

BC14

Come, Lord, your wounded world is yearning
for you to come again.
Come, Lord, your weary world is crying out
for you to lift us up
out of our despair, our hunger,
our thirst for something better,
our need for food that will last.
Come, Lord, come again, we need to begin again.
Amen

Message from Mrs Choudhury, Assistant Principal | Friday 2nd December 2022

Last weekend, we moved into the blessed season of Advent. Many members of our school community will have started to open their advent calendars this week and it is this small act each day which builds the excitement towards Christmas Day. The word 'Advent' is derived from the Latin word Adventus, which means **arrival**, and Christians all over the world will celebrate this season of candlelight, reflection, and expectation - a chance to get ready for Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

During this season, I love to visit the City Centre; even as an adult, I find myself totally enchanted by the festive displays, as well as the sights, sounds and smells which are only to be found at this special time of year.

As a community, we are fully aware that Christmas cannot, and will not, be a happy time for everyone. With the increasing cost of living, families will be facing worrying challenges and will struggle to buy gifts as they prioritise putting food on the table and trying to keep their loved ones safe and warm. For years, Bishop Challoner have supported the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal to ensure that children around the world receive a gift on Christmas morning. For the second year running, we have joined forces with the Birmingham Irish Association to look closer to home, supporting families in Birmingham who face the struggle of buying gifts for their children this Christmas. As well as donating toys directly to this

appeal, students at Bishop Challoner and our feeder primary schools have been busy raising money to buy toys to donate. This Tuesday, four of our lucky students visited The Entertainer in Solihull to spend the £2000 which had been raised thus far. As a result, the toy table in our foyer is now overflowing and we are so proud of our school community for their generosity and kindness in making this happen! Our students are truly a blessing to us and never fail to rise to the challenge of helping those less fortunate than themselves.

Next week, we will be celebrating the Yuletide season with our annual Christmas Show. Typically held in the auditorium, this year it will take on a new dimension, taking place in St. Dunstan's Church. Titled The True Meaning of Christmas, students will present song, drama and dance which explores the theme, amid the dramatic backdrop of the beautiful St. Dunstan's Church. This evening promises to be an ethereal yet festive event and we would like to welcome as many of our school and wider community members as possible. It is free to attend and will take place on Wednesday 7th December at 6pm. Do come and join us in our celebration and exploration of The True Meaning of Christmas, presented by Bishop Challoner students, accompanied by a live band.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a truly special Advent; may the light and love of this magical season be with you all!

Christmas Cards on Sale Now!

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

Cards come in packs of 10 for £5.

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

Peace Garden

We are blessed to have such a dedicated group of young people working on our Peace Garden. It's been a delight to see them learn new gardening skills and spruce up the area.

We are asking you to share with us your gardening tips and tricks. Email in your favourite tips for pruning, preparing the ground for planting etc. We would love to hear from you.

Email: k.brown@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk



BeReal is an app launched in 2020 that has risen quickly in popularity in 2022. Its main feature is a daily notification that encourages users to share a photo of themselves and their immediate surroundings given a randomly selected two-minute window every day. The resulting media is a capture of both the front and rear facing camera on the device.



Why are we concerned as a school?

- A BeReal post could show a user's location, personal details such as school or workplaces.
- The app does not have an explicit image moderation process, and thus does not restrict the users from posting inappropriate photos.
- The minimum age to use BeReal is 13 although there is no formal verification process.
- There are no privacy features.
- Anxiety of not sharing or sharing something seen as 'boring'.
- Comparison and competition amongst peers.

We encourage you to talk to your child about the BeReal app. Resources to support this conversation can be found here: <https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2022/08/19/be-real/>

Sports Updates

World Cup Football Tournament

Over 120 students from year 7 and 8 competed in the Bishop Challoner World Cup Football tournament. An excellent standard of football was on display in both the boys' and girls' competitions. Well done to all students who took part, and congratulations to the four winning teams.

