

Message from Dr Coughlan, Executive Principal

Welcome to the first edition of our BC14 newsletter for this academic year.

It has been wonderful to welcome our young people back to Bishop Challoner and to see the school once again filled with energy, enthusiasm and optimism. Our students have made an excellent start to the year and I have been particularly impressed by our new Year 7 students who are already settling confidently into life at Challoner. I would like to extend an especially warm welcome to all students, parents and carers who are joining our school community for the first time.

We have already enjoyed some very special moments together. This week we celebrated our Year 7 Family Mass which was a wonderful occasion and an important opportunity to welcome our newest students and their families into the Catholic life of our school. It was lovely to see so many families joining us and to begin our Year 7 students' journey at Challoner together in prayer and celebration.

We have also welcomed the parents and carers of our Year 12 and Year 13 students for two excellent information evenings. The partnership between school and home is incredibly important at every stage of a young person's education and particularly so as students embark upon the challenges and opportunities of Sixth Form. I am grateful to everyone who attended and to our staff for the time and care they put into making both evenings so informative and valuable.

This week has also followed the feast day of St Teresa of Calcutta, or Mother Teresa as she is known to so many. Her life was one of extraordinary service to others and her example reminds us that making a difference does not always require grand gestures. She famously encouraged people to do small things with great love. It is a simple message but a powerful one for our school community. In the way we treat one another, the way we welcome those who are new, the effort we bring to our learning and the service we give to others, each of us has an opportunity to make our community stronger.

This reflects our mission at Bishop Challoner to develop our full potential and to serve others. It also connects closely with the wider mission of the Archdiocese of Birmingham to form "Christ-centred pilgrims of hope with kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge and a hunger for justice". These are values that we want our young people not simply to know but to live out through their actions each day.

*Heavenly Father, you have committed to your holy Church the care and nurture of your children. As we begin this new school year, enlighten with your wisdom those who teach and those who learn, that rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth, they may worship you and serve you from generation to generation through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

One of the great strengths of Challoner is the breadth of experiences available to our young people. Our clubs, teams, enrichment activities, leadership opportunities and educational visits are beginning again and I would encourage every student to get involved in school life beyond the classroom. Whether through sport, music, performing arts, service, student leadership or the Catholic life of the school, there really is something for everyone. These experiences are an important part of education at Challoner and help our young people to discover their talents, build confidence and develop into the people they are called to be.

Next week we will also open our doors for our annual Open Evening. It is always one of the highlights of the school calendar and an opportunity for prospective students and their families to experience what makes Bishop Challoner such a special community. I know that our students will once again be tremendous ambassadors for the school and I look forward to welcoming many families through our doors.

As we begin the year there remains a strong focus on attendance, punctuality and ensuring that every student is ready to learn. Every lesson matters and regular attendance is one of the foundations of success. I am grateful to parents and carers for their continued support with this and for the wider partnership between home and school which is so important to everything we seek to achieve.

There is already a great deal to celebrate and much to look forward to. I hope this first edition of BC14 gives you a flavour of the energy and opportunity across our school and I look forward to sharing many more successes with you throughout the year.

My prayers and best wishes to our whole school community for the weeks and months ahead.



UPCOMING EVENTS

BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 16th September 2026
6pm - 8.30pm



To book your place visit
www.bishopchalloner.org.uk

Scan here to
book your
tickets



For admission enquiries email:
admissions@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

For special educational needs enquiries email:
send-enquiries@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

Institute Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7EG
Tel: 0121 444 4161 Fax: 0121 441 1552 enquiry@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

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, which is 0121 444 4161.

CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL DAY



WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2026

The School holds its Open Evening on Wednesday 16th September 2026. As you will be aware, many of our students are involved, either as Prefects or helpers during the evening. Therefore, to facilitate the event, there will be some changes to the following School days:

School will finish at:

1:10pm on Wednesday 16th September 2026

And there will be a late start at:

11:00am on Thursday 17th September 2026

OPEN EVENING HELPERS

If your child has been asked to help in a department at Open Evening please consent via Schoolcomms by **Monday 14th September**.



Please leave a comment detailing how your child will be getting home at the end of the evening.





SIXTH FORM NEWS



Bishop Challoner
Sixth Form College

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 7th October, 5.30-7.30pm

MEET THE SIXTH FORM

Wednesday 10th March, 4pm-5.30pm

A fully comprehensive Sixth Form welcoming
students of all faiths and none



Scan here to book your tickets

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW YEAR 12 STUDENTS

A very warm welcome to our new Year 12 cohort! We hope students thoroughly enjoyed the induction day and are now beginning to settle into Sixth Form life. Starting a new chapter can bring plenty of excitement as well as some nerves, and we are delighted to see students getting to know their new routines, teachers and developing new friendships.

