



Message from Mr Hearnden, Senior Vice Principal

This academic year has begun in earnest, and it is great to see our new Year 7 and 12 students settling into the hustle and bustle of school and college life.

Our Open Evening last week was an incredible success and was undoubtedly one of our busiest ever with over 1000 visitors coming through the door. Huge congratulations to all our staff and to all of our student helpers on putting on an outstanding display of excellence. The feedback from visitors as they left was extremely positive. Special praise goes to our Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form guides- they were a credit to the school and a credit to themselves.

Following the success of our main school Open Evening we now look forward to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 8th October, 5.30pm-7.30pm. We encourage ALL Year 11 students and parents/carers to attend and see what is on offer.

The extra-curricular timetable is now up and running which offers numerous clubs and activities. There is a hive of activity from early in the morning to time well after school and it is inspiring to see so many students taking full advantage of the plethora of clubs and activities on offer. Please encourage your child to engage in at least one club as I have no doubt that the experience of attending clubs offers students many new skills, the opportunity to form new friendships and helps to increase confidence too.

The year 13 A level Biology field trip was our first residential trip of the year and returns today. The majority of Year 7-11 enjoyed a great day at Drayton Manor this week whilst Year 12 and 13 took part in important activities in school.

Attendance and punctuality remain a significant focus for all schools, not just ours this academic year. There have been some important messages given to students and you will have already received communication regarding the 5 Foundations. On the whole students are attending well and most students are on time. Please continue to ensure that your child is in school every day and on time. This really is a collective approach, and we greatly appreciate your support, the children will be the beneficiaries in the future.

Lord our God, may we grow as people who think of others and see their needs, never "passing by on the other side", but being willing to make sacrifices and be generous for the good of others. Amen.

Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention for September 2025 is for "our relationship with all of creation". The Holy Father invites us to pray that "inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect."

*Let us pray
Creator God,*

You made the Earth and called it good. Help us to live in peace with all of Your creation. Make us seeds of justice and hope. Grow in us the courage to care for all You have created and let our lives reflect your love.

Amen.

YEAR 11 PREFECTS

Our new Year 11 prefects undertook a short safeguarding training session this week to prepare them in their new role.

They will be on duty around school from next Tuesday.





UPCOMING EVENTS



**Bishop Challoner
Sixth Form College**

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 8th October, 5.30-7.30pm

MEET THE SIXTH FORM

Thursday 19th March, 4pm-5.30pm

A fully comprehensive Sixth Form welcoming students of all faiths and none

- A** AMBITION 
- S** SERVICE TO OTHERS 
- P** PROGRESSION 
- I** INDEPENDENCE 
- R** ROLE MODEL 
- E** EXCELLENCE 



Scan here to book your tickets



**BISHOP CHALLONER
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE**

OPEN EVENING

PRIZE DRAW

WIN A £100 AMAZON VOUCHER

RULES OF PLAY

Join us at Open Evening on Wednesday 8th October to be in with a chance of winning a £100 Amazon voucher.

All you have to do is visit a minimum of three subjects and enrichment.

Once you have done your research on the subject ask a member of staff for a sticker.

Hand your card in at the end of the night and wait to see if you have been our lucky winner!



SIXTH FORM NEWS

This half term has seen the launch of our exciting Year 12 Enrichment Programme, offering students a wide range of opportunities to develop their skills, leadership, and character. We have also launched a variety of extra-curricular opportunities for students, including becoming Charity Ambassadors, Reader Leaders, and Subject Ambassadors, as well as taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We are delighted to have also introduced the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) this year, with a strong number of students signing up to take on this challenging and rewarding qualification.

At the heart of our Sixth Form, we value student voice and are committed to supporting students in developing their leadership capacity. With this in mind, applications are now open for our Student Leadership Team, where students will take on key roles in shaping and leading important areas of the Sixth Form community. Meanwhile, Year 13 students are preparing for their mock examinations, which will take place from Monday 20 October to Wednesday 12 November. Alongside this, they are working hard on completing their personal statements and are receiving personalised support with their UCAS applications, ensuring they are fully prepared for the next stage of their journey.



