BC14 NEWSLETTER

Friday 20th November 2026

Message from Mrs Jethwa, Acting Assistant Principal

As winter draws in and the days become shorter and darker, we are reminded of the words from Matthew's Gospel: "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). In some parts of the world, communities experience weeks or even months without the sun rising above the horizon. Yet, even in the deepest darkness, people find ways to bring light, warmth and hope to one another. It is a powerful reminder that we, too, have the opportunity to be a light for others through our kindness, compassion and everyday actions.

November is a particularly reflective month in our Catholic calendar. Through the celebrations of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, and our Remembrance assemblies, we have taken time to honour those who have gone before us, remember those who have sacrificed their lives and pray for all who have died. We have also looked at the beautiful Hindu festival of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, recognising how light, hope and goodness are values shared across different cultures and faiths. This theme of bringing light to others has been especially fitting as we have marked World Kindness Day and Anti-Bullying Week. Our Diocesan Mission calls us to develop Kind Hearts, and the overwhelming number of nominations received from staff celebrating acts of kindness by pupils and colleagues has been truly heartwarming. From small, thoughtful gestures to extraordinary acts of compassion, these nominations reflect the kind-hearted nature of our Bishop Challoner community. As we explore this year's Anti-Bullying Week theme, Break the Silence, we continue to encourage our young people to speak up, support one another and ensure that everyone feels safe, valued and included.

Alongside these important moments of reflection and celebration, there has been much to recognise academically. Congratulations to our Year 7 and Year 9 pupils who have completed their recent KAP assessments, demonstrating maturity, determination and a positive approach to their learning. Our Year 10 pupils have also completed their first assessments across their GCSE subjects; an important milestone as they begin their examination courses. We are proud of their efforts and encourage them to reflect carefully on feedback as they continue to make progress. We also wish our Year 11 pupils every success in their forthcoming mock examinations. We know how hard they have been working and encourage them to approach this period with confidence, resilience and belief in their abilities.

Loving God, We remember those around the world who suffer for believing in you. Give them strength, courage, and peace. Help us to be a voice for the voiceless and a light in the darkness. May we never take our freedom for granted, and may our faith always lead us to love and action. Amen.

Looking ahead, we hope to welcome as many parents and carers as possible to our Parent Consultation Day for Years 7, 9 and 10 on Friday 11th December. These conversations are an invaluable opportunity to celebrate achievements, reflect on progress and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Bishop Challoner Sixth Form College

APPLY NOW

PRIORITY DEADLINE
Friday 4th December 2026

MEET THE SIXTH FORM
Thursday 10th March, 4pm-5.30pm

SCAN TO APPLY



SIXTH FORM NEWS

EXPLORING OXFORD UNIVERSITY – KEBLE COLLEGE VISIT

Last week, a group of our Year 12 students visited Keble College, Oxford, to experience university life and gain a valuable insight into what studying at Oxford and other Oxbridge universities might involve. The visit provided an opportunity to explore the college, learn more about the application process and consider the exciting opportunities available through higher education.

As part of our ASPIRE programme, we are committed to ensuring that every student has the guidance, encouragement and opportunities they need to achieve their ambitions. Whether their aspirations lie in attending a leading university, securing a competitive apprenticeship or progressing into employment, we want every student to have the confidence and support to reach their full potential.

MEET THE SIXTH FORM – AN OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT MORE

This week, we are welcoming our Year 11 students into the Sixth Form building for our Meet the Sixth Form event. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore our facilities, get a feel for the Sixth Form environment and discover what life is like beyond Year 11.

Students will also have the chance to speak with members of staff and current Sixth Form students, ask questions and find out more about the courses, enrichment opportunities and wider experiences on offer. We hope the event will help students make informed decisions about their next steps and get excited about the opportunities that await them next year.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK – PROMOTING A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SIXTH FORM

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, our Sixth Form students have been exploring important themes during their PSHE sessions, focusing on how we can all play a part in preventing bullying and creating a positive environment for everyone. Students have considered how to recognise the signs of bullying, the importance of speaking up and how to support those who may be experiencing difficulties.

