

Message from Mr O'Connor, Senior Vice Principal

"Education is one of the most beautiful and powerful tools for changing the world." — Pope Leo

As we move further into the new academic year and welcome October at Bishop Challoner Catholic College, we do so with a strong sense of purpose, community and faith at the heart of all we do. It has been a positive and purposeful start to the term, with students settling well into their routines, engaging enthusiastically with their learning and embracing the many opportunities available to them. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are particularly focused as they prepare for the year ahead. Our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 7th October also provided our Year 11 students with a valuable opportunity to explore future subject choices and consider the next steps in their educational and career journeys.

At Bishop Challoner, education extends far beyond academic achievement. We are committed to nurturing young people who grow in knowledge, character and faith, developing a strong sense of service and a desire to make a positive difference in the world. Our dedicated staff continue to engage with educational research and develop their teaching practice to ensure that every student benefits from the highest-quality learning experiences, both inside and outside the classroom.

Our extensive extracurricular programme is now in full swing, offering something for everyone, from STEM and chess to volleyball, badminton, reading, science and breakfast club. Sporting fixtures are also underway, with students representing the College in competitive football and netball, alongside opportunities to participate in Catholic Partnership events celebrating PE and sport, chess and STEM. Learning beyond the classroom continues to enrich school life, too. More than 800 students recently enjoyed a fantastic day at Drayton Manor, while others took part in an exciting Mission Control experience with Aston Martin at Silverstone.

Our commitment to faith and service remains central to our identity as a Catholic community. October is Black History Month, and this year's curriculum focus on "Reclaiming Narratives" provides opportunities for students to explore and celebrate Black histories, voices and experiences across all subjects. October is also traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary, with the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary celebrated on Wednesday 7th October. It was particularly uplifting to see our school community come together in prayer to mark this special occasion. A beautiful mini-grotto was created, and students gathered during break times to pray the Rosary, accompanied by music. We are grateful to Astrid in Year 9 and Bailey in

Yr11 for leading the music on guitar, helping to create a truly prayerful and memorable experience.

Our Sixth Form students continue to lead by example through their compassion and commitment to others. They have been preparing yellow ribbons to sell in support of World Mental Health Day and, through our partnership with the Birmingham Irish Association, will be spending time with clients at the Dementia Centre, sharing conversations and playing games. They are also continuing to organise community tea parties for elderly residents in Kings Heath. These initiatives reflect the values we strive to instil in all our young people: kindness, empathy, dignity and service to others.

We are equally proud of the wider school community's generosity. Our Macmillan Coffee and Cake Morning raised more than £250 in support of cancer care, while students are currently collecting winter coats and baby clothes for St Vincent de Paul and St Chad's Sanctuary. These acts of kindness demonstrate how small contributions can make a meaningful difference to individuals and families in need.

As we look ahead, we continue to place great importance on attendance and punctuality. We thank parents and carers for their ongoing support in helping students attend school regularly and arrive punctually. Consistent attendance plays a vital role in students' learning, examination outcomes and future opportunities, ensuring they can make the most of everything the College has to offer.

As Pope Leo XIII reminds us, "The school is the first place where minds are enriched and hearts are shaped by hope." This sentiment captures our shared commitment to providing an education that prepares young people not only for examinations, but also for life. As we approach the half-term break, we encourage students to remain focused and resilient in their preparations for upcoming assessments, to continue upholding our school standards and to look after one another. With the evenings drawing in, we also remind all students to take care when travelling to and from school.

Students will break up for half-term on Thursday 22 October, with Friday 23 October designated as a staff training day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support. Together, guided by faith, strengthened by community and inspired by hope, we can ensure that every young person at Bishop Challoner Catholic College has the opportunity to flourish and make a positive difference in the world.



SIXTH FORM NEWS

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

It was a pleasure to welcome so many prospective students and their families to our Sixth Form Open Evening. The event provided a fantastic opportunity to showcase what makes Bishop Challoner Sixth Form such a special place to learn, grow and prepare for the future.

Visitors had the chance to explore our wide range of A-level subjects, meet our passionate subject specialists and discover the excellent support available to help every student achieve their potential. From our strong academic outcomes to the wealth of enrichment opportunities, leadership experiences and personal development activities on offer, we hope the evening provided a real insight into life at Bishop Challoner Sixth Form.