Year 7/8 Athletics Triumph

Year 7 girls won the bishop Challoner school games Indoor Athletics competition!! They have progressed into the final of the Birmingham school games indoor athletics comp taking place in March. The Year 8 girls who were also competing finished in a respectable 3rd place after facing very challenging opposition.

Year 9 Basketball

The Year 9 boys basketball team started their season with four wins in two weeks. Standout performances came with a 53-13 win over University of Birmingham school, and a 21-13 win over Barrs Hill in the Basketball England National Cup. The boys aim to continue their winning streak with upcoming games against Kings Norton Boys and Shireland Collegiate Academy.

Year 10 Football

The year 10 team faced off against University of Birmingham school in round 3 of the Birmingham cup. After a dominant display by Bishop Challoner the game finished 4-1. This result means Challoner are through to the quarter finals which is an incredible achievement.

Save the Date - 'The True Meaning of Christmas by Candlelight'

Our Christmas event will take place on Wednesday 7th December, 6pm at St Dunstan's Church. There will be more information sent out via text in the coming weeks. Join us for a night of music, carols and songs and experience the true meaning of Christmas. We hope to see you there.

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

Train to Teach with Bishop Challoner TSA, School Direct PGCE

Have you ever thought of training to be a teacher? People come to teaching via many different routes - maybe you are ready to change your career yourself, or know someone who will graduate next summer? We welcome all those who are interested in teaching to try a day in the classroom, on our School Experience Programme. The next day for this before Christmas is Wednesday 7th December, and you can book a place here: <https://schoolexperience.education.gov.uk/> This can give you a real insight into teaching in a contemporary classroom and can help make up your mind about joining this demanding but exciting profession.

If you just want to chat to someone about training to teach, then we are happy to arrange this with one of our advisors. This can be at a time to suit you, including evenings and can be online.

Teacher training places are starting to fill up for a September 2023 start, so we encourage you to apply sooner rather than later! Our email address is: trainingschool@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk and don't forget, we also offer training for those who want to teach in primary schools.

Year 7, 9 & 10 Parent Consultation Day

School will be closed on Friday 9th December to facilitate Parent Consultation Day.

The booking system is now open for parents/carers to make appointments to see their child's Consultation Tutor. Appointments need to be made by Wednesday 7th December.

Christmas cards will be on sale for £5 for a pack of 10.

Vapes

Parents/Carers we are sure you are aware that it is illegal to purchase or use a vape under the age of 18.

What should you do if you suspect or discover that your child is vaping? The best approach is to discuss the subject in an open, calm manner, explaining the health risks and the potential repercussions if they are found with prohibited items in school.

If you need further support, please contact a member of the Wellbeing team or seek advice from a medical professional.

What Are the Health Risks of Vaping?

Vapes come in all shapes and sizes and are often brightly coloured. Vaping liquids often come in fruit flavours and are appealing to young people. Unfortunately, there are many health risks caused by vaping which include:

- addiction: E-cigarettes contain nicotine, a drug that's highly addictive. You don't have to vape every day to get addicted.
- anxiety and depression: Nicotine makes anxiety and depression worse. It also affects memory, concentration, self-control, and attention, especially in developing brains.
- becoming a smoker: Young people who vape are more likely to start smoking regular (tobacco) cigarettes and may be more likely to develop other addictions in the future.
- sleep problems
- exposure to cancer-causing chemicals
- chronic bronchitis
- lung damage that can be life-threatening

Other health effects are possible that we don't yet know about. Vaping hasn't been around that long, so its health risks aren't all known.

T-LEVELS

THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

T Level launch event

On Wednesday 23rd November a targeted group of Year 11 students were off timetable to be involved in three taster workshops exploring the new T Level course Digital Business Services which will begin in September 2023.

Students had the opportunity to experience a workshop focusing on Tech, delivered by Mr Khitab, the T Level Curriculum, delivered by Mr Ravenscroft and Marketing, delivered by TeamITG. Alongside the workshops, students were able to find out the different pathways T Levels can take them, post 18, from Aston University and Ask Apprenticeship.