We are committed to ensuring that our Sixth Form is an inclusive, welcoming and safe environment where every student feels valued, respected and supported. Our message is simple: everyone has a responsibility to look out for one another and help create a community where kindness and respect come first.

THE RUDOLF RUN RETURNS!



We are delighted to announce the return of our annual Rudolf Run! This year, we will once again be raising money for Birmingham Hospice, a charity that holds a particularly special place in our school community. The hospice provided invaluable support to our much-loved former member of staff, Kevin Cheshire, and we are proud to continue fundraising in his memory.

We recently welcomed representatives from Birmingham Hospice, who came into school to thank our students and staff for last year's fantastic fundraising efforts and encourage everyone to get involved again this year.

We are looking forward to seeing the fantastic costumes, enthusiasm and fundraising efforts of our students once again. Thank you in advance for helping us support such a worthwhile local charity and continue to remember Kevin.

Previous years totals:

- 2023- £1,395.25 - We helped pay for 63 teddy bears with the recording of a loved ones voice for children.
- 2024- £2,500.88 - We helped pay for 42 bereavement support sessions to help families through the journey of grief.
- 2025- £2,141 - We helped pay for 23 nurses to visit a patient in their home.

We appreciate any donations that can be made to this years brilliant fundraiser.
https://www.justgiving.com/page/bishopchallonerrudolphrun2026?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

CATHOLIC LIFE

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

We continued our Reconciliation services this week, and all pupils in Years 8 and 10 have now had the opportunity to celebrate this important sacrament as they prepare for the birth of Christ at Christmas.



Our young people continue to inspire us through their commitment to their faith and the reverence and spiritual readiness they demonstrated in approaching this sacrament. It has been a wonderful witness to see so many pupils taking this opportunity to reflect, pray, and renew their relationship with God.

We extend our sincere thanks to Fr Michael, Fr John, Fr Betthan and Fr Babu for once again serving our school community so generously through their ministry and support.

Other year groups will be invited to participate in Reconciliation services over the coming weeks as we continue our Advent journey of prayer and preparation.

RED WEDNESDAY

This week we marked Red Wednesday, an annual initiative led by Aid to the Church in Need, raising awareness of Christians and others around the world who suffer persecution or discrimination because of their faith.



Pupils wore an item of red with their uniforms to show their solidarity with those who face religious persecution. It was wonderful to see so much colour throughout the school, demonstrating our commitment to the Catholic Social Teaching principles of solidarity and the common good.

Our Pupil Chaplaincy Team did an excellent job selling red bracelets to raise funds for the charity, putting faith into action through their support of some of the world's most vulnerable communities. Their efforts provided a practical example of the Catholic Social Teaching call to uphold the dignity of every person and stand alongside those in need.

A group of pupil chaplains also had the privilege of joining St Dunstan's Primary School and schools from across the Archdiocese of Birmingham for a special Mass at St Chad's Cathedral, where they gathered in prayer and witness with the wider diocesan community.

Through prayer, fundraising and active participation, pupils demonstrated a growing awareness of global issues affecting people of faith and lived out our mission as Christ-centred pilgrims of hope. Thank you for your continued support in helping our young people put their faith into action and become courageous witnesses to the Gospel in the world today.

WINTER DONATIONS CHARITY APPEAL

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our school community, not only by the incredible volume of winter clothing donations received, but also by the challenge of finding enough space to store them all. Thanks to your support, we collected an astonishing amount of clothing, requiring our Year 8 pupils to help carry 14 large bin bags of donations on today's visit to St Chad's Sanctuary.

The donations were gratefully received, and our pupils were given a tour of the Sanctuary by Abi Martin, who shared moving stories of refugees and explained the vital work the organisation does to support those seeking safety and a fresh start. During our visit, we observed an English lesson taking place and saw first-hand the warm welcome offered through simple acts of kindness, including conversation, refreshments and language support. It was especially powerful for pupils to see the direct impact of their generosity on the people we are helping. They engaged thoughtfully throughout, asking insightful questions and showing genuine interest in the experiences of those supported by the Sanctuary.