We are incredibly proud of our students and the ambitious, supportive community they are part of. We look forward to welcoming the next cohort of students as they begin their post-16 journey with us.

Applications are now open!

Please see the link below to apply.

[Admissions](#) | [Bishop Challoner Catholic College](#)

YEAR 9 READING CIRCLE SESSIONS

We have had a fantastic start to our Year 9 Reading Circle sessions! The students have been enthusiastic and engaged, creating a positive atmosphere and showing a real willingness to participate. A huge thank you also goes to our Sixth Form students for their wonderful support, helping to encourage reading, build confidence and make the sessions enjoyable for everyone. It has been lovely to see students working together and sharing their enjoyment of reading!



SIXTH FORM AWARDS

AWARD	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
AMBITION	Sadie B	Ruby P
SERVICE TO OTHERS	India C Abdullah B Gracie O	Regan K
PROGRESSION	Mozhan M	Szymon M Katie R
INDEPENDENCE	Sadie B Elise S Nathan O Layla B	Lucie D Erynn F
ROLE MODEL	Patryk P Millie P	Tulsa S
EXCELLENCE	Maddox C Evie W	Tilly A



Bishop Challoner
Sixth Form College

APPLY NOW

Applications for September 2027
entry are now open!

ASPIRE

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)



YEAR 7 FOCUS

I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce the Year 8 pastoral team. I am Mrs Whelan, Head of Year 8, and I am supported by Mr Khitab, Assistant Head of Year 8. We are both very pleased to be leading and supporting the year group.

We will be working closely with the students throughout their journey from Year 8 through to the end of Year 11, supporting their academic progress, personal development, wellbeing and wider school experience. We are looking forward to working with the students, staff and families to ensure that Year 8 continues to develop into a positive, respectful and successful year group.

The students have made an excellent transition into Year 8. They have settled well into their new teaching groups and have made a strong start to their lessons. It has been particularly pleasing to see many students approaching their learning with enthusiasm and responding well to the increased expectations that come with Year 8. I have been impressed by the positive attitude shown by the year group so far.



There have also been some lovely opportunities for the students to contribute to our wider school community. We recently had a wonderful Mass, and I have been particularly impressed by the number of students who volunteered to read during our mass and assemblies. It was fantastic to see so many students willing to put themselves forward and take an active role in school life.

There is also plenty to celebrate outside of the classroom. Our Year 8 boys' football team have made a fantastic start and are currently winning every game, which is a brilliant achievement. Our girls' rugby team are also doing extremely well, demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination and commitment. It is great to see our students representing the school and taking pride in being involved in school sport.



As we move further into the term, our focus will continue to be on high standards across all aspects of school life. This includes positive behaviour, excellent attendance and punctuality, readiness to learn and making the most of every opportunity available to them. We want Year 8 to develop into a confident, respectful and ambitious year group who take pride in themselves and their school.

We have had a fantastic launch to our Reading Reboot programme this week, with our Year 8 students being amazing and showing real enthusiasm for the new books available to them. There are lots of exciting new titles in the library, chosen especially to encourage students to discover books they will enjoy. Reading is such an important part of school life and can help students to develop their vocabulary, improve their understanding and build confidence across all subjects. Most importantly, we want students to discover that reading can be something they genuinely enjoy and look forward to.

YEAR 7 EARLY REVIEW EVENING

We were delighted to welcome our Year 7 parents and carers to our Year 7 Early Review Evening. This was a valuable opportunity to reflect on how students had settled into secondary school, celebrate their progress and discuss how we could continue to support them as they moved forward.

The evening provided parents and carers with the opportunity to meet with teachers, discuss their child's progress and find out more about their experience in Year 7 so far. We valued the opportunity to work together with families to ensure our Year 7 students continued to thrive.

To view the presentation please follow the link: <https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/parent-information>

Y10 INFORMATION EVENING

Last Wednesday, the Year 10 Pastoral Team welcomed parents and carers to an Information Evening covering key dates and expectations for the KS4 journey. Miss Manning highlighted the importance of establishing strong routines, effective study habits and organisation, alongside practical revision strategies to support learning and prepare for GCSE examinations.

