

# BC News



Summer 2025



# WINNERS

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# A Message from Dr Coughlan, Principal

## Dear Parent/Carer,

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been another fantastic year for the school in our Year of Hope. I have drawn out some highlights below, but I hope you enjoy reading the wider document.

The term started with the sad news that Pope Francis had died. We offered up our prayers for him and ensured that we did not miss the opportunity to educate our young people on the process of the election of a new pope through the conclave. This was shared in both RE lessons and through our form time resources and assemblies.

There have been many opportunities for our students to show service to others in our Year of Hope. Students have continued to support the dementia cafes, to provide a regular tea party for local parishioners and a small group have been working closely with students from Fox Hollies school. Our young leaders also supported a sponsored football events at St Dunstan's primary school.

Our whole school charity this year is Fr Hudson's Caritas. Our students have provided countless charity events this year; I have never seen as many cake sales and raffles in the school. We have already exceeded our £5,000 target and we hope to raise more than £6,000 by the end of the academic year. Representatives from Fr Hudson's have been into the school to speak with our young people and to raise awareness of the work of the charity. Students and staff will present the cheque to Fr Hudson's at our summer awards evening.

As Pilgrims of Hope, students travelled to see the relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis, we had a Year 9 retreat at Soli House and just last week, students and staff visited Rome on pilgrimage.

We were truly honoured to have the relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis visit the school in June. All students had the opportunity to attend a talk on the life of Carlo Acutis and to venerate the relics. This was a magnificent moment for the school and the reverence of our students was remarkable. We look forward to him becoming a Saint in September.

It has been a busy term for exams. All year groups have undertaken key assessments and we have hosted all the usual public examinations. The students deserve great credit for their hard work, careful revision and general resilience. We sincerely hope they achieve the grades they deserve given their undoubted efforts and look forward to seeing the results in the summer.

This term we held our second Culture Day; it was a magnificent event and even better than our first one. Students were able to attend in traditional dress and there are some stunning images from the day. All our young

people visited our culture fair in the auditorium to learn about different cultural heritages. Across break time we had a wide range of cultural music playing and we even had an appearance from a dragon! It is worth remembering that across the school there are 97 different languages spoken which is quite incredible and a wonderful reflection of the rich and diverse nature of our school and wider community.

We recently hosted our creativity and refugee week. Activities took place across all departments and some magnificent work was produced. The week shone a great light on the Catholic curriculum and the wonderful work departments do to build moral purpose into their learning.

We pride ourselves on the rich range of experiences we offer our students and the events they can access because of the commitment of their teachers.

We have held several Duke of Edinburgh expeditions; our art department have been working closely with the Barber institute through a series of workshops and our chemistry department have been working with Birmingham University to deliver workshops to our Year 10 students. In terms of our extended curriculum, we have held a Year 9 personal development day, science week and students have visited Carding Mill as part of their geography fieldwork.

This term, 15 students and 3 staff have travelled to Peru to take part in an international communities project. The images coming back to the school have been incredible. Our Year 12 worked directly with students helping to teach in their schools and carried out general work in the community. All involved were an absolute credit to our school.

Our students once again acted as the ball crew at the Lexus Birmingham Open. Up until this year the event had been a woman's only event. This year, for the first time, the men joined the event. This required even more students to support the open - around 70 in total across the course of the week.

We have had incredible sporting success this term. A few highlights have been our girls football team winning the inaugural Trevor Francis cup, Teal and Imogen competing for the GB youth team for synchronised swimming in Hungary and Trinity being selected for the Junior Games 800m at the English Schools finals. Last year we had rain on sports day and this year it was 30 degrees! Nonetheless, we had an extremely successful sports day with several school records broken.

We continue to work tirelessly to drive up attendance. I would like to thank parents and carers for all their efforts in ensuring our students regularly attend school. Student



attendance levels remain a significant national challenge for all schools and our current attendance data is extremely pleasing.

In the past term we have coordinated three Year 6 induction days. All three days have been extremely successful. It is evident our next Year 7 cohort have so many wonderful talents to share with us. We ended the final induction day with a wonderful celebration of Mass.

Bishop Challoner has always had a strong national reputation for its support work and collaboration with other schools and institutions. Since September 2024 we have been accredited to train teachers and in the past few weeks over 100 new teachers have achieved qualified teacher status through the work of the Bishop Challoner SCITT.

We have, for the first time, cancelled our early morning leavers service on the last day of term due to the small number of staff that are leaving at the end of the academic year. A special mention to Dr Osbourne our Head of Chemistry and Head of Year 13 who has been with the school for many years and moves on to pastures new in September. Our thanks also to Ms Hamilton who have given excellent support to our SEND team and Ms Otubanjo-Jacobs who has been a great support to our science department. We wish them all well.

This summer Mr Hetherton will step back from his role as Senior Vice Principal but, thankfully, will return as a teacher for two days a week next year. We are grateful for his continued service to the school. Mr Hetherton has been the most remarkable deputy head teacher to the school and his wisdom, calmness and assured view on the world has been an enormous help to the wider senior leadership team and countless colleagues across the school. We look forward to seeing him again in September.

Finally, this summer an educational giant retires (for the second time). Mrs Taylor is a simply remarkable woman. It is impossible to do justice to her work in just a few lines. Mrs Taylor has been the brains behind every venture the school has undertaken in the past 30 plus years. From Training School to Teaching School, Maths Hub, Computing Hub and more recently our SCITT. I have literally lost count of how many successful bids she has worked on over the years and the networks and partnerships she has established to benefit our school. Mrs Taylor has been the brains behind our CPD offer and all our work on school improvement including playing an intrinsic role in helping to establish John Henry Newman Catholic College. She will be enormously missed by us all.

We are blessed to have incredibly talented staff in the school and it would be remis of me not to mention that we now have a Mastermind winner on staff. A huge congratulations to Mr Robinson who had the nation gripped with his performance stealing the win with the very last question. Our whole community is incredibly proud of him.

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.

J Coughlan

Principal



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# Catholic Life

## Leavers

We were delighted to spend time celebrating Mass with our Year 11 and Year 13 students as we prayed for them before the start of their examinations. A lovely day spent in church and in the common room sharing prayers and memories with our students as they move towards their next chapters. We wish them well both with their results and going forward to the next stage of their journey.



## Pilgrimage to the shrine of Blessed Carlo Acutis

We have been delighted to be able to offer students the opportunity to take part in a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Blessed Carlo Acutis. Students had fantastic day where they were inspired by the life of Carlo, had Mass, and received a blessing with his relics.



## Weekly Parish Mass

We are delighted to continue to join St Dunstan's Parish Mass each Thursday where our students celebrate Mass with the community alongside leading the prayers and readings. We are delighted with the maturity and reverence shown by students during this time and we thank St Dunstan's parish for providing us with this weekly opportunity to celebrate with the community.



## Vocations Mass

It was wonderful to be a part of today's Vocations Mass with other schools from our Deanery at St Dunstan's church. A joyful celebration and wonderful message from Fr Toby and Canon Gary who helped students to consider what a vocation might look like for their lives.



## Year 9 Soli House

We are delighted to have provided the opportunity for Year 9 students to attend a retreat at Soli House. Students took part in an action packed days including trek to a cafe, an Emmaus walk, biking, archery, battlegrounds, Holy Mass and karaoke. We are sure students will have collected memories that will last with them for years to come and will greatly benefit from this opportunity to spend time in retreat, getting closer to God.

## Relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis

We were very excited when the relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis came to our school on Tuesday 24th June. All students in the school had the opportunity to be in the presence of the relics, to write prayer intentions that were taken to Assisi in Italy and placed under the tomb of Blessed Carlo and to spend time in adoration before the Eucharist. The students will be highly excited to watch the canonisation of Carlo on September 7th with great memories of such a powerful experience.



