BC News

Spring 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a busy and fruitful Easter term for students and staff at Bishop Challoner Catholic College.

Our Chaplaincy work continues to thrive in our Year of Hope. We have been out to several primary schools to lead Pilgrims of Hope workshops and there was a wonderful joint primary/secondary Mass at St Dunstan's last week where students reflected on the importance of hope in their lives and how to bring hope to their communities.

Throughout Lent we have been inundated with students wishing to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and we have had to put on several extra sessions to facilitate the demand. Students attending are reverent, respectful and show a real desire to seek forgiveness – they are a credit to their families.

Like all schools across the Diocese, we took part in the official Year of Jubilee launch through a live stream event in January. There have been several year group Masses as well as our weekly visits to attend Mass on a Thursday at St Dunstan's. We are grateful for the support from Fr Toby our Chaplain and Fr John.

Students have been showing service to others supporting our local Dementia café and regularly coordinating the tea party for local parishioners. We continue to raise funds for our whole school charity Fr Hudson's Caritas and alongside the regular cake sales, students wore green on St Patrick's day and donated to the cause. I am amazed by the generosity shown by our young people and our staff. As an example, our recent Readathon raised over £3,200 which is remarkable.

Our students continue to work hard in their lessons. Alongside the year 13 mocks in January, students have completed a range of controlled assessment tasks in their options subjects and we have had a series of formal assessments taking place for other year groups. I congratulate all our young people on their hard work in lessons and continued pursuit for excellence.

Students and staff attended the Flame event at Wembley stadium earlier this month. Flame is the largest Catholic youth event in England and Wales and is a day filled with inspiring speakers, incredible live music, prayer, adoration and young people from across England and Wales. Our very own Mr Rowan took to the Wembley stage leading a session for the SVP.

Our Bishop's Got Talent (BGT) events are always great occasions to showcase our students' talents. We held a special St Patrick's Day BGT with some incredible musical performances and our science team coordinated a special set of experiments in the auditorium for another BGT. One of the most incredible annual events is our shoebox landscapes coordinated by the Geography team. It is a joy to see countless students arriving with their shoeboxes taking such pride in their work.

The Easter term is always a busy one for our careers team. We have had National Apprenticeship week, a "guess my job" workshop, our annual careers fair and the team have supported more than 100 students in completing the UCAS application process – an incredible achievement. In March we also hosted our Year 9 pathways evening. The evening was extremely informative and helped students to make some key life decisions.

Students have accessed a rich range of activities this term. Some highlights include; a visit to the Symphony Hall, the KS3 football development tour to Valencia, a year 8 visit to the Black Country Museum, a visit to the NEC for LAMMA farming and several Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. A group of students have also had the chance to act as the ball crew for a recent indoor tennis tournament. We won the recent Catholic School games debating competition completing a clean sweep for this academic year. We also hosted our annual Malympics event for our feeder schools.

A huge congratulations to our U18 girls football team who won the West Midlands cup on penalties last week.

We continue to have a sharp focus on attendance and I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support in ensuring your children regularly attend school. Good attendance will mean that your children are able to achieve the best grades for their ability and have real opportunity in further education and the world of work.

Bishop Challoner has a well-established and highly respected history in the training of teachers and we are currently recruiting for our SCITT programmes for September. If you know of any friends or family who feel called to teach, then please do pass them our way. We offer a full range of training programmes across both the primary and secondary phase. Please take a look at our Bishop Challoner Training School Alliance webpage for more details www.bctsa.org

I wish you and your families a very happy and holy Easter and thank you all for the support you have given across this term.

J Coughlan
Principal

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ART AND DESIGN

Barber Institute of Fine Art



We are excited to share an incredible opportunity for our Year 9 students as part of the Art department's ongoing commitment to providing inspiring and hands-on creative experiences. We have been selected to participate in an outreach workshop in collaboration with the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, while it is undergoing refurbishment. This unique program will offer our students the chance to work with visiting artists on the theme of 'Imagined Spaces', inspired by pieces from the Barber Gallery's renowned collection.

The workshops are designed to foster creativity and exploration as students engage directly with the work and styles of various artists. The first session in the series was led by Birmingham-based poet Bradley Taylor, and it was a resounding success. Our Year 9 students thoroughly enjoyed the session, immersing themselves in the world of poetry and discovering how to translate abstract concepts into creative expression. Bradley's insight into his poetic process allowed the students to connect with the art form in a meaningful and engaging way.

We are excited about the upcoming sessions with additional artists and look forward to seeing how our students continue to develop their skills and deepen their understanding of art through this wonderful collaboration. This outreach program not only enhances their artistic abilities but also enriches their appreciation for the diverse ways in which art can be interpreted and created.





Design Technology

Year 7

Throughout the Spring term, Year 7 students in Product Design have actively engaged in a hands-on and environmentally conscious project. The project revolves around repurposing discarded plastic bottle caps, into an innovative and eco-friendly product.

The students started the project by collecting a minimum of 40 plastic bottle caps each, which are often overlooked contributors to environmental pollution. These are then melted down - using some high-tech panini presses - creating a vibrant plastic sheet that forms one half of their device holder, which is 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.

Through lessons and discussions, 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 8

Throughout the Spring term, Year 8 students in product design have engaged in a project specifically designed for music lovers. The focus of the project is to create a portable speaker, which will enable students to play music from their smartphones without the need for electricity, resulting in a user-friendly final product for music lovers, who are always on the go! This project allows students to demonstrate their abilities in sawing and filing pieces of soft-wood and creating a finished final product that demonstrates both functionality and aesthetic appeal.

Additionally, students are utilising CAD design to create a vibrant and interesting acrylic speaker grill, adding a touch of individuality to their project. This comprehensive approach not only demonstrates their technical skills, but also fosters innovation and personal expression in the realm of product design.

Year 9

Throughout the Spring term, Year 9 students in Product Design have 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 have delved into the principles of universal design, ensuring that their creations are not only aesthetically pleasing, but also cater to the diverse needs of all commuters.
In their pursuit of creating an accessible train station, students have extensively studied and analysed existing accessible designs, and information designs, such as signage, exploring how various elements can be incorporated to make train stations welcoming, yet functional for everyone.

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

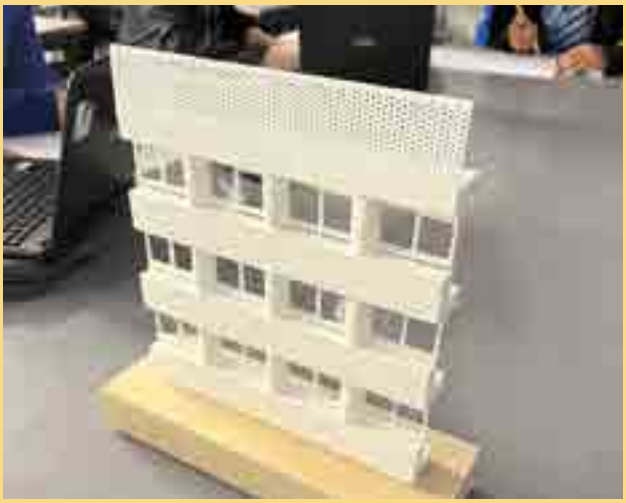
Equipped with a newfound understanding of materials and their properties, Year 9 students have made informed decisions regarding the selection of materials for their designs. This research-informed approach ensures that their creations not only meet aesthetic standards but also adhere to practical considerations,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

Year 10

Year 10 are exploring the context 'Teenage Lifestyle' as part of their mock Non Examination Assesment. This portfolio of work and manufactured prototypes helps students to develop vital design and practical skills and provide an exemplar body of work to support them when they commence the externally moderated NEA in June, worth 50% of their GCSE. Students have demonstrated a strong sense of ownership over their own project journey with identifying their own problem to solve. These range from a need for storage for trainers and gaming accessories to a product to help with exercise in the home. Students are currently in the prototyping phase of the project, using modelling materials to help clarify the form of the outcome.and durability. Keep up the good work, Year 10!

Howells Architects

Year 9 Design and Technology students recently enjoyed an inspiring visit from two architects at Howells Architects. They kindly shared valuable insights into their creative process, explaining how they develop scale models not only of entire buildings but also of intricate facades, using modern techniques such as 3D printing. During the session, students had the opportunity to design their own stations based on site plans, receiving expert feedback and guidance to refine their ideas. Students also explored techniques for creating detailed architectural models, from initial concept sketches to assembling materials, gaining a deeper understanding of scale, structure, and precision in design. The students were fantastic throughout the workshop, and this valuable session will now become a regular part of the Year 9 Architecture project for each rotation.







KS3 Textiles

The D&T curriculum in primary schools faces numerous challenges including the limitations imposed by diminishing budgets, lack of confidence and practical capability in non specialists teachers and a squeeze on delivery time due to the prioritising of core subjects. This has led to us modifying our KS3 curriculum with a focus in Y7 on developing practical skills and exploring materials and techniques. This includes an introduction to applique, machine stitching, and embroidery. In Year 8 students develop their social and environmental awareness of the textiles industry, investigating sustainable textile design and producing outcomes from recycled fabrics. In year 9 students explore the process of screen printing and can combine this with the other processes and techniques samples in Y7 and 8 to develop a wall hanging which reflects their own unique identity.









Food Technology KS3

Students in key stage three have been working through a curriculum of theory and practical lessons in the build up to Easter. Year 7 students are now skilled when using knives and demonstrated these skills through the making of fruit salads and healthy wraps. They have also explored seasonal fruit and made fruit muffins. They are beginning to work more independently as they become more competent and confident in the food room. They are also gaining confidence with their understanding of healthy eating and balanced diet after learning about the Eatwell Guide and the food groups. Year 8 have been putting theory into practice where they have been working with high risk foods such as meat and chicken and have made Bolognese and are currently making chicken fajitas. Some students opted for 'meat free' options. They are now competent when using knives and are able to finely chop chilli, garlic and fine herbs without instruction. Many year 9 students are becoming skilled, confident and competent practitioners when using equipment and ingredients in the food room. They have made chilli- con – carne and pizza and are now confident in working with bread dough. Students are always given the opportunity to do a vegetarian or vegan option when meat or poultry is used.













Year 10

Students at key stage 4 are doing a vocational course; NCFE Food and Cookery. Year 10 have just started working on Content Area 3, which focusses on nutrition. The students have already developed knowledge and understanding of issues relating to food safety, the environment in which food handlers operates, how they meet health and safety requirements and how food can cause ill health. They have just had an assessment focussing on policy, legislation and why we process food. The year 10's continue to achieve excellent test results in their assessments. This second term the students have developed their practical skills further by concentrating on simple ingredients puddings and side dishes.





Year 11

Year 11 are coming to the end of their controlled assessment journey and have just completed their third and final practical exam. They have been working hard to amend a recipe, provided by the exam board, of spaghetti bolognese fit for active teenagers and have designed a two-course menu for an active, female instructor. For their final exam, they were able to show off their baking skills and produced a layered, celebration dessert. After Easter they will be focusing on revision for their final written exam.