Mr Clarke emphasised the importance of wellbeing and mental health, signposting families to support available both in school and online. Attendance and punctuality were also highlighted as key factors in success. Finally, Mrs Newton outlined the compulsory Year 10 summer work experience programme, encouraging families to begin seeking placements early.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with parents feeling more confident in supporting their children through KS4. Key information will be shared with families who were unable to attend.

To view the presentation please follow the link: <https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/parent-information>

Y11 INFORMATION EVENING

We were delighted to welcome our Year 11 parents and carers to our Year 11 Information Evening. The event provided a valuable opportunity to share key information about the year ahead, highlight the importance of preparation and organisation, and explore how students could be supported as they worked towards their GCSE examinations.

The evening offered parents and carers guidance on the expectations for Year 11, the support available to students and practical ways to encourage effective revision and independent learning at home. We valued the opportunity to work in partnership with families to help our Year 11 students feel confident, prepared and supported in achieving their full potential.

To view the presentation please follow the link: <https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/parent-information>



STUDENT REWARDS

MOST POSITIVE LOGS		
YEAR GROUP	W/B 21/09/2026	W/B 28/09/26
YEAR 7	Jael S T Lilah Jade B Omar Y Aoife K James T Finn D Renesme L Florence G Skylar N Rute A Jerric J Joseph F	Elizele B Enya B-T Skylar N Florence G Alfie HF Omar Y James T Emily O'K Vianne W Jack M
YEAR 8	Oluwatunmise A Moiria C Lily C Emilie O'd Lexi S Adonay K Jakub L Nazar F	Orlaith Ke Orlaith B Conor Cy Lily C Harrison C Eryk B Eden N Joseph A Emmanuel
YEAR 9	Milaan L Keku H Nina B Rosie C Aydin K Mykey C Waleed M	Milaan L Keku H Mykey C Alexander M Jeremiah Od Freddie K
YEAR 10	Mariam H Noah P Jayan W Harry W Anthony T	
YEAR 11	Zaine S	

SPORTS

Thursday 1st October: BC 5 v 3 Wheelers Lane. Player(s) of the match - Freddie H, Oliver S & Alexander N Goalscorers - Alexander N x 3, Crisdean B, Joseph G-B.

A word from the manager - after being 3-1 down at half time to a good Wheelers Lane team, I was impressed with the determination and attitude of the team to turn it around and get the win.

Y8 Boys Football result - Lordswood Boys 1 v 2 BC Player(s) of the match - Oliver S, T. Hall and Alexander N Goalscorers - Oliver S & Crisdean B

Report - After losing twice to Lordswood Boys last year (including in the Semi Final of the cup), the team were determined to put things right. That's now 5 wins out of 5 for the Y8 Boys team.

CATHOLIC LIFE

Pope Leo's prayer intention for October:

For mental health ministry

Let us pray that mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses. Amen

THE FEAST DAY OF THE HOLY ROSARY

Despite the rain, the Peace Garden was filled with song, prayer, and devotion as we gathered during both lunchtimes to sing the Ave Maria and pray the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. We were grateful to have Astrid (Year 9) and Bailey (Year 11) accompanying us on the guitar. Special thanks to Mary and Tajah for preparing the area so beautifully. It was wonderful to see such a strong turnout, and our students continue to be an inspiration through the faith, reverence, and commitment they show each day. Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us.



ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAY THE ROSARY ACROSS THE WORLD

On Wednesday, we joined school children across the world in prayer by taking part in Aid to the Church in Need's One Million Children Praying the Rosary campaign. During morning registration, every form paused to pray the Rosary together. As a school community, we asked Our Blessed Lady to intercede for us as we prayed for peace throughout the world and for an end to conflict, violence, and suffering.



NEW BEGINNINGS MASSES FOR YEAR 11 AND THE SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form celebrated a beautiful Mass to mark a new chapter in the academic year, filled with faith, hope, and a sense of community. Led by Fr Toby, the celebration was enriched by the music ministry of Kaitlyn (Year 13), while Year 12 and Year 13 students played an active role in welcoming the congregation and proclaiming the readings alongside Mr Mullins. It was wonderful to see everyone come together in prayer and fellowship, reflecting the spirit of a community where everyone is valued, included, and welcome. As we begin this new year, we pray that our Sixth Form students will continue to grow in faith, wisdom, and service to others.



