

Message from Mr Hearnden, Senior Vice Principal

During the season of Lent we set aside each year to remember the love of God that is poured out through Jesus Christ. It is a significant season in the year for Christians- a time for solemnity and self-reflection. The liturgical colour for Lent is purple. The colour purple represents penance, preparation and sacrifice. During Lent, many people decide to give something up that they may love- perhaps chocolate, sweets or even using social media. Others decide to take up something, like helping out more or making an effort to do nice things for their family and friends.

This half term has started at pace, we have had a plethora of activities taking place. Careers activities have been in full swing including The Careers Fair where it is always lovely to welcome back ex-students now representing their employer. It is an important time for Year 9 students who are embarking on an important and exciting stage in their lives; Year 9 pathways. These choices will help to be a stepping stone for their future career choices, therefore students will need to be wise in their choices and use their time to ensure they make the right decisions for themselves about the subjects they will study at GCSE.

Year 11 and 13 will similarly need to make wise choices, as they continue to prepare for their end-of-year exams; ensuring they commit to revision, to get the best outcomes. Many of our Year 11 and 13 students are taking advantage of intervention sessions being put on by staff as we look to support everyone to achieve their full potential in the coming months.

The partnership between home and school is most important. Bishop Challoner Catholic College are unapologetic about our high standards and expectations of our school community and we ask that you continue to support your son/daughter to maintain the standards by following the BC Basics and living out our FAITHFUL virtues; being faith filled, attentive, intentional, truthful, helpful, forgiving, understanding and learned. We also request that you continue to ensure that your child is in school everyday and on time. Thank you for your continued support of your child and our school community.

Blessing for the 4th week of Lent by Archbishop Longley.

I am blessed, Lord God, because you know me by name. I am blessed, Lord Jesus, because you know my past, my present and my future. I am blessed, Holy Spirit, by your wisdom and you consolation in my life. Amen

SCHOOL WARS SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Briefing For Parents And Carers From Birmingham City Council Senior Education Leader, Mr Wasim Arif

We have been made aware of a social media campaign called school wars with a list of red schools pitted against blue schools urging students in each of the schools to combine as one team in getting involved in physical assault with points for beating someone up from the opposite team of schools and extra points for filming it or robbing a child.

Schools in Birmingham are aware of the campaign which is being promoted on social media with no indication at present that this will take place. Schools are offering the necessary guidance and reassurance to children to refrain from getting involved and are being reminded to report any information and concerns to their school immediately. We are also sharing some helpful guidance for parents and carers to support your child as below:

How you can help:

- Speak with your child about staying away from any gatherings linked to this trend and the potential risks involved.
- Continue to uphold a vigilance in respect of your child's mobile phone use.
- Encourage your child to report any information or concerns through your school's safeguarding reporting system.
- If parents and carers hear or see anything worrying, including online posts, please report this to the police via 101, and notify the school as soon as possible.

Our priority, as always, is ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all our students. Thank you for your continued support in helping us address this matter promptly and responsibly. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your school. Finally, please feel free to reach out to me for any further information via email at Wasim.Arif@birmingham.gov.uk



SIXTH FORM NEWS

APPLY NOW

STUDENTS NEW TO DRIVING

As many students in Sixth Form begin learning to drive or gain more independence as passengers, we have been focusing this week on the importance of staying safe on the road. Students have taken part in discussions about defensive driving skills and how awareness, patience, and good judgement can help reduce risk when driving.



We have also encouraged students to think carefully about the choices they make as passengers. Being in a car with friends can sometimes lead to pressure to drive faster or take unnecessary risks. Through these conversations, students have been reminded that making safe decisions, such as speaking up if they feel uncomfortable or choosing not to travel with someone who is driving irresponsibly.

Developing safe habits early will help our students become responsible drivers and passengers of the future.
Image result for road safety drive safe

DEVELOPING A PROFESSIONAL ONLINE PRESENCE

During form time this week, Sixth Form students have been learning about the benefits of developing a professional online presence. Sessions have focused on how platforms such as LinkedIn can be used to support future career and university opportunities.



Students explored how creating a strong profile can help them showcase their skills, achievements, and interests. They also discussed how LinkedIn can be used to connect with professionals, follow industries they are interested in, and discover opportunities such as internships, apprenticeships, and work experience.