# Refugee Week

We have been marking Refugee Week across the school, with special lessons in all subjects. Students have learnt about the plight of refugees in the world today, the history of refugees in the Bible, written prayers for refugees and composed letters to politicians, to mention just a few of the activities that have taken place. Furthermore, students have prayed for refugees around the world during prayer and worship and assemblies as part of continuing commitment to our School of Sanctuary status which we were delighted to achieve last year.



# Religious Studies

Another packed term in Religious Education! Year 7, 8, and 9 have continued with our spiral curriculum and have been studying 'To the Ends of the Earth'.

## Key Stage 3

Year 7 are learning about how Jesus' work continued after His Ascension into heaven through the Apostles and the Holy Spirit.

Year 8 have studied the importance of Jesus' Resurrection and what it means for Catholics. They have also learnt about what life after death means across other religions and Humanists.

Year 9 have been exploring the idea that humans are social beings, created for life in a community with others. They have considered the Church as more than just a building and reflected on the Catholic universal call to be saints.



## The Conclave

Students fully engaged in the lessons on the Papal Conclave. They enjoyed exploring every detail—from the origins of each cardinal (a special interest in Cardinal Nichols!) to what was on the ballot, how the voting worked, and finally, the dramatic appearance of the white smoke. It was truly wonderful to hear them excitedly talking about watching the chimney smoke rise on TV.



They also showed a deep appreciation for the late Pope Francis as we regularly explore his teachings and worldview. Now, they're eagerly following the early days of Pope Leo XIV's papacy, watching with great interest as his leadership unfolds.

# Refugee Week

As we continue on pilgrimage during the Jubilee Year of Hope, students have taken part in a reflective lesson focussing on stories of hope from the refugee experience—such as Syrian families returning home, finding refuge in the Eucharist during conflict, and the global Church's support for displaced people. Students created postcards with messages of hope for refugees, showing empathy and compassion through creative expression. It is a powerful reminder of how faith and solidarity can bring light in times of darkness.



# Culture Day Summary

As part of our school's Culture Day celebrations, each year group explored a unique cultural theme through engaging and thought-provoking lessons:

Year 7 delved into Taoism, learning about its origins, key practices, and how it shapes cultural identity and attitudes toward nature. Students reflected on how Taoist principles of balance and harmony are expressed in daily life.

Year 8 explored the question: "Can a river be a person?" This led to a study of Māori culture and the spiritual significance of the Whanganui River, which is recognised as a living being in New Zealand law. Students discovered parallels between Māori beliefs and Catholic teaching, particularly the shared value of care for creation and respect for the environment.



Year 9 examined how Mary, the mother of Jesus, has appeared to people in different cultures, times, and places through Marian apparitions. Students reflected on how Mary often appears in ways that resonate with the local people—speaking their language, wearing traditional dress, and addressing their unique needs. These apparitions highlight Mary's universal love and her ability to connect deeply with diverse cultures, offering messages of peace, hope, and faith.



## English

### Refugee Week

In the lead up to week of 16th June 2025, the English Department (with a special mention to Miss Chance, our Curriculum Champion!) have been preparing resources to deliver across KS3 lessons to celebrate Refugee Week and Creativity Week!



For Year 7 & 8 students, knowledge and understanding of the refugee experience has already been well established through our previous study of the award-winning novel *The Bone Sparrow*. This tells the story of an unlikely friendship between a refugee boy in an Australian detention centre and a young girl from Outside. The story explores the importance of imagination, courage and hope, but also teaches about the struggles and suffering of real-life refugee experiences.

### Culture Day

On Tuesday 1st July, students in Year 7 were proud to see their seasonal haiku (kisetsu no haiku) displayed in the auditorium as part of Bishop Challoner's display to celebrate cultures around the world. Students spent time in lessons learning about the history and conventions of haiku, a form which has its roots in the Heian period (794-1185) in Japan. Known for its simplicity and profundity, the haiku is more than just a poem with 17 syllables but rather a form which can convey powerful emotions about our relationship with the natural world and the present moment, a form of poetry that can even act as a form of meditation! We were proud to see the way in which students engaged with this important part of Japanese culture and the ways in which they allowed it to speak to something about their own identities.



During Refugee Week, Year 7 had the opportunity to read extracts from a wider range of literature that focused on refugees, such as *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*, *We Carry on The Sea* and *Refugee Blues*. The most important task we then asked students to consider was what the author wanted them to think, feel and imagine as they read the text, and how this might help them better understand the refugee experience. Students entered these discussions with maturity, respect and empathy, which was a joy to witness, and some were even able to transfer these eloquent ideas into excellent pieces of written work.

Year 8 were tasked with reading Brian Bilston's poem *Refugee* and asked to consider the thoughts & feelings evoked in the text. After establishing understanding, Year 8 students were able to write their own poems about the refugee experience, and what home meant to them – another successful creative activity that produced some excellent and touching pieces of poetry!





In Year 9, students continued their poetry topic but this time reading Jackie Kay's poem In My Country. Students discussed the reasons someone may become a refugee, and the prejudices they may face. They were then tasked with writing a sympathetic poem that explored the thoughts and feelings of a refugee, focusing on using emotive language and imagery to create a specific tone and atmosphere. Overall, we were very impressed by the students' thoughtfulness and dedication towards this task, with many pieces of work now set to create a KS3 poetry display in the English block.



## Quiz Club

Quiz Club continues to thrive under Mr Robinson's guidance. Following on from his own success on BBC TV's Mastermind (which also featured some footage of Bishop Challoner students and interviews with Year 7's Tristan B. and Year 12's Saoirse N.), he is now attempting to mould the minds of the next generation of quizzers. As well as weekly fun sessions featuring a range of different quizzes written by Mr Robinson, including the likes of Catchphrase, the 1% Club and a Challoner Mastermind, a quiz team has also joined a national online schools' quiz league. The team, made up of Year 7s and 8s, got their first victory (against a team of Year 9s and 10s!) against a school from Greater Manchester. Maybe one of them will go on to be Mastermind champion in 2045.



# Mathematics

## Junior Maths Challenge

Some keen mathematicians in Year 7 and 8 recently sat the "Junior Maths Challenge" - a United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) competition. Selected students across Year 7 and Year 8 completed a 1-hour multiple choice maths test, with some challenging problems. The results are in, and we are incredibly proud of the students that participated.

### Year 7

Two Year 7 students received silver certificates (Hassam and Sidney) and 10 students received bronze certificates. Particular congratulations in Year 7 to:

Hassam	Silver
Sidney	Silver Best in Year
Mehdi	Bronze
Erin	Bronze
Aaron	Bronze
Ethan	Bronze
Theodor	Bronze
Adrian	Bronze

### Year 8

Our Year 8s and proud teachers Mr Mahmood also did really well. One student, Matteo Alayon received gold certificates and qualified for the Kangaroo round. 4 students achieved silver certificates and 10 students achieved bronze certificates.

Particular congratulations in Year 8 to:

Matteo	106	GoldBiS
Idris	84	Silver
Mark	75	Silver
Giannina	87	Silver
Markas	73	Silver
Yabsera	62	Bronze
Amarise	64	Bronze
Luke	55	Bronze
Jackson	57	Bronze

Filip	64	Bronze
Tendai	68	Bronze
Patrick	63	Bronze
Sean	69	Bronze
Noah	63	Bronze
Hasan	63	Bronze
Ksenija	69	Bronze
Andrew	62	Bronze
Yankee	59	Bronze

# Junior Maths Challenge – Kangaroo

Matteo A from Year 8 qualified highly enough in their UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) Junior Maths Challenge, that they were invited to participate in a subsequent round of the competition called the Junior Kangaroo. Congratulations to Matteo on completing the Junior Kangaroo.

