

Mary, give me your heart: so beautiful, so pure so immaculate; your Heart so full of love and humility that I May be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life and love Him as you love Him and serve Him in the distressing guise of the poor.

## Message from Mr Hearnden, Vice Principal

Friday 12th May 2023

The devotion to Mary during the month of May started sometime in the Thirteenth Century. During this month, students have devoted their prayer and liturgy in school to Mary. In difficult times we all need the loving care of Our Mother Mary and it is important to remember that we can pray to Mary anywhere - through formulaic prayer or spontaneous prayer.

Mary had no sense of self, just as many of our school community, regularly put aside their sense of self in living out the school mission statement by serving others. It was with this humility that Mary was free from any tainting of selfishness, and she had the freedom to listen to and obey God. Through looking up to Mary we can learn from her example and as Mary is the Mother of the Church, she becomes our guide and inspiration.

It is with the guidance and inspiration of our staff that Year 11 and Year 13 students continue to prepare for the start of their public examinations next week. We wish all our students the very best of luck as they enter this period of assessment and we most certainly keep them in our thoughts and prayers. Our Year 7, 9 and 10 students also have upcoming assessments, and we congratulate all students on their hard-work and commitment in preparation for these. Please remember that there is a plethora of information for parents/carers and students on our school website in relation to assessment and examination preparation.

Following unfortunate defeats at the semi-final stage for our Year 9 and Year 10 boys recently it was great to watch our Year 7 girls crowned West Midlands champions this week with a resounding 8-0 victory over Summerhill School. The girls put in an outstanding team performance and were deserved winners, congratulations to them and Miss Hampson who led them to victory! Our Year 9 boys are also now looking forward to a cup final to be played at Villa Park during half term, we wish them well with this.

Finally, as a school we continue to re-emphasise the importance and expectations of good attendance and punctuality. Students must be in school on time everyday. Please support the school in giving your child the best chance of achieving their full potential.





It is hard to miss the storm that generative AI has produced in the news in recent months. The recent developments in this field are a breakthrough for public use, and platforms such as ChatGPT are likely going to change many working practices going forward. Of course, education is no different and the implications of generative AI will also be found here. There are many advantages to generative AI and many times savings can be found by using the platforms complete everyday tasks. However, there are also some inherent dangers and concerns with such technology:

**Accuracy** – there is no guaranteeing that what a platform generate is 100% accurate. The onus will still be on the person using the platform to proofread and check.

**Plagiarism** – with all aspects of schoolwork, it is intended that the student completes all work themselves and is accountable for the accuracy and honesty of such work. The use of a platform such as ChatGPT to complete work Will be treated the same as copying someone else's work.

**Bias** – one area of AI, which is consistently under scrutiny, is bias amongst both the data used to generate, and the outcomes that it produces. This has always been a worry with AI, and this concern will no doubt grow exponentially as more, and more people become aware of the powers of such platforms.

We are encouraging parents and carers to engage in a conversation with their child, and to discuss the aspects of accuracy, plagiarism, and bias, and what this means to schoolwork, students should be completing work on their own.

## Mental Health Awareness Week

Next week is Mental Health Awareness Week.

The theme this year is anxiety. Remember it is perfectly normal for young people (and us older ones too!) to feel anxious about all sorts of situations, whether that's a new social setting, an important set of assessments or an artistic or sporting event. Indeed a certain amount of anxiety reminds that something is important to us and can help us to perform at our best. Next week would be a god time to have conversations at home about the benefits and how normal of a bit of 'healthy nervousness' is. However, when anxiety becomes debilitating, when it stops us doing things that matter to us, we need to take action. If you feel that anxiety is having a negative impact on your child, please speak to the Head of Year, in the first instance, or contact a member of the Well-being Team.

Social Media and your mental health.

Unfortunately the relentless draw of social media can contribute to feelings of anxiety in young people. Consider limiting access to devices after bedtime, checking your child's phone regularly to ensure they are staying safe and making wise decisions online. Most social media platforms are age-restricted to 13+ as a minimum.

Childline has advice about feeling good on social media. When not have a look at this with your child?

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/feeling-good-on-social-media/>



## 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.

## EXAM INFORMATION

### Year 11 Study Sessions

[Click here](#) for an amended Y11 study session timetable during the exam period. Students will be advised what subject they need to attend. If staff do not require students, they should attend their normal scheduled study session if it is still running, again staff will advise accordingly.

### Year 7, 9, 10 and 12 Assessments

Please visit the school website and follow the homepage links for subject information and guidance on the Summer assessments.

### Summer Examination Timetables

[Click here](#) to view the GCSE and GCE provisional examination timetable.

## Year 7 Revision Club

A Year 7 revision club begins on Wednesday 3rd May and will then run every **Tuesday** until the end of the P2 assessments. It will be held in E8 from 3.10pm-4.10pm. Your child is welcome to come to revise and learn some tips on successful revision.



# Sports Updates

## West Midlands Cup winners!!!!

Year 7 girls faced off against a tough Summerhill side who have been in incredible form leading up to the West Midland Cup final. The match was very even in the early minutes of the game with both teams having incredible chances. The technical excellence of BC was too much for Summerhill to overcome with the game finishing 8-0. This is an incredible achievement for Year 7 and the first team in all year groups to win a trophy this season. Well done.



