



Friday 24th November 2023

Message from Mrs Baptiste, Associate Assistant Principal

As we reflect on the acts of Remembrance through BC Arts Hub exhibitions, projections and installations, Remembrance Sunday masses and events, we honour the memory of the fallen and pledge to care for the living.

'Peace I leave you; my peace I give you,' John 14.27

In this month of Remembrance, we also take a moment to reflect on the history of Bishop Challoner Catholic College as we move towards commemorating our Platinum Jubilee. In Form groups, pupils have been focusing on the Year of 1953 - the year Bishop Challoner School opened its doors to the first cohort of Catholic Secondary pupils. Through poetic form, pupils have explored 1950's Birmingham and have produced some powerful and poignant works.

1950s Birmingham

*The war is over, but sorrow clings
The sound of bombs is a sound that rings
But in the future, we'll make the same mistake
Another World War has left destruction in its wake
In Birmingham, a city in ruin
A brand-new era is soon to begin
As bricks are laid and stories retold*

In resilience and unity, a new tale unfolds (Year 10 pupil) It has also been an extremely busy and successful start to the half term for the Sixth Form. We were delighted to see so many pupils from Year 11 and the local community attend the Sixth Form Open Evening last week. We would like to thank and congratulate Aira P, Gwyneth G and Samuel L who served as student ambassadors for the evening and to all our Year 13 students who acted as guides for our visitors. We have some exciting developments for our curriculum offer at BC Sixth Form with the introduction of T-Level Management and Administration in September. Earlier this year, we coordinated an Exhibition of Excellence; a celebratory event to showcase excellent work across the key stages. The focus for 6th Form Opening Evening was a Key Stage 5 Excellence Trail. This was a huge success epitomising our mission statement 'We give glory to God by developing our full potential,' complementing the existing Opening Evening programme with a trail of excellence displayed in corridors, classrooms and open spaces. From outstanding essays and revision materials to spoken word and dramatic performances, the exhibition highlighted our commitment to fostering well-rounded pupils, encouraging the development of each pupil's unique talents and gifts. The Excellence Exhibition served as a shining moment, highlighting the collective dedication to striving for and rewarding excellence.

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.

We are excited to build on enrichment events, educational trips and retreats this year with Bishop Challoner Catholic College returning to the hive of activities it once was, established pre-COVID. Just in the next two weeks alone, pupils will experience learning out of context and attend fulfilling residential trips and retreats. A snapshot of events includes: a Key Stage 3 trip to Aston University for the 'CyberFirst Girls Competition 2023' collaborating with Aston's Cyber Security faculty, Year 10 participating in a Maths Quiz at Cardinal Newman School, Year 12 and 13 pupils attending a Masterclass in Architecture at Birmingham City University and a special mention goes to Year 13's, Sophie F. On 15th November, Sophie performed at 'The 2023 Youth Proms', Royal Albert Hall, London with The Birmingham Schools Symphony Orchestra, accompanying the massed ensemble pieces, composed by Jack Pepper, a young upcoming composer. The rewarding opportunities for our young people to engage with are endless.

On 27th November, we are taking our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils to Alton Castle, where they will experience time away from school and their homes and have opportunity to reflect on their faith at such an important time in their lives. As we move into the second half of the autumn term, we are approaching the period of Advent. We will be working with our young people to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas through advent challenges, reconciliation preparations and masses in the chapel, organised and supported by BC Lay Chaplain, Ellen Turner. We will be providing opportunities to invite children to the Chapel to pray, sing, discuss their faith and from this we are building a strong and vibrant chaplaincy team. As the year progresses, we look forward to providing opportunities for our students to share and celebrate the faith of our community. On Sunday 26th November, the Church celebrates the 'Feast of Christ the King' and on this day will be celebrating 'National Youth Sunday'. At St Dunstons Church, staff, pupils and families of the Bishop Challoner community along with Chaplaincy team members and St. Dunstan's youth club, are invited to a Youth Mass at St. Dunstan's Church at 6.30pm to celebrate our young people who are involved in the mission of the Church.

