

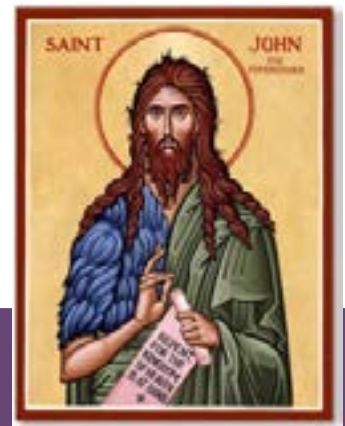
Message from Mrs Nutt, Assistant Principal

As we reach the end of June, the weather has certainly reminded us that summer is well underway. Despite the heat, students and staff have continued to demonstrate great commitment and enthusiasm in all aspects of school life, both in and beyond the classroom. Year 10 students have undertaken speaking assessments in French and English, there has been a Primary Stem event, Science week, a girls' cricket leadership event, a Geography field trip to Carding Mill Valley and numerous charity cake and ice-cream sales. All of which demonstrates our students' incredible generosity and resilience in this exceptional weather.

On Wednesday of this week, the Church celebrated the Nativity of St John the Baptist, one of only figures three whose birth is commemorated in the liturgical calendar. John dedicated his life to preparing the way for Christ and encouraging others to repent. His example reminds us of the importance of courage, humility and service to others-qualities that we seek to nurture within our own school community and which our students continue to demonstrate in abundance.

The recent Year 11 and Year 13 proms provided a wonderful opportunity to mark the end of an important chapter for these students. It was a joy to see our young people come together to celebrate their accomplishments, friendships and memories made during their time at school. We wish them every success as they await examination results and prepare for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

*Prayer of St Teresa of Avila
Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do
good, Yours are the hands, with which he
blesses all the world. Yours are the hands,
yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours*



YEAR 11 PROM

What a fantastic way to celebrate the end of Year 11!

Our students enjoyed a wonderful evening at prom last Friday, it was a pleasure to see them all come together after what has been an successful exam season.

From the moment they arrived, there were some incredible entrances, with students arriving in a range of vehicles, from flash sports cars and luxury cars to, in one memorable case, a truck! It certainly got everyone talking and added to the excitement of the evening.

Everyone looked incredibly smart, Year 11 made a fantastic effort, they all looked wonderful, and it was lovely to see everyone dressed up and enjoying the occasion.

The dance floor was packed all night, with students singing along to the music, dancing with friends and making memories that will stay with them for years to come. There was a real sense of celebrating our Year 11 community, with many staff also attending to celebrate with them. It was wonderful to see the year group enjoying themselves together after all their hard work.

As Head of Year, what made me most proud was the way students conducted themselves throughout the evening. Their behaviour was exceptional, and they were a real credit to themselves and the school.

It has been a privilege to work with this year group and watch them grow into the young adults they are today. Prom was the perfect way to celebrate the end of their journey with us, and I wish them every success and happiness for the future. Thank you, Year 11, for a brilliant evening.



SIXTH FORM NEWS

ASPIRE PROGRAMME LAUNCH

Last week, we welcomed a group of ambitious Year 11 students to our ASPIRE afternoon, an event designed for those who are considering applications to Russell Group and other highly competitive universities, as well as professional courses such as Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.

As part of our ASPIRE programme, the afternoon provided students with valuable insight into what top universities are looking for in applicants and how they can begin preparing themselves for competitive applications. Students heard from Dr Foteini Dimirouli of Keble College, University of Oxford, who shared advice on university applications, academic enrichment and opportunities available at leading institutions. They also heard from a representative from the University of Exeter, who spoke about applying to Russell Group universities and offered practical guidance on making strong, competitive applications. In addition, students listened to Hannah Fothergill, one of our current Year 13 students, who shared her experience of the application process and her journey to securing a conditional offer to study at the University of Cambridge.

The event marked the beginning of the support that students will receive through the ASPIRE programme. Over the coming years, they will benefit from a range of guidance, enrichment opportunities and expert advice designed to help them achieve their ambitions and make successful applications to the most competitive universities and courses.

We look forward to supporting these students on their journey and seeing their aspirations develop into future success.

