

BC News



YEAR OF CELEBRATION

Summer 2023



www.bishopchalloner.org

A Message from Dr Coughlan, Principal

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are approaching the end of another vibrant and hardworking year for the school. There has been an incredible amount happening across the school as you will see in the detailed newsletter that follows. It has been a great academic year.

Next academic year we will be celebrating 70 years of Bishop Challoner and our Platinum Jubilee. Plans are already being formed to mark this occasion and there will be plenty of opportunities for past and present members of our school community to celebrate, including a special evening of remembrance next spring. We give thanks for this academic year and for the many years of success of the school.

In June we hosted a special event for National Thank a Teacher day and I am thrilled to inform parents and carers that Miss Zenkic in the Computing department has won a Silver Award as part of the Pearson National Teaching Award in the category of best Early Career Teacher. This is an incredible achievement and Miss Zenkic travelled down to London last week for a special celebration event. There is still a strong chance that Miss Zenkic might obtain the gold award and this will be announced on The One Show in November.

In June we invited a senior delegation from the Department for Education to visit the school, observe computing lessons, speak with key senior and middle leaders and members of our Computing Hub team. The delegation also attended our Computing fair that was superbly put together by Mr Ebrahim. At the end of the day our visitors described it as “the best school visit they had ever done in 25 years” – a tremendous accolade for our students, Mr Ravenscroft and our Computing team.

In May, we had a day of celebrations to honour the King’s Coronation. King Charles himself made an appearance having photos taken with students and staff! The school was awash with bunting and coronation themed cupcakes! In March, a small contingent of students and staff attended a very special Commonwealth Celebration event at Westminster Abbey in the presence of the Royal Family. One of our students, Cameron, decided he would write to HRH King Charles to thank him for the event. Cameron was delighted to receive a signed letter in reply which he brought into school to share with staff.

Our students have always had a strong sense of social justice and they continue to support our charitable fundraising efforts for St Chad’s Sanctuary. We have held cake sales, ice cream sales, competitions, sports events, the list goes on. We have continued to attend the local Dementia Café and to host the Wednesday afternoon Tea Parties for local

parishioners with record number attending. Currently, we are collecting items for our local foodbank ahead of the summer holidays which is often an extremely challenging time for many families.

In recent weeks, we have supported National Refugee week across the school. Lessons were tilted to explore the theme of refugees and numerous examples of excellent learning activities were seen across the school; they were fantastic examples of our faith being lived out through the curriculum. As a school we are continuing to work towards becoming a School of Sanctuary.

Just last week we held a creativity week with subject areas taking the opportunity to explore some more unusual activities. We also have a planned Excellence Exhibition in the autumn term to showcase work across the school. There are so many wonderful examples of pupils fulfilling their potential, day in and day out, in the work they undertake and we want to take a moment to pause and celebrate this work.

It has been another great term for science and STEM. Mrs Coley has done an exceptional job coordinating Science Week across primary schools within the Tolkien Cluster. Mrs O’Connor, together with our student STEM ambassadors, led a brilliant STEM fair for year 5. We also hosted a two-day national science conference for teachers and other educators at Bishop Challoner.

This time last year we secured £100,000 of funding to refurbish a number of our science labs through the Wolfson foundation; all credit to Dr Osbourne who led the bid. The labs are now complete and being used by students. In June we welcomed Professor Turner and his team from the University of Birmingham into school to lead a number of very engaging science experiments with our pupils to officially open the labs. It was a huge success and the students involved had a great experience.

Another exam season has come and gone. Our students have been magnificent and it is clear how hard they have prepared for these exams. They have shown such incredible resilience, determination and character in their preparations; I am sure their families will be incredibly proud of them. We sincerely hope they achieve the grades they deserve given their undoubted efforts and look forward to seeing their results in the summer.

I would like to thank parents and carers for all their efforts in ensuring our students regularly attend school. Pupil attendance levels remain a significant national challenge for all schools and will likely remain so in a post-covid world.

The trophies continue to pile up. Our Year 7 girls' football team won the West Midlands cup. Our Year 9 boys' team won the Birmingham cup at Villa Park and the Kings Norton Cup. We have won several Catholic School games awards as well. We hosted another very successful sports day in Solihull with a number of long-standing school records being broken.

Our KS3 students once again represented the school superbly as the ball crew at the Birmingham Classic tennis event at the Priory. This is such a wonderful opportunity for our students and we have been the ball crew for many years for this event. This year students met Venus Williams and many a selfie was taken. A big thank you to Mr Wilson, Miss Shirley and Miss Mayor for their incredible work preparing students for this event. Over Easter, a number of our KS4 and KS5 students were sent to Coventry to be the ball crew for the Billie Jean Cup. It is incredible to think that our students are getting the chance to shine on centre stage with sporting legends.

This summer, Birmingham is hosting the Birmingham Festival 2023 to mark the one-year anniversary of the Commonwealth Games, celebrating the city's creativity, as a sign of its ongoing commitment to funding. In the evenings local organisations are given central stage at Centenary Square. Thanks to the Birmingham Irish Association, Bishop Challoner students will be leading one of these events with Eva playing a Birmingham favourite on the drums, Oscar will be entertaining on guitar, AJ will recite some of her amazing poetry and host the event!

Students from Challoner have visited many parts of Europe this term. They have been to Berlin, Calais, Paris and Porto. In addition, groups of students have visited, Bletchley Park, Slapton Sands, Soli House, Carding Mill Valley, the Black Country Museum, Lickey Hills, Alton Castle and there have been multiple visits to local Universities. As a school we pride ourselves on providing these opportunities and see them as an intrinsic part of the fabric of our school.

Bishop Challoner has always had a strong national reputation for its support work and collaboration with other schools. The school is one of a small number of organisations nationally to be accredited to train teachers from September 2024. Staff across the school are making significant contributions to the development of subject-themed training programmes. We are truly blessed to have so many staff working at national level on major projects including our Maths Hub, Science Learning Partnership and Computing Hub which continue to lead outstanding work across the West Midlands supporting hundreds of schools. This term we have hosted another highly successful internships programme with over 100 interns attending schools across the region and engaging in outstanding CPD delivered by Challoner staff. The Department for Education also came to visit the programme last week to see how we had recruited so many interns and also to observe the outstanding programme we offer.

We have a small number of staff moving on at the end of this academic year for promotions and retirements and I thank each and every one of them for the great support they have offered our community during their time with us. They will be sorely missed by everyone within the Challoner family and I thank them for everything they have contributed to our wonderful school.

I wish you all a very restful summer and thank you all for the support you have given across this academic year.

I hope you enjoy reading our summer newsletter.

Dr J Coughlan

Principal



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Social Sciences	@BCSocSciDept
Biology	@BCCbio
Sixth Form	@BCCCSix
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1-1 Maths	@BC11M1maths
Central Maths Hub	@centralmathshub
Central Midlands SLP	@CentralMidSLP
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Catholic Life

It has been an exceptionally busy summer term and we are delighted with all that is happening in our community to enhance The Catholic Life of our community.

Form Saints

During the summer term we have focused our attention on promoting our form saints and giving students the opportunity to celebrate the lives of their saints and to consider how their examples can inspire our lives today.

Across all key stage 3 form, students have designed and led assemblies on their form saint and have presented these assemblies to their year group. Each assembly helped students to learn more about the life of their saint and to leave students with a going forth message showing how their saint can inspire our lives today.

Furthermore, we have linked up with the Design and Technology department to collaborate on providing students with the opportunity to design badges and plaques for their saint, which students have been wearing proudly and also displaying in their form rooms. We look forward to further developing our work on our form saints as we move into the new academic year.



Some very proud students in Year 8 wearing the pewter cast form badges they have designed and made! Each celebrating the life at one of our form Saint.



Prayer & Worship

Prayer and worship remains at the forefront of all that we do and we continue to strive to provide powerful moments for students to develop their prayer life and to 'Praise God' in accordance with our school motto 'Laus Deo'.

We were delighted to gather together as a community to celebrate the feast of The Ascension and we have enjoyed taking time this term to bring students to the chapel and to St Dunstons church regularly to pray and to learn more about The Holy Mass and the significant meaning behind each part of the Mass.

We have found opportunities to take children to church to complete examens, whereby they have time to reflect upon their actions and lives and focus upon how they can live out their potential and be the person God has chosen them to be.

During form time prayer and worship, we have continued to focus on developing our Catholic virtues, where we have been focusing on the virtues of active, curious, intentional and prophetic. Each morning we remind ourselves of these virtues and prayer and reflect upon how we might live out these virtues in our community. Furthermore, we are delighted with the continued confidence our students are developing as they continue to find opportunities to lead prayer and worship in various areas of school life and we look forward to continuing this focus next academic year.

Each morning in Prayer and worship we reflect upon our virtues this half term as we consider what it might mean to live actively this half term

On The Feast of The Ascension, we celebrated Mass together

Students gathered in the chapel today to reflect on the meaning and significance of Mass

Students taking time in church to complete The Examen. Precious time spent in reflection during a busy week.



Promoting Vocations

During this term we have been looking at the meaning and importance of living out our vocation in life. We were delighted to welcome back ex-student and ex-lay-chaplain Niamh Collins, who helped deliver fantastic sessions to our students during their vocations day. Furthermore, our chaplaincy team were highly excited to visit Stuart Bathurst school to lead a vocations day, where they guided students through reflecting upon what it might mean to live a life in accordance with what God wants us to be.



Charity work and outreach

We are delighted with the continued commitment of our students to live out our school mission statement whereby we give 'Glory to God in our service of others'. Students this term have significantly focused on raising money for our whole school charity, St Chads Sanctuary. The community has been buzzing with various activities form across all year groups, where students continue to be a beacon of Catholic social teaching by reaching out and serving others. We are so proud of our sixth form students who continue to lead and organise fantastic tea parties for members of our local community and we look forward to continuing to promote and provide opportunities for our students to develop their leadership skills, alongside their sense of compassion and service as they reach out to help and serve others.

Students from St Cecilia who organised cake sale for our whole school charity



The School Chapel

The school chapel lies at the heart of the school community and we continue to find opportunities to allow staff and students to have opportunities to see the chapel as a place to reflect and find moments of peace. We are delighted with the continued growth of our staff prayer group, who have time on Fridays to prayer, meditate and reflect upon their week in a time of peace and serenity. Furthermore, we love to see students attending rosary clubs, mindfulness and meditation clubs, chapel band practice amongst the many activities provided at break and lunchtimes. Our pause for prayer initiative allows students time to reflect upon how their lessons connect to their own faith journey, whilst our chaplaincy team remain busy designing prayer and liturgy resources and hosting meetings to plan and review Catholic life events.

May liturgy, celebrated with our year 8 students, where students asked Mary to intercede for us.

Students gathered in the chapel to create beautiful art work reflecting upon the Ascension, alongside students gathered in the chapel to celebrate weekly Mass.



The Year of Character

As we enter our final term we are delighted with how our community continues to live out the ethos of our 'Year of Character'. Our wall of character continues to display examples of our students exemplifying our Catholic character traits, with students showing excellence in serving others, being active, showing compassion, developing their talents amongst just a few of the outstanding examples of character on display. We look forward to seeing the wall filled with examples of character as we approach the end of the academic year with what will be a powerful display of celebration of the character of our students.

Well done to all our students who are part of our 'Wall of Character' this year.



Refugee Week

We have been delighted to mark Refugee Week (19th June- 23rd June) in school with a range of lessons and resources designed by all our subject areas. As part of our Catholic Curriculum, Refugee Week has provided us with an opportunity to bring together all our subject areas to focus on promoting compassion and awareness for the plight of refugees, in accordance with living out our mission statement and core Catholic values.

As part of Refugee Week we began each day with prayer and worship focusing on asking God to support refugees through their difficulties and trials, whilst our form resources allowed all students to learn more about why people might become refugees and to consider why, as a Catholic community, we should reach out to support people in difficult situations.

Across the curriculum students were provided with outstanding lessons, where they developed compassion for needs of refugees, whilst looking at the issue through the lens of all the different subjects across the curriculum.

Examples of lessons and work during refugee week:
Prayer focused on reminding ourselves that Jesus was a refugee and our Christian duty to 'Love our neighbour'

Fantastic work in DT. The butterfly symbolises transformation, resilience, hope and freedom.

Geography investigated environmental refugees with Year 7.

Students in RE looked at the work of Open Doors who support Christians fleeing religious persecution

A beautiful prayer wrote by Millie in Year 9.

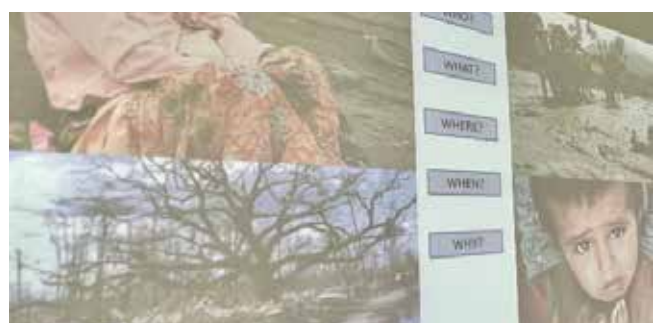
Deanery Priest Meeting

It was a delight to visit Our Lady and St Hubert's church as part of a Deanery priests meeting focused on allowing students to express their vision and thoughts for the future of Catholic schools. Cameron Adams and Aleena Sebastian attended the meeting and spoke passionately about what they think works well in Catholic schools and about what changes could take place to help students develop their faith going forward. This was a powerful event, hearing two young people expressing their views so passionately and sharing with priests examples of how they think schools and parishes can help develop the faith of young people.



My prayer.

- Dear Lord above, we gather here to pray, For those who face persecution day by day. In different lands, their faith they hold dear, Yet suffer hardships, pain, and fear.
- Grant them strength, O God, in their darkest hour, Shield their spirits with your divine power. May their faith remain strong and true, As they navigate trials and hardships anew.
- We ask for wisdom to guide us in this fight, To champion justice and promote what's right. Open hearts and minds to see the light, And work together to end their endless night.
- Let love and compassion be our guiding light, To stand as one against religious plight. Grant us the courage to speak up and defend, The rights of all, until the persecution ends.
- Oh, Heavenly Father, hear our plea, For an end to persecution, let it be. Guide us on the path of understanding and grace. Until all can worship freely in every place.
- In your holy name, we pray, Amen.



Religious Studies

Liturgical Season

We are currently in Ordinary times. During the month of June we give particular devotion to Sacred Heart of Jesus and in the month of July the precious blood of Jesus.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is the image of God's love revealed. The Church was born from the pierced side of Christ, and that the sacraments were brought forth through His Blood.

The Precious Blood which we worship is the Blood which the Saviour shed for us on Calvary and reassumed at His glorious Resurrection; it is the Blood which courses through the veins of His risen, glorified, living body at the right hand of God the Father in heaven; it is the Blood made present on our altars by the words of Consecration; it is the Blood which merited sanctifying grace for us and through it washes and beautifies our soul and inaugurates the beginning of eternal life in it.

Let us pray:
Precious Blood,
Ocean of Divine Mercy:
Flow upon us.
Precious Blood,
Most pure Offering:
Procure us every Grace!
Precious Blood,
Hope and Refuge of sinners:
Atone for us!
Precious Blood,
Delight of holy souls:
Draw us!
Amen.

St. Catherine of Siena

KS3 Summary

Year 7's and 9's have undertaken their P2 and T2 assessments. The outcomes of these have been promising. We are especially proud of their resilience and application of skills (knowledge and conceptual pegs in religious beliefs and teaching, description on what these are and where they come from, explanation on why and how they are applied and analysing opinions weighing them up and considering their impact in behaviour in society) needed to succeed in RE.

In addition to this, we have introduced a segment we call Pause for Prayer which embraces emphasising taking time to reflect on our lives, our faith and our connection with God. It supports spiritual, moral and cultural values. We find poignant moments throughout the schemes of learning to reflect on our faith and mark out some time for prayers, often within our school chapel or the Lady Chapel at St. Dunstan's church.

As always, we root our lessons in upholding dignity and recognising each of us as Children of God. We consider the philosophical questions on what makes 'faith' and consider how it is expressed world-wide.

This summer we have shared in celebration of the amazing qualities, virtues and work our community has created, especially in Religious Education in the Excellence Trail. This whole school project enabled us to highlight outstanding moments in RE.

For example, Crucifixes created by Year 7 as part of a home learning in addition to learning about the Lindisfarne Gospels.

It was a pleasure to be able to showcase elements of our curriculum and dedication to doing our very best as members of the Religious Education Department of learners.



