

BC14

Lord, We ask you to pour your presence into our lives today. We pray the hand of God to be revealed and that we may bring joy and hope to others. With gratitude we pray for all you have given us and those accompanying us in our life.
Amen

Message from Dr Coughlan, Principal

Friday 24th April 2020

“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.” Proverbs 3:27

This week marks the start of a very unusual summer term and, certainly, one none of us would have predicted a few weeks ago. In normal circumstances we would be gearing up for the final push in public examination preparation with extra revision classes and interventions taking place. In the absence of these examinations it allows us a chance to reevaluate the broader importance of education: the acquisition of new knowledge; the enjoyment and challenge of learning something new; preparedness for the next stage. What we perhaps recognise most is the broader importance of education in ensuring all our students leave our care equipped to be strong and active members of society with a deep sense of moral purpose. If the past few weeks have taught us nothing else it is what tremendous good people can do in times of need.

Our own school continues to make contributions to local hospitals, hospices and care homes. Mr Crawford and Mr Pegg have now produced 574 visors using our lazer cutter, Mrs Dane has been producing sets of scrubs, Mrs Ashton has been making scrub hats, Mrs McGowan and Ms Saddler have been sewing wash bags for NHS staff, our brilliant catering team have provided gloves and our science department have donated gloves, goggles and masks. We remained deeply humbled by the work of our NHS and all those working on the frontline in hospices and care homes.

For those within our community experiencing any illness in their families, you remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Please stay safe: where you can stay at home. Best wishes for the new term.

Examinations update

Earlier this month the examinations regulator Ofqual, published some guidance to schools on the awarding of A level, GCSE and Vocational grades this summer. The process will involve teachers awarding Centre Assessment Grades for each student in each of their subjects and then within each grade awarded, complete a rank order. Ofqual subsequently launched a consultation on some of the arrangements in their guidance and this will close on 29th April. From this expect some additional guidance in early May.

At Bishop Challoner teams of teachers will be working together throughout the month of May to award their students Centre Assessment Grades and to complete rank orders. We have been given very clear guidance from Ofqual on sharing grades with students, parents and carers. Schools must not, under any circumstances, share the Centre Assessment Grades nor the rank order of students with parents, carers or students themselves, before final results have been issued. This is to protect the integrity of teachers' judgements, and to avoid teachers, heads of department, senior leaders and the headteacher being put under pressure by students and parents, to submit a grade that is not supported by evidence.

Please be assured that the process of awarding GCSE and A level grades will be rigorous, objective and fair.

Results day(s):

A level results will be published on Thursday 13th August

GCSE results will be published on Thursday 20th August



Disney launched their much-anticipated streaming service, Disney+ in the UK on 24th March. Naturally given the Disney brand, the content is geared more towards a family audience than competitors such as Amazon Prime and Netflix. However, the platform does contain both Marvel and Star Wars content which may contain scenes distressing for a younger audience; many of the Marvel films have been rated 12A at launch. Disney are also keen to stress that whilst presented in their original formats, some older films do contain 'outdated cultural depictions' that are not the social norm today.

Like all online streaming services, the platform provides parental controls that allow you to limit what a child can see when accessing the platform. The process for this is described at the following link:

https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?id=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=ff68cdd3dbefc49860f3eacb13961970

Sixth Form - A message from Mrs Nutt, Associate Principal

We hope that you have enjoyed a peaceful and happy Easter. It is certainly one that won't be forgotten. I know that many students had managed to get into a good routine, balancing study, exercise and leisure and now that we are into the Summer term, students will be returning to their studies, their revision and activities in preparation for the next stage in their lives. Year 12 students should be working through work set on the website and keep in regular communication with their teachers via their school email. Year 11 and Year 13 students, for whom the academic year has come to a very abrupt halt, will find the Preparation section of the college website particularly useful.

There is also a wealth of information on the CareersHub section of our website, where students can take part in virtual university open days, get support with personal

statements and the latest government information for year 13 students on issues such as the awarding of grades.

Most importantly, do not forget that although college is not open, all of the Sixth Form staff and all of your teachers are available via email. **Do not hesitate to get in touch.**

We recognise that at this challenging time, many may be finding the uncertainty very difficult to cope with. Please click on the Safeguarding and Wellbeing tab on the website, which will take you to useful links and a list of useful telephone numbers.

We pray that you all stay fit and well. Look after yourselves and look after each other.

Well-being

We hope this newsletter finds you well and you are managing to find time and space to enjoy some fresh air, relaxation and exercise. It is also important to remember to spend time talking to each other and time should be made where all electronic devices are left to one side for an hour or so to allow conversations to take place.

