

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace; Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; And where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek To be consoled as to console; To be understood, as to understand; To be loved, as to love; For it is in giving that we are ceive, It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

Message from Mr E O'Connor, Vice Principal Friday 21st March 2025

Our school community celebrated Saint Patrick's Day on the 17th March, with staff and students coming into school wearing items of green clothing over their uniform as a sign of hope and peace. A small donation was made by all to support Fr Hudson's Caritas!

It is told that St Patrick used a shamrock as an educational symbol to explain the Holy Trinity to the people of Ireland: each of the three leaves representing the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Worldwide, Saint Patrick is known for his missionary work and for being the patron saint of Ireland. He was a humble man who devoted his entire life to God and in serving others. Our school mission statement reminds us that we also, 'give glory to God by developing our full potential and in our service to others'.

Our charitable work continued last week when our Irish Traditional Band travelled to St Annes in Digbeth and performed many familiar Irish tunes for the clients at the dementia centre. It was received incredibly well. It is amazing to watch our young people engage with the clients with so much care and with such a mature understanding. We are very proud of them!

This week in school we were blessed to have the opportunity for Reconciliation on Wednesday in the auditorium! This gift of forgiveness is the ultimate prayer exercise of Lent. We were delighted to welcome Father John, Father Toby from St Dunstan's, Canon Sean from Our lady of Lourdes, and Father Srinu, from St John Fisher. The students were wonderful, graceful and full of reverence throughout.

Y8 Parent Consultation Afternoon

Parent Consultation Afternoon will be held on **Tuesday 1st April 2pm-4pm**. Appointments will be open in School Cloud on Thursday 13th March. You will need to login using the details that the school holds for your child's priority 1 contact. Appointments must be made by the end of the day on **Thursday 28th March**, if you have not made an appointment by this date, your child's Consultation Tutor will make the appointment for you.

Students are required to attend in full school uniform.

Pray Along

Our Pilgrims of Hope Reps from each year group have created a stations of the cross resource with Fr Toby, inviting families to pray along with the stations at home during Lent. Our next reconciliation dates leading up to Easter are on Wednesday 2nd April and Tuesday 8th April.

It is wonderful to be able to recognise and to celebrate the talents of our students - congratulations to Teal in Year 7 who won four gold medals at the GB National Championships in artistic swimming. We are also delighted that we won the Catholic Partnership KS5 Debating Competition last week at Newman University.



Students continue to take up activities in our extensive extracurricular programme and school visits – our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze practice walk takes place over the weekend in the Lickey Hills, and many of our Year 8 students will be exploring the Black Country Museum on Thursday with the History department.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students continue with the examination preparations taking part in additional study sessions and working exceptionally hard in lessons. We would encourage them to continue talking with their class teachers about revision topics and strategies – it is important that they know that teachers are very willing to support.

Y13 Parent Consultation Evening

Parent Consultation Evening will be held on **Tuesday 1st April 4.30pm-6.30pm**. Appointments will be open in School Cloud on Thursday 13th March. You will need to login using the details that the school holds for your child's priority 1 contact. Appointments must be made by the end of the day on **Thursday 28th March**, if you have not made an appointment by this date your child's teachers, where they feel this to be beneficial, will make an appointment to see you.

Kings Heath Travel Disruption

Follow the link for more information: https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/news/2025-03-14kings-heath-travel-disruption

Attendance Champions League

	Position	Club	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	Points
	1	7SEB	23	19	0	4	57
	2	7BOS	23	17	0	6	51
	3	9BER	23	16	0	7	48
	4	8BOS	23	16	0	7	48
	5	7TER	23	16	0	7	48
	6	11BOS	23	15	0	8	45
	7	9LUK	23	15	0	8	45
	8	7LUK	23	15	0	8	45
	9	11CEC	23	14	0	9	42
	10	7CEC	23	14	0	9	42
	11	10BOS	23	13	0	10	39
ĺ	12	8LUK	23	13	0	10	39
ĺ	13	11SEB	23	12	0	11	36
ĺ	14	9SEB	23	12	0	11	36
ĺ	15	9CEC	23	12	0	11	36
	16	8SEB	23	12	0	11	36
	17	8BER	23	12	0	11	36
	18	10CEC	23		0	12	33
	19	1 OTER	23	10	0	13	30
	20	9TER	23	10	0	13	30
	21	9BOS	23	10	0	13	30
	22	8TER	23	10	0	13	30
	23	11LUK	23	9	0	14	27
ĺ	24	10LUK	23	9	0	14	27
	25	7BER	23	9	0	14	27
ĺ	26	1 OSEB	23	8	0	15	24
ĺ	27	8CEC	23	6	0	17	18
Ì	28	11BER	23	5	0	18	15
Ì	29	10BER	23	4	0	19	12
Ì	30	11TER	23	1	0	22	3