Thank you once again for your kindness, generosity and support. Your donations will make a real difference to those in our wider community, and we are incredibly proud of the compassion and commitment shown by our pupils and families.





PUPIL LED LITURGY

Last week, as we continued our prayers for the faithful departed during the month of November, each form took part in its own prayer service. Pupils listened to the Gospel passage, "In my Father's house there are many rooms", and spent time reflecting on and praying for loved ones who have died, as well as for those who have no one left to pray for them.

Each form lit a candle and observed a period of reverent silence, creating a peaceful opportunity for prayer and remembrance. Our Year 10 Faithful Ambassadors led this meaningful service with maturity and respect, helping their peers to reflect on the hope and comfort offered through our faith in eternal life. Thank you to Y10 Mary, Chayse, Tajah, Munana, Luke, Tyrese, Kiryah, Anthony, Dontae, Katy, Reuben and Yankee.

This week's pupil-led liturgy focused on the Gospel parable of the talents. We reflected on how our gifts from God can be academic, creative or sporting, but can also be found in simple acts of kindness, encouragement and listening to others.
We were challenged to consider: Who benefits when we use our gifts? Through our reflections, we recognised that when we use our talents in the service of others, we help to build God's Kingdom. A smile, kind word or helping hand can make a real difference in someone's life.

The liturgy also highlighted the gift of religious freedom and encouraged us to consider whether we fully use this freedom to grow closer to God, support others and stand up for those who cannot practise their faith freely.



We were challenged to share our talents, volunteer our time or carry out an act of service during the week, putting our faith into action and making a positive difference to others.



Thank you to Joseph, Helena, Orlaith, Rosie, Jamie, Yadonai, Eliza, Atiyah and Tom for leading us so beautifully.

Our prayer resources can be found at Bishop Challoner Collective Worship - YouTube

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

YEAR 10 JOIN ST DUNSTAN'S PARISH MASS

Year 10 pupils joined St Dunstan's Parish for the weekly Thursday Mass. Daniel and Danny led the congregation in prayer through their beautifully written and reverently delivered bidding prayers. In his homily, Fr Michael reflected on the importance of forgiveness, reminding us that we are called to forgive at all times. Drawing on the example of St Joseph, whose feast day was being celebrated, he highlighted forgiveness as a virtue at the heart of Christian life. Families are warmly encouraged to attend these parish Masses, and parents of participating pupils are notified in advance.





YEAR 10 STUDENT AMBASSADORS

This week our Year 10 Student Ambassadors had their first meeting to discuss their role in school and how they can help support staff and students.

Alongside the Year 11 Prefects and Sixth Form Student Leaders they will represent the school at events such as Open Evenings, PC Days, Primary visits, school events and in-school activities.

Daniel A, Luke B, Idris C, Elsie H, Grace McC, Marcus M, J Oakley Wallett, Mary O'C



ADVENT CHARITY APPEAL

This Advent, we are joining schools across the Archdiocese of Birmingham in supporting Father Hudson's Caritas through a Reverse Advent Calendar Appeal.

A Reverse Advent Calendar encourages us to focus on giving rather than receiving. Throughout Advent, pupils and families are invited to donate essential toiletries to support people facing hardship across Father Hudson's Caritas' key areas of work: homelessness, older people, refugees and migrants, disability, and children, families and schools.

Thanks to the generosity shown through our Winter Clothing and Backpack Appeal, each form group has been provided with a backpack that will be filled with donations before being passed on to those who need them most.

We would be grateful for donations of shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shower gel, roll-on deodorant, new facecloths and baby wipes.

This appeal is an opportunity to put our faith into action by living out the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Through Human Dignity, we recognise the God-given worth of every person. Through Solidarity, we stand alongside our brothers and sisters in need. Through the Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, we prioritise those facing the greatest challenges.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support. Every donation, however small, will help bring comfort, dignity and hope to others this Christmas.