However, we recognise that this period of time may be challenging for many of us. We have put together resources to help support parents, carers and young people throughout this time. These resources can be found on our school website <https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/catholic-college/about/safeguarding/covid-19-safeguarding-and-child-protection-addendum> link.

On the web page you will also find information about staff who are in a position to offer further support and guidance.

Please stay safe and support each other.

Teaching School Update

Teaching School is continuing online! With Train to Teach applications still coming through on UCAS, we are assessing candidates and carrying out interviews online. We are also available for phone and email conversations about training to teach, so do get in touch if you are thinking of applying for teacher training to start in September 2020.

We are interviewing for our Alliance partner schools too - so we have a great range of subjects on offer for Secondary, as well as Primary - including Primary with PE specialism. So, take a look on UCAS under code 1K2 and see if there is a course option for you! Email us on teachingschool@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk with any questions.

Ready, Set, Play!

The classic pastime of board games is enjoying something of a resurgence and there are many benefits attached to playing games, for young and old alike:

Board games help with children's cognitive and social development. Useful social skills can be taught through board games that can lead children to happier and less isolated lives (eg following rules, taking turns and sharing with others). Board games support cognitive skills (eg word skills, mathematical skills, problem solving skills, logic, abstract thinking) and with so many different types of board games, there are thousands of ways to give your brain a workout.

Board games help family cohesion. Families who spend time together on enjoyable activities have a strengthened emotional bond and it supports communication between family members. A board game is an opportunity for the family to take part in something together. All too often in family situations, while everyone is physically present, the focus is either on the TV, or individual mobile phones, tablets, or laptops.

Board games help to reduce stress and help with relaxation. Board games offer escapism, a chance to leave your daily worries behind for a while and do something completely different. You can build civilisations, construct railways, control vast armies, hunt zombies, or even try to take over the world.

Board games keep your brain younger for longer. An active brain is at lower risk of cognitive decline and research shows that playing board games is associated with a reduced risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Board games are a great way to connect with others, to take you away from the normal troubles of life for a few hours and to give your brain a workout. From classics like Monopoly, Scrabble and Cluedo to modern favourites such as Settlers of Catan, Carcassonne and Pandemic, there is bound to be something out there to appeal to you and your family.

PARENT LINK SERVICE CONTACT LINE



WHAT IS THE PARENT LINK SERVICE?

As a parent or carer of a child with special educational need or disability, it can be difficult to know who the best person is to get help and advice from.

A **Parent Link Officer** is a member of Birmingham Local Authority whose job it is to help parents to identify and make links with the right person, at the right time.

WHAT IS THE CONTACT LINE FOR?

The contact line is a central phone line that parents can call, ask questions, talk about things that are concerning them and then be given advice on what the best next steps could be.

NEXT STEPS COULD INCLUDE:



A follow up
phone call



Attendance at one of our **family forums** in your local area



A follow up **email**



A **home visit**



Some **written information**



Support at a face-to-face **meeting**

PARENT LINK CONTACT TELEPHONE LINE:

0121 303 8461

Monday: 9.00am – 5.00pm

Tuesday: 9.00am – 5.00pm

Wednesday: 9.00am – 4.00pm

Thursday: 9.00am – 5.00pm

Friday: 9.00am – 5.00pm

OTHER WAYS TO CONTACT US:

Email: ParentLinkService@birmingham.gov.uk

How to get structure at home

When we asked our community about their worries around Coronavirus, many said they were worried about changes to their routine. Parents were worried about their child's loss of structure. Autistic adults were worried about working from home and staying focused, or switching off. To help you manage daily life during the lockdown, we've worked with experts to provide you with some advice.

Guide for adults on structure & routine

We've created a guide to help with structure and managing daily tasks for our website. This was created with Occupational Therapist Susan Madigan.

Webinar on structure & routine for children

We have a free webinar on structure and routine for children next Tuesday at 8pm. The presenter is Occupational Therapist Caroline Bulmer.

Webinar on uncertainty and anxiety

We have a second free webinar on uncertainty and anxiety next Wednesday at 7pm. The presenter is Jacqui Rodgers, a Professor of Psychology Mental Health and an autism researcher at Newcastle University. This should be of interest to autistic adults, parents and professionals.

Any questions?

Do you have any questions for our webinar hosts? Email us at info@autistica.org.uk and we will try to cover them on the webinars.

COVID-19 General Government Advice

The advice below has been taken directly from the Government Website

Stay at home

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- Do not meet others, even friends or family. You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

Handwashing and respiratory hygiene

There are general principles you can follow to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- washing your hands more often - with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitiser when you get home or into work, when you blow your nose, sneeze or cough, eat or handle food
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who have symptoms
- cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin and wash your hands
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home