YEAR 8 'TEACHING MASS'

Year 8 took part in a Teaching Mass, led by Fr Toby, who guided us through the different parts of the Mass, from the Liturgy of the Word to the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Through his explanations and reflections, Fr Toby helped our students to deepen their



understanding of what happens during Mass and the significance of each stage of the celebration. In particular, he drew attention to the profound mystery of the Eucharist, the holiest of the sacraments, where Jesus becomes truly present to us upon the altar. It was a valuable experience that enabled our young people to grow in both knowledge and faith, helping them to engage more fully in the Church's greatest act of worship. We thank Fr Toby for sharing his time, wisdom, and ministry with us.



Year 11 took full ownership of their Mass, with confident readers, dedicated altar servers, and Bailey leading the music throughout the celebration. Their enthusiasm, reverence, and willingness to serve helped create a prayerful and uplifting atmosphere for all. It is always special and inspiring to see so many students volunteering to take an active and visible role in the liturgy. Through their participation, they demonstrate leadership, commitment, and a genuine witness to their faith, enriching the celebration for the whole school community.



WEEKLY MASSES WITH ST DUNSTAN'S PARISH

We are delighted to continue celebrating Mass with St Dunstan's Parish each Thursday morning at 11.30am. Throughout the year, every teaching group will have the opportunity to attend and participate in a parish Mass, strengthening the bonds between our school and parish communities. Parents and carers of the classes attending will receive invitations through School Gateway. It is always lovely to welcome families to these celebrations and to see students, staff, parishioners, and families coming together in prayer..

Student CHARITY NOMINATIONS

Thank you to all the students who nominated a charity for us to support through our fundraising efforts this year. Inspired by our student-led assemblies, many members of our school community took the opportunity to think about how they can make a difference in the lives of others. The nominations have now been passed to Dr Coughlan and the Governors, who will consider them carefully before producing a shortlist. With so many worthy causes nominated, this will not be an easy decision.

CHAPLAINCY COMMISSION MASS AT ST CHAD'S CATHEDRAL

Ellen and members of the Student Chaplaincy Team joined chaplaincy teams from across the Archdiocese last week to celebrate the annual Chaplaincy Commissioning Mass with Bishop Timothy Menezes. It was wonderful to be part of something bigger, gathering with young people who are committed to living



out their faith and serving others. In his inspiring homily, Bishop Timothy reflected on how chaplaincy continues Christ's work by noticing those in need and sharing our faith through both prayer and practical action. He challenged us all to think of one person who particularly needs our prayers at this time.

The Mass was made even more special as it took place on the Feast of the Archangels: St Michael the Protector, St Raphael the Healer and St Gabriel the Messenger. Their example reminds us of God's presence, guidance and care in our lives. After Mass, everyone gathered in the Grimshaw Room to celebrate together with doughnuts, cookies and the opportunity to share their experiences of chaplaincy. It was a joyful occasion and a wonderful affirmation of the important role chaplaincy plays in our schools and communities.

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	Parish Priest	Sunday Mass Times	Saturday Vigil Mass Time
St. Dunstan's	Fr John Peyton	11.30am, 5.30pm	4pm
St. Jude's	Fr John Peyton	10am	-
Our Lady Of Lourdes	Canon Sean Grady	9am, 11.30am	6pm
St Catherine Of Sienna	Fr. Jagadishmario Kurapati (Fr. Mario)	11am	5.30pm
St Edward's	Fr Denis McGillycuddy	10.15am	6pm
St Mary's	Fr John Reid	11am, 5pm	6pm
Sacred Heart and Holy Souls	Canon Jonathan Veasey	8.30am, 10am, 12noon	5pm
English Martyrs	Fr Robert Murphy	8.15am, 10.30am	6pm
St Chads Cathedral	Very Rev Canon Brian McGinley	9.30am, 11.30am	4.30pm
Our Lady And St Brigid	Fr Cecil Rogerson	10am, 5.30pm	5pm
Our Lady Of Fatima	Fr Philip Long Nguyen	11am	6pm
St Ambrose Barlow	Fr Paul Johnson	10am, 5.30pm	5.30pm
The Oratory Of Saint Philip Neri	Fr Anton Guziel	7.30am, 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.15pm, 5.30pm	5.30pm
St Peters	Fr Gary Buckby	8.45am	-
Our Lady And St Rose Of Lima	Fr Gary Buckby	11.30am	-
St John and Martin's	Fr Baburao Pureti	9.30am	4pm
Ss Joseph and Helen with St Paul's	Fr Barry	9am (SS J&H), 11am (St Paul's)	5pm (Ss Joseph and Helen)

