

## Message from Dr Coughlan, Executive Principal

As the half term draws to a close, we have much to give thanks for over the past six weeks of school life. Our term started with an extremely positive OFSTED inspection and we hope to be able to share the report shortly after the half-term break once it is finalised.

The season of Lent begins during half term as we prepare for the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday. Next half term, our young people will be taking part in a performance of 'Born For This' at the Symphony Hall on Wednesday 25th March at 7pm. This is a special 30th anniversary performance retelling the Stations of the Cross. The performance will feature the composer and writer, Jo Boyce, the CJM band and orchestra. The cast is made up of over three hundred young voices from seven local Catholic secondary schools including many students from Bishop Challoner. It is set to be a fantastic and deeply moving performance and students will be working hard over the half term break to rehearse. Tickets are selling fast and can be purchased via the Symphony Hall website at <https://bmusic.co.uk/events/born-for-this>

As I write to you, a number of our students are currently visiting Iceland as part of a geographical cultural experience. This is another example of the wonderful opportunities our students can experience as part of our school family. This half-term students across the school have visited Silverstone, the NEC for a LAMMA farming exhibition, the school of Jewellery, Birmingham Newman University and an escape room! Alongside these excursions, our students have been working hard undertaking key assessments and beginning final preparations for the forthcoming public examinations. Our young people deserve great credit for their work this half term and their contribution to our wider community work. They are an embodiment of our mission to fulfil potential and serve others.

My best wishes for the half term break.

*Lord, as we enter the first week of our Lenten journey, guide us on the path that leads to you. Fill our hearts with gratitude, patience, strength and peace. Help us to grow closer to you this Lent through the practice of prayer. In your name we pray,  
Amen*

## YEAR 9 PATHWAYS

The Year 9 Pathway process has begun and this year, subject choices will be made through the Applicaa platform.

All students have already received their login details via their school email account, so please encourage them to check their inbox and log in as soon as possible.

Students and parents/carers can now begin exploring and selecting their subject options for next year. To support you with this, please visit the Year 9 Pathways webpage, where you will find information about each course, guidance on the pathways process, and subject resources to help you make informed choices.

If students need support in accessing their account, support sessions will take place during students' afternoon form times, in the first week back, after half term. to attend in full school uniform.

## YEAR 8 & YEAR 13 PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Tuesday 10th March is Parent Consultation Afternoon for Year 8 students and Parent Consultation Evening for Year 13 students.

Appointments will go live on **Wednesday 25th February at 6pm**. You will need to login using the details that the school holds for your child's priority 1 contact.

Appointments must be made by the end of the day on Friday 6th March 2026, if you have not made an appointment by this date, your child's Consultation Tutor will make the appointment for you. Students are required to attend in full school uniform.

## FOLLOW US





# SIXTH FORM NEWS

**APPLY NOW**

## ★ SIXTH FORM REWARDS

REWARD	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
AMBITION	Lucie D Kaitlyn McG	Ellie McK Samuel P
SERVICE TO OTHERS	Ruby P Cara McC	Mckenzie C Sonali B James K
PROGRESSION	Paige T Kian P	Florence J Sofia B
INDEPENDENCE	Erynn F Damico M	Molly O'K Orlagh L
ROLE MODEL	Cormac McC Katie R	Maisie Mae S Ryan M
EXCELLENCE	Grace P Beatrice M	Sofia B Shai K Rafael L-F Maisie Mae S

## SCREEN TIME AND SIXTH FORM LIFE

This week, sixth form students reflected on how much time they spend on their screens and the impact mobile phones can have on focus, both in college and at home. Many recognised that while phones are a big part of everyday life, they can also become a major distraction during study time if not managed carefully. Students explored practical strategies to help reduce unnecessary screen time, including setting app limits, using “Do Not Disturb” modes while studying, and keeping phones out of reach during lessons or independent work. Small changes like these can make a big difference to concentration and productivity.

Importantly, discussions also highlighted how mobile phones can be powerful tools for learning when used intentionally. Students shared ways they use their devices for revision, such as flashcard apps, educational videos, revision timetables, and exam practice resources. The focus was on building healthier habits and using technology to support, rather than hinder, academic success.



## MEET THE SIXTH FORM EVENT

On Thursday 19th March 4pm - 5.30pm in the school auditorium, we are delighted to invite our applicants to our 'Meet the Sixth Form' event.

This event will give students the chance to speak directly with our current Sixth Form students about the courses they are studying and to ask any questions about day-to-day life in the Sixth Form. There will also be opportunities to talk with key Sixth Form staff for guidance and advice on course options and pathways.