By beginning to build their professional profiles now, students can start developing valuable networks and a digital presence that will support them as they move on to higher education and future careers.

FOLLOW US ON TIK TOK

https://www.tiktok.com/@bishopchallonersixth?_r=1&t=ZN-91Aj4tKgIXj



Bishop Challoner Sixth Form College

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

MEET THE SIXTH FORM

We are delighted to invite prospective applicants to our Meet the Sixth Form event.

This informal session gives students the chance to speak directly with 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.

The event will feature stands for each of the 24 courses we have on 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 courses they would like to study next year.



SIXTH FORM NEWS

APPLY NOW

THE VALUE IN DEVELOPING EXPERIENCE

Year 12 students have been hearing from a recent graduate about the importance of gaining experience alongside their studies. During the session, students explored the many ways they can build valuable skills, including traditional work experience placements, volunteering, part-time work, and completing online courses. These opportunities can help students develop confidence, strengthen their portfolios, and gain a better understanding of potential career pathways.

Students were also reminded about the upcoming Year 12 work experience week, which will take place from 22nd June to the 26th June 2026. This is a valuable opportunity for students to experience the workplace and develop important employability skills. Students are now encouraged to continue seeking and securing valuable placements to ensure they make the most of this opportunity.

If any parents or carers are able to support or help facilitate a work experience placement, the Sixth Form team would greatly welcome your support. Your help can make a meaningful difference in helping students gain real-world experience.

★ SIXTH FORM REWARDS

REWARD	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
AMBITION	Samuel H Dalton S	Saoirse N Patti B
SERVICE TO OTHERS	Beatrice M Callum K X 2	Matipa D Saoirse N
PROGRESSION	Katie R Eryn F	Cassidy C Rafael L
INDEPENDENCE	Haala M Paige T	George S X 2
ROLE MODEL	Tulsa T Roya Y	Aidan W Joshua B
EXCELLENCE	Jayden M Tulsa S	Patti B Antonia J Niamh S

YEAR 13 PUBLIC EXAMS

Year 13 students have this term been issued with their timetables for the upcoming public examinations. As the exam period approaches, students have been focusing on preparing effectively for their final assessments.

Over the past few weeks, students have also been working on creating individual revision timetables to help structure their study time. Alongside this, they have been encouraged to use a range of research informed revision strategies to make their study time as effective as possible. These include spaced learning, revisiting topics over time rather than cramming, along with focused “power hour” revision sessions to maintain concentration and productivity. Students have also been encouraged to practise past paper questions, which is one of the most effective ways to become familiar with exam-style questions and mark schemes.

Other useful strategies discussed include active recall techniques such as self-quizzing, using flashcards, and explaining key concepts to others to strengthen understanding. By planning their revision carefully and using these approaches, students can ensure they are covering all subjects and topics while maintaining a balanced and manageable approach to their preparation. A link the summer public examinations timetable and some useful research informed revision tips are outlined in the link below: [GCE Examination Timetable | Bishop Challoner Catholic College](#)

MEET THE SIXTH FORM

Thursday 19th March, 4pm-5.30pm



CATHOLIC LIFE

PRAYER AND LITURGY – SECOND AND THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Year 7 beautifully led the second week of our Lenten Celebration of the Word.

Those who helped lead were: Stefan, Isla, Tahlia, Oscar, Nazar, Niall, Abduss, Eiliyah, Maya, Harrison, and Arlo. We listened to the Gospel of the Transfiguration and reflected on how, just as the disciples were transformed on the mountain, we too can use Lent as a time for change and growth. We considered how we might truly “Listen to Him.”



Our focus was on the small but powerful choices we can make each day: One minute of silence each day. No phone. No music. Just silence.

Ask: “Jesus, what are you saying to me?”

- Come down the mountain changed. Do one hidden act of kindness: Forgive someone, include someone, don't join in negativity
- Choose one Gospel sentence and repeat it throughout the week: “Listen to Him.”
- Turn down one voice

Reduce one thing that takes up too much space in your life: Social media, music, group chat drama, comparison.

This week's Celebration of the Word focused on the story of the Samaritan Woman at the Well. We reflected on how Jesus crossed social and cultural barriers to speak with a Samaritan woman, someone whom many would have ignored. Yet Jesus chose her to reveal one of the greatest truths of the Gospel: He brings us living water.



