



Message from Dr Coughlan Executive Principal

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a wonderful autumn term at Bishop Challoner Catholic College filled with hard work and incredibly enriching experiences outside the classroom. The BC14 Christmas newsletter will provide you with just a snapshot of some of the brilliant work across the school this term and I hope you enjoy reading it.

This year has been designated as a Jubilee Year under the banner of Pilgrims of Hope. Students and staff joined a livestream shared across the entire Archdiocese of Birmingham to celebrate the jubilee year drawing to a close. It was absolutely fantastic to see Bishop Challoner students leading some of the prayer and liturgy as part of this wonderful occasion and all credit to those involved.

Our students continue to bring hope to our local community. Once again, we have been working with the Birmingham Irish Association to purchase toys to give out to those in need; Irish TV were in school a few weeks ago to film students and staff. The collection this year has been quite incredible and will bring some much-needed joy to local families.

For a second year, we continue to fundraise for Fr Hudson's Caritas. There have been a variety of cake sales, discos and other charitable events taking place across the school and we hope to meet or exceed the £6,000 our school community raised last year.

We are extremely proud of our sixth form. Alongside their studies, they have supported the local Dementia Café, World Mental Health Day, hosted a fortnightly tea party for local parishioners and in December they led a Rudolph run which raised close to £2,000 for the Birmingham Hospice – an incredible effort. They really epitomise our mission of service to others.

Applications are still open for our sixth form, and it is brilliant to see record numbers applying this year. Many of our students have been completing their UCAS applications this term and a significant number have secured an interview at Oxbridge to study a wide range of subjects. In those great words of Oscar Romero, our sixth form really does remain a place to "aspire to be more".

A Christmas prayer

Loving God, this Christmas season we remember the wondrous gift of your transforming love, born among us in humility and hope.

Unite our hearts across our differences, that we may become one in spirit and purpose.

Kindle in us a passion for justice, that all might live in dignity, peace, and joy.

Help us restore hope and honour the worth of every neighbour.

As we receive the light of Christ, teach us to work together to gratefully receive the gifts of each other's traditions and to generously share your love and joy with the world.

Amen.

(cte.org.uk)

We continue to work tirelessly to drive up attendance, and I thank parent and carers for all their support this term in ensuring our students regularly attend school. Attendance levels in the school are extremely high, but there is always more we can do. Our recent 12 days of Christmas attendance raffle is one example of the excellent incentives that are in place to encourage regular attendance. We were extremely pleased to see our high attendance rates recognised in a recent DfE report.

Our examination groups have been working extremely hard this term. The commitment shown to their studies is hugely impressive. Year 11 have just completed their mock examinations and Year 13 will commence their mocks in the new year. Students should be congratulated on their exemplary work.

The season of advent is a time of great joy and preparation as we prepare for the birth of the Christ child. Over the Christmas period we particularly remember in our prayers all those caught up in conflict, those persecuted for their beliefs, those that have recently lost loved ones and those for whom Christmas will be a lonely time this year.

As our jubilee year draws to a close, we look forward to 2026 with great hope.

Wishing you and your families a very happy and holy Christmas.

J Coughlan
Executive Principal



SIXTH FORM NEWS



APPLY NOW

★ SIXTH FORM REWARDS

REWARD - w/b 01/12/25	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
AMBITION	Alfie B	Samuel P Annie F
SERVICE TO OTHERS	Helena C	Sonali B Toru A James K
PROGRESSION	Jayden M	Orlaith M Ava McD Hannah F
INDEPENDENCE	Levi T	George K Francina G Isobel H
ROLE MODEL	Haala McT	Charlotte J Francis A
EXCELLENCE	Callum K Jack B	Saoirse N

We would like to give a special mention to the following students who deserve special recognition for all their work this term in living out our ASPIRE foundations.

These students received the highest number of positive praise points from staff around the school for this term.

REWARD	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
AMBITION	Helena C	Samuel P
SERVICE TO OTHERS	Beatrice M	James K
PROGRESSION	Kaitlyn McG	George F
INDEPENDENCE	Dominic M	Orlagh L
ROLE MODEL	Pola B	Toru A
EXCELLENCE	Azebe N	Rafael L-F

YEAR 13 MOCKS

Please follow the links below for subject information and guidance on the Year 13 Mocks.



<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/sixth-form/welcome/year-13-mocks>

SIXTH FORM QUIZ

This week has been an exciting one for our Sixth Form, with several memorable events taking place. Our student leadership team consisting of Saoirse N, James K, Sonali B and Olivia B Y delivered a Christmas-themed quiz for lower school students during break time in the library. The quiz was well attended and brought plenty of festive cheer.

We also held the Big Sixth Form Quiz, where students who had demonstrated outstanding effort and achievement this half term were invited to take part. The quiz was expertly delivered by our very own quiz master, Mr Robinson, winner of this year's BBC Mastermind.



'SHOUT OUT' POSTCARDS

Over the last half term staff members have had the opportunity to award Sixth Form students with a 'Shout Out' postcard where they have displayed our ASPIRE foundation. Well done to all students that received one. It was great to see them all on display during our rewards assemblies.



