

Message from Mr O'Connor, Vice Principal

As we continue the new academic year into October at Bishop Challoner Catholic College, there is a deep sense of purpose, community, and faith guiding all we do. Our students have settled well into the term, engaging positively with their learning and beginning preparations now for upcoming mock exams and assessments, working closely with their teachers to be well prepared. For our Year 11 students, our upcoming Sixth Form Open Evening on Tuesday 8th October offers a valuable opportunity to explore future subject choices and begin thinking carefully about the next steps in their education or career journey.

Alongside academic progress, we remain committed to the formation of our young people, ensuring they grow not only in knowledge but in character, faith, and service. The experience we offer our students is of vital importance, helping them leave our care with a broad range of life experiences and a strong foundation to make a positive difference in their communities.

Our extensive extra-curricular programme is in full flow, offering opportunities through a wide range of clubs including STEM, Chess, volleyball, badminton, breakfast club, reading, and science to mention a few. Our sporting fixtures are also up and running with competitive matches played in football and netball, as well as representation at the Catholic Partnership PE & Sport and STEM events. Trips are also enriching our students' learning experiences beyond the classroom: over 700 students recently enjoyed a day at Drayton Manor, and others have participated in the sixth form Calke Abbey English trip and a Cyber Girls event for Year 8.

Our Sixth Form students continue to lead by example, preparing yellow ribbons to be sold for World Mental Health Day, supporting the Dementia Centre by playing games and talking with clients through our partnership with the Birmingham Irish Association, and organising a community tea party for elderly residents in Kings Heath. On Tuesday 7th October, our school joined together in prayer as part of the Rosary for World Peace, uniting with Catholics around the world in a moment of reflection and hope.

We are also proud of our students' continued commitment to charity and service. Our CAFOD Family Fast Day raised over £180, and our Macmillan Coffee and Cake Morning brought in more than £250 for cancer support. Students are currently collecting winter coats and baby clothes for Saint Vincent de Paul and St Chad's Sanctuary, offering practical help to those in need.

As ever, we continue to place a strong emphasis on attendance and punctuality, and we thank parents and carers for their continued support. The evidence that highlights the positive impact regular attendance has on learning, examination outcomes, and future opportunities cannot be ignored. As Pope Leo XIII reminds us, "The school is the first place where minds are enriched and hearts are shaped by hope." May we continue to work together, inspired by faith and hope, to offer our students the very best foundation for life.

October is the month of the Rosary, a time when we reflect on the life of Jesus through the eyes of Mary, his mother.

The Rosary is a special prayer that helps us grow in faith, hope, and love. Whether Catholic or not, this month invites us all to pause, reflect, and seek peace in our hearts and in the world.

Loving God,

*As we honour Mary in this Month of the Rosary,
help us to follow her example of saying "yes" to your call.
May we, like her, reflect the light of Christ in our daily
lives. Unite us in peace and purpose, and guide our school
community in love, wisdom, and understanding.*

Amen.



**Bishop Challoner
Sixth Form College**

APPLY NOW





SIXTH FORM NEWS

Our recent Sixth Form Open Evening was a fantastic showcase of all that makes our post-16 provision so special. The evening highlighted our excellent curriculum offer, designed to challenge and inspire students across a wide range of subjects, alongside our rich super curricular and enrichment programme, which helps students grow personally and academically beyond the classroom.

What truly stood out, however, was the strength of our dedicated Sixth Form team. Their commitment to providing individualised, one-to-one guidance and support ensures that every student is known, valued, and encouraged to 'Aspire to be More'.

It was a pleasure to welcome so many enthusiastic students and families, and we look forward to receiving your applications and helping the next cohort of Sixth Formers to thrive.

Please [click here](#) to be taken to our Sixth Form Admissions page where you can view our prospectus, apply for the Sixth Form and view our promotional video as shown below.