## STEM air

The maths department were delighted to organise some activities for the recent STEM Fair. Miss Stone worked with the interns, and a group of keen Year 7 students, 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 tessellation activity. Year 7 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.



## BGT

Students from Key Stage 3 joined us in the library to compete in our yearly 24 game contest as part of the Bishop's Got Talent events. There was a fantastic turn out and students were whittled down to the final two, Sean G and Idris C. After a tense final, Sean Glennon was our overall winner. Well done to all competitors who took part. We would also like to thank our fantastic Year 10 helpers who helped to make this event possible.

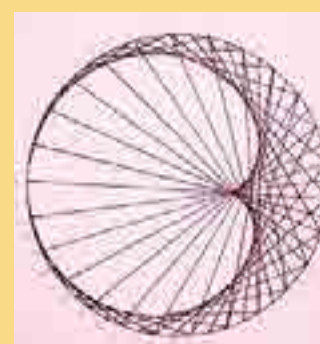
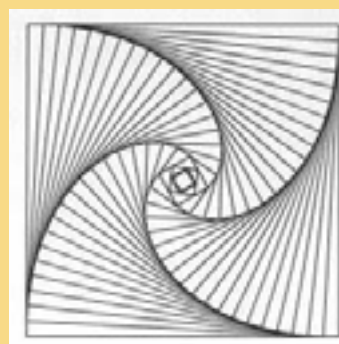


## Refugee Week & Creativity Week

During week commencing Monday 16th June, and in line with National Refugee Week, Bishop Challoner celebrated Creativity and Refugee Week. The Mathematics Department participated by engaging Year 7 students in a series of themed activities.

Students were tasked with researching mathematicians who were themselves refugees and presenting their findings in the form of PowerPoint presentations. Mathematicians included Alexander Grothendieck, Albert Einstein, Claus Moser, Max Born, Caucher Birkar, and Emmy Noether. In addition, some students opted to produce posters highlighting the lives and contributions to Mathematics of these individuals. These came together to produce a display board in room M4.

In support of the creativity element of the week, students explored mathematical art by constructing cardioids, heart-shaped curves, using rulers and modular arithmetic (example attached). Furthermore, students looked at pursuit curves during lessons (examples attached).



# Science

## Science Club Shines as STEM Ambassadors

This term, our Science Club students have been busy exploring exciting hands-on projects and sharing their passion for science with younger learners. From building wind-up cars to preparing for the upcoming Primary STEM Fair, they've truly embraced the spirit of innovation and teamwork.

As part of their STEM Fair preparation, students led engaging activities including CD hovercrafts, balloon rockets, steady hand games, and catapults. Their creativity and enthusiasm brought these projects to life, and their support for the primary students was nothing short of inspiring.

Our Science Club members were calm, patient, and encouraging throughout—showcasing exceptional leadership and communication skills. They were outstanding STEM ambassadors, and we couldn't be prouder of the way they represented both the club and the school.

Well done to all involved—you've set a fantastic example for future scientists and engineers!



## Science Stars at the Big Bang STEM Fair

Year 7 and 8 Science Stars were recently rewarded with an inspiring trip to the Big Bang STEM Fair at the NEC. These students, nominated for their enthusiasm and achievement in science throughout the year, had the opportunity to explore the exciting world of STEM through hands-on workshops, interactive exhibits, and thrilling live shows.



During the day, students engaged with a wide range of activities, from engineering challenges to chemistry experiments. They also had the chance to speak with professionals from leading STEM companies, learning about real-world applications of science and potential career paths. It was an eye-opening experience that left many feeling excited about their futures.

The fair was packed with energy and inspiration—and, of course, plenty of STEM-themed goodies to take home! A big well done to all our Science Stars—you represented the school brilliantly and showed just how bright the future of STEM is!





# Year 10 Chemistry Session with Birmingham University

Year 10 students had two exciting lessons with a team of staff from The University of Birmingham this half term. During the sessions students were able to investigate the effects of toxic substances on plant growth and prepare different concentrations of salt solution in which to grow cross.

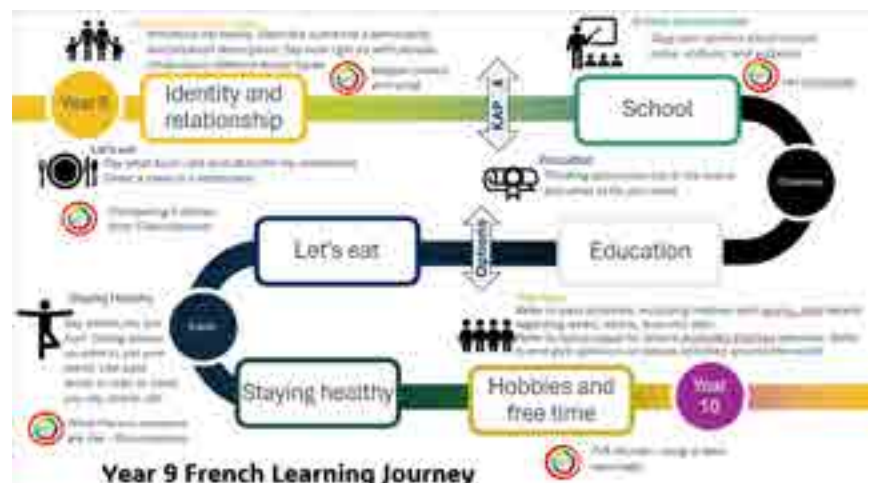
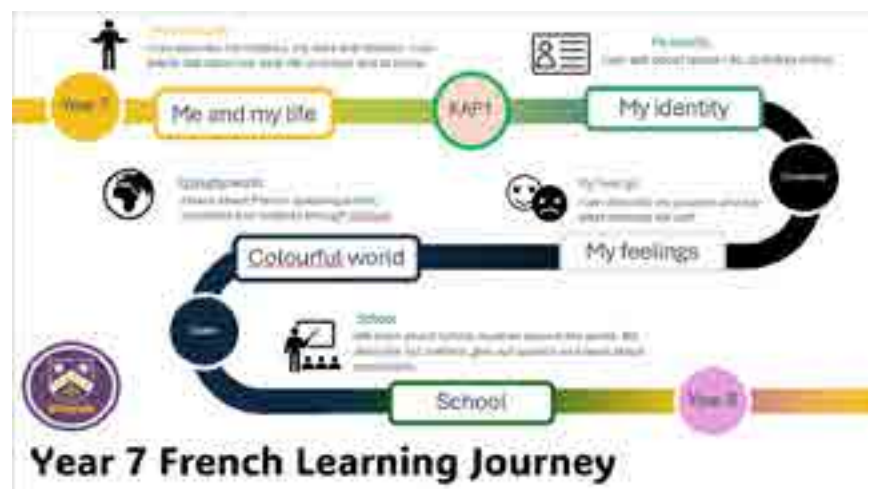
They used the data obtained from their experiments to plot a dose-response curve and discuss the measures used by scientists to describe toxicity levels in substances. Students were able to see how this information is used in drug design and vaccine development. The students also heard about different Chemistry courses that are available at University and where these courses may lead!



# French

## KS3

Our KS3 classes currently follow the bespoke curriculum that we have designed as learning journey's below, including the regular addition of culture in our curriculum. The aim is to inform our students of the richness of the francophone world, including French being spoken on all 5 continents.



## Year 9 Acting

Some students in Year 9 had an attempt at acting their conversation about a health problem. See photos below.