Business

It has been a busy term since Christmas with analysis of year 11 mock exams and completion of year 13 mock exams. All courses in year 13 and 11 are approaching the end of content delivery and we are now moving into revision. In the Business department all of our classes are exam classes and as such this time of year is very intensive for us, in terms of exam preparation and coursework completion for the vocational courses.

Year 12 A level are studying operations management and currently looking at capacity and capacity utilization. Year 12 Vocational Business are revising for unit 1 with and have started their first coursework unit (Customers and communication), which is based on The Belfry Golf complex. Year 13 A level are just completing the last of their units with me (Implementing Strategies), where we will be particularly focused on Critical Path analysis, and have already started revising in Mr Iqbal's lessons. Year 13 vocational students are working on Marketing coursework with me and Human resources with Mr Iqbal, with a particular focus at the moment on motivational theorists. These will be submitted just a few weeks after Easter, meaning that these students will have completed their course in full.

Year 11 GCSE students have completed their last unit of work (Human resource management) and, similar to year 13, will be in a good position for the run-in to their first exam which is in May. The Business and Enterprise groups have completed their controlled assessments, and as a department we are busy marking and quality assuring the marking. We hope to have this all done by Easter, ready to submit their grades as soon as we return.

Our year 10 BTEC class are also completing their controlled assessments, when they return from Easter they will be provided with summative feedback and then given the first week to make improvements with their final grades. We can already see how well some students have been doing and are looking forward to marking their work when it is submitted.

Finally, a huge congratulations to Mr Iqbal who has now returned from paternity leave, a proud father of a baby girl. A big thank you is also needed for Miss Osman, Associate Teacher, and Mr Heatherton, Vice Principal, for their huge effort in covering as many year 11 and year 13 classes as possible over the last two weeks to support our students to continue to make progress towards their final exams.

English

Alumni Visit

In January, two former Bishop Challoner students, Niamh Bracken and Amber Daniels, came back into school to deliver a talk to current Year 13 English Literature students. They covered a wide range of areas in their very informative talk, including what revision strategies worked for them, how to approach each section of each A-Level paper, what students should be doing between now and the summer exams, and how to prepare for life at university. The current cohort of students found Niamh and Amber's insights very engaging, and spoke of how useful it was to hear from people who had been through the same experience they were going through. After their talk, there was then a question-and-answer session, where our students were able to pick Niamh and Amber's brains about anything else they wanted to know regarding the final few months of Year 13. Given how successful this event was, if Niamh and Amber's plans to become, respectively, a lawyer and structural engineer don't work out, then they could definitely pursue a career in teaching or lecturing!



Readathon

In Year 7 and 8 classrooms across the school there are whispers. Secret plans being made. Notes being passed. Books being discussed. No, students are not working out how to escape - they are simply EXCITED! And why? Because it is nearly time for the annual READATHON, of course! Last year we raised over £1000 for the school charity, and this year is looking promising already! On Friday 28th March, the halls of Bishop Challoner shall fall unusually silent as Year 7 and 8 dive into a world of both fiction and non-fiction for the entire day - every period, every lesson - collecting sponsorship as they go. It is sure to be a great day for all and will raise much needed funds for our school charity.

Poetry Bishop's Got Talent





Across the Winter term, students in KS3 were given the opportunity to write a poem or short story as part of the BCU Benjamin Zephaniah: Future Writer's competition. The competition was based on Zephaniah's People Need People and encouraged students to write something that celebrated the communities around them and the people who make them, them. All students learnt about the poem and were given support to write their own poem, which they then completed on their own in lesson and as homework.

Students submitted their work to their class teachers, and some even submitted their work to the competition! Although none of our students ranked amongst the winners of the competition, we believed we needed to celebrate the effort, energy and dedication they had put into creating their pieces. So, as a department, we decided to change our normal BGT event from the Spelling Bee to a Poetry Recital where students could perform to their peers and showcase the work they had done. As a department, we selected 10 of the very best poems to be performed that varied in length and subject, but all were written with care and compassion for the communities around them.

The event was a great success as many students joined the audience to celebrate their peers' work. The students involved loved participating in the recital and were thrilled to share their work with others. It was an event that really showed the importance of having supportive communities and ensuring that we cherish it always as well as celebrating the talents in Challoner. We hope to be able to do something similar again next year.

Public Speaking Competition

On Thursday 13 February, we took five Year 10 students to a public speaking competition at Holy Trinity Catholic School. The brief required students to prepare a three-minute persuasive speech on Shakespeare's greatest character. Our students chose Caliban from The Tempest, and Beatrice from Much Ado About Nothing: both of which are studied in Year 8 and 9 at Bishop Challoner.

Students worked fortnightly with Miss Chance to prepare their speeches. Two students actually delivered the speeches, with the other three students present in a supporting capacity. The speeches were delivered brilliantly, and all competitors supported one other impressively – the organisers said that this was the highest standard of speeches to date. We are incredibly proud of our students and look forward to the competition next year!

Debating



Our main team of Year 12 debaters have been delighted to get back into competitive debating, having taken time out in Year 11 to focus on their studies. This began with the first of the KS5 Catholic Schools' debating competitions, hosted by St Peter's in Solihull, in November Against tough competitors in the form of the St Paul's Girls team, it was clear this was the battle for the trophy, and we were pleased to have come away with the win, with Cassidy and Hannah as speakers.

Fast forward to March and the second competition of the year was held at Newman University. Our academic surroundings elevated the sense of occasion, especially with the final debates being held in their lecture theatre. This time, we were drawn to take on Archbishop Ilsley debating the contentious issue of legalizing assisted dying. All four of the team worked hard in their planning time to research and write sensitive, articulate and a moving speech delivered by Cassidy, with Saoirse seconding on this occasion to rebut Ilsley's time. The other debates on the day were of a similarly high standard and we knew it would come down to a matter of points separating the 6 teams, as confirmed by the university's judges. It was with even greater satisfaction that the team again came out on top – bringing the second trophy home and a clean sweep of the KS5 debates for the academic year.

Buoyed by our success, Cassidy will soon be taking part in the Catenian Public Speaking Competition later this month, also at held at Newman University. More updates to come!

Geography

Year 7

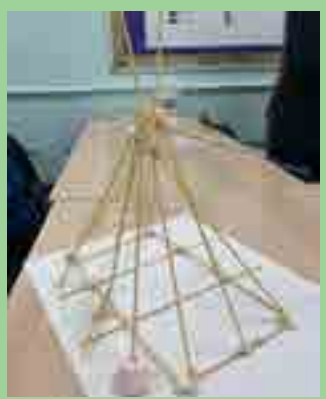
Year 7 have continued to develop their knowledge and understanding of one of the world's superpowers, China. This topic has already sparked great enthusiasm amongst the year group who are excited to share their knowledge and learn more about a country that is so frequently in the news. The students' curiosity has been captivated through exploring China's human and physical environments and enquiring into why China is expected to have the largest economy in the world by 2040. The unit of work has also allowed students to debate the controversial topic of the One Child Policy whilst evaluating its success and failures.

Year 8

Year 8 have completed their unit of work on Russia and have now begun to study the country of Brazil. The unit of Brazil enables the students to enquire into a wide range of geographical concepts. On the one hand students have been investigating the human geography within Brazil such as their culture and the wide disparity between living conditions and opportunities and on the other, students have been learning about the physical environment such as the Amazon Rainforest including deforestation within the rainforest, the damage it is causing, who it is impacting and why different stakeholders have varying opinions. Year 8 have also been diligently preparing for their KAP3 assessment which incorporates both countries that have been explored so far this year.

Year 9

The start of the Spring term saw Year 9 continue their new unit of work, Iceland. The topic begins by introducing students to the location of Iceland and the theory of plate tectonics. Throughout the unit students have learnt about the hazards associated with plate boundaries, using Eyjafjallajokull as an example. With Iceland being the only country in the world which obtains 100% of its electricity and heat from renewable sources, Year 9 have also had the opportunity to investigate why the country has been so successful with using energy sources such as geo-thermal energy. The Iceland unit helps to develop the skills needed for GCSE Geography, it sparks the curiosity and engagement of the students and has cross curricular links with Science. In keeping with the theme of tectonic activity, a highlight of this term has been hosting an earthquake proof building competition. Students were tasked with designing their own buildings that could withstand 8 seconds of shaking and were only equipped with marshmallows and spaghetti, diligently preparing for their KAP3 assessment which incorporates both countries that have been explored so far this year.





Year 10

Year 10 have now completed their first unit 'The Living World' whereby they have studied the opportunities and challenges within some our of earth's major biomes, and students are now soon to complete the topic of Urban Issues and Challenges. Within Urban Issues and Challenges, Year 10 have taken a closer look at the causes of urban change within Birmingham including the process of deindustrialisation and the opportunities and challenges that have arisen as a result. This has then been compared to urban change within a city from an NEE country – Brazil. Students have evaluated the similarities and differences between the cities and analysed how the cities have addressed their urban issues.

Year 11

Year 11 are completing their final unit of work prior to the public examinations. Students are continuing to work hard within their lessons and study sessions and some classes have been invited into school to partake in revision sessions every Wednesday morning. An increasing number of our students have also expressed a desire to study Geography at A level which is pleasing to see.

Bishop's Got Talent:

For our Bishop's Got Talent event, Year 7 were challenged with creating a Landscape in a Box. The students chose an inspiring landscape and used a range of resources to create it in a box. Alongside their landscape they were asked to describe their location and the geographical features that were present. The landscape in a box idea aimed to bring together students' Geographical understanding whilst also providing an opportunity for research, creativity and independent learning. The projects that Year 7 created were outstanding and we were blown away by the entries. We had over 120 entries which we displayed in the library for staff and students to enjoy. The work was truly remarkable and it was extremely difficult to choose our winners – Jacob, Nina, Rumaysa, Bethany, Anna-Beth, Elijah, Astrid, Xavier and Miley. These students will be celebrating with a rewards afternoon.









Year 10 Longbridge

This half term some our year 10 students have 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 their unit 3 exam.

History

Black Country Living Museum

Year 8 students travelled to the Black Country Museum on Thursday 20th March. Students were lucky with a bright and sunny day! Various activities were enjoyed to aid their learning about the Industrial Revolution, including a trip down the mines, a visit to the chapel, learning about migration to Britain and, of course, lunch was fish and chips! Their conduct reflected the school's values of empathy, curiosity, and respect. It was a trip enjoyed by students and staff alike.





Women's History Month

March is recognised as "Women's History Month" – it began as a national celebration in 1981. Students have been invited to re-create an artefact that can teach us about a piece of women's history. So far, these have included models of Amelia Earhart's aeroplane, replicates of Marie Curie's notebook and coins which were defaced by the Suffragettes. These creations will be judged by the history department and Dr Coughlan, with the top entries being recognised and rewarded.





Lessons from Auschwitz Project

Two students from Year 12 – James Kinnaird and Ruby Fox - have been participating in the lessons From Auschwitz Project. They have attended a seminar in Birmingham, where they heard the touching story of a Holocaust survivor, and they flew to visit Auschwitz on Thursday 6th February. Their reflections so far have been insightful and they will be participating in a number of other seminars, before completing a 'Next Steps' project, which they will deliver to their lower-school peers. This project will culminate in them becoming Holocaust Educational Ambassadors. Their maturity and enthusiasm were a real credit to the school.

