

# BC14

**Advent Prayer: Awaken Us**  
Dear Lord God, awaken us, that we may be ready when your dear Son comes, that we may receive him with joy and serve you with pure hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Message from Mr O'Connor, Assistant Principal

**Friday 6th December 2019**

In the Catholic Church, Advent is a period of preparation extending over the four Sundays before Christmas. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. The term *the coming* includes three references: first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to his second coming at the end of time

Churches have always 'dressed' for advent, lighting candles each Sunday in preparation for the final candle representing Jesus, light of the world, which is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate his arrival.

As each day unfolds in advent, we are challenged to reflect on God's old promise to come and rescue His people, and to think about what Jesus Emmanuel, 'God with us', means to us. Our advent calendar on display in the school foyer challenges our students to reach out and do good deeds during Advent. These good deeds have been reflected in the generous collection for the B14 Food Bank appeal which will support families in our local community who are in crisis. The school chapel is currently full with tinned foods, biscuits, washing powder, milk and juice and will be delivered to our local food bank in Cotteridge next week. The support from staff and students for initiative has been stunning!

Advent is also a time for prayer and forgiveness. We are exceptionally excited for the parish as the doors will reopen to St Dunstan's church after its recent renovation. Our RE team will be taking students across to the church each week for adoration. Fr. Mario continues to host

confession in the school chapel on a Wednesday where students are invited to attend and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Thanks to our fantastic chaplaincy team our school chapel is open each day for Chaplaincy, faith conversations prayers and reflections. Every Thursday we have shared prayer which always ends with the ever popular 'rosary rock' led by a local parishioner, John Robinson.

Our Year of community continues to grow in strength. The Christmas shoebox appeal recently collected 162 shoeboxes which will now be delivered to children over the festive period. Our second St Chads appeal collection has begun where students donate clothing and toiletries to those in need. We have staff collecting old or unwanted coats to give to the homeless to keep them warm over the winter months. Our school charity will look to support CAFOD World Gift Aid where our students will run a range of events over the academic year to raise funds to gift communities with medical centers, houses for life and safe places to learn. Our school eco team recently collected six large bags of rubbish from 'the old BMX track' in Yardley in an attempt to clear our local parks and areas of beauty from litter. The school supported Macmillan and Prostate Cancer through our 'coffee and cake' mornings and staff taking part in 'Movember'. Plans are in place for the New Year which will bring more exciting projects that will help contribute towards the year of community.

During this time we also remember our students who are currently sitting their mock exams and we wish them well. As we prepare for the arrival of Our Lord may we wish you all a very happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas.

## Teaching School Update

Did you know we have some new tote bags to help advertise our teacher training programme here at Bishop Challoner? We have 10 free bags available to the first people who email us at [teachingschool@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:teachingschool@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk). A great way to help the environment with our plastic-free bags and also support our PGCE programme. We have Primary and Secondary teacher training programmes starting in September 2020.



## Breakfast with the Principal

Two students from each year group have received a special invitation to have breakfast with Dr Coughlan. The students have been nominated by their Head's of Year for having a fantastic first term of the year. Well done to:

Jayden and Ava in Year 7. Caoimhe and Matthew in Year 8. Aiden and Shania in Year 9. Molly and Malachy in Year 10 and Joshua and Katie in Year 11.

## Christmas Cards still on Sale

Our Artist in Residence, Lucy Wilson, has produced this year's Christmas image for our Christmas cards. Cards come in packs of 10 for £5. These are available to purchase via Schoolcomms and then collected at reception.

Cards will also be available to buy with cash on Parent Consultation Day, Friday 13th December.



Whilst they may seem like people you have never heard of, influencers, YouTubers and Instagram'ers are a huge part of young people's online interactions and activities. If your child has mentioned the recent KSI vs Logan Paul boxing match, they are aware of influencers, those two are not the only ones!