"Advent," says Pope Francis, "is a journey toward the horizon of hope."

Save the Date

26th November – Youth Mass, St Dunstons Church 6.30pm
13th December – Year 7 and 8 Christmas Mass. Parents are welcome to attend.



As we approach the festive period, it is likely that many of us will be increasing the number of deliveries we have to the home. Whilst the texts and emails from reputable companies act as a key reminder for times and dates, unfortunately, scammers are using these channels to trick people into handing over personal details or more. As we move into a period of increased home deliveries, please remember the following when interrogating a message, you have received:

Legitimate companies will never ask for personal details! They will have provided a tracking code at purchase.

- To my knowledge have I ordered anything?
- Ask others in the home if they have ordered anything.
- Do I recognise the company name, is what I have ordered with them?

If you are unsure, do not click the links contained within the message.



Student Services

This term we have welcomed Miss Behan to the Student Services team. Miss Behan will be based in a newly created Student Services office and be on hand to assist students. Miss Behan also has some responsibility for attendance and punctuality and will be in regular contact with parents/carers.

Miss Williams will also combine her role as Assistant Head of Year 11 with some responsibility for supporting students and families.

Year 11 Mock Examinations

[Please click](#) here for subject information and guidance on the Year 11 mock examinations.

We would like to remind students not to bring food items into school containing nuts. If food gifts are exchanged containing nuts around Christmastime please refrain from opening them at school.

Cashless Catering

You will be aware that we operate a biometric cashless catering system in school. From 8th January 2024 we will no longer have a machine in school to add money to catering accounts. Please ensure that you top up your son/daughter's account regularly and ensure they have enough funds to purchase food on a daily basis. If you have any issue accessing Schoolcomms, the platform required to top up your son/daughter's account, please contact school and select the option for the Pastoral office.

Attendance Updates

Attendance Percentage
 Year 7 - 95.1%
 Year 8 - 94.3%
 Year 9 - 92.5%
 Year 10 - 90.7%
 Year 11 - 92%
 Whole School - 93%

w/c 20/11/23
 Late Marks
 Year 7 - 15
 Year 8 - 11
 Year 9 - 73
 Year 10 - 34
 Year 11 - 37

Pre-loved Uniform

We are hoping to be able to sell some pre-loved uniform at forthcoming Parent Consultation events. Thank you to parents/carers that already send in uniform that children have grown out of. If you have any of the following items in good reusable condition that you are willing to donate please bring them into reception and we will look to include them in future pre-loved uniform sales- blazers, pleated skirts, trousers, ties, PE kit (all items), royal blue sweatshirts, maroon sweatshirts. Thank you in advance for your support.

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.

If your child is in Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 please call 0121 444 4161 and select OPTION 1.

If your child is in Year 12 please call 0121 441 6113.

If your child is in Year 13 please call 0121 441 6144

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.

Sports Updates

Sixth Form Football team had a friendly against Kings Norton and won 3-0.

Our U13 Challonets will now represent Birmingham City Football club at the EFL regional finals after winning today's local competition at West Hills. 9 games played and 9 won. 50+ goals for and 0 goals against! Well done girls!

Our Year 7 netball team played against Selly Park girls and after another close match the girls were defeated 4-5 - good effort girls!

Our Year 10 and 8 Netball teams played in a tournament at The University of Birmingham School. Year 7 girls played against Aldridge in round 2 of the Birmingham Cup and after a very close game the girls were just beat to the win with the final score standing at 6-5.

Year 7 and 8 school games basketball won by scoring a massive 48 points.

The Year 9 football team won the Kings Norton League, beating UoBS 3-0 and Priory 2-0! Well done lads!

Skirts

Students should now be wearing a pleated skirt or trousers. Where families were provided until October half term to rectify some uniform/footwear issues please ensure that your child is now wearing the correct uniform. We thank you for supporting the school in ensuring that all students look smart and ready to learn each day.

