

BC14



Heavenly Father, I choose to trust in Your enduring faithfulness. Your mercies are new every morning, and Your grace is sufficient for each day of September and beyond. I pray that this month will be one of spiritual growth, fruitful service, and deepening relationships for me and for all who join me in this prayer.

Message from Dr Coughlan, Principal

Friday 6th September 2024

Welcome to the first edition this year of our BC14 fortnightly newsletter.

Our fantastic Catholic Inspection last year refers to how

It has been a joy to welcome our young people back into school after the summer break. Our students have made a great start to the academic year with our new cohort of Year 7 quickly getting to grips with life at Challoner and our older students showing tremendous focus in their lessons. It was a joy to be able to celebrate Mass with Fr Toby our school chaplain and our new Year 7 this week. For those students, parents and carers, who perhaps do not know our school as well, I extend an especially warm welcome.

“Students are enthusiastic about Catholic social teaching and can articulate how and why they are called to act in response to these teachings”

and that,

“The school goes the extra mile for those most in need.”

Last year was a very special year for Bishop Challoner Catholic College as we celebrated our Platinum Jubilee which marked 70 years since the school opened in 1953. Each Year we give a theme to our school community, in the past we have had the Year of Celebration and the Year of Giving and last year was our Year of Challoner in recognition of our Platinum Jubilee.

In our year of hope we will continue to go the extra mile to support our local community through the brilliant charity work we undertake each year and continue to live out the legacy of Richard Challoner.

This year will be our Year of Hope and this ties in with Pope Francis announcing that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year, something which happens roughly every 25 years. The theme for Jubilee 2025 is “Pilgrims of Hope,” and it will be a year of hope, in a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate crisis.

Mr Cheshire

Unfortunately, over the summer we received the very sad news that Mr Cheshire one of our school caretakers died after a short illness. Mr Cheshire was a wonderful man who worked at Challoner for two decades. He kept our school environment looking superb and many of our students will know him well having been driven by him to sporting fixtures or trips over the years. He was an absolute gentleman and a very special and highly valued member of our school community. His loss will be felt by all of us. Please keep him and his family in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

There have been many jubilees throughout history, the first occurring in 1300. The Jubilee 2000 campaign was an international movement that sought to cancel the debt of the world's poorest countries by the year 2000. The campaign was successful, leading to the cancellation of more than \$100 billion of debt owed by 35 countries and is a fantastic example of the power of a jubilee year.

Examination results

Before I end, I just want to take a moment to congratulate the students that have just completed their public examinations they are an absolute credit to their families and to the school. The GCSE, A-level and vocational results are excellent once again this year. At GCSE 88% of students passed both English and Maths and we had phenomenal outcomes in all subject areas. These are quite incredible outcomes and reflect the superb work of our young people and the commitment of our teachers and support staff in their vocations.

I have recently been sent a magnificent book about Bishop Richard Challoner. Within the book it describes Richard Challoner as “a man of great hope”. He lived in a time where if you were Catholic you had to celebrate Mass in secret and, as a priest, you often had to remain in hiding. A very different time to what we experience in this country today.

I wish all of our young people the very best for this academic year and look forward to celebrating in their successes in the weeks and months to come.

So, Challoner himself lived in great hope because he knew that hope would help him to give service to others especially those most in need. Richard Challoner is a wonderful example of the power of hope in our lives and we all need a bit of hope at times. He achieved his mission, at times against the odds, and lived out his life in a remarkable way and I am confident our school community will live out the Year of Hope with the same dedication and commitment Challoner had.

My prayers and best wishes to our whole school community for the year ahead.

Dr Coughlan
Principal

Open Evening

To facilitate Open Evening on Wednesday 18th September school will finish at 1.15pm. On Thursday 19th September students should arrive for registration at 11am.

If your child has been handed a letter to help out on the evening please ensure you consent via Schoolcomms.

Year 11 student guides also need consent via Schoolcomms.

