

Message from Mrs Nutt, Assistant Principal

In this the second week of Lent, our school community has continued to mark this special season with prayer, fasting, and giving. Since returning from the half term break, many of our students have had the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and this will continue in the coming weeks. On Friday, we held a Fast Day in support of the work of CAFOD. Inspired by the example of Jesus in the desert, we are reminded to slow down, listen to God's voice, and open our hearts to conversion. Next week, we will be welcoming the internationally acclaimed Catholic speaker and author John Pridmore. Students and staff will have the opportunity to hear his own inspiring story of conversion. May we encourage each other to make small daily acts of love, preparing our hearts for the joy of Easter.



A blessing from the 'Walk with Me' daily Lenten prayer and reflection.

Lord Jesus, your own period of fasting consecrates this holy season.

Lord Jesus, your solidarity with us is a blessing. Lord Jesus, help us to overcome every trial and temptation. Amen

"This is my chosen Son; listen to him." — Luke 9:35

Heavenly Father, help us to listen to Your Son more closely each day. Transform our hearts, strengthen our faith, and guide us to reflect Your light in all we do. Amen.

Message from Dr Coughlan, Executive Principal

Dear parent/carer,

I am pleased to share the OFSTED report card for Bishop Challoner Catholic College following our January inspection. Our pupils represented the school exceptionally well, and this report reflects their hard work and the strength of our community.

Under OFSTED's new framework, the school achieved Strong in:

- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Governance
- Leadership
- Personal development
- Wellbeing

We achieved Expected Standard in:

- Achievement

- Curriculum and teaching
- Inclusion
- Post-16 provision

The report highlights our culture of care, calm learning environment, and the pride students take in their school and sixth form. You can find more information about the new grading system here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbl0FvY976g>

Thank you for your positive feedback and continued support. We remain committed to further improvement and to providing the highest quality education for our young people.

With best wishes,

Dr J Coughlan
Executive Principal

Click here to view report card:

https://files.schudio.com/bishop-challoner-catholic-college/files/10428119_-_Bishop_Challoner_Catholic_College_-_103560_Final.pdf



SIXTH FORM NEWS

APPLY NOW

MEET THE SIXTH FORM EVENT

Meet the Sixth Form:

We are delighted to invite prospective applicants to our Meet the Sixth Form event.

This informal session gives students the chance to speak directly with current Sixth Form students about the courses they are studying and to ask any questions about day-to-day life in the Sixth Form. There will also be opportunities to talk with key Sixth Form staff for guidance and advice.

The event will feature stands for each of the 24 courses we have on offer next year, alongside information about our wide-ranging and vibrant extra and super-curricular programmes. This is not an open evening and there will be no formal presentations; instead, the focus is on open conversation and first-hand insight into life at our Sixth Form. The event is particularly beneficial for students applying from other schools and for those who may still be unsure about the courses they would like to study next year.

A FOCUS ON TIME MANAGEMENT

This week in Sixth Form, our focus has been on one of the most important skills for academic success and future readiness: effective time management.

Balancing lessons, independent study, coursework, revision, wider reading, and personal commitments can be challenging. Developing strong time management habits not only supports achievement in public exams but also helps students build lifelong organisational skills that will benefit them at university, apprenticeships, and in the workplace. Throughout the week, students have been creating structured study schedules designed to prioritise key deadlines and break larger tasks into manageable steps. A major emphasis has been placed on spacing revision over time rather than leaving it until the last minute. By planning ahead and revisiting topics regularly, students are strengthening their understanding and reducing unnecessary stress in the lead-up to assessments.

We have also encouraged students to make purposeful use of their study periods in Sixth Form, identifying clear goals for each session, minimising distractions, and reflecting on how effectively their time has been spent. Small changes in daily habits can make a significant difference over time.

Time is one of our most valuable resources. By learning to manage it wisely now, our students are setting themselves up for success both inside and outside the classroom.

FOLLOW US ON TIK TOK

https://www.tiktok.com/@bishopchallonersixth?_r=1&t=ZN-91Aj4tKgIXj



**Bishop Challoner
Sixth Form College**

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



RECOGNISING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

This week in form time, students are being introduced to International Women's Day, which takes place on Sunday 8th March. This annual event provides an important opportunity to recognise and celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women around the world. During discussions, students have explored why this date is significant and how the day has developed into a global movement promoting equality and raising awareness of the challenges women and girls continue to face. It has also been a chance to reflect on the progress that has been made, while considering the work that still lies ahead.

Through thoughtful conversation and reflection, students are developing a greater understanding of the importance of respect, equality and advocacy, values that are central to our Sixth Form community and beyond.

CATHOLIC LIFE

PRAYER AND LITURGY – THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

This week, our prayer and liturgy was led by Zofia, Exaudi, Bernadette, Pio, Yasbera and Noah, who reflected thoughtfully on Sunday’s Gospel. Pupils explored the moment when Jesus entered the desert for forty days and nights, where the devil tried to tempt Him.