The event will feature stands for each of the 24 courses we have offer next year, alongside information about our wide-ranging and vibrant extra- and super-curricular programmes. This is not an open evening and there will be no formal presentations; instead, the focus is on open conversation and first-hand insight into life at our Sixth Form. The event is particularly beneficial for students applying from other schools and for those who may still be unsure about the

## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

This week, sixth form students marked Children’s Mental Health Week by focusing on ways to support and improve their mental wellbeing. Students were given research-informed tips highlighting the importance of sleep, routine, physical activity, and staying connected with others.

Discussions encouraged students to reflect on practical, realistic steps they can take to look after their mental health, especially during busy or stressful periods. Emphasis was placed on recognising when to seek support and understanding that small, consistent habits can have a positive impact on overall wellbeing.

## FOLLOW US ON TIK TOK

[https://www.tiktok.com/@bishopchallonersixth?\\_r=1&t=ZN-91Aj4tKgIXj](https://www.tiktok.com/@bishopchallonersixth?_r=1&t=ZN-91Aj4tKgIXj)



# CATHOLIC LIFE

## PUPIL-LED PRAYER AND LITURGY

This week, our Year 7 students led us in a thoughtful Prayer and Liturgy focused on The Beatitudes. We are grateful to Joshua E, Adam K, Maia K, Moira C, Avani B, Lombe, and Elroy Jay for guiding us so beautifully.



They invited us to reflect on how we might live out The Beatitudes in our daily lives:

- Blessed are the merciful – Can we let go of a grudge and choose forgiveness?
- Blessed are the peacemakers – Can we calm a situation rather than add to the drama?
- Blessed are the pure in heart – Can we choose honesty and do what is right, even when it is difficult?
- Blessed are those who hunger for justice – Can we stand up for someone being treated unfairly?

As we prepare for the beginning of Lent, Year 9 and Year 10 pupils led us in an explanation of Ash Wednesday (Wednesday 18th February) – what happens, why it matters, and how Catholics focus on the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. As we begin Lent, we are asked to consider how our Lenten journey will change us.



- Pray - Dedicate some quiet time each day to speak and listen to God. Join Ellen in the chapel for the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, and Archbishop Longley's Walk With Me reflections.
- Give (Almsgiving) - Support our school food collection by donating items for those in need. Get involved in form charity events throughout Lent.
- Fast - Choose something to give up or limit this Lent—such as snacks, screen time, or unnecessary spending—to make space for God and grow in self control.
- Reconciliation - Make time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent, receiving God's forgiveness and peace. Fr Toby and visiting priests will be in school after half term for confessions.

A big thank you to the students who helped lead these reflections: Bailey B, Thomas H, Archie B, Teddy M, Antoni M, Cian B, Celeste C, Grace M, Mary O, Tajah T, Brooke W, Sophia T, and Reuben T. Catholic families are encouraged to attend an Ash Wednesday service in your parish.

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](http://www.wednesdayword.org)

## PARISH MASS AND FORM ROSARY

During the parish Thursday Mass, Fr John spoke to our Year 10 pupils about the importance of shining the light of Christ—a light Jesus gives us not to keep for ourselves, but to share generously with others. His message encouraged pupils to recognise the goodness within them and to allow that light to guide their words, actions, and choices.



Our readers certainly lived out that message. They read reverently, confidently, and beautifully, offering a wonderful example to their peers. Their leadership, respect, and faithfulness truly reflected the light Fr John spoke of.

Our weekly Rosary continues to be a very special time in school life, as form groups gather in the chapel to pray together with Fr John. These moments of shared prayer provide pupils with a calm and reflective space, helping them deepen their faith and grow in confidence as a praying community.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Shrove Tuesday 17th February

Ash Wednesday 18th February

Reconciliation services start in school from

Tuesday 24th February

St Dunstan's Parish Mission

Saturday 27th February – Wednesday 4th March

## JOURNEY IN FAITH

Our Journey in Faith sessions have continued this week with Fr John, who has been guiding pupils through key Catholic beliefs using the Nicene Creed as a foundation.



The focus has included the Trinity, Confession and Forgiveness, and the Resurrection.

These sessions have been interesting, thought provoking, and have sparked many insightful questions from pupils eager to deepen their understanding of the faith.

There is still an opportunity to join the group. Tuesdays, 3.30pm – 4.00pm in the chapel.

For more information, please contact:  
e.thompson@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk



## KENELM YOUTH VISIT

We had a fantastic morning with Kenelm Youth Trust, who led a brilliant workshop with 30 of our Year 9 and Year 10 pupils, exploring faith and mental wellbeing. The session, titled "ThinkTank," gave our young people a valuable opportunity to have their voices heard on matters of faith, everyday challenges, and how the Church can best support them.



