

BC14

Friday 22nd November 2024

Message from Mrs L Choudhury Assistant Principal

At the end of next week, we will move into the blessed liturgical season of Advent. Many members of our school community will be keenly looking forward to opening their advent calendars on 1st December and it is this small act each day which builds the excitement towards Christmas Day itself. The word 'Advent' is derived from the Latin word Adventus, which means arrival, and Christians all over the world will celebrate this season of candlelight, reflection, and expectation - a chance to get ready for Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

During this season, I love to visit the City Centre; even as an adult, I find myself totally enchanted by the festive displays, as well as the sights, sounds and smells which are only to be found at this special time of year. I commented to someone the other day that I do believe I love Christmas now more than when I was a child; perhaps it is because I now have children of my own and to see the joy and excitement on their faces brings me so much pleasure and adds an extra dimension to the sense of magic of this wonderful season.

As a community, we are fully aware that Christmas cannot, and will not, be a happy time for everyone. With the increasing cost of living, families will be facing worrying challenges and will struggle to buy gifts as they prioritise putting food on the table and trying to keep their loved ones safe and warm. For years, Bishop Challoner have supported the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal to ensure that children around the world receive a gift on Christmas morning. For the fourth year running, we have joined

Call for Action from The Cardinal

The Cardinal has called on all Catholics to take action to oppose assisted suicide and you can find out more details about this via the following weblink. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinal-calls-on-catholics-to-take-action-to-oppose-assisted-suicide/>

Bishop Challoner Eco Club

Our Eco Club, made up of year 7 and 8 pupils (but open to everyone) has had a very busy start to the 2024/25 academic year. We have started our Eco School application for this year, and we are hoping to achieve Gold Eco School status by summer of 2025. We have also started our journey as Active Travel Ambassadors (for the third year) and we hope to run a few initiatives throughout the year to encourage our school community to travel to school in a sustainable and active way. We are currently collecting data about how our school community travels to school, which we will use to inform our future campaigns.

Christ The King Prayer

O Lord our God, You alone are the Most Holy King and Ruler of all nations. We pray to You, Lord, in the great expectation of receiving from You, O Divine King, mercy, peace, justice and all good things. Protect, O Lord our King, our families and the land of our birth. Guard us we pray Most Faithful One. Protect us from our enemies and from Your Just Judgment. Forgive us, O Sovereign King, our sins against you. Jesus, You are a King of Mercy. We have deserved Your Just Judgment. Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us. We trust in Your Great Mercy. O most awe-inspiring King, we bow before You and pray; May Your Reign, Your Kingdom, be recognized on earth. Amen.

forces with the Birmingham Irish Association to look closer to home, supporting families in Birmingham who face the struggle of buying gifts for their children this Christmas. As well as donating toys directly to this appeal, students at Bishop Challoner and our feeder primary schools have been busy raising money to buy toys to donate. Earlier this week, a student in Year 9 brought two sacks of brand-new toys into school to donate to this appeal. Whilst this is certainly not the expectation, this level of thought is symptomatic of the Bishop Challoner community. As a result of this amazing donation, the Christmas tree in our foyer is now filling up with gifts and we know this will continue in the weeks to come. Our students are truly a blessing to us and never fail to rise to the challenge of helping those less fortunate than themselves.

In the forthcoming weeks, we will be celebrating the Yuletide season with a special Christmas service; we have planned this to be a truly reverent yet magical service and have invited the parents of our Year 7 students, as well as members of our wider community, to attend. The singing of festive carols, Christmas songs and the reciting of choral speech and festive poems will be led by our dedicated solo performers from across the school and Year 7 students have been honing their vocal skills in preparation during assemblies and music lessons!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a truly special Advent; may the light and love of this blessed season be with you all!

Easy Fundraising

A reminder that we are registered with easyfundraising, an amazing platform that partners with over 7,000 brands to help raise funds for good causes - and it costs you absolutely nothing!

Here's how it works:

1. Sign up for free at the link below or QR code
2. Shop online as you normally would through easyfundraising.
3. The brands you shop with will donate a percentage of your purchase to our school - no extra cost to you!