SIXTH FORM TASTER DAY

This week, we were delighted to welcome our prospective Year 12 students for our annual Sixth Form Taster Day. The event brought together applicants from both our own Year 11 cohort and other schools, giving them the opportunity to experience life as a Sixth Form student ahead of September.

Throughout the day, students attended a range of taster lessons designed to provide engaging snapshots of the subjects they may choose to study next year. These sessions offered an insight into the exciting topics, skills and approaches that students will encounter in the Sixth Form, helping them to make informed decisions about their final subject choices.

Alongside their lessons, students received important information about the transition to Year 12, expectations for Sixth Form study and the enrolment process later this summer. It was wonderful to see students embracing new challenges, meeting future classmates and beginning to prepare for the next stage of their educational journey.

We look forward to welcoming them back in August for enrolment and, ultimately, as members of our Sixth Form community in September.



★ SIXTH FORM AWARDS

AWARD	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
AMBITION	Sugar F	
SERVICE TO OTHERS	Pola B	
PROGRESSION	Andrea ER	
INDEPENDENCE	Azebe N	
ROLE MODEL	Cara M	
EXCELLENCE	Ruby P	
GOLDEN TICKET	100% attendance and punctuality: Cara McC	

CATHOLIC LIFE

PUPIL LED PRAYER AND LITURGY

We are focusing on the life of Christ in this liturgical season of Ordinary Time.

For the 11th Sunday of Ordinary Time, we reflected on St Paul's letter to the Romans and were reminded that God doesn't wait for us to be perfect, he loves and meets us where we are. We are loved, we are forgiven, we are called to forgive.

Our mission moving forward for the week was

- Make a conscious decision to forgive someone, even if they have not apologised. Let go of resentment and choose peace over holding onto hurt.
- Before reacting, pause and ask yourself: Am I responding with the same patience and understanding that God shows me?
- Accept that you are loved by God as you are right now — and let that truth shape your confidence, choices, and how you treat yourself.

Thank you to Year 7 for recording the prayer and liturgy resource; Tunmise, Hashim, Solomon, Violet, Gabby, Celine, Moira, Ellis, Aleesha, Matthew, Areeb, Oliver, Elroy-Jay and Ava Jane.

This week, the 12th week of Ordinary Time, the Gospel teaches us that following Christ is part of our everyday lives, not just special moments. Jesus calls us to live without fear, to recognise our worth in God's eyes and to have the courage to stand for truth.

Thank you to Year 8 for recording this week - Poppy, Preciosa, Francis, Rosie C, Erin F, Peyton, Jeremiah, Oscar, Scout, Aydin, Milaan, Gabrielle and Levi. They set us the mission to live out our faith for all to see.

- Speak up when someone is excluded or disrespected.
- Refuse to participate in negativity or dishonesty.
- Quietly do one act of courage that reflects your values.
- Be publicly kind in a way that risks your image.

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



JOURNEY IN FAITH

On 21st May, we were delighted as a school community to celebrate two members of staff and two students who became fully initiated into the Catholic Faith at a special Mass of Initiation at St Dunstan's Church. In the months leading up to this joyful occasion, Fr John Peyton led a Journey in Faith course each Tuesday after school in our school chapel. All four candidates participated faithfully in the programme, and we were overjoyed when, at its conclusion, they each made the decision to be fully welcomed into the Church through the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation.

It was particularly fitting that this special Mass took place during the week leading up to Pentecost, a time when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the growth of the Church. Staff, family members and friends gathered to support and celebrate with the candidates as they took this important step in their faith journey.

Following the Mass, we continued the celebrations with a small tea party in the conference room, where we shared cake and fellowship together. It was a wonderful occasion, filled with joy, gratitude and a deep sense of community, and we continue to keep all four newly initiated members of the Church in our prayers.

Ms Chelsea Reynolds, an RE teacher at our school who received the sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation on the day, had this to say about the occasion -

"I just wanted to say thank you to my lovely community for all the love and support shown towards myself, Georgia, Monet and Lombe on such a special day for us all."