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD

As we came to the end of the Season of Creation, our form-time prayer service invited students to reflect on why, as Catholics and members of a community of faith, we have a responsibility to care for God's creation: our planet and all living things. We explored how people of different faiths are also called to care for creation and identified the many values we share in our commitment to protecting the world around us. Students reflected on how living out Catholic Social Teaching can help to make the world a better place, particularly through caring for the vulnerable, being good stewards of God's gifts, and working together for the common good. The service reminded us that care for creation is not simply an environmental issue but a living expression of our faith. By making small changes in our daily lives and showing concern for others, we can play our part in building a more just, compassionate, and sustainable world. Thank you to Monty, Violet, Amadou, Jamie, Isabella, Avani, Florence, Orlaith and Riley for leading the service.



Today, we celebrate the feast day of St John Henry Newman, affectionately known as one of Birmingham's saints. Our Year 7 Faithful Ambassadors, Troy, Theodore, Dominic, Florence G, Kaiden, Tyler, James T, Lily, Kimarnie and Florence, led the school in a prayer service based on the life and work of St John Henry Newman. We listened to the story of Elijah, who searched for the Lord and discovered Him not in the wind, earthquake, or fire, but in a gentle whisper. This invited us to reflect on how we can find God and listen to His voice in the quiet moments of our own lives. As part of our response, we reflected on Newman's powerful words: "God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another."



We considered the unique gifts and talents that God has given each of us and how we are called to use them in the service of others. Like St John Henry Newman, we are each called to live with purpose, to listen carefully to God's voice, and to respond faithfully to the mission He has entrusted to us. St John Henry Newman, pray for us.

WINTER COATS AND BACKPACK APPEAL

We have launched our Winter Coats and Backpack Appeal as part of our commitment to living out the Gospel in practical ways. Inspired by Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel, "I was naked and you clothed me", we are reminded that our faith is not only something we believe, but something we put into action.

As Christians, we are called to treat others as we would treat Christ Himself. By showing mercy, kindness, and compassion to those in need, we draw closer to Christ and help to build a community of care and dignity for all.

If you have any winter coats, warm clothing, or rucksacks that are no longer in use, please consider donating them. Donations can be sent into school, where Ellen will collect them in the chapel. Thank you for supporting this appeal and helping us to put our faith into action by serving those most in need.

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)



Y13 FIELDTRIP - SLAPTON LEY

Our Year 13 Biology students thoroughly enjoyed their field trip to Slapton Ley, developing their practical skills and applying their classroom learning through ecological fieldwork. The students were excellent throughout, demonstrating enthusiasm, teamwork and a real commitment to their studies. They were a true credit to Bishop Challoner, with centre staff commenting on how conscientious, polite and respectful they were. We were incredibly proud of the way they represented our Sixth Form community.



RESEARCH SURVEY

A member of staff within the Archdiocese is undertaking research as part of a PhD and is keen to hear the views and experiences of parents and carers whose children attend Catholic primary schools. The research is a survey which should take no longer than 5 minutes.

The findings from this research will be used to help enhance and support Catholic education, so we would be very grateful for your participation. Parents and carers of all faiths, and those of no faith, are warmly encouraged to take part – your views and experiences are important.

Participation is entirely voluntary, and consent can be withdrawn at any time.

To find out more and take part, please click here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/YcKE9XC8vC>

Thank you for supporting this valuable research.

VOLUNTEER IN OUR SEND DEPARTMENT – JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Are you interested in making a positive difference by supporting and encouraging our young people in a caring, inclusive environment? Our SEND Department is looking for enthusiastic, compassionate volunteers to support our students and staff.