Ofcom published in 2017 statistics which outlined that close to half of 3-4s (45%) use YouTube, with the statistic rising to 89% for 12-15-year olds (Ofcom). The online safety issue arises not only from the type of content students could be viewing but, also the marketing they are being targeted with, which they are unaware of or even know is happening. Brand deals and sponsorships are how a lot of these influencers make money, and they promote these brands to their audience. The relationship between viewer and influencer is more invested on platforms such as YouTube and

the concern is that a young audience could be influenced by marketing strategies and be unaware as to it happening.

We advise that you speak to your child about the marketing potential of these platforms and reinforce that even though these individuals might present themselves as friends, they are making a living from the process and as the audience, they are the one who they are making money directly or indirectly from.

## **Bishop Challoner Chaplaincy**

St. Dunstan is hosting Reconciliation Services. Please consider taking the time to reconcile relationships during this Advent. Everyone is welcome at St. Dunstan and St. Jude's reconciliation services.

We (BCCC) are doing examinations of Conscience. This is an opportunity to reflect upon ourselves; our past choices and our future. Pupils are given the opportunity to reflect and prepare for reconciliation. In December a weekly opportunity for Reconciliation with Fr. Mario in the Chapel- Wednesdays Period 3 is offered.

St. Dunstan's have a Little Lambs group for Mothers and little ones. Our Health and Social Care Year 10 students will be supporting them every Friday. They are off to a fabulous start and have really enjoyed this experience.

## **Bishop Challoner Wider Community Food Bank**

Collections for the Trussel Trust foodbank from Nov 26 to Dec 6 and have raised over 36 bags of donations for those in need this Christmas. We're hoping that the season of giving continues to remind everyone of their dignity and care for all.

## **St. Chad's Sanctuary**

Bishop Challoner has been collecting donations for asylum seekers in our area. We have an incredible amount of kindness and care in the spirit of 'Love thy neighbour'. Our donations will be reaching St. Chad's on Dec 16th in reparation for Christmas Festivities.

We wish everyone a joyous, warm and loving Christmas time with the blessing of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

## **Year 8 Visit to University of Birmingham**

On Friday 29th November, 100 Year 8 pupils visited The University of Birmingham to gain an awareness of what studying at university would be like and to take in the array of impressive facilities that the University has.

Despite learning about: Russell Group universities, grades needed to get into university, living independently and the thousands of different courses you could study, Year 8s seemed most captivated by the facts they learnt about the Clock tower (Old Joe). Namely that it is the largest free-standing clock tower in Europe and that rumour has it, if a student walks under it while it is chiming, they won't pass their exams!

Students really enjoyed University themed 'The Chase' game and designing their own university as well the tour of the university and exploring the Lapworth Museum of Geology.

Year 8s were a credit to themselves and the school. A good day was had by all!



## **Sixth Form**

### **Year 12 Health and Wellbeing Day**

On Tuesday 10th December, Year 12 will be participating in a Health and Wellbeing Day. They will be looking at a variety of issues such as Healthy Relationships, Risk Taking, and Financial Health.

### **Christmas Fair**

On the following day, Year 12 will be hosting a Christmas Fair in the Common Room. There will be variety of fun stalls to visit and all funds raised will go to support the school's chosen charity, which this year is Cafod World Gifts.

# Sports Updates

## Fixtures

The commitment and attendance from our pupils to extra-curricular clubs and after school fixtures have been fantastic. There has been a fantastic turnout to basketball and volleyball club in particular with 40 students turning up to participate!

Fixtures have been going really well as the Year 7 girls kicked off their basketball season with a win of 14-12 to beat St George's school. Nila Tabe and Chloe Ho were 2 of 7 members of the team who produced exceptional performances. Year 8 boys also played in the NBA junior basketball competition and won 19-7 against Queensbridge! The team is undefeated this season and looking to win the Birmingham League and progress to the knockout stages of the National NBA junior League.

Moving onto football, the Year 9 boys' beat Walsall Academy 3-0 in the West Midlands Football Cup with an

exceptional goal from Harry Bergin. They are now through to Round 3 of the West Midlands Cup so well done to all of those who competed, fantastic effort. The under 14 girls' football team progressed through to the quarter finals of the West Midlands Cup after beating St Pauls 6 - 0. Goals were scored by Alexa (2), Orla (2), Freya and Amber, a huge well done.