KYT are always keen to adapt their retreats and resources to meet the changing needs of young people, so it was wonderful for our students to play such an important role in shaping this work. They shared openly, honestly, and with great respect throughout the session, and we are incredibly proud of the maturity they showed when engaging with such important and meaningful questions.



A huge thank you to KYT for facilitating such thoughtful, mature, and fruitful conversations - we're so grateful for the impact you've had on our young people!

## YOUNG VINCENTIANS – LAUNCHING AFTER HALF TERM

Starting after half term, a new team of students will be stepping up as our Young Vincentians —the youth branch of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). We are delighted to see this group begin their journey of service, compassion, and leadership within our school community. A big thank you goes to last year's Pilgrims of Hope, whose generosity, kindness, and commitment to charitable action brought real hope and faith to others. We are excited to build on all the amazing things they achieved.

We are also very fortunate to have Mr Rowan, an active SVP volunteer, supporting and guiding our new Young Vincentians as they take on this important role.

This week, Karen, a governor and volunteer with St Dunstan's SVP, visited our pupils to share the history and mission of this remarkable charity. Pupils learned how SVP supports vulnerable people through friendship, practical help, and acts of loving service.

To inspire our new team, we reflected on the words of St Vincent de Paul:

*"Charity is the cement which binds communities to God and people to one another."*

It is a powerful reminder of the difference even the smallest act of kindness can make.



## FOOD COLLECTION

As we step into the season of Lent, we're delighted to share that our almsgiving focus will be supporting the SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society), who do so much to meet the emotional and practical needs of those most in need within our local community. We warmly invite staff and pupils to get involved by donating non-perishable food items. Leading the way will be our newly recruited 'Young Vincentians' group, who are excited to be the driving force behind this charitable effort. They will be taking inspiration from the newly canonised St Pier Giorgio Frassati, himself an active and passionate member of the SVP, whose life reminds us of the joy found in serving others.

St Pier Giorgio Frassati, pray for us.

# 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 McGillicuddy	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	Very Rev Canon Brian McGinley	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
Ss Joseph and Helen with St Paul's	B30 1JG/ B38 9JB	Fr Barry	9am (Ss Joseph and Helen) 11am (St Paul's)	5pm (Ss Joseph and Helen)

## SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING



### PATHFINDER CITIZENS ADVICE DROP-IN

Pathfinder and Citizens Advice Birmingham (CAB) are working together to offer support (in school or Pathfinder office). They can support with a range of things as listed below.

**Please speak to your School's Pathfinder worker to find out more and book an appointment.**

-  **SIGNPOSTING AND DEBT SUPPORT**
-  **BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT CHECKS**
-  **BENEFITS APPLICATIONS AND APPEALS**
-  **EXPLORING SMALL GRANTS**



YOU'RE INVITED TO

## MOTHER & BABY CLUB

Snacks, crafts & play for little ones

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 | 10AM - 12PM**  
Bourneville Masjid & Community Centre  
122 Cob Ln, Birmingham B30 1QD






**Free goody bag for all attendees**

**SIGN UP NOW**



SCAN HERE





# SUBJECT FOCUS - COMPUTING

## Key Stage 3

### Year 7

Students are developing their computational thinking skills through game design and development using Scratch, focusing on sequencing, selection, and iteration.

### Year 8

Students are progressing to text-based programming with Python, building confidence in algorithms, variables, and problem-solving.

### Year 9

Students are learning to create digital products using Canva, developing creativity, design principles, and digital communication skills.

## Key Stage 4

### Year 10 Computer Science

Students are studying searching and sorting algorithms alongside computer networks, deepening their understanding of how data is processed and how systems communicate.

### Year 11 Computer Science

Focus is on programming techniques and Boolean logic, ensuring strong preparation for their GCSE examinations.

## Key Stage 5

### Year 12 Computer Science

Students are studying shortest-path algorithms and have begun work on their programming projects, applying theory to practical problem-solving.

This term, Year 12 students also had the opportunity to fly a VPF drone on the school grounds. They learned about

real-world drone applications and were introduced to a newly launched MOD-supported Drone Engineering degree at Hereford University, developed in response to emerging technologies highlighted by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

### Year 13 Computer Science

Students have completed their mock examinations, are finalising their programming projects, and have now begun structured revision lessons in preparation for their A-level exams.

### Year 13 IT

Students have successfully completed Unit 3, a major coursework component of the qualification, and have now started Unit 2 (Databases) and Unit 6 (Web Development).

## ENRICHMENT, COMPETITIONS, AND PARTNERSHIPS

### NATIONAL CYBERFIRST GIRLS COMPETITION

We are extremely proud to report that our Year 8 girls took part in the National CyberFirst Girls Competition, organised by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) to address the significant gender gap in cyber and technology careers.