Year 7

This spring our Year 7 cohort has been continuing with the new RECD 2025 content from To Know you more Clearly. The units they have studied include Creation & Covenant, Prophecy & Promise, Galilee to Jerusalem, Desert to Garden. In addition to this, as part of our commitment to developing the whole person of God, we have delivered RSE in RE from a Catholic Lens. Our pupils are now moving into To the Ends of the Earth & Dialogue and Encounter.

This new curriculum reinforces a spiralled approach to each thematic unit which will be revisited in new light and further depth in subsequent year in Key stage Three. This continues to set pupils up for motivation success, building on prior knowledge whilst instilling core values, beliefs and teachings that will continue throughout KS3 and into KS4.

We look forward to continuing to spiral this new curriculum in for year 8 and year 9 over the next two academic years. As we do so, we will continue to reflect on areas that went exceptionally well and those could be developed further.

Please feel free to peruse the curriculum and send your feedback to the head of the department Mrs. K Brown.

https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/schools/religious-education/item/download/80750_410287a8b2519c3bd8c-737c3e7e5fb

For example, we study an artwork or living element of faith in each unit under the Live Section.

We would be delighted to hear which living faith element sparks joy for you.

k.brown@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

Study

Our pupils have studied to date:

Creation & Covenant; RSE – ‘The Person I want to Become’ (delivered through the Ten:Ten provisions as endorsed by the Birmingham Diocese) Prophecy & Promise. We continued our learning journey in Christianity. Pupils have studied Galilee to Jerusalem, Desert to Garden and Ends of the Earth. We will continue to explore Christianity in the final unit Dialogue and Encounter where we learn more about denominations and communities of believers.

Dialogue & Encounter

This has enabled students to reflect on the following:

- What we mean by dialogue & Encounter
- What happened at the council of Jerusalem?
- The Epistles of Paul
- What are ecumenical Church Councils?
- Who are the Eastern and Western Orthodox Churches?
- How did the Council of Trent come about- Lutheran Protestants
- What is an Anglican Christian Community?
- What is iconoclasm and how does it relate to Christian communities?

This unit is an exploration of the history of Christianity. It reflects on Christ at the centre of denominations and recognises the schisms that occurred. We believe this unit will aid our pupils in better understanding what it means to be a community of believers and continue to set them up for life in a multi-faith society.

Living our faith:

Inspired by their lessons, Year Seven girls Jasmine and Mark have created some fantastic religious art during this half term. Jasmine was inspired by her lesson on Eucharistic Art, and went away to create her own piece, exploring why the Eucharist is the ‘source and summit’ of Catholic Life. About her art, Jasmine wrote:

“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day... Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him” – John 6:54-57. It has been said that the Holy Spirit is present when we received the Eucharist. Holy Spirit is represented in the Christian Church through different symbols. One of the many symbols is fire. When the disciples received the Holy Spirit, flames appeared on their head as a sign they were filled with the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit. This energy would help them in the work ahead teaching others about Jesus and encouraging more followers.

Mark painted a stunning portrait of her form’s patron, Saint Bernadette. She then presented this to the rest of year seven during their assembly time, sharing the miraculous story of Saint Bernadette’s visions of the Immaculate Conception.

We are delighted to have been able to inspire such faith amongst our pupils.



Year 8

To date pupils have studied: How do I find happiness & fulfilment? Why might there be suffering? Why are relationships important? RSE- ‘Relationships’ as supported by Ten:Ten and affirmed in the Diocesan directives.

Our Year 8’s are reflecting on morality and its rooting in religious beliefs and teachings. This segment of our curriculum allows for application of prior learning and moving into analysing the choices we and society make today and have historically.

We will then move into our final topic: How is Judaism more than a faith? A foundation that supports three religions, this unit begins with Abraham. Pupils will learn more about Abrahamic faiths and consider the similarities between Judaism and Christianity.

This unit considers the faith, culture and heritage of the Israelites and challenges pupils to reflect on their own views and apply respect and compassion in understanding an Abrahamic Faith.

Year 9

Our Year 9 students have most certainly been exploring philosophical questions throughout their units and especially building on their application of contextualisation, analysis and evaluation throughout. Not only have they considered the constructs of Justice, they have contemplated opinions on the Value of life and God’s existence. Each unit building on different beliefs and applications of justice, dignity and solidarity. This term they continue to evaluate the application of ethics in this thought provoking units.

Our summer term has been devoted to better understanding Abrahamic Faiths starting with an exploration into what makes the Catholic Church unique and moving into our connections with Judaism.

Understanding the magisterium, the nature of the Church, the titles that inspire and inform us of the life that Disciples of Christ lead. It solidifies previous knowledge and understanding and enables us to begin with a more detailed consideration of Catholic Christianity in support for GCSE topics.

Moving into Judaism exploring the culture, history, laws, faith and nature of Judaism, remains rooted in Christian values- supporting appreciation, respect and acceptance of other viewpoints alongside our own understandings.

Living our Faith

We have been blessed to be able to continue living our Catholic Social Teachings through service to God's creation. Our lead teacher Mr Carroll has worked with our Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh pupils throughout the year on their gardening skills.

These dedicated pupils have been weeding and planting up fresh flowers in the peace garden, bringing a bit of life and colour back.

We have also entered the BBC gardeners' world wheelbarrow competition. The students chose a meal that they wanted to grow in a wheelbarrow. This year they came up with the idea of potatas bravas and with help from Mrs. Lynch grew potatoes, tomatoes and onions. We were thinking about the impact of food on the climate so students choose a meal that could be grown entirely here in the UK. Students also used a local charity called Warm Earth that compost local food waste. We used this compost to grow the veg in for our wheelbarrow. Also, all the flowers used in the peace garden were grown in the compost made from a local primary schools food waste. Therefore both our veg and flowers have been growing sustainably.



Synagogue Trip

We were delighted to take a group of 30 pupils to Singers Hilly Orthodox Synagogue in Birmingham during the Summer Term. The pupils were led by congregation member Geoffrey who was delighted to share insights into the facets of a synagogue, Jewish worship and life.



Year 10

We have concluded the first segment of our journey in Catholic Theology for our GCSE. Our exam board is EDUQAS and we are following Route B- Judaism in conjunction with the diocesan support.

The first component, which our pupils have completed, of the curriculum follows Catholic Theology and in addition to the first theme of Origins & Meanings, it builds upon the morality and ethical considerations within our faith and it is called Good & Evil.

This involves students looking at contrasting views in society regarding how evil exists within our world especially at the same time as an all-loving God and what the meaning and purpose of our responses to such evils and suffering could be.

Our year 10 have completed their first Mock examination wherein they practised applying the combination of skills and knowledge to time. They showed resilience and positive attitude to learning. We are pleased with their overall approach to assessments and feel that the results will be promising.

Students are now beginning the World Faith segment of our GCSE where we explore the beliefs and teachings alongside the practices in Judaism. This will include perspectives from different denominations whilst challenging students to consider and analyse with a Catholic perspective in solidarity and contrast where applicable.

Students will explore key concepts such as;

- The nature of God in Judaism
- Prayers and Worship
- Covenants
- Theories on how evil originates & remains
- Creation of the world & expectations
- Holy Days
- Festivals
- Rituals such as Brit Milah, Bar Mitzvah & Marriage

Jesuit Values

Bespoke Additions:

We have been delighted to have been able to offer bespoke lessons on the Jesuit Values.

We specifically highlighted these virtues within our lessons (where applicable) with symbols.



We are looking into rolling this method out into a Careers Model wherein we celebrate the many avenues that studying Religious Education can bring.

During this week of virtue celebrations we aim to put forth the many talents and joys that each of us as Children of God bring.

In Key Stage 3 will be taking time to celebrate these virtues during Creativity Week.

Pupils in key stage three were able to develop a stained glass window (made of Perspex paper), Kites for Peace, and chalk His words beautifully.



KS5

CORE RE

As a part of the diocesan directives we have placed an emphasis on providing highly academic provisions for our pupils throughout their secondary experience. The final directives will be reviewed again by Spring 2025. We have created a bespoke program that reflects on the philosophical, ethical and critical studies through the lens of Religious Studies, especially Catholic Christianity that we believe spark joy in learning, build skills in critical analysis and evaluation and allow for continued social, moral, cultural and spiritual development.

We have studied two components to date; Pacem en Terris and Critical Thinking. We are moving into Morality and Ethics.

As we continue to build this curriculum, we would love to hear your input on topics, scholars, articles, encyclicals etc. that you spark intellectual enthusiasm in yourself and or others. Please share with the head of department: Mrs. K Brown

k.brown@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

Year 13

What an absolute delight to teach! We wish our theologians all the very best in the next chapter of their journey. May they continue to 'aspire to be more'- St. Oscar Romero.

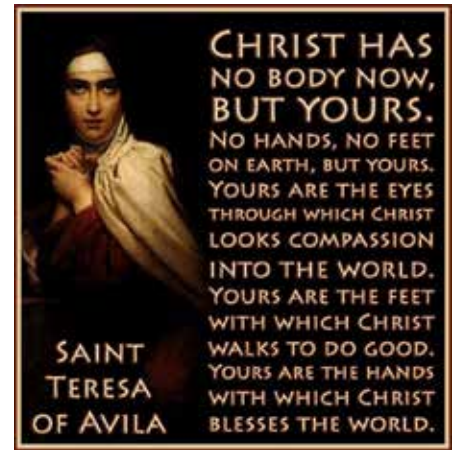
Year 11

We were filled with mixed emotions as our year 11 cohort finished their studies and completed their RE summer examinations.

It was a pleasure to be able to celebrate in a service with them and to see them celebrating during their Prom.

We wish them all the very best on this next chapter of their journey.

We share with them a poem: A Poem we studied this year. A little reminder that each of our choices has an impact, each of our actions makes a difference. Let us use our time on this earth to share the love and joy of Christ.



A Level Religious Studies

Our A-level, Year 12 cohort continues to study their course content with reflection on good study habits as they prepare for and complete a mock examination as part of their preparation for examinations. Class preparation time will be used to guide students towards a successful experience.

Students continue in their two-year course that will ask them to explore issues such as;

Unit 1 = Christianity

- Jesus's birth narratives
- The resurrection accounts
- Different theological and historical views of Jesus
- The nature of God
- Social developments in religious thought (Wealth, prejudice, discrimination, migration)
- Feminist theology
- Liberation theology

Unit 2 = Philosophy

- Arguments for the existence of God
- The problem of evil and suffering
- Responses to the problem of evil and suffering
- Atheism
- Religious language

Unit 3 = Ethics

- Natural Law
- Utilitarianism
- Situation Ethics
- Application of theories to issues such as; abortion, euthanasia, immigration.
- Determinism

This term focused on application of contextual arguments with sufficient evidence of validity, continuing to foster confidence and set pupils up for success.

We believe that the continual development of these skills will significantly benefit students as they go forth in future years to university or careers.

Facilities Hire for Parties and Events

For more info call Laura on
0121 441 6103

Sports Hall:



Meeting Room:



English

Creative Writing Club

During the summer term, Creative Writing Club has continued to run every Thursday afternoon and provides a space for students to practise their creative skills through writing songs, poems, raps, speeches and stories. Following on from our most recent competition entry, we are delighted to have had 4 members of our club published in the Young Writers Power of Poetry: Their Worlds, Their World anthology! Members were given certificates to commemorate their success, and Bishop Challoner was sent a complimentary anthology, which allowed members to read and discuss the incredible works of both their peers and students from across the country. This term in particular, we have welcomed more Year 10 members to the club, which they have found very helpful in the run up to their English Language Mock: an exam heavily weighted towards creative writing. Because of this, we have continued our "Spin the Wheel for a Title" randomisation activities, where students each put forward a key word to be written about, but also shifted focus to picture based activities, mirroring the GCSE style but with a very low stakes approach. Students have put forward their own ideas for pictures, and recently, we have used AI generators to turn ambitious vocabulary into picture prompts, which club members have then written about. The club continues to be inspired by the discussions had by staff at the Reading Teachers, Reading Pupils group. We hope to be able to use the final book Akata Witch to create our own alternative fantasy stories in the final few weeks of term.

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Debate Mate

Since our last report, we have been busy competing in Debate Mate competitions. Bishop Challoner hosted a successful second round of the Urban Debate League, with all schools who attended enjoying the experience. Our teams were excellent representatives of debating at Bishop Challoner! We also entered two teams into the Debate Mate Cup, a full day of debating rounds held at the University of Birmingham. Both teams were fantastic, holding their own against stiff competition from across the Midlands. Cassidy Chapman, one of our Year 10 students, won a prize for the best floor question! Even though our Debate Mate mentors have left for the year, our Year 10 team continue to meet every Friday afternoon to debate for fun, a clear demonstration not only of their excellent work ethic, but also the culture of oracy developed within the department. We look forward to another great year of debating from October!



Book Club

Over the past few months, book club has been reading a book called The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne by Jonathan Stroud. It is an adventure fantasy book that we believed would appeal to many students and it has been well received by our club members. All of our students are from Year 7 and are avid readers, so they originally came to the club with lots of original ideas about the book just based on the cover! It was fantastic to explore these ideas and see how their ideas changed and developed throughout their reading of the text. Throughout the reading, students began discussing their ideas and even lead their own discussions between each other about what they thought would happen. They even began making predictions about the content of the sequel.



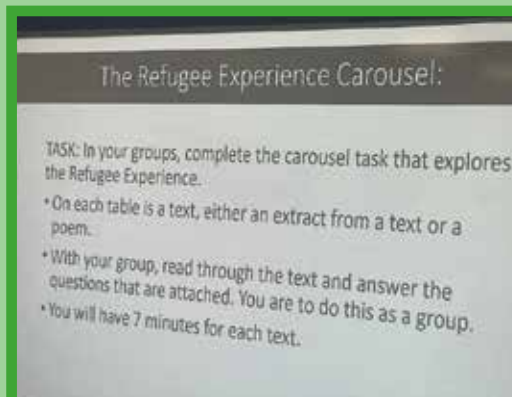
When we had finished the text, asked students to pick their favourite part of the story to make into a cardboard box diorama. After much debate, students picked the final battle scene. Students were able to use their imagination to interpret the scene, the characters, the props, and the events to create their own shoebox world. It took a few weeks to develop and finish the diorama. However, the final creation was a fantastic replica of the story's scene. As a result of their work, the Reading Teachers Reading Pupils initiative have sent a tweet to Jonathan Stroud with an image of the diorama, and hopefully we get a response!

Students have now moved onto another book called The Climbers by Keith Gray. This is the last book they will be reading before summer. Our plan is to write a review of the book that can be used in the promotion of the club next year.

Refugee & Creativity Week

To mark Refugee Week, the department has created a range of tasks for KS3 linking to their current schemes of work. Year 8 have embarked on a mini Media Studies project to cover both Refugee and Creativity weeks, as well as introducing them to the subject before they have to select GCSE options next year. They have been studying methods used in charity adverts before responding to a set brief creating an advertising poster for Refugee Action of their own.

As Years 7 and 9 are currently studying poetry, we have taken the opportunity to study poems connected to the themes of identity, refugee experience, compassion and acceptance. With this year's Creativity Week being centred on the Gospel Virtues, we have selected 'Eloquence' as a natural bedfellow for our department's focus! As such, we are looking forward to Years 7 and 9 using language in creative and inspirational ways, both in written and oral forms, as they write and perform their own poems.



Mathematics

Refugee Week

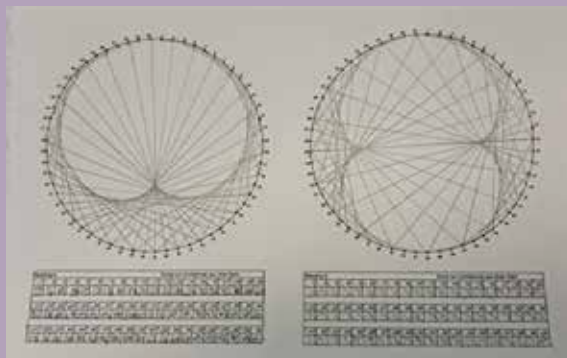
This term, there was a whole school focus on refugee week, and in maths, students in KS3 spent some time researching refugees who, despite the challenges that they faced, became famous mathematicians. The mathematicians they researched were:

- Alexander Grothendieck
- Albert Einstein
- Claus Moser
- Max Born
- Caucher Birkar
- Emmy Noether

The department were blown away by the quality of the presentations produced and they were shared on a whole school level with other teachers and departments.

Creativity Week

During a creativity week Mr Bloxidge led a couple of tasks to celebrate this. The first was a lesson out in the playground, when Y9 students re-enacted the Josephus Problem, and created some wonderful posters explaining this. In addition, students in both KS3 and KS4 spent time creating cardioids; heart shaped images made from straight lines by following a mathematical pattern.