SIXTH FORM REWARDS

REWARD	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
AMBITION	Indigo B Leo C Samuel H Marta McA Kaitlyn McG Katie R	Max N Jacob C
SERVICE TO OTHERS	Andrea O Sofia Hordynska	Nancy C Olivia G Erika K Saoirse N Darragh O Liam B Sonali B
INDEPENDENCE	Jia Cheng L Damico M Roya Y LLoyd N	Cassidy C Hannah C Olivia B Alfie L Aidan W
ROLE MODEL	Pola B Erin F Beatrice M Cara M Azebe N	Oliver F Maisie J Rafael L Dominion P Luis T
EXCELLENCE	Joshua G	Cassidy C

CATHOLIC LIFE

CELEBRATING NEW BEGINNINGS AND WALKING IN HOPE

We have celebrated the start of the academic year with Masses for Years 7, 8, 9 and 11, led by Fr Toby (Year 10 will be in the next edition of BC14!) Each year group brought something unique to their liturgy, symbolising their journey and intentions for the year ahead:

- Year 7 offered signed Form Saint portraits and a beautiful display of the many primary schools they've come from—now united as one Bishop Challoner family.
- Year 8, who will be exploring vocations this year, presented framed footprints to represent the discovery of their personal path and calling.
- Year 9 brought forward their Options Booklets, marking a year of discernment and decision-making.
- Year 11 presented their distinctive red and maroon ties, a symbol of leadership and responsibility, alongside their study session timetables—an expression of gratitude for the support they'll receive in this important year.



ROSARY IN THE CHAPEL

Our weekly Rosary Prayer has begun, with Year 11 and Year 8 taking time to pray with Fr John. The Rosary offers a moment of peace, reflection, and connection with Our Lady—especially meaningful during this Jubilee Year of Hope.

There are many ways to get involved and support our faith community this term:

- **Donate to our Autumn Term Appeal:** We are collecting men's winter coats, warm clothing, and unused backpacks for those in need. Please bring donations to the Chapel.
- **Altar Servers:** You are warmly invited to attend the St Stephen's Guild Mass on Saturday 4th October at 12pm with your Parish. Please let Ellen know if you'll be attending.
- **Musicians Needed:** If you have a musical gift, we'd love to hear from you! We're always looking for pupils to support our liturgy celebrations. Speak to Ellen to get involved.
- **Prayer Intentions in the Chapel:** If you'd like to pray for yourself or someone else, visit the Chapel to write a prayer intention, light a candle, and take a quiet moment. Intentions are offered during our weekly Parish Mass with Fr John at St Dunstan's Church.



OPEN EVENING REFLECTIONS

We were delighted to welcome so many new faces to our Open Evening. The Chaplaincy Team were exceptional hosts, guiding



visitors through the Chapel and inviting them to reflect on how they are—or hope to be—examples of light in their communities. Before leaving, each visitor received a glow band as a reminder of their potential to shine. Many parents and pupils asked about chaplaincy and how students can get involved—an encouraging sign of growing interest in our faith life.

CHAPLAINCY IN ACTION

Our student Chaplaincy Team celebrated the Chaplaincy Commissioning Mass at St Chad's Cathedral, joining students from across the Archdiocese of Birmingham. It was a privilege to write and read the Bidding Prayers and serve at the altar for Bishop Timothy Menezes. The experience was deeply moving, and our pupil chaplains returned inspired and ready to live out their mission in school—leading prayer, supporting liturgies, and being a visible presence of faith and service in our community.



ONLINE SAFETY

Amendments to the Online Safety Act 2023 have been put into place to strengthen protections for young people online. The graphic below, supplied by Ofcom, illustrates the alarming number of potential harms young people can be exposed to.

Ofcom have produced a parents' guide, which explains the new measures. Please follow the link below.

[How Ofcom is helping children to be safer online – a guide for parents - Ofcom](#)

The NSPCC has also produced a wealth of materials to assist parents and carers in managing conversations about online safety with their children.

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)



Sources: Ofcom, Office of Children's Commissioner for England, Vodafone. See Children's Register of Risks for full source information.



STUDENT REWARDS

YOUNG CARERS

We are once again inviting you to let us know if your child is a young carer. It is important that we are aware, so that they can receive the support they require in school.



