

Message from Mr O'Connor, Vice Principal

"Kindness is a firm and persevering intention to always will the good of others, even the unfriendly. We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace." Pope Francis

This academic year, our platinum jubilee, is the 'Year of Challoner'. We will celebrate the contributions and achievements of staff and students over the past 70 years. The Challoner spirit, and our school ethos, 'to give glory to God by developing our full potential and in the service of others' continues to be central in all that we do.

Friday 13th October 2023

PRAYER FOR RACIAL HEALING God of justice, In your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception.

Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the dignity, beauty, and worth of every human being.

Open our minds to understand that all your children are brothers and sisters in the same human family.

Open our hearts to repent of racist attitudes, behaviors, and speech which demean others.

Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by racial discrimination, and their passionate appeals for change.

Strengthen our resolve to make amends for past injustices and to right the wrongs of history.

And fill us with courage that we might seek to heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities.

This term staff and students have come together to raise money, give clothes, and donate food, to various charities including St Chads Sanctuary. Through the charitable events, carefully planned and supported by all, our students grow in confidence, become compassionate and more self-aware of those in greater need, many who live amongst us in our communities. Our ongoing charitable work will also help us achieve our ongoing goal of becoming a 'School of Sanctuary'. A school that is committed to being a safe and welcoming place for all, especially those seeking sanctuary.

Next week we will see our Year 7 chaplaincy team visit St Chads with Miss Turner to drop off our first collection of the new school term of clothes and food. We are very grateful to receive such a positive collection.

Mrs Colgan organised our Macmillan Cake morning last Friday. As a school we always look to support this incredible charity, especially as so many of us can connect with the organisation. Staff baked some delightful treats and with the introduction of an online payment method the school raised £450.

Some of our upcoming school charity events this term include:

- November Birmingham Irish Association Christmas Toy Appeal 6th November 14th December. Dementia Café Visits
- December Christmas Jumper Day to support the Toy Appeal 21st December
- December Staff Volunteering at SIFA Fireside 18th 20th December,

It continues to amaze me how dedicated our staff are in developing their pedagogy. Our lead teacher team continue to share with us the latest research to embed into our practice to improve our teaching. Mr Ravenscroft had some of his own work published this week on Artificial Intelligence through an educational platform called Cyber Explorers. How teaching has evolved over the past 70 years moving from chalkboards and ink wells to immersive rooms, interactive screens and virtual reality headsets. We are delighted to announce that the fitting out of our immersive virtual reality room will start in October and will transform our teaching and the way in which our students learn.

Our extra-curricular programme is in full flow, with students taking part in a variety of clubs including STEM, Art, G&T Maths, Drones, Volleyball, and Basketball. Our four mini buses leave the school each day carrying our future sporting stars as they compete against schools across Birmingham. We are delighted to welcome Father John and Father Toby, our new Parish Priests, into our school community. Our students are attending the parish mass on Wednesday mornings, alongside St Dunstans Catholic Primary School. We had our Year 7 Retreat on Thursday which ended with a Year group mass over at St Dunstans Church where Father Toby welcomed all of our students into the Parish Church.

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching our first half term of the year with only two weeks remaining. We will break up on Thursday 26th October as Friday 27th is a teacher training day. It is true when they say that time goes by quickly when you are having fun!

We thank you, Father, for the humble example of St. Chad. We pray that we would always seek to serve, rather than to be served, to love rather than to seek praise, and to be a light in the darkness for others seeking truth. Amen.



We live in age of disinformation; whether maliciously or accidently, people are publishing content that is missing facts, context, or is straight up fabricated. Fake News has exploded in reach in recent years through social media and with generative AI now capable of producing realistic photos and videos of subjects, it is getting harder and harder to discern what you are seeing.

Here at Bishop Challoner, students discuss the concept of fake news in computing lessons and explore the impacts of potentially acting and believing disinformation. They are also aware of the part generative AI can now play.