STUDENT REWARDS

MOST POSITIVE LOGS						
YEAR GROUP	W/B 02/11/2026		W/B 09/11/2026		Year Group	
YEAR 7	Lillian S Elsie T Florence G Rory G-B Jerric J Aidan F	Maryam B Abigail S Nathan M Lily C-B Dominic S	Florence G Hawwaa Z Jael S T Lillian S	Adam M James T Abigail S	Year 10	Mariam H Alexander S Storm L Mary O'C Kayven R Filip B Muhammed M
YEAR 8	Emilie O'd Harrison C Adonay K	Cillian McD Orlaith B Lexi S	Gabrielle A Eryk B Emilie O'd Emmanuel A Orlaith B	Annabel P William G Laia B Lily C Oluwatunmise A	Year 11	Tymoteusz K Annabelle R Faizan U Emmy C Belmin S
YEAR 9	Ava L Thomas F Mykey C Alexander M	Keku H Freddie K Milaan L Lillie-Mae G	Jake R Milaan L Ava L Caitlin B	Rosie C Waleed M Grace G Miley P		

SPORTS

Results
Netball
Year 7 lost 4-2. Player of the match: Aoife M

Year 8/9 netball team won 5-3 against Bartley Green. Player of the match: Roisin F and Eliza C

Y10/11 beat Bartley Green 8-3. Player of the match S Erfurt. Y10/11 beat St Thomas Aquinas 9-3. Player of the match L Carby-Fennel

Y8/9's beat STACS as well by 1 goal!

Football
Year 10 Boys - R1 U15 Boys West Midlands Cup
Bishop Challoner 2 v 2 St Michael's (Sandwell).

Bishop Challoner won 5-4 on penalties.

Goal scorers - Archie C, Harry W
Player of the match - Mikey C

Year 8 Boys
Bishop Challoner 4 v 3 Kings Norton Boys

Player of the match - Oliver S
Goal scorers - OG, Oliver S, M. Amanuel, R. Peters

Manager thoughts - An excellent win against a very strong Kings Norton Boys side. The team have now won 6/6 in the league, putting them comfortably top.

Year 9
Won 5-2 V Harborne Academy
Goal scorers - J Watts x 4, A Robinson x 1

Sixth Form
Won 2-0 V UOB

Goal scorers: Aidan S (C) x 1, Liam M x 1
Player of the match - C Onyeka

Touch Rugby
Year 8 and 9 boys took part in a Rugby Event at Birmingham Moseley Rugby Club this week. The students performed brilliantly, being introduced to basic contact rugby skills as well as winning a number of touch rugby matches to finish the day.









YEAR 7, 9 AND 10 PARENT CONSULTATION DAY

Parent Consultation Day will take place on **Friday 11th December, 8.30am-3pm.**

Appointment times will go live on **Tuesday 24th November at 6pm**.

For details on how to book your appointment please visit the Latest News section of our website. Details have also been emailed to the priority one contact.

SEND



Breakfast club has been thriving before school with students using the SEND space to meet and revise. We had 42 students working away collaboratively on Monday.

Homework club is also available on Tuesdays and Thursdays in BC4 until 4pm for additional support, all year groups welcome.

The SEND team have been busy supporting students with their KAP assessments for the Exam Access Arrangements in place, we are also preparing for the same with upcoming Year 11 mocks.

The fine motor skills intervention has started with targeted students, delivered by Miss Mullins and has been a great success.

CONSULTATION ON ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS

We are writing to inform you that we are consulting on our school's proposed admissions arrangements for the 2028/2029 academic year as per the School Admissions Code (1 September 2021).

We are undertaking a full consultation on our admissions arrangements as every Catholic School within the Archdiocese of Birmingham is required to do this for 2028/2029. There have been significant changes to the model policies in order to align with national guidance provided by the Catholic Education Service. The Archdiocese of Birmingham has reviewed the model policies they provide to ensure they incorporate these recommended changes. Additionally, we are proposing changes to the oversubscription criteria and feeder schools.