[Please click here for more information on Young Carers.](#)



YEAR GROUP	MOST POSITIVE LOGS	
YEAR 7	Isabella B Matthew D Davina D Cecilia T Niah C Cameron O Painting T Nyola M	Trinity C Elijah R Eliza C Elijah F Eryk B Edie Butcher Orlaith B
YEAR 8	Aston M Tishany L Julien C	Orlaith J Anenyasha N Timeyin K
YEAR 9	Ethan K Reuben T Luke C	Brooke W Ethan L
YEAR 10	Noah W Scarlett S Billy K	Nathan L Quinn C Samuel H
YEAR 11	Chardae P Joceline N Emily P	Megan N Violet S Elaine C

WELLBEING

Pause is available to anyone under 25 and registered with a GP in Birmingham. Parents and carers of this group can also get support for their child or young person's wellbeing. To be able to provide a session and/or support YP's, we require them to complete our Registration Form. The link to our registration form is:

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=SOAKNBzYq06lpLdJH6ikCDvqnhizGkpBkKhY_xjQ-tVUQTZKSEZWU0cwSjl1WDIFNE1BUkxYNVNaOC4u&route=shorturl

When they have registered YPs can drop-in to Pause for a session with a practitioner. Drop-in times and locations are available here:

<https://www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk/pause/>

Please be aware drop-in times change weekly. We advise checking the website before starting any journey to Pause as sometimes we may need to close drop-in at short notice to manage capacity.

If YPs/families are struggling to register online, drop-in and we will support them to do this in service. Alternatively, they can leave a message on our registration line: 020 784 14470

For more information on the service please [click here](#).



ASSEMBLY AND FORM RESOURCE PROGRAMME

It's been a busy two weeks at Bishop Challoner and the assembly programme is no exception. Last week, Heads of Year spoke passionately about being a Pilgrim of Hope, a focus that has guided us to be stewards and spread joy to others throughout 2025. As Catholics, we are called to try and bring justice to others and help those in our communities who may be in need. Students had some thought provoking quotations to consider, but were also informed of the wonderful work we will continue to do for Father Hudson's Caritas this academic year. A focus within the Diocese, but a focus for us as a school community, too.

We are delighted that every form group will take part in their own fundraising activity across the year and we also have students actively sourcing and bringing in winter clothes and ruck sacks for our first appeal of the year. Last year we raised £6,000 for this wonderful charity so the bar is set high! This week, students have taken part in a very important Safety assembly which has focused on key messages from our School Police Liaison Officer, PC Tom Dale about travelling to and from school. We have looked at Safety in collaboration with our Faithful Virtues and showing respect around our school site and within the wider community as a whole. Students have also looked at some Online Safety tips and been reminded who are DSLs are (in person in this week's assemblies) and what to do if they ever feel unsafe.

Our form resource programme continues to look at our Faithful Virtues and BC Basics during form time. The past two weeks, students have focused on Intentional and Truthful. Examining the real meaning behind these virtues, with examples from both the Bible and modern day icons, students have had group discussions about living out these virtues, day to day, in their own lives. They have been inspired by the intentional work of Mother Teresa and the truthfulness of Billie Eilish and how she has been honest to build resilience and live a life that values others. We will continue to examine the Faithful Virtues throughout the rest of this half term and students should be proud of any positive logs they receive which exhibit our Faithful Virtues.



SPORTS NEWS

The PE department has had a fantastic start to the academic year. Our Year 7 team played their first fixture against Lordswood Boys—well done to all involved!

We launched our extra-curricular timetable with 12 clubs running each week and held Year 8 football trials with an impressive 60 boys taking part.

Next week, we look forward to the Year 8/9 School Games Football Competition at Christ Church School.

[Click here for extra-curricular timetables.](#)



FIRST AID AND MOBILE PHONES

Students should not be contacting parents/carers when they feel unwell and requesting to be collected from school. If a student is unwell, they MUST go to the First Aider who will deal with them. If a student is not well enough to stay in school, the First Aider will contact parents/carers to arrange collection.

Students who contact their parents/carer directly and do not follow the procedures in place will be sanctioned, this may result in their mobile phone having to be handed in to the student services office each day. The use of anyone else's mobile phone risks that person being sanctioned also.

Please do not arrive at school to collect your child unless school have contacted you to do so. We do not have school staff readily available to collect children. Thank you for your support and co-operation.

Any questions or concerns please email them using the main enquiry email for the attention of first aid or call to speak with first aid on the main school number 0121 444 4161.