Mathematics

Primary







Mr Mahmood and Mrs Khatun have continued the running of Maths G&T club on Monday after schools. They have been supported by four year 10 students in the running of these sessions. These students are doing this as part of the 'Volunteering' section of their silver Duke of Edinburgh award. These four students, alongside students from years 7 and 8 who attend, have been a credit to the school. Since the last report, there have been two more sessions, where students from the primary schools across the Tolkien cluster have engaged in maths activities. In the third session of this academic year, students took part in another cross-number puzzle, as it was so popular the first time around. The fourth session was created by year 7 and 8 students, under the supervision of Mrs Khatun. It consisted of multiple activities, aimed at testing students number skills. There is one final session scheduled for this academic year, set to take place in the final week of March.

Catholic Games



Once again, we hosted the Year 8 Catholic Games maths event here at Bishop Challoner. Our Year 9 students helped to organise each of the activities and ensured that the day ran seamlessly. The biggest takeaway from the day was how members of staff from the other schools commended our Year 9s for their brilliant leadership.

We had 9 schools represented with 17 teams in total. We had teams of Year 8 students from Bishop Walsh, Cardinal Wiseman (Coventry), Archbishop Ilsley, Cardinal Newman, Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School, Bishop Challoner, Holy Trinity, St Edmund Campion and St Thomas Aquinas.



The event comprised of a range of engaging activities, such as drone flying maths activity, a coordinates activity including robots, a junior maths challenge relay, and a computer hacking maths activity. The participants were a group of immensely talented mathematicians, who demonstrated their skills in a fiercely contested competition. The ultimate winners were the students from Cardinal Newman, who scored an impressive 20/20 points. This is the 3rd year in a row that Cardinal Newman has taken home gold! We extend our warmest congratulations to the winning school for their excellent achievement.

We look forward to welcoming these schools back next year.

Bishop's Got Talent

Students from Key Stage 3 joined us in the library to compete in our yearly 24 game contest as part of the Bishop's Got Talent events. There was a fantastic turn out and students were whittled down to the final two, Sean Glennon and Idris Cameron. After a tense final, Sean Glennon was our overall winner. Well done to all competitors who took part. We would also like to thank our fantastic Year 10 helpers who helped to make this event possible.



Homework Club

Support for KS3 students continues to be provided through the form of KS3 homework club which takes place every Wednesday in M1. This has enabled students to succeed whether it is in regards to those who require additional support to receive it from their teachers or it facilitates homework completion for students who cannot access the internet at home.

Malympics

Our maths and PE departments held our annual "Malympics" event on the 14th March 2025. Eleven of our Catholic feeder schools attended with teams of year 3, 4 and 5 students taking part in maths and PE events which were designed and were run by around twenty of our year 9 students. The event took place in the sports hall with a series of exciting activities which engaged our visitors in both PE and maths. The preparation and effort put in by our year 9 leaders was nothing short of phenomenal. Feedback on the event itself was outstanding with the focus of this feedback, as ever, how brilliantly the year 9 leaders represented the school. A huge congratulations to St Edwards who took first place in the event.









Intermediate Maths Challenge



Our Year 10 and Year 11 top set students undertook the "Intermediate Maths Challenge" at the end of January. It was online, with students using laptops to participate. The challenge involved multiple-choice questions, with five possible answers. The possible answers include common misconceptions. It was a very challenging paper!

There were some fantastic results – and a huge number of students got a certificate this year:

Year 10	Year 11
11 bronze certificates	4 bronze certificates
7 silver certificates	10 silver certificates
1 gold certificate	11 gold certificates

Extra curricular





Mr S Sarcevic took two teams of 4 students from Year 10 to the "Maths Feast" run by the National Advanced Mathematics Support Programme. The event, with over 20 teams from independent, grammar and comprehensive schools was a great success. It was very engaging for the students and Year 10 thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Year 10 students performed fantastically and narrowly missed out on top spot by 1 point! Nevertheless we congratulate them on finishing 2nd in a fiercely contested competition.

Senior Maths Olympiad

Secondly, a massive congratulations to Joe Berenshtain and Adam Anwar North, who completed the British Olympiad round 1. This was an impressive feat: 3.5 hours of focus to answer up to 6 questions! Both students received a merit, with best in school going to Joe. In addition, we had Charlie Hogan participate in the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo. We are proud of all their achievements and hope they continue in their exploration of maths.

Media Studies

The Spring Term is inevitably a busy one in the Media Studies department. At both GCSE and A-level, students are moving through the final pieces of course content whilst aiming to put the finishing touches to their coursework products.

This year's GCSE Media Studies NEA (Coursework) brief has invited students to devise, design and produce film marketing products for a new release in either the Horror or Crime genre. Inspired by an eclectic range of films from The Blair Witch Project to Get Out, and The Sweeney to Ocean's 11, Year 11s are in the final stages of creating a poster and DVD cover for a film of their invention. After researching genre codes and conventions, students developed ideas for their movies. They have taken original photographs to feature across the marketing products. Students have learned how to use the online Canva platform to edit photographs and achieve the overall layout of their products. Meanwhile, at A Level, Year 13 students are finalising the editing of music videos which will accompany a tour poster and 'Sunday Supplement' style magazine spread to fulfil the requirements of the music marketing brief.

MFL

Year 7

Since the last Governor Newsletter, Year 7 have been expanding their vocabulary when talking about things they enjoy and don't enjoy doing. This has involved the introduction of some quite complex phrases, particularly when describing activities that they like to do online.

The syllabus endeavours to find an appropriate balance between teaching interesting topic-related vocabulary and the mastery of some fundamental grammar- such as the ability to form negative sentences using ne….pas and the importance and use of infinitive verbs in French. Students have also explored verb conjugation of regular ER verbs as well as some high-frequency, irregular verbs.

Alongside all this, they have continued to enjoy 'Song of the Week'- an opportunity to listen to and rate a different French song each week. In Year 7, where the students' language base is relatively limited, Song of the Week is used mostly as an opportunity to explore the French-speaking world through music and to learn a little about different francophone countries. So far this year, students have listened to songs from France, Belgium, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Togo and Haiti and, along the way, we have had some interesting discussions about French colonial history, creole languages etc.

Year 9 & 10

Having recently got in touch with a French school in the Burgundy area through the British Council School Finder service, the MFL department has started a new partnership with Collège Saint-Coeur, a Catholic school in the East of France. Our plan is to set up a pen pal exchange between approximately 120 students in Year 9 and 10.

The Bishop Challoner students have written their letters first, which proved to be a very educative activity for our students to help them learn to set up a hand-written letter and make it attractive and presentable to their future readers. We are looking forward to receiving the letters of our French counterparts!



In terms of curriculum content, our current focus is on education and employment, deliberately timed to align with the Year 9 Options Evening. This unit includes a film study of Les Choristes and the poem Le Cancre by Jacques Prévert. Following this, students will explore topics related to healthy living and lifestyle.

On Thursday 13th March, a small group a Year 9 students had the privilege to attend a French theatre play at Tudor Grange school, Solihull. The trip was organised by the Grand Union Language Hub, which Bishop Challoner is proudly part of.

The play was very interactive and got students involved in speaking but also acting on stage. Our very own super star Teddy Martin volunteered to take part in the play and got dressed up as "Monsieur de policier".

Year 9 La Chandeleur

In order to further explore the cultural side of language learning, Mrs McGowan's Year 9 class had the opportunity to put some classroom learning into practice recently. They had been learning about the French custom of la Chandeleur and Mardi Gras, and made traditional French Crêpes. Following a recipe in French and making sure they could follow the correct instructions was the first challenge. The fun took place when they had then to put their understanding into practice. There were even some attempts to toss their pancakes – some attempts more successful than others (one crêpe did end up behind the cooker!) Lots of fun was had by all and we were even treated to a visit from Miss Mazabraud and a visitor from the Grand Union Language Hub, who incidentally had come to speak about cultural learning in French lessons.



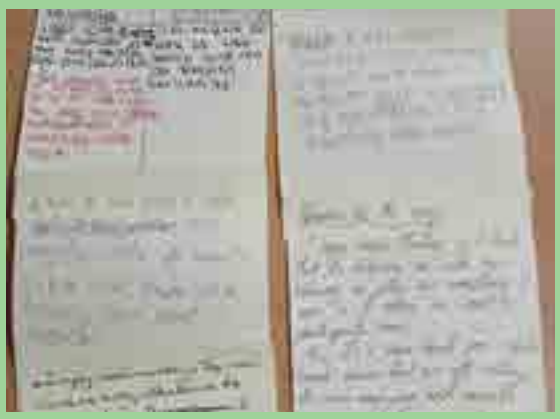




Year 11

This year we decided to introduce Music Monday activities whereby students listen to a song in French and we complete grammatical activities about it. This is related to a GCSE Theme and it is a way to recycle their knowledge by using French culture and vocabulary.

Please see the comments by Year 11



Year 11 French Speaking examinations

Our year 11 cohort is getting prepared for their fast-approaching GCSE examinations.

The French speaking examinations will take place on Tuesday 29th and Friday 2nd May, this is only a few days before the start of their other GCSE examinations.

In order for students to be prepared for these, they should ensure that they have practised speaking for the:

Role play (15 marks)
Photo card (15 marks)
Conversation (30 marks)

For the Conversation, students should be able to have a conversation, without any support, on any of the given GCSE topics. For this, we advise them to practise some WOW phrases that they can easily reuse in a conversation with their teacher.

French GCSE revision

What should you do?
Learn vocabulary
Try to spend a lot of your French revision on www.quizlet.com, revisiting all the 12 topics that you have covered between this year and last year. (see topics below). Here is a link to the GCSE folder with all the vocabulary lists.

Practice listening and reading exam type questions
You can find lots of listening and reading practise on www.kerboodle.com (login needed), www.revisionworld.com, https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658/assessment-resources and on BBC Bitesize (free)

Know your verbs and tense
Please make sure that you are confident with your verbs and tenses for the writing paper. If you need more help/ practice go to www.languagesonline.com.

Tip: AVOID making up phrases that you have never learnt before.

Range of vocabulary
Revise WOW phrases that you have learnt in class to help you with expanding your range of structures and vocabulary in the writing paper.

Revision guides
We sell 3 types of revision guides at discounted prices of £3 per guide. Please go to SchoolComms to purchase them.

Revision guides
Workbook with answers
Paper Practice Plus with exemplars of good answers

Topics
Theme 1 - Identity & Culture
Relationship with family & friends (marriage/partnership)
Technology in everyday life (mobile/social media)
Free time activities (sport, TV/Cinema/music/eating out)
Customs & festivals in French speaking countries & communities

Theme 2 - Local, national, international and global areas of interest
Home town, neighbourhood, region
Social issues(charity work/ healthy lifestyle)
Global issues (environment/poverty & homelessness)
Travel & tourism

Theme 3 - Current & future study & employment
School life
School rules and improvements
Education post 16
Career choice

Performing Arts

KS3

In music, Year 7 students are continuing their exploration of World Music, and have spent several weeks studying music and sounds from Africa. They learned about traditional instruments and sounds, sang two African songs, and tested their rhythm and ensemble skills on the djembe drums. They are now learning about music from the Caribbean and rehearsing a performance of a melody on the keyboards; the students are now beginning to play with two hands and are learning what a challenge that can be! However, they are persevering and we look forward to hearing their final performances.