Together, we reflected on how, just like Jesus, we are called to choose what is right, even when we feel tired, hungry, scared, or alone. As a community, we considered how we can make good choices throughout this season of Lent.

Our focus was on the small but powerful choices we make every day:

- Choose truth when it’s easier to follow the crowd.
- Choose kindness when someone annoys you or hurts you.
- Choose courage when you face pressure to be someone you’re not.
- Choose prayer when you feel lost or overwhelmed.
- Choose patience when schoolwork or friendships feel stressful.



These messages echo the heart of Lent: strengthening our character, deepening our relationship with God, and learning to walk in truth, love, and faith—one choice at a time.

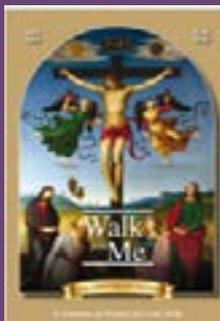
We encourage families to continue this journey at home by reading and reflecting on the Sunday Gospels together. The Wednesday Word is a weekly resource that helps connect home, school, and parish through the Sunday Gospel. It offers a simple way for families to share scripture and prayer each week.



You can access the resources at: www.wednesdayword.org

LENTEN PRAYER IN THE CHAPEL

Throughout Lent, pupils and staff are invited to join Mrs Thompson in praying the Rosary and reflecting on the daily meditations from Archbishop Longley’s Walk with Me publication. This week’s ‘Word for the World’ reminds us of the importance of unity and shared purpose: “We depend on a shared vision in order to pull together. For that vision of who we are and how we are to behave, we depend on Jesus.” As our school community journeys through Lent, these moments of prayer and reflection offer a meaningful opportunity to grow in faith, hope, and togetherness.



YEAR 8 PARISH MASS

Year 8 joined the parish Mass on the final Thursday of half term, and in preparation they wrote their own bidding prayers with the support of our Sixth Form chaplaincy team.



During the celebration, Fr John spoke to pupils about Jesus’ divine authority and how His teaching guides us to grow into better people. We are incredibly proud of our pupils—both for the eloquent way they read at Mass and for the sincere and respectful manner in which they participate in our weekly celebrations of faith. Their confidence, reverence, and commitment shine through each week, and they continue to be wonderful representatives of our school community.



MUSIC MINISTRY IN THE CHAPEL

The chapel was alive with the sound of amped up music, echoing the energy of our community. If only we had an amp with a volume 11! We are delighted to have Jobe Sullivan generously volunteering his time to lead our students in worship through song and music. As St Augustine taught us “He who sings prays twice.”



CREATIVE MOMENT IN THE CHAPEL

Form 8BER enjoyed an impromptu form time in the chapel, where they joined Ellen in preparing the new display for the Pope’s Intention for 2026—a celebration of the life and legacy of St Francis, marking 800 years since his death. St Francis recognised God’s greatness and almighty presence through the beauty of creation, and he remains the patron saint of animals and ecology, inspiring people across the world to care for our common home. As part of their reflection, 8BER sowed their own ‘seeds of love’ by writing heartfelt petal intentions.



JOURNEY IN FAITH

Our Journey in Faith sessions have continued this week with Fr John, who has been guiding pupils through key Catholic beliefs .



These sessions have been interesting, thought provoking, and have sparked many insightful questions from pupils eager to deepen their understanding of the faith.

There is still an opportunity to join the group. Tuesdays, 3.30pm – 4.00pm in the chapel.

For more information, please contact e.thompson@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

This half term, Fr Toby and several visiting priests will be joining us in school to offer pupils the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Easter.



We warmly encourage all pupils to take part in this special moment of reflection and renewal as they prepare their hearts for the holiest season of the liturgical calendar. It is a wonderful chance for our young people to pause, seek peace, and deepen their relationship with God during this sacred time of Lent.

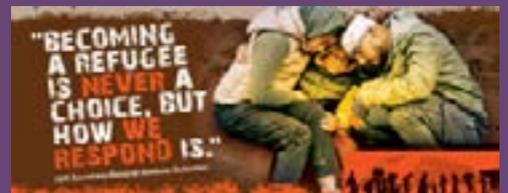
- Tuesday 24th February - Year 7 & Year 11
- Wednesday 25th February - Year 7 & Year 10
- Wednesday 11th March - Year 8 & Year 10
- Tuesday 17th March - Year 8 & Year 11
- Tuesday 24th March - Year 9

COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES MEDIA COMPETITION

We are delighted to share that several students submitted entries to this year’s Columban Missionaries Media Competition, which explored the powerful theme:

“Becoming a refugee is never a choice, but how we respond is.” Our pupils produced thoughtful poems and deeply moving essays, demonstrating maturity, empathy, and a strong awareness of global issues. We have already been in touch with Schools of Sanctuary about the possibility of having some of their work published, recognising the strength and compassion shown through their writing. It is incredibly encouraging to see how our students draw on Catholic Social Teaching, expressing values of dignity, solidarity, justice, and love with such eloquence. Their work reflects the spirit of a community that strives to live out its faith in action.