We finished the week with our first two cricket matches of the season as the Year 8 boys unfortunately lost their match and the Year 10 Boys Cricket Team lost against Queensbridge, however there were some really positive performances and the boys really enjoyed it!

Please look out for the second intra-school competition which will take place next Thursday (12th December). It will be a bench ball tournament and it would be great to see as many people there as possible so please come along!

## Send Updates

### SENCO Surgery at BC

Mrs Breen (SENCO) and Mrs Warhurst (Assistant SENCO) will be available to discuss any queries or concerns you have about your child's special educational needs. Appointments are available between 3.30-6pm. Please telephone on 0121 444 4161 or email:

e.breen@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk/  
s.warhurst@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

### These will be held in PE1 on:

Thursday 16th January, 2020, Thursday 5th March, 2020 and Thursday 7th May, 2020

### SEND Parent Consultation Networks

Birmingham are introducing some important changes to improve the way they do things and in doing so, provide earlier help to schools and families. For more information please click here.

### SEND parent and carer survey

Please see information below that we have been asked to share with you by the Communication and Autism Team. Please note this survey is about Birmingham and not the local school.

Dear Colleagues, Parents and Carers,

Please find below the link to the November 2019 SEND parent and carer survey. This survey is an important milestone to see if the improvements we have made in services for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are reaching Parents and Carers in Birmingham. The deadline for submissions is Friday 13th December.

These surveys are hugely important, and the results and findings will be reported to the SEND Improvement Board and the Birmingham Children Partnership.

The survey is live today at,  
[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FJHYT5F](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FJHYT5F)

## Autism Confident Teens Birmingham, Kings Norton (Evenings)

11th February 2020 at 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Introducing our new evening programme which comprises of a one to one session with an autism specialist at the beginning and end, followed by six weekly group sessions held in a relaxed autism friendly environment.

Ages 13-18 years/Meet other autistic teens/Understand more about autism/Recognise & manage anxiety/Understand & manage sensory difficulties / Help navigating the confusing "social world"

Date: Start day-Tuesday 11th February 2020 - Followed by weekly sessions on Tuesday evenings: 25th February, 3rd March, 10th March, 17th March, 24th March Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Location: Autism West Midlands, Imperial Court, Kings Norton Business Centre, Sovereign Road, Kings Norton, B30 3ES

Cost: Free for autistic teenagers living in the Birmingham City Council area.

**Booking Information:** To book or for more information please contact Amanda or Sue:

E: [amandap@autismwestmidlands.org.uk](mailto:amandap@autismwestmidlands.org.uk) T: 07881 109 496  
E: [suemorris@autismwestmidlands.org.uk](mailto:suemorris@autismwestmidlands.org.uk) T: 07808 730 519

# Advertise with us...

## Newsletter sponsorship

If you kindly sponsor us, we will make sure that we advertise your business in our remaining 2 termly newsletters at Easter and Summer for a total of £100.

Use promo code (BC14) and we will put your advert for FREE in our fortnightly newsletter BC14 as a thank you for supporting our school.

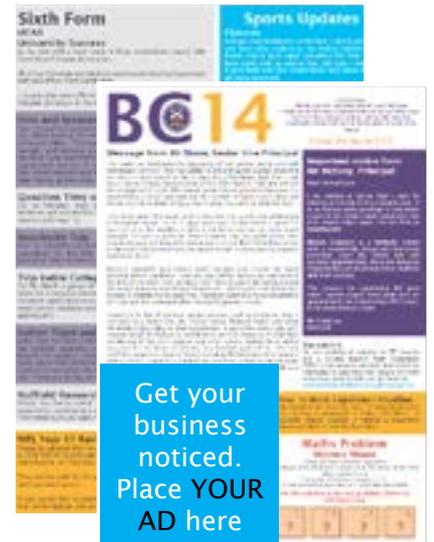
We only require your advert to be sent by email to us and we will do the rest.