Our Year 8 students have made a great start to their Fanfares topic, which looks at music composed for royal occasions. Across the term, students will explore how to notate different pitches and rhythms on a stave, advancing their musical theory skills, and compose a piece of music which would be suitable for a special occasion. This music theory will support work going further into Year 9 and is a fundamental part of GCSE Music.

After composing and rehearsing a Protest Song in groups based on a topical issue of their choice, our Year 9s have returned to keyboards for their next composition project. This topic explores Music and the Media, and students analyse, through listening and keyboard tasks, the importance of music in TV, films and video games. They have already shown a strong understanding of the impact music can make in a piece of media. They are currently using a range of musical devices to compose an extended piece of music for an extract from Lord of the Rings, and have made an excellent start to their compositions.

GCSE

At GCSE, work has begun in Year 10 on the 8 set musical works on the exam syllabus. They have studied a piece which is a fusion of Latin American and Jazz music, Samba Em Preludio which is a relative new genre for a lot of students, but who have embraced this new style positively. Alongside this piece, in the 'Fusions' Area of Study, they are now exploring Afro Celt Sound System's 'Release', which involves over 15 instruments layered in inventive ways to create a cultural and musical fusion. The Year 10s are enjoying learning about some lesser-known instruments and how they can be used in unusual combinations, as well as learning to follow a traditional musical score.

Meanwhile our Year 11s are in the final stages of completing their coursework. Compositions have shown creativity and individuality, and a number of students have given up a lot of their own time to develop and refine their creations. In terms of the Performance aspect of the course, all students have now recorded their final pieces, each student having rehearsed extensively to give their best performance. From now on their focus will be on completing the set works, and then revising them in detail in preparation for their final exam.

BTEC Performing Arts

The BTEC Performing Arts cohort in Year 10 have been extremely lucky to learn original choreography from the hit musical Hairspray. They are studying this musical as part of their BTEC coursework for Component 1 and are studying the conception, rehearsal and production of this musical, working hard to apply their knowledge and understanding to the written aspect of the coursework, which is no mean feat. They have nearly completed the final part of their substantial essays and we would like to commend them on the committed and mature manner in which they have approached this complex task.

Our Year 11 Performing Arts group have been commissioned by their exam board to create a piece of theatre based on the title "Joint Effort". This brief was set by a new centre for culture and education and students are invited to take part as a performance group in the week-long gala programme of events, funded by the local council. The programme will include work from all performing arts disciplines and, as the new centre is committed to being an inclusive place to visit which aims to attract visitors from all cultures and backgrounds, students have been tasked with creating a piece of theatre with this in mind, based on the title "Joint Effort". Students are well underway with the planning and devising stages and complete their first ever controlled assessment next week. Rehearsals will subsequently begin on their performance, which will take place after the Easter break - we are very excited to see the final result!

Birmingham Irish Association

One of our most valuable partnerships in school is with the Birmingham Irish Association, and we have worked with them for many years now to support local members of the community with dementia. On 13th March we took a group of musicians to the Irish Centre at St Anne's where the guests were celebrating St Patrick's Day with food, company and music. Jobe Sullivan led the Trad Irish ensemble with a long set of popular folk and Irish tunes, and it was wonderful to see the guests clapping and singing along – and they were on their feet dancing at the end!

A number of Y10 students played solos, including Finn on piano, Sophie on flute, and Cormac on violin. Nigel, Zac and Antoni also played solos and we were delighted to see Kalina and Maggie from Y7 make their performing debut with the band! This was a lovely event which truly showed the spirit of our students and their mission to serve the community through sharing conversation and great music.

Bishop's Got Talent

On 14th February, 3 of our talented Year 7 students (Hafsa, Sophia and Temperance) planned a wonderful BGT event, celebrating all things Musical Theatre. These students planned the entire programme themselves, as well as writing the introductions to each ‹number›, all performing a solo from their favourite musical and ending with a powerful rendition of At The End of The Day from Les Miserables, the second longest-running musical ever! The audience were amazing and truly enjoyed the spectacle that the girls provided. We would like to thank them for their courage and confidence and look forward to witnessing their development as performers throughout their journey at Bishop Challoner.






St Patrick's Day

On St Patrick's Day, the school was filled with a sea of green accessories and decorations as students were invited to celebrate by wearing something green, and of course the Music department put on a musical show to mark the occasion. In the library at first break, Mr Sullivan's Trad Irish group played a reprise of the set they performed so well at St Anne's the previous week. Zac in Y9 led the ensemble in Black Velvet Band and the very popular Rattlin' Bog. The ensemble currently consists of accordionists, bodhran players, fiddle, banjo, mandolin, clarinet and tin whistle – and the occasional vocal! Zac then played a whistle duet with Mary from Y7, a recorder and clarinet duet with Nigel from Y9, and Antoni from Y9 bravely did a beautiful accordion solo. Aiden from Y12 finished the set with a lively Irish jig which got everyone clapping along and we look forward to them performing at this year's Spring Soiree.

BC Band

Last term we revived BC Band, an opportunity for musicians to meet before school on a Tuesday in PA2 and broaden their repertoire and develop their ensemble skills. Mr Masterson has been working with a keen group of musicians who have been rehearsing Spring from the Four Seasons by Vivaldi and Pure Imagination from Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. It is fantastic to see them progress and to grow in confidence, and we look forward to them making their debut at the Spring Soiree at the end of term.



Instrumental Lessons

Every week, a group of instrumental teachers from the Music Service visit our school to work with students on a one-to-one basis, developing their musical skills, sometimes entering them for instrumental exams, and supporting them in their musical assessments and performances. A large portion of the class work in music lessons at KS3 includes developing keyboard technique, and those students who have had piano lessons in school (and out of school!) have certainly benefitted from this support, as shown in their results. The guitar teacher now has a waiting list of students wanting to play acoustic and electric guitar, and I am thrilled to see so many of our students continuing with their instrumental tuition even during challenging times such as GCSE preparation. Our instrumental staff cover piano, guitar, brass, woodwind, strings, recorder, steel pan and drums, and it is always encouraging to hear our students rehearsing and playing in the practice spaces around school.

Symphony Hall




Another event in the music calendar which provides cultural enrichment and world-class music was our Year 7 trip to Symphony Hall. Each year the CBSO host an exciting concert aimed at KS3 students, which is educational and inspiring. We invited 60 Year 7 students to attend, and those who came along certainly had a memorable afternoon. The programme of music was based on the theme of Music Around The World and featured some well-known orchestral pieces (Swan Lake by Tchaikovsky) and some crowd-pleasing film themes such as Star Wars, Harry Potter and Pirates of the Caribbean. The Year 7s have spent a lot of time in the classroom learning about the instruments from the orchestra, and it was wonderful for them to see and hear these instruments live – and to experience the power of live music.

Spring Soiree

One of our favourite events in the School Calendar is the Spring Soiree. Our annual instrumental concert is taking place on Wednesday 9th April, and as always, promises to be an entertaining evening featuring a range of musical performances. The Soiree gives our instrumentalists from all year groups a chance to play a piece or pieces of their own choice to an audience, and this year's lineup includes our youngest in Year 7 right up to Sixth Formers. The instrumental teachers from the Music Service work hard with our performers, and we are always grateful for their time and support. This year's programme features the steel pan ensembles, piano solos, violin duets and a bass guitar solo. The event not only marks the beginning of Spring but the end of yet another successful Spring Term for Bishop Challoner Music and PA department.

Physical Education

Fixtures

We have taken part in over 45 fixtures from December to March across a range of sports, including football, netball, rugby, basketball, athletics, and cricket. Participation rates have been strong, and team performances have shown noticeable improvement throughout the season. A particular highlight has been the success of the Year 9 football and netball teams, both of whom secured their respective league titles — a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students and coaches.



Ball Crew

The Ball Crew programme has continued to thrive, with students selected to support high-profile sporting events. This experience has provided students with valuable exposure to professional sporting environments, enhancing their teamwork, communication, and decision-making skills. The professionalism and dedication of our students has been highlighted through positive feedback from event organisers, reinforcing the impact of this unique opportunity.



Primary Provision and CPD

We have strengthened our links with local primary schools through a range of tailored PE sessions and sports festivals. These initiatives have supported primary school students in developing their physical skills and confidence in sport. Additionally, we have delivered targeted CPD sessions to primary school staff, increasing their confidence and competence in PE delivery. The Elevate Vision CPD offer has been instrumental in enhancing staff development and improving the overall quality of teaching. hard work and dedication of our students and coaches.

Moseley Rugby Club

Our partnership with Moseley Rugby Club has provided students with access to high-quality coaching and top-tier facilities. This collaboration has led to increased participation in rugby across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, helping to develop both individual skills and team performance. The support from Moseley Rugby Club has been invaluable in encouraging more students to engage in the sport and improve their overall sporting experience.



SCITT PE Programme

Our SCITT (School-Centred Initial Teacher Training) provision has made great progress this year, focusing on improving lesson design and enhancing the delivery of high-quality PE lessons.A key highlight has been the successful completion of the Handball England Course, which has expanded the range of sports offered and improved the teaching of handball across all key stages. We have also strengthened assessment in PE, equipping trainees with the skills to accurately track progress and use assessment to inform future learning.The introduction of serial practice with Bishop Challoner PE staff has provided trainees with valuable hands-on experience, helping them to develop their teaching skills in a structured and supportive environment.



Duke of Edinburgh (DofE)

The DofE programme continues to grow, with more students participating at both Bronze and Silver levels. Through expeditions and volunteering, students have developed important life skills such as resilience, teamwork, and leadership. The programme has provided valuable opportunities for students to challenge themselves, work together, and make a positive impact in their communities.

BGT in PE – Kinball

Kinball has been successfully introduced as part of our BGT in PE initiative, quickly becoming a popular addition to the curriculum. High levels of student engagement and enjoyment have been observed, with students responding positively to the fast-paced and dynamic nature of the game. Kinball has also proven to be an inclusive and accessible sporting option, encouraging participation from a wide range of students.

Malympics

The Malympics event has once again been a standout success, with all our local Tolkein schools attending. The event once again providing students with an exciting opportunity to engage in a variety of competitive and cooperative sporting activities. Through their involvement, students have developed valuable teamwork and leadership skills, contributing to a positive and memorable experience for all participants.



Guest Speaker: Karé Adenegan

We were honoured to host Karé Adenegan, a British Paralympic wheelchair racer, who shared her inspiring journey to success with our students. Karé spoke about the challenges she faced growing up with cerebral palsy and how she overcame them through resilience and hard work. Her story highlighted the importance of perseverance and maintaining a positive mindset. Students were inspired by her achievements, including five Paralympic medals and a world record in the T34 100m, gaining valuable insights into the dedication needed.



Character Education with Birmingham City Football Club

Our partnership with Birmingham City Football Club and Birmingham Universities' Character Education Programme has become an integral part of our curriculum, supporting the development of key character traits such as resilience, teamwork, and respect. The workshops and coaching sessions have had a positive impact on student motivation and behaviour, reinforcing important values both on and off the field.