League Table

7BER	93.64	VS	95.00	8BOS
8CEC	93.06	VS	93.03	8BER
8LUK	94.00	VS	96.25	7TER
8SEB	95.00	VS	95.15	7SEB
8TER	96.36	VS	95.88	7LUK
9BER	95.81	VS	93.03	7CEC
9BOS	93.33	VS	93.24	7BOS
9CEC	97.42	VS	90.00	11TER
9LUK	94.41	VS	86.67	11SEB
9SEB	98.75	VS	91.54	11LUK
9TER	95.33	VS	96.33	11CEC
10BER	83.67	VS	94.67	11BOS
10BOS	95.52	VS	90.00	11BER
10CEC	94.41	VS	90.00	10TER
10LUK	91.88	VS	90.00	10SEB

Fixtures

Week beginning Monday 24th March

8BER	VS	7BER
7TER	VS	8BOS
7SEB	VS	8CEC
7LUK	VS	8LUK
7CEC	VS	8SEB
7BOS	VS	8TER
11TER	VS	9BER
11SEB	VS	9BOS
11LUK	VS	9CEC
11CEC	VS	9LUK
11BOS	VS	9SEB
11BER	VS	9TER
10TER	VS	10BER
1 OSEB	VS	10BOS
10LUK	VS	10CEC

Sport

Latest Results

Under 14 Girls Football

Well done to the U14 Girls girls team beating Ark St Albans 5-2 in the Trevor Francis Cup, they are now through to the quarter finals.

Well done to Maisy H for becoming the top goal scorer in the competition.

Swimming Success

Congratulations to Teal S on her artistic swimming success last weekend. After attending the GB National Championships she is now $4 \times$ national champion and went home with 4 gold medals for her individual figures, solo, mixed duet and team. This is a really rare achievement which was recognised by the head GB coach. Well done Teal!



Malympics Event

On Friday 14th March we hosted the Malympics with our Tolkien feeder school. This was a brilliant event taking place in the sports hall, excellently facilitated by our Year 9 Maths and PE leaders! The primary pupils were truly getting a brilliant Challoner experience!

"Thank you for organising the Malympics event on Friday. I know that all of the children really enjoyed themselves." St. Edward's Catholic Primary School



Uniform Standards

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eco Club

This week Eco Club have been enjoying the spring sunshine and doing a litter pick around the school grounds. We are looking forward to doing another litter pick on the roads around school in a few weeks' time!



Science Department Focus

Year 9 visit to the LAMMA Show

A group of year 9 girls visited the LAMMA show at the NEC in January. Students got to explore live machinery demonstrations, get hands-on with innovative tools and see exclusive product launches.

There they visited the LAMMA career zone, designed to help the next generation explore, learn, connect and discover various career paths within the industry.

Students left with a better understanding of the farming world and the multitude of career paths related to the industry and lots of free vegetables!





Science Club

The Year 7 and the Year 8 Science leaders have been enjoying science club this term. This term we have been investigating daphnia, string telephones, slime and making volcanoes. We are going to be testing the volcanoes this coming week! The students have enjoyed improving their practical knowledge and skills. Well done Year 7 and Year 8 Science leaders!



BGT Science Event

The Year 7 Science Club and Year 8 Science leaders did a fab job demonstrating a range of science experiments and helping other students take part in a range of practicals. This included dissecting heart, exploding volcanoes. lighting circuits up, finding DNA in strawberries to looking at a range of organisms down a microscope! This was



a lovely event also to celebrate the science stars since September as through a PowerPoint show. Well done to the students involved and the science team!

National Space Centre Trip - Year 9

During this term, 56 Year 9 students visited the National Space Centre! What a blast! The students had a chance to explore other interactive exhibits and learn more about space exploration, astronomy, and the technologies that make it possible. This was a fantastic way to bring the subject to life in a hands-on and engaging way.