# KS4 lessons and examinations

We say well done and goodbye to our Year 11 students who have completed all of their GCSE examinations with success. Students seemed, on the whole, quite satisfied with the way their examinations went, which is good news all round, and we should expect some positive results in August.

This including the (approximately) 100 students who have sat their language GCSE in French, but also the students who chose to sit the language GCSE in their HHCL (Home, Heritage and Community Language) in Polish, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese.

We also congratulate all Year 10 students for sitting their very first set of GCSE languages examination in all 4 skills: Listening Reading, Speaking and Writing. They are the first cohort to sit the new GCSE. This latter includes new topics such as “celebrity and culture” and new types of examinations such as the “dictation” in the reading paper, or the “Read out loud” task in the speaking paper.



## French food culture with Mrs McGowan

In Year 9 French lessons this term, students have been learning about food in France. Food is a huge part of French culture, and as part of their studies, students from Year 9 researched and created some presentations about different regional specialities in France. They discovered that Champagne can only be produced in the Champagne region of France and the Carbonnade Stew from the Northern part of France contain beer because of the influence of the neighbouring Belgians.

The students from this class have also had some time in the Food Tech room, cooking pancakes, French Clafoutis and most recently, madeleine cakes.

This project was particularly useful as it enabled Year 9 to fully take part in the Culture Fair this year. They manned a stall which displayed their regional food presentations. Visitors to the fair were offered a taste of madeleine cakes and had the opportunity to flip a crêpe. This proved to be harder than first thought. Many managed to perfect a flip after several attempts, and the reward of a French fruit sweet.





## Refugee week in French with Mrs Souakri

Students studied a French song called "Sentiment étranger" by Gauvain Sers. We shared very emotional and personal experiences as a refugee or immigrant ourselves. Then students wrote a poem to support refugees and immigrants. Here are some examples but there are many more in the MFL department. Our learners were quite enthusiastic about this little project.



## Penpal letters with Ms Mazabraud and Mr Paillette

Four classes from Year 9 and Year 10 have taken part in a pen pal exchange of letters with a Catholic school in Beaune, France. The students exchanged letters in the language they are learning. It was great to see the delight on our students' faces when receiving their letters.

Below is a picture of our pen pal friends on a trip in the south of England.



## Staff news

Finally, we were very sad to say goodbye to our dear colleague, Mrs Thomas at Easter. In her absence we have been very lucky to have the help of Mrs Muraru.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new French teacher who will start with us in September, Ms Coles.





# Computer Science & ICT

## Big Bang Fair

On Wednesday 18th June, we took 79 students to the Big Bang Fair at the NEC. This includes many students who are SEN and Student Premium, ensuring that all learners are given the opportunity to engage with the world of STEM. At the fair, students will interact with industry experts, explore cutting-edge technologies, attend hands-on workshops, and learn about exciting careers in science, technology, engineering and maths. These experiences can spark a passion for future careers and help build cultural capital.

## Refugee Week

Following the success of last year's Refugee Week activities around the theme "What is Home?", this year we embraced the theme "Community as Superpower". In Computing lessons, students explored what community means to them and how small acts of kindness can make a big difference—especially for someone newly arrived in the UK. They designed powerful and creative posters, both on paper and digitally, illustrating how they would help someone feel welcome and included. The activity encouraged reflection on compassion, belonging, and the role of technology and creativity in promoting positive social values.



## Year 8 Trip to Bletchley Park – September 2025

We are excited to announce that our Year 8 students (current Year 7) will have the opportunity to visit Bletchley Park on Tuesday, 16th September 2025. Bletchley Park is renowned for its pivotal role in World War II codebreaking and is an inspiring destination for students interested in history, computing, and problem-solving<sup>1</sup>. A letter of invitation with full details about the trip will be given to Year 8 students during the first week back after the summer holiday. We look forward to an engaging and educational experience for all involved.

## Primary Computing Day

On Friday 20th June, we were proud to host our annual Primary Computing Day, welcoming Year 5 students from our local feeder primary schools. The event is designed and delivered by our Year 8 and 9 Computing Champions, who run interactive workshops in areas such as drone flying, robotics, and cybersecurity. This is a unique transition event that links secondary and primary education and was previously recognised by the Department for Education during their visit. It inspires leadership in our students and gives younger students a memorable and exciting introduction to computing.



## San Francisco

We are thrilled to announce that the San Francisco Computing and Innovation Trip has been confirmed for July 2026. We will be taking 55 students from Years 10 and 11 on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit the heart of the tech industry. Students will explore key sites such as Silicon Valley, visit companies like Google or Intel, engage in innovation workshops, and experience the culture of global technology leaders. This trip is designed to raise aspirations and provide an international perspective on careers in technology and entrepreneurship.



# History

## Women's History Month

The history department have received some incredible submissions for the Women's History Month competition. Students were asked to recreate various artefacts from women's history, and as expected, many rose to the challenge! The submissions showcase the outstanding creativity and effort that the school prides itself on. Winners:

Ksenija N (8BER) and Zofia G with their amazing recreation of Marie Curie's radioactive research notes

Shortlisters:

Miley P (7CEC) and her wonderful suffragette placard,

Angelina O (8CEC) and her creative recreation of an advert for red lipstick

Alicja K (7CEC) with her incredible recreations of Madame C.J. Walker's vegetable shampoo tin and advert.



## Horrible Histories – Terrible Tudors live!

The History Department took Year 7 students to theatre to watch the Horrible Histories Terrible Tudors live. All thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were singing the songs on the coach ride back to school.



## Holocaust Speaker from Generation2Generation

We welcomed a Holocaust speaker from Generation2 Generation at the start of the summer term who shared her mother's experience of being Jewish in Hungary during the Nazi domination of Europe.

Students were gripped listening to the narrative and discussions that followed the talk showed how much it had helped students engage with new topic





# Creativity/Refugee Week in history lessons

## Year 7

Students used their netbooks to create a dating profile for King Henry VIII and then went 'speed dating', to choose which of the 6 wives were the best match!

Ethen-Thomas K

## Year 8

Inspired by 18th century anti-slavery objects, students in Year 8 were tasked with creating their own version based on their learning about modern day slavery.

Work created by: Lerea C, Markas M and a Poem 'Tears of a Slave' by Amyrha S

## Year 9

Inspired by their study of the Kindertransport programme, students packed the suitcase of a Jewish child who was leaving for Britain at the breakout of WW2.

Work created by Taedon W, Michelle A and Naomi B



# Geography

## Year 7

Year 7 have completed their unit of work on China and have subsequently they have 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 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 9

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 12

Year 12 have recently completed their mock exams on the topics of Hazards in Physical Geography Contemporary Human Environments in Human Geography. The mock exams will provide an excellent indication of the progress they have made throughout Year 12. 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.

## 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.

## Refugee Week

Year 7 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.

# Lapworth Museum

We had a fantastic day with 30 Year 9 students at the Lapworth Museum to celebrate the hard work and enthusiasm they have demonstrated throughout the year. The museum's innovative galleries showcase exceptional objects from one of the UK's most outstanding geological collections. The students enjoyed exploring the exhibits from rocks and fossils to volcanoes, earthquakes and even dinosaurs and got the opportunity to engage in interactive workshops.



# Music & Performing Arts

As another academic year comes to a close, we can reflect on the success and hard work of our students and their achievements in Music and Performing Arts. With the exam season coming to a close it has been inspiring to see our students at all key stages striving hard for success, working independently to achieve their best, meeting coursework deadlines, revising, rehearsing and, most of all, enjoying music in and out of the classroom.

## Year 7

The Year 7 cohort this year have been heavily involved in music. They have attended hymn practices during assembly, sung in masses, shown a true engagement in music in the classroom and many of them have signed up for instrumental lessons and ensembles over the year, with many Year 7 names on our instrumental waiting lists.



