



Message from Dr Coughlan, Principal

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

It has been a joy to welcome our young people back into school after the summer break. Our students have made an excellent start to the academic year with our new cohort of Year 7 quickly getting to grips with life at Challoner and our older students showing tremendous focus in their lessons. For those students, parents and carers, who perhaps do not know our school as well, I extend an especially warm welcome.

Each Year we give a theme to our school community, in the past we have had the Year of Celebration and the Year of Giving and last year was our Year of Hope which ties in with our former Pope, Pope Francis, announcing that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year, something which happens roughly every 25 years. The theme for our Jubilee year has been "Pilgrims of Hope," and it is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate crisis.

Bishop Richard Challoner, whom our school is named after, is described as "a man of great hope". He knew that hope would help him to give service to others especially those most in need. Last year our school community raised £6,000 to support Fr Hudson's Caritas which was a remarkable effort. Our young people also actively engaged in supporting their community in a variety of ways demonstrating proactive support for charitable work.

This year our Year of Hope will continue and when it concludes at Christmas, Challoner will begin its Year of Youth taking inspiration from Saint Carlo Acutis who has just become the first millennial saint on Sunday in St Peter's square in Rome and last year we had the privilege of having the relics of Saint Carlo Acutis visit the school.

One of the best things about Challoner are the incredible clubs, sports events, competitions and trips we offer; we really pride ourselves on the experience we offer to our young people. There are clubs to join before school every day and after school and our programmes will be launched next week. Alongside our extra-curricular provision there will be many leadership opportunities for our students for example, through playing an active role in the Catholic life of the school, working as part of the school council, showing stewardship as part of our ECO group or becoming a student prefect.

The school has always offered incredible educational visits and this year will be no different. We regularly visit Iceland,

*Loving God, we thank You for the gift of a new school year,
a time of new beginnings and fresh opportunities.
Bless us in this important year of learning and exams:
guide our choices, strengthen our efforts,
and help us grow in wisdom and courage.
May our school community be one of faith, hope, and service,
where we support one another and share our gifts generously.
Help each of us to discover and develop our full potential,
so that in all we do, we give glory to You.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

France, Belgium, Ireland in the past we have been to Canada, the United States, South Africa, San Francisco and just a few months ago some of our older students travelled to Peru.

Alongside the formation of our young people the experience we offer is of vital importance to ensure pupils leave our care with a broad range of life experiences and equipped to make a positive difference to their communities.

As we begin our new academic year there remains a sharp focus on attendance and punctuality and I thank parents and carers for their support in ensuring our children attend school regularly and arrive on time. There is a growing evidence base to show how vital good attendance can be and the positive impact it has on examination outcomes and future earning.

Before I end, I just want to take a moment to congratulate the students that have just completed their public examinations they are an absolute credit to their families and to the school. The GCSE, A-level and vocational results are excellent once again this year.

I wish all of our young people the very best for this academic year and look forward to celebrating in their successes in the weeks and months to come.

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 17th September 2025
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@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

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



Bishop Challoner
Sixth Form College

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 8th October, 5.30-7.30pm

MEET THE SIXTH FORM

Thursday 19th March, 4pm-5.30pm

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

A

AMBITION



S

SERVICE TO OTHERS



P

PROGRESSION



I

INDEPENDENCE



R

ROLE MODEL



E

EXCELLENCE



Scan here to book your tickets



CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL DAY



WEDNESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2025 (6PM-8:30PM)

The School holds its Open Evening on Wednesday 17th September 2025. 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 17th September 2025

And there will be a late start at:

11:00am on Thursday 18th September 2025

OPEN EVENING HELPERS

If your child has been asked to help in a department at Open Evening please consent via Schoolcomms by **Monday 15th September**.



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

"...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

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AT BISHOP CHALLONER SIXTH FORM

At Bishop Challoner Sixth Form College, excellence in teaching is at the core of everything we do. Our passionate and highly skilled teachers bring subjects to life, challenge students, and inspire a love of learning that lasts beyond the classroom. Lessons are engaging, and are tailored to meet individual student needs, ensuring every student is equipped to achieve their full potential. This commitment to high-quality teaching helps foster a culture of ambition across the sixth form college. Sign up to our sixth form open evening to find out more.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLES

	TIME	SPORTS HALL	PG	DOJO
MON	7:45 - 8:25	Year 9 and 10 Boys Basketball		
	3:30 - 4:30	KS3 Girls Football		
TUES	7:45 - 8:25	Badminton / Pickleball		
	3:30 - 4:30	Volleyball	Year 7 Boys Football Team Training (WK1)	
WED	7:45 - 8:25	Year 7 and 8 Boys Basketball		
	3:30 - 4:30	Year 7 and 8 Boys Football		Ju-Jitsu Invitation only
THURS	7:45 - 8:25	KS3 Touch Rugby		Tchoukball
	3:30 - 4:30	KS3 Girls Netball		
FRI	7:45 - 8:25	Year 9 and 10 Boys Football		