Her encounter with Jesus was so powerful that her testimony brought many in her community to faith.

As we continue our Lenten journey, we think about how we can spread God's love and acceptance.

- Cross a barrier - Speak kindly to someone you wouldn't usually talk to.
- Be like the woman at the well - Invite someone to prayer, Mass, or a conversation about faith.
- Be refreshed by the “living water” - Spend time each day in prayer.
- Be attentive - Notice who around you might need kindness, encouragement, or support.

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

BISHOP CHALLONER AND THE PARISH MISSION

Our school community was truly blessed last week to welcome John Pridmore, whose powerful life story touched the hearts of our staff and pupils. Once involved in a life of crime, John shared how a profound encounter with God transformed him completely, leading him to devote his life to Jesus and to spreading a message of God's mercy and love. His honesty and openness made a deep impression on our students, who listened with great respect and interest. You could hear a pin drop in the church and auditorium when he spoke. The feedback from pupils has been tremendous and many pupils were so inspired by his message that they attended the evening parish mission.

John was here as part of a three-day parish mission at St Dunstan's Church, where parishioners gathered to hear his testimony and reflect on God's grace at work in his life. The talks were moving, challenging, and encouraging for us all, reminding everyone present that no one is beyond God's reach and that renewal is always possible! This mission has been a time of real grace and renewal for both our school and our parish. We are grateful to John for his generosity in sharing his story and for helping us all to grow deeper in our faith.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Last Friday, we took part in the World Day of Prayer—24 hours when people around the world unite to pray for global needs. This year's theme, from Matthew's Gospel, was “I will give you rest.” Throughout the day, pupils visited the chapel for quiet moments of reflection. A group of our students also joined St Dunstan's Primary School and many parishioners for a deeply moving prayer service. It was a privilege to witness pupils of all ages coming together in prayer and song, united in hope for our world. Our students enjoyed sharing in the energy and joy of the younger children, who in turn saw inspiring role models in our older pupils. Despite the many distractions of growing up, our students continue to place their faith at the heart of who they are, something truly wonderful to see.

GO WITH HOPE' RETREAT

On Saturday, a group of our pupils had a fantastic day at the 'Go with Hope' retreat at Oscott College. The day encouraged us to think about how we can continue living as 'Pilgrims of Hope' as we move forward from the Jubilee Year. Our students took part in a variety of workshops, listened to inspiring talks from the SVP and KYT, and had the opportunity to ask questions during a Q&A session with Bishop Timothy Menezes and a guest panel. The day ended beautifully with Holy Mass in the Oscott College Chapel, reminding us that hope is not something we leave behind now the Jubilee Year has finished, but something we carry forward within us. Our pupils got fully involved throughout the day - Patrick, one of our Year 10 students, took part in the open mic during lunch and later had the privilege of serving for the Bishop at Mass in such a special and faith-filled place. It was a truly blessed and inspiring day for everyone who attended!



SIXTH FORM LENTEN MASS

Fr Toby celebrated a special Lenten Mass this week with our Sixth Form. Year 13 students wrote beautiful bidding prayers that reflected the current needs of both our global community and our school community, and our Sixth Form students led their year groups reverently throughout the Mass. It is wonderful to see our young people taking such an active role in ensuring that our Masses are celebrated so beautifully and with such deep reverence.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

We have seen great numbers of pupils receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation this half term and we thank Fr Toby, and the other visiting priests, for offering us this



beautiful Sacrament during Lent. There are 2 further opportunities before we break up for Easter, so we encourage pupils to take part in this special moment of reflection and renewal as they prepare their hearts for the holiest season of the liturgical calendar.

Tues 17th March and Tues 24th March



LENTEN FOOD COLLECTION

We are asking all members of the Bishop Challoner Catholic College community to consider bringing in one food item for the SVP food collection. If each of us brought in just one item before the end of this half-term, we could make a significant difference to the lives of many people in our local community. As one pupil wisely said: "Imagine if we brought in one item per week — that would be even better!" We ask all families to support this act of almsgiving in whatever way they can.