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>

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	11.30am, 5.30pm	4pm
St. Jude's	B14 5PE	Fr John Peyton	10am	-
Our Lady Of Lourdes	B13 0EU	Canon Sean Grady	9am, 11.30am	6pm
St Catherine Of Sienna	B5 7BE	Fr. Jagadishmario Kurapati (Fr. Mario)	11am	5.30pm
St Edward's	B29 7DB	Fr Denis McGillycuddy	10.15am	6pm
St Mary's	B17 0DN	Fr John Reid	11am, 5pm	6pm
Sacred Heart and Holy Souls	B27 6RG	Canon Jonathan Veasey	8.30am, 10am, 12noon	5pm
English Martyrs	B11 3JN	Fr Robert Murphy	8.15am, 10.30am	6pm
St Chads Cathedral,	B4 6EX	Bishop Tim Menezes	9.30am, 11.30am	4.30pm
Our Lady And St Brigid	B31 5AD	Fr Cecil Rogerson	10am, 5.30pm	5pm
Our Lady Of Fatima	B32 1LL	Fr Philip Long Nguyen	11am	6pm
St Ambrose Barlow	B28 8QU	Fr Paul Johnson	10am, 5.30pm	5.30pm
The Oratory Of Saint Philip Neri	B16 8UE	Fr Anton Guziel	7.30am, 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.15pm, 5.30pm	5.30pm
St Peters	B32 3QG	Fr Gary Buckby	8.45am	-
Our Lady And St Rose Of Lima	B29 5DY	Fr Gary Buckby	11.30am	-
St John and Martin's	B12 9RG	Fr Baburao Pureti	9.30am	4pm

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

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

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

FIRST AID INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES

Medication; All medication should be handed into first aid and not carried by the students. Exception EpiPen, Asthma inhalers, insulin. Tranexamic acid in special circumstances.

Please make sure we have the correct medical information and emergency contact details, if you have changed your phone number or there is any change in medical conditions or concerns, please contact first aid using the enquiries email or the main school phone number.

Please send children into school with a water bottle they can re-fill at our water stations provided or they can purchase a drink from the school canteen.

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

Parents/Carers of students with a known allergy must provide school first aid with antihistamine; this also applies to those with anaphylaxis in addition to their EpiPen.

We do not provide liquid paracetamol such as Calpol. If your child cannot take tablets and you would 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.



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.



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.

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.

AUTUMN TERM 1	
Every Tuesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Tuesday 30th September	Year 12 Law Crown Court Trip Year 10 Mass
Wednesday 1st October	Year 12 Criminology Crown Court Trip
Friday 3rd October	CAFOD Family Fast Day
Tuesday 7th October	World Mental Health Day Sixth Form Mass Year 8 Science London Trip
Wednesday 8th October	Sixth Form Open Evening
Friday 10th October	Year 12 and Year 13 Crown Court Judge Talk
Monday 13th October	Year 13 Mary Vale Dementia Trip
Tuesday 14th October	Flu Immunisations
Wednesday 15th October	Early Application UCAS Deadline
Friday 17th October	Bishop's Got Talent Charity Cake Sale
Monday 20th October	Year 7 and 9 Assessment begin Year 13 Mocks begin
Thursday 23rd October	Charity Halloween Hamper Raffle Year 12 Keble College Visit
Friday 24th October	Staff INSET school closed



SCHOOL YEAR 2025 TO 2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Half-term: Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025

Term ends: Thursday 18th December 2025

SPRING TERM 2026

Term starts: Monday 5 January 2026

Half-term: Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026

Term ends: Friday 27 March 2026

SUMMER TERM 2026

Term starts: Monday 13 April 2026

Half-term: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

Term ends: Friday 17th July 2026

INSET DAYS

Friday 24th October 2025

Friday 19th December 2025

Wednesday 4th February 2026

Monday 13th April 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

 **Comhaltas** Birmingham

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC CLASSES IN BIRMINGHAM



Thursdays, 7pm
Bishop Challoner
School
Institute Road
Kings Heath, B14 7EG

Join our vibrant
community and
learn to play Irish
Traditional Music!

Now accepting new
students for the
Autumn Term 2025

For more details contact:

James White, Branch PRO

07480 319543 / james.wj.white@gmail.com

www.bhamcomhaltas.com



@birmingham_comhaltas



Birmingham Comhaltas