A huge well done to Markas, Luke, Bea, Lily, and Elsie for their outstanding submissions! We are very proud of you all.



BORN FOR THIS UPDATE

- Our pupils have been working incredibly hard over the half term break, taking part in rehearsals for the moving musical production Born for This. Being involved in this production is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity—bringing together a choir and cast of nearly 300 performers and taking place in the iconic and world famous Symphony Hall.
- We are immensely proud to witness our pupils’ dedication and faith in action. The only opportunities for the full cast to rehearse together have been during half term and at weekends, yet our students have shown outstanding commitment, enthusiasm, and professionalism throughout.
- It was also wonderful to hear our pupils speaking at parish Masses to promote the production. A huge well done to Teddy, Grace and Cece for representing our school community so beautifully last weekend!
- The production will take place for one night only, beginning at 7pm on Wednesday 25th March 2026.
- **Tickets are available now: <https://bmusic.co.uk>**

ST DUNSTAN'S PARISH MISSION

St Dunstan's Parish mission is running from Feb 28th - March 4th, with Mass and talks. John Pridmore will be speaking after the weekend Masses, and there will be morning Mass at 9.30am and evening Mass at 6.30pm, Monday - Wednesday during the mission, followed by a talk from John after each Mass. All families are warmly invited to attend.

Theme of talks-

Mondays talk: God's love

Tuesdays talk: God's mercy

Wednesdays talk: God's healing



UPCOMING EVENTS

Reconciliation services start in school from

Tuesday 24th February

St Dunstan's Parish Mission

Saturday 27th February – Wednesday 4th March

World Day of Prayer

Friday 6th March

LENTEN FOOD COLLECTION

As we enter the season of Lent, we ask families to support our ongoing food collection for our local St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). The SVP carries out wonderful outreach in our community, offering practical help and compassionate support to families in many different ways.

Food items can be brought into school at any time this half term, and we encourage families, where possible, to consider adding an extra item to their weekly shopping to contribute to this important cause. Our newly formed student SVP group will be organising delivery of the items at the end of term.

As a Catholic community, we are called to live out the Corporal Acts of Mercy, and during Lent, the Church invites us to practise almsgiving in a spirit of generosity and love. We are reminded of Jesus' words: "For I was hungry and you gave me food."

Thank you, in advance, for your kindness and generosity. Your support truly makes a difference to those in need within our local area.

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 McGillicuddy	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	Very Rev Canon Brian McGinley	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
Ss Joseph and Helen with St Paul's	B30 1JG/ B38 9JB	Fr Barry	9am (Ss Joseph and Helen) 11am (St Paul's)	5pm (Ss Joseph and Helen)

SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING

PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental controls are designed to help protect children from inappropriate content online, such as pornography or other adult content.

These controls can be used in a number of ways, e.g. to help ensure that your children access only age-appropriate content, to set usage times and to monitor activity.

Where can I find them?

There are four main places you can find parental controls, and it can help to set up a combination of these:

Internet provider: You can set up filters to help block access to inappropriate content on any device that connects to your home WiFi.

Mobile operator: Filters are often automatically set up on mobile contracts, especially if the user is under the age of 18, but you can double-check with your provider.

Devices: Many devices have parental control settings, for example, to help restrict spending in apps, reduce screen time, or disable location functions.

Online Services: Sites like BBC iPlayer and YouTube have parental control settings to help restrict access to inappropriate content.

[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 or any DSL or a member of the Wellbeing Team.

BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S TRUST

Birmingham Children's Trust, in partnership with the Violence Reduction Partnership and BLESST, will be hosting their very first Parent Carer Conference in Birmingham.

Date: Thursday 26th March 2026 (09:00 - 16:30)

Location: Rep Theatre, 6 Centenary Square, Birmingham, B1 2EP

Theme: "Parenting and Caring in Today's Society"

This conference aims to empower, equip, and raise awareness around several critical topics, including child exploitation, online grooming and harm (radicalisation), serious youth violence, family law and parental rights, advocacy, neurodiversity, grief and bereavement, and understanding trauma. The goal is to provide parents and carers with the knowledge and tools to navigate these challenges effectively.

The event will include five guest speakers, five workshops, two breakout cycles across six rooms, and a closing panel. Breakouts will follow a set format—welcome, ground rules, 30 minutes of content, Q&A, and a timed close—and facilitators will capture 1–2 key insights for the end-of-day summary. A quiet space will be available throughout the day due to the sensitive nature of the topics. Please continue to follow escalation procedures for any wellbeing or safeguarding concerns. The programme also includes a parent panel and Q&A to support open dialogue and shared experiences.