GET IN TOUCH

In order for us work together, to best support our young people, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have information to share regarding the safeguarding or wellbeing of your child.

This is particularly important if there has been a change in circumstances for the young person.

Please contact Mrs K Peckover, Mrs M Nutt or any DSL or member of the Wellbeing Team.

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.

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 in 2023.

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	Mgr 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.

Each week we share our reflection on the school website, you can view it [here](#).

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.

First Aid Reminders

Please inform the school of any new medical conditions or investigations, this is extremely important in helping us to correctly support your child's medical needs in school. We also need current emergency contact details, if these have changed you must contact the school with new details for our records.

Emergency Contacts

It is imperative we have your current correct contact information on our systems. Please inform the school if anything has changed, especially telephone numbers.

Asthma

Asthma is a chronic long term condition, it can be well managed and in many cases some don't suffer severely, however if you have been diagnosed with Asthma even if you have it well managed you must carry an inhaler on you.

Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes

In order for your children to participate safely with Trips and offsite events including offsite PE, they must carry their medication with them. This is imperative for their safety and to avoid disappointment if unable to participate.

Other medications must be handed in to first aid or the trip lead on the day.

Designers and Makers

Do you who work in art, craft, design, engineering, manufacturing or any related creative fields?

Please contact Mrs O'Connor at t.oconnor@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk to see how you can help our school.

Plastic Bottle Caps

To support our design and technology projects please collect your plastic bottle tops (HDPE number 2 on inside of lid) and hand them into reception. Thank you for your support

Upcoming Events

Year 7/8 Alton Castle Residential (3 days)
Bronze & Silver DofE Meeting 3-5.30pm
Y11 BTEC Sport Controlled Assessment
Y11 H&S Care resit
Monday 20th November

Y10, 11 & 13 Confessions
Y11 French speaking mocks
Tuesday 28th November

Y8 Rosary
Wednesday 29th November

Y11 French speaking mocks
Y12 Judge Visit
Thursday 30th November

Bookfair in Library (8 days)
Y7, 8, 9 & 12 Confessions
Friday 1st December

Year 11 Mock Exams
Y8 Stories of Hope & Home
Y13 UCAS Application Deadline
Monday 4th December

Christmas Show Raffle
Christmas Show Tuck Shop
Y9 Mass
Tuesday 5th December

Sixth Form Rudolph Run
Y11 Assembly
Y8 Rosary
Wednesday 6th December

Christmaths Day
Y10 Assembly
Thursday 7th December

Christmas Cards on Sale Now!

Our Artist in Residence, Ellie, has produced this year's Christmas image for our Christmas cards.

Cards come in packs of 10 for £5.

They are now available to purchase via Schoolcomms and can be collected from reception.



Free Winter Food Boxes

As part of the winter Bring It On Brum! programme; we would like to make you aware of the free winter food box initiative. Bring it on Brum! have partnered with Morrison's to provide a box of cupboard essentials and fresh produce. The contents of the box will include all the ingredients needed to make four meals. All boxes are vegetarian. Please [click here](#) for more information and details on how to register.

Toy Appeal Christmas 2023



Scan to donate

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

COLLECTION DATES:
Monday 6th November - Thursday 14th December

Irish TV are visiting St Anne's Parish Centre.
B12 oPA on Thursday 14th December



Selly Oak Families Newsletter

Please click [here](#) to view the newsletter.

Term Dates

INSET School Closed: Friday 22nd December

Spring Term

Term Starts: Monday 8 January 2024

INSET School Closed: Friday 9th February

Half Term: Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February 2024

Term Ends: Friday 22nd March 2024

Summer Term 2024

INSET School Closed: Monday 8th April 2024

Term Starts: Tuesday 9th April 2024

Half Term: Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024

Term Ends: Friday 19th July 2024

INSET School Closed: Monday 22nd July 2024