

## Message from Mrs Baptiste, Assistant Principal

**As we reflect on the acts of Remembrance through BC Arts Hub's 'Service of Remembrance' and Remembrance Sunday masses and events, we honour the memory of the fallen and pledge to care for the living.**

### 'A Service of Remembrance'

Last year, Bishop Challoner Arts Hub created a celebratory Arts event that explored, celebrated and commemorated memory in all its forms - a journey of what it means to remember, told through a promenade theatre-style trail. This year, to commemorate Remembrance, the vision was to create a more intimate experience for our community in the form of a 'Service of Remembrance'. This involved collaborating with St Dunstan's Church along with the many departments and students at Bishop Challoner, to ensure the vision was realised successfully. This year's theme reflected on the value of 'service', remembering all those who have served and sacrificed, with soldiers, sailors, airmen and women represented, together with members of the emergency services and civilians, ensuring that no-one is forgotten. The event also included a special tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who was the Royal British Legion's Patron for 70 years.

The 'Service of Remembrance' led the community on an intimate journey of discovery through art, music, dramatic and spoken word performances. The service began with an opening prayer by Father Phillip, followed by reflective songs performed by vocal ensembles, including KS3 and KS4 students, a dramatic performance about the Falklands War monologue, poetry performed by Year 10 students and a live rendition of The Last Post and the National Anthem, on trombone, performed by Year 12 musician, Sophie F.

The service was powerful, emotional, respectful and extremely poignant. Our Year 12, young poet, AJ F complemented the service with a series of spoken word performances. This was an exciting opportunity to experience a future BC poetry star! It was lovely to bring the evening to a close by stepping back in time, enjoying tea and wartime cake, kindly baked by BC staff, whilst listening to renowned wartime songs, such as Dame Vera Lynn's The White Cliffs of Dover, We'll Meet Again, and A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square, performed by Ilana M-S, Erin H-L and Robyn O'D.

The Arts have always found opportunity to celebrate, reflect and evoke feelings, spark ideas and tell stories. At Bishop Challoner, we pride ourselves in championing the Arts through innovative and exciting exhibitions, shows and events. This is an exciting start to one of the many Arts Hub experiences and events, this year, to be shared with the community.

It has also been an extremely busy and successful start to

the half term for the Sixth Form. We were delighted to see so many students from Year 11 and the local community attend the Sixth Form Open Evening last week. We would like to thank and congratulate Aira P, Gwyneth and Seth G who served as student ambassadors for the evening and to all our Year 13 students who acted as guides for our visitors. We have some exciting developments for our curriculum offer at BC Sixth Form with the introduction of T-Level (Digital Business Services) and Criminology in September. Next week we have our T-Level launch event where students and parents/carers will have the opportunity to discover more about this exciting new course. We look forward to seeing you there!

After two years of disruption caused by Covid, we are delighted to see the return of opportunities for retreats for our students. Earlier this year, our year 10 students were able to gather at Soli House, where they contemplated beginning their KS4 journeys, taking time in a beautiful setting to gather a sense of meaning and purpose. On November 28th we are taking our Year 8 students to Alton Castle, where they will experience time away from school and their homes and have opportunity to reflect on their faith at such an important time in their lives.

As we move into the second half of the autumn term, we are approaching the period of Advent. We will be working with our young people to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas through advent challenges, reconciliation preparations and masses in the chapel, organised and supported by BC Junior Chaplain, Ellen Turner. We will be providing opportunities to invite children to the Chapel to pray, sing, discuss their faith and from this we are building a strong and vibrant chaplaincy team. It has been an incredibly busy start to our 'Year of Character' and we are delighted with all the efforts of our students who continue to display such amazing examples of acts of character in line with our Catholic ethos and mission statement.



## Save the Date – ‘The True Meaning of Christmas by Candlelight’

Our Christmas event will take place on Wednesday 7th December, 6pm at St Dunstan’s Church. There will be more information sent out via text in the coming weeks. Join us for a night of music, carols and songs and experience the true meaning of Christmas. We hope to see you there. “Advent,” says Pope Francis, “is a journey toward the horizon of hope.”



## Operation Sceptre

West Midlands Police currently have Operation Sceptre running between the 14th-21st November, this is a national week of action to tackle knife and weapon crime.

As part of this, searching and screening operations are undertaken in schools and colleges across the country. Bishop Challoner took part in this operation on Thursday this week with Key stage 4 and 5 students. School staff and police officers were extremely impressed with the co-operation and maturity of the students. There will be further operations in the future.



## Sports Updates

### ESFA

The ESFA have released a statement to confirm U14 Girls Chanel C & Tilly A have successfully advanced to the second stage of the England U15 schoolgirl trial process. This is the final trial stage on the 11th of December for a chance to represent their country as part of the final squad of eighteen. This is a fantastic achievement, and we wish the girls the best of luck in the next stage of the trial.