- Bishop Challoner has reached the national finals for the fifth consecutive year.
- Our school was officially listed on the NCSC website as a finalist, a significant national achievement.

Following their success:

- These students will become our Computing Champions.
- They will deliver computing workshops to Year 5 pupils in June 2027.
- They will also mentor Year 7 students in preparation for the next CyberFirst competition.



### CyberFirst Girls Competition

The CyberFirst Girls Competition aims to inspire girls interested in technology to pursue a career in cyber security.

West Midlands	
King Edward VI College Hill School for Girls	Cylix Fibres
Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls	Our Women
King Henry VIII School	Womens
Northwood School and Sixth Form	Redwood
Stofford Girls Grammar School	Learnwithit
King Edward VI Stratford-upon-Avon School	WJ 3
Bishop Challoner Catholic College	Inspiring Builders
Weston Girls High School Academy	Weston Girls Academy
St Paul's School for Girls	Compassion
Worcester Grammar School	Engage Girls

## REWARD VISIT

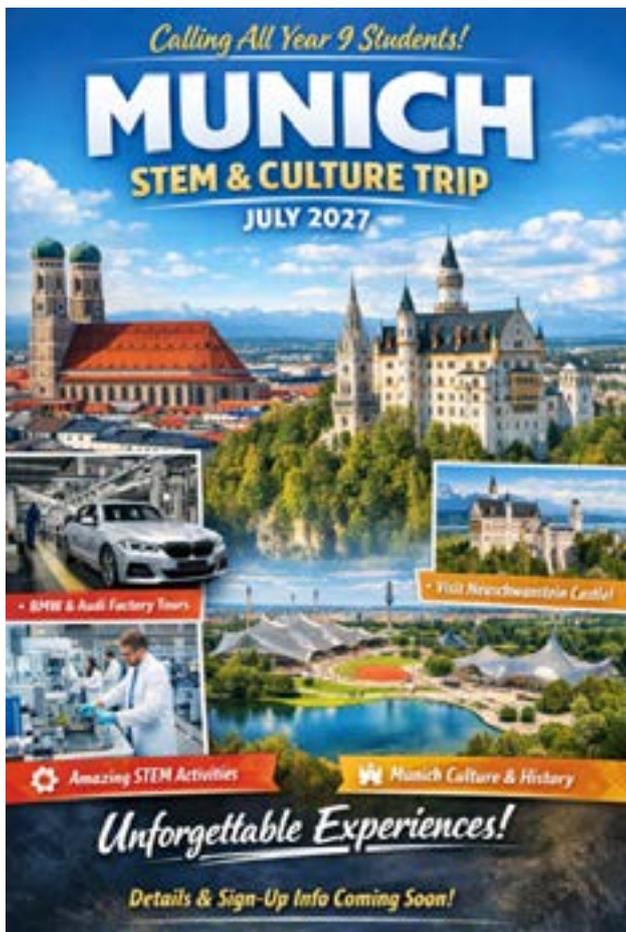
Following their outstanding achievement in reaching the national finals, the CyberFirst Girls were rewarded with a celebratory trip to a local escape room, where they worked collaboratively to solve challenges that further developed their problem-solving, communication, and teamwork skills. This was followed by a complimentary McDonald's meal, arranged as part of the reward. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it was a fitting way to recognise their commitment, effort, and success in representing Bishop Challoner at a national level.



## EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Looking ahead, the department is organising a Year 9 trip to Munich, Germany, in July 2027. Planning well in advance allows:

- Families sufficient time to pay in installments
- The trip to be inclusive, accessible, and affordable for all students



## DRONE & STEM ENRICHMENT

Weekly Wednesday drone workshops continue at Key Stage 3, led by our Computing Champions.

This aligns well with recent announcements that the government will be launching a new Drone Engineering degree nationally from next September.

## UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

On 17 March, our Year 8 and Year 9 students will take part in the Aston University Cyber Event, once again aimed at closing the gender gap in technology.

Bishop Challoner will host and invite other schools, making this a joint outreach project with Aston University.

## COMPUTING SAN FRANCISCO TRIP – JULY 2026

Preparations are well underway for the Computing Department trip to San Francisco, taking place from 7th to 13th July 2026. Parents are invited to attend an information meeting on 27th April to discuss travel arrangements, itinerary, and trip expectations. The trip, first advertised three years ago, promises an exciting blend of technology, education, and cultural experiences. Highlights include exploring Silicon Valley, visiting the Tech Interactive Museum, Apple Park Visitor Centre, and iconic tech landmarks such as Stanford University, Googleplex, NASA Gift Shop, and HP Garage. Students will also enjoy leisure and team-building activities, including Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, a San Francisco city tour with the Golden Gate Bridge and Union Square, an evening baseball game, and a visit to Alcatraz Island. Evenings include shared meals at local restaurants and time to experience Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 39, combining both educational and cultural enrichment in an unforgettable learning trip.