In lessons, the students have continued their World Music journey by exploring Indian music, learning about the structure and scales involved in Indian music and then improvising on the keyboards in an Indian style. This is a challenging task but many students have performed exceptionally well, and we are delighted to see many students already confident when playing with two hands and knowing their way around the keyboard. They are rounding off the academic year with a short scheme of work on Musical Theatre, where they will continue to develop their ensemble skills and explore the skills involved in creating and presenting a successful piece of musical theatre.

## Year 10

In Year 10, students are exploring pieces of music from the Instrumental Music and Vocal Music areas of study: Beethoven's Piano Sonata in C Minor and Purcell's Music For a While. These are two of the eight works set by the exam board, and the class are learning the challenges of reading a Baroque score and the complexities of Romantic music, 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 8

Year 8 students are beginning to explore songwriting with our Hooks and Riffs scheme. They are developing their composition skills by creating and performing sections of a song and writing their own lyrics for a Song of Positivity which will be ready to present by the end of term. The lyrics we have read so far certainly show the wit and creativity of our young people! This scheme prepares the students excellently for their extended songwriting project which they study in Year 9.

## Year 9

The Year 9 students have the chance to educate us (and their peers) about a musical topic of their choice at the end of the year. They have worked hard and inventively to create presentations, podcast, videos and live performances on an aspect of music they are passionate about. Topics we have seen this year include K-Pop: The Global Phenomenon, Video Game music, Hip Hop from the 1990s, the Rise of Female Artists over the decades, and how Tik Tok has changed the way we experience music. It's been very informative for us staff, and lovely to see the students talk passionately about the music they enjoy.

## Year 11

Our Year 11 cohort have made us enormously proud this year by working together with enthusiasm and a real love for music. As part of their coursework for the Performance component of the course, our students performed as a group, playing Bill Withers' 'Just The Two Of Us' to a high standard. They gave up time in their half term holiday to work with us on revision skills, sitting past papers, testing each other in lessons, and making lessons most enjoyable; we hope they are pleased with their results in the summer.

## Irish Music

Local musician Jobe Sullivan has forged very strong musical links between Bishop Challoner and the Irish Association, and his weekly rehearsals with our Trad Irish group have continued successfully throughout the year. Jobe invited our students to be part of an exciting theatre project, and with a little support and rehearsal, they learned and rehearsed a song in French, which they recorded in the studio. The song was played in the Birmingham Rep Theatre as part of the soundtrack to a play called 'All My Pretty Ones', a moving drama set during World War II. We were very proud to be part of this production and the director ensured the students got a special shoutout to his cast and crew.

## VE Day

In May, Bishop Challoner celebrated the anniversary of VE Day with typical exuberance, putting music on centre stage yet again. The school foyer was decked in flags and decorations, and our woodwind trio (Nigel, Sophie and Zac) performed We'll Meet Again. Miss Hughes accompanied on piano and entertained students and staff at breaktime with a selection of wartime melodies, but the musical stars were definitely the students who played beautifully.



## Performing Arts

In Performing Arts, our Year 10 BTEC Arts group have been extremely fortunate to learn original choreography and harmonies from the hit musical Hairspray. They studied this musical as part of their BTEC coursework, delving into the creation and production process of it, exploring how the creative team developed their original concept and transformed it into a hit Broadway and West End musical.

This term has been focussed on preparing our students for their public examinations and our Year 11 BTEC Performing Arts group kicked off the first of our practical examinations with their group performance. The performance brief this year was 'Joint Effort' and after weeks of planning, research and rehearsals, our students created a moving performance focused on an exploration of the multitude of different cultures living in Birmingham. The final piece involved poems, stylised dance/movement, song and monologues highlighting the lives, traditions and experiences of community members from different cultural backgrounds, along with their journeys, and these were sensitively portrayed by the students. We Wish our Year 11 PA class all the best for their results in the summer.

## Events

Events such as the Tolkien Mass and year group masses have given our singers an opportunity to shine. We have assembled a core group of singers who regularly lead masses with their confident singing, encouraging others from our school and from the public to join in with their musical worship. As part of our Tolkien Mass and Pilgrims of Hope Mass the singers really did display a true Challoner spirit – leading, encouraging, celebrating, worshipping and welcoming primary schools and members of the local community in song, particularly when they sing their favourite song, 'My Lighthouse' and lead the actions too.

## Culture Day

Following the success of Culture Day last summer, Bishop Challoner hosted another one this July, this time even bigger and better! The aim was to represent the many diverse cultures of Bishop Challoner and the music department contributed by arranging some musical performances. Not only were they fun and entertaining, they tied in wonderfully with the work the Year 7 students have been doing on World Music.



Mr Philips, our talented Steel Pan teacher, put together a fantastic set performed by his steel pan ensembles during break time. The whole school had the chance to enjoy the bright, rhythmic sounds of live steel pan music, which—as always—added a lively and spirited energy to Culture Day. We also got to hear some Indian drums, playing rhythms and talas which the students have learned about in lessons, and which added rhythm and vibrancy to this special school day. Our link with the Music Service is one of our most valuable partnerships, and we are always happy to welcome the teachers to perform and participate in days like this. The students' contribution to Culture Day not only highlighted the importance of music in the many cultures represented in our school, but the part music plays in Bishop Challoner as a whole, bringing together our school community.



# Art and Design

## Year 7

Year 7 Art students have been diving into the magic of watercolour, refining their techniques with impressive progress in colour mixing and layering. They explored the vibrant work of Wayne Thiebaud, drawing inspiration from his iconic food-themed paintings. Building on this, students also experimented with stick and ink to create striking monochromatic cupcakes. Their enthusiasm and creativity have truly brought these projects to life, making for an exciting start to their artistic journey.

## Year 9

Year 9 students have been engaged in an exciting exploration of artists and art movements throughout history. They have studied a diverse range of key art movements, gaining valuable insights into the historical context, sources of inspiration, and techniques that defined each era. This broad understanding is helping them develop a deeper appreciation of art and its evolution, while also inspiring their own creative work. It's been a rewarding journey that enriches their knowledge and artistic skills.



## Year 11

Congratulations to Year 11 students who have now completed their exams! Throughout the course, they have produced some truly outstanding pieces of work, filled with creativity and originality. We have thoroughly enjoyed being part of their artistic journeys and watching their talents develop. The individual projects showcased a range of inspired ideas and dedication, reflecting the hard work they have put in. They deserve every success as they move forward, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements in the summer!

## Year 8

Year 8 students have embarked on an exciting artistic journey, exploring a wide range of architectural styles and discovering the fascinating ways artists bring these structures to life. They've dived into bold, mixed-media techniques—from expressive pen and ink mark making to dynamic collage and striking monoprints—pushing their creative boundaries. Now, they've begun experimenting with layered landscapes, embracing a fresh, adventurous approach to capturing the environment around them. This vibrant blend of techniques and ideas is sparking creativity and inspiring truly original work!

## Year 10

Year 10 Art students have recently impressed with their outstanding performance in the mock exam, showcasing a truly creative range of outcomes for their "Figure and Form" project. Using a variety of materials and techniques, students demonstrated both imagination and skill, producing work that was highly individual and ambitious. This exciting development marks a significant milestone in their GCSE journey and lays a strong foundation as they prepare to begin their Year 11 coursework unit. Their enthusiasm and commitment to the subject are clear, and we look forward to seeing their progress continue.