Promotional Video



SIXTH FORM REWARDS

REWARD	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
AMBITION	Samuel H Marta McA Kaitlyn McG Tilly M Paige T	Maisie S Samuel P
SERVICE TO OTHERS	Sofia H Pola B Sugar F Erynn F Aidan S Syzmon M	Oliver F Maisie JG Cassidy C
PROGRESSION	Cara M Kaitlyn McG Katie R	Orlagh L
INDEPENDENCE	Callum K Lily G Raul W Kian P	Cassidy C Orlagh L Saoirse N Sofia B
ROLE MODEL	Grace B Helena C Euan C Lucie D Lily G Raul W Kian P Chris O	Zikora C Jacon C George K Ryan M Rafael LF
EXCELLENCE	James B Beatrice M Katie R Damico M LLoyd N	Sofia B Alfie B McJenzie C Shai K Rafael LF Maise S



YEAR 13 MOCKS

Please follow the links below for subject information and guidance on the upcoming Year 13 mocks

<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/sixth-form/welcome/year-13-mocks>

APPLY NOW



CATHOLIC LIFE

ST VINCENT DE PAUL MASS

We were honoured to join St Dunstan's Primary School and our governor, Karen, for a special Mass celebrating St Vincent de Paul's Feast Day. Year 7 pupils, who had been Mini Vinnies in primary school, continued their faith journey and commitment to serving others. We look forward to working closely with local charities throughout the year.



BORN FOR THIS — 30TH ANNIVERSARY PERFORMANCE

We're thrilled to be joining four other Catholic secondary schools in the 30th anniversary production of Born for This—a powerful retelling of the Stations of the Cross through music, dance, drama, and spoken word. Auditions drew an enthusiastic response, with students submitting reels to Jo Boyce for acting, narration, and orchestra roles. Choir invitations will follow soon! The performance takes place at Symphony Hall on 25th March 2026—stay tuned for more details.

GUILD OF ST STEPHEN MASS AT ST CHAD'S CATHEDRAL

On the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, over 300 altar servers from across the Archdiocese of Birmingham gathered at St Chad's Cathedral for the annual Guild of St Stephen Mass. It was a joyful and prayerful celebration of service at the altar. We were proud to see some of our own pupils present, representing their own parishes and taking part in this special diocesan event, which honours the commitment and faith of young people who serve in their local churches.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL MASS

We were delighted to welcome William and Anton, Jesuit novices, into our school community. They spent time in the chapel, joined lessons, and engaged warmly with pupils, sharing insights into their 13-year journey to becoming Jesuits. Highlights included leading Year 7 in Lectio Divina, accompanying Year 9 to Adoration at St Dunstan's, and guiding staff through the Friday morning Examen. We look forward to their return in November.



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH THROUGH THE SAINTS

This October, we are marking Black History Month by reflecting on the lives of saints from around the world. During morning form time, pupils have been introduced to different saints, learning their stories and joining in a short prayer. You can access the full collection of prayers on our website.



PRAYER AND LITURGY IN FORM TIME

Over the past fortnight, pupils have reflected on the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus and the Gospel of the Mustard Seed. After listening to the Word of God, they were invited to contemplate its meaning and consider how they might live out the Gospel message in their daily lives.



We encourage families to continue this journey at home by reading and reflecting on the Sunday Gospels together. The Wednesday Word is a weekly resource that helps connect home, school, and parish through the Sunday Gospel. It offers a simple way for families to share scripture and prayer each week.

You can access the resources at: www.wednesdayword.org

YEAR GROUP MASSES

Year 10 and Sixth Form marked the beginning of their academic year with their first Masses, celebrated by Fr Toby. Year 10 students presented their Work Experience Booklets, symbolising the important choices and experiences ahead. The Sixth Form Mass, held on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, was a first for many Year 12s and featured a beautiful violin performance of Ave Maria by a talented Year 13 student.



CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

Our pupil chaplaincy team led preparations for CAFOD's Family Fast Day, creating posters, visiting form rooms, and hosting a simple lunch of bread and water across both lunchtimes. It was inspiring to see our pupils take the lead in supporting others and living out Catholic Social Teaching.