The highlight of our visit was the special session in the

Planetarium, where students will take an exciting journey through the solar system. This session provided a deeper understanding of the planets, moons, and other celestial bodies, and has complemented the work they have been doing in class.

The students were excellent and an asset to Bishop Challoner Catholic College! Well done Year 9!



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 particpate 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 OEU	Canon Sean Grady	9am 11.30am	6pm
St Catherine Of Sienna	B5 7BE	Fr. Jagadishmario Kurapati (Fr. Mario)	11am	5.30pm
St Edward's	B29 7DB	Fr Denis McGillycuddy	10.15am	6pm
St Mary's	B17 0DN	Fr John Reid	11am 5pm	6pm
Sacred Heart and Holy Souls	B27 6RG	Canon Jonathan Veasey	8.30am 10am 12noon	5pm
English Martyrs	B11 3JN	Fr Robert Murphy	8.15am 10.30am	6pm
St Chads Cathedral,	B4 6EX	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

Prayer and Worship

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

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

Reporting Student Absence

All students are required to attend school/college on time every day. If for any reason your child is unable to attend, please ensure that the school attendance policy is followed, and their absence is reported before the START of the school day (8.40am) and on each day of absence. Please provide a reason for their absence and the likely length of absence, if known. 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 (DSL). Mrs Peckover is the Senior DSL.

First Aid Information and Procedures

Medication; All medication should be handed into first aid and not carried by the students. Exception EpiPen, Asthma inhalers, insulin. 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 they can re-fill at our water stations provided or they can purchase a drink from the school canteen.

Students with Asthma must carry with them their own personal inhalers. 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 preder them to have liquid Calpol please send this in to the school first aider with your childs name on it, this will be kept safe in first aid for your child only.

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.

Exciting Non-Teaching Job Opportunity at Bishop Challoner

As well as Teaching vacancies, we have a fantastic non-teaching job opportunities at and we would really appreciate your help in spreading the word. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in joining our school community, please get in touch.

Design Technology & Art Technician

We are seeking for a DT & Art Technician, a fantastic opportunity for someone practical, organised and passionate about supporting creative learning.

This role is term-time only, with school hours—meaning the candidate would benefit from school holidays.

Who Should Apply?

Those with experience or an interest in design technology, art or workshop management.

Practical individuals who enjoy hands-on work and supporting students.

Key Responsibilities:

- Preparing materials and maintaining equipment, including CAD/CAM machinery.
- Supporting teachers in lessons and ensuring health & safety compliance.
- · Assisting with displays, exhibitions and extracurricular clubs.

Why Work at Bishop Challoner Catholic College?

Our school is a place where every member of staff is valued and supported to achieve their best. We take pride in offering a positive, inclusive working environment with clear opportunities for professional growth.

Staff at Bishop Challoner Catholic College benefit from:

- A structured induction programme, opportunities for shadowing and high-quality training.
- Supportive line managers who provide regular feedback and guidance.
- Teaching staff have access to the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS), which is one of the most generous public sector pension schemes in the UK.

Assembly and Form Resource Focus

Last week students focused on the importance of a regular sleep pattern as we celebrated National Sleep Day! Despite, its title, this day is not about lying in bed all day, but actually encourages young people to look at the benefits of having a regular sleep pattern that incorporates an 8 hour sleep. Heads of Year enlightened students with some of the science behind this and how a decent night's sleep can promote school achievements, athletic accomplishments and our well being! We also looked at some good tips for sleep routines from not drinking caffeinated drinks to of course, taking away screen time at bedtime. This week we have re-visited what it means to be respectful. Students have been reminded of how we show respect through trying our best to live out our Faithful Virtues each day and have looked at explicit examples of why a community needs respect to flourish and how we can show respect to each other. We also looked at how schools in Japan incorporate 'soji' into daily routines, which means that students have the responsibility for cleaning their classrooms, corridors and outside spaces. Respect extends to how we also look after our environment and students have been encouraged to make sure that they dispose of all litter at break and lunch times in the bins provided.

Support staff have access to the Local Government Pension Scheme, offering long-term financial security, including immediate life cover.

Whether your expertise is in administration, pastoral care, IT, premises management, catering or specialist services, we provide tailored pathways for development and career progression.

To apply or find out more about the role, visit https:// www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/vacancies

Thank you for your support in helping us find the right people to join our school community.