We encourage you to engage with your child in conversation about this topic, and the BBC have provided some great educational resources to aid those discussions:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/safer-internet-day-resources/z6bbhbk

Sports Updates

Following on from last weeks success, the students have been very busy with fixtures. The Y10 boys football team played away at Windsor High School in their first match of the school year. The Y11 boys football won 2-1 away against Stoke Park and the Y8 boys played at home against Bournville and won 7-0. A great start for our boys football teams.

Our Y7 and Y8 Netball teams competed at the secondary school games at Christ church in their first tournament against 5 other schools - well done girls! The Y8 boys' and Y9 Girls football team also competed at the secondary school games at Christ church, with the Y8 boys coming out on top and winning the whole tournament. Finally, the Y7 Girls football team won their debut match against George Dixon Academy 3-0 – another fantastic start to the season!

#HelloYellow

Once again, we celebrated World Mental Health Day by wearing yellow and raising funds amongst the staff for the charity



Young Minds. We also held another Wellbeing Café in the library. KS3 students enjoyed games, bracelet making, pebble painting and stories in the library- not to mention some refreshments.



GET IN TOUCH

In order for us work together, to best support our young people, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have information to share regarding the safeguarding or wellbeing of your child.

This is particularly important if there has been a change in circumstances for the young person.

Please contact Mrs K Peckover, Mrs M Nutt or any DSL or member of the Wellbeing Team.

Mental Health Awareness Workshop

We were pleased that a number of parents/carers were able to join us Tuesday 3rd October for the workshop run by STICK. The session was very much about awareness raising and they reminded parents/carers of the various support available in the city. Please follow the link below which will take you to several possible sources of support and information.

https://forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk/make-a-referral

We did raise the issue of the timing of these workshops for parents/carers, as we appreciate that 4pm, the latest they could offer, is not a convenient time for all. STICK have said they will explore the possibility of online sessions.

BCTSA Training School

Are you, or someone you know, thinking about training to be a teacher?

We run the School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) PGCE Programme here at Bishop Challoner, and work with many Primary and Secondary Schools in the West Midlands area. Applications are now open here:

https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training

Our next free information session is face to face on Tuesday 7th November at 5pm to 6pm or online on Wednesday 15th November 6pm to 7pm- just drop us an email to book a place and find out more! trainingschool@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk or visit our website www.bctsa.org for more information



Uniform Standards

Students are required to wear the standard uniform of blazer, tie, white/blue shirt with black straight leg school trousers (not skinny or boot cut) or girls can wear a knee length black pleated school skirt. Girls are also reminded that if they choose to wear a skirt, then they should wear plain, black, opaque tights. Students are reminded that black leather school shoes should be worn and that trainers/trainer style shoes are forbidden.

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

Our uniform requirements are complemented by a smart appearance and as such, hair styles that should not have a distinct contrast in length. Hair that is dyed must be of a natural hair colour and may not contain more than one colour. To avoid a health and safety risk, long hair must not impede vision or cover the face, except for a fringe which must not cover the eyes. Long hair must be tied up for practical lessons. Religious head coverings must be black and securely tied for practical lessons. Hair bands or accessories must be for functional use to secure the hair . Where hairbands are worn they must be black. Headwear that has religious or cultural purpose should be black. The final decision as to whether a particular haircut/style is appropriate is at the discretion of senior staff.

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

Students found to be wearing an inappropriate item of uniform may be asked to change this or in some cases parents/carers will be contacted and requested to bring replacement uniform to school.

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

Skirts

Please be reminded that all school skirts should be pleated, as part of the phased approach, any students still wearing a straight skirt have until half term to replace this. Lycra/stretchy material flared skirts are not allowed.

Attendance Updates

Attendance Percentage	w/c 09/10/23		
Year 7 - 95.5%	Late Marks		
Year 8 - 94.4%	Year 7 - 19		
Year 9 - 92.0%	Year 8 - 20		
Year 10 - 91.7%	Year 9 - 63		
Year 11 - 92.7%	Year 10 - 48		
Whole School - 93.3%	Year 11 - 45		

Attendance Raffle Winners

Well done to the following students that have had 100% attendance and no late marks. They each won a £10 high street voucher.