Tickets can be booked for free using the link below.

[Book tickets](#)

MESSAGE FROM THE SENDCO, MISS HAMPSON

Dear parent/carers,

As you will have seen in the news, there has been a White Paper publication from the Department of Education "Every Child Achieving and Thriving". Information can be found here, including an opportunity to be part of the SEND reform consultation on the document.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/send-reform-putting-children-and-young-people-first>

SUBJECT FOCUS - GEOGRAPHY ICELAND 2026

ICELAND

During the last week before half term, the Geography department took 55 students to Iceland for 4 days. The students were fantastic and were able to explore the unique landscape and amazing natural wonders. Each day was filled to the brim with once in a life-time excursions.

Day 1:

After arriving early to school Wednesday morning we travelled to Heathrow to catch our flight with IcelandAir. Upon landing and being greeted with pure blue skies, we headed straight to our first stop on the itinerary: The Bridge between continents. The Bridge Between Continents is a symbolic footbridge on Iceland's Reykjanes Peninsula, spanning a rift between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. It was then time to get some dinner and play a round of mini golf before heading to our hotel - we even got a faint glimpse of the northern lights!

Day 2:

With a fully packed itinerary for the day we set off early for sight number one: The Blue Lagoon. One of Iceland's most popular visitor attractions, the Blue Lagoon is a spacious bathing pool set in a moody landscape of mossy lava. Averaging a temperature of 30-40°C, its silica-rich geothermal seawater is drawn from a 2,000m deep borehole. Our students relaxed in the warm lagoon and relaxed with a drink and a face mask! This was a perfect way to start the day and feeling rejuvenated we headed to a Glacier Walk at Sólheimajökull. This very popular trip took us on an exploration of the frozen glacier tongue of Solheimajokull. A wonderland of ice sculptures and deep crevasses awaited our discovery. The experienced glacier guide taught us how to use basic ice equipment, crampons and ice axes. Our amazing landscapes did not end there with us later visiting the beautiful waterfalls of Seljalandsfos and Skógafoss and the black sand beach at Reynisfjara.

Day 3:

Before heading out on our Golden Circle Tour, Day 3 began at the Lava Centre. The LAVA Centre in Hvollsvollur is ideally located to reveal the volcanic forces at work in the country. Dedicated to Iceland's range of volcanoes – and in particular the eruption of Eyjafjallajokull in 2010 – the centre features interactive educational tools which explore the art and science of Iceland's unique geology. Subsequently, we headed off on to the famous Golden Circle Tour which included: Gullfoss, Geysirs and Pingvellir.

Gullfoss is one of Iceland's most photographed waterfalls, this magnificent two stage waterfall marks the edge of the highland shelf where the Hvita River plunges 33m into a mile long gorge. The gorge was formed by flash flood waters that forced their way through the cracks in the basalt lava layers. We then visited the site of Geysir, a spouting hot spring that gave its name to all the world's geysers. Although it doesn't often spout nowadays, its neighbour 'Strokkur' erupts every 10-15 minutes reaching a height of around 30m. It was then time for a treat so we took the students to visit a working dairy farm where the barn has been converted into a restaurant, with windows into the cow shed, where you can watch the cows and calves in their daily environment. Finally we entered Pingvellir. This national park is where Iceland's parliament was established in 930AD. The site straddles the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, its rift valley forming where the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates pull apart at an average of 3cm a year. Walk among the rifts and see ropy pahoehoe lava from a shield volcano eruption, as you learn of the events that shaped Iceland's early history. After dinner at the Hamburger Factory we took a scenic walk back to hotel where we got to experience the spectacular northern lights. The lights shone brightly and even danced in the sky for us on this evening, memories that will last a lifetime for us all!

Day 4:

We had one final stop on the itinerary before it was time to head home - Whale watching. Whilst it is never guaranteed what we will see were lucky enough to witness humpback whales and family of seals. An incredible way to end the trip.



YEAR 8 & YEAR 13 PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Tuesday 10th March is Parent Consultation Afternoon for Year 8 students and Parent Consultation Evening for Year 13 students.

Appointments are now live. You will need to login using the details that the school holds for your child's priority 1 contact.

Appointments must be made by the end of the day on Friday 6th March 2026, if you have not made an appointment by this date, your child's Consultation Tutor will make the appointment for you. Students are required to attend in full school uniform.

YEAR 9 PATHWAYS

Throughout this week, all Year 9 students have had their student options assembly outlining the pathways process. Students have also taken part in a series of form time sessions designed to guide them with their upcoming Options choices. These sessions have helped students learn how to choose their options via the new Applicaa options platform.