Here are just a few more examples of the work produced by KS3 students during creativity week. Many classes have been practising construction skills using compass rulers, and have created some beautiful patterns. It has been wonderful to add this into our KS3 curriculum.

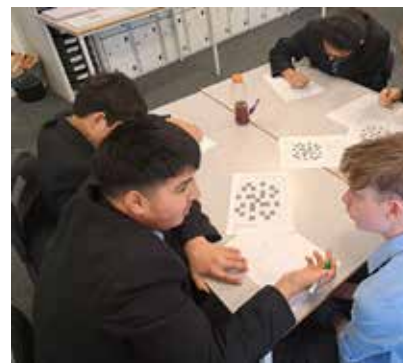
Junior Maths Challenge

Some keen mathematicians in Year 7 and 8 recently sat the "Junior Maths Challenge" - a United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) competition. The results are in, and we are incredibly proud of the students that participated. Our new Year 7 cohort secured 10 bronze certificates, 4 silver certificates and one gold certificate... which was also the best in school! Congratulations to Nigel Tong! He has also qualified for the Junior Kangaroo, which took place on the 14th June. A further 22 students took part in the challenge and will receive participation certificates. Year 8 secured 11 bronze certificates, 7 silver certificates and a gold certificate. Well done to Leon Joseph who got the best in the year group. There will also be 9 students who get participation certificates.



South Area Network Challenge – Year 9

James Bloxidge took two teams of six Year 9 students to Camp Hill Girls School earlier this month, to compete in the Year 9 South Area Network Maths Challenge. Both teams had great fun, and enjoyed the very challenging problems put before them. Whilst neither team won, the students learnt a lot, worked really well together in their teams, and represented the school well. They're now already practicing for the Year 10 UKMT challenges, and the AMSP Maths Feasts!



STEM Fair

The maths department were delighted to organise some activities for the recent STEM Fair. Miss Stone and Miss Humphreys worked with the interns, and a group of keen Year 7s, to deliver the longstanding, and ever popular, Barbie Bungee task. This sees primary students trying to allow Barbie to jump from a great height (3m), with elastic bands as her bungee rope, and try not to let her hit her head! Students also got involved in a town planning activity which uses a co-ordinate grid as a backdrop. Our Year 7s worked for all 11 rotations of the activities and were brilliantly enthusiastic. It was lovely to have a buzz back with feeder primaries coming together, and for the maths department to support the STEM initiatives during science week.



Year 12 Student and Teacher Problem Solving Conference

Twelve year 12 students and two teachers went to King Edward VI School in Aston to be part of the problem solving day there put on by the Advanced Maths Support Programme. Accompanied by teachers and teachers from six other schools, the conference aimed at improving the skills required to tackle challenging mathematical problems and giving exposure to the types of questions that student need to consider at A Level and for the early stages of university courses.

Paris Trip

Last week we have taken Year 8 students accompanied by 6 members of staff to Paris for our annual Maths Study Tour. The trip will included a visit to the largest science museum in Europe – Cite des Sciences - with a dedicated mathematics section as well as a boat tour on the River Seine, a visit to the Montparnasse Tower and a day at Disneyland, Paris. The purpose of this trip was to enhance their mathematical understanding and appreciation through engaging activities and immersive experiences. It was an exciting experience and some fantastic memories were created for our students.

Interns

From 19th June to 7th July, we hosted 9 interns in the department. In their first week with us, the interns observed lessons across all 3 Key Stages and had training on creating retrieval starters and curriculum design. They also met with a Head of Year to discuss pastoral responsibilities. In their second week, the interns started co-teaching starters and to get a flavour of what it is like to deliver to students. They also received training on AfL and Diagnostic Questions, met with a curriculum leaders to talk about her experience and the different routes into teaching, and met with Head of Maths.

On Wednesday 28th June interns supported our own Tolkein Cluster STEM Fair and helped to develop future activities. In their final week, the interns took part in a pilot programme, which saw them receive specialist training which they then put into practice in lesson delivery across various year groups. The feedback from the interns was overwhelmingly positive and we are sure many will go on to enter the teaching profession.

Science

It has been a busy term with our GCSE and A level pupils sitting their exams. A big good luck to them all for their summer results. Staffing-wise, we say good bye to Miss Zsar as she moves onto another school and we also wish her all the best for her summer wedding!

Laboratory refurbishment

Earlier on in the year, Dr Osborne was central in securing a bid for £100,000 which was used to refurbish two laboratories. The pupils now have lessons in modern, bright environments with all the facilities needed to deliver A Level Chemistry. The pictures attached show the updated laboratories:



Year 8 enjoyed a special lesson with visitors from The University of Birmingham to celebrate the launching of the newly refurbished labs this term! Eight scientists from the University Science Faculty visited for the day and delivered an exciting session on polymers and the development of new medicines from natural materials such as seaweed. The students were able to investigate the properties of these materials through exciting practical activities and asked lots of interesting questions! The party from the University included an extra special visitor, Professor Bryan Turner, a Fellow of the Royal Society, and Chair of the Royal Society's Outreach programme who is now interested in creating further links with the school!



Year 7 Science Club

We have continued to run Year 7 science club into the second half of the summer term, with a small group of enthusiastic Year 7 pupils still attending every week. We have been completing a range of investigations and interesting practicals: including taking samples of leaves and observing them under the microscope, making cup and string telephones and launching rockets on the playground. This has been a lovely opportunity for Year 7 to get outside into the sunny weather and engage in science outside of the classroom.



Big Bang STEM Fair Trip

This year 40 Year 7 students from Bishop Challoner attended the Big Bang Fair at the NEC on Wednesday 21st June. The Big Bang Fair was packed full of exciting, interactive activities and that have been designed specifically for 11 to 14 year olds in mind, to provide the best careers inspiration, advice and opportunities to meet with real scientists and engineers.

Students got to take part in a number of fun activities and watch some chemistry in action!

They had an amazing day and managed to bag a few goodies to bring home!



Would you consider sponsoring our termly Newsletters?

If you kindly sponsor us, we will make sure that we advertise your business in our remaining 2 termly newsletters at Easter and Summer. We only require your advert to be sent by email to us and we will do the rest.

If you would like to sponsor our newsletter and support Bishop Challoner, please email:

Gerald Noone g.noone@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk or call on 0121 4444161.

Science Week

26th – 30th June saw another successful Primary Science Week, and an exciting week of collaboration between Bishop Challoner and a number of our feeder primary schools.

Following the success of previous years, science week was a week that involved a combination of online events, practical activities, and a visit to Bishop Challoner for the Year 5 STEM Fair.

In advance of science week, the science department from Bishop Challoner produced resource boxes containing the materials required for each year group from the participating primary schools to participate in a practical science activity, alongside virtual resources with the instructions and information relating each activity to the curriculum. By following @BCSciDept and the hashtag #TalkSci23 on Twitter, it is evident that the pupils had a brilliant time completing these activities!

We hosted two virtual events for the primary pupils to participate in: a live session delivered by the Thinktank Science Museum all about colour and light, called 'Colour me a rainbow', and a careers and Q&A session delivered by two STEM Ambassadors. Both sessions were well attended, and the pupils asked a lot of brilliant, insightful questions to the STEM Ambassadors about their careers.

Perhaps the highlight of the week was the Year 5 STEM Fair at Bishop Challoner, where we hosted 10 teams of Year 5 pupils, who competed in a range of STEM-themed activities throughout the day. The activities were led by Year 7 and 8 pupils representing the Science, D&T, Maths and Computing departments, and the competing teams were able to gain a number of tokens throughout the day depending on how successfully they completed the activities. The day was a huge success, and our Year 7 and 8 helpers were a credit to the school.

To keep track of all of the exciting events, keep an eye on our Twitter feed @BCSciDept and check for posts on #TOLKSCI23



Year 11 mini mocks September

All year 11 will be sitting exams in Biology, Chemistry and Physics between Monday 25th September and Friday 6th October. The papers will last 45 minutes and will be based on paper 1 content taught from January of year 9 and throughout year 10. Specific revision lists for each paper were uploaded onto Classcharts in July so all pupils should have this information.

Revision guides

In September CGP revision guides and workbook bundles will be on sale through Schoolcomms. There is one set of books for each Key Stage so, for example, if you buy books in year 7 you do not need to buy any more books until year 10.

The different books available will be :

Key Stage 3 (years 7-9) : £10

Key Stage 4 (years 10 and 11) Combined Science : £13

Triple Sciences : £24

French

Year 7

This year, all year 7 students have had 5 lessons of French a fortnight and they have learnt all of the basic phrases to be able to communicate in short sentences: from introducing themselves to talking about likes and dislikes. They have also worked on their pronunciation of key sounds in French such as "oi", "un", "qu", "tion", "au" and how to use a liaison. Finally, we have also had a look at basic and vital grammar points such as verb ending with -er verbs in the present tense.

Year 8

Year 8 students have carried on learning French this year and have covered more advanced language. They have learnt to master the pronunciation of some more challenging sounds, such as the liaison (nous_avons, les_enfants, etc.), or the sounds "gn", "ille", "tion", "oi", "qu", "aille", etc. They have also revised how to formulate a question in a formal and informal way. And finally, while learning about food and jobs, they have learnt how to use the perfect tense in French with regular and irregular verbs, and how to use some irregular verbs in the present tense. For example, sortir > nous sortons.

Year 9

In year 9, all students have carried on learning some French language and culture. Some classes followed a slightly different curriculum. Most classes have covered the 4 main topics:

- Family and friends relationship
- Use of new technologies
- Free time food and sports
- Celebrations and festivals

These 4 topics were key to help students to have some ground knowledge of vocabulary and grammar before embarking on studying a language at GCSE.

Creativity week and cultural lessons

In the last few weeks on term, KS3 classes have worked on different end of year projects to celebrate their achievements.

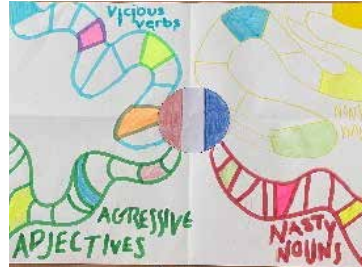
Some groups have worked on creating board games using the French language they have learnt this year. Other have worked on food and doing role plays involving ordering food in a pretend restaurant.

Some year 8 students have worked on the film "Mon Meilleur Ami" and discussed the theme of friendship.

In year 9, some students did some work around the film "Les Choristes" which is the story of a school set in France in the late 40's. Students have been writing their own film reviews about the film.

Some year 8 students have been looking at school life and items of clothing. They have created their dream uniform using IT skills. Some also did an escape room lesson where a pupil had unknowingly stolen the Mona Lisa from the Louvre in Paris and the students had to use their detective skills to read through post cards in French past tense and elicit letters from French clues to piece together the name of the culprit.

Finally in the last 2 weeks of term, we will be learning of Bastille day, 14th July, and the French revolution, as well as learning little more about the Tour de France.



Year 7 Day trip to France

On Friday 23rd June this year, we took 46 year 7 students to the north of France for 24 hours, and we had a blast! The weather was fabulous, all students were beautifully well-behaved. We are very proud of them. The pictures speak for themselves:

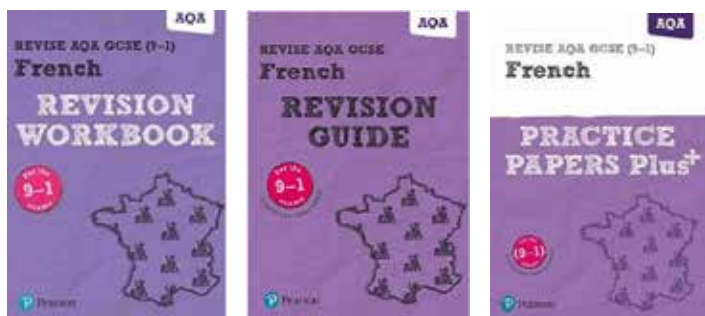


KS4

Year 10

Congratulations to all year 10 French students who have sat their very first full GCSE mock examination. They had the opportunity to sit 4 papers (listening, reading, speaking, writing). These will be graded to give them an idea of their grade half way through the GCSE course. They have now covered most of the topics on the French GCSE. Next year, students will be awarded a Tiers, and some will start exploring the higher content of the GCSE course.

GCSE French revision guides will be available for sale from September, please speak to Ms Mazabraud for more information.



Y11 GCSE languages

Congratulations to all the 115 students who sat their GCSE French examinations this year! Also congratulations to the 10 students who sat their Polish GCSE and the 4 students who sat their Spanish GCSE at Bishop Challoner.

We are looking forward to seeing their outstanding results in the summer!

If your child can speak language at home other than English or French, they might be interested in sitting the summer GCSE examinations when they are in year 11 at Bishop Challoner. Please visit the Edexcel or AQA languages websites to see what languages are on offer.

Year 12

Staffing constraints within our Modern Languages department means that from September 2023 we are regrettably unable to offer A Level French in Year 12. Unfortunately we have had to make the decision to withdraw this course from our planned provision in Year 12 from September 2023.

Teachers news

This summer we say goodbye to Ms Tan and Miss Crutchley who are both moving on to new schools. We thank them both for all their hard work at Bishop Challoner and wish them good luck in their new adventure.

Computer Science & ICT

Key Stage 3

Our year 7 students have been working on a scheme of work which explores the fundamentals of encryption. As part of this unit, they engage with encryption technologies of the past such as the Caesar cipher and pigpen cipher. Once they understand what encryption is and how it works, they look at modern examples and the need for it. They have also recently completed an internal P1 assessment in computing – this took place on Microsoft forms to make the marking and assessment analysis process, easier and more productive.

Our year 8 students have been working on a scheme that explores network technology and how it is the backbone of the modern-day Internet, that we all take for granted.

Our year 9 students have been working on a scheme of work which explores database technologies and what they are used for. It is remiss to say that a lot of our lives is now captured and stored by large corporations and companies. Understanding what databases are and how they are used is paramount in a world where we are collecting more and more pieces of information about each other.

Key Stage 4

We have sadly reached a point of the year where we say goodbye to our current year 11s in both computer science and IT. At the time of writing, both cohorts are fully complete for their respective courses, having handed in your coursework and sat all the necessary exams. We of course wish them every success in these exams and hope to celebrate this success in August. We look forward to welcoming many of the students back into computer science and IT lessons. Should they re-join us for sixth form in September.

The year 10 computer science cohort recently sat paper one and paper, two of their mocks.

There have been some stunning results in both groups, and it is extremely pleasing to see their hard work and dedication come to fruition. In the lead up to the summer holidays, they will be exploring the legal, ethical, and moral issues that affect the world, free computer science, such as environmental impact and artificial intelligence.

The year 10 IT cohorts are working towards the completion of an extended piece of work, which sees them using Photoshop to alter, modify, and collate assets into a single project. This is a highly engaging piece of work that allows students to explore professional level software.

Key Stage 5

We have sadly reached a point in the year where we say goodbye to our current year 13 cohort. Both the computing and IT cohort have exams this summer, and we of course wish them all the best for these. We hope that the students go onto fulfil their full potential.

Year 12 computer science recently completed their mocks. The results of these have been extremely pleasing, and it is great to see their effort for this academic year come to fruition. The group have already embarked on their programming project (worth 20% of their overall computer science A-level) and are making good progress on their respective projects. This is the second year that we are starting the project earlier in their two-year academic journey, as it gives the students the best opportunity to achieve high marks.

Year, 12, IT are working on a piece of extended work relating to the use of social media in business. They are also completing a paper-based exam that assesses their understanding of the use of IT in the workplace.

Berlin

At the time of writing, students are packing with anticipation and excitement as the computing trip to Berlin is upon us. They are going to have an amazing time and some highlights from the planned itinerary are:

Tuesday 04 Jul 2023

Highlights-Outbound Flight, Arrival in Berlin, Check-In at Accommodation, Reichstag Building, Memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe, Potsdamer Platz.

Wednesday 05 Jul 2023

Deutsches Technikmuseum, City guided tour, Alexanderplatz, restaurant meal, Berlin TV Tower.

Thursday 06 Jul 2023

Hamburger Bahnhof Gallery, Computerspielmuseum, Berlin Wall, East Side Gallery.

Friday 07 Jul 2023

German Spy Museum, River Spree Boat Tour, Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin Dom, restaurant meal.

Saturday 08 Jul 2023

DDR museum, Museum fur Kommunikation, arrival in the UK, Return to Bishop Challoner Catholic College.



Primary Day

The pupils from our primary schools had an amazing time and thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and engaging computing activities. All the activities were thoughtfully designed and prepared by students at Bishop Challoner, who worked together as a team to manage and deliver them. They dedicated hours after school to create these activities and took great pride in their work. Through this experience, they not only learned valuable academic concepts but also gained essential life skills.