Follow us on X – @BC_chaplaincy

Instagram - @bc_catholiclife

BORN FOR THIS UPDATE

We are drawing closer and getting more excited, and nervous!, for our 'Born for This – 30th Anniversary' performance, Tickets are still available so please join in for a truly moving and deeply reflective evening.

The production will take place for one night only at the iconic Symphony Hall, beginning at 7pm on Wednesday 25th March 2026.

Tickets are available now: <https://bmusic.co.uk>

Cecele for representing our school community so beautifully last weekend!

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Tickets are available now: <https://bmusic.co.uk>



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	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)

SEND

Below are some local and national support pages for students with neurodivergence and their parent/carers:



<https://autisticgirlsnetwork.org/autistic-girls/>



<https://www.donaldsons.org.uk/neurodiversity/>



<https://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk/>

LIBRARY

OVERDUE BOOKS

Please can we ask that you have a check around your home for any school library books and return as soon as possible.

LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Check out our Library newsletter by following the link below:

<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/library/newsletter>



SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING

ONLINE SAFETY

Helping make the internet a great and safe place for children and young people.

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping students safe in the digital world, we recently launched our online safety programme using guidance and resources from Childnet. Our first topic was Parental Controls, and we hope you found this useful.

We will focus on a different aspect of online life, from social media and gaming to digital wellbeing, online relationships and misinformation all based on expert advice provided by Childnet.

Childnet is a trusted UK charity specialising in online safety education, and their evidence-based guidance helps schools, families and young people develop the skills needed to navigate

the internet safely and responsibly. While some of the topics we cover may feel sensitive or difficult to read about, it is important that we understand the facts and feel confident having open, informed conversations with young people. Providing clear, accurate information helps us work together to protect and empower our students.

We will introduce a key topic drawn directly from Childnet's resources, along with practical advice and conversation starters to support discussions at home. We encourage parents and carers to explore the linked Childnet guidance alongside each feature to help reinforce these important messages and ensure a consistent approach between school and home.

[Help & advice | Childnet](#)

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 a member of the Wellbeing Team.

All The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

- WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**
- GROUP CHAT PRESSURES**
Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond if they engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.
- SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS**
Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.
- DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES**
WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.
- EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS**
'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.
- UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING**
WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if managed carelessly, this can show others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.
- COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT**
WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – 'Reza AI' – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**
Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.
- TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS**
Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.
- BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS**
Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something makes them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.
- TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI**
Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

WakeUpWednesday | The National College

See full reference list on our website

[@wake_up_weds](#) | [/www.thenationalcollege](#) | [@wake.up.wednesday](#) | [@wake.up.weds](#)

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SNOOZE FOR SUCCESS!

WORLD SLEEP DAY

FRIDAY 13TH MARCH

Bishop Challoner Catholic College

GET 8-10 HOURS!
Aim for 8-10 hours of sleep each night!

UNPLUG BEFORE BED
Turn off screens for at least 30 minutes before sleep.

CHILL OUT & RELAX
Wind down with a book or calm music.

CONSISTENT SCHEDULE
Go to bed and wake up at the same time every day.

SLEEP WELL, DO WELL!

Healthy Sleep = Better Grades & Mood!

A+

YEAR 11

Most Year 11 classes are now coming to the end of covering their 9-topic content. This cohort will be the first to sit this new GCSE. The feedback from teachers and student work is positive and we are confident for the summer examinations.

NOTE: The dates for the GCSE speaking examinations will be in the week beginning 27th April.

KS5

Year 12 continue to develop their oracy skills through weekly presentations in French on contemporary issues. Recent tasks have included researching and presenting on how the French government is addressing gender equality. Alongside this, students have completed units on the French education system, changes in family structures, and festivals and traditions across the francophone world. Their next area of study will focus on freedom of speech and its limitations, with particular reference to the Charlie Hebdo attacks in Paris, while also deepening their understanding of French music and the ways in which the state supports its artists.