Trips



Our commitment to providing outstanding enrichment opportunities has further supported this progress. The rugby trip to Twickenham gave students first-hand experience of elite-level sport, inspiring them to apply the values of teamwork and resilience in their own performances. The Valencia Football Development Tour saw 40 students engage in high-quality coaching and competitive fixtures, deepening their understanding of the game and strengthening team cohesion. Additionally, the trip to Manchester City to watch the Champions League match against Real Madrid provided students with a unique insight into the demands and excitement of top-level football, reinforcing the importance of preparation, discipline, and teamwork.

Ball Crew Feedback

Dear Principal,

I am one of the Chair Umpires working at this week's tennis event in Edgbaston and I feel compelled to write to you in praise of the Ball Crew that are here with us this week.

Not only have they been outstanding on court, but they are polite, respectful and engaging young people off court too. I have a 2-year-old and 8 month old at home, and I sometimes feel nervous raising children in a world where it feels that everyone is complaining about the behaviour and demeanour of teenagers/adolescents. Spending time with your students has completely reframed my perspective on this - clearly there are lots of wonderful teenagers out there too!

They are indeed a credit to your school and a credit to their parents. I know that all of the Umpires here feel the same way. Please kindly pass my feedback on - I hope they will receive the praise that they truly deserve for this. Equally, please pass on my thanks to their PE teacher who has trained them (I didn't catch his name!) as he has done a fantastic job, and to Annabelle who did a wonderful job of looking after them.

I look forward to seeing lots of them again in the summer and other future events here.

PSHE

PSHE Curriculum

The PSHE curriculum continues to be pivotal for students in exploring the world around them and the impact on their lives. Having studied the importance of Human Rights and human dignity, Year 7 are now focused on health and relationships. This Well-being focused unit of work, provides the students an opportunity to reflect on important matters in today's society, such as self-regulation and dealing with life's challenges to road and public safety and homelessness. The lesson content is designed to promote critical thinking, safe and healthy relationships and understanding, whilst engaging students into considering how we live out our Faithful Virtues throughout our daily lives.





Year 8



Year 8 have been exploring liberty and freedom this term, displaying the faithful virtues of being understanding and learned as they debate on issues surrounding prejudice and discrimination. Classes have focused on the Equality Act of 2010 looking at how to tackle discrimination in relation to our protected characteristics and created informative leaflets and posters to promote equality and combat prejudice and discrimination. Students have also looked at different civil rights that we have in the UK with a new focus on the rights of refugees and how as part of our school charity work we may want to use our voices in an active way to help others. Of course, this is a direct example of Bishop Challoner students living out the virtues that we promote throughout our curriculum. This will also be relevant as we move on, to look at online safety and safe relationships, after Easter.



Year 9



Year 9 lessons have focused on pathways and progression and have incorporated vital information for students as they embark the next phase of their education at Bishop Challoner, selecting their Key Stage 4 options. Inspired by Eleanor Roosevelt's words 'I am who I am today because of the decisions I made yesterday', Year 9 have been guided through the unique pathways procedure and have a full understanding of the GCSE and vocational requirements during Year 10 and 11. With the lesson focus and the promotion of Unifrog, coupled with a series of options assemblies, all students have received guidance and had time to consider which subject options will suit them the most. Careers and The Job Market has been researched taking into account the financial climate; the development of automation and the technological and digital world, as well as the environmental crisis. These lessons have been crafted alongside other Pathways events to ensure that students have access and guidance for informed decision making. Students have found the lessons informative and helpful as they explore the next steps for their future studies and careers.

Year 10 and 11 BTEC Personal Growth and Wellbeing

The two groups that study BTEC Personal Growth and Wellbeing have had the most productive term. The external standards verifier remains the same as last year and he has been in contact to say that he looks forward to receiving all the work from our centre as it is a pleasure to read through and verify. From focusing on physical and mental health to financial well-being, students take part in assessed coursework which documents their journey through the course. From studying the detrimental effects of vaping, alcohol and illegal drugs to the benefits of healthy eating and regular exercise, the students are becoming equipped for life, post 16. Year 10 especially enjoyed their healthy eating practical lesson where they made a variety of healthy dishes. Year 11 have just completed a section on financial well-being and have not only looked at what different bank accounts can offer, but investigated financial security and how to budget. This has been eye opening as they become aware of how to budget on a salary and also avoid fraud and scams! They absolutely thrived in this unit and we hope that their learning will guide them through their next steps when they take on apprenticeships through college.

Year 7 Personal Development Day

Year 7 had their Personal Development drop-down day just before half term and feedback was outstanding, showing that students had an insightful and reflective experience which explored topics from Personal Safety and Knife Crime to conduct around Social Media and Gratitude and Well-being. The day started with a thought provoking and inspirational talk from Augustus Stewart at Precious Lives. The entire year group were deeply engaged and absorbed the important messages that were delivered through Augustus' biographical journey of his school life and unfortunate association with organized crime. Augustus' story is both heart breaking but inspirational and he now dedicates his time to working with the Violence Reduction Unit of the Police to promote personal safety and avoiding crime. Our students were truly moved and inspired. Students then dispersed to classroom-based sessions which ranged from Gratitude, Inter Faith Dialogue, Social Media conduct and Mental Health and Well-being. The materials were carefully coordinated around the needs of the Year group, in an ever-changing society. Teachers and students alike enjoyed the variety and pace of the day and the impact was shown through the positivity of the students and foremost from the insightful conversations that were being held within the classrooms. These drop days are invaluable to the students and could not take place without the support that we get from all the staff who deliver with such energy and vigour. Students and teachers alike reported that their favourite sessions were the presentation from Precious Lives and the creative tasks in the well-being session, which related to our Jubilee Year of Hope.





Assemblies and Form Resources





The assembly and form resource programmes continue to enrich the curriculum of Personal Development, Safeguarding, Spiritual Life, Preventative and Cultural themes. Each week, two resources are created; one to be presented live in assembly and the other is designed to be interactive and delivered in form rooms with attached discussions, quizzes or creative tasks. This term we have already covered topics ranging from World Kindness Day, Safer Internet Day and Respectful Behaviour to Safety, World Sleep Day, Holocaust Memorial Day and World Religions Day and Pilgrims of Hope. Each resource is current in terms of social and political accuracy, and they also run parallel to and enhance our Bishop Challoner Faithful Virtues and Standards for Learning Curriculum. For example, when looking at a recent reset on our BC Basics, each Faithful Virtue was explored using our school Saints to promote the qualities that we encourage all of our students to portray. All the assembly resources are prepared in consideration of our Spiritual Life curriculum and students are all encouraged to join with the school prayer and present a 'going forth' message to their year group. Last week, students across every year group worked together to plan and deliver their own assembly on Lent and what it means to be a Pilgrim of Hope. The students were very brave to stand in front of their peers and did an absolutely fantastic job in reflecting on food poverty and what it means to be truly hungry.

School Council

School Council continues to meet half termly. The process starts with our form representatives meeting with their Head of Year to share their thoughts and ideas around a focused agenda and these minutes are then prepared and relayed to our Senior Leadership Team. After feedback and actions are added, the notes go back to the form representatives and these are then delivered to the form groups as part of a form resource. Any student voice feedback is then used to inform the agenda of our whole school council meeting, which is scheduled with Dr Coughlan on April 8th. It is wonderful to see so many actions listened to, reported back and then actioned. An example being about lesson transitions and busy corridors. We now have asked all teaching staff to be outside classrooms to help the flow of students moving through, whilst the addition of a transition bell, makes for a smoother and less rushed experience between lessons.

School Charity

Our focus for school charity this year has been Father Hudson's Caritas and students across every form group have been tasked with creating their own charity fund raising event. So far, we have had donut sales, hampers, raffles and social events and have raised nearly £1,000. With many Easter events in the pipe line, we are certain that this figure will soar very soon. A key number of Faithful Ambassadors are working with both myself and our lay Chaplain, Ellen Thompson, to explore the amazing work that Father Hudson's Caritas do across the diocese and in the summer term will be working on an outreach project with Emily Pugh.

Fox Hollies

The annual Fox Hollies project has had a delayed start due to an exciting project that we have been planning. 8 students from Year 9 have had their initial meeting, which was a disability awareness session held at Bishop Challoner. After Easter, we will be spending time at Fox Hollies engaging in practical workshops with their artists in residence and creating a joint performance to be shown at Culture Day in July.

Religious Studies

Key Stage 3



Key Stage 3 students have been studying the unit 'From Galilee to Jerusalem' . Each year group have had a different focus with think their topic.

Year 7 students have learnt about The Trinity, Incarnation, Jesus as a role model and how we can offer humble service to others.

Year 8 students have studied about the importance and significance of Jesus' teaching, treatment of the marginalised and the concept of pilgrimage.

Through this unit, students have gained a deeper understanding of Jesus' mission and how his example can inspire their own lives and actions. Students take the opportunity in units of work to write personalised pray 'Pause for Prayer'.









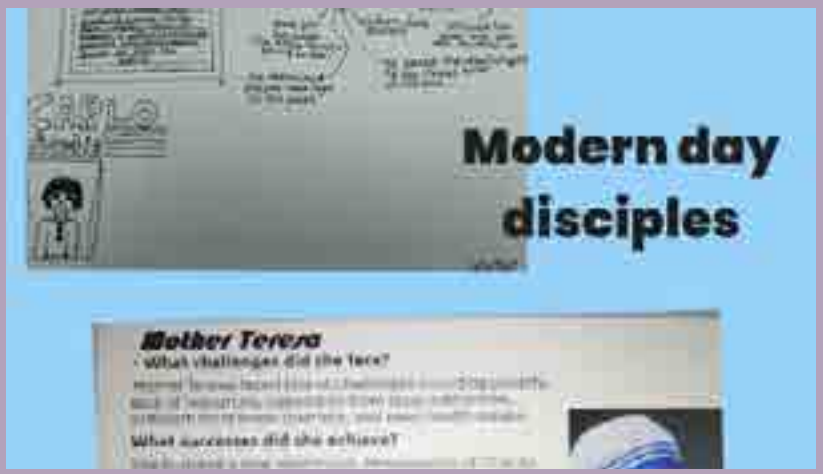
Year 9 students have studied discipleship and looked at how they can use the examples set by the first disciples in their own callings.
This unit has been an inspiring journey of faith and reflection, helping students see how they can live out their vocation with courage and perseverance.

Year 9 students chose one of three 'modern day disciples' to research. Margaret Mizen, St Mother Teresa, Carlo Acutis (we will celebrate his beatification in April).

They explored religious vocations and considered how they might live their own lives following vows of chastity, obedience and poverty.

As part of 'following in ways of Christ', Year 9 students made cards, letters and posters which were sent to refugees at St Chad's Sanctuary, spreading the message of love and inclusion.









Key Stage 4

Year 10 students are making excellent progress toward mastering the content for their GCSE examinations. Year 10 have completed the first component of their GCSE and will be examined on this in the summer term. A wealth of RE revision resources have been assed to the Y10 Teams channel.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 students, who have displayed exceptional maturity as they reach the conclusion of their GCSE studies. Having covered the entire curriculum content, we are now able to focus on refining revision strategies and perfecting exam techniques. Our students have shown remarkable effort and commitment throughout their studies, and we wish them all the best in their final preparations.