We had several external visitors on the day, including St. Thomas, St. Peter, and Camp Hill girls, who came to observe and learn from our event, hoping to replicate it in their own schools. All our visitors were impressed by the competence and professionalism of our students in managing and delivering the activities. One visitor even likened it to a well-rehearsed play at a theatre.

Many of our students have eagerly inquired about the next event, showing their enthusiasm and inspiration from the activities. This large-scale project wouldn't have been possible without the support of our dedicated staff. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the PE team for allowing us to use the hall and for their assistance in setting up and packing up.



Cyber Workshop, Aston University

It was an incredible event with the participation of five schools and over 80 students. The workshop featured esteemed speakers from the West Midlands Cyber Crime Unit, GCHQ, as well as Cyber Security professors and lecturers from the University of Warwick and Aston University. The students from all five schools thoroughly enjoyed this exceptional experience.

During the workshop, all students took part in a captivating cyber security competition. I'm thrilled to inform you that two students from Bishop Challoner secured the first and second positions in the competition beating Year 12 computer science students from Camp Hill Girls. Anne won an iPad. The organiser was highly impressed and expressed a desire to replicate the remarkable computing work being done at our school in other schools as well.



Year 8 Girls Cyber Day Event, Aston University

More than 100 students received inspirational talks from accomplished women in Cyber Security and took part in a cyber competition.



Year 8, AWS Amazon App Ambassador Event

Our Year 8 students collaborated with an AWS Amazon App ambassador to advance their App concept by showcasing them to other groups and receiving constructive criticism. We eagerly anticipate the final version for submission.



Extra-Curricular Activities

We continue to offer a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities for our students:

- Monday – Drones Club
- Tuesday – Robotics Club
- Wednesday – Girls Cyber Security Club
- Thursday – Digital Art Club

Wednesday and Thursday morning before school is Girl's Coding Club

Monday and Tuesday morning before school is Boy's Coding Club



History

A Summer Story from the Past...

The history department wish you a wonderful summer and hope that this story inspires you to be creative with your time, whatever the weather...

In the summer of 1816, a group of renowned writers and intellectuals gathered in Villa Diodati, a mansion near Lake Geneva in Switzerland. Among the group were Mary Shelley, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Lord Byron, and John Polidori. The summer of that year was notably gloomy and rainy due to the aftermath of a volcanic eruption in Indonesia, which disrupted global weather patterns.

Unable to enjoy outdoor activities due to the inclement weather, the group found themselves confined indoors. To pass the time, they engaged in discussions on various topics, including literature, science, and the supernatural. One evening, they decided to challenge each other to write a ghost story.

As the group delved into their creative pursuits, Mary Shelley, inspired by the conversations and the dark atmosphere, conceived the idea for her iconic novel, Frankenstein. The story of the ambitious scientist Victor Frankenstein and his creation of a living being has since become one of the most influential works in the genre of science fiction.

Meanwhile, John Polidori crafted a short story titled "The Vampyre," which later became one of the earliest examples of vampire literature, influencing popular vampire fiction for years to come. The summer of 1816 and the creative endeavors that emerged from that gathering at Villa Diodati came to be known as the "Year Without a Summer" and the birthplace of two enduring literary works.



Creativity Week

Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 recently used their history lessons to make something creative.

In Year 7, students were challenged with building a castle! Year 8 students used their knowledge of the suffragettes to create protest banners and Year 9 students made board games based around the Vietnam War.

We were very impressed with how students embraced the challenge of doing something a little bit different. Well done!



Refugee Week

Each year group read a true story about how certain historical events led to the displacement of people. The events which they focused on were connected to what students have been studying in history lessons.

In Year 7, students read about the complex relationships between English medieval monarchs and members of the Jewish community, including how they were protected and then persecuted, causing them to flee abroad.

In Year 8, we were reading and discussing the creation of refugees globally as a result of World War One. We read case studies about countries such as Serbia and Belgium.

Year 9 students learned about one of the largest and longest refugee crises – the aftermath of the Vietnam War. We discussed the treatment of the so-called "boat-people" and how poignant the images are of the sea crossings in the modern context.



Geography

Year 7

Year 7 have completed their unit of work on China and have subsequently explored revision techniques in preparation for an assessment on the China unit. We have used a range of strategies such as online platforms like Blooket and quizziz as well as more traditional methods like knowledge organisers. The Geography department has been delighted with the dedication Year 7 have demonstrated towards their assessments.

Year 7 have been introduced to the region of the Middle East, enabling the students to investigate some of the differences in cultures, economies and environments between the countries. The unit will enable Year 7 to explore the range of climate zones within the Middle East and use this to explain features of the physical environment such as desert landforms. Students will also enquire into human aspects of the Middle East through looking at population distribution and investigating the fascinating traditions and diversity within the Middle East.

Year 9

Year 9 have recently completed a unit of work that focused on the country of Iceland. Throughout the unit students have learnt about the hazards associated with plate boundaries, using Eyjafjallajokull as an example. Year 9 have also had the opportunity to investigate why the country has been so successful with using energy sources such as geo-thermal energy. Similarly to Year 7, the Iceland unit concluded with students trialling a range of revision strategies such as 'blurting' and practising their PEEL structure in preparation for an online assessment.

Year 9 are now exploring the unit 'Into Africa'. Their learning will help solidify their place knowledge through looking at the locations of different countries and comparing their population densities. Students will also be given the opportunity to explore and understand the characteristics of Africa's biomes as well as some of the physical features that can be found within the continent. Students' knowledge of Africa will be developed further through investigating issues such as the impact of coltan mining as well as diseases such as malaria and ebola.



Year 8

Year 8 have completed their topic of Brazil. The lessons have enabled the students to enquire into a wide range of geographical concepts. On the one hand students have investigated the human geography within Brazil such as their culture and the wide disparity between living conditions and opportunities and on the other, students will have learnt about the physical environment such as the Amazon Rainforest including deforestation within the rainforest, the damage it is causing, who it is impacting and why different stakeholders have varying opinions.

Year 8 are now looking at the topic Weather and Climate including how it is measured and with specific links to the UK. Students have had the opportunity to take on the role of a meteorologist through creating a presenting their own weather forecast using accurate terminology and symbols. Throughout this unit students will also explore the imperative topic of climate change, its causes, effects and mitigation strategies on both a local and global scale.

Year 10

Year 10 have shown excellent commitment to the first year of the GCSE course. So far the students have completed three units: The Living World, Urban Issues and Challenges and UK Physical Landscapes. In the lead up to mock exams we have been encouraging students to trial a range of revision strategies with the aim that students will be develop confidence in which strategies work best form them. These strategies have included Seneca, Blooket, knowledge grids, tri dominoes and creating case study flashcards. The Geography mock exam will be a full length 90 minute paper, providing the opportunity for students to experience the timings and structure of their real exam as well as reviewing their understanding of the three topics.

To support their paper 3 exam, Year 10 have undertaken fieldwork on the river Ashbrook, in the Long Mynd, an area of outstanding natural beauty in Shropshire. The students were investigating "How does the river Ashbrook change as it flows downstream"? Year 10 were greeted by perfect examples of V-shape valleys and interlocking spurs. They then demonstrated their data collection skills by measuring the width and velocity of the river across 3 sites. When back in the classroom the students will evaluate their data collection and analyse their results against the Bradshaw Model.



Year 12

Year 12 have recently completed their mock exams on the topics of Hazards in Physical Geography and Global Systems and Governance in Human Geography. The mock exams will provide an excellent indication of the progress they have made throughout Year 12. Year 12 are now beginning to complete their second topic for both physical and human geography: Coastal systems and contemporary urban environments. Students have also begun planning and preparing for the NEA which forms 20% of their A Level.

In July Year 12 will be undertaking their residential trip to Dorset. A fantastic opportunity to see the Geography they have learnt about in action. The trip will focus on coastal processes and landforms as well as coastal management. Whilst in Dorset the students will also practice their geographical enquiry skills and data collection, helping to deepen their understanding of the NEA process.

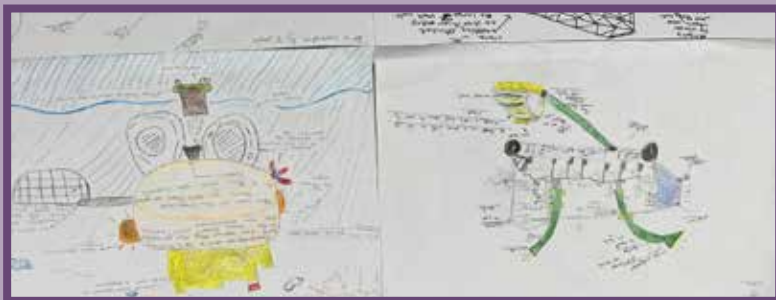
Refugee Week

KS3 Geographers have demonstrated commendable compassion and empathy throughout refugee week. Students were presented with the concept of environmental refugees. We investigated scale through looking at the number of environmental refugees there are around the world and the regions most affected. Students then researched examples in more detail, identifying the challenges that people face and what environmental conditions are forcing people to leave their homes. Lastly, we discussed how environmental refugees are not currently protected by international laws and students were able to share their thoughts on this.



Creativity Week

KS3 students have been in charge of an ocean clean up operation. After learning about the sources and impacts of plastic pollution in our oceans, students were tasked with the challenge of designing an innovation that will be able to clean up our oceans and save our marine ecosystems. The students rose to the challenge and designed unique technology that fit the brief excellently.



Music & Performing Arts

It has been an incredibly busy term with our GCSE students finalising and submitting coursework, and preparing for and sitting their exams, and many of our students are preparing to perform in a number of events which lead up to the end of the Summer Term. We truly hope they are pleased with their achievements when they receive their results in the summer. The summer term is also filled with performance opportunities, meaning our students are working hard in rehearsals and presentations right up until the end of term, and even during the holidays!

Year 7

In lessons, the Year 7 students have been developing their keyboard skills and broadening their knowledge of music from different cultures in our World Music scheme of work. After learning to perform 'Oh When The Saints' in a steel pan style, they moved on to learning the instruments and features of Indian Music, where they learned the challenges of improvisation. We are delighted to see so many of our students working on improving their coordination when playing with both hands at the keyboard, and developing their sense of rhythm.

Year 8

The Year 8 students have impressed us this year with their grasp of music theory, and as part of their work on Music for Royal Occasions, they have all learned how to notate music notes on a staff, writing each note accurately and adhering to the theory rules. In pairs, students performed their fanfare and these were delightful to hear, giving us a bold and bright send off at the end of term.

Year 9

To conclude their work on Music and the Media, the Year 9 students composed, rehearsed and performed a piece of music at the keyboards to accompany a 90 second film clip, ensuring their soundtrack reflected the action and mood of the film. After extensive rehearsals, these were performed and recorded, and staff were pleased to see the effort many students went into creating a composition they were proud of. To finish their KS3 musical journey, our Year 9 classes are working on rehearsing and performing a piece of music of their choice, developing their musicianship in a culmination of their keyboard skills over the last three years. Listening to how far our students have come since they started in Year 7 was a real treat!

Year 10

In Year 10, students are exploring the musical features of the Baroque period by studying two pieces of music written during that era, by Purcell and Bach. These are two of the eight works set by the exam board, and the class are learning the challenges of reading a Baroque score, along with understanding key musical features and developing their listening skills. Over the summer holidays, our Year 10 students will be choosing and rehearsing their pieces for a solo performance, which will be recorded in the Autumn Term of next year as part of their coursework.

Year 10 Opportunities

Year 10 have been extremely fortunate to learn original choreography and harmonies from the hit musical Six. They are studying this musical as part of their BTEC coursework and were lucky enough to attend a trip to see it live at the Birmingham Hippodrome theatre on its national tour.

Our Year 10s, who not only had the opportunity to perform at our Remembrance performance, Christmas show and on Irish TV last term, also performed at the MAC for an Irish cultural and arts celebration and the Spring Soiree; this was in addition to submitting their coursework for Component 1 of the BTEC syllabus and preparing their performances for moderation. All in all, they have had a busy and productive term!

Instruments

Our team of instrumental teachers have continued to provide lessons for over 80 students this term, on drums, steel pans, guitar, woodwind, brass, strings and piano; as always, there have been opportunities this term for our instrumental students to develop and showcase their skills. Thanks to our partnership with the Irish Association, many of our Year 7 students have been taking part in Traditional Irish Music workshops, led by Jobe Sullivan. These fortunate students have been rehearsing weekly to strengthen their ensemble skills on mandolins, bodhran, and banjo. Through these workshops the Year 7s have been able to explore harmony, melody and rhythm, all of which support their classroom learning and go a long way to improving confidence in performing.

Tea Party

At Challoner we are always keen for our musicians to perform for, and be part of, the wider community, so we invited some of our players to present some music at one of our Tea Party events. Hosted by our Sixth Form, our school opens its doors to the older members of the community and, with a Coronation-themed event, we treated our guests to an afternoon of music, cake, bingo and friendly company. Our Woodwind Ensemble, featuring students from Y7-10, played pieces such as 'March of the King', 'God Save the King' and 'Land of Hope and Glory', complete with flag waving and cake!

Year 11

This term our Year 11 Performing Arts cohort have been working on their commission for their final BTEC exam. The brief was set by a well-known regional Arts centre who are hosting a celebration event; this event will feature a series of performances to showcase work created and performed by young people. It is funded by the local council, and it is free to any organisation or group take part. The celebration event creates a crucial opportunity to support the creativity and achievements of young people and aims to celebrate the positive impact young people have on their wider community. The students have been commissioned by the Arts centre to contribute, following the performance stimulus of "Truths and Lies"

The exam was a huge success and featured emotional performances by all our students. The singing, dancing and acting were all of an extremely high standard and each student can leave us at the end of term knowing they did their very best in their final performance and controlled assessments.



Coronation

The Coronation also gave us the opportunity to present an appropriately themed Bishop's Got Talent event in the library, where a number of students performed pieces by notable British songwriters. Skyla in Y11 performed 'Angels' by Robbie Williams, and Eva in Year 10 showed off her drumming skills to 'Don't Look Back in Anger' by Oasis. On a more traditional note, Sophie in Y12 played the National Anthem on the trombone and the woodwind players reprised their Coronation repertoire from the Tea Party. The events always attract a grateful and receptive audience and this performance was one of the many events taking place in school that week to celebrate the Coronation.



Thank a Teacher

On 21st June, there was a national celebration of Thank a Teacher Day. Bishop Challoner celebrated in our own inimitable way, and colleagues from all teams in the school, teaching and non-teaching, gathered in the library for a special event to mark the occasion. Notable figures in local education, governors and some other familiar faces sent in video messages of thanks and praise regarding the staff at our school, always going above and beyond to support our young people. The Music and Performing Arts department were happy to provide musical performances amongst the speeches and thank yous and once again the students made us very proud. Amy in Year 10 welcomed us all with a heartfelt poem of gratitude, followed by Eva, also in Year 10, performing her brilliant drum solo to 'Don't Look Back in Anger'. The woodwind ensemble, consisting of students from Year 7-9, performed 'Lean on Me', and Sophie, a flute player in the ensemble, played a beautiful solo by Haydn; she is already a talented and skilled performer!



Following a special presentation to one of our outstanding teachers, the school choir sang 'You Have Made a Difference', and to end the entertainment we invited Skyla, who has recently finished sitting her GCSE exams, back into school to perform 'You Raise Me Up'. It was a beautiful rendition and I saw several emotional faces in the audience. This truly was a heart-warming event and the students received many compliments after their performances.

Despite many other commitments at this busy time of year, some of our musicians from Years 7-10 provided some beautiful musical entertainment and friendly company to some of the elder members of the community in Cotteridge. As always, our students were happy to play music, chat and have a cake with the residents and their music was certainly appreciated. Performing on 11th July were the woodwind ensemble, a small traditional Irish ensemble and two soloists, including Y8 flautist Sophie; she has recently composed a beautiful piece of music for flute and piano accompaniment, and we look forward to hearing the premiere of 'Summer Roses' very soon!

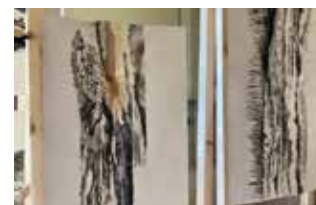
Primary Showcase Concert

The Primary Showcase concert is always a highlight of the summer term, and we were delighted by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by the Primary students who joined us this year. Over the last few weeks, Miss Hughes and Mrs Choudhury visited local primary schools to work with primary students in music workshops, teaching them 'You Have Made a Difference', a song arranged especially for this event.

Students from St Jude's, St Alban's, St Dunstan's, St Anne's and St Mary's came together on the day to form our 'giant choir', and our Bishop Challoner musicians joined them to sing this in the finale of our concert. We also had a number of solo and ensemble performances at the event from some very talented primary students from Year 3-6 and we are certain they will go far on their musical journey! The whole event was a lovely way to celebrate the end of term and the musical achievements of our students.