### School Games Athletics

Year 7 and 8 boys competed in the School Games Indoor Athletics event which was held at Billesley Tennis Centre. The team from year 7 showed great character and determination, and just missed out on first place, finishing second to Wheelers Lane. After winning last year, the year 8 team were defending their title, and started confidently by winning their first race. The boys put in some great performances in both their track and field events. A thrilling finish ended with beating Camp Hill Boys School to first place by a single point. The Year 8 win puts them through to the Birmingham finals, where they will compete for the regional title at the University of Birmingham.



### Football

The Year 7 boys football team have an upcoming fixture against Cardinal Newman in the second round of the West Midlands Cup. If the boys win, they progress into the third round against very testing opposition.

### Netball

Year 7 netball team drew their first match of the season which is a sublime result for the girls and is their first positive result, It is amazing to see the progression the girls have made over the last few weeks and we cant wait to see what they achieve throughout the season.







## Online Safety Blast

With the recent acquisition of Twitter by Elon Musk, the platform has introduced sweeping changes to the validity checks that have been in place for years. Companies, organisations and individuals can now apply for the verified blue tick; a symbol previously 'earned' not bought that would allow users to discern the real from the parody/fake. In recent days companies have found themselves with issues when comments made by those impersonating them have been

taken seriously. The platform has now introduced an 'Official' label which exists alongside the blue tick.

We think this is an important time to remind our community of the danger of fake news and to discuss with one another means and ways of discerning fact from fiction. The NSPCC provides some great resources to educate and facilitate conversations with young people - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/inappropriate-explicit-content/fake-news/>



## Science revision guides

Pupils who have bought Science revision guides through Schoolcomms need to collect them from Mrs Shore.

## Sixth Form

### Open Evening

We had over 500 visitors for our Open Evening event. There was a great atmosphere around the school and departments did a great job in marketing their subjects. During the talks, two students from the school leadership team Gwyneth and Aira gave talks about their time in our Sixth Form and we were delighted with their articulate and informative speeches. Throughout the evening, Year 13 were guides and were a credit to the college with lots of wonderful feedback from staff and parents on our student's contributions.

### Tea Party

The Sixth Form are delighted to this week welcome a number of elderly members of our local church community to the fortnightly tea party. Year 12 students baked cakes, made sandwiches and hosted a fantastic afternoon which included Irish music and a game of bingo. The students were just brilliant in their efforts and it was such a wonderful event. Plans are underway to have a Christmas Tea Party which will include activities such as the school choir and more Christmas-themed activities for everyone to enjoy.

### T Level Launch Event

On Wednesday 23rd November the sixth form will host the T-Level (Digital Business Services) launch event. With workshops occurring in the day for students and parents/ carers invited in for an evening of talks from industry experts.

**BISHOP CHALLONER SIXTH FORM COLLEGE**

**T-LEVELS**



Wednesday 23rd  
November  
5.30pm-6.30pm

**LAUNCH  
LAUNCH  
EVENT**

Click here to book  
your tickets



## 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 school skirt (not lycra or stretchy). 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.

In order to complement the smart school uniform we insist that students' hair is smart in appearance and that students do not have shaved/razored hair styles or lines/patterns shaved into the hair. Extreme changes of hair colour are also not permitted. 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.

Please note that lycra or stretchy skirts are not allowed to 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.

Punctuality

Please [click here](#) to view a recent communication about punctuality to school.

### Attendance Update

Year 7 - 95.5%  
Year 8 - 93.2%  
Year 9 - 92.9%  
Year 10 - 93.3%  
Year 11 - 91.2%  
Whole School - 93.5%



If you're shopping the Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales, make sure you use #easyfundraising. Over 7,000 brands will donate, so you can raise a FREE donation for Bishop Challoner Catholic College - Kings Heath every time you grab a bargain!



## Tesco Tokens Appeal

We have applied to Tesco for a grant for Breakfast Club, to provide free bottles of water and snacks each morning to our vulnerable students.

Please could I ask if you are shopping in Hall Green, to collect blue plastic tokens at the till and vote for our Breakfast Club.

We have previously been successful with grants from Kellogg's and Cash for kids but with costs rising and more students attending we really need these funds.

## 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.

## Training School

We will be joining the DfE this Saturday, 19th November, in Birmingham City Centre for their national 'Get Into Teaching' event. This is being held at Birmingham Conference and Events Centre on Hill Street, close to Grand Central, and will run from 10am - 2.30pm. You can book a place here: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/events/221119-get-into-teaching-west-midlands-event>

We also have events at Bishop Challoner, where you can find out more about becoming a teacher through our School Direct PGCE. Our next information session is Tuesday 22nd November, 5.00 - 6.00 pm - more information here: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/events/221122-bishop-challoner-tsa-train-to-teach-information-session>

This will be a great opportunity to meet some of the team and find out if our route into teaching is for you. You can also contact us by email if you have any questions - [trainingschool@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:trainingschool@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk)

## Student Support Assistants

We are fortunate to have 3 Student Support Assistants who are available to offer well-being and other support to students before school, at break and lunchtime.