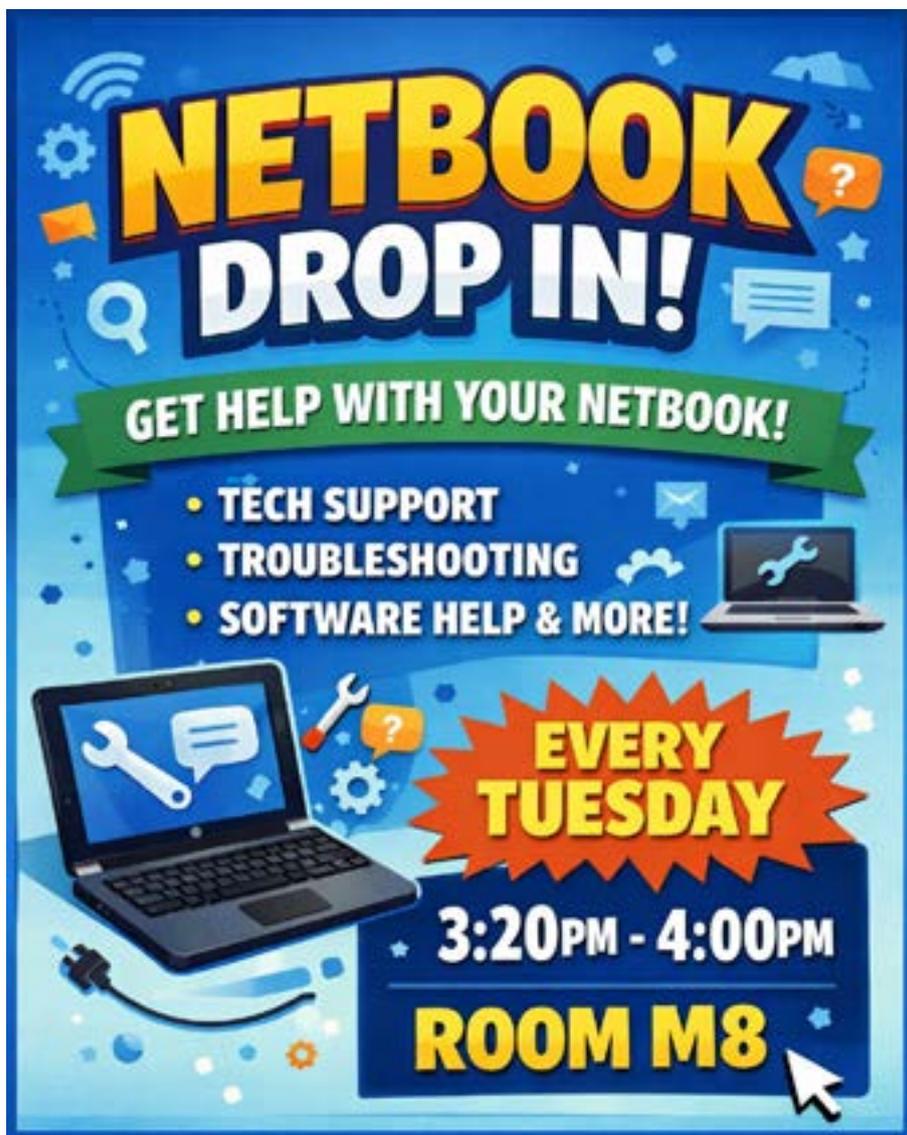
Next week, students will hear from subject leaders about the choices available to them, as part of their pathways assemblies.

We would also like to remind students, parents and carers that the Year 9 Options Evening will take place on **Thursday 5th March, from 5:30pm – 7:30pm.**

During the evening, there will be two talks in the Auditorium, scheduled for **5:45pm and 6:15pm.** These talks will outline the Options process in detail and guide how you can support your child in making informed choices. Alongside the talk, you will get the opportunity to speak with subject leaders about the various subject choices on offer.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Scan the QR code to view our Year 9 Pathways webpage.



CALLING ALL PARENTS IN THE CREATIVE TEXTILES INDUSTRY

We're reaching out to our school community to see if any parents work within the creative textiles industry—in any capacity. Whether you run a small business from home, work in fashion, sewing, embroidery, costume design, upholstery, fabric printing, or any other textile-related field, we'd love to hear from you.

We are exploring opportunities to enrich our curriculum and provide pupils with real-world insight into creative careers. Your experience could make a huge difference, whether through a short talk, a workshop, sharing materials, or simply offering advice. If you think you might be able to support us, no matter how big or small your involvement, please get in touch with the school office. We'd be delighted to connect.

SPORTS

RESULTS

U19 Sixth Form boys football team unfortunately lost on penalties to Hillfield School (Wolverhampton) on Monday 23rd February in the West Midlands Semi Final. Callum T was player of the game

YEAR 12 TASTER DAY

Year 12 A Level PE and OCR Sport students will soon have the exciting opportunity to attend a Sport taster day at Newman University. The visit will provide valuable insight into University life and the range of pathways available within the Sport and Physical Education sector.