Our Form Resource programme continues to thrive during form time. The focus last week was on the Stations of the Cross and the Jubilee theme of Forgiveness. Students were encouraged to think about forgiveness and what this looks like both inside and outside of school, especially as it is one of our Faithful Virtues. It was also shared with students that they are invited to reconciliation services throughout this half term in the auditorium. This week, we have celebrated St Patrick's Day and looked at how St Patrick can be a role model for us all. Students have enjoyed learning lots of facts about him and completed a creative task promoting how St Patrick can influence in our lives, today. As you aware from previous updates, safety is something pertinent in all of our lives. Students have been reminded of key safety rules to follow both in and outside of school and also the lawful facts about weapon and prohibited item possession, as stated in The Crime Act and Criminal Justice Act. As always, the safety of our community is paramount and students were advised that speaking to a trusted adult with any concerns, is absolutely imperative in safeguarding everyone. Last week, some year groups took part in our weapon screening, which was carried out in conjunction with our school police liaison officers. Students should be congratulated on their co-operation and mature attitude as we worked together to ensure the safety of our community is always at the forefront.

Spring Term 2				
Every Tuesday	Rosary			
Every Thursday	Community Mass 11.30am			
Sunday 23rd March	Year 9 DofE Bronze Practice Walk			
Monday 24th March	Chaplaincy Primary Workshop			
Tuesday 25th March	Bishop's Got Talent Chaplaincy Primary Workshop			
Wednesday 26th March	Tea Party Year 10 University of Birmingham Trip			
Friday 28th March	Cake Sale TBC Mother's Day Hamper			
Monday 31st March	Chaplaincy Primary Workshop			
Tuesday 1st April	Early Finish Year 8 Parent Consultation Afternoon Year 13 Parent Consultation Evening Chaplaincy Primary Workshop			
Wednesday 2nd April	Tea Party Year 9 & 10 Reconciliation			
Thursday 3rd April	Year 10 Mock Interviews			
Sunday 6th April - Tuesday 8th April	Year 10 and 12 Silver DofE Practice			
Tuesday 8th April	Bishop's Got Talent Year 11 & Sixth Form Reconciliation			
Wednesday 9th April	Spring Soiree Year 12 Easter Fair			
Thursday 10th April	Bake off Competition History trip to Alexander Theatre			
Friday 11th April	Easter Hamper			
Monday 14th April - Friday 25th April	School Closed - Easter Holiday			
Monday 28th April	School Open			

2024-2025 Term Dates

Spring Term 2025 Term ends: Friday 11 April 2025 Summer Term 2025 Term Starts: Monday 28 April 2025 Half-term: Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025 Term ends: Friday 18th July 2024

> INSET Days Monday 21st July 2025

Life Teen Summer Camp

Bookings are now live for the Life Teen Summer Camp at Alton Castle from Sunday 20th – Thursday 24th July! Are you ready for an unforgettable summer filled with adventure, faith, and friendship? Summer Camp 2025 is here, and we can't wait to welcome you!

This year, we're bringing even more exciting activities, powerful moments of reflection, and opportunities to grow in your faith. It's your chance to step away from the everyday, connect with others, and discover how God is working in your life.

From messy games to bold challenges, from deep conversations to moments of pure joy, Summer Camp 2025 is packed with everything you need to make memories that will last a lifetime.

The full cost of this camp is £275 staying in a Castle Dormitory, or £195 for those wanting to Camp (including transport). We would like to subsidise this cost from some fundraising at the end of March. 12 places have been provisionally booked with priority for young people from the Parish this week before our launch at Bishop Challoner - to secure your place could you book via the Parish Office with a name, contact number and a £50 deposit per person ASAP.



Traditional Irish Music Classes

at Bishop Challoner School, Institute Road, Kings Heath B14 7EG Thursday evenings at 7.00pm from 12th September 2024 All ages and all instruments welcome. Contact: Branch Sec. belindahutchings@yahoo.com

Branch Chair, Marian Dwyer, Text 07939 094797

Irish Music SESSION

on the second Sunday of the month at Norton's, Digbeth, B5 5LS from 3.00pm onwards.

RYANDS

Regional Fleadh, Newman University, 6th April 2025



Second Sunday of the month

At Nortons Digbeth 1pm-3pm Come along and listen or join in with a cúpla focal Everyone is welcome to this monthly event.



LEARN IRISH NOW

Irish language course for beginners starting October 24. In-person classes once a month with online and printed resources to study at your own pace at home.

www.gaeilge.uk