Friday 6th October
Year 7 - Jeremi S
Year 8 - Aoife M
Year 9 - Sophie L
Year 10 - Patrick S
Year 11 - Hannah C
Year 11 - Hannah C
Year 13th October
Year 7 - Holly C
Year 7 - Holly C
Year 9 - Amy R
Year 10 - Niall C
Year 11 - Emily S

Reporting Student 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.

If your child is in Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 please call 0121 444 4161 and select OPTION 1.

If your child is in Year 12 please call 0121 441 6113.

If your child is in Year 13 please call 0121 441 6144

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.

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 in 2023.

Church	Postcode	Parish Priest	Sunday Mass Times	Saturday Vigil Mass Time
St. Dunstan's	B14 7JN	Fr John Peyton	10am 12noon 6.30pm	5.30pm
St. Jude's	B14 5PE	Fr John Peyton	9.15am	-
Our Lady Of Lourdes	B13 OEU	Canon Sean Grady	9am 11am	6pm
St Catherine Of Sienna	B5 7BE	Fr. Jagadishmario Kurapati (Fr. Mario)	10.30am	5pm
St Edward's	B29 7DB	Fr Denis McGillycuddy	10.15am	6pm
St Mary's	B17 0DN	Fr John Reid	8am 9.30am 11am 5pm	6рт
Sacred Heart and Holy Souls	B27 6RG	Canon Jonathan Veasey	8.30am 10am 12noon	5pm
English Martyrs	B11 3JN	Fr Robert Murphy	9.45am	6pm
St Chads Cathedral,	B4 6EX	Mgr Tim Menezes	9.30am 11.30am	4.30pm
Our Lady And St Brigid	B31 5AD	Fr Cecil Rogerson	9.00am 11.45am	10am 5pm
Our Lady Of Fatima	B32 1LL	Fr Philip Long Nguyen	9.00am 11.00am	6pm
St Ambrose Barlow	B28 8QU	Fr Paul Johnson	10.00am 5.30pm	5.30pm
The Oratory Of Saint Philip Neri	B16 8UE	Fr Anton Guziel	8.30am 10.30am 12pm 5.30pm	5.30pm
St Peters	B32 3QG	Fr Gary Buckby	9.30am	-
Our Lady And St Rose Of Lima	B29 5DY	Fr Gary Buckby	11am	5.15pm

Prayer and Worship

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

Each week we share our reflection on the school website, you can view it here.

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

First Aid Reminders

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

Emergency Contacts

It is imperative we have your current correct contact information on our systems. Please inform the school if

anything has changed, especially telephone numbers.

Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes

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

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

Year 7 and 9 Assessments

Please follow the links below for subject information and guidance on the upcoming Year 7 and 9 assessments.

Year 7 - https://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/examinations-information/year-7-assessments

Year 9 - https://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/examinations-information/year-9-assessments

Maths Hub

Dates are now finalised for the A Level Pedagogy Work Group. This is a free programme provided by Central Maths Hub. Interested? Sign up by clicking here: A Level Pedagogy



AN INVITATION TO

T Level Launch Event

Join us on Wednesday 15th November 2023 at our Sixth Form Open Evening to find out about the T Level in Management and Administration.

To find out more information, visit the Business room and speak to Miss Sadler.

Please scan below to book your open evening tickets and show your interest in our T Level offer.







Upcoming Events

Sixth Form Dementia Cafe
Tuesday 17th October

Bishop's Got Talen Queensbridge V BC Jubilee Sports Event T Level Taster Day Thursday 19th October

Business T Level Trip to London Friday 20th October

Friday 20th October

Y12 Oxbridge Application Visit Tuesday 24th October Y11 Personal

Development Day Y7/8 Winter Games Y9 Computing Workshop Wednesday 25th October

Non uniform Day
Y7 TT Rockstars
Competition
Last day of half term
Thursday 26th October

Staff INSET School Closed Friday 27th October







SS John and Monica Catholic Primary School will be holding their

Open Morning on Tuesday 7th November at 9.30am, 2.00pm & 4.30pm

Do come and visit us and make sure your child gets the best start!





SS John & Monica Catholic Primary School Chantry Road Moseley Birmingham B13 8DW



To book a place contact: 0121464-5868 or email enguiry@stjonmon.bham.sch.uk





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