This week, we also welcomed Year 12 parents and carers to our Parent Information Evening. We hope the evening provided a useful overview of the year ahead, as well as an opportunity to learn more about the key policies, procedures and expectations that support students throughout their Sixth Form journey.

We are also excited to launch our Year 12 Enrichment Programme this week. Students will be introduced to opportunities such as the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) we will be launching once again this year, alongside a wide range of super-curricular opportunities designed to broaden their interests, develop new skills and encourage them to explore subjects beyond the classroom. We strongly encourage students to make the most of these opportunities as they begin building their Sixth Form experience and preparing for their future pathways.

WELCOME BACK TO YEAR 13

A very warm welcome back to our Year 13 students as they begin their final year of Sixth Form. This is an important and exciting year, and we are looking forward to working closely with students to help them achieve the very best academic outcomes and continue to make progress towards their individual goals and ambitions.

As students settle back into their studies, we have also begun to pick up momentum with the UCAS process for those considering university as their next step. This includes supporting students with their university choices and the development of their personal statements, ensuring they have the guidance and advice they need to make informed decisions about their future.

We know that Year 13 brings both opportunities and challenges, and our team is committed to supporting students throughout the year. We encourage all students to make the most of the support available, stay focused on their goals and approach this final year with confidence and ambition.

"...the sixth form has the right balance between independence and guidance, which has made the step up from secondary school very worthwhile for me, and I can't wait to see what the rest of sixth form brings."

Year 12 Student



EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLES

 BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE AIMS BELIEVE SUCCEED		P.E. EXTRA CURRICULAR PROGRAMME GET INVOLVED STAY ACTIVE BE YOUR BEST				
DAY	TIMES	SPORTS CENTRE	PLAYGROUND/OTHER	IRISH CENTRE	STUDY SESSIONS	
MONDAY	8:00 – 8:30	Y9 & 10 FOOTBALL All students welcome Ms Hunter			WK1 – BTEC SPORT Mr Brade C2	
	3:20 – 4:30	TEAM TRAINING			WK2 – GCSE PE Mr O'Connor E2	
	4:30 – 5:30					
TUESDAY	7:45 – 8:30	RACKET SPORTS All students welcome Ms Ellis				
	3:20 – 4:30	VOLLEYBALL All students welcome Mr Ebrahim				
	4:30 – 5:30					
WEDNESDAY	7:45 – 8:30	NETBALL All students welcome Mrs Wilson	DARTS (Changing Rooms) All students welcome Mr Brade		WK2 – BTEC SPORT Mr Wilson C2	
	3:20 – 4:30	GIRLS FOOTBALL All students welcome Ms Rigby			WK2 – HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE Mrs Moon H1	
	4:30 – 5:30					
THURSDAY	7:45 – 8:30	BASKETBALL All students welcome Mr Noone				
	3:20 – 4:30	RUGBY All students welcome Mr Carter			WK1 – HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE Ms Rigby & Ms Hunter H1	
	4:30 – 5:30					
FRIDAY	N/A					
	N/A					
						Everyone Welcome PLAY PART BELONG

 BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE		EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE			
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
Breakfast Club BC4 7:30 – 8:30 Ms McGowan	Breakfast Club BC4 7:30 – 8:30 Ms McGowan	Breakfast Club BC4 7:30 – 8:30 Ms McGowan	Breakfast Club BC4 7:30 – 8:30 Ms McGowan	Breakfast Club BC4 7:30 – 8:30 Ms McGowan	
Choir ('We Sing') PA2 3:20 – 4:10 Mrs Choudhury	Chess Club MC2 3:30 – 4:00 Mr Welch	Drama Club PA2 3:20 – 4:00 Miss Hughes	Quiz Club (Week 2) (Year 9 & 10) BC3 3:20 – 4:00 Mr Robinson	Film Club Library Lunchtime Mrs Newton	
Vinyl Record Club Library 3:20 – 4:00 Mrs Newton	Vinyl Record Club Library 3:20 – 4:00 Mrs Newton	Vinyl Record Club Library 3:20 – 4:00 Mrs Newton	Vinyl Record Club Library 3:20 – 4:00 Mrs Newton	Vinyl Record Club Library 3:20 – 4:00 Mrs Newton	
Journaling Club Library 3:20 – 4:00 Mrs Newton	Journaling Club Library 3:20 – 4:00 Mrs Newton	Journaling Club Library 3:20 – 4:00 Mrs Newton	Journaling Club Library 3:20 – 4:00 Mrs Newton	Journaling Club Library 3:20 – 4:00 Mrs Newton	
		Cyber Girls C4 3:20 – 4:15 Mr Ebrahim	Textiles Club (Week 2) T1 3:20 – 4:20 Mrs Dane		
			Tech Innovators (Computing) C4 3:20 – 4:15 Mr Ebrahim		
					

ASSEMBLY AND FORM RESOURCE PROGRAMME

It has been a wonderful start to the new academic year at Bishop Challoner, and our assemblies have played an important part in helping students begin the year with a strong sense of purpose, community and faith. Our first whole-school assemblies began with a warm welcome from our Principal, Dr Coughlan, who welcomed students back to school and encouraged them to approach the new academic year with ambition, positivity and a commitment to making the most of every opportunity.