Getting to talk about and teach about Christ all day every day has been life changing for me and has brought me so much joy and peace. I've been thinking about this day for about three years, so I thank Fr John, Ellen, Marie and Natasha for the opportunity to be welcomed fully into the Church today, and it was lovely to look around and see so many familiar smiling faces in St Dunstan's. Another special thank you to Maggie for being my Confirmation sponsor. Challoner is a special place."



SIXTH FORMERS ON PILGRIMAGE WITH HCPT

I had the privilege of making my first pilgrimage to Lourdes this past Easter with HCPT — a charity that’s dedicated to providing pilgrimage holidays for disabled and disadvantaged children and adults. Before the trip took place, other volunteers and I had support sessions delivered by Deacon Tim Anthony from Our Lady of Lourdes parish which prepared me immensely to support those in need at Lourdes. One of the most rewarding parts of the pilgrimage was spending time with the children in my group and getting to hear their stories when taking part in activities together.



Volunteering with HCPT was honestly the best experience of my life so far, and I cannot wait to go back annually to help out. I would encourage anyone who can to sign up and go with HCPT as it is in incredible opportunity where you get to serve others and make friends for life. A highlight of my trip was the candlelit procession to the Basilica as it was a deeply moving and spiritual experience. From my time in Lourdes with HCPT, my faith and relationship with God strengthened. The sense of community created by everyone there - the children, adults, volunteers, group leaders and clergy - was tangible, and will stay with me forever. (Tia Y12)

NEWS FROM THE CHAPEL

We are welcoming more pupils each week with lunchtime Rosary and liturgical music with Jobe . This week, Ellen welcomed some year 7 pupils to the chapel who asked to pray a decade of the Rosary for Mrs Marsh.

Pupils are really enjoying choosing a piece of scripture to discuss the meaning and application to every day life.

Year 8 joined St Dunstan’s Parish Mass to celebrate a Celebration of the Word for the ‘Dedication of the Cathedral of St.Chad’s’. Thank you to our fantastic readers and the pupils who wrote bidding prayers.



PUPILS EVALUATING PRAYER AND LITURGY

This year, we have made changes to how we pray together. Our form time prayer and liturgy are now pupil-led and recorded. We are always keen to hear our pupils’ views on how these opportunities help them to reflect, deepen their faith, and consider how they can live lives that fulfil their potential while serving others.



We would like to thank all pupils who take the time to complete online evaluations and paper surveys in the library. Every response is carefully read, successes are celebrated, and we actively listen and adapt how we deliver prayer and liturgy in response to feedback.

WHY DO WE ‘SERVE OTHERS’ AT BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC?

This week, assemblies have been led by a brilliant group of pupils from each year group. From Year 9: Haytham, Casper, Anthony, Grace, Kiryah and Celeste; and from Year 8: Preciosa, Peyton, Lorcan, Poppy, Rosie and Dakota.

They reminded us of Jesus’ words: “Whatever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me.” From this, we are called to carry out the Corporal Works of Mercy. As a Catholic school, we also live out Catholic Social Teaching, and this year we are focusing on the ‘Year of Youth’. Together, this means we are encouraged to feed the hungry, care for the most vulnerable in society, and follow the example of St Carlo Acutis by taking action now, rather than waiting until adulthood.

We were visited by Karen Tehan, our Catholic Life Governor and a St Vincent de Paul volunteer, who asked for our help in running our very own pop-up food bank in partnership with St Dunstan’s Primary School and parish. Many of our pupils were Mini Vinnies in primary school, and we are now forming

a Young Vincentians group. We know that, collectively, we can make a significant impact in our local community by ‘turning concern into action’.

The pop-up food bank will run on 8th July, and we will be collecting donations from Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July. We are asking pupils to try to bring in a donation each day so that we can ensure the food bank is well stocked for our local community. Please see the poster for ideas of what to bring— each year group has been allocated specific meal donations.

We ask that you support this initiative as fully as possible. Further communication will be shared about accessing the food bank; please spread the word so that we can reach those most in need over the summer holidays. Our pupils have been reminded that, for many families, holidays can be a stressful time, with concerns about keeping fridges and cupboards stocked with food.

SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING

VIDEO CHAT AND WEBCAMS

Live video chat and streaming has become a common way for people to connect, communicate and share their ideas and experiences online.

Most smartphones, tablets or laptops now have a camera, with people now using these as their primary way to take photos and videos. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the use of instant video chat services enabling either one-on-one conversations or group chats became commonplace. A wider number of social media apps and services now offer this too. It's never been easier to stay in touch with family, friends and school or work online.

Many social networking sites now offer the option to live-stream. This is a little bit like hosting your own live TV show – users can broadcast live video to all their friends and followers, or if they have a public account, anyone who tunes in.

[Help & advice | Childnet](#)

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, any DSL or a member of the Wellbeing Team.

Click image to view content

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

- START EARLY CONVERSATIONS**
Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using digital devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.
- PROMOTE SAFER SHARING**
Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.
- ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE**
Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.
- CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS**
When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.
- STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT**
With emerging technologies like AI, moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.
- TEACH CRITICAL THINKING**
Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.
- SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES**
Involve children in conversations about screen time. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Set parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.
- LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and spending longer in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.
- EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**
Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.
- KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP**
Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CSOP can be used to report inappropriate posts online. Show children how to report on block users, and where to go if they feel something goes wrong. Show children how to report on block users, and where to go if they feel something goes wrong. Show children how to report on block users, and where to go if they feel something goes wrong. Show children how to report on block users, and where to go if they feel something goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert
Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforce and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build culture of improvement.

See full reference list on [our website](#)

Follow us on social media: @wake_up_weds, www.thenationalcollege, @wake.up.wednesday, @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 07.12.2024

SEND

autism
AIFS Birmingham and Solihull

Rising to the challenge

Solihull

Join our 6 week programme for parents and carers of autistic children. The course will help attendees gain a more in depth knowledge of autism and how it impacts the person that you care for. We will be looking at autism as a spectrum; communication; anxiety; sensory differences and much more.

Our Autism Specialist Advisers will deliver the training and support attendees to identify strategies to help support the autistic young person they are caring for.

Thursday 8th 10th 22nd
November 5th 12th 19th
10am - 12pm

Full address to be confirmed to attendees

autism
Forward Care

Rising to the challenge

Acocks Green

Join our 6 week programme for parents and carers of autistic children. The course will help attendees gain a more in depth knowledge of autism and how it impacts the person that you care for. We will be looking at autism as a spectrum; communication; anxiety; sensory differences and much more.

Our Autism Specialist Advisers will deliver the training and support attendees to identify strategies to help support the autistic young person they are caring for.

Monday September 8th 15th 22nd 29th
October 6th 13th 20th
12.45 - 2.45pm

Full address to be confirmed to attendees

Advise session

Autism West Midlands offers free 45-minute advice calls with our Autism Specialist Advisers for parents and carers living in the Birmingham area.

During the session, we can discuss your concerns, offer guidance and signposting, and provide tailored resources and information based on what has been discussed.

To join the waiting list, please scan the QR code below.

Please note: this service is available to Birmingham residents only.

autism
west midlands

LIBRARY NEWS

Stay Connected.

FOLLOW US on Social Media!

Parents and students—join our online community and be part of what's happening every day!

FOLLOW US FOR:

- Important announcements
- Events & reminders
- Photos & stories from our school community
- Celebrating student success

FIND US ON

- X**
@BishopChalloner
FOLLOW US!
- Facebook**
Bishop Challoner Catholic College
LIKE & FOLLOW!
- Instagram**
bishopchallonercatholiccollege
FOLLOW US!

Follow today. Stay informed. Stay involved.

★ THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY! ★

LIBRARY

OVERDUE BOOKS

Please can we ask that you have a check around your home for any school library books and return as soon as possible.

YEAR 8 FOCUS

As we come to the end of another fantastic year, I want to say how incredibly proud I am of our Year 8 students. This final half term has perfectly summed up everything that makes this year group so special. They have embraced every opportunity that has come their way, demonstrating enthusiasm, resilience and an outstanding attitude in everything they have done.