We gladly accept BACS payment or Cheque depending on which is convenient for you and we will issue a receipt along with your copy of our Newsletter.

**Our Easter newsletter deadline is Monday 17th February 2020.**

Please email Gerald Noone:- [g.noone@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:g.noone@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk)

Tel:- 0121 4444161.



## Billboard Advertising

No need to pay the High Street prices for billboard advertising.

You could advertise to 2000 people a day at Bishop Challoner for a fraction of the price.

We are delighted to offer advertising space in our community areas, including our sports hall, function room and gym.

This opportunity is available for £40 per month. Please contact Laura on 0121 441 6103 or email: [sportscentre@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:sportscentre@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk)

Don't take word for it – check out the website stats and see the exposure your advert will receive. (figures quoted 1st Feb – 10th March 2019.)

- 46,167 page views to our website in one month!
- 2,330 actual views on newsletters!
- 11,500 tweet impressions

## School Fund and Match Fund

Please visit the school website for more information on School Fund contributions and Match Fund through your employer.

## Easy Fundraising

Our extra curricular and enrichment programme enriches the lives of young people in our school and gives them the opportunities to fulfil their full potential. Our programme runs 40 clubs per week ranging from book club to gymnastics.

Join easyfundraising and you can collect free donations for us every time you buy something online.

## Venue Hire

For more information call: 0121 441 6103



This week's tip is about potentially speeding up your browsing experience on a computer. Every time you visit a website, content from it is saved to your computer with the aim of improving the speed the next time you go there. However, overtime, these folder stores can become quite large and have the adverse effect on your computer. Simply clearing the cache and cookies from your browser can potentially increase the performance of your computer. Below are links which direct to walkthroughs for this process for the corresponding browser.

### Chrome

<https://support.google.com/accounts/answer/32050?co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop&hl=en>

### Safari

<https://www.macworld.co.uk/how-to/mac-software/clear-safari-cache-3496193/>

### Edge

<https://kb.wisc.edu/page.php?id=54747>



# KS3 Christmas Fair

- Games
- Tombola
- Crafts
- Refreshments

Wednesday 11th December

Fundraising for CAFOD World Gifts

Remember your money!



# Bishop Challoner Sixth Form College

We're really looking forward to receiving your application

**PRIORITY DEADLINE**  
**FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER**

Apply online at:  
[www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/sixth-form/applying](http://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk/sixth-form/applying)

**ASPIRE TO BE MORE**

## Science Revision Guides

Science revision guides will be on sale for all year groups on Parent Consultation Day on Friday 13th. See Mrs Shore in S4 if you want to buy any.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing Support

- Feeling worried about something?
- Do you need to talk to someone?
- Do you need a quiet place to just sit and think or not think?
- Why not 'DROP IN' to one of our wellbeing sessions where you can talk to a mental health champion or just chill in a quiet safe place.

### When and where?

#### TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Time	Location
8am-8.40am	KS3/KS4- Student Support Coordinator Office KS5- Sixth Form Office

KS3/KS4 Lunch Student Support Coordinator Office

KS5 Lunch Sixth Form Office

## Upcoming Events

Year 11 Mock Exams  
Monday 2nd December-  
Wednesday 18th December

St Chad's Sanctuary  
Collection Ends  
Monday 16th December

Sixth Form Health and  
Wellbeing Day  
Tuesday 10th December

Canteen-Student Christmas  
Lunch  
Tuesday 17th December

Sixth Form Christmas Fair  
Wednesday 11th December

Sixth Form Christmas  
Service  
Wednesday 18th December

Winter Soiree  
KS3 STEM Fair  
Thursday 12th December

Christmas Whole School  
Mass

School Closed for Y7, 9 &  
10 Parent Consultation Day  
Friday 13th December

Christmas Jumper Day  
Thursday 19th December

INSET Day- School Closed  
Friday 20th December

## Attendance

Year 7 - 96%  
Year 8- 95%  
Year 9- 95%

Year 10- 95%  
Year 11- 94%  
Whole School- 95%