APPLICATIONS UPDATES

Year 11 - Please look out for exciting updates on your applications to Bishop Challoner Sixth Form this week.

On behalf of the Sixth Form, we would like to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.

FOLLOW US ON TIK TOK

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



CATHOLIC LIFE

END OF TERM MASSES – PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR CHRIST

We gathered as year groups to celebrate the end of term and to prepare our hearts and souls for the coming of Christ. A special thank you to Fr Toby, our altar servers, readers, students who carried up the offertory, and our wonderful choir, musicians, and technical support team who made our final Masses of 2025 a truly beautiful celebration. Fr Toby reminded us of the joy of Christmas and that presents, nice food and time with family are part of that joy, but Jesus is the everlasting joy. Without Christ, there is no Christmas.

It is these collective celebrations that truly express the spirit of our school community and remind us that everything we do, we do in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN ADVENT

It has been a joy to support our students in making the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this holy season of Advent. A heartfelt thank you to Fr Toby, Fr John, Fr Babau and Canon Sean, who generously gave hours from their busy Advent schedules to guide and minister to our students.

Here are a few of the wonderful comments students shared about their experience of confession:

Y10 student - "I wanted to reflect on everything that happen this year, and be forgiven to have a fresh start."

Y9 students - "It's important to go to confession because it is a time for you to reflect upon your sins and to confess them to God even though he already knows what they are. To say sorry to God, I think it is important to do/say your penance."

"I never miss a chance to go to confession."

Y8 student - "I went to confession to prepare myself for Jesus' birth and it's a reminder that Christmas isn't just about presents"

Y7 students - "To confess all of my sins so I could feel less worried about them".

"I wanted to cleanse my soul from my sin to celebrate Jesus' birth free from sin and to ask the Lord for advice on how I can improve my contributions to school, like work, behaviour and homework".

Our local Parishes have their Advent Penitential Services over the coming weeks

Monday 22nd Dec 7.30pm-

Our Lady of Lourdes, Yardley Wood

Tuesday 23rd Dec 7.30pm-

St Edward's, Selly Park



WALK WITH HIM DURING ADVENT

Ellen, staff and students have continued their daily prayer using the Walk with Me daily Advent reflections. This has been a wonderful opportunity to pause during the day and reflect on the meaning of scripture in preparation for Christmas. The reflections, written by Archbishop Bernard Longley in a special Jubilee Advent edition, help us connect deeply with the season's message. Copies of Walk with Me are also available in local parish churches for anyone who wishes to continue the journey at home.



BORN FOR THIS UPDATE

Rehearsal schedules for students involved in the 30th Anniversary Production of 'Born for This' will be shared in January. In the meantime, students are encouraged to rehearse during the Christmas break using the resources provided by Miss Hughes.

This is an incredible opportunity to be part of a truly special event. Students will continue to work tirelessly alongside five other schools to present a beautiful and moving production of the Stations of the Cross at the iconic Symphony Hall.

Tickets for the production go on sale this week at www.bmusic.co.uk.

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS DURING ADVENT

In form time over the past fortnight, we have reflected on the message of the Gospels and considered how we might live out the messages in our own lives.

2nd week of Advent - Peace

John proclaimed the message of repentance- calling people to change their ways to be ready to enter the kingdom of God. His message was clear, words are not enough, there must be actions to produce 'good fruit'.



Take a moment to ask yourself what peaceful acts you can carry out during this second week of Advent

- Pray for a peaceful heart
- Pray for peace in society and the world
- Try to reconcile friends who have fallen out.
- Walk away from an argument when we feel annoyed or provoked.
- Try to look at things from another's point of view, rather than seeking ways to start an argument
- Do not get involved with gossip but base opinion on the facts.
- Support the work of organisations such as Missio, who are tirelessly working for peace in our world

3rd Week of Advent - Joy

John was not expecting the Messiah to be so loving, compassionate and forgiving, Jesus came to spread the joy of the Gospel. To spread the feeling of great happiness, knowing we are all loved by God

Take a moment to ask yourself what JOY we can bring to others during this third week of Advent

- Be open to developing new friendships by including others and not judging those we do not know
- Act with justice and generosity; sharing what we can with those in need
- Treat one another with kindness and offer support where we can.
- Believe that, with faith and God's grace, we can make a difference in the world



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



JOURNEY IN FAITH

We are excited and grateful to announce the launch of 'Journey in Faith' in school this January. This is a well-established programme currently held weekly at St Dunstan's Parish. We are delighted that Fr John has kindly agreed to lead the programme in school for students and families who wish to explore the Catholic faith - whether as someone new and interested in the faith or as anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of their own faith. The programme explores the Catholic faith through Scripture, prayer, and discussion, offering a welcoming and reflective environment. More details will follow in the New Year.