Art and Design South Network Art Exhibition

Our A level Fine Art students have excelled themselves this year producing a series of diverse outcomes. The concepts explored get more expressive and confidently executed each year. The boundaries are continually being pushed with students working on diverse scales and applying diverse media. Plaster board, rubber, cardboard boxes, wooden pallets, corrugated roofing, old shoes and plywood are just some of the materials being explored to create Art. Themes that have provided inspiration this year include travel, layers, expression and shoes. A selection of year 13 work will be exhibited at the prestigious 'School of Art', Birmingham City University. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase our students work in a city centre space and much needed after the suspension of community art events during Covid. The private view is Monday 3rd July with the exhibition running to Thursday 6th July.

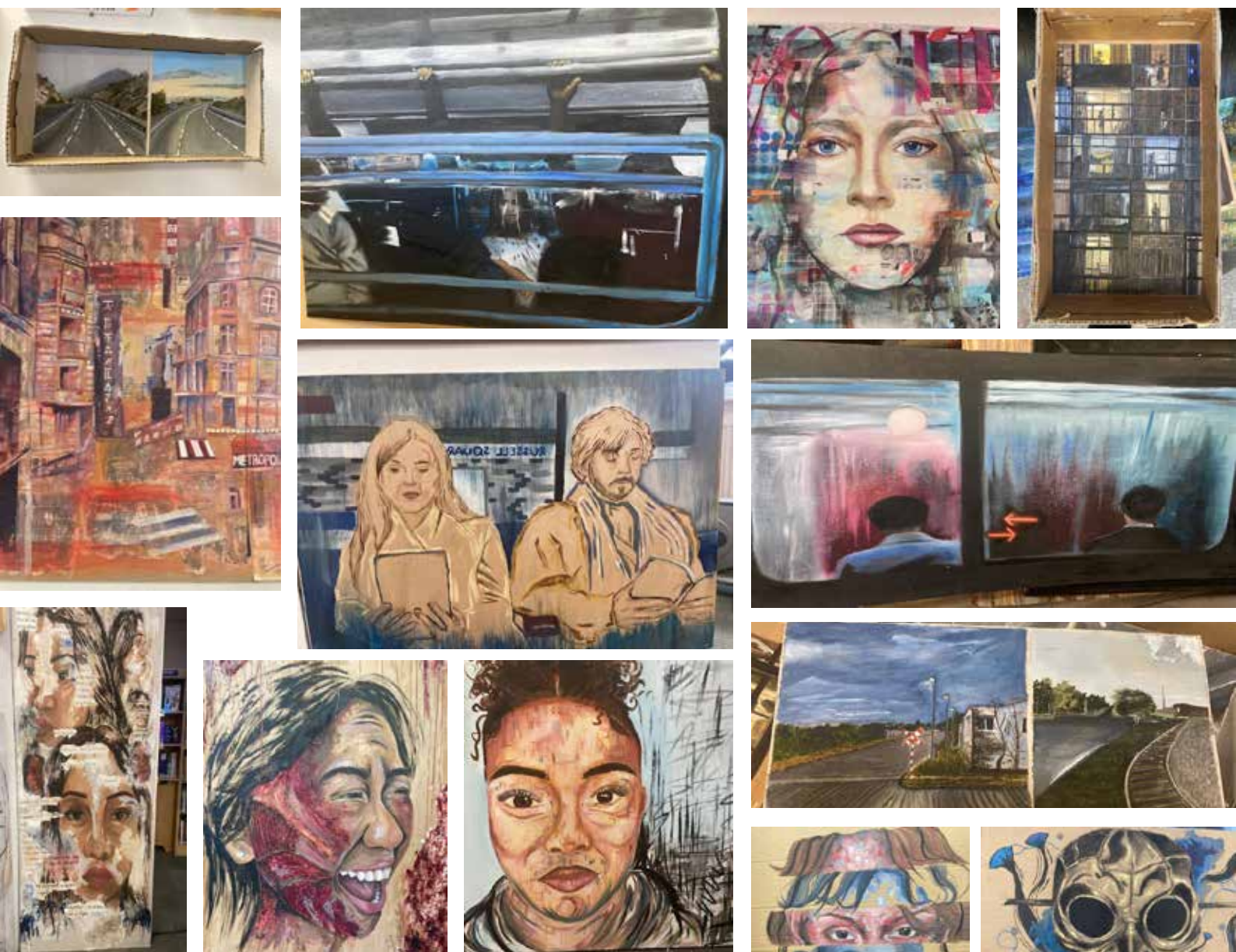


GCSE

Some of our students are giving up time in their summer holidays to take part in an amazing event which will be the perfect platform for their talents! At the end of July, Birmingham is celebrating the one year anniversary of hosting the Commonwealth Games and Centenary Square is playing host to a number of organisations and groups across the city who can showcase their skills. Representing Bishop Challoner, some of our best musicians will take to the giant stage in the city centre to a huge crowd, working with some of the best technicians and equipment in the area: all of this will have a live feed so audiences can watch from home and all over the country! Keeping with the Birmingham theme, Eva will perform a dazzling Black Sabbath drum solo, Oscar will play his beautiful guitar music, and we are inviting some of our students from past years to sing. AJ, expert in poetry and spoken word, will be acting as compere throughout the evening. We hope some of you will be able to come along and watch the event – live or streamed. This concert is supported by the Birmingham Irish Association and our students are thrilled to be taking part in such a prestigious, large-scale event. What a fantastic way to end the academic year in Music and Performing Arts.

A Level Fine Art

Year 13 Art students have completed their 15-hour practical exam in Fine Art. Oil paint, wax, translucent surfaces, latex and fabric are just a selection of the materials they have been exploring. The coursework component is also complete with diverse outcomes being produced; responses include installation pieces made up of paper and cardboard structures and sublimation printed imagery to create cityscapes, sculptures involving destructed recycled shoes and boots to create art forms, bed sheets with oil studies of babies surrounding the 'Sleep' theme and notice boards with oil studies based on the 'travel' them. Year 13 Final Responses:



KS4 Fine Art

Year 11 have also followed Year 13 with successful outcomes in the 10-hour exam. They have demonstrated real commitment in the preparatory period leading up to the exam with sketchbooks being highly developed and imaginative. It has been so rewarding to see such a mature approach to the exam unit with students choosing to pursue personal and creative journeys independently. There has been an increase in scale this year with students clearly being informed by the A level outcomes on display in Art rooms and in the wider school spaces.

Frames and fragmented compositions on recycled surfaces are just some of the intentions that have been realised with a selection of pieces being on a par with A level development work.



KS3 Arts

Year 7 have had an extraordinary year filled with artistic exploration and growth. Throughout the year, they have delved into a wide range of materials, discovering the endless possibilities of artistic expression. Over the last few months, pupils have been exploring colour theory, still life and how to create more realistic looking pieces – with a focus on sweets and treats! Pupils have created wonderful doughnut paintings and have drawn some delicious looking biscuits; whilst demonstrating all of the skills they have learnt throughout the year! Year 7 have really excelled in their art journey this year, and we cannot wait to see them improve further over the last few weeks of term and throughout their time here at Challoner. Well done, Year 7!



Year 8

Year 8 have had an extraordinary term exploring a variety of architectural styles. From the grandeur of Roman, Tudor, and Victorian designs to the boldness of Brutalist, Modern, and Contemporary structures, they have explored a diverse range of architectural styles. Alongside their exploration, Year 8 have developed their drawing skills and experimented with unconventional materials and processes, such as drawing Highbury Hall on to wet oil paint or using turmeric to create an aged mixed media piece! Every pupil has actively participated with discussions and have been creating truly interesting pieces that connect to the overarching theme. Well done, Year 8!



Year 9

Over the last year, pupils have examined art throughout history, beginning with the Italian Renaissance – focusing on the importance of Leonardo Da Vinci’s anatomical studies to engineering and medicine – all the way up to the unusual world of Dadaism. Recently, pupils have been exploring the vibrant theme of pop art, studying influential pop artists such as Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol, and Bob and Roberta Smith. Pupils have delved into the origins and significance of this iconic art movement and have gained a profound understanding of its cultural impact. Pupils have been creating bright pop art paintings, using ‘Ben Day dots’ to mimic the printing processes of the 1950s, and drawing 1960s icons, like Twigg! Having witnessed their artistic growth since Year 7, we are immensely proud of their accomplishments. Good luck, Year 9!



Product Design

GCSE D&T

This year our Year 11 GCSE D&T students have chosen from contexts such as ‘Working from home’, ‘Caring for animals’ and a ‘souvenir from a place of interest’ in order to produce their Non Examination Assessment units, worth 50% of their GCSE. The ‘working from home’ context was a very relevant one given the recent Covid 19 pandemic. Students were able to draw upon the experiences of teachers, family members and friends who had been forced to switch to home working in order to identify a problem to solve. There were also some innovative pet related products developed; pupils responded to varied problems from hungry dogs who require feeding when owners are at work to cats who refuse to drink stagnant water. As always, it has been intriguing to watch the evolution of each student’s solution, from initial concept to final outcome. The completed prototypes are fully functioning, well executed products which demonstrate students well developed making skills, attention to detail and quality of finish. We wish them well as they await their results in the summer.



HDPE recycling project

The rising cost of materials has presented an unprecedented level of challenge to the D&T department; balancing the need to offer students a relevant and engaging D&T curriculum whilst remaining within budget has been extremely difficult. This has provided further incentive to the department to start thinking creatively about how we source and use materials on top of an existing commitment to working in a more sustainable way. We have spent the last year exploring the possibility of generating our own sheet material from HDPE bottles and lids, a strategy that is being employed in several schools nationwide. It has taken extensive experimentation with the heating and reforming of waste plastic by our technician Mr. Crawford to get to a point where we can make useable, aesthetically pleasing sheet material of varying thicknesses but we are delighted to now be at the point. We will be introducing this concept to year 7 in D&T in September who will recycle their own plastic waste collected over the summer and make a useable product from the material generated. Mr. Crawford has made three collection units which will be sited in the staffroom, canteen and sixth form common room with the hope of collecting as many lids as possible from the school community. We then hope to extend the collection to our families, feeder primary schools and the next step will be to approach local business in Kings Heath. We are investigating the possibility of sponsorship in order to purchase apparatus, such as a plastic shredder, which will provide even more opportunities for development of the project. Please ask your family and friends to collect bottle lids for us and send them into school with students. A number 2 inside a triangle on the underside of the lid is what to look out for.



Art & DT Refugee week

Our KS3 students have been producing butterfly sketches across Art and D&T in June as part of a collaborative project that will culminate in the production of a large scale 3D installation. The butterfly was chosen due to its symbolic significance; it represents the idea of transformation and has connotations of resilience, optimism and freedom. Each butterfly will be cut out and mounted on a mesh curtain to create a visually striking display. This installation will then be donated to a refugee centre as an expression of our empathy and concern for the plight of refugees.



Year 7 D&T

In this final term, Year 7 have been exploring metal work. The focus has been on Birmingham's metal works history and the importance of this vast industry within the West Midlands. The pupils have researched important and key designs originating from Birmingham and using these as inspiration to develop their own final piece. They have developed their research skills by looking at 19th century designers and also created a range of samples using different metal work techniques. The pupils have focused on using hand skills and sampled techniques such as piercing metal, engraving metal using the rolling mill and texturizing metal using a variety of hammers. They are currently working on their own individual piece and using a 'bug' theme to create a complex but interesting shape.



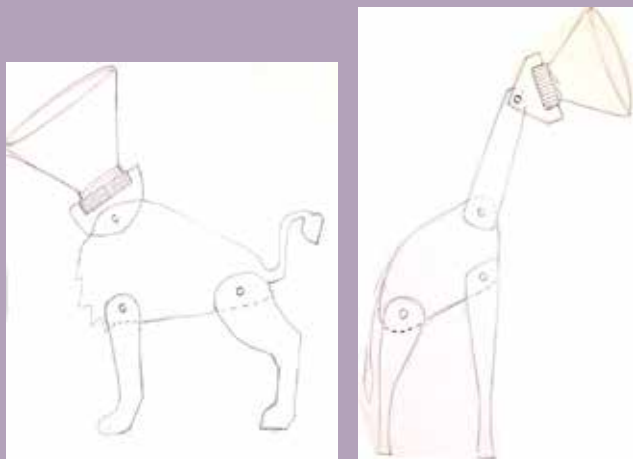
Year 8

Some Y8 students in this final summer term have been researching and developing passive amplifiers. They have experimented with different ways to amplify sound using simple timber structures and put their hand tool skills to test by shaping and forming pieces of pine wood. Through this project the pupils have furthered their design skills by using CAD (computer aided design). In Year 7, the pupils explore hand drawn design ideas and now, in Year 8, they are introduced to using computer software to explore design solutions. They have just finished their speaker grill designs, using 2d design, and these have been laser cut out of acrylic (pictured). To complete this project the pupils will also use coping saws, the pillar drill and the belt sander to form their speaker out of pine. The pupils are currently finishing off and putting together their completed speakers.



Year 9

In this final term, Year 9 are continuing to explore an eco theme. Throughout the project, students have been learning about the changes happening in our environment and how we can, and should, live more sustainably. We have looked at the lifecycle of a product and how the affect on our environment could be minimised at each stage of production including extraction, manufacture, distribution and disposal. We have explored the 6 Rs, which include recycle, reuse and refuse and ways in which we can use these methods to live more sustainably. Currently, students are exploring their own design ideas for a recycled lamp made from recycled materials, using a variety of techniques. Once they have created their design ideas they will then explore some modellign techniques to craete a prototype for their desk lamp.



Year 5 STEM Fair

As part of Science week on 28th June, we hosted our annual STEM Fair for Y5 pupils from our primary feeder schools. During the event, teams of 4 pupils from 10 schools engaged in a range of STEM challenges, designed and delivered by our year 7 and 8 students. The event has many benefits for teachers and students alike; students taking part are given an enthusing and inspiring STEM experience, our Y7 STEM ambassadors are provided with an opportunity to develop their leadership skills, it facilitates a smooth transition between primary and secondary, it provides an opportunity for collaboration between the STEM departments at Bishop Challoner and primary teachers can use the event to network and share best practice with other primary colleagues. Our Year STEM leaders were incredible ambassadors for the school with many visiting staff commenting on their professionalism and advanced leadership skills. Well done to all involved!



Y7 STEM @ Lickey Hills

On 19th and 20th July, Year 7 students' normal timetable was collapsed and they visited the Lickey Hills Country Park in Rednal to take part in an outdoor STEM event. This initiative is back on the school calendar after a number of years absence due to COVID. Staff across the STEM departments were keen to reinstate the two day project due to the freedom and creativity it provides to facilitate learning with classroom constraints removed. For science, in particular, the event supports the delivery of the KS3 curriculum where fieldwork is required. Testing soil, classifying invertebrates and casting animal prints are amongst some of the hands on, engaging activities students will take part in. During the day, students worked in groups and small teams which were different to their normal teaching groups; developing their communication, problem solving and leadership skills, as well as learning how to be more reflective, resilient, creative and resourceful.



Food Education

Health for Life school Wheelbarrow Competition

In June, we took part school Wheelbarrow competition at BBC Gardeners' World Live show. The students had to grow the ingredients for a specific meal from a country of their choice in a wheelbarrow. The meal chosen was Spanish tapas, 'patatas bravas'. The rationale behind this was to create a dish with local produce meaning it is affordable and has a low carbon footprint as it contained vegetables that we can grow in the UK and does not use meat. Students doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award took on the challenge as gardening is part of their voluntary work they do for the award. They grew and planted potatoes, chives, tomatoes, garlic and onions and added some marigolds to attract pollinators. The vegetables were planted in compost that was made locally by recycling food waste from a primary school. This ensures the food waste does not go to landfill and release methane into the atmosphere but instead we keep the food in the nutrient and carbon cycle.

The barrow had to also include a structure that reflected a pressing global environmental issue. Students from the STEM club created a laser cut tree which represented the need to include trees in our croplands and pastures due to their ability to provide oxygen and absorb Co2 and the habitat they provide for insects and animals. The tree's surface was engraved with the names of local villages and towns which produce a wide range of food items, all within the region of the city of Birmingham. It represented the need to source food locally and make more seasonal choices. Suspended from the tree were 3D apples, which is a food item that is iconically British, celebrating the amazing variety of produce that can be sourced on this island, reducing the need for transportation of food from Europe and beyond.



Whole School Food bank Collection

The Challoner community foodbank collection started on the 19th June ran until 18th July. This is the most important collection of the year as many families struggle to feed themselves over the long summer break. It was promoted throughout form time, on the plasma screen, the school website and Twitter. At Easter we donated the biggest ever single donation at 445.10KG. The Challoner community is updated every week with the most urgent items needed.