# Barber Institute Workshops

This term, we have been thrilled to collaborate with the Barber Institute on an inspiring arts project that has brought professional creativity directly into our school. As part of the initiative, we hosted three different artists who delivered a series of engaging workshops for our students. These sessions explored a range of artistic approaches including poetry, collage, mark making, and collaborative work. The workshops gave students a unique opportunity to connect with the themes and artworks from the Barber's collection, bringing some of the magic and creativity of the gallery into our classrooms and enriching their artistic experience in meaningful and memorable ways.



## Refugee Week

As part of Refugee and Creativity Week, our students created powerful individual artworks inspired by the reportage illustrations of Olivier Kugler, who captures the stories of refugees from diverse backgrounds. Through this project, students deeply engaged with the emotional and personal experiences behind these stories, demonstrating genuine compassion and empathy in their visual interpretations. Their work not only highlights their artistic skills but also reflects a thoughtful understanding of the challenges faced by refugees, making this a truly meaningful and impactful creative experience.



# D&T and STEM

## STEM in the Hills: Year 7 Take Learning to New Heights

On Monday 7th July, 90 excited Year 7 students swapped their classrooms for the great outdoors during our unforgettable STEM Day at the Lickey Hills. Students tackled a full day of hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths activities designed to challenge, inspire, and, above all, bring learning to life.

Throughout the day, students rotated through a series of exciting STEM challenges, including glider making, kite building, den building, and bridge construction. For those keen on nature, there were mini beast hunts, leaf rubbings, animal prints and even a leaf trail scavenger hunt. The bearing trail tested orienteering skills, while survival tasks demanded teamwork and lateral thinking.

One of the highlights (depending on who you ask!) came when students' dens were tested for weatherproofing... with a surprise teacher-led water bombing session. Let's just say, a few soggy socks didn't dampen anyone's spirits! Even a wasp sting and an accidental bump on the nose from a rogue log didn't stop students from throwing themselves fully into the activities. Teachers were particularly proud of how respectful students were of the environment. Every piece of litter was binned, and the park was left exactly as it was found—showing real maturity and responsibility.





The STEM Day at the Lickey Hills wasn't just a chance to enjoy the fresh air—it was a powerful reminder that learning doesn't always happen at a desk. Fieldwork like this is impossible within the constraints of a classroom, and yet it leaves a lasting impression that students will carry with them for years to come.

A huge thank you to all the staff who made the day possible—and to our fantastic Year 7s who were a credit to their Heads of Year Miss Lloyd and Miss Williams.



## Y5 STEM Fair - Primary STEM Stars Shine at Tolkien STEM Fair

On Wednesday 26th June, our school welcomed bright young minds from our Tolkien feeder primary schools for an exciting and inspiring STEM Fair—a celebration of curiosity, creativity and teamwork as part of Science Week.

Teams of four Year 5 students from each school arrived ready to take on nine thrilling STEM challenges, ranging from designing balloon hovercrafts to the surprisingly tricky art of chocolate welding! The atmosphere was buzzing with energy as students worked together, shared ideas, and solved problems with enthusiasm and determination.



The goal of the day was simple but powerful: to nurture a love for STEM subjects, ignite curiosity, and help these future scientists, engineers, and mathematicians feel excited about what lies ahead in secondary school. Alongside the fun and experimentation, the event played a key role in our transition programme, helping to make the move to secondary school a smooth and positive experience for all.

What made the day extra special was the involvement of our Year 7 and Year 8 STEM Leaders, who took on the role of mentors for the visiting students. With their patience, encouragement and fantastic leadership, they helped guide each team through the activities, offering support, building confidence, and showing what it means to be a true role model.



After a fun-filled day of hands-on exploration, problem solving and lots of laughter, congratulations go to St. Albans, who emerged as this year's worthy winners! Close behind were the brilliant teams from Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernard's, who secured second and third place respectively with some very impressive performances.

A huge well done to all the schools who took part—you amazed us with your ideas, teamwork, and enthusiasm.





# Culture Day

The Design & Technology and Food departments were especially thrilled to be part of this year's incredible Culture Day, running four hands-on, interactive stalls that brought culture to life through creativity.

At the Welsh stall, students tried their hand at traditional weaving, learning how this ancient craft continues to be a symbol of Welsh heritage. Meanwhile, the Irish stall was a feast for the senses, offering samples of homemade soda bread, and Irish favourites like Cidona and red lemonade, while students crafted their very own Celtic crosses—a blend of history and art in action. At the Maori stall students got to create their own body art using stencils and body make up and finally, our “Flavours from Around the World” stall invited students to decorate delicious doughnuts inspired by global tastes. These included mango (taste of the Caribbean) Rose and Cardamon (taste of South Asia) and strawberry shortbread (taste of the UK) proving that food is a universal language of joy and celebration.

By exploring different cultural traditions through making and doing, students had the opportunity to celebrate their own heritage and learn about others. Whether it was through weaving, baking, crafting, or decorating, the fair reminded us of an important truth: no matter where we come from, one thing all humans share is the joy of creating with our hands. These crafts and skills are not just hobbies—they're part of who we are.



# Food Education

## Key Stage 3

Students in key stage three have been working through a curriculum of theory and practical lessons in the build up to the end of year. Year 7 students are now skilled when using knives and demonstrated these skills through the making of fruit salads and healthy wraps. They have also explored seasonal fruit and made fruit muffins and summer fruit crumbles. They are beginning to work more independently as they become more competent and confident in the food room, ready for Year 8.

They are also gaining confidence with their understanding of healthy eating and balanced diet after learning about the Eatwell Guide and the food groups. Year 8 have been putting theory into practice where they have been working with high risk foods such as meat and chicken and have made Bolognese and are currently making chicken fajitas. Some students opted for 'meat free, options and we have also made a veggie stir fry where they can practice their knife skills even further. They are now competent when using knives and are able to finely chop chilli, garlic and fine herbs without instruction. Many Year 9 students are becoming skilled, confident and competent practitioners when using equipment and ingredients in the food room. They have made chilli- con – carne and pizza and are now confident in working with bread dough.



This term we have really focused on practical skills and particularly knife skills. KS3 and KS4 have been supported through this using demonstrations and digital prompts. Filmed steps have been used to guide the students through complex knife cuts to ensure the best possible outcomes. It has allowed the students to really focus on their preparation skills leading to a quality assured final, professional dish.



## Year 10

Students at key stage 4 are doing a vocational course; NCFE Food and Cookery. Year 10 have just started working on a mock NEA, where we are focussing on key areas of their controlled assessment. This will prepare the, for starting their live brief and real NEA in October. The



students have already developed knowledge and understanding of issues relating to food safety, the environment in which food handlers operates, how they meet health and safety requirements and how food can cause ill health. They have just completed content area three, which looks at nutrition and they are now putting their knowledge together to respond to a set brief. We have looked at amending a spaghetti and meatballs recipe to make it healthy and suitable for active teenagers. Here they were able to put their pasta making skills into practice and prepared some successful dishes.

## Textiles

### Y7 A Year of Creativity and Skill-Building

Our Y7 textiles students have been busy honing their practical skills and exploring their creativity through an exciting new project based on the concept of a 'Quiet Book'. This imaginative project has given students the opportunity to apply and refine their core textile techniques, while also encouraging personal expression and design thinking.



Throughout the term, our seven students have made excellent progress in developing their hand embroidery and machine stitching skills. Building on their previous learning, they've shown growing confidence and precision in their work. As part of the project, each student has designed and created a unique fabric page, showcasing their own decorative theme.



Using techniques such as appliqué and detailed embroidery, students have brought their ideas to life with colour, texture, and thoughtful embellishments. The results have been a vibrant collection of tactile, interactive pages that not only demonstrate technical skill, but also creativity and imagination.