The department continues to grow in strength, innovation, and national recognition. Through a rich curriculum, strong university and industry links, and a clear commitment to inclusion and aspiration, Computing and ICT at Bishop Challoner remains a key driver of student opportunity and success.

## CALLING ALL PARENTS IN THE CREATIVE TEXTILES INDUSTRY

We're reaching out to our school community to see if any parents work within the creative textiles industry—in any capacity. Whether you run a small business from home, work in fashion, sewing, embroidery, costume design, upholstery, fabric printing, or any other textile-related field, we'd love to hear from you.

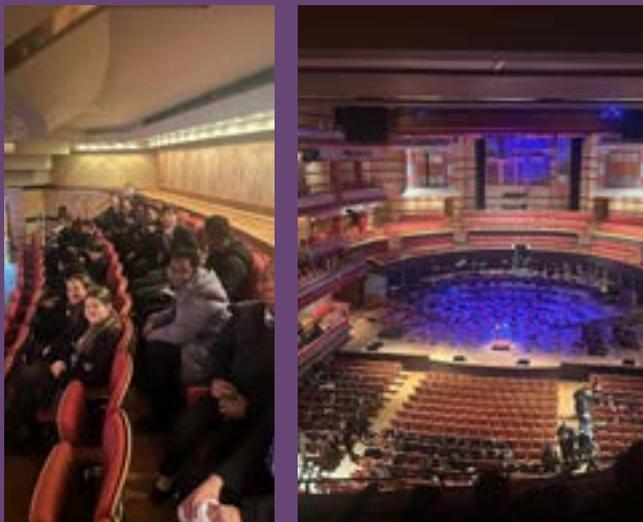
We are exploring opportunities to enrich our curriculum and provide pupils with real-world insight into creative careers. Your experience could make a huge difference, whether through a short talk, a workshop, sharing materials, or simply offering advice. If you think you might be able to support us, no matter how big or small your involvement, please get in touch with the school office. We'd be delighted to connect.

## ICELAND TRIP

On Wednesday 11th of February we set off on our trip to Iceland with 55 Y10/11 students. With plenty of layers and walking boots packed we are ready and excited to embark on the adventures ahead. We have an unforgettable experience planned with excursions including: the Blue Lagoon, traversing glaciers, walking between continents and whale watching. We look forward to updating everyone with all of our travel stories upon our return to Heathrow. Updates of our trip will be posted on our geography department instagram: [bishopchalloner\\_geography](#).

## SYMPHONY HALL TRIP

On Tuesday 10th February a group of Year 7 students visited Symphony Hall for a KS3 concert featuring the CBSO. Our students stood out from other schools in the most positive way. They listened so attentively and were incredibly polite and respectful to all staff, from the coach driver to the theatre ushers. Well done Year 7 on a brilliant trip!



## YEAR 7 DEVICE STAND PROJECT – BOTTLE TOPS NEEDED

Our Year 7 students are about to begin an exciting Design and Technology project, and we need your help. We are collecting plastic bottle tops to support the creation of their custom device stands.

To ensure the materials are suitable, all bottle tops must have the Type 2 recycling symbol (HDPE) on them. These are commonly found on milk bottles, juice bottles, and some household product containers.

If you're able to save any suitable tops, please hand them in to any member of the Design and Technology staff. Every contribution—big or small—will help our students bring their ideas to life.

Thank you for supporting our young designers.

## YEAR 12 ENGLISH TRIP TO NEWMAN UNIVERSITY

On Tuesday 10th February, Miss Beard took 7 Year 12 students to as taster day at Newman University to get a taste of what the subject might be like beyond A Level. The lectures were fascinating and the students were a credit to our school. The day ran as follows:

### Challenging the Canon

'Doing English' at University typically invites a whole series of assumptions about what kinds of literature are appropriate and 'worth' studying. This session discusses what we 'do' as English students and scholars, the value of literature.

### Are you ready for the future? A.I. and the Digital Humanities

The idea of artificial intelligence goes back over 200 years: it is at the heart of Mary Shelley's novel Frankenstein, about a humanoid who becomes a monster and turns on the scientist who created him. This session will explore how science fiction like this has shaped our current attitudes to technology, including AI, and to the ethical questions we think are important today.



## YEAR 7 AND 12 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Our recent Personal Development Days provided students with valuable opportunities to explore important themes including values, personal safety and healthy relationships in meaningful and engaging ways.