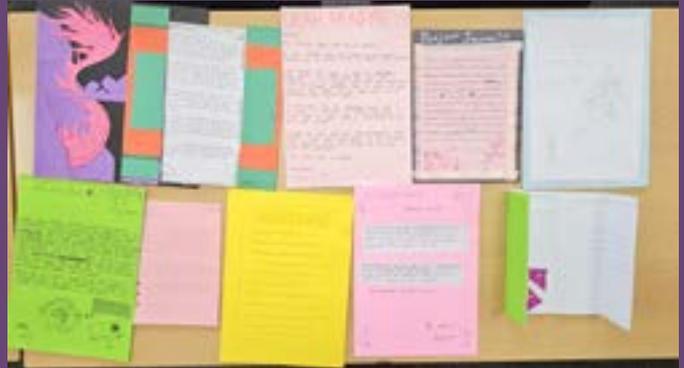


Year 13 have now completed their mock examinations and gained valuable insight into effective preparation for their final assessments. Their study sessions provide uninterrupted opportunities for speaking practice, personalised feedback, and targeted support with revision. They are currently engaging with demanding topics, including occupied France and collaboration during the Second World War, as well as the benefits and challenges of immigration for social cohesion. They will soon begin exploring the rise of the far right in contemporary France, analysing its messaging and the factors that attract supporters. This topic will also offer meaningful parallels with political developments in the United Kingdom.



PENPAL LETTERS

The pen pal scheme is off to a fantastic start. Students in Year 9 and 10 were thrilled to receive their letters and to learn about their penpals' hobbies, school life in France and the local wine festival. Their responses are almost ready to be sent, and we are so proud of the effort they have put into making the letters beautiful, personal and exciting to read. See below some of the hard work our year 10s have put into their letters.



GERMAN CLUB

Guten Tag! The regulars at German Club have been enjoying learning about German culture through crafts, cooking, and games. Before Christmas, we learnt about German Christmas traditions such as Krampus parades, and made delicious Lebkuchen!

We marked the new year by crafting origami Glücksschweine (lucky pigs). We have also looked at German artists through history and recreated our favourite artwork, practised German phrases with snakes and ladders, researched German-speaking countries and created country fact-files, and have celebrated Karneval season starting by making our own carnival masks (and eating carnival sweets!). We look forward to the rest of the half-term, when we'll bake Easter treats and trying out the time-honoured German tradition of decorating Easter eggs! Auf Wiedersehen!



YEAR 9 - NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE IN LEICESTER

This week, our Year 9 students enjoyed an unforgettable adventure at the National Space Centre, exploring the wonders of space, science, and technology. The trip was packed with hands-on activities, immersive exhibits, and plenty of moments that sparked curiosity and excitement. The students explored iconic Rocket Tower, discovering real spacecraft, learning about rocket engineering, and seeing a full-scale Thor Able rocket up close. We also visited the planetarium, which was one of the favourite moments of the day, where the students were taken on an astronaut journey through space.



The students had hands on experience in the interactive exhibits, from driving a Mars rover simulation to controlling a robotic arm. The students are excited to find out more regarding future careers in astronomy, engineering, or space exploration. The hands-on elements were a clear highlight, helping students connect classroom learning to real-world science. The students were role models for Bishop Challoner during the whole trip and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Thank you to Mr Ram, Miss Manning, Mr Capper and Miss Rehman.



ROME PILGRIMAGE

In 2025 the church celebrated the 'Year of Jubilee', also known as the "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee, an invitation during that year was to go on pilgrimage so in June 2025 staff and students from Bishop Challoner and St Thomas Aquinas had a special opportunity to go on Pilgrimage together. As a school we would like to continue the legacy from the Jubilee year, by again journeying with staff and students from St Thomas Aquinas to Rome in February 2027. This opportunity is being offered to students who will be in year 10 and 11 at the time of pilgrimage. Limited spaces available. Please see Mr Rowan in R2 or email him at t.rowan@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk for more details.

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.

BLACK COUNTRY HISTORY MUSEUM

The history department took 80 students from Year 8 to the Black Country Museum on the 4th of March. Students were able to fully immerse themselves into the lives of our ancestors living during the industrial period; experiencing firsthand the everyday life of working-class people who lived in the Black Country. The weather was beautiful and the maturity of the students was commendable. Those who attended have been demonstrating how much they learnt from the experience in lessons with their verbal contributions to class discussion.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We had a great event in the library on Thursday 5th March celebrating World Book Day. We had a giant doodling session, comic strip workshop and WBD Pictionary.