During the session, students will take part in practical workshops and interactive discussions led by university lecturers and current undergraduates. The experience will allow students to broaden their knowledge of higher education in sport, build confidence, and ask questions about University life. It will also encourage them to consider potential progression routes beyond Sixth Form, making the taster day an inspiring and informative step in their sporting and academic journey.

WELL DONE BEN!

A huge congratulations to Moseley Colts player Ben W who represented Midlands Counties under 18s v South West at Warwick University. The team put in a huge defensive effort first half to keep the opposition at bay and then eased away in the second half to secure a 47-7 win. Well-earned recognition for Ben who also managed to grab a try.



FIXTURES

The Year 10 boys' football team are currently sitting in third place in the table after six games, having won four, drawn one and lost one. They are level on points but positioned on goal difference, leaving them in a strong position as the top two teams will progress to the league final. Meanwhile, the Year 10 girls' football team are enjoying an excellent season so far and currently sit second in the table, having won all three of their matches. They are in a fantastic position to secure one of the top two qualification spots and compete in the league final.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

We are also delighted to be working in partnership with the University of Birmingham. Third-year Law students are visiting us on Mondays to deliver a series of workshops focused on commercial law. At the end of the six-week programme, pupils will develop their own business idea and pitch it to visiting representatives from the University of Birmingham, demonstrating both creativity and their understanding of key commercial law principles in a practical context.

PATHWAY TO PROM REMINDER

The Pathway to Prom continues to be an important motivator for Year 11. Students are reminded that attendance, punctuality, behaviour and effort all contribute towards eligibility. Many pupils are currently on track and making positive choices—well done to them. We will continue to keep students informed so expectations remain clear.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. Please do not hesitate to contact the Year 11 team if you have any questions or concerns.

YEAR GROUP FOCUS - YEAR 10

We are pleased to share a number of positive updates about Year 10 as we continue through this important stage of the academic year.

INTERVENTION AND STUDY SUPPORT

Intervention and study support sessions have now begun. These are currently focused on a small number of pupils, who are receiving one hour per week of supervised independent revision to strengthen key skills and subject knowledge. In addition, a wide range of revision and study resources is available to all pupils via the Year 10 Teams page. Heads of Department will continue to populate these folders with additional materials as the year progresses to further support independent study and preparation for assessments.

BTEC

BTEC subjects have now started their controlled assessments, which are taking place during timetabled lessons or in off-timetable sessions. These assessments contribute directly to the final GCSE grade awarded. If your son or daughter is studying a BTEC subject, we encourage you to speak with them about how their assessments are progressing. Should you have any specific concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Head of Department or class teacher.

STEM CAMP

In January, pupils who attended the STEM camp were rewarded with a trip to Silverstone on 13th January. The day included an exciting Formula 1 simulation experience, a careers-focused talk, and a tour of the museum. Pupils represented the school exceptionally well and gained valuable insight into careers within engineering and motorsport.

ICELAND

During half term, 55 pupils from Years 10 and 11 took part in the Geography Department's trip to Iceland (18th–21st February). Pupils were outstanding throughout the visit and were fortunate enough to see the Northern Lights twice, as well as whales and seals during a whale-watching excursion. They also hiked on a glacier, embracing every opportunity with enthusiasm and resilience. For many, the highlight of the trip was relaxing in the Blue Lagoon — a truly memorable experience for all involved.

YEAR 11 MOCKS

To continue to help prepare our Year 11 students for their GCSE examinations this summer, Year 11 mock examinations will take place between **Monday 23rd March to Friday 17th April 2026**.

Please see the timetable below. More information will be shared next week.

Day	Time	Subject	Venue	Duration
Monday 23rd March 2026	9:00 AM	Chemistry	Auditorium	1hr 45 min
	9:00 AM	Chemistry- Combined	Auditorium	70 min
	1:30 PM	Maths- Paper 1	Auditorium	90 min
Tuesday 24th March 2026	9:00 AM	Biology- Paper 1	Auditorium	1 hr 45 min
	9:00 AM	Biology- combined	Auditorium	70 mins
Thursday 26th March 2026	9:00 AM	Maths- Paper 1	Auditorium	90 min
Friday 27th March 2026	9:00 AM	Physics- Paper 1	Auditorium	1hr 45min
	9:00 AM	Physics- combined	Auditorium	70 min
Friday 17th April 2026	9:00 AM	English Lit	Auditorium	120 min

REMINDERS

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents to review the uniform standards section of the newsletter and ensure that Year 10 pupils remain fully compliant. In particular, please check expectations regarding hair, jewellery and make-up. We greatly appreciate your continued support in maintaining our high standards.

A further reminder that Year 10 pupils should not be in the Maths, Science or upstairs corridors during break or lunchtime. Supervised indoor and outdoor spaces are provided, including the library, canteen and playground, and pupils should remain in these designated areas at social times.