Year 12 enjoyed a highly informative and thought-provoking day, beginning with guest speakers from Birmingham-based charity Aquarius. Their engaging session explored the risks associated with drugs, alcohol and vaping, equipping students with clear guidance around legal responsibilities and personal safety. Many were surprised to learn just how many chemicals are contained within a vaping chamber — a powerful reminder of the importance of informed decision-making.

Students then participated in a range of interactive workshops covering key topics such as online risks (including gambling apps, AI and social media use), financial awareness and planning for the future, and maintaining professional relationships and boundaries. The day concluded with a fantastic wellbeing session, where students chose between Jujitsu or Pilates — a great way to reinforce the importance of both physical and mental health.

Meanwhile, Year 7 were an absolute joy throughout their own Personal Development Day. Staff were quick to share how positively students engaged in every session, contributing thoughtfully and sensibly to discussions.

The day began with a carousel of expert-led workshops delivered by visitors from Aquarius, Minus Violence and West Midlands Police. Students took part in interactive sessions exploring the dangers of vaping, crime prevention and personal safety, as well as the risks associated with artificial intelligence, social media and online gaming. While students described the sessions as fun and interactive, they also recognised the serious and important messages at their core.

In the afternoon, students continued to impress during classroom workshops focused on Social Media and the Law, gaining a clearer understanding of legal responsibilities and practical ways to stay safe online. This was followed by a reflective session on gratitude and perspective, before ending the day with a wellbeing focus that included chair yoga and the creation of personal wellbeing toolkits.

Both year groups demonstrated maturity and enthusiasm throughout their sessions. These days provided important opportunities for students to reflect on real-world issues, deepen their cultural awareness and develop practical strategies to safeguard both their wellbeing and their future.



## SPORTS

### RESULTS

Due to the weather all of our fixtures have been cancelled recently apart from a Netball game which we unfortunately lost to Bartley Green. Well done to the girls for giving it their best and achieving their highest score of the season!



### DOFE

On Wednesday 11th February the Library hosted our DofE Route planning for the Bronze award. An incredible number of students turned up and work incredibly hard.



## NEW ASTON VILLA DEAL

Congratulations to one of our ex-students who has recently signed a new contract with Aston Villa Football Club.

*"The midfielder put pen to paper on his first professional contract with Villa in December 2024 and now agreed a fresh deal.*

*Lynskey, a Republic of Ireland Under-19 international, has risen through Villa's Academy ranks and gained experience at a host of levels, including Premier League 2, UEFA Youth League, Vertu Trophy and FA Youth Cup."*



# ★ STUDENT REWARDS

YEAR GROUP	MOST POSITIVE LOGS
YEAR 7	Nyola M-A Isabella B Moiria C Danyil P Maya P Daniel C Maia-Rose K Olivija K Harrison C Eden N Iyla D Eliza C Ellis M-F Laia B Amira M Maicy W Josh E Ruby N-B
YEAR 8	Rosie G Orlaith J Aydin K x 2 Alexander M x 2 Anenyasha N Freddie K Ayvah M-C Tymofii K Lillie-Mae G
YEAR 9	Kayven R Jacob T Sophia T Grace M Kiryah-Shaer W x 2 Luke W Casper D Annedrea L Ethan K Harris K Daniel B-G Evie M
Year 10	Luke D Patrick N Roberto I Cian B Tymoteusz K
Year 11	Mariatou N Megan N Ta'Nayah F Daniel S Kimberley K

## YEAR GROUP FOCUS - YEAR 11

As Head of Year 11, I would like to thank you for your continued support as students move through this important stage of their school journey. This time of year can feel demanding for both pupils and families, but I am incredibly proud of the resilience, maturity and determination our Year 11s are showing. They continue to balance their learning with being active, positive members of our school community.

I would especially like to recognise our Year 11 prefects, who have been fantastic role models. Their work running a wellbeing café for KS3 students on Thursday shows real leadership and care for others, it has been lovely to see them giving back to the wider school community.

continue upholding this ethos, lots of charity events are being run by our Year 9 Forms this term, such as the 9TER Bake Sale, 9CEC Mother's Day Hamper Raffle and 9LUK Easter Cake Sale!

## PARENT CONSULTATION EVENING

It was a pleasure to meet so many parents and carers at the recent parent consultation evening. If you were unable to attend, the Year 11 team will be available on Tuesday 24 February from 3:40pm to 6:00pm to discuss your child's progress and next steps as we move closer to the summer exams.



## REVISION AND MOCK EXAMS

Students are now preparing for the March mock examinations. These are an important chance for pupils to practise exam techniques, build confidence, and identify areas to focus on before the final GCSEs. We are encouraging students to revise little and often using strategies they have been taught in school, such as past questions, flashcards and subject resources. Your encouragement at home in supporting routines and focused revision really does make a difference.

## ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Good attendance and punctuality are more important than ever. While attendance across the year group is generally positive, we are still seeing some lateness to school. Being on time ensures students do not miss valuable learning and helps them start the day in the right frame of mind. Thank you for your continued support with this.

## PATHWAY TO PROM

The Pathway to Prom continues to be an important motivator for Year 11. Students are reminded that attendance, punctuality, behaviour and effort all contribute towards eligibility. Many pupils are currently on track and making positive choices—well done to them. We will continue to keep students informed so expectations remain clear.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. Please do not hesitate to contact the Year 11 team if you have any questions or concerns.

## WELLBEING CAFE

On Wednesday 11th February the Library held a hugely successful Wellbeing Cafe run by our Year 11 Prefects and Year 12 Leadership Team.

It is a wonderful way for them to help the younger students and show their leadership skills.



## ASSEMBLIES

Over the past fortnight, our assemblies have continued to explore our whole-school theme of Respect, with a particular focus on Random Acts of Kindness Week and the powerful impact that kindness can have on individuals and communities. Although Kindness Week falls over half term, its message extends far beyond a single week. Its aim is to encourage, spread and celebrate kindness, helping to reduce stress and strengthen community connections — values that sit firmly at the heart of our Faithful Virtues.

Students reflected on inspiring examples of selfless acts of kindness, including those demonstrated by public figures such as Taylor Swift, while also recognising that meaningful kindness is often found in the smallest gestures. From leaving a thoughtful note for a friend to holding a door open for someone, students were reminded that everyday actions can make a significant difference. It has been wonderful to see the growing number of positive logs celebrating these simple but powerful acts of kindness across the school day. Our reflections were rooted in Luke's Gospel:

"But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great."

This message continues to guide and inspire our community.

This week, assemblies have shifted focus to the theme of

Belonging, in recognition of Children's Mental Health Week. This annual event highlights the importance of protecting and supporting young people's mental health, raising awareness, reducing stigma and encouraging open conversations.

Students explored how mental health, like physical health, can change over time and is influenced by many factors — including friendships, family life, social media, exams, growing up and everyday pressures. Understanding that everyone has mental health, and that it requires care and attention, is a vital step in helping young people become the healthiest versions of themselves.

Practical strategies for looking after mental wellbeing were shared across the school, complemented by a wellbeing event in the library led by our Year 11 students. It was fantastic to see so many students engaging in mindful activities and supporting one another.

The "Going Forth" message from this week's assembly was both clear and powerful:

We challenge you to help everyone feel like they belong. Show others they are valued, important and heard.

At the end of each day, ask yourself:

"How have I helped someone feel like they belong today?"

Through kindness, respect and a shared commitment to belonging, we continue to strengthen the caring and inclusive community that defines Bishop Challoner.

## FORM RESOURCES

Last week during form time, students spent time planning, creating and improving their Sacred Spaces. A Sacred Space is a point of focus for pupils' prayer. It is a centre for reflection and should be a focal point during morning and afternoon Prayer and Liturgy. It has been encouraging to see students preparing prayer boxes and working together to create prayers for their form Saint. These have been displayed in form rooms and duplicate versions created and displayed in our foyer.

This week students have engaged in an interactive session with the focus on Safer Internet Day. Safer Internet Day is held every February in over 170 different countries. The goal of Safer Internet Day is to call on people across the world to work together to make the internet a safer and better place for all, but especially for young people. A specific focus for 2026 is on AI. AI describes technology and computer systems that have been designed to complete tasks that would have previously required human thinking. Students have engaged in conversations and quizzes that look at both the benefits and issues related to the use of AI. The benefits range from environmental impact and enhancing modern medicine, whilst dangers to consider are around manipulation and deep fakes. The session ended with an engaging oracy task around what has been discovered about Safer Internet Day.

## **+ FIRST AID INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES**

Medication; All medication should be handed into first aid and not carried by the students. Exception EpiPen, Asthma inhalers and insulin as well as 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 which they can re-fill at our water stations provided. Alternatively, they can purchase a drink from the school canteen.

Students with Asthma must carry their own personal inhalers with them. 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.

## **IMMUNISATION TEAM**

Please find leaflets and videos in different languages which have been shared with us by the Immunisation Team to support with HPV promotion for Year 8 and above.