It's simple, free, and those little donations really add up to make a big difference for our school community.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bishopchallonercatholiccollege/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=email-1



Attendance Champions League

League Table

Week ending Friday 22nd November

Position	Club	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	Points
1	7SEB	9	8	0	1	24
2	7BOS	9	8	0	1	24
3	8LUK	9	7	0	2	21
4	8BOS	9	7	0	2	21
5	7CEC	9	7	0	2	21
6	11SEB	9	6	0	3	18
7	10LUK	9	6	0	3	18
8	9LUK	9	6	0	3	18
9	9BER	9	6	0	3	18
10	8BER	9	6	0	3	18
11	7TER	9	6	0	3	18
12	7LUK	9	6	0	3	18
13	11CEC	9	5	0	4	15
14	11BOS	9	5	0	4	15
15	10TER	9	5	0	4	15
16	9BOS	9	5	0	4	15
17	10SEB	9	4	0	5	12
18	10CEC	9	4	0	5	12
19	10BOS	9	4	0	5	12
20	8TER	9	4	0	5	12
21	11LUK	9	3	0	6	9
22	9TER	9	3	0	6	9
23	9SEB	9	3	0	6	9
24	9CEC	9	3	0	6	9
25	8SEB	9	3	0	6	9
26	7BER	9	2	0	7	6
27	11BER	9	1	0	8	3
28	10BER	9	1	0	8	3
29	8CEC	9	1	0	8	3
30	11TER	9	0	0	9	0

Results

Week ending Friday 22nd November

7BER	86.36	VS	91.61	10LUK
10SEB	92.00	VS	92.50	10CEC
10TER	87.50	VS	94.84	10BOS
11BER	85.00	VS	90.00	10BER
11BOS	92.19	VS	90.00	9TER
11CEC	96.21	VS	91.52	9SEB
11LUK	91.92	VS	93.53	9LUK
11SEB	89.29	VS	88.18	9CEC
11TER	83.33	VS	92.81	9BOS
7BOS	86.67	VS	95.63	9BER
7CEC	91.88	VS	90.59	8TER
7LUK	92.65	VS	92.35	8SEB
7SEB	92.50	VS	90.00	8LUK
7TER	95.31	VS	88.19	8CEC
8BER	93.33	VS	93.03	8BOS

Fixtures

Week beginning Monday 25th November

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

October Manager of the Month: Mrs Hodges, 11SEB

BISHOP CHALLONER SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

We're really looking forward to receiving your application



SCAN HERE TO APPLY



Sport

Latest Results

- Year 7 Football V Lordswood boys in the league finished 2-2 last Wednesday (13th Nov). Player of the Game was Cairo
- Year 7 girls netball V Selly Park girls in the league lost 5-1 last Wednesday (13th Nov). Player of the Game was Jessica.
- Year 8 girls netball V Selly Park girls in the league, drew 3-3 last Wednesday (13th Nov). Player of the Game was Brooke. The school commended the girls on their excellent sportsmanship and fair play within the game.
- Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award for Year 9 took place on Wednesday 20th Nov
- Year 9 Girls Netball 3-1 Swanshurst (18th Nov)
- Year 10 Girls Netball 9-5 Swanshurst (18th Nov)

Library Reminders

OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS

Please remind your child to check at home and return any overdue library books asap?

SCHOLASTIC BOOKFAIR - SAVE THE DATE

The bookfair is coming to Bishop Challoner - it will run from Monday 2nd December - Friday 6th December in the school library. More details will be sent out the week before.

BOARD GAMES WANTED

With Christmas fast approaching you may be starting to have a clear out of old games ready for a visit from Santa. Please consider donating your unwanted board games to the library for our lunchtime clubs. We are particularly interested in chess and draughts sets/games that are suitable for quick play such as connect 4/card games etc.

Year 7, 9 & 10 Parent/Carer Consultation Day

Parent Consultation Afternoon will be held on **Monday 16th December, 8.30am-3.30pm**. Appointments open on **Wednesday 27th November at 6pm**. 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 **Wednesday 11th December**, 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.

Year 11 Mock Examinations

Please follow the links below for subject information and guidance on the Year 11 mock examinations.

<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/examinations-information/year-11-mock-examinations>

Kooth: the online mental health and wellbeing community



Webinar invitation (You can get the recording even if you cannot attend on the day).

Emotionally Based School Avoidance

Parents and carers may be seeking support for their anxious child avoiding school. They're often juggling work and caregiving, feeling deeply worried while their child remains at home. So we're also offering a webinar for families.