Other news from RE

We have been delighted to collaborate with Ellen and make use of the chaplaincy room to enrich our students' learning experiences. Ellen has been working closely with our Year 9 students, guiding them through their lessons on the Rosary. Her support and insight have been invaluable in helping students deepen their understanding of this important aspect of prayer and devotion.

During this season of Lent, we have been using RE lessons to help students prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Through thoughtful discussions, students have explored what makes the Sacrament feel daunting and reflected on the powerful message of forgiveness in the Parable of the Prodigal Son. They have also taken time to examine their own lives through an examination of conscience, considering how they can grow closer to God.

Students have embraced the opportunity to celebrate God's mercy by attending Reconciliation Services on Wednesday afternoons. It has been a meaningful and reflective time, allowing them to experience the healing power of forgiveness and deepen their faith.



Key Stage 4

Key Stage 5
Our Year 12 students continue to make impressive progress, having completed half of both the Philosophy and Ethics papers. Recently, we have embarked on the study of Christianity, where students are examining key issues such as:

- The insights that birth narratives provide into the doctrine of the Incarnation.
- The significance of redaction criticism in interpreting biblical birth narratives.
- The nature of the resurrected body.
- The historical reliability of the resurrection.
- The Bible's value as a source of teaching on life's meaning and purpose.
- The guidance offered by selected Psalms on how to live as Christians.

Our Year 13 students are approaching the final stages of their examination content, working diligently to blend knowledge with analytical skills in preparation for their June exams. We wish them every success as they complete their preparations and seek God's blessing in planning their future endeavours.

GCSE RE

Our GCSE RE students have welcomed a fantastic leadership opportunity by engaging with Year 9 students to share insights about what to expect from GCSE RE. They set up an impressive RE Stall featuring a range of eye-catching artwork, thought-provoking Big Questions, and fascinating Jewish artefacts.

Columbia Missionaries

Finally, we are delighted to share that four of our students took part in the Columban Missionaries competition, Pilgrims of Hope—a national competition for students aged 13 to 18. The competition encouraged young people to reflect on how hope can inspire positive change in the world and how faith plays a role in overcoming challenges.

We are incredibly proud to announce that one of our entries secured 3rd place—a massive achievement! The winning entry featured an inspiring interview with our very own Karen Tehan about the invaluable work of St Dunstan's St Vincent De Paul.

You can read the winning entry and find out more about the competition on the following websites: Columban Missionaries UK

We are so proud of all the students who took part .





Catholic Life

Year of Hope Official Launch

During January we were delighted to join this diocesan official launch of the Year of Hope. Across the school our whole community joined the official link and gathered together to reflect on the meaning of The Jubilee Year and how we can contribute to this in our community.

As part of the launch, we were delighted that our students could attend St Dunstan's Church to take part in a celebratory Jubilee Mass with St Dunstans, St Judes, and St Albans.



Birmingham Hospice Cheque

In our Year of Hope we are delighted to present a cheque of £2500.88 raised for the Birmingham Hospice by students and staff who carried out the Rudolf Run. A fantastic effort from our sixth form students to exemplify our mission statement.



Chapel Prayers

We are delighted to continue to develop opportunities for our students to find time in the chapel to pray, gather and reflect. On Holocaust Remembrance Day our students wrote and shared prayers of hope. Students have displayed these prayers in the chapel and we look forward to providing future opportunities for students to lead, share and engage with prayer in the chapel, form time and assemblies.



Pilgrims of Hope Blessings

It was a pleasure to see our Pilgrims of Hope students receive a blessing from Fr Toby as they look to commence their work as shining lights of service across our community. A big thank you to Fr Toby for blessing our 'Pilgrims of Hope'. We look forward to seeing them go forth this year in our Year of Hope



Tolkien School Workshops

It has been a real pleasure to see our chaplaincy leaders go forth into our Tolkien cluster schools to lead workshop so confidently. Across this term our leaders will have attended and led a workshop in each of the cluster schools. Below we can see our students leading a session entitled "We are God's masterpiece" Ephesians 2.10 of Hope workshop with St Dunstan's.



Foodbank Support

During our Year of Hope, we continue to support The South Birmingham foodbank . Students and staff continue to show incredible generosity in their support and commitment to serving others. We look forward to seeing further acts of charity and service across our Lenten journey as form groups work together to plan and lead fundraising activities.

Flame Congress

Delighted to see students and staff attending the Flame 2025 congress at Wembley. The day saw speakers, music, prayer and fellowship. Bear Grylls led a talk on faith being an adventure, whilst our very own Tommy Rowan shared SVP's message 'We are all loved by God, no matter what our mistakes'.



Lenten Reconciliation Services

It has been a pleasure to see so many of our students attending reconciliation this Lent. Big thank you to Fr John and Fr Toby, Fr Srinu and Fr Sean, for taking time out in their busy schedule to come and minister to our students!



Science

Year 9 visit to the LAMMA Show

A group of year 9 girls visited the LAMMA show at the NEC in January. Students got to explore live machinery demonstrations, get hands-on with innovative tools and see exclusive product launches.

There they visited the LAMMA career zone, designed to help the next generation explore, learn, connect and discover various career paths within the industry.

Students left with a better understanding of the farming world and the multitude of career paths related to the industry and lots of free vegetables!









Science Club

The Year 7 and the Year 8 Science leaders have been enjoying science club this term. This term we have been investigating daphnia, string telephones, slime and making volcanoes. We are going to be testing the volcanoes this coming week! The students have enjoyed improving their practical knowledge and skills. Well done Year 7 and Year Science leaders!





BGT Science Event

The Year 7 Science Club and Year 8 Science leaders did a fab job demonstrating a range of science experiments and helping other students take part in a range of practicals. This included dissecting heart, exploding volcanoes, lighting circuits up, finding DNA in strawberries to looking at a range of organisms down a microscope! This was a lovely event also to celebrate the science stars since september as through a PowerPoint show. Well done to the students involved and the science team!





Catholic Games STEM

On the 13th of March, four Year 8 students from Bishop Challoner had the exciting opportunity to participate in the Catholic Games STEM event hosted at Archbishop Ilsley Secondary School. Competing against four other schools, our students showcased their skills, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities across three challenging tasks.

The event was designed to test students' engineering and scientific thinking through hands-on activities. The three tasks included building an earthquake-proof tower, designing and testing a parachute, and constructing a strong and stable bridge. Each task required creativity, resilience, and collaboration, all of which our students demonstrated impressively.

Throughout the day, our students displayed maturity and enthusiasm, embracing each challenge with determination. Their teamwork was exceptional, with each member contributing ideas and working cohesively to complete the tasks. They represented our school with great pride, demonstrating the core values of perseverance, respect, and innovation.



We are delighted to share that our team secured third place in the competition—a fantastic achievement given the level of skill and competition on the day. Their hard work and dedication were truly commendable, and they left the event with valuable experience and a deeper appreciation for STEM learning.

National Space Centre

During this term, 56 Year 9 students visited the National Space Centre! What a blast! The students had a chance to explore other interactive exhibits and learn more about space exploration, astronomy, and the technologies that make it possible. This was a fantastic way to bring the subject to life in a hands-on and engaging way.

The highlight of our visit was the special session in the Planetarium, where students will take an exciting journey through the solar system. This session provided a deeper understanding of the planets, moons, and other celestial bodies, and has complemented the work they have been doing in class. The students were excellent and an asset to Bishop Challoner Catholic College!





Computing and ICT

Overview of Activities

This term has been highly productive for the Computing Department, with a range of enriching activities aimed at developing students' digital literacy, cybersecurity awareness, and AI competencies. Our department continues to provide engaging opportunities both inside and outside the classroom, inspiring students to explore computing in depth and consider careers in STEM fields.

AI and Data Workshop at Kainos

Year 8 girls attended a hands-on workshop at Kainos, learning about artificial intelligence, data science, and career opportunities in the tech sector. They explored AI applications, engaged in prompt engineering exercises, and participated in a careers panel with industry professionals.





Key Events & Achievements

Cyber Violence Against Women & Girls Workshop (26th February): Year 9 girls participated in an interactive session led by the West Midlands Regional Cyber Crime Unit, Aston University's Cyber Security Department, and West Midlands Police. Students took on the roles of detectives, solving cybercrime challenges while gaining essential knowledge on how to combat cyber violence.









Primary School Computing Support

The department continues to support local primary schools, including St Bernard's Year 5 students, who worked on programming RVR4 Robots through obstacle courses and even played robotic football. These sessions help foster early interest in computing and problem-solving skills.



Key Stage 3

KS3 students have been developing skills in game design, game development, and essential Microsoft Office tools to support their education and future careers.

Key Stage 4

GCSE Computing students have been refining their exam techniques, preparing for upcoming mock exams on 12th and 20th May. IT students are finalising coursework while also preparing for their IT exam on 9th June.

Key Stage 5

Year 13 Computer Science students are completing their programming projects and preparing for their A-Level exams on 11th and 18th June. Year 13 IT students are finishing their coursework while also preparing for their final assessments.

Primary Computing Celebration

Primary Computing is one of our department's flagship events, where Year 5 students from 11 different primary schools participate in exciting computing activities such as drones, robots, and VR experiences, led by Year 8 and Year 9 Computing Champions. Prizes are awarded to participants.

STEM Fair at the NEC (18th June): The department is leading a school trip for 60 Year 7 and 8 students to the NEC STEM Fair, where they will engage with cutting-edge technology, meet industry professionals, and explore future career pathways in STEM.

Our department remains committed to providing outstanding opportunities for our students and inspiring them to explore the ever-growing field of computing. We look forward to another term of innovation and engagement.

Sixth Form

Academic Progress - Getting the grades

This year we have introduced a new mini curriculum on a Tuesday afternoon form time called 'Getting the Grades'. Here students engage every week with their academic form tutors with resources focused on supporting them to get the very best outcomes in college.

An overview of the topics students have been engaging with this term:

Year 12	Year 13
• Making the most of Year 12 • Growth mindsets • Developing positive habits • Predicted grades in Year 12 • Developing good organisation • Making flash cards • Recalling content	• Making a revision timetable • Managing stress • Using feedback effectively • Using technology to support revision • Staying organised • Spaced learning • Avoiding distraction

Mock Exams

All students in Year 13 sat mock exams in January to help prepare them for the summer public exams. This provides a good opportunity for students to assess their learning and get feedback on the next steps from their class teachers.

Year 12 will sit mock exams in May.

Spaced practice and quizzing

Our very own Quiz Master Mr Robinson delivered an assembly to Year 13 this half term about the best approaches to remembering content. He spoke about how he uses digital flash cards to self-regulate his learning and students could take similar approaches for their exams.

Alumni Updates and assembly

Our fantastic former student Eve Maguire came into college recently and delivered an assembly to Year 11 about life in our Sixth Form and where she is now. Eve is now working at HSBC bank following the successful completion of an apprenticeship. A brilliant former student who really champions her time at Bishop Challoner.