### **English**

<https://vimeo.com/1121137591>

<https://youtu.be/h5RjAebLC3k>

### **Bengali**

<https://vimeo.com/1154269208>

<https://youtu.be/4Awvxx0RAoo>

### **Gujarati**

<https://vimeo.com/1154276346>

<https://youtu.be/smBNxqKYyWM>

### **Punjabi**

<https://vimeo.com/1162552415>

<https://youtu.be/fXOmovR0vs8>

### **Urdu**

<https://vimeo.com/1151880307?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

### **Arabic**

<https://vimeo.com/1151603157?fl=ip&fe=ec>

## **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.

## **ATTENDANCE RAFFLE**

### **WINNERS**

#### **Stay in Your Stage**

Well done to Freya C in year 11 who won our stay in your stage attendance draw and won a pair of apple airpods.



#### **Champions League Winners**

The results for our Challoner Champions League of attendance final are in! Well done to our winners **7BOS** who managed by Miss Lloyd have prevented **7LUK** and Miss Chance from being our first back to back winners. The form will be presented with their prize in the first assembly after the half term break.

#### **10 For 10 Winners**

Congratulations for the following students for winning a £10 High Street Voucher for being in school on time every day over the last 2 weeks of term.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10 & 11
Mason M Joseph A	George McD Evie-Rose F	Hibba M Noah G	Samuel H Anane H Konrad B Milan H



# 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.

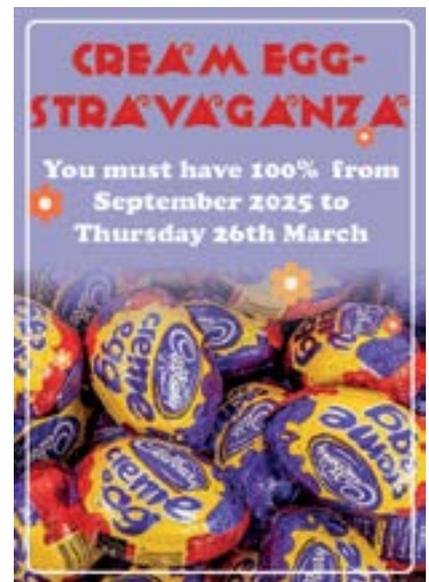
Please do not attend school without an appointment unless there is a safeguarding emergency.

## SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

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

## EASTER ATTENDANCE RAFFLE

Next half term there will be lots of opportunities for students to win prizes when they attend school 100% of the time. There are some great prizes up for grabs. Please support us to promote the competitions and encourage your children to attend school, on time, every day.



## SCHOOL YEAR 2025 TO 2026

### SPRING TERM 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

Monday 13th April 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

## 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>

## Spring Term 2

Every Wednesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Monday 23rd February	Food Collection Begins
Tuesday 24th February	Year 7 & 11 Reconciliation
Wednesday 25th February	Year 13 Student Finance Talk
Thursday 26th February	Year 12 Visit to Digbeth
Friday 27th February	Year 13 What Career Live Trip
Monday 2nd March - Friday 6th March	National Careers Week
Monday 2nd March	Year 9 Space Centre Trip John Pridmore Visit
Wednesday 4th March	Year 8 Black Country Living Museum Trip Careers Fair
Thursday 5th March	Year 9 Insights Event Year 9 Options Evening
Tuesday 10th March	Early Finish - Details to be shared after half term Year 8 Parent Consultation Afternoon 2pm-4pm Year 13 Parent Consultation Evening 4.30pm-6.30pm
Wednesday 11th March	Year 10 Longbridge Fieldwork Year 10 SCCB Project Catholic Secondary Schools 2nd Debate KS5
Thursday 12th March	Year 8 Catholic Secondary Schools STEM Event
Friday 13th March	Mothers Day Hamper Raffle 9CEC World Sleep Day
Monday 16th March	Year 13 Beyond BC Workshop Young Carers Day Year 9 Malympics
Tuesday 17th March	St Patrick's Day Hamper 8SEB Year 8 & Year 9 Reconciliation
Wednesday 18th March	Year 10 Science Field Work Trip Year 11 Lent Mass
Thursday 19th March	Folk Band Dementia Cafe - Irish Centre Sixth Form Meet the Team Evening
Friday 20th March	Catholic Secondary Schools Public Speaking Year 8/9 International Day of happiness
Saturday 21st March	Born For This Rehearsals
Monday 23rd March	Year 8 London Science Trip
Tuesday 24th March	Paris Parent/Carer Meeting 5pm Year 7 & Year 8 Readathon Day Year 9 & Year 11 Reconciliation
Wednesday 25th March	Born For This - Symphony Hall Easter Cake Sale 9LUK KS3 Royal Academy of Engineering School STEM Workshop Sixth Form Easter Fair
Thursday 26th March	Maths Bishop's Got Talent Year 8 Guess My Job Event
Friday 27th March	Guess the Number of Eggs 11TER Easter Hamper 10LUK
Monday 20th March - Friday 10th April	Easter Holiday
Monday 13th April	INSET Day - School Closed
Tuesday 14th April	School Open