Following this, parents and careers were also invited to an events evening, where they were able to find out more about T Levels. The event was a great success, allowing all involved to be better informed of the new T-Level route.



CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

Please give new toys (unwrapped) for our local children in Birmingham for all age groups ranging from 0-15 years



Collection Dates:
Monday 31st October -
Thursday 8th December
Irish TV are are visiting
St Anne's Parish Centre,
B12 0PA on Tuesday 13th
December

Tesco Tokens Appeal

We have applied to Tesco for a grant for Breakfast Club, to provide free bottles of water and snacks each morning to our vulnerable students.

Please could I ask if you are shopping in Hall Green, to collect blue plastic tokens at the till and vote for our Breakfast Club.

We have previously been successful with grants from Kellogg's and Cash for kids but with costs rising and more students attending we really need these funds.



Please remember to use easyfundraising every time you shop online! Over 7,000 brands will donate, so you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. These donations really help us out, so please sign up if you haven't yet. It's easy and FREE! You can get started at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bishopchallonercatholiccollege/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-n2

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 school skirt (not lycra or stretchy). 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.

In order to complement the smart school uniform we insist that students' hair is smart in appearance and that students do not have shaved/razored hair styles or lines/patterns shaved into the hair. Extreme changes of hair colour are also not permitted. 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.

Please note that lycra or stretchy skirts are not allowed to 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.
Punctuality

Please [click here](#) to view a recent communication about punctuality to school.

Attendance Update

Year 7 - 95.8%
Year 8 - 92.8%
Year 9 - 92.2%
Year 10 - 92.4%
Year 11 - 91.2%
Whole School - 92.9%

Birmingham Vernon Sea Cadets Recruitment

Birmingham Vernon Sea Cadets are currently recruiting young people between the ages of 13-17 to join our successful youth organisation.



We are holding an open evening on Tuesday 13th December 2022, from 19:00-21:00. Please see enclosed to this email our recruitment posters. Could we kindly ask if possible that the recruitment posters are distributed with any newsletters, or put around the schools for students to see?

We meet once a week, on Tuesday's, and from early spring to late Autumn this is when all the watersports activities take place. Not only will it be fun, but the new skills will definitely give them a head start in life and boost their confidence. Schools often see a positive difference in their students who join the Sea Cadets. Please [click here](#) which will take you to a video to see what we can offer.

As well as the above activities we also provide activities such as Adventure Training, Camping, Canoeing, Cook/Steward, Communications, Diving, Drill, First Aid, Field craft, Kayaking, Marine Engineering, Meteorology, Mountain Biking, Mountain Leadership, Navigation, Physical Training, Rowing, Sailing (including offshore & overseas trips), Seamanship and much more. We also encourage cadets to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and our BTEC programmes.

All of our training courses are designed to stretch and develop our young people and provide them with new life skills along with nationally recognised qualifications. The cadet instruction is carried out by highly qualified instructors who are either employees of the charity or volunteers. Sea Cadet's has been recognised by many employers, which has enabled our former young people to go into successful jobs due to skills gained and learnt from the Sea Cadet's on their CV.

Please [click here](#) to find out more information about the Sea Cadets and the difference we can make to your students life. It would be of great help if you could distribute these to your students. It is an exciting time to join us!

How can Sea Cadets impact school?

A survey by the Universities of Portsmouth and Southampton into the societal impact of cadet forces in community based units, found:

- 90% said being a cadet had offered 'direction & guidance'
- 90% mentioned the importance of team working and leadership
- 95% of cadets are in full time education, work experience or working
- Over 90% registered higher self-esteem
- Over 50% felt their cadet experience would help them with college & university applications
- 95% would intervene when it came to witnessing someone being beaten or threatened*.