Finally, we are very proud of our pupils' ongoing charity efforts. The Valentine's hamper organised by 10TER and the candy cane sale led by 10SEB in December and February have raised almost £200 so far for the school charity. A huge well done to all pupils involved for their initiative, teamwork and generosity.

ATTENDANCE RAFFLE WINNERS

A huge well done to Mrs Gallagher Barton, Miss Lloyd, and 7BOS - the students (and Form Tutors!) were over the moon!



FORM RESOURCES

Last week during form time, students spent time planning, creating and improving their Sacred Spaces. A Sacred Space is a point of focus for pupils' prayer. It is a centre for reflection and should be a focal point during morning and afternoon Prayer and Liturgy. It has been encouraging to see students preparing prayer boxes and working together to create prayers for their form Saint. These have been displayed in form rooms and duplicate versions created and displayed in our foyer.

This week students have engaged in an interactive session with the focus on Safer Internet Day. Safer Internet Day is held every February in over 170 different countries. The goal of Safer Internet Day is to call on people across the world to work together to make the internet a safer and better place for all, but especially for young people.

A specific focus for 2026 is on AI. AI describes technology and computer systems that have been designed to complete tasks that would have previously required human thinking. Students have engaged in conversations and quizzes that look at both the benefits and issues related to the use of AI. The benefits range from environmental impact and enhancing modern medicine, whilst dangers to consider are around manipulation and deep fakes. The session ended with an engaging oracy task around what has been discovered about Safer Internet Day.



+ 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.

IMMUNISATION TEAM

Please find leaflets and videos in different languages which have been shared with us by the Immunisation Team to support with HPV promotion for Year 8 and above.

English

<https://vimeo.com/1121137591>

<https://youtu.be/h5RjAebLC3k>

Bengali

<https://vimeo.com/1154269208>

<https://youtu.be/4Awvxx0RAoo>

Gujarati

<https://vimeo.com/1154276346>

<https://youtu.be/smBNxqKYyWM>

Punjabi

<https://vimeo.com/1162552415>

<https://youtu.be/fXOmovR0vs8>

Urdu

<https://vimeo.com/1151880307?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

Arabic

<https://vimeo.com/1151603157?fl=ip&fe=ec>

ASSEMBLIES

As Lent began during the half-term break, this week's assembly focused on helping students understand the meaning of Lent and the key messages it promotes within the Catholic tradition. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, encouraging reflection, self-discipline, and service to others.

Students have been introduced to a range of opportunities to support our school charity, Father Hudson's Caritas, through fundraising initiatives taking place this half term. They have been encouraged to contribute both through their time and practical support. In addition, students have been informed about opportunities for reconciliation and personal prayer, including the chance to join others in the chapel to pray the Rosary.

This year, the season of Lent coincides closely with Ramadan. Students explored the similarities between these two sacred periods, recognising how both emphasise prayer, fasting, charity, and spiritual preparation.

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.



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 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.



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.

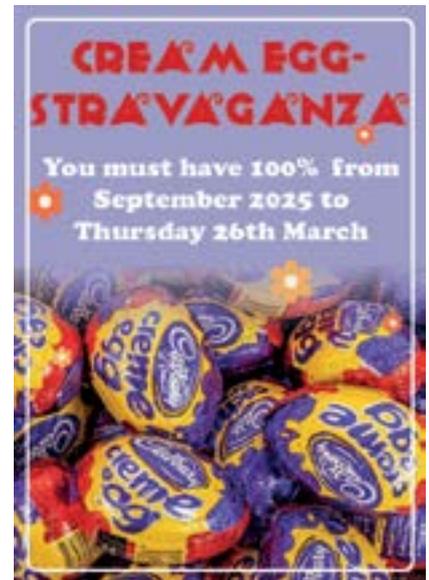
Please do not attend school without an appointment unless there is a safeguarding emergency.

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.

EASTER ATTENDANCE RAFFLE

Next half term there will be lots of opportunities for students to win prizes when they attend school 100% of the time. There are some great prizes up for grabs. Please support us to promote the competitions and encourage your children to attend school, on time, every day.



SCHOOL YEAR 2025 TO 2026

SPRING TERM 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

Monday 20th July 2026

NOTE

Amendment - Monday 13th April is no longer an INSET day.

Apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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>

Spring Term 2

Every Wednesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Monday 2nd March - Friday 6th March	National Careers Week
Monday 2nd March	Year 9 Space Centre Trip John Pridmore Visit
Wednesday 4th March	Year 8 Black Country Living Museum Trip Careers Fair
Thursday 5th March	Year 9 Insights Event Year 9 Options Evening
Tuesday 10th March	Early Finish - Details to be shared after half term Year 8 Parent Consultation Afternoon 2pm-4pm Year 13 Parent Consultation Evening 4.30pm-6.30pm
Wednesday 11th March	Year 10 Longbridge Fieldwork Year 10 SCCB Project Catholic Secondary Schools 2nd Debate KS5
Thursday 12th March	Year 8 Catholic Secondary Schools STEM Event
Friday 13th March	Mothers Day Hamper Raffle 9CEC World Sleep Day
Monday 16th March	Year 13 Beyond BC Workshop Young Carers Day Year 9 Malypmics
Tuesday 17th March	St Patrick's Day Hamper 8SEB Year 8 & Year 9 Reconciliation
Wednesday 18th March	Year 10 Science Field Work Trip Year 11 Lent Mass
Thursday 19th March	Folk Band Dementia Cafe - Irish Centre Sixth Form Meet the Team Evening
Friday 20th March	Catholic Secondary Schools Public Speaking Year 8/9 International Day of happiness
Saturday 21st March	Born For This Rehearsals
Monday 23rd March	Year 8 London Science Trip
Tuesday 24th March	Paris Parent/Carer Meeting 5pm Year 7 & Year 8 Readathon Day Year 9 & Year 11 Reconciliation
Wednesday 25th March	Born For This - Symphony Hall Easter Cake Sale 9LUK KS3 Royal Academy of Engineering School STEM Workshop Sixth Form Easter Fair
Thursday 26th March	Maths Bishop's Got Talent Year 8 Guess My Job Event
Friday 27th March	Guess the Number of Eggs 11TER Easter Hamper 10LUK
Monday 20th March - Friday 10th April	Easter Holiday
Monday 13th April	School Open

TEACHING INTERNSHIP

Interested in a career in teaching?

3-week paid programme earning you up to **£455 a week**

22nd June - 10th July 2026



Open to 2nd/3rd/4th year Undergraduates and Masters students currently studying for a degree in or related to:

- ✓ Computing
- ✓ Chemistry
- ✓ Physics
- ✓ Maths
- ✓ Languages
- ✓ Design & Technology

APPLY TODAY



www.bctsa.org



Click on the link below to view job opportunities with The Archdiocese of Birmingham

<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/news/2026-02-27-the-archdiocese-of-birmingham-job-opportunities>



THE ARCHDIOCESE of BIRMINGHAM

Cathedral Manager

Job title: Cathedral Manager

Location: St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

Terms: Permanent/Full-Time

Salary: £42,000 p.a. to £48,000 p.a. (depending on experience)

About the role: The Cathedral Manager is a senior leadership role, responsible for the day-to-day operational and administrative management of the Cathedral and its wider site. Reporting directly to the Cathedral Dean, the postholder enables the worship, pastoral life and mission of the Cathedral by ensuring that all non-clerical and non-liturgical matters are professionally managed.

For further information see the job description and person specification that can be found on the Archdiocese website at [Jobs & Volunteering Opportunities | Birmingham Diocesan Trust](#)

Working for the Archdiocese, you will meet many people from different walks of life. We welcome applications from all faith/non-faith backgrounds creating a culture of respect, openness, and a commitment to embracing the diocesan vision and building positive relationships regardless of your faith/non-faith background.

Applications including a CV and supporting statement to be submitted to the HR department to julia.hale@rcaob.org.uk by 10am on Friday 13th March 2026.

Shortlisting: Friday 13th March 2026

Interviews: w/c 23rd March 2026



THE ARCHDIOCESE of BIRMINGHAM

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title: Cathedral Manager

Location: St Chad's Cathedral, Queensway, BIRMINGHAM

Responsible to: Dean of the Cathedral

Permanent (full time, 35 hours per week)

Contract tenure: *(The post requires flexibility, including occasional evening and weekend work to support major liturgical, civic and diocesan events and to respond to operational needs)*

Salary range: £42,000 - £48,000 p.a. depending on relevant experience

Role Summary

St Chad's Cathedral is the Mother Church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham. While operating as both a parish and a cathedral in its own right, it functions within the wider governance and support structures of the Archdiocese and draws on specialist diocesan services.

The Cathedral Manager is a senior leadership role, responsible for the day-to-day operational and administrative management of the Cathedral and its wider site. Reporting directly to the Cathedral Dean, the postholder enables the worship, pastoral life and mission of the Cathedral by ensuring that all non-clerical and non-liturgical matters are professionally managed.

Following the departure of the Cathedral Administrator, the Cathedral Manager will provide temporary oversight of selected administrative and coordination duties to ensure continuity of support. These responsibilities will be shared and managed alongside the wider Cathedral team and will be kept under review. The arrangement is transitional, and the precise long-term configuration of the Cathedral Administrator function will be considered once the new Cathedral Manager is in post and able to assess operational needs with the Dean.

The role is specifically designed to remove routine operational, people-management and business oversight from the Dean, while recognising that ultimate responsibility and canonical authority remain with the Dean. The postholder will work collaboratively with the Dean, Cathedral Staff Team and diocesan colleagues to ensure clarity of roles, appropriate delegation and effective use of diocesan expertise.

Organisational Context

The Cathedral team is structured broadly into two complementary areas: