

## Message from Mrs Marsh, Assistant Principal

Pope Francis emphasises that listening is the foundational, often neglected, "first ingredient" of true dialogue, communication, and love, urging people to "listen with the ear of the heart" rather than just hearing words.

At our Catholic school, we believe every child's voice matters. Speaking and listening are important skills that help our students learn, build friendships, and grow in confidence. When children are encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas, they feel valued and understood. When they learn to listen carefully to others, they show kindness, respect, and care — just as Jesus taught us.

These skills are becoming an important part of everyday life in our school. Since September this year, oracy has become an even bigger whole school priority for all of our students. We have started working with Voice 21 who are an established charity who work to support schools to explicitly teach and embed effective speaking and listening. In classrooms, students are being taught how they can develop their ability and confidence to speak in a mature way and share ideas to enhance learning in the classroom. Across every subject, students are taking part in discussions, asking questions, and learning how to listen thoughtfully to different points of view. There are numerous examples of this being delivered effectively in lessons. Even in the last week in French in Mrs Souakri's lesson, Y9 became the teachers planning mini lessons and activities for the class about vocabulary. In PE, Oracy is being used to support students' ability to evaluate and provide meaningful feedback when observing a sporting performance. In PSHE, Mrs Jethwa has been setting up some excellent exploratory talk around the death penalty. In English all of Y9 are exploring what makes effective oracy as they prepare speeches in Speech Week. The best speeches will be presented to Dr Coughlan who will judge the overall winners.

Through prayer, form time and explicit teaching of these skills, students are practising how to speak with confidence and listen with empathy. By embedding speaking and listening across the school, we are helping our children grow into respectful communicators and compassionate members of our Catholic community.

*On Monday, we celebrate the Feast of The Presentation of the Lord.*

*Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
as we celebrate Your presentation in the Temple, we remember Simeon and Anna,  
who recognised You with joy and hope.*

*Help us to see Your light in others  
and to share Your love each day.  
Amen.*

## VR HEADSETS

Last week, we welcomed our School Police Liaison Officer to Bishop Challoner Library where students took part in an immersive virtual reality programme on knife crime, delivered in partnership with the police school liaison team. The session helped students explore real-life consequences and make safer choices through engaging, interactive scenarios. Students were exemplary throughout the workshops displaying characteristics of being understanding and intentional as they unpicked the case study and the impact of crime on all of the characters. PC Tom Dale joins us fortnightly at Bishop Challoner providing ongoing support and guidance to both students and staff.

## YEAR 11 PARENT CONSULTATION EVENING

Tuesday 3rd February is Parent Consultation Evening for Year 11 students.

Appointments are now closed, Consultation Tutors will now make the appointment for anyone that does not have one. Students are required to attend in full school uniform.





## SIXTH FORM NEWS

**APPLY NOW**

### ★ SIXTH FORM REWARDS

REWARD	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
AMBITION	Alfie B	Niamh S
SERVICE TO OTHERS	Beatrice M	Aidan W
PROGRESSION	Callum K	Thea W
INDEPENDENCE	Estera M	Jack O
ROLE MODEL	Tulsa S	Sonali B
EXCELLENCE	Roya Y	Hannah F

### YEAR 13 MOCK EXAMS

Year 13 mock examinations have now finished, marking the end of an important and demanding assessment period. Congratulations to all students for their hard work, commitment, and resilience throughout the mocks. As they move forward, students are encouraged to gather feedback from their teachers, reflect on their progress, and use this guidance to strengthen their learning and build confidence ahead of their final examinations.



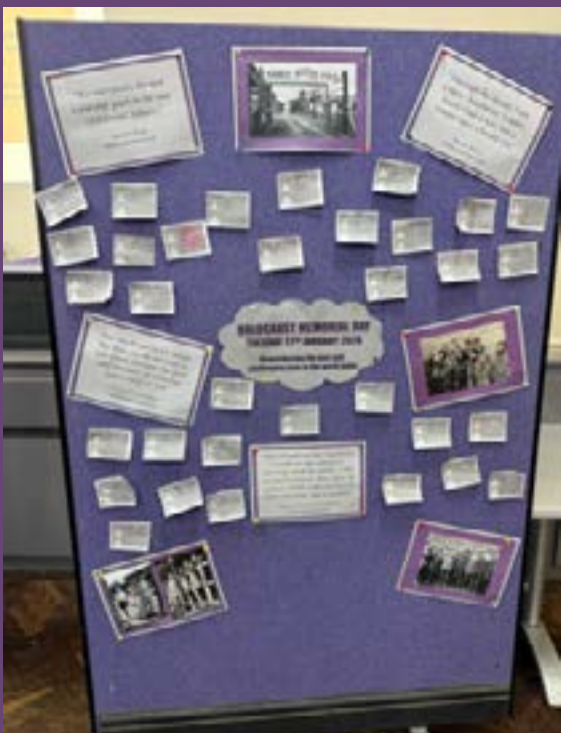
### YEAR 11 SIXTH FORM INTERVIEWS

Year 11 Sixth Form interviews have now begun. These meetings provide students with the opportunity to discuss their applications to Bishop Challoner Sixth Form, explore their subject choices, and ask any questions they may have about studying at Key Stage 5. The interviews are designed to support students as they plan their next steps and prepare for the transition into Sixth Form life.

### HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

To mark this important day, Sixth Form students took part in a special memorial service. During the service, six candles were lit to honour the six million lives lost in the Holocaust and to stand in solidarity with those who continue to face injustice and hatred today. The service provided a moment for reflection, remembrance, and unity.

In addition, Sixth Form students have created a Remembrance Wall, sharing their personal reflections on the Holocaust and what lessons can be learned from this tragic part of history. These reflections highlight the importance of compassion, tolerance, and standing up against discrimination in the world today.



### FOLLOW US ON TIK TOK

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



# CATHOLIC LIFE

## PRAYING FOR UNITY AND CELEBRATING PRAY24BRUM

Each year, the Christian Churches in Britain and Ireland come together to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from 18–24 January. Throughout the week, our morning form prayers and our afternoon 'Pause for Prayer' were dedicated to praying for Christian unity.

In Birmingham, different Christian denominations gathered at St Martin in the Bull Ring for a 24 hour period of continuous prayer, led by a diverse range of Christian traditions. We supported Pray24Brum with a variety of activities, prayers, and reflections that took place during the day in school.

The chapel door remained open for pupils and staff to come in, light a candle, offer a simple prayer, and join our growing prayer chain of personal intentions. It was a truly beautiful day: the chapel was busy, yet the warm candlelight and gentle Taizé music created a deep sense of peace.

It was especially humbling to see our young people come into the chapel of their own accord, pick up rosary beads, and sit quietly in prayer. Moments like these remind us of the faith, sincerity, and spiritual depth present within our school community.

Anton and Vilem, our visiting Jesuit novice priests, continue to inspire and open our pupils' hearts to welcoming faith into their lives. Classes continue to visit the Blessed Sacrament in St, Dunstan's for Adoration. We are reminded of St Carlo Acutis who said, 'When we face the sun we get a tan, when we stand before Jesus in the Eucharist, we become saints'.

Throughout the day, our KS3 classes were visited by both Anton and Vilem to take part in Lectio Divina, where they spent time meditating on Scripture. Pupils were exceptionally attentive and deeply reflective as they contemplated which words and phrases spoke most strongly to them. As part of the activities, pupils decorated paper crosses with names, opportunities, and events that have helped them grow as young people developing virtuous lives. They also filled in paper people cut outs with the thoughts they wished to offer to God; concerns on their minds, hopes for helping their community, and the many things for which they are grateful.



## CHAPEL ALIVE WITH SONG

We are incredibly grateful to Jobe O'Sullivan, who has generously given his time to lead pupils in sung worship on Thursday lunchtimes. The music, song, and praise have been truly uplifting and have created a wonderful buzz around the chapel.

The invitation is open to all KS3 pupils! Musicians, singers, and anyone who simply wants to join in are warmly encouraged to come along, lift their spirits, and raise their voices in praise.





## PUPIL LED PRAYER AND LITURGY

How brilliant it is to see pupils so enthusiastic about leading Prayer and Liturgy! Our Year 9 students led us in marking Peace Sunday, where we reflected on the Gospel and considered how we can bear witness to Christ, recognise Christ in our own lives and in others, and work together toward building a more peaceful society.

A special thank you to the following pupils for their thoughtful leadership and preparation: Joseph N, Gabriele L, Mark L, Celeste, Tyrese, Chayse, Brooke, Elexie and Edjay.

Our Year 11 pupils led us in celebrating 'The Word of God' Sunday. After listening to the Gospel, where Jesus travels to Galilee and calls His first disciples, we reflected on what it means to be true disciples today. Together, we considered how we might listen more attentively to God and to one another, let go of negativity and the things that hold us back, be a source of light like Jesus, and spend more time grounding our daily work in the Word. A warm thank you to the Year 11 pupils who led us so thoughtfully and confidently: Elaine C, Hawerra, Nnamdi, Daniel S, Aron D S, Dario, Onyinye, David C.

Their reverence and leadership helped guide our community in a meaningful celebration of Scripture.

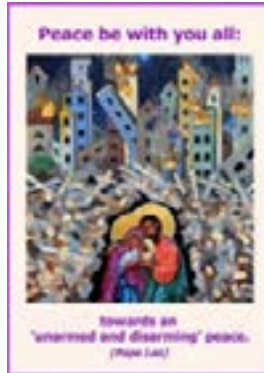
We encourage families to continue this journey at home by reading and reflecting on the Sunday Gospels together. The Wednesday Word is a weekly resource that helps connect home, school, and parish through the Sunday Gospel. It offers a simple way for families to share scripture and prayer each week.

You can access the resources at: [www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org)

## JOURNEY IN FAITH

Fr John has begun a new 'Journey in Faith' group with both pupils and staff. It is truly evangelisation in action—how inspiring it is to see new members of our community wanting to learn more about the Catholic faith and to consider being welcomed into the Church.

Further details can be found on the school website. If pupils or families are interested in being welcomed into the Catholic Church, or if they have already been baptised and wish to continue receiving God's grace by completing their sacramental journey, we warmly invite them to get in touch with [e.thompson@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:e.thompson@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk) in the first instance.



## PARISH MASS AND FORM ROSARY

We offer our sincere thanks to Fr John for continuing to pray the Rosary with our form groups every Tuesday and for welcoming us so warmly to Parish Mass. We are truly grateful for the many opportunities our pupils have to grow and deepen their faith. This week, KS4 pupils have led the Parish Masses with great reverence. Having classes attend Parish Mass has given our pupils a more intimate liturgical experience and has provided many more young people across the school with the honour of proclaiming the Word of God and leading the bidding prayers.

## BORN FOR THIS REHEARSALS IN FULL SWING

- Rehearsals for Born for This, the greatest story ever told, are now well underway as we prepare to perform The Way of the Cross at the world famous Symphony Hall in March. Pupils have been outstanding; acting, singing, and narrating with dedication and enthusiasm.
- This week, we experienced our first rehearsal as a full ensemble, joining pupils from the other five Catholic secondary schools at St Thomas Aquinas School. It was a wonderful opportunity to unite our voices and begin shaping what promises to be a moving and memorable performance.
- Not only does this allow pupils to put their faith into action, reflecting on the love and suffering of Jesus in His Passion, but performing in the iconic Symphony Hall for the 30th anniversary of the production is a remarkable, once in a lifetime experience that will stay with them forever.

The production, for one night only, begins at 7pm on Wednesday 25th March 2026.

Tickets are available now: <https://bmusic.co.uk>



## 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	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

### DIGITAL FOOTPRINTS AND FUTURE IMPACT

Everything shared online, from photos and videos to comments and likes, forms part of a person's digital footprint. Even when posts are deleted, copies or screenshots can still exist elsewhere. Talk to your child about how their online activity can shape how others see them, including future schools, employers, or universities. Encourage them to pause before posting and ask, "Would I be happy for a teacher, relative, or future employer to see this?" Helping children understand the long-term impact of their online choices empowers them to build a positive digital reputation.

### 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.



## MESSAGE FROM THE SENDCO, MISS HAMPSON

Thank you to all the parent/carers who joined us for the CAT/LLSS coffee morning. Charlotte Crowson delivered a presentation on revision strategies and has shared these twelve revision tips to share.

### [Click here for SEND Revision Tips](#)

#### Communication and Autism Team

##### Parent Carer Workshop - Anxiety \*

Spring Term 2026

We would like to invite you to a CAT Parent carer workshop for parent carers who would like to increase their understanding of anxiety and ways to support their child.

To support parent carers of children with a diagnosis of autism, or who are on the Neurodevelopmental Pathway for autism assessment.

All Birmingham parent carers are welcome

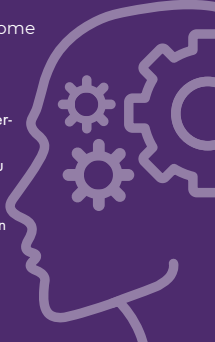
**Date:** Thursday February 5<sup>th</sup> 2026 9.15-10.45 am

Book via the following link:

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/cat-parent-carer-workshop-anxiety-via-microsoft-teams-thursday-5th-february-2026/>  
Sessions will take place via Microsoft Teams - a link be sent to you prior to the session.

We look forward to seeing you there - Julie Watchorn-Brennan and Dawn Fisher

\*The anxiety workshop is part of the Neuroinclusive Education Network (NEN) training for schools and parent carers



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## SUBJECT FOCUS - MATHS

### PRIMARY G&T

The Gifted and Talented after school maths club provides pupils with the opportunity to challenge themselves, develop confidence and explore maths in creative and engaging ways.

For our first session of the new year on the 19th January, the year 8 pupils designed and adapted a relay-style maths game specifically for our Year 6 pupils. They worked collaboratively to plan the activity, test it themselves, and refine the rules to ensure it was both fun and challenging.



The pupils then took on a leadership role by confidently running the session for 26 Year 6 participants. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, clear communication and responsibility, supporting younger pupils and encouraging participation throughout. Most importantly, they ensured everyone felt included and enjoyed the experience, actively interacting with the group and maintaining a positive, energetic atmosphere. This session highlighted not only strong mathematical thinking, but also valuable life skills such as leadership, cooperation and empathy—qualities we are proud to nurture through the club.

## HOMEWORK CLUB

Support for KS3 students continues to be provided through the form of KS3 homework club which takes place every Wednesday in M1. This has enabled students to succeed whether it is in regards to those who require additional support to receive it from their teachers or it facilitates homework completion for students who cannot access the internet at home.

## PARIS

43 students in year 8 will embark on a Maths educational visit to Paris in April 2026. This includes a visit to Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, which is the largest Science museum in Europe and has a section devoted to mathematics. There are opportunities for students to experience some of the cultural aspects of France, including a tour of Paris, a visit to the Eiffel tower, a River Seine cruise and the opportunity to visit Notre Dame Cathedral. Students will get their very own trip jumper with the Challoner logo! The trip is due to take place Monday 20th April - Thursday 23rd April.



## CATHOLIC GAMES

Bishop Challoner once again hosted the Year 8 Catholic Games Maths event, supported by a team of Year 9 students who organised activities and were highly praised by visiting staff for their excellent leadership.

A total of 16 teams from 9 schools took part, including Bishop Ullathorne, Cardinal Wiseman (Birmingham), Archbishop Ilsley, St Paul's Girls, Holy Trinity, St Edmund Campion, Cardinal Newman (Coventry), St Thomas Aquinas, and Bishop Challoner.

Students competed in a variety of engaging maths-based challenges, including a drone-flying activity, a coordinates task with robots, a Junior Maths Challenge relay, and a computer hacking-themed maths activity.

The competition was extremely close, with six teams tying for second place on 17 points. The overall winners were Bishop Challoner, scoring an impressive 18/20.



## INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

This week our most keen Year 10 and Year 11 mathematicians undertook the "Intermediate Maths Challenge". The challenge involved multiple-choice questions, with five possible answers. The possible answers include common misconceptions. It was a very challenging paper! Well done to all students who took part and we eagerly await the results.



## FORM TIME INTERVENTIONS

This term a total 65 students are engaging in form time maths interventions. This new initiative is designed to provide students with invaluable revision led by a maths teacher, instead of going to form. These sessions take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, providing students with almost an extra hour of weekly support.

## AXIOM MATHS

Our group of Year 7 Axiom Maths students have continued to work with a carefully crafted curricula that inspires and challenges them with problems and allows them to think, speak and work like a university mathematician. They work exceptionally well with the programme's structure, particularly the emphasis on reasoning, exploration, and clear mathematical communication. Collaborative activities have been a standout strength, with students eagerly working in pairs and small groups to test ideas and explain their thinking, all whilst modelling the programme's behaviours of being 'adventurous', 'articulate' and 'accepting'. Recently, the students successfully completed Block 1 of the programme and were delighted to received their certificates in acknowledgement of their efforts.



## YEAR 8 RSE UPDATE

Year 8 will be engaging in their RSE units during RE lessons after the February half term break. All lessons are created by Ten:Ten and approved by the Catholic Church:

Year 8 will study 'Created & Chosen'. Students will become aware of and appreciate their individual uniqueness and grounding in dignity as they navigate through different family relationships and friendships.

# SPORTS

## RESULTS

U15 Girls Football

Bartley Green 3 v 5 Bishop Challoner.

Goalscorers - M. Smith x2, M. Hearnden x1, A. Branson x1,  
S. Nelson-Brown x1

Bishop Challoner stay top of the Kings Norton & South B'Ham League (Premier).

Year 8 and 10 Girls Football V Bartley Green (10-0 to BC)

Year 7 Girls Football V Thomas Aquinas (3-2 to BC)

Year 7 Girls Football V Swanshurst (1-1)

Year 7/8 Girls Basketball Tournament (BC finished 2nd)

Sixth form basketball (BC lost 35:34 to CampHill)

Sixth form basketball (BC lost 26:53 to Aston Manor)

TIME	SPORTS HALL		DOJO
MON	7:45 - 8:25 KS4 Basketball Miss Hunter		
	3:30 - 4:30 KS3 Girls Netball Miss Shirley		
TUES	7:45 - 8:25 Badminton / Pickleball Miss Ellis		
	3:30 - 4:30 Volleyball Mr Ibrahim		
WED	7:45 - 8:25 KS3 Basketball Mr Brade		
	3:30 - 4:30 KS3 Boys Football Mr Wilson / Mr Holland		3:30 - 4:30 Ju-Jitsu Mr Holland / Miss Hilbert
THURS	7:45 - 8:25 KS3 Touch Rugby Mr Carter	Lunch Time Yr12 Health & Wellbeing Club Sports Hall	
	3:30 - 4:30 KS3 Girls Football Miss Rigby	3:30 - 4:30 KS3 Paddy Benson Boxing Club Dojo	3:30 - 4:30 Year 7 Boys Introduction to Contact Rugby Mr Carter
FRI	7:45 - 8:25 Gaelic Football Mr Noone		

## GEOGRAPHY BISHOP'S GOT TALENT

For our Bishop's Got Talent event, Year 7 were challenged with creating a Landscape in a Box. The students chose an inspiring landscape and used a range of resources to create it in a box. Alongside their landscape they were asked to describe their location and the geographical features that were present. The landscape in a box idea aimed to bring together students' Geographical understanding whilst also providing an opportunity for research, creativity and independent learning. We had approximately 147 entries and have been blown away by the fantastic submissions to our Landscapes in a box project. The range of materials used, locations chosen and personal touches that have been included is incredible. It is evident that countless hours have been put into these creations. Well done! In recognition of this effort, every Year 7 geography class will have a rewards lesson! In addition to this we have a shortlist of finalists who will also receive an additional prize. These winners will be announced on instagram and in assembly. We will be sharing some photos and videos on our instagram: bishopchalloner\_geography. Congratulations again on this fantastic effort.



### Bishop Challoner Catholic College Extra-Curricular Clubs

Unless stated, clubs run weekly and are available to all pupils. Please arrive to club at rooms specified.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Breakfast Club</b> BC4 7.30-8.30 Miss Crump	<b>Breakfast Club</b> BC4 7.30-8.30 Mrs McGowan & Mrs Jones	<b>Breakfast Club</b> BC4 7.30-8.30 Mrs McGowan & Mrs Jones	<b>Breakfast Club</b> BC4 7.30-8.30 Mrs McGowan & Mrs Jones	<b>Breakfast Club</b> BC4 7.30-8.30 Mrs McGowan & Mrs Jones
<b>Library Club</b> Library 8.00-8.40 3.20-4.00 Ms Newton	<b>Library Club</b> Library 8.00-8.40 3.20-4.00 Ms Newton	<b>Library Club</b> Library 8.00-8.40 3.20-4.00 Ms Newton	<b>Library Club</b> Library 8.00-8.40 3.20-4.00 Ms Newton	<b>Library Club</b> Library 8.00-8.40 3.20-4.00 Ms Newton
<b>Homework Club</b> BC4 3.20-4 Mrs Thomas	<b>Homework Club</b> BC4 3.20-4 Mrs Thomas	<b>Homework Club</b> BC4 3.20-4 Mrs Thomas	<b>Homework Club</b> BC4 3.20-4 Mrs Thomas	
<b>'We Sing' Choir</b> PA2 3.30 - 4.10 Mrs Choudhury	<b>Chess Club</b> MC1(wk1)/MC2(wk 2) 3:30-4:15 Mr Welch	<b>German Language Club</b> L1 3.20-4 Miss Coles	<b>Yr7-9 Science Club</b> S9 3.20-4.20 Science staff	
	<b>Axiom Maths</b> (invite only) M6 3.20-4.20 Mrs Cullen	<b>Maths Drop-In</b> M1 3.20-4.20 Maths staff	<b>Further Maths GCSE</b> Wk 2 3.30-4.20 Invite only Y10 (Miss Stone) M6	
	<b>BC Band</b> PA2 3.30-4.15 Miss Hughes	<b>Drama Club</b> PA1 3.20-4.15 Miss Hughes		
	<b>Art and Craft Club</b> A1 3.30-4.15 Miss Swinger/ Miss Neal	<b>Cookery Club</b> Week 2 T5 3.30-4.15 Mrs Higginson		
	<b>Journey in Faith</b> Chapel 3.30-4.15 Father John	<b>KS3 Drone Club</b> Auditorium 12.15-12.55 Mr Ebrahim		
		<b>Further Maths GCSE</b> Week 1 3.30-4.20 Invite only Y10 (Miss Stone) M6		





## STUDENT REWARDS

YEAR GROUP	MOST POSITIVE LOGS
<b>YEAR 7</b>	Maya P Orlaith K Orlaith B Amira M Sana S Luqmaan M Eleen T Nicola M Laia B Nazar F Helena C C P Arlo C Nyola M-A Ariana-Mae H Cecilia T Montgomery W Nyola M-A Olivia A Elijah R Roisin F Orlaith K
<b>YEAR 8</b>	Milaan L Freddie K Aydin K Noel C Alexander M Elsa B Cairo H Anenyasha N Kayden R Joey F Xavier N Waleed M Grace G
<b>YEAR 9</b>	Sophia T x 2 Annedrea L Annabella S Brooke W Munana D x 2 Christopher B Kayven R Kaiden G

## YEAR 9

As we approach half-term, the Year 9 pastoral would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope the Christmas season was a time of rest and reflection. Year 9 have settled in well to the new term and already taken part in a range of exciting events and opportunities both in and out of the classroom.