Key Stage 3

Year 7 have moved onto their third rotation of the Design and Technology carousel. The students have learnt a variety of knife skills when practising a number of technical cuts with carrots. They have learnt about the UK model for healthy eating, the 'Eatwell Guide' and, from this, they have created a pizza applying the principles of the guide. The students enjoyed a lesson about sensory evaluation and how the sensory qualities of food alter during the cooking process. They have also learnt about raising agents and functions of ingredients when making muffins and crumble.



Year 8

Year 8 have continued to practise food preparation skills as well as using different cooking methods and different parts of the cooker. They have learnt about the convenience and safety of freezing foods and how it reduces food waste. When making dishes they have prepared the vegetables such as onions and garlic and then frozen it to use the following lesson. This has also afforded them the time to work with precision and take time to produce quality food products. Throughout learning they consider the provenance of the ingredients used and how food waste impacts on the planet and food security.



Year 9

Students in year 9 are becoming more competent in food preparation skills as they gain more experience. They have worked with high-risk foods such as meat and learnt about the importance of safe cooking and how vegetarian alternatives are less harmful to the environment. They have made bread dough to make pizzas and calzones and learnt how some people have an intolerance to wheat and gluten and how gluten along with yeast is a key component of bread dough making.



Year 10

Students in Year 10 have now completed three of the theory-based topic areas of the NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Food and Cookery as well as practising food preparation, cooking skills and techniques throughout the year which is part of the other three content areas. They will use their accumulated knowledge and skills and apply it in response to a real-world situation through their controlled assessment and final examination. They have continued to work on focussed practical tasks such as making roux sauce and then 'Mac 'n; Cheese', making short crust pastry and 'jaffa fakes' while focussing on the function of the ingredients. They have also practised a variety of cooking methods and investigated how different cooking methods affect the nutrients in foods particularly vitamins and minerals.



Year 11

Year 11 have successfully completed their coursework and is now being moderated by the examination board. Most of them have already done the external examination with outstanding grades last year. This afforded them the opportunity to showcase the skills that they have gained over the last two years and to apply their knowledge of nutrition.



Physical Education

All Britain Gaelic Football

Year 7 & 8 Boys

In the thrilling ABC's Gaelic Football Competition held in London, the boys from year 7 and 8 exhibited outstanding skills and determination as they battled their way to the shield final. In a nail-biting contest, they narrowly fell short by a single point in the final seconds. Each player showcased remarkable performances, leaving a lasting impression on all who witnessed their incredible effort.

Year 9/10 Girls

Similarly, in the girls' year 9/10 competition, the talented team made it to the cup playoff stage, showcasing their incredible abilities throughout. Although they faced a formidable challenge, they demonstrated great teamwork and skill. Despite coming up short in the end, the girls displayed remarkable performances across the board.

Sports Day Records

Athletics Record - Girls			
Event	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
100m (s)	Josephine W - 13.12	Rosina O - 13.31	Maylayah J - 12.25
200m (s)	Giselle C-K - 29.87	Giselle C-K - 28.27	Tilly A - 28.13
400m (m)	Jada T/Trinity C - 1.09	Connie R - 1.11	Maylayah J - 59.44
Discus (mtrs)	Natasha W/Chervelle K - 14.90	Alex R - 15.80	Eloise B - 15.00
High Jump (mtrs)	Trinity C - 1.50	Sian O'B - 1.50	Emily K - 1.46
Long Jump (mtrs)	Jada T - 5.0	Rosina O - 4.25	Shaniyah M - 4.34
Javelin (mtrs)	Skyla S - 16.7	Meliyah B - 16.70	Chanel C - 19.4
4 x 100m Relay (m)	MAC (2018) - 1.00	BON (2007) - 58.53	LUK (2023) - 59.53
Shot Putt (mtrs)	Sophie W - 6.90	Niamh C - 8.37	Niamh T - 9.55
Triple Jump (mtrs)	Tilly A - 7.9	Ellie Deane - 8.44	Cora R/Ellie D - 8.30
Wellie Wanging (mtrs)	Marika P - 15.9	Cameron H - 14.32	Giovanna O - 15.20

Athletics Record - Boys			
Event	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
100m (s)	Jayden J - 12.30	Jayden J - 11.20	Ryan L - 11.50
200m (s)	Jayden J - 27.10	Jayden J - 24.06	Robbie J - 24.72
400m (m)	LLOYDS M/JAMES P/MAX A - 1.09	Jemahri T-W - 1.03	Roberto A DL - 1.01
Discus (mtrs)	Emmanuel N - 15.40	Jordan A - 21.00	Reiss D - 25.00
High Jump (mtrs)	Tadhg P - 1.57	Oliver G - 1.60	Deo L/Ryan L - 1.70
Long Jump (mtrs)	John B/Djibril T-W - 4.20	Lungisa M - 5.05	Sam R - 5.71
Javelin (mtrs)	Alex C - 25.35	Luke R - 24.00	Jacob B - 34.5
4 x 100m Relay (m)	LIV (2014) - 59.92	BER (2022) - 55.41	SHA (2018) - 52.71
Shot Putt (mtrs)	Brandon M - 9.3	Ben C - 11.06	Daniel J K - 12.65
Triple Jump (mtrs)	Robbie J - 9.20	Robbie J - 9.90	Robbie J - 11.00
Wellie Wanging (mtrs)	Oliver K - 17.90	Tadhg P - 29.40	Ciaran H - 21.30

PSHE

PSHE Curriculum Year 7

Throughout the summer term, students in Year 7 have been actively looking at our core British Values and how these are reflected in the UK and how they mirror our Bishop Challoner Character Virtues. We have explored what it is to be a democracy and created our own political party manifestos. In conjunction with the King's Coronation, we have also explored the history of the British Monarchy and marked the historic event in May with all students creating amazing contributions to our Coronation bunting!

What is this, and what is decided here?
Write down your ideas.



Year 8

Year 8 have been looking at the all-important topic of Online Safety, questioning their own digital footprint and consolidating the ways in which we are all able to try and remain safer, online. The focus has been from website security and tips on how to keep safe when using social media, to what to do to reduce risks and how to seek and manage issues online. This has been looked at through both case studies and discussion and debating tasks, then culminating in a quiz, which students scored brilliantly on. Year 8 are now embarking on their final project of the year which focuses on careers and progression, using the fantastic online resource of Unifrog. As always, our PSHE curriculum is equipping students with the skills, knowledge and information needed in our ever-changing society.



Task Three: Managing my digital footprint.

It may be too late for Matthew (on the first slide) at his job interview, but it is by no means too late for you to manage your digital footprint. Employers need to know you are someone they can rely on, who isn't going to bring their workforce into disrepute.

1. Write a definition for what a digital footprint is using the information sheet to help you.
2. Create a mindmap like the one to the right and identify five pieces of information or things about a person they might not want a future employer/partner to see. All the answers are on the information sheet.
3. For each of your five point explain why and give one preventative measure.

How can I manage my digital footprint?

I could delete social media accounts I no longer use and delete any embarrassing photos I've uploaded before anyone shares them.

You must remember

...

Yes, you can delete things off social media, but is anything ever really deleted?
Is it gone forever?
Can you ensure that nobody will ever see it again?
Once something is posted you can never really take it back.

THINK BEFORE YOU TYPE, COMMENT, POST
-Is it kind? Is it necessary? Is it true?

WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

Year 9

Year 9's focus has been upon Personal Safety and they have explored serious topics such as exploitation, political extremism and racism. I am so proud of the mature manner in which our Year 9 students have approached these sensitive topic areas and their thought-provoking discussions have been commended in lessons. Through PSHE, students are developing a sense for the world around them and how they can maintain healthy and safe lives, knowing how to seek support if they need it. We develop our Bishop Challoner character virtues by using empathy and compassion to understand how other people live and how we can be faithful stewards to each other. Our curriculum helps to build well rounded citizens who exhibit tolerance and this has been re-enforced throughout the Year 9 lessons when we focus on the Equality Act of 2010 and our protected characteristics.



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Year 10 & 11 BTEC Personal Growth & Wellbeing

The BTEC in Personal Growth and Wellbeing continues to grow from strength to strength and students have completed their assignments for this academic year on Healthy Lifestyles, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Understanding Rights and Responsibilities and Financial Wellbeing. Our Standards Verifier has been especially impressed with our sampled work and noted how students are developing as citizens who are equipped for pursuits at post 16. Year 11 have worked very hard to complete their assignments to the highest standards and have created spreadsheets based on managing a budget that the best mathematicians amongst us could learn from! Mrs Jethwa and Miss Hampson wish them well in all their future endeavours.

Year 9 Personal Development Day

The month of May was such a busy one for Personal Development. Alongside our work and celebrations for the King's Coronation, Year 9 engaged in a day away from their usual curriculum and embraced a full and enriching development day. This was kick started with the inspiring biography of MBE Rob Pedley as he shared his life story from his time working on the front line and sharing how his personal injuries have taught him the importance of 'Precious Lives'.

Our Year 9 cohort were pin drop silent as he talked about personal safety and indeed making every moment of our lives important. The focus was on risk, personal responsibility and decision making. It was a thought-provoking hour which led us into the rest of the day with compassion and critical enquiry. Students spent time in classrooms exploring an interactive video that directly involved them in decision making around knife crime and both staff and students said that it was one of the best lessons that they'd been in!

Social Media and Online Safety featured in the morning and our day was completed with an hour's session of wellbeing and mindfulness. Last, but certainly not least, Gary Williams made a return appearance after he wowed our Year 10s earlier on in the year. Gary's story is heart wrenching as he touched on his childhood of neglect and having a criminal charge by the age of 10 years old. But Gary's message for our students is loud and clear and through dynamic delivery, he affirms that knife crime and gang affiliation is a very dangerous life to lead. Students have been so empowered by Gary's story that he is returning to us in the final week of term to present to Year 8.



Assemblies and Form Resources

The assembly and form resource programmes continue to enrich the curriculum of Personal Development, Safeguarding, Preventative, Spiritual Life and Cultural themes. Each week, two resources are created; one to be presented live in assembly and the other is pre-recorded and delivered in form rooms. Feedback from our wonderful student council members was that they would like more interactive Form Resources, so from immediate effect, they got what they asked for! In recent weeks we have looked at Refugee Week, Disability Awareness, My Money Week and Africa Day – with a plethora of quizzes, discussions and case studies, it is wonderful to see our form time and form rooms as a hive of activity! Through our live assemblies, students are also engaging with our Catholic Life focus for the summer term and have created their very own assemblies to present to the rest of their year group. This has been amazing to be a part of – students standing at the front of the sports hall and presenting about the inspiring lives of our form Saints, has been wonderful to witness. They have been prayerful, thoughtful and wise in their delivery and it is not an easy job to stand in front of an entire year group, so we are so proud of our Bishop Challoner students for taking part in this collaborative venture.



In 2010 our government created a new law called **The Equality Act**, it aimed to ensure everyone was treated fairly in society.

Nine protected characteristics were identified as things we cannot and must not discriminate people against, an example of one is age. Can you think of the other eight? Have a brief chat in your form groups and see if you can remember from PSHE lessons.

Selected Primary School Children
Year 5 & 6
Class Project
"Protect the Ability Not Disability"

Saint Mother Teresa

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta - Feast Day: September 5th
Patron Saint of Ecuador, India

She worked in poverty and suffering for the Latin America, she loved to help the poor.

She was born in Skopje, Macedonia, in 1926. Her family were prosperous and helped the poor and abandoned. At age 18 she had the calling to become a Nun and left her home country to serve Christ with the Loreto sisters in Dublin, Ireland. It is here she took on the name, Teresa. In 1929 she took the long voyage to India which was to be her home for the rest of her life. She taught in a primary school until 1937 where she had another calling. In 1948 Mother Teresa donned her famous blue and white sari for the first time and took to helping the very poor people of Calcutta. She started her own order of Nuns and the sisters worked with those who were dying, starving, homeless. By the time she dies in 1997 there were over 4000 sisters working in her name across 120 countries. She was caring, kind and indestructible!

Partnership with the Violence Reduction Unit

This year, we have worked even closer with our Police Liaison Officer and Violence Reduction Unit – with one primary focus – to make the lives of our students and wider society, safer. PC Tom Dale came in to talk to Year 9 classes about staying safe in our local area and the students loved it! They were full of questions for Tom and made him feel very welcome. Year 10 have also had the privilege of working with Round Midnight who are a Virtual Reality Company that affiliate with the police. 50 students visited the auditorium throughout the day to take part in a very real (I know because I had a go!) VR video where they made decisions on what to do as a real character in the scenario. It was interesting to see the decisions that they made; the discussions that took place afterwards with our presenter, Samantha Brace, were thoughtful and real. By sharing in all the characters' stories, students could see the impact of anti-social behaviour, how it may affect by-standers, victims, perpetrators, families and friends and indeed the police who deal with it. We cannot wait to invite Samantha and her team back in next year to impact the lives of even more of our students and young people.

Prayer
Almighty God, You reign over all things in wisdom, power, and love. Hear our prayers which we offer in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. For Charles our King, that You may pour upon him abundant gifts to help him fulfil the promises made at his coronation: Lord, in Your mercy hear our prayers.

King Charles III's Coronation
Saturday 6th May 2023



Fox Hollies

The Fox Hollies project started many years ago and we built up an incredible alliance with this wonderful, Special Needs School. Due to Covid, this project was put on hold for a couple of years but this year, we saw its return – and what a return it was! As previously reported, a group of 10, Year 9 students visited Fox Hollies classrooms in the Autumn term and started to forge relationships with our Fox Hollies friends. This project culminated in April, when Fox Hollies visited us at Bishop Challoner and collaboratively, we took part in a music project for the day. Working side by side we used a plethora of instruments, our recording studio and our voices to create a song that we performed at the end of the day. Many staff joined us for this and were really amazed at what we had achieved in just a day, but even more so, the long-standing relationships that were rooted. We plan to take part in a similar venture next year, increasing awareness of disabilities and joining together as part of a festival. Watch this space!



School Council, School Charity and Active Travel

Our school council has been pro-active this term with a focus on Personal Development and feedback on uniform and standards in school. Meeting with all year groups, it was established that students feel very safe at Bishop Challoner and they are aware of who they would speak to if they had any concerns. This is of course, supported by our PSHE curriculum which students said they really enjoyed, in particular our Personal Development Days and having visiting speakers in. Students expressed that they think we support culture and diversity very well and have enjoyed form resources attached to this during the year. One thing they said they would love to see on our calendar for next year is a 'Culture Day', which we plan to celebrate next Spring Term.

Our charity leads have also been the impetus for inspiring students to take part in many fund-raising activities throughout the academic year. Our school charity focus is St Chad's Sanctuary and the amazing work that they do for refugees and those in need. The summer term has seen constant activity creating a sense of community amongst the students. From Year 8 sponsored jogs around the playground (in the heat!) and cake sales, to Year 7 ice cream stands and Year 9 bike rides, we are delighted that as a school we have already raised £2,000 and the total just keeps growing.

Not only have our school council showed the true values of democracy throughout our meetings, but a small selection also took part in an Active Travel Ambassador scheme which we have worked so hard to develop. The objective behind the whole project was to encourage students to be more active, reduce congestion on our very narrow and heavily residential road and contribute to decreasing carbon emissions. The mission is aimed at our Year 6s coming to Bishop Challoner in September. We have created a wonderful competition for transition days and the pitch really impressed the judges at the event held at the prestigious council chamber in Birmingham City Centre. A huge thank you to Grace McD, Oliver D, Dario S, Faith A and George W!



School Games and PE & Sports Premium Programmes

PE and Sport Premium programme 2023-24

The table below shows the schools that have signed up to our PE and Sport Premium programme for 2023-24. Gold schools receive 2 hours PE provision per week, apart from Holy Family, Springfield and St Bernard's who have bespoke packages. The silver package is a comprehensive professional development programme tailored to the needs of individual schools and the bronze package includes play leader training and resources for Y5-6 pupils. We have recruited new schools for 2023-24 and look forward to working with staff and pupils at Cotteridge, Cherry Oak Special School and Yardley Wood.