If any students or families are interested in being welcomed into the Catholic Church, or have already been baptised and wish to continue receiving God's grace by completing their Sacramental journey, we invite you to get in touch e.thompson@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk in the first instance. We have already received several enquiries this term and will work closely with Fr John to support and welcome students and families on this journey.



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	Bishop Tim Menezes	9.30am, 11.30am	4.30pm
Our Lady And St Brigid	B31 5AD	Fr Cecil Rogerson	10am, 5.30pm	5pm
Our Lady Of Fatima	B32 1LL	Fr Philip Long Nguyen	11am	6pm
St Ambrose Barlow	B28 8QU	Fr Paul Johnson	10am, 5.30pm	5.30pm
The Oratory Of Saint Philip Neri	B16 8UE	Fr Anton Guziel	7.30am, 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.15pm, 5.30pm	5.30pm
St Peters	B32 3QG	Fr Gary Buckby	8.45am	-
Our Lady And St Rose Of Lima	B29 5DY	Fr Gary Buckby	11.30am	-
St John and Martin's	B12 9RG	Fr Baburao Pureti	9.30am	4pm
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)

MESSAGE FROM THE SENDCO

The SEND department wish you all a very Merry Christmas. There is advice from the Communication and Autism Team on an 'inclusive christmas' included in this newsletter which we hope is of use to families who need it.

To signpost you all to our school website for SEND policies and information including a new video from the SENDCo Mrs Hampson.



Communication and Autism Team

Parent Carer Advice Sessions

We would like to invite you to a 25 minute one-to-one advice session with a member of the Communication and Autism Team

For parent carers of children / young people on our CAT caseload, with a diagnosis of autism or who are on the neurodevelopmental pathway for assessment.

Sessions are limited but further sessions will be available at a later date if you are not able to book this time.

Date: Thursday January 8th 2026

Book via the following link:
<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/cat-parent-carer-online-one-to-one-advice-sessions-8th-january-2026/>

Sessions will take place via Microsoft Teams - a link be sent to you prior to the session.

Communication and Autism Team

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For parent carers of children / young people on our CAT caseload, with a diagnosis of autism or who are on the neurodevelopmental pathway for assessment.

Sessions are limited but further sessions will be available at a later date if you are not able to book this time.

Date: Tuesday January 6th 2026

Book via the following link:
<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/cat-parent-carer-online-advice-sessions-6th-january-2026/>

Sessions will take place via Microsoft Teams - a link be sent to you prior to the session.

TIPS FOR ENJOYING AN INCLUSIVE CHRISTMAS FROM THE COMMUNICATION AND AUTISM TEAM

Most people spend this time of year celebrating, spending time with relatives and over-indulging. It should be a time to relax, reflect and recharge.

But for many autistic children and young people and their families the festive season can be one of the most difficult times of year. Normal routines and daily life turn upside down as the unusual sights, sounds and traditions of Christmas take over.

For autistic people who depend on routine, structure and predictability this can be challenging.

With help from autistic young people, we've compiled some top tips that will help make life easier for autistic people and their families this season. [Read our Christmas top tips](#)



Laura's blog - Making Christmas work for me and my autistic siblings

In our latest blog, Laura, a member of the Ambitious Youth Network, writes about making Christmas work for her and her autistic siblings. From online shopping to avoiding busy crowds and watching familiar Christmas films like Navity and The Snowman, Laura has created her own traditions to enjoy Christmas in her own way.



[Read Laura's blog](#)

Autism-friendly festive attractions to visit this month

The festive period is around the corner, and it's a great time for families to get together and spend time doing things they enjoy. Megan, a member of the Ambitious Youth Network, has helped us put together a list of autism-friendly activities that all the family can enjoy, including quiet pantomime performances and Christmas trails.



[Read the blog](#)

Be scam smart - How to keep your child safe from online scams

This new resource can help young people recognise and deal with scams. Created in partnership with Internet Matters and Roblox, there's a guide for parents, a video for young people, plus stories for families to read together to help children stay protected.

[Read the resource](#)



SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING

SCREEN TIME AND BALANCE

Screens play a huge part in young people's lives, from schoolwork to socialising, but it is important to keep a healthy balance. Encourage your child to take regular breaks from devices, especially before bedtime, to help them sleep better and avoid eye strain. Try setting agreed times for homework, gaming, and downtime so that screen use doesn't take over family life. Finding enjoyable offline activities like reading, exercise, or hobbies can help children switch off and recharge. As parents, modelling balanced screen use ourselves sends a powerful message about how to use technology in a healthy way.

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.

COPING AT CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season is a time of joy and hope but also a time when heightened emotions and expectations can make it very challenging. It's not just the adults that might be feeling the strain. Below are links to two articles you may find useful. One about Teen Dysregulation and the other about Self Care for Parents and Carers- because we will find it very difficult to look after our young people, if we do not look after ourselves!

[Anger, Angst & Tantrums: Teen Emotional Dysregulation — Let's all Talk Mental Health](#)

[Self-care for parents and carers | Anna Freu](#)

Wishing you a Happy and Peaceful Christmas from the Wellbeing Team!

YEAR GROUP UPDATES

YEAR 8 ASSESSMENTS

Please follow the links below for subject information and guidance on the upcoming Year 8 assessments.



<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/examinations-information/year-8-assessments>

HEAD OF YEAR CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

YEAR 7 - Miss Watson

Wow – what a jam packed half term this has been for Year 7! The pastoral team are proud that we continue to read positive logs on Class Charts about how Year 7 remain committed to living out our 'FAITHFUL' virtues. This has been exemplified by the amazing charity fundraising efforts by the Year 7 team. 7LUK set the bar high at the beginning of half term by raising £63 through a cake sale. Thank you to Cassidy, Elijah, Eliza C, Cecelia, Solomon, Moses, Adam and Roisin for volunteering to support with this and to Miss Chance for organising it. This was topped off by the Year 7 Charity Christmas Disco. We had over 110 Year 7s turning up in their best outfits and with their best dance moves! Behaviour was impeccable and the atmosphere was electric. Most importantly, the disco raised £428.64! A fantastic effort from the year group and thank you to all the staff who supported this.



Beyond charity events there has been lots going on. This includes a visit from the 'Animal Man', where Year 7 got to stroke a honey bear and even hold a cockroach! In history, some classes have been reenacting the Battle of Hastings with Mr Bennett in

the Sports Hall. Thank you too, to those Year 7 who are regular volunteers with our chaplaincy events, including the Tolkien Primary Mass in November. On top of this, two of the three winners of the 'Black History Month' competition were from Year 7 – Moses and Ava-Mary – whose entries were selected by Dr Coughlan as being worthy of recognition.



Congratulations too, to 7LUK, who won the Champions League of attendance last half term. They thoroughly enjoyed their reward for this – a film and pizza in the library!

The term has been rounded off with the Year 7 Christmas show. They absolutely raised the roof with their singing and a shout-out to our soloists and readers. These included: Annie, Ava-Mary, Edwin, Jack, Helena, Suzanna, Roisin, Eliza C, Skyrh, Eljay, Oisin, Eliza B, Cillian, Orlaith L, Joseph B, Isabella, Olivia A, Eryk, Elijah R, Cassidy, Jonah, Jacob M, Oliver S, Tadiwanashe, Moira, Cecelia.

We are proud of everything you have achieved since joining us in September. We wish you a peaceful, safe holiday season and look forward to seeing you in 2026.

It's Christmas Time – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

It's Christmas Time!

It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period. Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

It's Christmas Time – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

A Parent's Guide to Social Media

A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures

A Parent's Guide to Gaming

A Parent's Guide to Online Shopping

A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming

A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers

A Parent's Guide to Fake News

A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipssafety.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Skips www.skipssafetynet.org

Home Office PREVENT

Police and Crime Commissioner

Children's Safeguarding Partnerships

YEAR 8 - Mr Knowles

Year 8 have enjoyed a highly active and successful term, being brilliant in lessons, sporting ventures, and their enthusiastic participation in charity events. We are extremely proud of their hard work, positive attitudes, and willingness to contribute to the wider school community, always doing their upmost to exhibit and live out the Faithful Virtues. Thank you to our dedicated staff and supportive families. We wish all members of the Year 8 community a joyful, peaceful, and holy Christmas, along with our very best wishes for the New Year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2026 feeling refreshed for the new term.

YEAR 9 - Miss Hunter

Miss Hunter and Miss Manning would like to extend our warmest Christmas greeting to all our year 9 students. After a first busy term filled with trips, rewards and KAP4 assessments we hope this holiday period will be peaceful, safe, and truly restorative, allowing you to return in the new year revitalised and ready to embrace new opportunities with a positive mindset. As you enjoy this special season, take time to be present with family and friends, and offer your support to those around you who may be in need. We encourage you to continue embracing and reflecting our faithful virtues – being forgiving, attentive, intentional, truthful, honest, faith-filled, understanding, and learned.

Wishing you and your families a blessed Christmas and a joyful start to the new year.

YEAR 10 - Mr Brade

As we come to the end of the autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Year 10 students on what has been a highly successful start to this important stage of their secondary education. Since September, students have approached Year 10 with maturity, enthusiasm, and a positive attitude, particularly as they have settled into their option blocks and begun their GCSE courses. This transition is a significant step, and it has been extremely encouraging to see how well the year group has embraced the increased expectations and challenges that come with it.

The first term has been a fantastic one, with students demonstrating strong commitment to their learning both in and out of the classroom. Attendance, engagement, and behaviour have been largely excellent, and many students are already showing real ambition and determination in their chosen subjects. This strong start will be vital as they continue to build the foundations for success over the remainder of Year 10 and into Year 11.

I am also very proud of the wider achievements of the year group beyond the classroom. Our Year 10 boys' and girls' football teams have both performed exceptionally well this term and are currently sitting at the top of their respective leagues. In addition, charity work is in full swing, with 10Seb raising a substantial amount of money through the sale of Christmas candy canes. This highlights the students' generosity, teamwork, and commitment to supporting others in our community.

As we approach the Christmas break, I would encourage students to take the opportunity to enjoy a well-earned and restful break. This is an important time to recharge, spend time with family and friends, and reflect on the progress made so far. While rest is essential, maintaining positive routines and engaging in light revision where appropriate will help students return in January focused and ready for the term ahead.

Finally, I would like to thank parents and carers for your continued support. Working in partnership is key to student success, and your encouragement at home makes a significant difference. I look forward to seeing Year 10 continue to grow, mature, and succeed as we move into the new year. Wishing you all a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and a happy New Year.

YEAR 11 - Mrs Whelan

As we come to the end of the autumn term, I would like to congratulate all Year 11 students on completing their mock examinations. Well done for the effort, focus, and resilience you showed throughout this important period.

Year 11 is a demanding year, and I have been impressed by the maturity, determination, and positive attitude many of you have shown this term. It has also been great to see students enjoying the rewards of their hard work, including the recent Year 11 vs Sixth Form reward quiz, which was a fantastic event and a great example of teamwork, enthusiasm, and school spirit.

I wish all Year 11 students and their families a happy, peaceful, and restful Christmas, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

YEAR 7 REWARDS AFTERNOON

This half term 7LUK enjoyed having an awards afternoon on for winning the Attendance Champion's League last half term. They enjoyed a film and pizza in the library!



9BER HAMPER RAFFLE

A huge thank you to Miss Khatun and 9BER for co-ordinating and selling the raffle tickets in the foyer for their form charity event. They raised a total of £163.62 for main school charity.

A special thank you to our cleaner Sue, who created the chocolate hampers for our wonderful students — they were fantastic!

Prize winners:

- 1st Prize: Oisin F, Year 7
2nd Prize: Callum R, Year 9
3rd Prize: Daisy W, Year 11

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed.

RSE UPDATES

Year 10 and 11 will be engaging in their RSE units during RE lessons in January 2026. All lessons are created by Ten:Ten and approved by the Catholic Church:

Year 10 'Authentic Freedom'. Students will gain an understanding that there are different beliefs, attitudes and values in the world, alongside recognising their own.

Year 11 'Self Worth'. Students will gain an understanding to support their own dignity in all relationships and an understanding of life cycles.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Reminder that all Year 10 students need to be actively looking for a Work Experience placement. They can find out more details on the WEX programme and all relevant paperwork on the link below:

<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/about/careers/work-experience>



YR10 WORK EXPERIENCE 2026 DATES
IMPORTANT DATES AND ACTIONS FOR STUDENTS

WHEN IS WEX WEEK?
MONDAY 29TH JUNE – FRIDAY 3RD JULY 2026 (5 DAYS)

 **HAND IN YOUR COMPLETED MEDICAL FORM**
ASAP BUT NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2025

 **EMAIL/PHONE/VISIT EMPLOYERS REQUESTING A WORK PLACEMENT**
ASAP BUT NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2025

 **FINAL DEADLINE FOR NOTIFYING MRS NEWTON OF YOUR PLACEMENT**
FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2026

ANY QUESTIONS? SEE MRS NEWTON

★ STUDENT REWARDS

MOST POSITIVE LOGS

YEAR 7		YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Elijah R	Orlaith K	Jamie C-B	Munana D	Ailbhe D	Sophie L
Alexander N	Jaiden L	Grace G	Katy A	Patrick N	Bella F V
Cecilia T	Toby C	Rosie C	Harry W	Maisie McG	Sadie B
Jaxon M	Painting T	Anenyasha N	Kaiden G	Bailey B	Patryk P
Harrison W	Eliza C	Waleed M	Theo T	Zahra I	Millie Ev
Hashim K	Moses N	Akariyo R	Ariya P		Imogen S
Roisin F	Cecilia T	Aston M	Harris K		Elise S
Sophie H	Nazar F	Noel Cy	Kayven R		
		Finley M	Munana D		
		Astrid Ry	Giovanni A-E E		
		Kye L	Ethan L		
			Lily B		

INTRA-FORM FOOTBALL COMPETITION

Yesterday, we hosted a Y7 & Y8 Intra-Form Football competition in the Sports Hall from 3:20-5pm. 17x teams (approx. 90-100 students total) entered and competed in the tournament with 7SEB coming out as the eventual winners.

Well done to 7SEB and well done to their 5x student representatives - Oliver S, Riley P, William G, Archie Y, Leo G B.



SUBJECT FOCUS - MUSIC

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

After such a successful event last Christmas, we decided this year to host another Year 7 Carol Service for parents, carers, and the local community.

Students attended singing practices in the Sports Hall with Mrs Choudhury in the lead up to Christmas to learn a selection of Christmas songs, old and new. With support from our Year 10 Performing Arts cohort and members of our choir from Years 7-9, Year 7 hosted a wonderful festive afternoon in St Dunstan's Church where students told the story of the true meaning of Christmas. The Year 7 readers told the Christmas story confidently and reverently, and the singers added their voices to bring warmth and joy to the service, making it a truly memorable occasion for all. We were delighted to be joined by students from St Anne's and St Alban's Primary Schools, who sang beautifully in the choir and joined in with all the actions to our final song. We are very proud of our Year 7 and the excellent start they have made to Bishop Challoner, and this was a lovely way to come together with our community of faith to celebrate. We would like to thank Father John for letting us use the Church and for his wonderful blessing.