SPORTS



**Wellbeing Wednesday
FITNESS CLUB!**

Every Wednesday Morning!
7:45AM - 8:30AM
IN THE FITNESS SUITE

ALL STUDENTS WELCOME!

- ✓ Get active *before school!*
- ✓ Fun workouts & *great start to the day!*

The poster features a central image of three people exercising in a gym. Below the main text, there are silhouettes of people performing various exercises like lifting weights and doing a kick.

PATHWAY TO PROM REMINDER

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.

SUMMER INVIGILATORS

We are currently recruiting Exam Invigilators to help run the summer exam series.

If you know of anyone that might be interested during the months of May & June please contact the school on 0121 444 4161 and ask to speak with our Examinations Officer Mrs Houldcroft.

A LEVEL DIGBETH TRIP

As part of the geography A level specification, pupils are required to study and explore the developing character of a place local to the home or study centre, focussing on people's lived experience of the place in the past and at present and the changing demographic and cultural characteristics or economic change and social inequalities. We have chosen to use Digbeth as it has undergone huge changes in the past decade and will experience even more over the next.

On Thursday 26th February, we took 26 year 12 and 13 students to visit Digbeth to investigate the changes that local businesses and communities have experienced and how they felt about them, with a real focus on the rise of the creative industries and the marginalisation of the Irish communities there. We met at The Custard Factory, once the source of Alfred Bird's custard but now the figurehead of the rise of the 'creative quarter'. We then walked along what will be the new Metro line connecting Digbeth to the Black Country and London via HS2. We stopped at the old Typhoo Tea factory, which has been derelict since 1978, but will soon be the new home of the BBC. We continued our tour, passing 'The Bond' where Joe Lycett, local comedian, filmed his series, and Fazeley studios before visiting the site of 2 future residential developments at Garrison Circus and Upper Trinity Street, Duddeston Viaduct, which will be a revolutionary 'Sky Park' and walking along Floodgate Street, where all the up and coming nightlife spots are.

What better way to experience how Digbeth offers exciting opportunities for young people than to take part in a Go-Kart session at Teamworks on Fazeley Street. The students loved the experience and were very competitive, as were the staff!

After playing hard, it was back to working hard, visiting Nortons, the heart of the Irish community, where we were lucky enough to listen to talks from Lyle Bignon, night time ambassador for Birmingham, Peter Connelly, manager of Nortons and The Crown and the incredible Professor Carl Chinn, historian, author and radio presenter, who engaged the pupils with tales of the importance of the Irish to Digbeth, roots of local place names and even a little lesson on the virtues of immigration, including that of the original Anglo-Saxons from Germany. We didn't stop there! It was on to Eastside Art Projects, to view a modern art installation, a tour of Access Creative College and an insightful talk from Kieran McInerney, manager of The Old Crown, Birmingham's oldest secular building, for his thoughts on Gentrification and what he and others are aiming to do about it as part of the Digbeth BID (Business Improvement District). Finally, the year 12s and 13s had very different experiences; the year 12s hearing from the landlord of The Rainbow, a pub geared towards the youthful vibrant market and the y13s hearing from Anne Tighe at The Spotted Dog, a traditional ale and food pub that has been overlooked by the recent changes.

YEAR GROUP FOCUS

There have been countless numbers of events, trips, achievements which Year 7 have engaged with over the last term. We continue to be incredibly proud of how the Year 7 community lives out the school's FAITHFUL virtues.

Y7 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Year 7 students recently took part in a highly successful Personal Development Day, where they had the opportunity to learn about important aspects of staying safe and looking after their wellbeing. Throughout the day, students listened attentively to three engaging guest speakers: PC Tom Daley, who spoke about personal safety and making responsible choices; Aquarius, who delivered an informative session on the dangers of vaping; and Ray Douglass, who discussed how to stay safe online and use the internet responsibly. Students were extremely engaged during the talks, showing great respect to each speaker and contributing thoughtfully to discussions. In addition to the presentations, students also took part in workshops focused on managing stress and a seated yoga session, both of which they thoroughly enjoyed and found relaxing. It was a positive and enriching day that helped students build valuable knowledge and skills for their everyday lives.



10 FOR 10 WINNERS

In the last two weeks before half term, a '10 for 10' competition was held. This challenged our pupils to have 100% attendance and punctuality for the last 10 days of school before half term in order to be entered into a raffle to win a £10 voucher. Well done to Joseph A and Mason M, both in 7CEC, for winning these!