School	2023-24
Holy Family	Gold (Bespoke)
Springfield	Gold (Bespoke)
St Bernard's	Gold (Bespoke)
St Catherine's	Gold
Wheeler's Lane	Gold
St Francis	Gold
St Mary's	Gold
Clifton	Gold
Cotteridge	Gold
Cherry Oak	Gold
The Olive School	Gold
Yardley Wood	Silver
Park Hill	Silver
Woodthorpe	Silver
Our Lady of Lourdes	Silver
King David	Silver
Ark Tindal	Silver
Harborne Primary	Silver
Ss John and Monica	Bronze
Lahey Lane	Bronze
St Martin de Porres	Bronze
St Jude's	Bronze
Moor Green	Bronze
Colmore Infants	Bronze
Billesley	Bronze
St Edward's	Bronze
Colmore Juniors	Bronze
Dame Ellen	Bronze
St Anne's	Bronze

Professional Development

It has been a busy term for primary CPD delivery with many PE staff, including Mr Noone, Mr Brade, Miss Hunter and Mrs Law all delivering whole school CPD to primary staff on a range of topics, including SHARP principles, gymnastics and games.

On Thursday 15th June, we organised a primary PE network meeting which was attended by over 20 PE leads and included discussions on our 'Head, Heart, Hands' assessment model and was led by Mr Noone, as well as the role of a PE lead, school sports days and CPD needs for 2023-24. There was also an opportunity for colleagues to network to discuss how we can all provide more opportunities for young people to be physically active.

School Games Mark

School Games Mark is an award that schools can apply for, and dependent upon responses can achieve bronze, silver, gold or platinum. Of the 37 schools in our network, so far 1 school, Colmore Juniors have achieved Platinum and Bishop Challoner, KES, Woodthorpe, Our Lady of Lourdes, St Martin de Porres, St Jude's and Uffculme Special School have been awarded Gold and our congratulations go to their staff and pupils. Queensbridge have been awarded silver and bronze awards have gone to St Bernard's and St Alban's. Three schools (St Catherine of Siena, King David and St Edward's) have started their applications and have until July 27th to complete them.

School Fund and Match Fund

Thanks to all parents/carers for their donations to school fund. If you would like to donate, you can do this via Schoolcomms. If your employer helps schools with Match Funding, we would also like to hear from you. Please contact g.noone@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk



School Games

The table below lists the School Games events we have organised since April. The calendar of events, festivals and competitions for 2023-24 is currently being planned and will be sent to all schools in early September. It will include many of the events from this year as well as new ones in archery, UV/glow in the dark netball/dodgeball and an increased number of girls football opportunities.

Event date	Event title	Year groups	Boys	Girls
18/04/2023	Y1 multi skills event	Yr 1	550	450
20/04/2023	Y2 multi skills event	Yr 2	600	500
27/04/2023	U14 boys table tennis	Y7-9	28	0
02/05/2023	Tennis Leaders	Y8-9	8	8
17/05/2023	Y3-4 athletics	Y3-4	35	25
22/05/2023	Y5-6 football festival	Y5-6	80	0
23/05/2023	Y5-6 tag rugby	Y5-6	70	50
24/05/2023	Y5-6 swim gala	Y5-6	24	24
25/05/2023	KS3 girls cricket	Y7-9	0	60
06/06/2023	Y6 Cricket festival	Y6	35	15
07/06/2023	Secondary Table Cricket	Y7-11	11	3
07/06/2023	Y3-4 tennis	Y3-4	12	12
08/06/2023	Y5-6 football competition	Y5-6	40	0
12/06/2023	Y7-8 netball	Y7-8	0	70
19/06/2023	Y5-6 netball festival	Y5-6	0	56
21/06/2023	Y4-5 cricket	Y4-5	40	20
22/06/2023	Y5-6 tennis	Y5-6	6	6
27/6/2023	Y5-6 tag rugby	Y3-4	55	35
29/6/2023	U14 table tennis	Y7-9	24	0

Media Studies

Students have made a strong start to this year's Media Studies NEA coursework tasks. At A Level, our Year 12 cohort are working on the music marketing brief, entailing a cross-media production introducing a new artist targeted at an audience of 16 to 25 year olds. Students are required to produce a music video alongside a front cover and double-page spread of a music magazine, both featuring the new artist of their invention. Students enjoyed a dedicated 'photoshoot' day where they took advantage of a temporary studio set up in the library to complete photo-shoot style images of their artist persona.

This year, there is an exciting range of genres with everything from country, sad girl and grime being represented. With excellent progress made on the editorial design of the magazines, students will turn their attention to filming sequences for the music video element over the summer. Meanwhile, GCSE pupils are working on the film marketing brief which, this year, offers a choice of Musical or Mystery film. In preparation for designing a DVD cover and theatrical release poster for a film of their invention, students have been researching the conventions of their chosen genre. Before the summer break, students will have started taking the photographs needed to populate the products.

Sixth Form

A Level Results Day

A Level results day is on Thursday 17th August. Students can collect results from 9AM from the library. Advice and guidance will be available on the day from the Sixth Form Team of staff. We wish students the very best of luck with their final results.

Year 12 Taster Day

On Wednesday 12th July, prospective students came into college to experience a taster of what Sixth form life will be like for them next academic year. A fantastic day where students really engaged well in taster lessons and discovered some of the exciting extra-curricular activities they will be getting involved with over the next few years.

Dementia Café

Sixth Form students at Bishop Challoner Catholic College have been supporting a fantastic initiative this year where they have been supporting community members at the Birmingham Irish Association Centre. The students provided a warm and welcoming environment where members of the community who are suffering with the symptoms associated with Dementia can enjoy an afternoon of games, refreshments and great company. This is a fantastic example of young students giving something back to their local communities and also learning from the many fascinating stories and experiences of our older members of the local society. Plans are underway to host a variety of events throughout the year and to grow these wonderful events.



GCSE Results Day

GCSE results day is on Thursday 24th August. Students can collect results from 9AM in the auditorium. This will also be the date when students can officially enroll into our Sixth Form. We wish students the best of luck with their final results and look forward to welcoming them into our Sixth Form

Duke of Edinburgh

Students this term have completed Bronze, Silver and Gold awards as part of the Duke of Edinburgh programme. These are fantastic qualifications and experiences for students to undertake. Students here have learned a variety of new skills and had to overcome physical challenges, developed confidence and provided fantastic support to local and global communities through the volunteering element of the courses. These awards will really support them in their next steps and help them to grow as young adults and prepare for the wider world and workplace.

Work Experience

Year 12 students have in July been on a one week work placements where many have gained some excellent experience of the wider workplace. Examples of placements include Mercedes Formula 1, Team ITG, KPMG, Kia, Birmingham City Council, the NHS, Cadburys, the Birmingham Law society and one student working alongside local MP Jess Philips.

University of Birmingham

We recently took the entire year 12 cohort to the University of Birmingham Open day. The day was a really inspirational event where students had the opportunity to visit the world class facilities of our local university.



**Programmes and
Work Groups now
available for signup**

Careers

Year 10 Mock Interviews

It is rare that an event goes without a single hitch, but fortunately the Year 10 Mock interviews did so. The Year 10s rose to the challenge magnificently. They showed amazing resilience and the positive impact these brief encounters with an employer had on them and their self-esteem was clear to see.

Year 10 continued to focus on the world of work this term as they began weekly, work experience preparation sessions in form time. These focused on different aspects they needed to consider in relation to work experience, such as, appropriate workplace behavior and health and safety. These sessions were in addition to the Employability Day that Year 10s had this term which kicked off with an inspirational talk from Dan Hoff-Rodrigues (from Cx2) and was followed by a range of workshops designed to develop their thinking around employability.

Year 10s have now returned from their work experience placements. The feedback from the employers has been phenomenally positive this year; a credit to themselves, their families and the school. Those students who were not able to source a placement, completed an Enterprise challenge and visited UCB to gain an insight into a number of different career paths and also considered a college as a place of work.



Careers Fair

We were finally able to bring the Careers Fair #2 to life this half term after it was delayed in March due to snow. The students in Years 8, 9 and 10 had the opportunity to talk to a variety of employers, colleges and universities on the day. It was wonderful to welcome two former Bishop Challoner students; Tim Jena (Cundall) and Alex Forde (South and City College) to our event (shown in photos below). They loved coming back in to school and helping to inspire current students.



Year 12 Work Experience

Year 12s have been equally as impressive on their work experience placements. The range of placements that students have been able to source this year have been very impressive. We have had students showcasing their presentation skills at TeamITG in London and a student at Formula 1! Year 12 have also been taking advantage of the quality virtual work experience programmes that exist; some have completed placements with the Crown Prosecution Service and others at prestigious solicitors such as Kennedys. All of these experiences; face to face or virtual will be invaluable to what they will do in the future.



Open Learning Centre

Summer Reading Programme

As part of our involvement with the DLP and the South Network reading initiative we are going to be running a summer reading programme for our new Year 7 intake. They have been given a copy of *The Chime Seekers* and will follow a programme of activities linked to the book both over the summer holidays and in their first term at Bishop Challoner.



UNIFEST

Nine Year 10 students were successful in their application to UNIFEST 2023. This is a massive achievement especially when we know that over 150 students were unsuccessful and a further 150 are on the waiting list. UNIFEST offers students the opportunity to spend up to 3 days at one of 6 universities including UoB, BCU, UCB, Worcester, Newman & Aston where they are able to experience university life.

Bookbuzz

Thanks to Mrs Giubertoni we have been able to order BookBuzz for our Sept 2023 intake. This is wonderful news and means that yet again our new students will all receive a free book. More details here: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes-and-campaigns/bookbuzz/>

E-books

<https://bishopchalloner.wheelers.co/>

The Year 7 students have all had a library lesson to introduce them to this resource.

New features are shown below, and this information has been sent to staff, students and parents/carers.

- Text to Speech (TTS)
- Translation to 150+ languages
- Text to Speech for translated languages
- Sentence structure mark up (nouns, verbs, adjectives etc)
- Simple image depiction of words

Reading Area

The chairs and tables are now here, and it's suddenly become the new favourite spot in the library.

It's also a great place to display new books, magazines, leaflets and the opportunities bulletin.



The new display shelving is here and looks great. It's been a real hit and has been a great way to show off our new books. I love the fact that students can browse and choose their next book easily. The idea is to create a bookshop vibe with them being directed to a variety of genres and hopefully trying something new.



Science Learning Partnership

We have had an excellent Spring and Summer term at Central Midlands SLP, with an exciting and innovative programme of CPD opportunities for primary and secondary science teachers and technicians.

Our extensive programme of CPD events this term has included:

- Radiation Protection Supervisor Training
- Remote Physics Network – with Practical Training Days
- Heads of science subject development days
- Primary STEM conference

We are also running a strand of courses in collaboration with neighbouring SLPs including the North Midlands, Gloucestershire and Cheshire.

All of our courses continue to be evaluated positively and we have far exceeded all of our targets for the academic year which

included delivering 1275 days of CPD (we have delivered 1602 which is 126% of target). We also generated more course income than any other Science Learning Partnership nationally.



Highlight of the term was gathering together approximately 40 primary science leads at Make UK in Aston, Birmingham for an outstanding day of primary science CPD at our annual summer conference.

We are looking forward to another excellent year of CPD events in September 2023.

Bishop Challoner Training School

This has been a wonderful year for our Training School. We are offering courses from undergraduate paid internships, through teacher training, to National Professional Qualifications all the way up to Headship. Our training venue, Challoner House is becoming a flagship venue for teacher development in the area, and we continue to welcome teachers from across the region to Bishop Challoner to further develop their careers.

Teacher Training – School Direct/PGCE

Our cohort of Primary and Secondary trainee teachers have now completed their year of training and are securing jobs ready to start their careers. We run programmes on behalf of Newman University, Birmingham City University, and Warwick University, and these continue to be very well received. We have enjoyed a successful year with our trainees, and have been delighted to see the positive impact they have made in schools, and also to see many of them getting jobs with us or with other local schools. The programme has involved so many teachers from Challoner delivering expert content, and involving workshops, and as always this brings a great extra dimension to the work of the school. Next year will be our final year working with these providers before we move to being our own training provider as Bishop Challoner SCITT!

Applications for teacher training have been difficult across the year nationally but our recruitment team for teacher training programmes have done brilliantly:

Applications up 100% from last year (up 13% nationally)

Offers up 17% from last year (down 9% nationally)

Offers accepted up 36% from last year (down 10% nationally)

We are continuing to prepare to deliver our own teacher training programme starting in 2024 as Bishop Challoner SCITT. This means any trainees who apply to us next year will be studying a programme written by our own teachers and experts, and for whom we will be the accrediting body. This is an incredibly exciting time for us all as we grow the team and get ready to grow 'brand Bishop Challoner' even further!

Train to Teach with the Bishop Challoner community

We love it when we have our own school alumni apply to train to teach with Bishop Challoner, but did you know as a career changer we would also love to have you? If you've been thinking of training to teach, and would like to discuss it further, the team would love to talk to you, and you could be joining us in Bishop Challoner or a partner school with the same nurturing approach we have in school. Get in touch here: trainingschool@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk.

Professional Development Programmes

Teachers from Bishop Challoner facilitate training programmes for teachers across the region. We have been continuing to work with Best Practice Network to bring National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) in a range of specialisms, including in Senior Leadership, Behaviour and Culture and Leading Teacher Development, to name but a few! Delegates from across Birmingham – and even as far as Shrewsbury – are signing up for our programmes as we grow our reputation for excellent delivery as a trusted provider in the region. With funding still available for these programmes in the next academic year, we look forward to delivering more programmes to more teachers! Whatever the professional need for teachers, we provide the courses to help them develop.

Teaching Internships

Our Teaching Internship Programme grew this year, and we ran paid internships in Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and MFL. We had nearly 90 undergraduate students join us for 3 weeks, with training days at Bishop Challoner and placements in schools across Birmingham. Working with some of our partner schools, our students will have benefitted from having these enthusiastic subject experts in the classroom and the Interns may have discovered that teaching is the future career for them. We are inviting the Interns back to Bishop Challoner in the Autumn for a reunion event, where our Training School Team will be on hand to help them with their applications for becoming trainee teachers. We have already had 2 interns apply to train to teach with us in September, which is great news!

We have also started a new internship experience for year 12 students, which will begin in September under the leadership of Isaac Brown, offering our own students a brilliant route to experience teaching as a career, and develop their UCAS experience.

ECF - Early Career Framework

We have now run 2 years as a delivery partner for Best Practice Network on the new programmes for Early Career Teachers. This has required a lot of extra, structured support and expertise from both school-based mentors and also from our expert facilitator team, who have been delivering all year round on a range of subjects. This 2-year long programme is aimed at supporting teachers as they start their careers, helping to keep them in the teaching profession, and we were delighted to see our first cohort of teachers and mentors complete the 2 year programme this year.

For further details about admissions contact the Training School Team at: trainingschool@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

Visit our website: www.bctsa.org



Extra-Curricular

The extracurricular and enrichment activities at Bishop Challoner have been exceptionally busy in the last half-term, offering numerous opportunities to students across various subjects and departments. Our school takes pride in providing a diverse range of clubs and activities to enhance the overall learning experience for our students.

Some of the exciting clubs on offer to our students include the Breakfast & Games Club, where students can enjoy a morning meal and engage in fun games to start their day. The We Sing Choir offers a platform for students to showcase their vocal talents, while the Homework Club provides a supportive environment for completing assignments.

For students interested in technology and coding, we have the Robotics Club and Drone Club, where they can explore the fascinating world of robotics and drone technology. Additionally, the Girls' Cyber Security club aims to empower young girls and foster their interest in the field of cybersecurity.

Creativity finds expression in our Art Club, where students can hone their artistic skills and explore different mediums. The Law Room Club provides an opportunity for budding legal enthusiasts to delve into the world of law. Those looking to improve their typing skills can join the Touch Typing Club, and our Y7 Literacy Club focuses on enhancing literacy skills for Year 7 students.

The performing arts are well-represented with our Drama Club, where students can immerse themselves in the world of acting and stagecraft. For avid readers, the Year 12 Challenging Reads club offers intellectually stimulating discussions on thought-provoking literature. Chess enthusiasts can participate in the KS3 Chess Club, and the Year 7 Games Club provides an array of enjoyable board games.

Other clubs include the Textiles Club, We Sing Choir (yes, we have it twice!), Year 7 Science Club, Gifted and Talented Maths club, Maths drop-in Club, Cookery Club in a Mug, Warhammer Club, Keyboard Club, Digital Art, and Dance Club.

It is important to note that this list does not include the incredible range of PE clubs offered before and after school, as well as the exceptional PE fixtures that our dedicated staff organize for our students. Moreover, several departments have arranged workshops conducted by external academia. Notably, the University of Birmingham conducted a Robotics workshop and a science workshop, among others.

One strength of Bishop Challoner, when compared to neighboring schools and beyond, is the wide range of clubs offered before school in the morning. Our fantastic PE clubs, along with support clubs like touch typing and breakfast clubs, provide students with valuable opportunities for personal development and engagement.