## U16 Ireland National Team

Former student Alfie who is currently playing for Aston villa has been selected for the Ireland national team at U16 level. Alfie played the full 90 minutes and helped his team to win 4-2. As a school we wish Alfie the best of luck and we are extremely proud of his achievements.

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## Faith formation in the family

The start of a new year provides a perfect opportunity for families to reflect upon their faith and how we can come together to support each other on our journey of faith during 2023.

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 in 2023.

Church	Postcode	Parish Priest	Sunday Mass Times	Saturday Vigil Mass Time
St. Dunstan's	B14 7JN	Fr Philip Harrop	10am 12noon 6.30pm	5.30pm
St. Jude's	B14 5PE	Fr Philip Harrop	9.15am	-
Our Lady Of Lourdes	B13 0EU	Canon Sean Grady	9am 11am	6pm
St Catherine Of Sienna	B5 7BE	Fr. Jagadishmario Kurapati (Fr. Mario)	10.30am	5pm
St Edward's	B29 7DB	Fr Denis McGillicuddy	10.15am	6pm
St Mary's	B17 0DN	Fr John Reid	8am 9.30am 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	9.45am	6pm
St Chads Cathedral,	B4 6EX	Mgr Tim Menezes	9.30am 11.30am	4.30pm
Our Lady And St Brigid	B31 5AD	Fr Cecil Rogerson	9.00am 11.45am	10am 5pm
Our Lady Of Fatima	B32 1LL	Fr Philip Long Nguyen	9.00am 11.00am	6pm
St Ambrose Barlow	B28 8QU	Fr Paul Johnson	10.00am 5.30pm	5.30pm
The Oratory Of Saint Philip Neri	B16 8UE	Fr Anton Guziel	8.30am 10.30am 12pm 5.30pm	5.30pm
St Peters	B32 3QG	Fr Gary Buckby	9.30am	-
Our Lady And St Rose Of Lima	B29 5DY	Fr Gary Buckby	11am	5.15pm

## Prayer and Worship

Each Monday morning we begin our school day with a reflection on the Gospel shared in Mass on Sunday.

Each week we share our reflection on the school website, you can view it [here](#).

We would strongly encourage parents/carers to engage in developing their children's faith by sharing this reflection together as a family. As a family you can discuss the message of the Gospel say the prayer together and share what personal messages we can take from this going forward.

### Attendance Update

Year 7 - 95.1%  
Year 8 - 92.2%  
Year 9 - 91.8%  
Year 10 - 91.7%  
Year 11 - 90.3%  
Whole School - 92.2%



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## Leave in Term Time

Term time holidays cause significant concern. The direct correlation between attendance and attainment is undeniable. Absence from school interrupts teaching and learning and compromises progress. As per the letter regarding legal action sent at the start of the academic year, Birmingham local authority seeks to support Birmingham schools and academies in reducing the amount of education lost to student leave of absence in term time. Bishop Challoner Catholic College and Birmingham City Council strongly discourages student leave of absence during term time and parents/carers could be subject to court action and hefty fines. A recent leave in term time absence has resulted in a fine of £433. Please support the school and your child and ensure all leave is taken in the school holidays.

## Upcoming Events

<b>KS3 Football Development Tour</b> Saturday 13th May - Wednesday 17th May	<b>Ascension of Jesus - Mass B'ham Connect Event</b> <b>Catholic Games Chess</b> Thursday 18th May
<b>Assessments Begin Year 12 Mock Exams</b> Monday 15th May	<b>BC Tea Party</b> Wednesday 24th May
<b>Robotics Session</b> Tuesday 16th May	<b>8CEC Bake Sale</b> <b>BGT Spiritual Life</b> Thursday 25th May
<b>Catholic Games Golf</b> Wednesday 17th May	

## Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes

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

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

With the Seasons changing, If your child suffers with Hay Fever, please provide Antihistamine in school to be kept in first aid. Thank you

## 5 Foundations of Effective Attendance Practice

Further to our communication in December, Parents/carers of students who have already been absent from school for 4 days-18.5 days this academic year will be receiving stage 1, 2 or 3 letters via email by Monday 9th January. Whilst we acknowledge that genuine reasons (such as illness) can make school attending school difficult we also want to focus our attention on one of our school Commit to Character virtues, resilience, and work together to keep building resilience in our students.

Over the course of the next 5 BC14 publications, we will introduce you to each of the foundations-

*The school has a fully embedded ethos in which excellent school attendance is expected, developed and nurtured. The escalated approach to supporting attendance is built on foundations of belonging and connectedness.*

## 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 school skirt (not lycra or stretchy). Girls are also reminded that if they choose to wear a skirt, then they should wear plain, black, opaque tights. Students are reminded that black leather school shoes should be worn and that trainers/trainer style shoes are forbidden.

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

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

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

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

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

## Scarves

A recent trend appears to be the wearing of scarves. Scarves should only be worn with a coat and should not be worn inside, the same as coats.

## IMPORTANT First Aid Reminder

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