Students have represented the school brilliantly across a wide range of sporting events, from football fixtures to cricket festivals, always displaying excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship. Beyond sport, many of our students have taken on leadership roles by supporting local primary schools through our STEM fairs, acting as fantastic role models and ambassadors for Bishop Challoner.

A special mention must also go to those students who volunteered as Ball Crew at the Birmingham Open Tennis Championships. They represented both themselves and the school with professionalism and maturity, receiving excellent feedback for their commitment and conduct throughout the tournament.

Our Year 8 students have also continued to make a real difference within our school community through their charitable work. Whether organising raffles, supporting sponsored football events or helping to raise money for worthwhile causes, they have shown genuine compassion and a willingness to give back to others.

It has been a pleasure to watch the confidence, maturity and character of this year group continue to grow. Thank you to all of our students for making this such a memorable end to the year, and to parents and carers for your continued support. We look forward to seeing all of our Year 8 students return as confident and ambitious Year 9s in September.

£70 SCHOOL UNIFORM GRANT

Once again we will be working with the Yardley Education Foundation to provide eligible parents a grant of £70 towards their child's school uniform. Please read the information sent to us by the Yardley Education Foundation carefully to see if your child qualifies for the grant.

The Trust have decided to restrict the uniform grant to 2 year groups during a child's journey through school. This will be in the form of a voucher for Year 7's when they join the school, and another in Year 10 when they start their options.

For both year groups, the entitlement will be for those students who currently qualify for Free School meals, in quality you must complete an online Free School Meal Application using the link below:

<https://apply.cloudfrontediu.org.uk/ofsm/>

**Please note that the child must also live within the Ancient Parish of Yardley. See map below for remit area.

Year 10: The link is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RK5M85Y>
Password for this is: YEF2026

For New Year 7 pupils: The link is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KT5Q1N9>
Password for this is: YEF2026



YEAR 8 CHARITY FOOTBALL EVENT

Well done to all of Year 8 that took part in the football event last week.

Thank you to all staff and students for their support and well done to the winning team!



SCIENCE BGT

Students from Key Stage 3 recently took part in an exciting and engaging Science BGT, where teamwork, creativity, and scientific investigation were put to the test through a series of hands-on challenges. Our science leaders demonstrated the experiments to Year 7 and Year 8 students. The students worked collaboratively to complete a range of practical activities designed to develop their understanding of science, engineering, and problem-solving. One of the most popular challenges was the balloon rocket experiment, where students explored the forces of thrust and air pressure by racing balloons along strings.

Another exciting task was creating a balloon hovercraft. Using simple materials, students designed and tested hovercrafts that glided smoothly across surfaces by reducing friction with escaping air. Students also tackled the spaghetti tower challenge, using only spaghetti and limited resources to construct the tallest and strongest tower possible. The activity required excellent teamwork, communication, and an understanding of structural stability.

Students built simple circuits to create Morse code transmitters. By connecting components and using switches, they learned how electrical circuits work and how messages can be communicated using Morse code signals. The final challenge involved designing and building catapults. Students investigated forces, energy transfer, and projectile motion as they tested their catapults and competed to launch objects accurately and over long distances.

The Science BGT event was a fantastic opportunity for students to apply scientific knowledge in practical situations while developing important skills such as teamwork, resilience, creativity, and critical thinking. The enthusiasm and determination shown by all students was outstanding, and the event highlighted the exciting possibilities that science and engineering can offer. Congratulations to all students who took part and demonstrated excellent scientific thinking throughout the session.



HEARTLANDS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Well done to everyone that attended the Heartlands Hospital Music Festival last week. The musicians did a fantastic job at playing a 30-minute slot for the staff and visitors!

They were all brilliant and we had lots of comments from people saying how great they are!



YEAR 11 ASPIRATIONS EVENT

Well done to the Sixth Form staff for organising the first Aspirations event for our Year 11 students who are aspiring to apply for the top universities or for Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science, and who want to learn how to make competitive applications to these universities/competitive courses.

As part of the event students had the opportunity to hear from:

- Ben Fudge from University of Exeter, schools and colleges engagement officer
- Dr Foteini Dimirouli from Keble College, University of Oxford
- Hannah F - current Y13 student who has a conditional offer at University of Cambridge

In hearing from the above, students were better informed about the outstanding careers provision on offer to them as part of the sixth form!