Supporting students with their next steps

UCAS

This year we have had a record 124 students that have applied for university through UCAS. Many students have been receiving offers from universities in a whole host of courses and specialisms. A brilliant effort from a wide range of staff with Mrs Darby excellently leading on this mammoth process and all students receiving personalised and outstanding support.

Student finance talks

An important and sometimes complex part of students preparing for Further Education is the student finance application process. This month we hosted a parent information evening in the auditorium where a guest speaker from Birmingham City University guided parents and students through this process. Information was shared around funding allocations, grants and bursaries and the types of loans students may apply for. Importantly information around how students go about paying student loans back sustainably over time and how this is linked to future earnings put many parents' and students' minds at ease.



STUDENT LOANS COMPANY

CBRE Birmingham Trip

A group of year 12 students visited the headquarters of local Real Estate company CBRE to find out about careers and opportuities in this sector. A great opportunity in a rapidly growing employment sector.

The National Apprenticeship show

A group of Year 13 students visited the National Apprentceship show in Coventry in March. Here they received advice and information on how to apply for a variety of exciting opportunities with local and national companies.





Student success

Football

Congratulations to the sixth form girls team who are now U18 County Champions winning the West Midlands Cup on Penalties!! A brilliant effort under the leadership of Miss Shirley.



Basketball

The Sixth Form basketball team this month played their first competitive match, beating St Peters in a close and highly competitve game in which they came out as winners.

Catholic School Debating competition

We were delighted that a group of Year 13 students won the recent KS5 Catholic Schools' Debating Competition. A fantastic effort by students, organised by Miss Lloyd.



Judo

Louis Hee attended the Matsumae Judo Cup and Camp in Vejle Denmark. The competition hosted over 600 judokas from around the world including Japan, Canada and several Scandinavian countries .

Louis secured a bronze medal for Great Britain in the men's under 18, under 66kg category.



American Football

Jack Keen has once again been selected to represent Team GB U17's American Football team in an international match in Hamburg, Germany.

Peru 2025 The International Student Committee

Students have continued their fundrasing efforts for the FutureSense Foundation and have recently raised money through a bake sale and an Easter raffle.

In enrichment periods students this term have been looking more deeply into the theme of stewardship. With this in mind they carried out a whole school litter pick to support the school community and model what stewardship looks like in action to our younger students.

Please follow us on Instagram for more updates: @bishopchallonersixth

School Games and PE & Sports Premium Programmes

School Games events

It has been a successful term with students from Y3-11 in local schools taking part in our School Games (SG) events. These have included Y5-6 girls' gymnastics, KS2 SEND/inclusive sports festival, Y5-6 dodgeball, KS2 badminton and U16 boys table tennis. Once again, secondary schools within the cluster continue to host these events and offer use of their sports facilities free of charge and we are extremely grateful for this.

Cricket

Cricket coaching is now open for the summer term with local clubs. Search for your nearest cricket club/ centre - https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/Search

All Stars Cricket provides a fantastic first experience for all children aged 5-8 years old where they're guaranteed 8 weeks of jam-packed fun, activity and skills development. The programme is designed to introduce children to the sport, teaching them new skills, helping them make new friends and have a great time doing so. Every child that registers will receive a personalised t-shirt, bat, ball and backpack.

Dynamos Cricket provides a fantastic next step for all those graduating from All Stars Cricket and the perfect introduction for all 8-11 year-olds new to the sport! Dynamos is all about fun and provides children with a more social offer, focusing on developing the fundamental skills required to play cricket. We know how important it is to look like the heroes of the game, so every child who registers will receive their very own Dynamos Cricket T-shirt, personalised with their name and number.



School Rugby

We have continued our development of school's rugby this term with the aim being 'to get more rugby balls into the hands of young people to help them be physically active'. This has seen our PE staff teaching rugby skills and games during PE lessons, via our outreach programme, to numerous schools and hundreds of students. We also held two training courses for primary and secondary staff from across the city to upskill them and teach them about the new RFU strategy called 'T1 rugby'. Both courses were led by Dan Lavender from Moseley RC and we have more courses planned for the summer term. We also have a number of school's rugby events planned for the summer term, including a Y3-4, Y5-6 and Y7-9 girls and we have recently had another delivery of rugby equipment (balls, bibs, cones) which will be going to schools in the next few weeks for them to use within and beyond the curriculum.

Tennis

Want to get your students started playing tennis? Tennis is a fantastic sport for kids – it's fun, active and it's a sport they can enjoy for life. It helps kids develop a wide range of skills, whether it's running, throwing or catching, that they can use both on and off the court. Take advantage of the LTA starter tennis offer with everything you need to get your kids involved and discover their love for the game.

LTA Youth starter offer: For just £4.99 you'll get: a junior tennis racket, a set of tennis balls, access to free taster tennis sessions (Barclays Free Park Tennis and/or Barclays Big Tennis Weekend) and an LTA Advantage membership – with a wide range of exclusive discounts and benefits.

https://www.lta.org.uk/play/parents-area/kids-tennis-how-to-get-started/

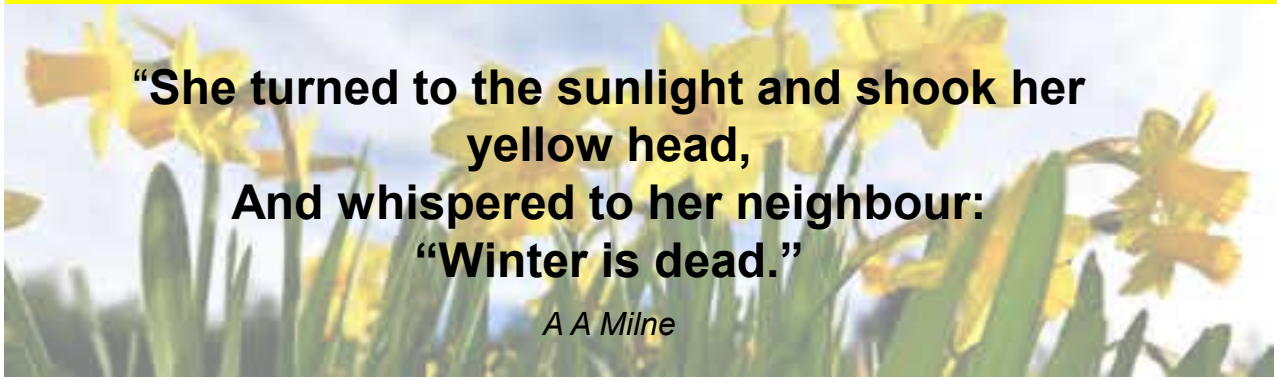


Library

Follow the link to view our Library newsletter The Bookshelf https://bishop-challoner-catholic-college.schudio.com/library

THE BOOKSHELF

SPRING 2025



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN YOUR SCHOOL LIBRARY THIS TERM?

WE'VE GONE ALL GREEN ... Our plant collection is growing (literally) and our students are loving them.

Did you know?

- **Plants reduce stress and anxiety**
- **They can improve your mood**
- **Plants can lower blood pressure**
- **And they look great as part of our book displays!**







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

Careers

National Careers Week

We celebrated National Careers Week in March. We began with Year 8 Guess my job on Tuesday 4th March, where each Year 8 class got to meet two mystery visitors and play detectives as they tried to work out what they did for a living. They were well prepared, having done some work on open and closed questioning techniques during form time beforehand. Once they had identified what their job was, students then learnt about their role and got to try out an element of it. There was a really good mix of careers represented on the day, including an undertaker, an award-winning film and tv make-up artist, a marketeer, a Chief Exec of a company that designs and creates food inspection technologies, a UX designer and a structural engineer. It's fair to say that students got well and truly stuck in and had a great time.





Pathways Insight Event

We trialled a Pathways Insight event on Thursday 6th March for Year 9 students. This provided Year 9 students with an opportunity to understand what subjects in KS4 look like. This took a marketplace format in the auditorium and all KS4 subjects were brilliantly represented by selected Year 10 and 11 students. Year 9 students were very happy to go and talk to them about the subjects they were considering choosing as part of their Pathways process. This put students in a good position ahead of the Pathways evening the following week.









Careers Fair

The Wednesday of National Careers Week was the Careers Fair for Years 9 and 10. Each year group had a pre careers fair lesson which prepared them for the event and a post lesson which helped them to make sense of what they had found out at the careers fair, and what that means for them in relation to the decisions they will make about their futures.





The Careers Fair is always an opportunity for us to invite alumni in to help inspire our current students. This year was no exception. It was wonderful to see former students providing current students with valuable insight about some of the projects he is working on.

Life after Challoner

Our Year 11s recently had the benefit of listening to our former student Eve McGuire this week to find out about "Life after Challoner" and how she has become an Associate at HSBC in London. Eve delivered a very heartfelt talk about some of the personal challenges she had to overcome during her time at Bishop Challoner and how much Bishop Challoner supported her at that time, and how the opportunities she had while she was a student here, set her up for what she has gone on to achieve since.

Real Estate Visit



In addition, a group of Year 12 and 13 students who are interested in career pathways that related to Real Estate, attended the global Real Estate company CBRE, Birmingham office. Here they heard from a number of apprentices and employees doing different roles within the business. Students also had a look around the Silver Yard in the city centre which is one of their newest rental.

BC Wellbeing News

#3 @BCCCWellbeing Easter 2025

Wishing you a restful Easter! May the holidays bring you feelings of calm, peace and renewal!

Easter is the most important event in the Christian calendar, a celebration of Jesus' resurrection, which offers us the chance of eternal life. It is a time when Christians reflect with gratitude on Jesus' sacrifice. Yet, long before Christ, this season was marked with celebrations to mark the arrival of Spring: a time of rebirth and renewal. So, whatever your faith, and however you celebrate Easter, it might be a good time for some grateful reflection as well as making use of the lighter evening and warmer weather to regenerate and set some new well-being targets.

The well-being team wishes everyone a very Happy Easter! To those students preparing for exams in the summer term, remember, it is natural to feel concern about something that matters. We also have some advice about how to go about your preparation, without being overcome with anxiety. We have also prepared an Easter well-being challenge that we hope the whole household will be able to enjoy.

Managing Revision and Exam Stress

Listening to music

Consider listening to music while you study or to help you unwind. A new study from the British Academy of sound therapy found that 9 minutes of music is all you need to spark joy and 13 minutes is the amount needed to relax and release sadness. Try it and see how different types of music impact your mood.



Set Clear boundaries for work and relaxation time

If you are revising or completing coursework set start and finish times and plan for a break every twenty minutes. Your revision will be more effective if your mind is not tired and having a clear structure will allow you to enjoy your relaxation time and not think about work throughout the day.

Stay Connected

Spending time with friends or family can help reduce the stress of exams. If you are not able to meet in person consider scheduling in times to video call friends or family in revision breaks.

Movement

If you're feeling stressed, consider moving your body. Exercise is great for the mind as well as the body. Starting an online workout regime or getting outside for runs, walks or cycling is great but if that's not for you starting small can still have a positive impact. Consider stretching for 5 minutes, doing 5 star jumps every time you finish a chapter, walking around the house/flat if you're feeling overwhelmed, or taking 2 minute dance breaks throughout your day. No matter how small movement can positively impact your mental well-being.

The following links may be useful:

- *https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/exam-time/*
- *https://charliewaller.org/resources/an-emotionally-healthy-approach-to-gcses-a-guide-for-parents*
- *https://charliewaller.org/resources/looking-after-yourself-during-your-gcses-a-guide-for-pupils/*

If you need help:

PAUSE drop-in Centre, Digbeth- *https://forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk/pause/*

Childline- *0800 1111 https://www.childline.org.uk/*

Samaritans- *116123 https://www.samaritans.org/*

Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid- *0808 800 0028 https://bswaid.org/*

How can we best help young people manage their well-being?

This is a question we are often asked. With fast-paced lifestyles, exam pressures, image under scrutiny and no escape from worries with the ever-present online world, it can seem that people today have it so much harder than previous generations. Here are some suggestions, collected form a variety of sources:

1. The 5 C's of wellbeing: Connection, Coping, Calmness, Care, and Compassion. https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/blog/how-to-make-a-self-soothe-box/
2. Have purposeful time away from your phone/ electronic devises https://www.vodafone.co.uk/newscentre/smart-living/digital-parenting/your-childs-first-phone/
3. Value your sleep and develop good habits around sleep https://teensleephub.org.uk/
4. Plan ahead – for every minute spent organising, an hour is earned
5. Eat healthily and keep well hydrated
6. Enjoy family time
7. Stay calm when things go wrong. Avoid catastrophising
8. Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." Colossians 3:12

BRING IT ON BRUM!

Below is a selection of Home Activities from Bring it on Brum! Visit the website for more activities and information: https://www.bringitonbrum.co.uk/home-activities/

Get planting and explore nature with the BBC



Get planting and explore nature with the BBC



Workout at home



Hug-A-Bug World Activities



Top tips to keep your family healthy and happy



Writing workshop



Full Time: Get cooking with Marcus and Tom



Cook with Digbeth Dining Club



The following links may be useful:

https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/exam-time/

https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/living-with-serious-allergies/serious-allergy-guidance-for-parents/

Burnout vector created by upklyak - www.freepik.com
Easter Eggs Vectors by Vecteezy

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 in the lobe of the ear.

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.

Year 11 Easter Intervention

Please follow the link below for details of Easter holiday intervention sessions being facilitated by staff.

https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/news/2025-04-04-year-11-easter-intervention

Please ensure that your child attends any additional support sessions, that apply to them, in preparation for their forthcoming GCSE public examinations. The time given by staff is voluntary and we expect students to make the most it, ultimately to assist them in achieving their full potential.

Students are to enter and exit via main reception, they will not be permitted to leave the site once here so please ensure they bring food and drink with them, fizzy drinks are not allowed.

Thank you for your continued support.

Summer Assessments

Please follow the links below for subject information and guidance on the Year 7, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 assessments/mocks.

Year 7 - https://tinyurl.com/2838wtrs

Year 9 - https://tinyurl.com/mw9zd5h9

Year 10 - https://tinyurl.com/4rhn59xw

Year 12 - https://tinyurl.com/bdcpjy5r

Reporting Student Absence

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

To report an absence please call the main school number 0121 444 4161 and select the correct option for your childs year group.

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.

First Aid Information and Procedures

Medication; All medication should be handed into first aid and not carried by the students. Exception EpiPen, Asthma inhalers, insulin. Tranexamic acid in special circumstances.

Please make sure we have the correct medical information and emergency contact details, if you have changed your phone number or there is any change in medical conditions or concerns, please contact first aid using the enquiries email or the main school phone number.

Please send children into school with a water bottle they can re-fill at our water stations provided or they can purchase a drink from the school canteen.

Students with Asthma must carry with them their own personal inhalers. This includes offsite activities, PE lessons and school trips to ensure they can participate safely.

Parents/Carers of students with a known allergy must provide school first aid with antihistamine; this also applies to those with anaphylaxis in addition to their EpiPen.

We do not provide liquid paracetamol such as Calpol. If your child cannot take tablets and you would preder them to have liquid Calpol please send this in to the school first aider with your childs name on it, this will be kept safe in first aid for your child only.

5 Foundations of Effective Attendance Practice

You will be aware that we have adopted the 5 Foundations framework to manage and monitor attendance. There have been two monitoring letters now sent and you can expect further communication in early March. Please continue to ensure your child is in school every day and on time. Thank you for your ongoing support.



Foundation 1
Whole School Thinking
Culture & Climate



Foundation 2
Supportive Policies,
Systems and Processes



Foundation 3
Professional Learning
Staff Development



Foundation 4
Implement Targeted
Programmes And Intervention



Foundation 5
Connect Appropriately With
Approaches To
Behaviour Management

Attendance Champions League

League Table

Week ending Friday 11th April

Position	Club	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	Points
1	7SEB	26	20	0	6	60
2	7BOS	26	19	0	7	57
3	9BER	26	18	0	8	54
4	7TER	26	18	0	8	54
5	7LUK	26	18	0	8	54
6	9LUK	26	17	0	9	51
7	8BOS	26	17	0	9	51
8	7CEC	26	16	0	10	48
9	11CEC	26	15	0	11	45
10	11BOS	26	15	0	11	45
11	10BOS	26	15	0	11	45
12	9SEB	26	15	0	11	45
13	8SEB	26	14	0	12	42
14	8LUK	26	14	0	12	42
15	11SEB	26	13	0	13	39
16	10CEC	26	13	0	13	39
17	9TER	26	13	0	13	39
18	9CEC	26	13	0	13	39
19	8BER	26	13	0	13	39
20	10TER	26	12	0	14	36
21	9BOS	26	12	0	14	36
22	8TER	26	12	0	14	36
23	11LUK	26	11	0	15	33
24	7BER	26	11	0	15	33
25	10LUK	26	9	0	17	27
26	10SEB	26	8	0	18	24
27	8CEC	26	8	0	18	24
28	11BER	26	5	0	21	15
29	10BER	26	5	0	21	15
30	11TER	26	1	0	25	3

Results

Week ending Friday 11th April

7SEB	93.94	VS	97.88	7BER
7LUK	96.47	VS	95.00	7TER
7CEC	97.58	VS	93.94	8BER
7BOS	94.41	VS	96.06	8BOS
11TER	88.17	VS	89.43	8CEC
11SEB	92.59	VS	94.29	8LUK
11LUK	95.00	VS	96.97	8SEB
11CEC	94.19	VS	95.45	8TER
11BOS	91.33	VS	92.58	9BER
11BER	87.19	VS	95.29	9BOS
10TER	89.38	VS	87.10	9CEC
10SEB	88.40	VS	92.65	9LUK
10LUK	91.29	VS	94.55	9SEB
10CEC	93.03	VS	96.13	9TER
10BOS	95.33	VS	87.67	10BER

Fixtures

Week beginning Monday 28th April

7BER	VS	7LUK
7SEB	VS	7CEC
7TER	VS	7BOS
8BER	VS	11TER
8BOS	VS	11SEB
8CEC	VS	11LUK
8LUK	VS	11CEC
8SEB	VS	11BOS
8TER	VS	11BER
9BER	VS	10TER
9BOS	VS	10SEB
9CEC	VS	10LUK
9LUK	VS	10CEC
9SEB	VS	10BOS
9TER	VS	10BER

BC BASICS

At Bishop Challoner Catholic College we have a shared set of values and beliefs which enable students to fully engage with learning.

In order to live out our mission statement and develop our full potential, we are:

Intentional and Respectful
We follow all instructions at the first time of asking.

Learned
In the classroom, we are always on time, organised and prepared.

Attentive
We listen to what we are being told, remaining silent when others are talking.

BC 7

We show respect by being:

FAITHFUL

F aith filled
A ttentive
I ntentional
T ruthful
H elpful
F orgiving
U nderstanding
L earned

Our 7 whole school standards help students to fully engage with learning and our school mission:

1. We have good attendance and punctuality
2. We follow instructions given by adults
3. We are polite and show consideration, care and respect for others
4. We respect the right of everyone to engage with teaching and learning
5. We respect the environment, school property and the property of others
6. We abide by the school dress code and come to school with the correct equipment
7. We do not bring valuable items into school

Consequences will apply when either BC Basics or BC 7 standards are not met

Important Dates

Summer Term 1	
Every Tuesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass 11.30am
Monday 28th April	School Open Year 9 Barber Art Workshop
Wednesday 30th April - Thursday 1st May	Year 11 Art Exam
Wednesday 30th April	Year 7 & Year 8 Mass Year 10 Mock Interviews
Thursday 1st May	Year 7 & Year 8 Junior Maths Challenge - Selected groups
Friday 2nd May	Bishop's Got Talent
Monday 5th May	School closed - May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 6th May - Thursday 8th May	Year 13 Art Exam
Tuesday 6th May	Year 10 Careers Visit Year 11 Leavers Mass
Thursday 8th May	Year 13 Leavers Mass Year 8 Immunisations
Monday 19th May	DofE Silver Parent/Carer meeting
Tuesday 20th May	Year 10 Mass
Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May	School Closed - Half term holiday
Saturday 31st May - Sunday 8th May	Ball Crew
Summer Term 2	
Monday 2nd June	School Open Year 9 Barber Art Workshop
Monday 2nd June - Friday 13th June	Year 12 Beyond BC Workshop
Tuesday 3rd June	Year 9 Mass
Sunday 8th June - Monday 9th June	Year 9 DofE Bronze
Monday 9th June	Dementia Mary Vale Visit
Thusday 12th June - Friday 13th June	Wheelbarrow Food Competition
Friday 13th June	Father's Day Hamper KS3 DT Trip
Monday 16th June - Friday 20th June	Creativity and Refugee Week
Monday 16th June - Wednesday 18th June	Year 9 Soli House
Friday 20th June	Year 12 University of Birmingham Open Day
Sunday 22nd June - Tuesday 24th June	Year 10 & Year 12 DofE Silver Qualifying Expedition
Monday 25th June - Friday 27th June	Science Week
Wednesday 25th June - Friday 27th June	Year 10 Carding Mill
Wednesday 25th June	Year 10 and Year 12 Mass Year 12 UCAS workshop
Monday 30th June - Friday 4th July	Year 10 Work Experience
Monday 30th June	Sports Day Year 11 Prom
Tuesday 1st July	Culture Day
Wednesday 2nd July - Thursday 3rd July	Year 6 Induction Days
Wednesday 2nd July	Year 12 Parent Consultation Evening
Friday 4th July	Year 12 Aston Open Day
Sunday 6th July - Thursday 10th July	Year 10 & Year 11 Rome Trip
Monday 7th July - Friday 11th July	Year 12 Work Experience
Monday 7th July	Year 7 & 8 Lickey Hills Trip
Wednesday 9th July	Sixth Form Taster Day
Thursday 10th July	Battle of the Bands Year 10 Art Trip to Liverpool
Friday 11th July	School closed Year 7 & 10 Parent Consultation Day
Monday 14th July - Wednesday 16th July	Year 12 Dorset Fieldwork
Monday 14th July	Year 12 Careers Day
Wednesday 16th July	Awards Evening
Friday 18th July	Students Last Day of Term
Monday 21st July	School closed - Staff INSET

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