Across our assemblies over the past two weeks, we have focused on what it means to be part of the Bishop Challoner community and, in particular, how our Faithful Virtues can guide the way we learn, behave and treat one another. We have encouraged students to think about the type of person they want to become, not simply the results they want to achieve. Our Standards for Learning Curriculum provides a shared language for this, helping students to understand that qualities such as being attentive and faith-filled are important both in the classroom and in life beyond school.

Attendance Matters

A key message throughout our assemblies has also been the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality. Every day in school is an opportunity to learn, develop relationships, take part in school life and make progress. We have reminded students that being present and ready to learn every day really does make a difference. We want every student to develop positive habits from the very beginning of the year — arriving on time, being prepared, engaging fully in lessons and making the most of every opportunity that school provides.

Students have also been challenged to think about how our Faithful Virtues can be seen in action: in the way we listen to others, respond to challenges, show kindness, take responsibility and make positive choices. A particular focus has been on the importance of starting well. We have reminded students that every new academic year is an opportunity for a fresh start — to establish positive habits, set ambitious goals and make choices that will help them to flourish.

Through prayer, reflection and discussion, our assemblies have also provided opportunities for students to consider how their faith can influence the way they live each day. We want our students to recognise that our values are not simply words displayed around school; they should be lived out through our actions.

As we move into the weeks ahead, we will continue to make our Faithful Virtues visible and meaningful, celebrating students who demonstrate them and encouraging everyone in our community to keep our standards high and our culture kind. We look forward to building on this positive start and seeing our students continue to grow in confidence, character, faith, attendance and learning throughout the year.

FIRST SCHOOL MASS

We welcomed our Year 7 pupils, together with their parents and carers, to our 'New Beginnings' Mass this week. It was a joyous occasion, with pupils taking an active role by leading readings and bidding prayers, presenting the offertory gifts, singing in the choir and serving at the altar.



We began Mass with form representatives bringing a framed picture of their class Saint to the altar, signed by the whole class as a symbol of our unity as the Bishop Challoner community. Fr Toby celebrated a beautiful Mass and, in his thought-provoking homily, reminded us that, just as Jesus helped the fishermen to bring in a great catch, we too can be more fruitful when we ask God and others to help us become the best we can be. A wonderful way for our Year 7 pupils to begin their Bishop Challoner journey.

FEAST DAY OF ST MOTHER TERESA

Last weekend, we celebrated the Feast Day, and 10th Anniversary of becoming a saint, of St Mother Teresa, one of our form Saints. Grace K, Isla H (8TER), Scott and Anenyasha, (9TER), Tajah and Yankee (10TER) did a wonderful job in leading us through a prayer service in form time this week. We were reminded how St Mother Teresa lived a life full of service and love for others and how she continues to be a perfect role model. We were asked to live out our mission statement by helping others, treating each other with respect and kindness and praying for those in need and in thanks for what we have. "Love has no meaning if it isn't shared, it needs to be put into action"



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
St. Dunstan's
St. Jude's
Our Lady Of Lourdes
St Catherine Of Sienna
St Edward's
St Mary's
Sacred Heart and Holy Souls
English Martyrs
St Chads Cathedral
Our Lady And St Brigid
Our Lady Of Fatima
St Ambrose Barlow
The Oratory Of Saint Philip Neri
St Peters
Our Lady And St Rose Of Lima
St John and Martin's
Ss Joseph and Helen with St Paul's

EDUCATION SUNDAY

This weekend is Education Sunday (13th Sunday 2026), one of the oldest Days of Special Prayer in England and Wales, established 178 years ago in 1848. It provides an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to all involved in making Catholic schools places of enlightenment, as well as to look forward in anticipation of the year ahead.

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

On Tuesday, to celebrate the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, students were invited to pray the rosary during break and lunchtime. We had students from across the school, from Year 7 through to Year 11, come in and pray three decades of the sorrowful mysteries in honour of Our Lady. One of Year 7 students bravely led the rosary alongside other Year 7, 8 and 9 students!



NEW JUNIOR LEGION OF MARY GROUP

Students are warmly invited to join our new Junior Legion of Mary group - a rosary group meeting Wednesdays at 3:30pm in the School Chapel with Fr John. Come along, make new friends, grow in faith, and be part of Mary's army!