FORM RESOURCES

Over the past fortnight, students have engaged in a range of Personal Development activities during form time, focusing on careers, financial wellbeing, resilience and preparing for future opportunities.

YEAR 10: PREPARING FOR WORK EXPERIENCE

Year 10 students have been focusing on preparing for their upcoming work experience placements. Through a series of discussions and activities, students have explored workplace expectations, professional conduct and the key employability skills that employers value.

Students have considered the importance of punctuality, communication, teamwork and resilience, whilst also reflecting on how they can make the most of their placement opportunities. These sessions have helped students feel more confident and prepared as they take their first steps into the world of work.

YEAR 7: THINKING ABOUT FUTURE CAREERS

Our Year 7 students have been encouraged to begin thinking about their future aspirations and the wide range of career opportunities available to them. Through careers-focused activities, students have reflected on their interests, strengths and ambitions, whilst learning about different career pathways and the skills required for success.

These early conversations help students to understand the importance of setting goals and making positive choices that can support their future ambitions.

MY MONEY WEEK – MAKING SMART CHOICES

As part of My Money Week, students across the school explored the importance of financial literacy and developing healthy money habits from a young age. Students discussed:

- The difference between needs and wants
- Budgeting and saving
- Financial scams and online safety
- Making informed spending decisions
- The importance of planning for the future

Interactive activities challenged students to create budgets, identify potential scams and consider how small savings can make a significant difference over time. Students were encouraged to think carefully about how financial decisions impact both their present and future wellbeing.

RESILIENCE, MINDFULNESS AND WELLBEING

This week, students have focused on resilience and mindfulness, exploring how they can develop positive strategies to cope with challenges and setbacks. Through discussion and reflection activities, students considered:

- What resilience means
- How to learn from mistakes
- Healthy coping strategies
- The importance of asking for help when needed
- Ways to focus on the present moment and manage worries

Students shared their own wellbeing tips and created positive wellbeing mantras designed to promote a healthy mindset. These sessions encouraged students to recognise that resilience is not about avoiding challenges but about developing the confidence and skills to overcome them.

SUPPORTING PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our form-time programme continues to provide students with valuable opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills and character needed to thrive both in school and beyond. Through careers education, financial literacy, wellbeing and personal development activities, we aim to prepare students for the opportunities and challenges they will encounter throughout their lives. Students have also taken part in a survey to gather their responses around Wellbeing and the PSHE curriculum which provides us with valuable information as we move forward with our plans for Personal Development. We are proud of the maturity, engagement and enthusiasm shown by students during these sessions and look forward to continuing to support their personal growth throughout the remainder of the academic year.



STUDENT REWARDS

YEAR GROUP	MOST POSITIVE LOGS	
YEAR 7	Edwin VJ Conor C Rayaan S Jacob L Arlo C Lily C Oisin F Eryk B	Elijah F Conor C Oisin F Elijah R Frankie A Maia-Rose K
YEAR 8	Milaan L Aydin K Dakota A Lillie-Mae G Nina B Hassam K Freddie K Alexander M Sophie O Eli P	Nina B Rosie C Dakota A Milaan L Anenyasha N Jake R Scott G Finley M Raphael CF Lorcan C
YEAR 9	Markas M Brooke W Annabella S Sophia T Lihiem D James H	Giovanni AE Markas M Bernedette O Harris K Tajah TM James H

ASSEMBLIES

This week, our school community came together for a thoughtful and inspiring liturgy assembly led by our students. The Gospel and readings were delivered with confidence and reverence, providing an opportunity for us all to reflect on how we can support those most in need within our local community. During the assembly, students discussed a pop-up food bank to support individuals and families experiencing hardship in the local area. This initiative reflects our commitment to living out our Faithful Virtues through service, compassion and social action. We also explored the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), whose mission is to support vulnerable people through practical assistance, friendship and acts of kindness. Students considered how small actions can make a significant difference and how, as a school community, we can respond to the needs of others with generosity and empathy.