Share your time, skills and compassion while helping students develop confidence, independence and a love of learning.

Whether you have SEND experience or simply a passion for supporting young people, we would love to hear from you. "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40

All volunteering is subject to appropriate safeguarding checks, including a DBS check. For more information, please contact: send-enquiries@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

SCHOOL FUND

We are very grateful for the continued support that our families give to the school.

This year, we are introducing a voluntary Parental School Fund and are asking families, where they are able, to consider making a contribution of £15 per term.

Money raised through the fund will be used to enhance the opportunities and resources available to our students. This may include additional equipment and resources for subject areas, enrichment activities and support towards minibus and transport costs for wider opportunities and activities.

We recognise that family circumstances are different and want to be clear that all contributions are entirely voluntary. There is no obligation to contribute and no student will be disadvantaged if their family does not make a contribution.

Contributions can be made through School Gateway, either as £15 per term or £45 for the full school year. Families are also welcome to contribute a different amount if they wish. Every contribution, whatever the amount, will help us to provide additional opportunities and resources for our students.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school.

ASSEMBLY UPDATE

Over the past two weeks, our assemblies have encouraged students to reflect on the importance of community, belonging, wellbeing and looking out for one another.

Last week, we launched Black History Month 2026, exploring its importance as an opportunity to celebrate the contributions and resilience of Black communities, raise awareness and promote inclusion. This year's assembly focused on "Honouring Our Communities", recognising people whose everyday contributions have helped strengthen the communities around them.

Students learned about two people with particularly strong links to Birmingham: Eunice McGhie-Belgrave MBE, whose community work promoted pride, peace and unity, and photographer Vanley Burke, whose work has documented the lives and experiences of Black communities across Birmingham. We also reflected on how Black History Month connects with our Faithful Virtues, encouraging our students to listen, understand, seek truth, support others and stand up for justice. There will be further opportunities to celebrate this year's theme across curriculum time over the next two weeks, with some exciting competitions to take part in.

This week, our focus has moved to World Mental Health Day, which takes place on 10 October. Students were reminded that experiencing a range of emotions is completely normal and considered the practical steps we can all take to support our wellbeing.

Students completed a Mental Health MOT, thinking privately about their sleep, opportunities to talk, time offline, current pressures and where they would seek support. We also explored whether our phones leave us feeling connected and relaxed or worried, left out and overwhelmed, encouraging students to become more aware of how their online habits affect their wellbeing.

The assembly concluded with a simple challenge for the week: NOTICE how you are feeling, CHECK IN with somebody else, LISTEN without judgement, CONNECT with others and SPEAK to a trusted adult when something is worrying you. This was linked directly to our Faithful Virtues: being Attentive means noticing, being Helpful means acting and being Truthful means being honest about how we feel.

To continue this important message, we will also be supporting #HelloYellow, with yellow ribbons being sold in school to raise funds for YoungMinds, alongside a KS3 lunchtime wellbeing event in the library.

FORM TIME UPDATE: LIVING OUT OUR FAITHFUL VIRTUES

Over the past two weeks, our form-time programme has continued to develop our Standards for Learning Curriculum, helping students understand how our Faithful Virtues can be demonstrated through the everyday choices they make both in and beyond school.

Last week, students explored what it means to be Helpful. They considered how being helpful is about noticing when someone needs support and choosing to act without expecting anything in return. Students discussed practical ways they can demonstrate this in the classroom, across our BC community and beyond school – from helping a classmate and listening to a friend to supporting charity activities and contributing positively to their local community.

Students were also introduced to Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon as an inspiring example of Helpful in Action. Through her work co-founding Stemettes, she has used her knowledge and success to open opportunities for girls and young women in STEM, demonstrating that helping others can also mean giving them the confidence and opportunities to succeed for themselves.

This week, our focus has moved to Forgiving. Students have explored forgiveness through our Catholic faith, reflecting on Jesus' teaching about forgiveness and recognising that everyone makes mistakes. They have considered what Forgiving in Action looks like: accepting a genuine apology, saying sorry when we are wrong, letting go of grudges, giving people another chance and choosing kindness rather than retaliation. Importantly, students were reminded that forgiveness does not mean accepting behaviour that is harmful or repeatedly unkind, and that they should always seek support from a trusted adult when needed.

