on the day.

Important Dates

Bronze & Silver DofE Training Meeting

Year 8 Assessments Begin

Monday 22nd January

BC Tea Party

Year 12 Media Trip

Year 9 Rosary

Wednesday 24th January

Year 11 Food Practical Exam

Monday 29th January - Wednesday 31st

January

Berlin Parent/Carer Meeting

Fox Hollies Trip

Tuesday 30th January

Y10/11 Intermediate Maths Challenge

Year 9 Rosary

Friday 13th January

Time to Talk Day

Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening

Year 8 Maths Challenge

Year 9 SLB Immunisations

Thursday 1st February

Year 11 Food Practical Exam

BGT Geography

Friday 2nd February

Children's Mental Health Week

National Apprenticeship Week

Monday 5th February -

Friday 9th February

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 6th February

Early Closure - 12.40pm

BC Tea Party

Year 9 Rosary

Wednesday 7th February

Iceland Trip

Ball Crew ITF 50K Tournament

Wednesday 7th February -

Saturday 10th February

Berlin Trip

Thursday 8th February -

Sunday 11th February

7/11BOS Cake Sale

Year 9 PD Day

Year 8 Disco/Tuckshop

Thursday 9th February

Staff INSET - School Closed

Friday 10th February

School Open

Monday 19th 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

Sports Hall:



Dojo:



Meeting Room:



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
Midlands
@BCComputingHub

Tolkien Cluster Schools
@PrimaryTolkien

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM
BISHOP CHALLONER
CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