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 18th September, 6pm - 8.30pm

Click here to book your tickets

Pastoral Staffing

Staffing for 2024/2025 is detailed below-

Standards for Learning Intervention Lead- Mrs Jethwa

Head of Year 7- Miss Lloyd

Assistant Head of Year 7- Miss Williams

Head of Year 8- Miss Hunter

Assistant Head of Year 8- Miss Manning

Head of Year 9- Mr Brade

Assistant Head of Year 9- Miss Sadler

Standards for Learning Intervention Lead- Mr Clarke

Head of Year 10- Mrs Whelan

Assistant Head of Year 10- Mr Knowles

Head of Year 11- Miss Shirley

Assistant Head of Year 11- Mr Khitab

Head of Sixth Form- Mr Mullins

Head of Year 12- Mrs McGowan

Head of Year 13- Dr Osborne

Important Letters to Read

Please visit our Latest News section of the website, by [clicking here](#), to view important letters. Please take the time to read them. Thank you for your support.

Letter from Bishop Challoner Catholic College

Letter from Birmingham City Council

5 Foundations Attendance Practice

Open Evening - Changes to the school day

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.

Free School Meals

Have you checked to see if you are eligible (It only takes 5 mins). Check today!

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham>

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.

TESCO Tokens for Breakfast Club

Please collect and deposit the blue tokens when shopping in any of the following TESCO stores to vote for Breakfast Club at Bishop Challoner Catholic College:

Hall Green Stratford Express, Small Unit, B28 8AB

Hall Green, Large unit, B90 3LU

Kings Heath Birmingham Express, Small unit, B14 6EB

Robin Hood Birmingham Express, Small unit, B28 0LG

Birmingham Alcester Exp, Small unit, B47 5PN

Back to School Advice from West Midlands Police

West Midlands Police have issued some safety advice for children and parents/carers as we start the new school year. It is particularly aimed at our new Year 7s, but contains sensible advice for all young people and their parents/carers.

Here are some tips to help keep your child safe:

Discuss safe routes and travel plans

- Plan the route: If you can walk or drive the route. Point out safe places they can go if they need help, such as shops.
- Buddy system: Encourage your child to walk to and from school with a friend or a group whenever possible.
- Avoid shortcuts: Teach them to avoid shortcuts through alleys, parks, or isolated areas.
- Public transportation: If they take the bus, remind them to stay in well-lit areas and to avoid distractions like using their phone or listening to music with both earbuds in. Do they know a back-up route in case their usual bus is cancelled?

Talk to them about what to do in an emergency:

- Stranger danger: Remind your child never to talk to or accept lifts from strangers. Have a code word that only you and they know, which someone can use if you need to send someone else to pick them up.
- Emergency Contacts: Make sure your child knows how to reach you and another trusted adult in case of an emergency.

Look after valuables:

- Encourage your child not to bring valuable items or large amounts of money to school.
- Switch on phone location: For children travelling alone we recommend location sharing with Life360 | Family Tracking App | Location Sharing & Family Safety

Get to know their new school:

- Familiarise yourself and your child with their teachers, pastoral team, and school safeguarding team. Every secondary school in the West Midlands has an assigned police schools officer.

Report Concerns:

If your child mentions anything suspicious or concerning, take it seriously and report it to the school or to the police.

Online Safety

- Using social media mindfully: Remind your child not to share their school routine or location online. Ensure their social media accounts are private and monitored.
- Cyberbullying awareness: Talk to your child about cyberbullying and encourage them to report any online harassment. If you need to report hate crime: <https://beta.westmidlands.police.uk/ro/report/hate-crime/information/v1/hate-crime/how-to-report-hate-crime/>

Communicate regularly

- Check-ins: Get a good routine going for checking in after school, whether by a phone call, text, or a quick conversation when they get home.
- Stay open: Keep an open line of communication with your child about their day-to-day experiences, any concerns they may have, and what to do if they feel unsafe.

Talking to your child this week, and throughout the year, can help ensure your child has a safe and successful school year. We know sometimes it can be difficult to talk so make sure you set aside enough time, or use videos or news stories to start the conversation.

Our school's officers have produced a short film to help young people stay safe as they move from primary school to secondary school. You can view it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMPirhJCwqE>

The video gives crime prevention advice and tips to young people about safer travel, saying 'no' to vapes, and who they can talk to if you are upset or worried about something.