[KoothTalks for families: please follow this link if your family is affected](#)

Thanksgiving Mass

We warmly invite students and families to a Thanksgiving Mass for the Bishops and Priests of St Dunstan's Parish on Tuesday 26th November 7.30pm. [Click here for more information.](#)

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	10am 12noon 6.30pm	5.30pm
St. Jude's	B14 5PE	Fr John Peyton	9.15am	-
Our Lady Of Lourdes	B13 0EU	Canon Sean Grady	9am 11am	6pm
St Catherine Of Sienna	B5 7BE	Fr. Jagadishmario Kurapati (Fr. Mario)	10.30am	5pm
St Edward's	B29 7DB	Fr Denis McGillicuddy	10.15am	6pm
St Mary's	B17 0DN	Fr John Reid	8am/9.30am/ 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	9.45am	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	9.00am 11.45am	10am 5pm
Our Lady Of Fatima	B32 1LL	Fr Philip Long Nguyen	9.00am 11.00am	6pm
St Ambrose Barlow	B28 8QU	Fr Paul Johnson	10.00am 5.30pm	5.30pm
The Oratory Of Saint Philip Neri	B16 8UE	Fr Anton Guziel	8.30am 10.30am 12pm 5.30pm	5.30pm
St Peters	B32 3QG	Fr Gary Buckby	9.30am	-
Our Lady And St Rose Of Lima	B29 5DY	Fr Gary Buckby	11am	5.15pm

Prayer and Worship

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

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.

Assembly and Form Resource Focus

This week, students have taken part in an assembly that focused on Respect. For Key Stage 3 students, this has focused on being made in God's Image and that the meaning of respect is treating each other in a positive manner. We looked at our Faithful Virtue of being understanding and how we all have human dignity and should treat each other with this in mind. The Key Stage 4 and 5 assembly discussed all of the above content and also the meaning of consent. The Going Forth message was rooted in Ephesians For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

The form resource was centred around Parliament Week. Students explored what the new UK government have been focussing on since they won the general election. They had discussions and quizzes to decide what promises from their manifesto, the Labour government are upholding and also what are their class views for how things could be made even better! Students were very engaged in this political debate and there could be a few future politicians in the making.

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.

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 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.

First Aid Reminders

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, it is important children stay hydrated.

Students with Asthma must carry with them their own personal inhalers. This includes offsite activities and school trips to ensure they can participate safely.

Mobile Phones

Students should not be contacting parents/carers when they feel unwell and requesting to be collected from school. In the event that a student is unwell they MUST go to the First Aider who will deal with them. In the event that 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 Pastoral 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.

50th Year of the Birmingham Pub Bombings

Students have worked tirelessly over the previous 4 weeks have now delivered an incredible piece of audio that tells the story of the Birmingham Pub Bombings in their own words. Interviews were conducted with guests to the school, parents, and grandparents over the past few weeks which concluded with each student themselves being interviewed by the BBC. Their words have been created into a soundscape and the music in the background which pulls you further into the story is also played by students from Bishop Challoner. It is an incredible piece of work and was played for the first time on BBC Radio WM at 8am on Thursday 21st November. I would encourage everyone to try and listen to it if you get the opportunity in the morning. We would like to congratulate our students on a wonderful piece of work on such a highly sensitive subject. It is simply stunning!

We also had students who performed at the Birmingham Pub Bombings memorial service on Thursday 21st November. The event took place outside New Street Station with HRH Princess Sophie The Duchess of Edinburgh, His Grace and many other dignitaries present. Our students were incredible and did the school and the City of Birmingham exceptionally proud. The BBC commissioned Katie Stevens and Marian Dwyer to write and compose a song with our students. What they produced was simply stunning and a fitting tribute to those people who lost their lives and how we must have hope for the future. They sang 'A song of hope' for the first time at the service which was broadcasted out on many media streams. Many tears were shed as it was such an emotional occasion.

We are exceptionally proud of all the students who took part in the Birmingham Pub Bombings project. We will send out a special newsletter next week which will focus entirely on the project. We would like to thank BBC Radio WM and the Birmingham Irish Association for allowing us the opportunity to take part in such an important project and to be able to part of the memorial service.



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.