BOARD GAMES WANTED!

Board Games Wanted - If you have any unwanted board games etc after Santa has delivered your new toys this year please consider donating them to the library. Our break and lunchtimes sessions are very busy and the students love to enjoy some social time with a board game.

DEMENTIA TRIP

On the final day of the Christmas Term, a group of our talented musicians took their show on the road and visited the Irish Centre to support local members of the community with dementia. The guests at the Irish Centre were celebrating Christmas with great food, company and music. Jobe Sullivan, a strong link between Bishop Challoner and the Birmingham Irish Association, led the Trad Irish ensemble with a long set of music and it was a fantastic example of the outreach work our students do within the wider community as well as showcasing their musical ability. We are proud of how our students worked with the guests at the Irish Centre and the genuine care and enthusiasm they showed throughout the afternoon. Their music brought smiles, sparked memories, and created a joyful atmosphere: it was a reminder of the power of music to connect generations and of the compassion and talent our students bring to every opportunity.

MUSIC IN THE AUTUMN TERM

The autumn term has passed quickly, and it is hard to believe we are counting down the days until Christmas. As ever, the year began in a lively and musical way, with plenty of performances and opportunities both inside and outside school. Highlights have included choral singing in Mass, concerts in the library, and events beyond the school gates. It has been especially exciting to see so many Year 7 students signing up for instrumental tuition and showing real enthusiasm for extracurricular activities, joining our older and more experienced students in keeping the department busy and vibrant.

The total number of students receiving weekly instrumental tuition has reached nearly 100 and, thanks to our excellent one to one and ensemble tuition from teachers at the Music Service and beyond, many students have made great progress which supports their classroom learning and develops their knowledge of music theory and ensemble experience, both of which supports learning at GCSE level. We currently offer woodwind, brass, strings, keyboard/piano, guitar, drum kit and steel pan lessons for our students.

BIRMINGHAM COMHALTAS GROUP

Some more of our musicians are involved with the Birmingham Comhaltas group, performing traditional Irish music within the local community, and would welcome new members. We are also pleased to say a number of classical instrumentalists perform regularly at venues such as Symphony Hall with their ensembles, choirs and orchestras. Sophie, one of our Year 11 flautists and a keen composer, will have one of her compositions performed next Summer as part of the Junior Proms: more about that in a future newsletter, but we are all extremely proud of her achievements.

YEAR 10

Our Year 10 BTEC Performing Arts group have also begun their journey of exploring the Musical Theatre genre. This started with an exploration of Musical Theatre as a whole, learning songs, choreography and script from a wide range of musicals, from Avenue Q to Hairspray. This was the beginning of their Musical Theatre journey, and they have now moved on to a detailed study into the musical Blood Brothers, which will continue well into the spring term, learning choreography and songs from the musical, as well as completing an extensive written exploration into the creation and production of the musical. This really brings the learning to life and we are all thoroughly enjoying the process so far!

WE SING CHOIR

Our choir, We Sing, has welcomed some new students to the group, who have been to each rehearsal consistently since the beginning of term. Their levels of enthusiasm are unparalleled and, along with our longer-serving members, have enjoyed learning and performing material ranging from Disney classics to 80's pop hits! Our choir have most recently performed at our special Christmas service, fulfilling their aim of filling St Dunstan's church with glorious singing during Advent.

DRAMA CLUB

Amongst the many extra curricular activities running before and after school, this year sees the return of Drama Club! Following our success in the past with performances in school and venues such as Highbury Hall, we have assembled an enthusiastic group of students (and we are always looking for future members) who have explored some script work, character work and physical theatre over the last half term. We look forward to seeing these students develop their confidence and communication skills even further through our work on dramatic texts and techniques.

YEAR 11

Our Year 11 BTEC Performing Arts cohort have made a positive start to the year and have already recorded two performances for the second component of the course. They keenly took on the roles of Matilda, Ensemble and Mrs Trunchbull to create a performance piece based on the hit West End musical Matilda, which was full of characterisation through the three art forms which Musical Theatre encapsulates: drama, dance, and singing. We are proud of their performance journey in the last year and are all looking forward to starting their 3rd and final component in January.

YEAR 9

On Friday 3rd October the Music Department hosted the first BGT of the year, New Kidz on the Block. This annual event features musical performances from our Year 7 students who can play a musical instrument. We were delighted that students volunteered to play, some of them beginners, some of them more experienced.

The library was filled with an enthusiastic audience, cheering on their peers and listening respectfully to the performances. First up to play was Emma, a talented guitarist, who played an acoustic rendition of Metallica's Nothing Else Matters. Following the rock theme, Kimi stepped up on guitar to play the opening to Seven Nation Army, which a lot of the students recognised.