PSCO Matt and Adam are just two of many officers that visit secondary and primary schools to give talks and interventions around crime regularly across the West Midlands. They understand that moving to secondary school can be an anxious but exciting time for young people and parents so we hope this video will help reduce any worries you may have.

Message Sent By

Helen Thompson

(Police, Communications Manager, Corporate Communications)

Extra-Curricular

We offer a wide range of sports and curriculum based activities before and after school. These activities enrich our students' education by developing their skills and wider knowledge of the subject.

PE Extra Curricular

Clubs will start WK commencing 9th September. Morning clubs start at 7.45am and afternoon clubs start at 3.20pm .

PE will now be doing a Student of the Month, this will be judged on students commitment to the FAITHFUL virtues.

A copy of the timetables can be downloaded from our website by [clicking here](#).

		Times:	Sports Hall:	Dojo:	Study Sessions and other clubs		
MONDAY	745-830		Netball Girls All Years Miss Hunter				
	310-430						Year 11 BTEC Sport PE1 Mr Brade (Week 2)
	430-530						
TUESDAY	745-830		Badminton / Table Tennis Mixed All Years Mr Moon				
	310-430		Football Girls All Years Miss Rigby				
	430-530						
WEDNESDAY	745-830		Touch Rugby Mixed All Years Mr Noone				
	310-430		St Dunstons		Holy Family Mr Carter		DoFE Invitation only Mrs Ellis / Mrs Law
	430-530						
THURSDAY	745-830		Basketball Mixed All Years Mr Brade	Dance Mixed All Years Miss Shirley			
	310-430		Volleyball Mixed All Years Mr Ebrahim		Year 11 BTEC Sport PE1 Mr Wilson (Week 2)	Year 11 BTEC Sport C3 Mrs Law (Week 2)	Year 11 GCSE PE PE1 Mr Moon (Week 1)
	430-530						
FRIDAY	745-830		Football Boys KS3 Mr Wilson				
	N/A						
	N/A						

Eco Club is re-launching this year!

What: A club to join if you are interested and looking after the school and wider environment. We will be working to reduce the school's impact on the planet. Come along on Wednesday 11th September to find out more.

Where: G2

When: Every Wednesday after school

Year 7 Boys Football Trials

Trials will take place on Wednesday 11th September and Thursday 12th September after school in the Sports Hall.

Assembly and Form Resource Focus

This week, all students have been part of our Welcome to the New Year assembly which focuses on our Catholic ethos and how we can be prepared for the academic year ahead. These were led by both Dr Coughlan and our Heads of Year. It is wonderful to welcome back our students into what promises to be another exciting year ahead.

The form resource explored our Standards for Learning Curriculum and the core set of character virtues. The focus for this week was 'Faith-filled', the key message being that we can all lead in Jesus' example and be Faith-filled in our beliefs and hopeful for the future.

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.

Reporting Student 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.

If your child is in Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 please call 0121 444 4161 and select OPTION 1.

If your child is in Year 12 please call 0121 441 6113.

If your child is in Year 13 please call 0121 441 6144

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.

First Aid

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

Please send children into school with a water bottle they can re-fill, it is important children stay hydrated.

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

First Aid and Mobile Phones

Students should not be contacting parents/carers when they feel unwell and requesting to be collected from school. In the event that a student is unwell they MUST go to the First Aider who will deal with them. In the event that 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 Pastoral 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.

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	10am 12noon 6.30pm	5.30pm
St. Jude's	B14 5PE	Fr John Peyton	9.15am	-
Our Lady Of Lourdes	B13 0EU	Canon Sean Grady	9am 11am	6pm
St Catherine Of Sienna	B5 7BE	Fr. Jagadishmario Kurapati (Fr. Mario)	10.30am	5pm
St Edward's	B29 7DB	Fr Denis McGillicuddy	10.15am	6pm
St Mary's	B17 0DN	Fr John Reid	8am/9.30am/ 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	9.45am	6pm
St Chads Cathedral,	B4 6EX	Bishop Tim Menezes	9.30am 11.30am	4.30pm
Our Lady And St Brigid	B31 5AD	Fr Cecil Rogerson	9.00am 11.45am	10am 5pm
Our Lady Of Fatima	B32 1LL	Fr Philip Long Nguyen	9.00am 11.00am	6pm
St Ambrose Barlow	B28 8QU	Fr Paul Johnson	10.00am 5.30pm	5.30pm
The Oratory Of Saint Philip Neri	B16 8UE	Fr Anton Guziel	8.30am 10.30am 12pm 5.30pm	5.30pm
St Peters	B32 3QG	Fr Gary Buckby	9.30am	-
Our Lady And St Rose Of Lima	B29 5DY	Fr Gary Buckby	11am	5.15pm