## Year 8 Textiles – Sustainability Meets Creativity

Our third rotation of Year 8 students has embraced the challenge of combining sustainability with creativity in their latest textiles project. With a strong focus on environmental awareness, students have been busy designing and constructing their own drawstring and tote bags using recycled and repurposed materials.



This project began with an exploration of the fast fashion industry and its environmental impact. Through discussion and research, students developed a deeper understanding of how textile waste affects the planet—and how thoughtful design and mindful making can be a powerful response.



With this in mind, students set out to create practical, stylish bags that reflect their individuality while promoting eco-conscious values. Along the way, they developed key skills in design planning, sewing construction, and problem-solving. Many experimented with creative embellishments, decorative stitching, and thoughtful material choices to make their bags both functional and visually appealing.



# Textiles club

This term, our dedicated Textiles Club members have been channeling their creativity into a practical and stylish project—designing and sewing their very own rolled-up storage cases for pencils and makeup brushes.

Using scrap and donated fabrics, students embraced the challenge of working sustainably while developing their design and construction skills. Each storage roll has been carefully planned to fit a specific number and size of pencils or brushes, encouraging students to think critically about measurements, layout, and functionality.

Throughout the term, club members have practised a range of textile techniques, including measuring and cutting fabric accurately, seam construction, and decorative finishing touches. Many also personalised their rolls with colourful patterns, contrasting linings, and fastenings, making each piece as unique as its maker.

## D&T

### Creative Recycling

This year, our talented Year 7 students have once again impressed us with their ingenuity and craftsmanship in the ever-popular bottle cap recycling project. By melting down discarded plastic bottle caps, students have been designing and crafting unique device holders — combining sustainability with innovation.

This eco-conscious project continues to evolve, with each new cohort bringing a fresh perspective and imaginative ideas to the table. It's always a joy to see students experimenting with shape, colour, and function, and this year has been no exception.



### Y8 Pewter cast jewellery

This term, our Year 8 students have been busy combining digital design with traditional craftsmanship in their stunning pewter cast jewellery project. The results have showcased both technical skill and artistic flair.

At the heart of the project is the use of CAD (Computer-Aided Design), which students used to create precise mould designs for their jewellery pieces. These designs were then brought to life using CAM (Computer-Aided Manufacturing), as the laser cutter accurately cut each mould from MDF, ready for casting. The final outcomes reflect the individuality and creativity of each student. It's been fantastic to see such a high level of engagement and pride in the work produced.



### Y9 explore iconic British Design

It has also been wonderful to see how our Year 9 students have used their creativity to design and manufacture their own versions of the iconic British classic; the 1931 Anglepoise lamp. Students have learnt about how the client is integral in the design process, customising their task light to meet their clients needs and wants, like this outcome from Reece. The project includes a range of processes such as traditional wood joints, soldering and CAD/CAM and has allowed students to explore sustainability through material selection.



# Physical Education

## Duke of Edinburgh 2025

This year, our PE and enrichment programme has once again embraced the Duke of Edinburgh's Award with great success. Year 9 students have recently completed their Bronze Award at Paul Pikes Lane, demonstrating impressive teamwork, resilience, and practical skills during their expedition. Our Year 10 cohort is now preparing for the Silver Award, with their expedition scheduled for the 23rd of June—this will challenge them further in leadership and independence. The commitment and support from all staff involved have been outstanding, and we extend our sincere thanks to them for their dedication and enthusiasm, which are vital to the ongoing achievements and positive experiences of our students.



## Synchro Swimming

We are delighted to recognise the exceptional achievement of Teal S (Mogen) in Year 7, who this morning swam her first international solo competition. Competing against some of the best young swimmers from around the world, Teal swam first in her event—a challenge that required her to overcome significant nerves. Despite the pressure, she delivered a superb performance and secured an impressive 5th place overall. This result is a remarkable accomplishment for her debut at this level and reflects her dedication, talent, and resilience. The GB coaching squad have expressed immense pride in Teal's achievement, as have all of us at school. Her outstanding attitude and success make her an outstanding candidate for Sports Personality of the Year in Year 7. Congratulations, Teal, on this fantastic milestone!



## Ball Crew 2025

This year's Lexus Birmingham Open at the prestigious Edgbaston Priory Club saw an outstanding contribution from our school's Ball Crew, comprising 75 committed Key Stage 3 students. Following a rigorous selection process involving over 15 hours of trials and training, these students were chosen to bring their energy and professionalism to one of the region's most celebrated tennis events. Throughout the tournament, our young team has demonstrated remarkable focus, dedication, and exceptional on-court performances. Their exemplary conduct and high skill level have been repeatedly praised by the Tournament Referee, Tournament Director, and numerous Chair Umpires, reflecting the students' maturity and commitment. As the competition heads towards its conclusion on Sunday 8th June, the team's enthusiasm remains high, with students eager to maintain their places as the group is gradually reduced in anticipation of the Semi-Finals and Finals. It has been a privilege to oversee such a hardworking and well-mannered group; they have been a true credit to the school, themselves, and their families—truly 'as good as gold'.



## Girls' Football

Our girls' football teams have achieved remarkable success this year. The Year 9 girls made history by winning the first ever Trevor Francis Cup, held at the Birmingham City Football Stadium, demonstrating outstanding skills and teamwork throughout the competition. Additionally, our U-18 girls' team has secured another landmark victory, triumphing in the first ever West Midlands Cup for their age group, played at the county grounds. These achievements highlight the growing strength and ambition of girls' football at our school, and we congratulate both teams, along with the staff and supporters who have contributed to their success.





# Catholic School Games

We are excited to announce that our Year 7 students will be participating in the upcoming Catholic School Games at the end of the month, held at Bishop Walsh. This wonderful event brings together schools from across the region for a celebration of sport, teamwork, and community spirit. It is a fantastic opportunity for our students to experience competitive sport in a supportive and inclusive setting, and we look forward to cheering them on as they represent our school with pride and enthusiasm.

# PE Student of The Month

This year, we have introduced the PE Student of the Month award, replacing the previous Sports Personality of the Term. This new accolade recognises students who demonstrate outstanding sporting excellence as well as a strong commitment to our FAITHFUL virtues—Forgiveness, Achievement, Integrity, Thoughtfulness, Hope, Unity, and Love. Each month, students are celebrated not only for their sporting achievements and progress but also for their positive attitude, teamwork, and resilience. The award highlights the importance of character and personal development alongside athletic success, inspiring all our students to strive for their best both on and off the field.

# PE Extra Curricular

Our PE department continues to play a leading role in the school's extra-curricular provision, offering a wide range of opportunities before and after the school day. Morning and afternoon clubs are highly popular and provide students with regular access to sport and physical activity, supporting both their health and academic focus. Our school teams, especially the girls' teams, have enjoyed remarkable success this year, reflecting the dedication and talent of our students. Beyond traditional sports, we enrich the curriculum with diverse educational experiences, including Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions, development trips, and a variety of specialist clubs. This comprehensive approach ensures every student can find an activity that inspires them, fosters teamwork, and helps them grow as individuals.



# Sports Day

We are eagerly anticipating our annual Sports Day for Year 7, 8, and 9, which will take place on Monday 30th June at Tudor Grange. With an impressive 288 students set to participate, the event promises to be a vibrant celebration of athleticism, teamwork, and school spirit. Lessons have focused on reinforcing our FAITHFUL virtues—determination, resilience, and respect among others—to inspire students to achieve their best and earn valuable points for their form. We look forward to a day filled with outstanding performances, positive competition, and a true sense of community.