# HelpinBrum

## Find Help In Brum Are you concerned about the rise in cost of living?

Find some helpful contact details for advice and support.

Birmingham City Council and partners are working to support and offer guidance to our residents during the cost of living crisis in the UK.

We want to support as many of our residents as possible across key areas which are outlined in this leaflet.

### Warm Welcome:

We are working with the local community and a partnership of voluntary and community sector organisations to expand a network of warm spaces. These spaces will be available for people to use and visit during the winter period and beyond.

There are several existing Warm Welcome Spaces within local communities across the city. Warm Welcome Spaces are:

- inclusive and non-judgmental
- heated and free to access

The services at each space will vary but may include:

- information on further support and available guidance
- opportunities to participate in activities and learn new things
- free internet access, computers and charging points
- a friendly environment to connect with others within the community

You can find details of our current Birmingham Warm Welcome Spaces at [www.birmingham.gov.uk/warmwelcome](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/warmwelcome)

Keeping checking back online as more spaces will be launched weekly.

### Benefits and Money Advice:

During the cost of living crisis, it is also important to ensure you have access to the right benefits and money advice for you. There are several information portals below which can help.

To find out what benefits you are entitled to, it is best to use the Benefits Calculator provided by the Government. Find out more by using this link [www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support](http://www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support)

Birmingham City Council has also developed several support factsheets which provide useful information on a range of debt related issues. You can view and download Information on [www.birmingham.gov.uk/debtadviceteam](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/debtadviceteam)

If you are struggling with debt and need advice and support you can also visit [www.birmingham.gov.uk/helpinbrum](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/helpinbrum) which can help direct you to the right information.

There are also other services who offer free and confidential advice:

- The Project - Benefit, debt and housing advice  
0121 453 0606 | [www.theprojectbirmingham.org](http://www.theprojectbirmingham.org)
- Citizens Advice Birmingham - Advice on benefits, debt, housing and more  
0344 477 1010 | [www.bcabs.org.uk](http://www.bcabs.org.uk)
- Disability Resource Centre - Advice and advocacy services for disabled people  
03030 402 040 | [www.disability.co.uk](http://www.disability.co.uk)

### Energy Efficiency:

As energy costs rise we are committed to reducing energy bills and helping everyone to keep warm as we head into the winter months.

There are several schemes already available for residents, with full information and guidance available at [www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyhelp](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyhelp)

There has been a significant rise in energy scams linked to the cost of living crisis.

There is some helpful support on the Birmingham City Council website to avoid these scams.

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyscam](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyscam)

## BISHOP CHALLONER INSPIRED HOLIDAY CLUBS

**BISHOP CHALLONER SPORTS CENTRE**  
INSTITUTE ROAD, KINGS HEATH, BIRMINGHAM, B14 7EG

**DATES**  
MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER  
TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER  
WEDNESDAY 21ST DECEMBER  
THURSDAY 22ND DECEMBER

FRIDAY 23RD DECEMBER  
WEDNESDAY 28TH DECEMBER  
THURSDAY 29TH DECEMBER  
FRIDAY 30TH DECEMBER



Age  
9 - 16  
Years

Standard  
Day  
9am-3pm

Healthy lunch  
and snacks  
provided  
throughout  
the day



### SPORTS ACTIVITIES

BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, ROUNDERS, NETBALL, HANDBALL, CRICKET, GYMNASTICS

### WORKSHOPS

FOOD AND NUTRITION, ROBOTICS AND DRONES, MUSIC, ART & CRAFTS

### OFFSITE ACTIVITIES

BROADWAY PLAZA - GOLF AND CINEMA EXPERIENCE, SOLIHULL ICE RINK - PLANET ICE, INFLATE A NATION

ALL BISHOP CHALLONER STAFF ARE FULLY QUALIFIED & DBS CHECKED

**BOOK ONLINE NOW BY [CLICKING HERE](#)**

ALTERNATIVELY VISIT: [www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/catholic-college/community/holiday-club](http://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/catholic-college/community/holiday-club)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT MISS CRUMP AT [L.CRUMP@BISHOPCHALLONER.BHAM.SCH.UK](mailto:L.CRUMP@BISHOPCHALLONER.BHAM.SCH.UK) OR CALL 0121 444 4161



Student Places are Free!

## Upcoming Events

England v Iran Viewing  
Monday 21st November

Cotteridge Dementia Group - Sixth Form Support  
Tuesday 22nd November

T Level Launch Event  
Mexican Day - Canteen  
Wednesday 23rd November

Bishop's Got Talent  
Scholastic Book Fair  
Y8 World Cup Celebration Tournament  
Friday 25th November

Year 7 & 8 Alton Castle  
Monday 28th November -  
Wednesday 30th November

Tea Party  
Y11 Inspector Calls Trip  
Wednesday 30th November

Year 13 HSC Booster Revision  
Thursday 1st December

Year 12 Computing VR Other World  
Friday 2nd December