This term brings the launch of the Year 9 Pathways, where students will begin considering the options subjects to pursue at KS4/GCSE. Assemblies on this will begin week commencing 2nd March, with the Year 9 Options Evening taking place on Thursday 5th March. Here, students will be able to walk around school with parents and explore the range of subject choices we have to offer, look at what the subject specification includes, and talk to staff about any questions they may have. We find this evening is vital in helping students cement their Pathways decision and greatly encourage as many of you to come along as possible!

As ever, Year 9 have thrown themselves into extracurricular activities this term, which included the Ladies LAMMA trip , in which a group of our Year 9 girls visited the NEC to explore the UK's leading agricultural machinery, equipment and services show, and a trip to the School of Jewellery, in which the art department took a group of student to completed some wonderful jewellery designs. There was also a visit from Howells Architects, who delivered an engaging design workshop in art lesson – lots of excellent designs were produced by pupils as a result! Some students were given the opportunity this term to take part in an exciting VR Headset workshop surrounded issues with knife crime, led by PC Tom Dale, and we also had Year 9s participating in the annual Maths Catholic Games competition. Many students have begun their Bronze DofE awards, with the first training session being held earlier this month. The next training day for DofE students will be 22nd March – details to follow.

Looking ahead, we continue to give glory to God through prayer and service to others, and I would like to praise all the work done by Year 9 so far in assemblies, form time and chaplaincy to contribute to our school prayer and liturgy. To continue upholding this ethos, lots of charity events are being run by our Year 9 Forms this term, such as the 9TER Bake Sale, 9CEC Mother's Day Hamper Raffle and 9LUK Easter Cake Sale!

## ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies over the past fortnight have explored what respect means, with an initial focus on how we show respect at Bishop Challoner, rooted in our Faithful Virtues. Students reflected on a metaphorical story in which stepping stones became a bridge when treated respectfully, before being given clear guidance on how to demonstrate respect in lessons, around the school site, and within the local community.

This week, students have been introduced to the theme of respect and consent, with a focus on respecting one another as human beings. Assemblies emphasised that if a question is asked and the answer is no—illustrated through the analogy of sharing a playlist—then no must always be respected. Students have been left with a clear going-forth message: “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago” (Ephesians 2:10). They were reminded that we should always have due regard for the feelings, wishes and rights of others, recognising that we are all created in God’s image.

## FORM RESOURCES

During form time, students took part in an interactive session for World Religions Day, exploring the six main world religions and recognising the similarities they share. The purpose of the session was to promote understanding and harmony between religions and to encourage students to focus on what unites us rather than what divides us. Students considered this alongside British Values, reflecting on how mutual respect is essential at all times and how learning about different religions can help to reduce prejudice and misunderstanding.

This week, students have engaged respectfully and thoughtfully with the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day, which commemorates the six million Jewish people murdered in the Holocaust, as well as the millions more killed in genocides before and after. This year’s theme, Bridging Generations, focuses on how memory is passed on, particularly as the number of living survivors declines. Students watched a video extract highlighting the importance of preserving survivor testimony and linking this to remembrance and bridging generations. They reflected in small groups on ways to prevent prejudice and discrimination in society today, completing the statement “As part of the next generation, I can help keep memory alive by...”. Form groups collated their ideas, and students were encouraged to light a candle on Holocaust Memorial Day in remembrance of all those who lost their lives to persecution.

## + 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.

## 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.



Spring Term 1	
Every Wednesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Tuesday 3rd February	Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening
Wednesday 4th February	Staff INSET - School Closed
Thursday 5th February	Year 12 Personal Development Day
Friday 6th February	Time to Talk Day
Monday 9th February	Children's Mental Health Week National Apprenticeship Week
Tuesday 10th February	Safer Internet Day Year 8 HPV Immunisations
Wednesday 11th February - Saturday 14th February	Year 10 and 11 Iceland Trip
Thursday 12th February	Catholic Secondary Schools Public Speaking Event
Friday 13th February	9SEB Cake Sale 10TER Valentines Day Hamper
Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February	Half Term - School Closed

## SCHOOL YEAR 2025 TO 2026

### 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

Wednesday 4th February 2026

Monday 13th April 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

## 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>