Click here to view timetables online.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast Club BC4 7.30-8.30 Miss Crump	Breakfast Club BC4 7.30-8.30 Mrs McGowan & Mrs Jones	Breakfast Club BC4 7.30-8.30 Mrs McGowan & Mrs Jones	Breakfast Club BC4 7.30-8.30 Mrs McGowan & Mrs Jones	Breakfast Club BC4 7.30-8.30 Mrs McGowan & Mrs Jones
Homework Club BC4 3.20-4 Mrs Thomas	Chess Club MC2 3:30-4:15 Mr Welch	German Language Club L1 3.30-4 Miss Coles	Homework Club BC4 3.20-4 Mrs Thomas	
'We Sing' Choir PA2 3.30 - 4.10 Mrs Choudhury	Axiom Maths (invite only) M6 3.20-4.20 Mrs Cullen	Maths Drop-In M1 3.20-1420 Maths staff	Debate Club Library 3.20-4.20 Mrs Newton	
	BC Band PA2 3.30-4.15 Miss Hughes	Drama Club PA1 3.30-4.15 Miss Hughes	Yr7-9 Science Club S9 3.20-4.20 Science staff	
	Textiles Club T1 3.20-4.15 Mrs Dane	Cookery Club Week 2 T5 3.30-4.15 Mrs Higginson	Further Maths Week 2 3.20-4.20 Invite only Y11 (Mr Sarcevic) M1 Y10 (Miss Stone) M6	
	Art and Craft Club A1 3.30-4.15 Miss Swingle/ Miss Neal			

Click here to view Science Club letter.



ASSEMBLY AND FORM RESOURCE PROGRAMME

It has been wonderful to welcome back all of our students and what better way than in our Year group assemblies with Heads of Year and Dr Coughlan setting the scene for the year ahead. Students were attentive in listening to a story about the weight of the backpack - a relevant metaphor for letting things go and having a fresh start in the academic year ahead, whilst also being reassured that our DSL and Well-being team are here to help, alongside all staff at Bishop Challoner. This week students had Mr Clarke speak to them about the importance of good attendance and were very keen to listen to the national data which shows a direct correlation between excellent attendance and the higher the salary you will earn as an adult!

Our form resource programme has been launched for the Autumn term with looking at our Faithful Virtues - Faith-filled and Attentive. Students have had the opportunity to really unpick what it means to have these qualities, whilst looking at how Jesus displayed them in the Gospels. We have also looked at other key figures in society today showing that they are both faith-filled and attentive from TV stars to Saints. Students also have the opportunity to do their own research and discussions on these with their form tutors and celebrate any positive logs that they may have achieved.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY DONATIONS

Throughout the year our students create amazing projects using many different materials.

Year 7 will be working on a Device Stand project and we are asking everyone to collect HDPE 2 bottle tops and send them into the school throughout the year to support our students work.

We would also like to ask for donations of any large unwanted pieces of fabric e.g. old bed covers or sheets. These materials will help Year 8 students during their project to make a sustainable bag.

Students are asked to drop donations off at the DT office. Thank you for your support

SCHOOL LIBRARY WELCOME



Please click here
to download

a copy of
our Library
Welcome
booklet.

We are always
looking to improve
our library and
welcome donations
of any unwanted
board games for our
Tuesday and Thursday
social lunchtime sessions.



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.

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>

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

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

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

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.

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 15th September	Year 13 online Parents/carers information evening
Tuesday 16th September	Year 8 Bletchley Park Visit Year 11 Mass Year 12 Enrichment Launch Assembly
Wednesday 17th September	Open Evening Early Finish for students
Thursday 18th September	Late start for students 11am KS3 Chaplaincy Commissioning Trip
Friday 19th September	Bishop's Got Talent Hamper Raffle
Monday 22nd September	Drayton Manor Trip Year 12 Team Building Day Year 13 UCAS Preparation Day Shoe Box Appeal Launch
Tuesday 23rd September	Year 11 Parent/Carer Information Evening Year 8 and Year 9 Mass
Wednesday 24th September - Friday 26th September	Year 13 Biology Field Trip
Tuesday 30th September	Year 12 Law Crown Court Trip Year 10 Mass
Wednesday 1st October	Year 12 Criminology Crown Court Trip
Friday 3rd October	CAFOD Family Fast Day
Tuesday 7th October	World Mental Health Day Sixth Form Mass Year 8 Science London Trip
Wednesday 8th October	Sixth Form Open Evening
Friday 10th October	Year 12 and Year 13 Crown Court Judge Talk
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
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



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