Elijah, who had impressed teachers in lessons with his keyboard skills, played the classic Grand of Duke of York on the piano (and did very well with an unfamiliar keyboard). Davina played solo violin, one of the more challenging instruments, and performed The Two Roses - one of a few students who played entirely from memory!

To close the event we had two more pianists, Ava Mary playing Shotgun by George Ezra, and Lily with her cover of All Things Bright and Beautiful.

It was fantastic to see our young performers bravely play in the library, and hopefully this will be the first of many musical performances for them this year. It was really encouraging to have a group of students come and speak to me at the end of the BGT to sign up for instrumental lessons! Well done to our young musicians for kickstarting this year's BGT events in style.



REMEMBRANCE

During the week of Remembrance in November, Bishop Challoner Catholic College was transformed into a place of reflection and creativity. Alongside striking displays of poppies and soldier silhouettes in the school grounds, the Music and Performing Arts departments contributed their own tribute. Moving instrumental and dance performances were projected onto the walls of the building, drawing in members of the local community who came to pause and remember loved ones lost to war. Within school, the moment was marked with a respectful silence, during which students watched a recording of Morgan, a former student, performing The Last Post on the tuba.

YEAR 11

Year 11 have impressed us with the way they are taking ownership of their GCSE coursework this term. Many are choosing styles that reflect their own musical interests, experimenting with lyrics, backing tracks and notation to shape original compositions. Outside of lessons, they've been rehearsing independently for their ensemble performances, showing real commitment as they prepare to record. The variety of instruments and repertoire has been fantastic — from bass guitar to piano and violin, and from Guns N' Roses right through to Bach. In class, they are also tackling two demanding set works from the Classical and Baroque periods, and honing their exam technique to prepare for the summer.

MASS

We are building a strong choir community who regularly lead the singing in Mass and we are delighted to see students from Year 7 embrace this opportunity alongside the older students.

On 18th November, members of our school community hosted a Mass to celebrate the work of Bishop Challoner and a number of primary students in the Tolkien cluster at St Dunstan's Church. Weeks of workshops, preparation, singing and partnership culminated in a wonderful celebration of the primary schools' faith and of course we were thrilled to include as much music as possible! Our choir led the school with a number of hymns and the church was filled with primary and secondary voices ending the mass with the Song of Hope.

We are always delighted when students volunteer to lead the singing — this can be quite daunting — but as always they did so with grace and with lovely voices!

KEY STAGE 3

Key Stage 3 music has been full of creativity this term, with students getting stuck into composing, improvising, performing and exploring different styles. Year 7 have enjoyed discovering the instruments of the orchestra and beyond, and are now using musical terminology with growing confidence as they put together their first Binary Form pieces on keyboards. Year 8 have thrown themselves into the Blues, learning to play the 12 Bar Blues in time with a beat after exploring the story behind the genre and its social and historical roots.

Year 9 have really connected with the theme of Pop and Protest Music this term. They have chosen issues that matter to them, written their own lyrics, and shaped these into powerful songs. The excitement has built as they moved from ideas on paper to recording in the studio, with students stepping up to the microphone to share their message. It is always inspiring to see what topics motivate them to speak out and how confidently they use music as their voice for change.

YEAR 10

Our Year 10 musicians have settled quickly into GCSE study and are already engaging with the core concepts of the course. They have been learning about essential musical terms like harmony, texture and melody, and putting these into practice through listening tasks, examples and hands on activities. To strengthen their understanding, they are also working on the basics of music theory, which will help them as they begin to analyse the set works in more depth. The class has shown real enthusiasm and commitment, and it is exciting to see them starting to develop their performance, composition and analytical skills.

CHRISTMATHS DAY

On Thursday 11th December, Bishop Challoner Maths department proudly hosted students from the Tolkien cluster schools for the annual 'Christmaths' Day. This much-loved traditional event brought festive cheer to primary school students through a series of competitive Maths events, each with a Christmas twist. The event was led by wonderful year 9 student leaders, who worked extremely hard behind the scenes to make the day a success.



CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY

This year's Christmas Tea Party was a wonderful celebration that brought together members of our local community for an afternoon filled with festive cheer, delicious food, and joyful activities. The students decorated the common room to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere where guests could relax, enjoy seasonal treats, and share in the spirit of the holidays. Our catering team and Santa's helpers in the kitchen prepared a fantastic turkey! Guests were treated to turkey baps, pigs in blankets, crispy roast potatoes, and a delightful selection of festive puddings. The aroma alone felt like Christmas! Every plate was filled with favourites that made the afternoon feel truly special.

Entertainment was just as festive. The Community Tea Party Group organised a lively game of Christmas bingo, which brought plenty of laughter and friendly competition. A Christmas raffle added even more excitement, with a range of seasonal prizes that had everyone crossing their fingers in hope. A highlight of the event was the incredible support from our students. Volunteers from Years 10, 12, and 13 gave their time to serve food, assist guests, and help the afternoon run smoothly. Their kindness, professionalism, and enthusiasm were noticed and appreciated by all who attended. They represented the school brilliantly and helped make the event a real success.

Thank you to everyone who contributed from the students, staff, and guests for making this Christmas Tea Party such a memorable occasion. It was a heartfelt reminder of the power of community and the joy of coming together during the festive season.



SPORTS NEWS

This pre-Christmas PE article celebrates the outstanding achievements of two of our students.

Firstly, Noah Gordon achieved an impressive 7th place overall in the Warwickshire and Worcestershire Cross Country, as well as 6th place within Warwickshire. As a result, he has qualified for the district event, which will take place in Nottingham on 17th March 2026. Well done, Noah, and good luck at the next stage!



We would also like to congratulate Jackson Bishop for his trampolining, who finished first in his category, securing qualification for the next stage in January. A fantastic achievement - well done, Jackson, and best of luck!



ATTENDANCE RAFFLE WINNERS

A big well done to all of the following students for winning prizes in our 12 Days of Christmas Attendance draw.

08/12/2025 Felicity K, Year 11 - £10 Amazon Voucher

09/12/2025 Jamal O, Year 10 - Pizza takeaway at lunch with three friends

10/12/2025 Tristan BB, Year 8 - Lunch queue jump pass

11/12/2025 Daniel B, Year 8 - Christmas Selection Box

12/12/2025 Eliza B, Year 7 - £20 Amazon Voucher

16/12/2025 Jackson B, Year 9 - Christmas Selection Box

17/12/2025 9CEC - Karaoke Party for the whole Form

18/12/2025 Patrick N, Year 10 - Amazon Tablet



[Click here for extra-curricular timetables.](#)



ASSEMBLIES

Over the past fortnight, we have continued to explore the themes of Advent and Christmas, lighting the Advent wreath and reflecting particularly on the theme of Peace. Students have come together as a community to consider what peace looks like in their own lives, while reflecting on a message from Pope Leo, who reminds us that the birth of Jesus is a source of great joy and hope. It signifies God's unending love and forgiveness, and the opportunity for reconciliation, highlighting that "the door of God's heart is always open" to those who return to Him.

Students have also enjoyed learning about a range of Christmas traditions in the UK and around the world, with a particular focus on Germany, Mexico, and Ethiopia. From the foods shared and gifts exchanged to the holy celebrations observed, students were able to identify common messages of Christmas: coming together with loved ones; sending peace and joy to all; giving glory to God for the birth of Jesus, who came to save us; giving our time, help, and gifts to show love to others; and sharing messages of hope.

+ 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.

FORM RESOURCES

Students have had the valuable opportunity to learn about Human Rights Day during form time and to explore what this means in practice. Not only have students considered some of our basic human rights, but they have also learned about the United Nations and the vital work it undertakes. During these sessions, students engaged in an interactive quiz that explored key human rights, as well as the important distinction between a human right and a human want.

This week, students have also received key safety messages in preparation for the Christmas break. These discussions have been closely linked to promoting health and wellbeing, including the importance of regular exercise, self-care, and maintaining healthy sleep routines. Students have been encouraged to use the holiday period to connect with others and to enjoy reading from a recommended reading list. Further information on suggested reading can be found via the BookTrust website.

Please note that if you have any safety concerns over the Christmas period, you should not hesitate to contact the police by calling 101 for non-emergency situations, or 999 if you or someone else is in immediate danger.

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.



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.

Spring Term 1	
Every Wednesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Monday 5th January	School Open
Week beginning Monday 12th January	Year 8 Assessments begin Year 13 Mocks begin
Tuesday 13th January	Year 10 trip to Silverstone
Thursday 15th January	Year 9 Lamma Farming Exhibition
Monday 19th January	Year 11 Sixth Form Internal Interviews begin
Wednesday 21st January	Year 9 Visit to School of Jewellery
Wednesday 28th January	Born For This Audition
Thursday 29th January	Catholic Secondary School Maths Challenge
Friday 30th January	9TER Cake Sale
Tuesday 3rd February	Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening
Wednesday 4th February	Staff INSET - School Closed
Thursday 5th February	Year 12 Personal Development Day
Friday 6th February	Time to Talk Day
Monday 9th February	Children's Mental Health Week National Apprenticeship Week
Tuesday 10th February	Safer Internet Day Year 8 HPV Immunisations
Wednesday 11th February - Saturday 14th February	Year 10 and 11 Iceland Trip
Thursday 12th February	Catholic Secondary Schools Public Speaking Event
Friday 13th February	9SEB Cake Sale 10TER Valentines Day Hamper
Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February	Half Term - School Closed

SCHOOL YEAR 2025 TO 2026

SPRING TERM 2026

Term starts: Monday 5 January 2026

Half-term: Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026

Term ends: Friday 27 March 2026



SUMMER TERM 2026

Term starts: Monday 13 April 2026

Half-term: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

Term ends: Friday 17th July 2026

INSET DAYS

Wednesday 4th February 2026

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

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