+ FIRST AID INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES

All medication must be handed into First Aid and must not be carried by students. Exceptions are EpiPens, asthma inhalers and insulin. Tranexamic acid may be permitted in special circumstances.

Please ensure we have up-to-date medical and emergency contact information. Notify First Aid via the school enquiries email or main school telephone number if your contact details or your child's medical circumstances change.

Students should bring a refillable water bottle to school. Water stations are available, or drinks can be purchased from the canteen.

Students with asthma must carry their own inhaler, including on off-site activities and school trips.

Parents/Carers of students with allergies must provide antihistamine medication to First Aid. Students with anaphylaxis must have antihistamine in addition to their EpiPen.

We do not provide liquid paracetamol, such as Calpol. If your child cannot take tablets, please provide clearly labelled Calpol to First Aid. This will be stored securely for your child's use 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 gold or silver 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). Mrs Peckover is the Senior DSL.

5 FOUNDATIONS OF ATTENDANCE

This year we will continue to follow the 5 Foundations of Effective Attendance Practice framework for Year 7-13, please find information on the website by click the link <https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/news>.

AUTUMN TERM 1	
Every Tuesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Monday 14th September	Year Carding Mill Trip
Tuesday 15th September	Year 9 Mass at St Dunstan's 2pm
Wednesday 16th September	Open Evening 6pm-8.30pm Early Closure 1.10pm
Thursday 17th September	Late start
Tuesday 22nd September	Year 8 Bletchley Park Visit Year 10 Mass at St Dunstan's 2pm
Wednesday 23rd September	Year 11 Support Event 5.30pm - 6.30pm Year 13 Slapton Field Trip Information Evening Year 7 and Year 8 Irish Centre Opening Ceremony Tournament - Select students
Thursday 24th September	Year 10 and 11 London Art Trip
Friday 25th September	Drayton Manor Year 12 Bonding Day Year 13 UCAS Day
Monday 28th September	Show Box Appeal Launch
Tuesday 29th September	Year 11 Mass at St Dunstan's 2pm
Wednesday 30th - Friday 2nd October	Year 13 Slapton Sands
Wednesday 30th September	Year 10 Information Evening 5.30pm - 6.30pm
Thursday 1st October	Year 7 Early Review Evening
Friday 2nd October	Year 12 Options Deadline
Tuesday 6th October	Sixth Form Mass at St Dunstan's 2pm
Wednesday 7th October	Sixth Form Open Evening Year 12 and 13 Senior Maths Challenge
Thursday 8th October	World Mental Health Day Wellbeing Cafe
Tuesday 13th October	Dementia Cafe Trip KS3 Information Evening Year 12 Criminology Crown Court Visit
Wednesday 14th October	PSG vs Man City Trip
Thursday 15th October	Year 13 Early UCAS Deadline
Friday 16th October	Year 12 Law Crown Court Deadline
Tuesday 20th October - Wednesday 21st October	Y7-10 Sponsored Sports Event
Tuesday 20th October	Year 8 Girls Cyber Event
Wednesday 21st October	Year 8 Virtual Work Experience Day
Thursday 22nd October	Last day before half term
Friday 23rd October	Staff INSET School closed to students



SCHOOL YEAR 2026 TO 2027

AUTUMN TERM 2026

Half-term: Monday 26 October 2026 to Friday 30 October 2026

Term ends: Thursday 17 December 2026

SPRING TERM 2027

Term starts: Monday 4 January 2027

Half-term: Monday 15 February 2027 - Friday 19 February 2027

Term ends: Thursday 25 March 2027

SUMMER TERM 2027

Term starts: Monday 12 April 2027

Half-term: Monday 31 May 2027 to Friday 4 June 2027

Term ends: Tuesday 20 July 2027

INSET DAYS

Friday 23 October 2026

Friday 18 December 2026

Wednesday 3 February 2027

Friday 30 April 2027

Wednesday 21 July 2027



ATTENDANCE **STREAK**



**EVERY DAY COUNTS.
BUILD YOUR STREAK!**



Comhaltas
Birmingham Branch

Traditional Irish Music Classes in Birmingham

at Bishop Challoner School,
Institute Road, Kings Heath B14 7EG
Thursday evenings at 7.00pm

Join our vibrant community and learn
to play traditional music
All ages and all instruments welcome.

*Lessons on TinWhistle, flute, fiddle,
button accordion, bodhrán*

Contact: Branch Sec. belindahutchings@yahoo.com
Branch Chair, Marian Dwyer, Text 07939 094797

*Now accepting new students
for the autumn term 2026
Taster Session Thursday 10th at 7pm*

Everyone Welcome