The extracurricular program and enrichment activities at Bishop Challoner are a cornerstone of our school's educational experience. This year has been particularly successful, with a diverse range of extracurricular activities and clubs. We are immensely proud of the opportunities our students receive, from the day they enroll to the day they leave our school.

We extend our gratitude to all the teachers, staff, and external partners who have made these extracurricular activities and clubs possible. Their dedication and enthusiasm have enriched the lives of our students and contributed to their holistic growth.

We look forward to continuing to provide exceptional extracurricular opportunities to our students in the coming years, fostering their passions and talents beyond the classroom.

Wellbeing

During the Summer Term, there has been one event in particular in which has stood out to me in terms of supporting others when they are having difficulties. At Glastonbury When Lewis Capaldi was struggling to sing the crowd sang for him and supported him through to the end of his performance, creating a special Glastonbury moment.

This highlighted the power we have to help and support others. We have spoken with students about how they can look out for others. Over the summer holiday. This can be helping out at home with tasks such as washing up or ringing up elderly relatives who are on their own to check in on them.



Six long weeks with the Family!

For some families, the chance to spend more time together is a joy. For others it might be a real challenge for a variety of reasons: children with very different needs; financial burdens; childcare complication; family squabbles...

We've put together 3 simple ideas to try out to bring the family together.

Create a summer holiday bucket list – this could be a great way to start your holidays and give you a chance to discuss your interests as a family. Each member should suggest up to 3 or 4 activities they would like to do over the coming weeks, half of which should be free! Go through the suggestions and agree on your top priorities, don't over-commit yourself. Limit your choices to a couple of activities per week for the family to do together. You could even make a display for your family noticeboard.

Sample Project



Get Active – Look for ways to stay active individually and as a family. If your children have interests in active hobbies, do your best to keep encouraging these over the break from school.

Take time for your own active pursuits, so that you are a positive role model. Look for ways to get active as a family: a walk in the country, trips to the park or even just spending time in the garden.

Switch off – Whether it's keeping up to date with current affairs, browsing social media, watching a favourite programme or checking work emails mobile phones, tablets and the TV are a huge part of everyday life.

However, switching off and going through a family digital detox can be a great way to take time out and focus on quality family time. Try replacing a couple of hours in the evening, that might normally be spent watching TV or checking social media, with active family time (play cards or a board game, bake something together, go for a walk?).



Would that be impossible? You might want to discuss, as a family, why that is and set yourselves a more manageable target.

Aim to turn off all screens for an hour before bed to help you unwind and prepare for sleep and consider removing devices from the bedrooms entirely. With this one it is really important that parents/carers lead by example so try, where possible, to avoid checking your phone during your family time.

Water Safety

We want everyone to enjoy the summer safely. It is tempting to cool down in water, so let's be water safe not sorry.

Water Safe advice from the Canal and River

It might seem like a great idea to cool down in open water. However, swimming is prohibited in our canals and rivers. There are too many risks that you can't see hidden below the surface, and lots of other ways you can cool down with two feet on the towpath.

Never jump canals and locks; the water is deep, and the walls are slimy, often with nothing to cling on to which means it is difficult to get out.

Swimming pools are the safest place to swim. Swimming in canals and rivers is not allowed because of the danger of boats, deep water, strong currents and dangerous objects lurking beneath the surface.

If you fall in the water, float. Floating helps you feel calm, and you may be able to climb out.



Beach Safety from the RNLI

The beach is a fantastic place to go, but it can be dangerous. If you're heading to the seaside, take a look at our top five tips to help you and your family stay safe

<https://rnli.org/safety/beach-safety>



RNLI Beach Safety – Top Five Tips To Stay Safe By The Sea

If you're heading to the coast, check out our beach safety advice. Here you can find our five top tips to help you stay safe at the seaside. rnli.org

Gaming awareness

With the summer holidays around the corner, it is so important to consider how much time is spent using online devices and games as they can be detrimental to our health and wellbeing. Young people are now growing up in a digital world of new technology and this can be overwhelming for both students and parents and carers. 93% of children in the UK play video games whilst 90% of 11 year olds own a mobile phone where gaming can be at the touch of their fingertips. Online games can be a great way for children and young people to keep busy and stay in touch with friends and family, but it's important that everyone considers their safety. Please always consider the age appropriateness of the game, messaging functions and in game purchases. It is also very important to remember that the behaviour of your child could be affected by some games. They may include bullying or 'griefing' others, trolling or other inappropriate behaviour. Very intensive games can result in short-term bad behaviour such as poor temper or 'ragequitting', which is getting so upset they stop playing immediately. Ensuring a game's suitability can help, as can limiting playing time. The summer holiday can be a time to use for lots of activities including physical exercise and being outdoors in a green space.

If you would like some more advice or information to help safeguard your child from the potential harms of gaming and gambling, please do look at the link provided.

<https://www.ygam.org/support-and-advice/>

Rail Safety

Please see below links to videos on Rail safety, to help us all keep safe over Summer.

NEW Secondary school version: Age 11-16 <https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-secondary-school-safety-talk/>

College & University version: Age 16 plus <https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-college-safety-talk-lnw>

Calm Halm

Below is a link to an NHS app Calm Halm that helps young people manage their self-harm urges, giving them activities to complete and general well-being advice. <https://calmharm.co.uk/>

Spending Family time together on a Budget

Free Sports

Sport and exercise can be really important for our wellbeing and there are numerous opportunities for free sport over the summer holidays. Tennis For Free's website lets you know where there is free tennis within the area. Aldi is also offering a free sports session when you spend £30 in store until 31 July 2023. Collect a unique code from the till and redeem it on the site by 30 September 2023. There are over 50 sports to choose from and you can filter by postcode.

Visit a Museum

Whether your kids are into football, art or history, there are hundreds of great free museums, many with interactive exhibits and activities aimed at younger visitors. For example visiting the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery is completely free.

Kids Eat for free

There are an increasing number of cafes and restaurants that offer deals such as kids eat for free or kids eat for £1. It is always worth checking before whether you can walk in for the offer or need to book in advance.

Cinema Deals

Most cinemas now have deals for kids. For example, Vue enables children, and the adults accompanying them, to get tickets from £2.99 every morning from 10am in the school holidays, while Odeon has a similar offer for £2.50 at selected cinemas.

At home cooking

From baking to making dinner, it's a great way to teach your kids life skills and hopefully getting them to eat more of the good stuff. Either invest in a kids' cookery book or look up recipes online.

As well as giving them some focus during the weekly shop, why not make it a bigger activity by letting them set up a 'restaurant' home, designing the menu and setting the table. You never know, you may even convince them to help you with the washing up!

Birmingham's Tolkien Trail

If you have a Lord of the Rings fan in your house, this could be the perfect way to get outside and exploring.

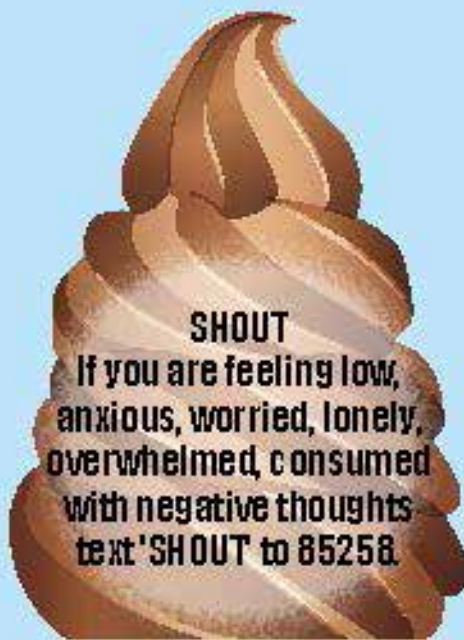
The legendary author spent many of his childhood years living in and around Birmingham and the trail explores places that inspired The Hobbit and Lord of the Rings. Beginning at Sarehole Mill and ending at the Moseley Bog, this is the perfect walk to split into a couple of days to get out of the house and learn about the life of J.R.R.Tolkien.

Cannon Hill Park

Cannon Hill Park has been described as Birmingham's Best Day Out. Although there are plenty of activities in the park that cost money, just getting out and exploring the park can be a great way to burn off any excess energy. Pack up a picnic, find a football, grab some sun cream and make a day of it in the park.



The Samaritans
www.samaritans.org
24/7 365 days of the
year. Call for free: 116
123



SHOUT
If you are feeling low,
anxious, worried, lonely,
overwhelmed, consumed
with negative thoughts
text 'SHOUT' to 85258.



Childline:
www.childline.org.uk

Call for free
0800 1111



The Trussell Trust
Stop UK Hunger.
Find a foodbank near you

www.trusselltrust.org



Women's aid
Domestic violence support
www.womensaid.org.uk
<https://chat.womensaid.org.uk/> For advice and support,
not for emergencies.



Kooth
an online mental
health community.
www.kooth.org

**Remember: If you are worried about the safety of yourself or another
person at any time call 999**

Changes to the School Day

MONDAY

8.30	-	8.40	Staff Briefing	
8.40	-	8.50	Registration	
			Y7, Y8, Y9 and Y12	Y10, Y11 and Y13
8.50	-	9.45	Period 1	Period 1
9.45	-	10.05	Break	Period 2
10.05	-	10.40	Period 2	Period 2
10.40	-	11.00	Period 2	Break
11.00	-	11.55	Period 3	Period 3
11.55	-	12.35	Lunch	Period 4
12.35	-	12.50	Period 4	Period 4
12.50	-	1.30	Period 4	Lunch
1.30	-	2.25	Period 5	Period 5
2.25	-	3.20	Period 6/Registration	Period 6/Registration
3.20			End of School	

TUESDAY - THURSDAY

8.30	-	8.40	Staff Briefing	
8.40	-	8.50	Registration	
			Y7, Y8, Y9 and Y12	Y10, Y11 and Y13
8.50	-	9.50	Period 1	Period 1
9.50	-	10.15	Break	Period 2
10.15	-	10.50	Period 2	Period 2
10.50	-	11.15	Period 2	Break
11.15	-	12.15	Period 3	Period 3
12.15	-	12.55	Lunch	Period 4
12.55	-	1.15	Period 4	Period 4
1.15	-	1.55	Period 4	Lunch
1.55	-	2.55	Period 5	Period 5
2.55	-	3.20	Form Period/Assembly	
3.20			End of School	

FRIDAY

8.30	-	8.40	Staff Briefing	
8.40	-	8.45	Registration	
			Y7, Y8, Y9 and Y12	Y10, Y11 and Y13
8.45	-	9.45	Period 1	Period 1
9.45	-	10.05	Break	Period 2
10.05	-	10.45	Period 2	Period 2
10.45	-	11.05	Period 2	Break
11.05	-	12.00	Period 3	Period 3
12.00	-	12.40	Lunch	Period 4
12.40	-	12.55	Period 4	Period 4
12.55	-	1.35	Period 4	Lunch
1.35	-	2.30	Period 5/Registration	Period 5/Registration
2.30			End of School	
2.30	-	3.30	Staff Inset	

Uniform - September 2023

Black blazer with school badge
 Royal blue, long sleeved, V neck jumper or sweatshirt
 (Year 11 jumper is maroon)- optional
 (Jumpers/sweatshirts must not carry a motif)
 Black pleated skirt of knee to mid calf length worn on
 the waist not the hips (maximum of 5 cm above the
 knee/stretch/lycra/straight skirts are forbidden)
 Black full length school trousers
 (not flared/turn ups/skinny/leggings/hipsters/black
 jeans)
 White or blue shirt style shirt
 School tie royal blue and silver (maroon and silver for
 Year 11)
 Plain black opaque tights
 Formal black leather/leather look school shoes
 (Trainers/Trainer type shoes and boots are forbidden.
 No colours on the shoes) Shoes must be all black.

Black blazer with school badge
 Royal blue, long sleeved, V neck jumper or sweatshirt
 (Year 11 jumper is maroon)- optional
 (Jumpers/sweatshirts must not carry a motif)
 Black school trousers (not black jeans)
 White or blue shirt
 School tie royal blue and silver (maroon and silver for
 Year 11)
 Formal black leather/leather look school shoes
 (Trainers/Trainer type shoes and boots are forbidden.
 No colours on the shoes) Shoes must be all black.

Students are required to wear the standard uniform of blazer, tie, white/blue shirt with black school trousers (or knee length black school skirt for girls). If students are wearing a skirts they must also wear plain, black, opaque tights. Students are reminded that plain black school shoes should be worn and that trainers/trainer style shoes are forbidden.

SUMMER UNIFORM

Summer uniform is permitted after May half term. It will not be compulsory for students to wear a blazer, they are able to wear just a shirt and tie. If a second layer is required, it must be a blazer and not any other item such as a hoody or outdoor coat. Students are permitted to wear flesh coloured or black tights. All other uniform requirements remain unchanged.

SPORTS KIT

Navy blue short sleeved polo shirt with school badge
 Navy blue shorts with school badge
 Navy blue leggings with school badge
 White sports socks (must be plain and above the ankles)
 Trainers or running or cross trainers (pumps, converse
 or vans are strictly forbidden)

Additional Information:

Black/navy plain swimming costume (only required in
 year 7).
 Optional navy blue tracksuit bottoms with or without
 school badge
 Optional navy blue 1/4 zip top with school badge

Students must bring their PE kit to every PE lesson, even if they have a note, as the PE staff will involve students in refereeing, scoring or to analyse the performance of other students. Students will be expected to wear the PE kit provided if they fail to bring their own. All PE kit is available from Clive Mark and will carry the Bishop Challoner School crest.

DRESS CODE

Students are not allowed to wear makeup, nail varnish, acrylic nails or jewellery to school at any time. One pair of plain gold or silver studs only to be worn in the lobes. No piercings in any other part of the ear are permitted. These must be removed for PE.

In order to complement the smart school uniform we insist that students' hair is smart in appearance and that students do not have shaved/razored hair styles or lines/patterns shaved into the hair. Extreme changes of hair colour are also not permitted. Headscarves must be black. Braids are allowed. The final decision as to whether a particular haircut/style is appropriate is at the discretion of senior staff.

We hope that all students will co-operate fully with the above dress code. The final decision as to whether a student's appearance is appropriate or not rests with the school.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

Students require all the usual writing materials: pen, pencil, rubber, ruler etc. and their netbook. All computer-based work will be backed up using Microsoft OneDrive and we encourage students to not rely on removable storage such as memory sticks or external hard drives. A strong school bag is essential to keep equipment and books in good condition.

Mobile Phones

With most students in school now owning mobile phones for use to and from school, it is important that they are also not a distraction to study. Students found with mobile phones during lessons and around the school will have them confiscated and they will be returned at the discretion of senior staff/Heads of Year. In more persistent cases, phones may only be returned to parents/carers.

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Pastoral Staff

There are a number of Pastoral staff changes that you should be aware of from September 2023, we welcome and congratulate all staff joining the team.

Students will have been informed of changes to Pastoral staffing for the new academic year over the last couple of weeks. We say thank you to Mr Brown, Head of Year 8 who takes on new responsibilities within school.

Staffing for 2023/2024 is detailed below-

Standards for Learning Intervention Lead- Mrs Jethwa

Head of Year 7- Miss Beard
Assistant Head of Year 7- Mr Fell

Head of Year 8- Miss Sadler
Assistant Head of Year 8- Mr Brade

Head of Year 9- Mrs Whelan
Assistant Head of Year 9- Miss Hunter

Standards for Learning Intervention Lead- Mr Clarke

Head of Year 10- Miss Shirley
Assistant Head of Year 10- Mr Khitab

Head of Year 11- Mr Clarke
Assistant Head of Year 11- Miss Williams

Head of Sixth Form- Mr Mullins

Head of Year 12- Dr Osborne

Head of Year 13- Mrs McGowan

Attendance and Punctuality

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.

PROVISIONAL SCHOOL TERM DATES 2023/2024

AUTUMN TERM 2023

School opens Monday 4th September
Year 7, 11, 13 start Wednesday 6th September
All students Thursday 7th September
to Thursday 26th October

Half Term Holiday

Friday 27th October to Friday 3rd November (1 week)
Monday 6th November to Thursday 21st December

Christmas Holiday 2023

Friday 22nd December to Friday 5th January (2 weeks)

SPRING TERM 2024

Monday 8th January to Thursday 8th February

Half Term Holiday

Friday 9th February to Friday 16th February (1 week)
Monday 19th February to Friday 22nd March

Easter Holiday 2024

Monday 24th March to Monday 8th April (2 weeks)

SUMMER TERM 2024

Tuesday 9th April to Friday 24th May

Half Term Holiday

Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May (1 week)
Monday 3rd June to Friday 19th July 2024

INSET DAYS 2023-2024*

Friday 27th October 2023
Friday 22nd December 2023
Friday 9th February 2024
Monday 8th April 2024
Monday 22nd July 2024