The consultation will take place between Monday 23 November 2026 and will close on Monday 4 January 2027. Birmingham City Council's School Admissions and Fair Access Service are undertaking the consultation process on our school's behalf. During the consultation period you can view a copy of our proposed admissions arrangements on their website here: https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/oaa2028 and on our school's website here: https://bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk/information-about-our-school/admissions

Any parents/carers or other interested parties wishing to make any comments about our proposed admissions arrangements during the consultation period are welcome to do so by going to Birmingham City Council's BeHeard website here: https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/bcc/oaa-2028/

Once the consultation period has closed on 4 January 2027, Birmingham City Council's School Admissions and Fair Access Service will send our school any comments that have been received during the consultation period. The admission authority for our school will consider these comments before they formally agree (determine) our admissions arrangements by 28 February 2027.

We thank you in advance for your support and engagement with this process. Our determined admissions arrangements for 2028/2029, will be published on our school's website by 15 March 2027.



MODEL UN AND CLIMATE CONFERENCE

This week a group of students joined the Model UN and Climate Conference. The students were incredible!

They gave speeches, asked and responded to some difficult questions, and even questioned our local Councillors and held them accountable on the bin strikes, how different political parties are working together to take action on climate change and the risks of building AI data centres in Birmingham.





ASSEMBLIES

Over the past two weeks, our assemblies at Bishop Challoner Catholic College have focused on two important themes that sit at the heart of our Catholic ethos: kindness and standing up for others.

During the week beginning 9th November, we explored the importance of kindness ahead of World Kindness Day. Students reflected on how even the smallest gestures can make a significant difference to someone's day and how kindness can positively influence our own wellbeing and that of others. We shared the inspirational story of Sir Nicholas Winton, whose extraordinary compassion helped save 669 children in 1939. His story reminded students that true kindness is about helping others without expecting recognition or reward.

Students were encouraged to put kindness into action through simple everyday choices, from including someone who may feel lonely to offering encouragement, showing gratitude and helping others. These actions reflect our Faithful Virtues of Helpful, Understanding and Faith-filled, reminding us that kindness is not simply something we talk about, but something we actively demonstrate.

This week, our attention has turned to Anti-Bullying Week, with the national theme Break the Silence. Assemblies have encouraged students to consider why someone experiencing bullying might find it difficult to speak up and the important role that others can play in challenging unkind behaviour. We explored the power of the bystander and how choosing to report concerns, offer support or refuse to join in can make a real difference.

A central message has been that speaking up is an act of courage and kindness, not getting someone into trouble. Students were reminded that bullying is never acceptable and that they can approach any trusted member of staff if they are worried about themselves or someone else.

Both assemblies have reinforced our commitment to developing young people with kind hearts, questioning minds and a hunger for justice. By living out our Faithful Virtues of Truthful, Helpful, Understanding and Intentional, we can all contribute to a school community where everyone feels safe, valued, respected and included.

Our message to students has been simple: Kindness is powerful, silence can be broken, and every one of us has a part to play in making Bishop Challoner a place where everyone belongs.

FORM RESOURCES

Over the past two weeks, our form time programme has provided students with valuable opportunities to demonstrate compassion, exercise their student voice and prepare for the season of Advent.

During the week beginning 9th November, students explored the importance of charity and were introduced to three charities nominated by fellow pupils for consideration as our school charity this academic year: Edward's Trust, Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity and Birmingham Hospice.

Students learnt about the important work of each organisation, including supporting bereaved families, caring for children experiencing illness and providing compassionate care for people and families facing life-limiting conditions. Particularly moving was the nomination of Edward's Trust in memory of our much-loved colleague, Mrs Marsh.

The presentations, prepared by students themselves, demonstrated thoughtfulness, compassion and a genuine desire to make a difference. Students were also introduced to the opportunity to vote for their preferred charity through a ballot process reflecting local and general elections, helping them understand democracy and the importance of making informed decisions.