SYMPHONY HALL TRIP

Miss Hughes organised an exciting music trip to Symphony Hall where Year 7 students watched a live performance by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. The students were attentive and respectful listeners throughout the concert, showing real curiosity about how the different families of the orchestra—strings, woodwind, brass and percussion—worked together to create such a rich sound. They listened carefully as the orchestra demonstrated how each section contributed to the music, helping them better understand the instruments they have been learning about in class. A highlight for many students was hearing well-known pieces such as Jai Ho and the famous themes from Star Wars and E.T., which created a lot of excitement in the hall. The trip was brought live orchestral music to life and sparked further interest in music among the students. Well done to the students for their exemplary behaviour throughout.



REWARDS EVENT

On Wednesday 11th February, Mr Azam organised a rewards event for Year 7 students who are living out our FAITHFUL virtues and achieving the highest numbers of positive logs, week in, week out. Not a single one of them has achieved a negative log this year! The students were treated to sweets, crisps, fizzy pop. They had an afternoon of games and watched Monsters' University in the library! There was even a raffle event for students to win Amazon vouchers. These students are exemplary role models to their peers. Well done to Nyola M-A, Eliza C, Orlaith K, Cecelia T, Nicola M, Eliza B, Alexander N, Orlaith B, Scarlett H, Painting T, Tye H, Eden N, Elena M, Lukas W, Emily B, Cameron O.



FORM RESOURCES

Last week was National Careers Week and this was celebrated across the school in many ways, including during form time. Students had the opportunity to think about what a career path means and how their interests, skills and determination can help shape their future. This year's theme, "Own Your Future," encouraged students to reflect on the importance of setting goals, working hard and believing in their potential.

As part of these discussions, students looked at inspiring individuals who have overcome challenges to achieve success in different fields. Students explored the journey of Rihanna, who rose from humble beginnings in Barbados to become one of the world's most successful musicians and entrepreneurs. In addition to her achievements in music, Rihanna has built successful businesses in fashion and beauty and has used her influence to support charitable causes, demonstrating how talent, hard work and ambition can lead to a wide range of opportunities.

Another example discussed was Mr Beast, one of the most well-known content creators on YouTube. Known for his creative videos and large-scale philanthropic challenges, he has used his platform to donate millions of dollars to charitable causes and support people in need. His success highlights how modern careers can develop in new and unexpected ways through creativity, digital media and entrepreneurship.

Through these examples, students were encouraged to reflect on how determination, resilience and creativity can help them overcome challenges and take positive steps towards owning their future.

This week students have engaged in an informative presentation exploring global news and developing their understanding of current events in the Middle East. As part of this, students have looked closely at where countries such as Iran and Israel are located on the world map, along with neighbouring nations in the region. They examined the significance of shared borders and how geography can influence relationships between countries. This helped students to better understand how events in one part of the world can have wider global impacts.

Students also considered the importance of reliable news sources and the role of journalism in helping people understand complex world issues. Alongside this learning, students watched segments from Newsround, which presents global events in a way that is accessible and age-appropriate, helping young people make sense of what is happening in the world around them.

In addition students were encouraged to reflect on the importance of compassion and empathy. As part of our school's Faithful Virtues, they were invited to demonstrate being faith-filled and learned by thinking about those affected by conflict and hardship.

Students have also been invited to visit the school chapel where they can leave prayers or thoughtful messages for those who may be suffering the consequences of war and conflict.

ASSEMBLIES

During the past fortnight, our assembly programme has been both educational and thought-provoking as students have had the opportunity to explore International Women's Day. This annual global event recognises the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women around the world. It also serves as an important reminder of the continued work needed to achieve gender equality and to ensure that women and girls everywhere have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

During our assemblies, students discussed the history of International Women's Day, which began in the early 1900s. Today, the day is marked worldwide through celebrations, educational events and campaigns that highlight the contributions of women in all areas of society. This year's theme was 'Give to Gain' where students have been encouraged to promote equality.

Students also learned about inspiring individuals who have made a significant impact in their fields. One such figure is Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, a British space scientist and science communicator who has dedicated her career to making science accessible and exciting for everyone.