Our contemporary role model this week has been Malala Yousafzai, with students considering how she chose to respond to adversity through peace, compassion and positive action rather than allowing anger to define her purpose.

Through these weekly activities, we want our students not simply to know our virtues, but to live them. Students are encouraged to recognise these qualities in one another, while staff continue to celebrate examples of our Faithful Virtues through positive Class Charts logs.



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.) Mrs Peckover is the Senior DSL.

FIRST AID INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES

All medication must be handed into First Aid and must not be carried by students. Exceptions are EpiPens, asthma inhalers and insulin. Tranexamic acid may be permitted in special circumstances.

Please ensure we have up-to-date medical and emergency contact information. Notify First Aid via the school enquiries email or main school telephone number if your contact details or your child's medical circumstances change.

Students should bring a refillable water bottle to school. Water stations are available, or drinks can be purchased from the canteen.

STUDENTS WITH ASTHMA

All students with an Asthma diagnosis must be provided with an in date inhaler to school this must be carried on their person and provided for all trips and offsite activities.

Any child with an Asthma diagnosis must have an annual review and a care action plan provided to school by their doctor or Asthma nurse.

Please check with your doctor they have an actual Asthma diagnosis and provide the care plan to school.

Students with asthma must carry their own inhaler, including on off-site activities and school trips.

Parents/Carers of students with allergies must provide antihistamine medication to First Aid. Students with anaphylaxis must have antihistamine in addition to their EpiPen.

We do not provide liquid paracetamol, such as Calpol. If your child cannot take tablets, please provide clearly labelled Calpol to First Aid. This will be stored securely for your child's use only.

If your child has not got a diagnosis or no longer needs an asthma review and does not need to carry an inhaler, once checked with your doctor, please inform the school via email to; enquiry@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk, or send a letter for the attention of first aid and we can amend our medical records accordingly.

In order for students to participate safely with offsite activities including PE fixtures, PE lessons and trips the correct medication and care plan must be provided.

AUTUMN TERM 1	
Every Tuesday	Rosary
Every Thursday	Community Mass - 11.30am
Tuesday 13th October	Dementia Cafe Trip KS3 Information Evening Year 12 Criminology Crown Court Visit
Wednesday 14th October	PSG vs Man City Trip
Thursday 15th October	Year 13 Early UCAS Deadline
Friday 16th October	Year 12 Law Crown Court Deadline
Tuesday 20th October - Wednesday 21st October	Y7-10 Sponsored Sports Event
Tuesday 20th October	Year 8 Girls Cyber Event
Wednesday 21st October	Year 8 Virtual Work Experience Day
Thursday 22nd October	Last day before half term
Friday 23rd October	Staff INSET School closed to students



SCHOOL YEAR 2026 TO 2027

AUTUMN TERM 2026

Half-term: Monday 26 October 2026 to Friday 30 October 2026

Term ends: Thursday 17 December 2026

SPRING TERM 2027

Term starts: Monday 4 January 2027

Half-term: Monday 15 February 2027 - Friday 19 February 2027

Term ends: Thursday 25 March 2027

SUMMER TERM 2027

Term starts: Monday 12 April 2027

Half-term: Monday 31 May 2027 to Friday 4 June 2027

Term ends: Tuesday 20 July 2027

INSET DAYS

Friday 23 October 2026

Friday 18 December 2026

Wednesday 3 February 2027

Friday 30 April 2027

Wednesday 21 July 2027



ATTENDANCE **STREAK**



**EVERY DAY COUNTS.
BUILD YOUR STREAK!**



**PHONES AWAY
DURING THE DAY**



Inclusive Multi-Sport Festival!

Friday 30 October, 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm
Billesley Tennis and Fitness Centre,
Birmingham, B13 0ST

Join us for a fantastic day of inclusive
sport and activities!

An inclusive sport festival for D/deaf,
disabled and neurodivergent children
and young people aged 5-25 years.

All abilities are welcome and sessions
are adapted to the group's needs. Sign
up now to book your spot!

The event is free and welcome to all.



www.AccessSport.org.uk
Registered charity no. 1156819