The form resource also provided an important opportunity to close the student voice feedback loop. Following meetings between Heads of Year and form representatives, students received feedback on the issues raised with the Senior Leadership Team. These included improvements to queuing arrangements at Grab and Go, exploring healthier canteen choices, the installation of mirrors in toilets and opportunities to develop extracurricular provision.

Students were reminded that their views are listened to and can lead to meaningful change. They were encouraged to continue sharing suggestions through their form representatives ahead of the next whole-school council meeting.

Together, these form time activities have celebrated student leadership, democracy, service and community, helping our young people recognise that their voices and actions can make a positive difference at Bishop Challoner and beyond.

This week, our form time resources have turned towards Advent: A Season of Hope. Students have explored the meaning of Advent and its four themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, reflecting on how these can be lived out through our Faithful Virtues.

We have also launched our Advent and Christmas Form Door Competition, inviting every form group to work together to create a welcoming, imaginative display celebrating Christmas, faith and our Catholic community. Students are encouraged to contribute their creativity and ideas, with completed displays due by Friday 4th December.

Through these activities, we continue to encourage our young people to develop kind hearts, embrace opportunities to serve others and recognise the importance of belonging to a community where everyone's contribution matters.

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 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 childs 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.) Mrs Peckover is the Senior DSL.

YEAR 11 UPDATE

Year 11 have made a really positive start to what is an important and demanding year. With their first round of mock examinations beginning on Monday 30th November in the Auditorium, it has been encouraging to see so many students approaching their revision with a positive attitude and a growing sense of purpose.

A great deal of additional support is in place to help students prepare for their examinations. Daily study sessions and targeted interventions are running across a range of subjects, giving students the opportunity to work alongside subject specialists and strengthen their understanding. A smaller group of students are also staying later for supervised independent study.

Students have also benefited from a special revision assembly led by Mr Robinson, our resident quiz enthusiast. He shared his approach to creating and using digital flashcards, offering students some practical strategies to make their revision more effective. Thank you, Mr Robinson!

As mock examinations approach, we would encourage all students to continue building positive revision habits, attend all scheduled sessions and make full use of the support on offer. Further information and guidance about mock examination revision can be found on the school website. It is important that students arrive at each examination on time, properly equipped and ready to give their best. These mocks are a valuable opportunity to experience the examination process, identify areas for further development and build confidence ahead of the summer. Parents and carers can also play an important role by encouraging a manageable revision routine, providing a supportive environment at home and helping students maintain a healthy balance, including getting enough sleep.

Our BTEC students are also working towards their December submission deadlines, and additional interventions have been provided to support them. Feedback on students' attitude, focus and engagement has been exceptional, and we are delighted with the commitment they have shown. Well done!

We are also delighted to announce that our new Year 11 Prefects have been selected. These students will represent their year group and act as positive role models for the wider school community. Congratulations to all Year 11 pupils who have been selected. We look forward to seeing them embrace their responsibilities and make a positive contribution to school life.

Attendance across Year 11 has also been generally strong, and students deserve recognition for the effort they have made in maintaining good attendance and punctuality. As we approach the examination period, being in school consistently and making the most of every lesson is more important than ever. Well done, Year 11!

Beyond the classroom, a small group of Year 11 students recently represented the school at a Model United Nations Climate Conference. They demonstrated impressive confidence and maturity, delivering speeches, asking challenging questions and responding thoughtfully to difficult discussions. One particularly memorable aspect was their willingness to hold our local councillors to account, questioning them about the bin strikes, cross-party collaboration on climate action and the potential risks associated with building AI data centres in Birmingham. We were incredibly proud to see our students engaging so confidently with important local and global issues. Congratulations to Teddy, Joseph, Louis, Teuta, Grace, Ailish.

There are also plenty of opportunities for Year 11 to contribute to our wider school community. A number of students have volunteered to run a tuck shop at the upcoming Year 7 disco, raising money for our whole-school charity. It is lovely to see our older students giving their time to support younger pupils and contribute to something bigger than themselves.