In schools the survey reported that teachers who saw young people engaged in cadet activity were:

- More organised
- Have better communication and thinking skills
- The quality of their work improved
- Have higher attendance
- Improved behaviour

GET IN TOUCH

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

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

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

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Young Minds have produced an Advent Calendar with lots of useful tips. See below:

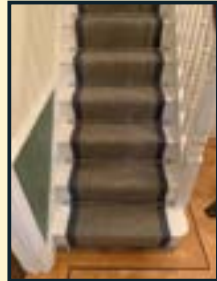
<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/media/gcecj1jf/secondary-wellbeing-advent-calendar-2022.pdf>



A J CARPET & FLOORING

Andy Mulchrone

07477 040 414/07411 203 085
andymulchrone@icloud.com



Supply and fit:

- Wood
- Carpet
- Vinyl
- LVT

All subfloor preparation undertaken



A J Carpet and Flooring



andrewmulchrone

Free measure & quote

Over 30 Work Groups, projects and programmes available in 2022-23.
All opportunities are FREE - sign up today to secure your place.

MATHSHUBS CENTRAL

The Central Maths Hub, coordinated by the NCETM, brings together mathematics education professionals in a collaborative national network, to develop and spread excellent practice, for the benefit of all pupils and students.

If you are from Birmingham, Sandwell or Dudley, then we have professional and school development opportunities waiting for you.



Early Years / Primary



Secondary / Post-16



Leadership



Central Maths Hub
Challoner House
21 Institute Road
Birmingham B14 7EG
www.centralmathshub.com



@centralmathshub

BISHOP CHALLONER INSPIRED HOLIDAY CLUBS

BISHOP CHALLONER SPORTS CENTRE
INSTITUTE ROAD, KINGS HEATH, BIRMINGHAM, B14 7EG

DATES
MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER
TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER
WEDNESDAY 21ST DECEMBER
THURSDAY 22ND DECEMBER

FRIDAY 23RD DECEMBER
WEDNESDAY 28TH DECEMBER
THURSDAY 29TH DECEMBER
FRIDAY 30TH DECEMBER

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, ROUNDERS, NETBALL, HANDBALL, CRICKET, GYMNASTICS

WORKSHOPS

FOOD AND NUTRITION, ROBOTICS AND DRONES, MUSIC, ART & CRAFTS

OFFSITE ACTIVITIES

BROADWAY PLAZA - GOLF AND CINEMA EXPERIENCE, SOLIHULL ICE RINK - PLANET ICE, INFLATE A NATION

ALL BISHOP CHALLONER STAFF ARE FULLY QUALIFIED & DBS CHECKED

BOOK ONLINE NOW BY [CLICKING HERE](#)

ALTERNATIVELY VISIT: www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/catholic-college/community/holiday-club
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT MISS CRUMP AT L.CRUMP@BISHOPCHALLONER.BHAM.SCH.UK OR CALL 0121 444 4161



Student Places are Free!



Age 9-16 Years

Standard Day 9am-3pm

Healthy lunch and snacks provided throughout the day



Upcoming Events

Year 9 & 10 Bletchley Park Visit
Monday 5th December

10CEC Sweet Hamper Fundraiser
Monday 5th December - Friday 9th December

Christmas Presence Day (MHT)
Sixth Form Cotteridge Dementia Group
Christmas Party
Tuesday 6th December

Rosary
Christmas Show
Christmaths Day
PE Aspirations
PE Reward Trip
Year 12 Reader Leader Training
Wednesday 7th December

Year 7, 9 & 10 Parent Consultation Day
Bishop's Got Talent
Friday 9th December

10BOS Keepy Uppy Fundraiser
Christmas Lunch
Year 9 & 10 Sponsored Football
Year 7 - A Christmas Carol Trip
Tuesday 13th December

Rosary
Sixth Form Christmas Service
BC Tea Party
PE Aspirations
Year 7 & 8 Sponsored Football
Wednesday 14th December

Christmas Jumper Day
Nativity of the Lord Mass
School finishes at 12.40pm
Thursday 15th December

Staff Inset - School Closed
Friday 16th December