OCTOBER – MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Throughout October, pupils have been praying the Rosary during lunchtimes and in form classes, with many joining Fr John in the chapel. On the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, the whole school united in praying a decade, joining millions of children worldwide through the ACN global campaign. It was a truly moving experience to walk through the school and hear the Rosary being prayed in every form room. Pupils led with sincerity and grace, offering personal intentions alongside Pope Leo's prayer for peace and justice—a powerful reflection of their faith and our school's unity.



UPCOMING FEAST DAYS

St Carlo Acutis
Sunday 12th October

St Luke the Evangelist
Saturday 18th October

St John Paul II
Wednesday 22nd October

FAITH FORMATION IN THE FAMILY

Below is a list that reminds us of when and where Mass is celebrated in our local parishes.

You may wish to consider using this information to help direct your family to participate frequently in the celebration of Mass throughout the year.

Church	Postcode	Parish Priest	Sunday Mass Times	Saturday Vigil Mass Time
St. Dunstan's	B14 7JN	Fr John Peyton	11.30am, 5.30pm	4pm
St. Jude's	B14 5PE	Fr John Peyton	10am	-
Our Lady Of Lourdes	B13 0EU	Canon Sean Grady	9am, 11.30am	6pm
St Catherine Of Sienna	B5 7BE	Fr. Jagadishmario Kurapati (Fr. Mario)	11am	5.30pm
St Edward's	B29 7DB	Fr Denis McGillycuddy	10.15am	6pm
St Mary's	B17 0DN	Fr John Reid	11am, 5pm	6pm
Sacred Heart and Holy Souls	B27 6RG	Canon Jonathan Veasey	8.30am, 10am, 12noon	5pm
English Martyrs	B11 3JN	Fr Robert Murphy	8.15am, 10.30am	6pm
St Chads Cathedral,	B4 6EX	Bishop Tim Menezes	9.30am, 11.30am	4.30pm
Our Lady And St Brigid	B31 5AD	Fr Cecil Rogerson	10am, 5.30pm	5pm
Our Lady Of Fatima	B32 1LL	Fr Philip Long Nguyen	11am	6pm
St Ambrose Barlow	B28 8QU	Fr Paul Johnson	10am, 5.30pm	5.30pm
The Oratory Of Saint Philip Neri	B16 8UE	Fr Anton Guziel	7.30am, 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.15pm, 5.30pm	5.30pm
St Peters	B32 3QG	Fr Gary Buckby	8.45am	-
Our Lady And St Rose Of Lima	B29 5DY	Fr Gary Buckby	11.30am	-
St John and Martin's	B12 9RG	Fr Baburao Pureti	9.30am	4pm



SAFEGUARDING



ONLINE SAFETY - TIKTOK

TikTok is a video-sharing app that's very popular with teenagers. Whilst a lot of the content may be harmless fun, there is undoubtedly a more sinister side to this platform, with young people falling victim to grooming and dangerous, anti-social and potentially life-threatening 'viral dares'.

Please [click here](#) to read the factsheet to learn more about what steps you can take to help keep your child safe on TikTok.

Please make sure you are aware of your child's social media activities and the age restrictions of the sites they are using. Tiktok should not be accessed by under 13s.

Please follow this link for further reading about dangerous TikTok dares.



[Dangerous Internet Challenges 2025: The Complete Parent's Safety Guide to TikTok and YouTube Trends](#)

CHILD ON CHILD ABUSE

Below is advice for parents and carers on Child-on-Child Abuse. This is an issue that, although rare, can cause great distress and we all have a duty to remain vigilant.

[Parent and carer guidance leaflet](#)



GET IN TOUCH

In order for us work together, to best support our young people, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have information to share regarding the safeguarding or wellbeing of your child.

This is particularly important if there has been a change in circumstances for the young person.

Please contact Mrs K Peckover, Mrs M Nutt or any DSL or member of the Wellbeing Team.

MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Thursday marked the Wellbeing Team's lunchtime celebration to support World Mental Health Day today, 10th October. Our library was transformed into a peaceful sanctuary with various mindfulness activities on offer including bracelet making, Origami, biscuit decorating, mindfulness colouring and a quiet cinema room where students watched Inside Out.

Calming music played whilst some of our 6th form sold yellow ribbons they had made themselves to raise money for the Young Minds charity and students had chance to create a large bow memorial with finger painting and quotes.

Miss Hughes played classical music whilst students as students went into lunch.

The whole event was a really lovely way to reminding each other that is ok not to always feel ok, but that there are always people there to support you.



YEAR GROUP UPDATES

YEAR 8 FOCUS

Year 8 have settled back into school life very quickly and made an excellent start to their second year at Bishop Challoner. The year group has already enjoyed a number of notable successes, both inside and outside the classroom, and we are confident that this positive momentum will continue throughout the year.

The term has begun with a wide range of exciting opportunities. Highlights so far include a Computing trip to Bletchley Park, where students explored the history of codebreaking and its role in shaping the modern digital world. In addition, a group of students took part in the Cybergirls trip, building valuable skills and gaining inspiration for future careers in technology.

Year 8 also represented the school superbly on the Rewards Trip to Drayton Manor. Their excellent behaviour, enthusiasm, and teamwork were praised throughout the day, showing just how well they embody the Bishop Challoner values.

It has been fantastic to see Year 8 embrace these opportunities so early in the academic year. We look forward to celebrating more of their achievements as the year unfolds.

YEAR 7 AND 9 RSE

Year 7 and 9 will be engaging in their RSE units during RE lessons w/b 20th October. All lessons are created by Ten:Ten and approved by the Catholic Church:

Year 7 unit - 'Who am I?' Students will recognise themselves as a child of God, worthy of dignity and understanding themselves as they grow and mature into adulthood.

Year 9 unit - 'Search for Love'. Students will recognise that we are in control of our own choices, consider how we can be kind and bring dignity to different relationships.

YEAR 7 AND 9 ASSESSMENTS

Please follow the links below for subject information and guidance on the upcoming Year 7 and 9 assessments.

Year 7 - <https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/examinations-information/year-7-assessments>

Year 9 - <https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/examinations-information/year-9-assessments>



YEAR 11 INFORMATION EVENING

Thank you so much to everyone who joined us for our Year 11 Parent Information Evening on 23/09/25. It was wonderful to see such a strong turnout and to share with you how we can all work together to support our young people through this important year.

During the evening, we talked about:

- The key dates that are coming up, including mocks and GCSE exams.
- How we can help students stay organised, motivated, and confident in their learning.
- The importance of balance — supporting wellbeing alongside academic success.
- The different options available to students after Year 11, with our Sixth Form Open Evening.

We know this year can feel both exciting and a little overwhelming at times, but with the right support, our students can thrive. Your encouragement at home, combined with the guidance we provide at school, makes a huge difference.

If you couldn't attend, don't worry — a copy of the presentation will be made available on our school website. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or would like a chat about how best to support your child.

We're really looking forward to working together to make this a successful and positive year for every student.

YEAR 9 TIA FLETCHER VISIT

In English lessons last year, we introduced a fantastic verse novel called Crossing the Line which had been selected for our Reading Teachers=Reading Pupils programme and was a huge hit among the reading teachers.

The novel focuses on Erik who, following a traumatic event in his life, makes a series of bad choices that ultimately lead him into the world of County Lines. We were delighted that Tia Fisher, the author of the novel came into our school on Monday 6th October to deliver an assembly to Year 9 students.

We were really delighted to be able to provide this opportunity for our students. Tia delivered a really engaging assembly and creative writing Workshop to our Year 9 students.



ASSEMBLY AND FORM RESOURCE PROGRAMME

It's hard to believe that October is upon us but we are celebrating Black History Month here at Bishop Challoner across the curriculum. We had a wonderful assembly to launch this year's theme 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride', which celebrates those who have made their mark throughout history and in society today. Students have looked at icons of influence - Dr Paul Stevenson and Reverend Canon Eve Pitts and how they have used their voice to champion equality and promote inclusion. This thought provoking assembly has been complemented by the various celebrations that are happening across the school for Black History Month, including competitions in PSHE and History. This week, our focus has been on World Mental Health Day. Key Stage 3 students have been privileged with a team of Year 12 students who created their assemblies and presented them with such enthusiasm and eloquence. All students have been provided with the opportunity to contemplate the various emotions we feel on a day to day basis, and should be equipped with lots of top tips on how to regulate and be resilient to look after our mental health and wellbeing. Of course, students have also been signposted to our DSL and wellbeing team alongside other professional organisations if they have any concerns they wish to discuss.

The Standards for Learning and BC Basics Curriculum continues to promote our Faithful Virtues and over the last fortnight, we have looked at what it really means to be helpful and forgiving. With examples from John's Gospel and looking at the work of Saint Carlo Acutis and Stormzy as role models who have always served others. This week, our focus has been on the virtue of Forgiveness and how this can have impact in our day to day lives. It is wonderful to see students engaging in form time discussions and receiving so many positive logs for displaying these traits throughout the school day.



STUDENT REWARDS

YEAR GROUP	MOST POSITIVE LOGS		YEAR GROUP	MOST POSITIVE LOGS
YEAR 7	Helena C Olivia A Renai R Eliza C Joseph A Orlaith K Moses N Alexander N Ellis M	Abdussamad I Matthan A Emily B Nazar F Nicola M Iyla D Jakub L Isabella B	YEAR 10	Holly H Dillon K Amelia Jon Louis O Chloe Br Bailey B Abbey H
YEAR 8	Sophie O Rylan M Anna-Beth H Jeremiah O Cecilia M Scout M	Waleed M Anenyasha N Grace G Tymofii K Ogochim A Aston M	YEAR 11	Christelle B Lily R Milan H Joceline N Damon M Ciaragh M
YEAR 9	Reuben T Luke C Amnah N Ethan K Luke B Markas M Tendai C	Kayven R Jayan W Markas M Ethan L Mark L Lucy T		

FACILITIES HIRE

We offer a wide range of classes for the local community and our facilities are also available for private hire. For session bookings and all other enquiries please feel free to contact one of the team.

Bishop Challoner Sports Centre is an exciting and innovative sports complex, comprising:-
A full sized Sports Hall
Olympic sized Dojo specifically designed for Martial Arts
Meeting Conference Room

<https://widget.bookteq.com/bishopchallonersportscentre/43f86d02-be0c-4249-ba4a-637f57cfbea0/book-online/b1be746a-fcf8-4de0-a44e-2497d3876911/activity>



EXTRA-CURRICULAR



SPORTS NEWS

RESULTS AND WRITE UPS

Year 7 football - some recent results for year 7 include an unfortunate 2-0 loss to Lordswood Boys (MOTM-Oliver S), a wonderful 4-1 win against Queensbridge (MOTM- Oliver S and Crisdean B) and a convincing 7-2 in round 1 of the Birmingham Cup against Handsworth GS (MOTM-Joseph A). Well done to all the players!

Year 8 football – Fantastic result on Monday with a 5-0 win against Colmers School, well done to all the players and to Akario R who was awarded MOTM.

We wish all students participating in the Catholic School Games at Bishop Walsh this Friday the very best of luck!

HIGHLIGHTS

Huge congratulations to our former student Kasha for a brilliant start to the season having scored for Shrewsbury U-18 at the weekend.

We'd like to also extend our congratulations to former student Alfie who recently scored for Aston Villa U-21 during a narrow defeat to Peterborough. We wish him the best of luck for his upcoming game against West Ham on October 18 in the U-21 Premier League.



[Click here for extra-curricular timetables.](#)



YEAR 7 SPORTS LEADERS

A big thank you and well done to the Year 7 sports leaders who helped run a primary leadership event on Thursday 2nd October. They did a great job and were excellent role models.



CYBER GIRLS TRIP

This week, 30 of our Year 8 girls had the exciting opportunity to visit Aston University to participate in a Cyber Girls First event.

The day included inspiring talks from influential women working in the cybersecurity industry, who shared their experiences and advice about careers in technology. Students also enjoyed a special session with the West Midlands Cyber Crime Unit, where they took part in an escape room-style activity that challenged them to work as a team, think critically, and apply problem-solving skills.

It was an inspiring day that not only opened our students' eyes to the growing field of cybersecurity but also highlighted the exciting opportunities available to them in the future.



BLETCHLEY PARK

Forty of our Year 8 students recently enjoyed an inspiring visit to Bletchley Park, the historic home of World War II codebreaking and modern computing. As part of the trip, they took part in an interactive cyber security workshop, where they learned about protecting information and the importance of online safety. Alongside this, students explored the famous huts and exhibitions, discovering how Alan Turing and his team cracked the Enigma code. The visit gave them a unique chance to connect history with modern-day computing, while also developing problem-solving and teamwork skills.



BISHOP'S GOT TALENT

On Friday 3rd October the Music Department hosted the first BGT of the year, New Kidz on the Block. This annual event features musical performances from our Year 7 students who can play a musical instrument. We were delighted that students volunteered to play, some of them beginners, some of them more experienced.

The library was filled with an enthusiastic audience, cheering on their peers and listening respectfully to the performances. First up to play was Emma, a talented guitarist, who played an acoustic rendition of Metallica's Nothing Else Matters. Following the rock theme, Kimi stepped up on guitar to play the opening to Seven Nation Army, which a lot of the students recognised.

Elijah, who had impressed teachers in lessons with his keyboard skills, played the classic Grand of Duke of York on the piano (and did very well with an unfamiliar keyboard). Davina played solo violin, one of the more challenging instruments, and performed The Two Roses - one of a few students who played entirely from memory!

To close the event we had two more pianists, Ava Rose playing Shotgun by George Ezra, and Lily with her cover of the school classic, All Things Bright and Beautiful.

It was fantastic to see our young performers bravely play in the library, and hopefully this will be the first of many musical performances for them this year. It was really encouraging to have a group of students come and speak to me at the end of the BGT to sign up for instrumental lessons! Well done to our young musicians for kickstarting this year's BGT events in style.



CHESS CLUB

We had a great turn out at Chess Club this week with 23 student attending. There was some serious competition taking place!



YEAR 12 COURT TRIP

This month, all Year 12 Law and Criminology students had the opportunity to visit Birmingham Crown Court – a trip that has now become a much-anticipated tradition for students as they begin their academic journey into the fascinating world of law and justice.

The purpose of the visit is to give students a unique insight into how the law operates in practice, moving beyond the classroom and into the courtroom itself. Students were able to witness first-hand the intricacies of legal proceedings, including advocacy, witness examinations, cross-examinations, and sentencing. They observed how barristers, judges, and court staff fulfil their roles and saw how legal theory translates into real-world practice.

The trip also provided valuable opportunities for students to engage with professionals within the justice system, gaining

advice and inspiration as they begin to consider their own future career paths. For many, this was their first direct experience of a courtroom environment – an experience that will help deepen their understanding of the subjects they are studying and reinforce their passion for pursuing a career in law, criminology, or related fields.

The visit was a resounding success, with students experiencing a wide variety of cases throughout the day. They returned with a greater appreciation of the legal system, a stronger awareness of the demands and responsibilities of legal careers, and a renewed enthusiasm for their studies.

This enriching experience is one of the many ways in which the Law and Criminology departments bring learning to life, inspiring students to think critically, engage deeply, and aspire towards ambitious futures.

FIRST AID AND MOBILE PHONES

Students should not be contacting parents/carers when they feel unwell and requesting to be collected from school. If a student is unwell, they **MUST** go to the First Aider who will deal with them. If a student is not well enough to stay in school, the First Aider will contact parents/carers to arrange collection.

Students who contact their parents/carer directly and do not follow the procedures in place will be sanctioned, this may result in their mobile phone having to be handed in to the student services office each day. The use of anyone else's mobile phone risks that person being sanctioned also.

Please do not arrive at school to collect your child unless school have contacted you to do so. We do not have school staff readily available to collect children. Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Any questions or concerns please email them using the main enquiry email for the attention of first aid or call to speak with first aid on the main school number 0121 444 4161.

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 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 prefer them to have liquid Calpol please send this in to the school first aider with your child's name on it, this will be kept safe in first aid for your child only.



UNIFORM STANDARDS

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

Please note that school shoes must be kept completely black and boots of any kind are not allowed.

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

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

Students found to be wearing an inappropriate item of uniform may be asked to change this or in some cases parents/carers will be contacted and requested to bring replacement uniform to school.

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



REPORTING AN 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 child's 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.

SCHOOL REMINDERS



CONTACTING SCHOOL

Communication between home and school is very important, in the event that you need to contact school please be reminded of the following procedures.

School telephone number- 0121 444 4161

Option 1- To report an absence

Option 2- Head of Year/Pastoral concerns/enquiries

Option 3- Sixth Form enquiries

HEAD OF YEAR CONTACT

All Heads of Year and Assistant Heads of Year have teaching commitments; therefore any Head of Year/Pastoral enquiries should be directed through Option 2 for students in Year 7-11 or option 3 for students in Year 12 or 13.

If student services staff are not available to answer your call in person, please leave a message with the nature of your enquiry/concern and you will get a call back from the most appropriate member of staff at their earliest convenience. We aim to respond to all contact by the end of the next working day.

SENIOR STAFF CONTACT

Contact with Head of Year and/or Head of Department is expected to have been made before issues are escalated to Senior staff. Should you need to speak to a Senior member of staff, please contact school by phone and select Option 2 or 3, depending on the year group of your child and request a call and the most appropriate Senior member of staff will contact you at their earliest convenience.

MEETING STAFF

Any requests for a face to face meeting with staff should be made using the same contact details as above. Please ensure that the purpose of any meeting request is made clear. A member of staff may contact you before a meeting is arranged if more information is required.

Please do not attend school without an appointment unless there is a safeguarding emergency.

SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact school and ask to speak to a DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)). Mrs Peckover is the Senior DSL.

AUTUMN TERM 1

Every Tuesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Monday 13th October	Year 13 Mary Vale Dementia Trip
Tuesday 14th October	Flu Immunisations
Wednesday 15th October	Early Application UCAS Deadline
Friday 17th October	Bishop's Got Talent Charity Cake Sale Toy Appeal - Non uniform day
Monday 20th October	Year 7 and 9 Assessment begin Year 13 Mocks begin
Thursday 23rd October	Charity Halloween Hamper Raffle Year 12 Keble College Visit
Friday 24th October	Staff INSET school closed



Toy Appeal
Christmas 2025

Non Uniform Day

Friday 17th October is a non uniform day to support our Christmas Toy Appeal.

£1 needs to be handed to your form teacher from Monday 13th October.

 Birmingham Irish



 Funded by UK Government

FREE bus travel for parents this October half term

All day, unlimited travel from 27 October until 2 November

Parents, guardians and carers can enjoy unlimited free bus travel across the West Midlands during these dates.

How to claim

Applications are open from Monday 6 October until Wednesday 15 October. Just scan the QR code (or visit tfrm.org.uk/october) to apply!

Once applications close, we'll email you with instructions on how to redeem your free travel through your Swift account.



You're Bussing It 

SCHOOL YEAR 2025 TO 2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Half-term: Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025

Term ends: Thursday 18th December 2025

SPRING TERM 2026

Term starts: Monday 5 January 2026

Half-term: Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026

Term ends: Friday 27 March 2026

SUMMER TERM 2026

Term starts: Monday 13 April 2026

Half-term: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

Term ends: Friday 17th July 2026

INSET DAYS

Friday 24th October 2025

Friday 19th December 2025

Wednesday 4th February 2026

Monday 13th April 2026

Monday 20th July 2026