2024-2025 Term Dates

Autumn Term 2024

Term ends: Thursday 19th December 2024

Spring Term 2025

Term Starts: Monday 6 January 2025

Half-term: Monday 17 February 2025 to Friday 21 February 25

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

Friday 20th December 2024

Monday 24th February 2024

Wednesday 5th April 2024

Monday 21st July 2025

Liquid Paracetamol

We do not provide liquid paracetamol such as Calpol please provide this to school if your child can not take tablets and you wish for them to take paracetamol. This will be kept safe in first aid for

Drinks

Fizzy drinks and energy drinks are not allowed in school, if they are seen they will be taken and disposed of. Please encourage your child to bring in a clear bottle of water, there are 2 water stations in school where they can re-fill.

Autumn Term 2

Every Tuesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass 11.30am
Sunday 24th November	England V Japan Rugby Trip Youth Mass at St Dunstan's
Monday 25th November - Wednesday 27th November	Year 7 & 8 Alton Castle Trip
Tuesday 26th November	Year of Jubilee Sixth Form Workshop
Wednesday 27th November	Flu Vaccinations Year 7-11 Tea Party Year 8 Computing Trip
Thursday 28th November	Dementia Cafe St Anne's Community Mass 11.30am Year 12 Maths Inspitation
Friday 29th November	UCAS References Deadline
Monday 2nd December	Bookfair opens for 1 week Year 11 Mock Examination period begins
Tuesday 3rd December	Bishop's Got Talent
Wednesday 4th December	Christmas Event Tuck Shop School Experience Day Year 12 Rudolph Run
Thursday 5th December	Christmas Event Tuck Shop Community Mass 11.30am Canteen - Mexican Day
Friday 6th December	Year 5 Christmaths Event

BC Wellbeing News

AUTUMN 1

NOVEMBER 2024

Welcome to the first Wellbeing newsletter of the new academic year. This is a half-termly publication with well-being news, tips and useful links.

Meet our Well-being Team



Well-being at Bishop Challoner: Our offer

“Mental health is a state of well-being in which an individual realises his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.”

World Health Organisation. 2018

At Bishop Challoner Catholic College we aim to promote good mental health and wellbeing for our whole community: students, staff, parents and carers.

We aim to develop protective factors by being a community in which all:

- are respected
- have a sense of belonging and feel safe
- are able to talk openly with trusted adults
- see good mental health as something to be valued and nurtured

We want all members of our community to:

- feel confident in themselves
- be able to express a range of emotions appropriately
- be able to make and maintain positive relationships with others
- cope with the challenges of everyday life
- manage times of stress and deal with change
- thrive and achieve

We aim to achieve this through:

- living out our school missions statement “... we give glory to God by developing our full potential...”
- our PHSE curriculum
- awareness raising (wellbeing assemblies, tips for good mental health)
- listening to our students
- gaining insights via student voice
- working in partnership with parents/carers where there are concerns about mental health
- signposting sources of external help and advice
- making referrals and working with external agencies to provide additional support to those who need it
- recognising the importance of staff mental health and wellbeing.
- modelling healthy attitudes and habits

We are not able or qualified to offer:

- counselling
- testing and diagnosis of mental health conditions
- specialist therapies

Helping Young People Help Themselves

In line with our character values, especially being intentional, we remind students that there is a lot they can do to support good mental health. This is summed up as 5 Ways to Wellbeing. Through clubs, charitable events, volunteering and sports there are a host of opportunities in school to enable this.



NSPCC

The NSPCC has produced some excellent family friendly resources on a wide range of wellbeing matters, accessible by following this link:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/>



YOUNG MINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

Parents/carers can also find a huge amount of support and advice on the Young Minds site by following this link:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/>



**Comhaltas
Ceoltóirí Éireann
Birmingham Branch**

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.

Everyone Welcome

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

**EARLY HELP
SEND SUPPORT SESSION** **FREE**

The Springfield Project, B13 9NY
Monday 25th November - 10am - 12pm

Our SEND Support Sessions covers topics ranging from:

- ASD Assessment processes – What to Expect
- Diet and Nutrition
- Sensory Processing
- What is an EHCP?
- Typical behaviours
- EHCP's – What do they mean and how they can help?
- What support is local and available to families?
- Q&A with Early Help

ATTENDEES MUST REGISTER - CLICK HERE TO TAKE PART!

07570 953519 @halgreenfamilies
www.halgreencommunities.org.uk
halgreen.families@greensquareaccord.co.uk



**Toy Appeal
Christmas 2024**

Please give new toys (unwrapped) for our
local children in Birmingham for all age
groups ranging from 1-15 years

COLLECTION DATES:
Monday 4th November - Thursday 12th December

BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