Prayer and Worship

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

Each week we share our reflection on the school website, you can view it [here](#).

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

Pre-loved Uniform

Thank you to parents/carers that already send in uniform that children have grown out of. If you have any of the following items in good reusable condition that you are willing to donate please bring them into reception and we will look to include them in future pre-loved uniform sales- blazers, pleated skirts, trousers, ties, PE kit (all items), royal blue sweatshirts, maroon sweatshirts. Thank you in advance for your support.

Uniform Standards

Students are required to wear the standard uniform of blazer, tie, white/blue shirt with black straight leg school trousers (not skinny or boot cut) or girls can wear a knee length black pleated school skirt. Girls are also reminded that if they choose to wear a skirt, then they should wear plain, black, opaque tights. Students are reminded that black leather school shoes should be worn and that trainers/trainer style shoes are forbidden.

Please note that school shoes must be kept completely black and boots of any kind are not allowed.

Our uniform requirements are complemented by a smart appearance and as such, hair styles that should not have a distinct contrast in length. Hair that is dyed must be of a natural hair colour and may not contain more than one colour. To avoid a health and safety risk, long hair must not impede vision or cover the face, except for a fringe

which must not cover the eyes. Long hair must be tied up for practical lessons. Religious head coverings must be black and securely tied for practical lessons. Hair bands or accessories must be for functional use to secure the hair. Where hairbands are worn they must be black. Headwear that has religious or cultural purpose should be black. The final decision as to whether a particular haircut/style is appropriate is at the discretion of senior staff.

Make up, nail varnish and jewellery are not permitted with the exception of one pair of plain stud earrings which may be worn.

Students found to be wearing an inappropriate item of uniform may be asked to change this or in some cases parents/carers will be contacted and requested to bring replacement uniform to school.

We appreciate your support in ensuring that standards of uniform and appearance are maintained.

2024-2025 Term Dates

Autumn Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 2 September 2024

Half-term: Monday 28 October 2024 to Friday 1 November 2024

Term ends: Friday 20 December 2024

Spring Term 2025

Term Starts: Monday 6 January 2025

Half-term: Monday 17 February 2025 to Friday 21 February 2025

Term ends: Friday 11 April 2025

Summer Term 2025

Term Starts: Monday 28 April 2025

Half-term: Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025

Term ends: Monday 21 July 2025

Drinks

Fizzy drinks and energy drinks are not allowed in school, if they are seen they will be taken and disposed of. Please encourage your child to bring in a clear bottle of water, there are 2 water stations in school where they can re-fill.

Autumn Term 1

Monday 9th September	Emergency Services Day
Tuesday 10th September - Friday 13th September	Year 13 Slapton Trip
Tuesday 10th September	Year 12 Parent/Carer Information Evening
Wednesday 11th September - Friday 13th September	Student Photos
Wednesday 11th September	Rosary Tea Party
Thursday 12th September	School Parish Mass 11.30am
Friday 13th September	UCAS Early Application INTERNAL Deadline
w/b Monday 16th September	Recycling Week
Monday 16th September	Hairspray the Musical Trip Mass at Oscott College Trip
Tuesday 17th September	Sixth Form Mass Bishop's Got Talent Year 13 Parent/Carer Information Evening
Wednesday 18th September	Open Evening 6pm-8.30pm Early Finish - Please see separate letter Hamper Raffle Rosary
Thursday 19th September	Late start - Please see separate letter Year 8 and 9 Mass Year 10 and 11 Mass