Last week, students participated in an assembly to mark Refugee Week, a national celebration that raises awareness of the experiences, contributions and resilience of refugees. Through form-time discussions and reflection activities, students explored what it means to be a refugee and considered the challenges faced by people who are forced to leave their homes due to war, conflict, persecution or violence.

Students were encouraged to imagine having only ten minutes to leave their home with one bag and three personal belongings, helping them to develop empathy and understanding for the experiences of displaced people around the world. We reflected on the importance of seeing the person behind the label and recognising that refugees are not defined by their circumstances but by their courage, resilience and hope. Students also learned about the story of Alem from Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah and explored the parallels between the experiences of refugees today and the story of the Holy Family, remembering that Jesus himself was a refugee when Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt to escape persecution. The extract from Refugee Boy was read with precision by our student volunteers.

Throughout the week, students discussed how they can help create a welcoming and inclusive community through simple everyday actions such as showing kindness, including others, listening to different experiences and challenging stereotypes. These activities linked closely to our Faithful Virtues and encouraged students to reflect on the importance of dignity, compassion and respect for all. We are incredibly proud of the maturity, empathy and engagement shown by our students during these important discussions and look forward to continuing to develop opportunities for them to put their faith into action through service to others.

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 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.

FACILITIES HIRE

We offer a wide range of classes for the local community and our facilities are also available for private hire. For session bookings and all other enquiries please feel free to contact one of the team.

Bishop Challoner Sports Centre is an exciting and innovative sports complex, comprising:

- A full sized Sports Hall
- Olympic sized Dojo specifically designed for Martial Arts
- Meeting Conference Room

<https://widget.bookteq.com/bishopchallonersportscentre/43f86d02-be0c-4249-ba4a-637f57cfbea0/book-online/b1be746a-fcf8-4de0-a44e-2497d3876911/activity>

SCHOOL YEAR 2025 TO 2026 AND KEY DATES

SUMMER TERM 2026

Term ends: Friday 17th July 2026



INSET DAYS

Monday 20th July 2026

Wednesday 1st July 2026 - Year 6 Induction day

Year 8 students will **not** be required to attend school on **Wednesday 1st July**.

On **Wednesday 1st July Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12** register at the normal time of **8.40am**.

School closes for Year 7, 9 and 12 at 12.15pm.

Friday 10th July 2026 School Closed - Parent Consultation Day

Friday 17th July 2026 Last day of term - Early finish, school will close at 12:40pm



SUMMER UNIFORM

From Monday 1st June 2026 students can begin to wear Summer Uniform as detailed below-

- No tie
- No blazer
- No jumper
- Shirt tucked in

Second layer if worn **MUST** be a blazer **NOT** a jumper or other outer wear (any item other than a blazer will be confiscated).

Girls must wear natural or black tights

If your child chooses not to wear summer uniform then the standard uniform requirements still apply. 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 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.

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 and insulin as well as 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 which they can re-fill at our water stations provided. Alternatively, they can purchase a drink from the school canteen.

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

Summer Term 1	
Every Wednesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Monday 29th June	Year 10 Work Experience Week Year 12 Work Experience De-brief and UCAS Workshop
Tuesday 30th June	Year 6 Parent/Carer Transition Evening Year 7 Lickey Hills
Wednesday 1st July	Year 6 Transition Day Year 6 Mass with parents/carers, 2pm at St Dunstan's School closed for Year 8 students only Late start for Year 7, 9 and 10 (details to be confirmed)
Thursday 2nd July	Culture Day
Friday 3rd July	Sports Day Year 7, 8 and 9 St Dunstan's Football Fundraiser Year 7, 8 and 9
Tuesday 7th July	7SEB Ice Cream Sale Year 12 Mock Assessment Day San Francisco Trip (7 days)
Wednesday 8th July	Year 7 Creative Industry Day
Thursday 9th July	7SEB Form Walk Year 12 Dementia Irish Centre Trip
Friday 10th July	Parent Consultation Day Year 7 and 10
Monday 13th July	Year 13 Osmington Bay Trip (3 days) Year 7 and 8 End of Year Mass
Wednesday 15th July	Awards Evening
Friday 17th July	Last day for students
Monday 20th July	Staff Inset - School Closed