A further group of students recently attended the Maths Inspiration event, an exciting opportunity to explore mathematics beyond the classroom. Through engaging talks and real-world applications, students were able to see how mathematics connects to a wide range of ideas, careers and everyday experiences. We hope they came away feeling inspired and with a renewed appreciation of the subject.

Above all, we are proud of the way Year 11 are approaching the challenges and opportunities of this important year. There is plenty of hard work ahead, but there are also many opportunities to grow, achieve and make lasting memories. We look forward to celebrating their successes over the coming months and wish everyone the very best as they prepare for their mock examinations.

FIRST AID INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES

All medication must be handed into First Aid and must not be carried by students. Exceptions are EpiPens, asthma inhalers and insulin. Tranexamic acid may be permitted in special circumstances.

Please ensure we have up-to-date medical and emergency contact information. Notify First Aid via the school enquiries email or main school telephone number if your contact details or your child's medical circumstances change.

Students should bring a refillable water bottle to school. Water stations are available, or drinks can be purchased from the canteen. Students with asthma must carry their own inhaler, including on off-site activities and school trips.

Parents/Carers of students with allergies must provide antihistamine medication to First Aid. Students with anaphylaxis must have antihistamine in addition to their EpiPen.

We do not provide liquid paracetamol, such as Calpol. If your child cannot take tablets, please provide clearly labelled Calpol to First Aid. This will be stored securely for your child's use only.

AUTUMN TERM 2	
Every Tuesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Monday 23rd November - Wednesday 25th November	Alton Castle Visit
Monday 23rd November	KS3 D&T Rewards Trip
Tuesday 24th November	Year 7 and 9 Reconciliation
Wednesday 25th November	Dementia Trip to the Irish Centre Whole School Council Meeting
Thursday 26th November	8BOS Candy Cane Sale Year 7 Animal Experience
Monday 30th November - Wednesday 16th December	Year 11 Mocks Window
Monday 30th November	Year 10 Jewellery Quarter Visit
Wednesday 2nd December	Biology Sprint Day Year 7 and 9 Reconciliation Sixth Form Rudolph Run
Thursday 3rd December	Sixth Form Parents Online - Supporting students with preparing for exams Year 7 Disco Tuck Shop Year 7 Disco, 5.30pm-7.30pm
Wednesday 9th December	Sixth Form Reconciliation
Thursday 10th December	Year 9 Christmaths
Friday 11th December	School closed for Year 7, 9 and 10 Parent Consultation
Monday 14th December - Wednesday 16th December	Biology Sprint Day Year 12 London Art Trip
Tuesday 15th December	7SEB Charity Cake Sale Sixth Form Christmas Mass Sixth Form Christmas Quiz Year 7 and 8 Christmas Mass
Wednesday 16th December	Year 11 Christmas Mass Year 9 and 10 Christmas Mass
Thursday 17th December	Christmas Jumper Day, £1 Charity Donation 9CEC Charity Christmas Hamper Raffle Christmas Dementia Trip
Friday 18th December	INSET Day - School closed

SCHOOL YEAR 26/27

AUTUMN TERM 2026
Term ends: Thursday 17 December 2026

SPRING TERM 2027
Term starts: Monday 4 January 2027
Half-term: Monday 15 February 2027 - Firday 19 February 2027
Term ends: Thursday 25 March 2027

SUMMER TERM 2027
Term starts: Monday 12 April 2027
Half-term: Monday 31 May 2027 to Friday 4 June 2027
Term ends: Tuesday 20 July 2027

INSET DAYS
Friday 23 October 2026
Friday 18 December 2026
Wednesday 3 February 2027
Friday 30 April 2027
Wednesday 21 July 2027




AGE RESTRICTION
18+
What parents need to know about
GRAND THEFT AUTO (GTA)
grand theft auto
Top Tips for Parents
THE RISK - PLAYING WITH STRANGERS
WARNING!
THE RISK - ONLINE HACKERS
What parents can do
THE RISK - ADDICTION
THE RISK - LIVE CHAT
THE RISK - MICROTRANSACTIONS
National Online Safety
A whole school community approach to online safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com


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