In addition, students explored the achievements of Stormzy, the British musician and philanthropist who has used his platform to advocate for equality and opportunity. Through these discussions, students were encouraged to reflect on the importance of equality, respect and the role each of us can play in supporting a fairer and more inclusive world.

This week, students have enjoyed hearing some of the positive feedback from our recent Ofsted inspection. Students were pleased to hear that inspectors recognised how welcoming and friendly our school is. Inspectors commented that pupils are polite, respectful and supportive of one another, helping to create a positive and calm environment for learning.

Inspectors also noted that pupils take pride in their school and are proud to be part of the community at Bishop Challoner Catholic College. Our students represented the school brilliantly during the inspection and their confidence, honesty and enthusiasm helped inspectors gain a real sense of what makes our school such a special place to learn.

Students also had an opportunity to receive some feedback on our recent school council meetings, again highlighting the importance of their voice in our school community.

+ 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.



STUDENT REWARDS

YEAR GROUP	MOST POSITIVE LOGS		YEAR GROUP	MOST POSITIVE LOGS
YEAR 7	Roisin F Daniel C Eliza B Freddie H Jacob-K Iyla D	Thanduxolo N Avani B Nyola M Patrick O'D Isabella B Nuala-Rose H	YEAR 10	Tymoteusz K Falak Waheed A Roberto I Jacob R Bailey B
YEAR 8	Scott G Essay G Dean C Nina B Jah-zi W Alexander M Phu Q	Bruna L Sophia M Anenyasha N Romeo P Milaan L Nina B Zac F	YEAR 11	Christelle B Elaine C Megan N Ishmail E Atiscia D Mary N
YEAR 9	Charlie H Munana D Sophia T Khaydan S Annedrea L Jacob T Evie M	Kaylan G Charlie H Kaiden G Reyhan A Kayven R Ella R Harris K		

YEAR 11 MOCKS

Please follow the link for information shared this week via email and on the school website:

<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/news>

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.

NETBOOK DROP IN!

GET HELP WITH YOUR NETBOOK!

- TECH SUPPORT
- TROUBLESHOOTING
- SOFTWARE HELP & MORE!

EVERY TUESDAY

3:20PM - 4:00PM

ROOM M8



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.

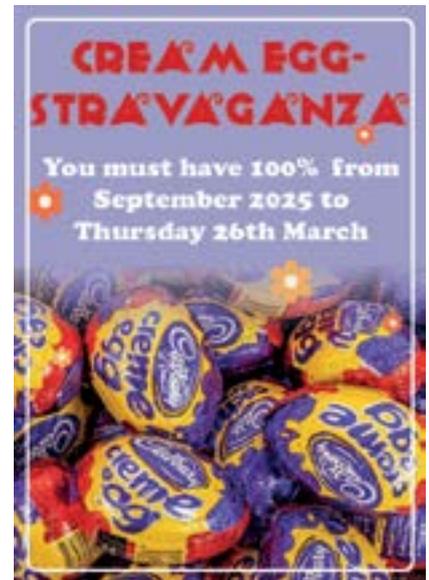
Please do not attend school without an appointment unless there is a safeguarding emergency.

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

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 20th July 2026

NOTE

Amendment - Monday 13th April is no longer an INSET day.

Apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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 16th March	Year 13 Beyond BC Workshop Young Carers Day Year 9 Malypmics
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	School Open



GET ACTIVE YOUR WAY

"When time and energy are low, a walk outside can **reset the mind and lift the mood.**"

Find local **opportunities** and useful **resources**



TUESDAY 24TH MARCH 2026

EVERY LESSON

WINNING IT IS TOGETHER, THAN IT SOUNDS!

YEAR 7 VERSUS YEAR 8

THE YEAR WITH THE HIGHEST TOTAL RAISED WILL BE CROWNED CHAMPIONS

PRIZES TO BE WON, REWARDS TO BE GIVEN.



YOUR MISSION: TO COLLECT AS MUCH SPONSORSHIP FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS AS YOU CAN

New Job Added Parish Mission & Formation Co-ordinator

Click on the link below to view all job opportunities with The Archdiocese of Birmingham



<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/news/2026-02-27-the-archdiocese-of-birmingham-job-opportunities>