# PE Curriculum

Physical Education at our school is not just about developing sporting skills, it is a vital platform for character education. We have proactively integrated the FAITHFUL virtues—Forgiveness, Achievement, Integrity, Thoughtfulness, Hope, Unity, and Love—into every aspect of our PE curriculum and extracurricular activities. This approach ensures that students learn the importance of respect, responsibility, teamwork, and resilience, both on and off the field. By embedding these values into our lessons and school-wide initiatives, we foster a positive, inclusive environment where students are encouraged to grow as well-rounded individuals. As a department, we are proud to be leading the way in character development, supporting the whole school's aim to nurture students who are not only physically active but also morally aware and socially responsible.



# PSHE

## PSHE Curriculum

Throughout the summer term, students in Year 7 have been actively looking at British Values and how these relate to democracy, parliament, and the monarchy in the UK and how they also mirror our Bishop Challoner Faithful Virtues. We have challenged ourselves with questions around what makes a good citizen, combining our knowledge on Human Rights with an understanding of how a democracy is run. We have explored what it is to be a democracy and created our own political party manifestos. Students have relished these tasks, deciding on what matters to them with regards to improving our country! Students have also explored the history of the British Monarchy and studied the line of succession. Within recent weeks, Year 7 have also explored the theme of Money Matters and started to look at wants and needs and ways to explore financial security and wellbeing in an ever-changing global market. As always, we truly believe that through our curriculum we are equipping young people to prepare for life in the world around them.

## 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 able to try and remain safer using the internet. With laws changing globally around the usage of social media for young people, it is imperative that we keep abreast of both the opportunities and the dangers that the online world presents. We have explored website security and tips on how to keep safe when using social media, as well as minimizing risks, being aware of grooming and how to seek and manage issues online. This has been looked at through both case studies and discussion with a plethora of debating tasks, then culminating in a quiz! Year 8 are now embarking on their final project of the year which focuses on various aspects of healthy living, looking at stress management to first aid and healthy eating. They have been engrossed in learning about the difference between processed and whole foods, especially how these contribute to lifestyle diseases. As always, our PSHE curriculum is equipping students with the skills, knowledge and information needed in our ever-changing society.



### Mix and Match the Key Terms

**WORDS**

1. Debit card
2. Salary
3. Balance
4. Credit card
5. Apple Pay

- A. In banking this means the amount of money in your bank account
- B. a plastic card which allows you to buy goods and pay for them later. If you don't pay for them within one month, the bank charges you extra.
- C. a plastic card which allows you to pay for goods immediately using money that is already in your bank account
- D. payment given to employees in return for their work
- E. online payment service from Apple that allows users to make secure, contactless payments using their iPhones, Apple Watches, iPads, and Macs

### Quiz... Democracy or not?

"If I don't like how my government runs the country I can vote for a different political party to run it in the next elections"

UK = a democracy

## Year 9

For the final part of the academic year, Year 9 have been exploring Personal Safety. This project allows them to examine the world around them and is part of our preventative curriculum. Students have explored serious topics such as grooming, exploitation, knife crime, county lines, hate crime and racism. Year 9 students have approached these sensitive topic areas in a mature way and their thought-provoking discussions have been commended in lessons. Using real life articles and relating these back to UK law, students have demonstrated a sound moral compass. 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 Faithful Virtues by using empathy and compassion to understand how other people live and how we can be respectful human beings in society. 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.

### Task: Case Studies

- 1) Read the case studies about hate crimes that have taken place in England
- 2) Answer the questions underneath in full sentences in



# Year 10 and 11 BTEC Personal Growth and Wellbeing

The BTEC in Personal Growth and Wellbeing has been a real success and our standards verifier has been complimentary of the assignments that were sent to him last month, congratulating students for the high quality of their work which focused on Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights. Students were able to complete independent studies that explored the variety of ways to embrace healthy living from examining their diets, to creating individualized fitness plans. This was also in conjunction with looking at the detriments of vaping, smoking, alcohol and drug use and furthermore the exploration of how to keep a healthy mind! Year 11 students also explored financial wellbeing and how to manage money in today's society. They created budgeting spreadsheets that mirrored real life scenarios and investigated the safest ways to pay for both smaller and bigger items – including a mortgage! We wish our Year 11 cohort all the best in their future pursuits and hope that they can rely on some of these skills that they have developed!

## Year 8 and 9 Personal Development Days

Year 8 and 9 have recently had two hugely successful personal development days. Both of these enrichment experiences were kick started with visitors from West Midlands Police and Aquarius. Students joined our professionals for sessions that looked at Stop and Search, Knife Crime and the ever-growing concerns around Vaping. These sessions allowed students to think about the laws of Stop and Search (whilst carrying out their own search on a dummy!), the dangers and consequences of knife crime and learn some hard-hitting facts about what might be hidden in vapes that are purchased straight off our high streets! Both cohorts were congratulated for their engagement. They were thought-provoking mornings which segued us into the day with compassion and critical enquiry. Students spent time in classrooms exploring Respect, Gratitude, Anti-Social Behaviour and a wonderful Mindfulness and Wellbeing session where students created beautiful affirmations, routed in scripture, that can now be found all around school for the Jubilee Year of Hope. We also welcomed Augustus Stewart who gave the most inspiring talk for our Year 9 students. Working in affiliation with West Midlands police, Augustus' message for our students was loud and clear and through dynamic delivery, he affirms that a life of crime is a very dangerous life to lead. Students have been so empowered by Augustus' story. Year 8 students had the enigmatic Ray Douglas deliver to them – Ray is the most engaging speaker and we welcomed him back to talk to Year 8 about the world of online and gaming dangers.



## Assemblies and Form Resources

The assembly and form resource programmes continue to enrich the curriculum of Personal Development, Safeguarding, Preventative, Catholic Life and Cultural themes. Each week, three resources are created; one to be presented live in assembly and the other two are interactive sessions that are delivered in form rooms; one has a cultural theme whilst the other focuses on Prayer and Liturgy. Students are active in all of these sessions, with our school prayer, mission statement and Faithful Virtues at the heart of everything we do. In recent weeks we have looked at Refugee Week, My Money Week and Water Safety – with a plethora of prayers, reflections, quizzes, discussions and case studies, it is wonderful to see our form time and form rooms such a hive of activity! Through our live assemblies, students are also engaged in a Catholic Life focus; this is brought to fruition by being guided by our Faithful Virtues when learning about such topics as County Lines and The Law around Social Media. A huge well done to our Year 7 students who have recently created their sacred spaces in form rooms and are using these during form time to focus their prayers and intentions for the day.



# School Council, and School Charity

Our school council has been pro-active this term with a focus on Personal Development, PSHE and feedback on Catholic Life 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 the Personal Development Days and the variety of interactive activities that these days provide, especially 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.

Our charity leads and Faithful Ambassadors 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 Father Hudson's Caritas and the amazing work that they do for those in need in the local community. We have focused on hygiene product collections, food bank collections not to mention the impressive amount of cash fundraising! The summer term has seen constant activity creating a sense of community amongst the students. From Year 9 and 10 ice cream sales and cake stands to Football Frenzies and hampers galore, we have totaled over £6,000 with this figure still increasing right until the end of the year where we welcome Kevin Hateley to Bishop Challoner Catholic College to receive our annual fund-raising contribution. Aside from this, Emily Pugh from Father Hudson's Caritas has also been visiting Year 7 and 8 students as they embark on a community challenge. These wonderful students wanted to focus on young people in the wider community and are working on an outreach project to help families find things to do for free over the summer holidays. They have written to companies such as West Midlands Travel and Greggs, in conjunction with creating a calendar of things to do for families which don't cost a thing!

## Fox Hollies

Our annual Fox Hollies project started just after Christmas with some disability awareness training led by Grace Mahar who is the Deputy Head Teacher at Fox Hollies. Eight of our Year 9 students have been visiting Fox Hollies on a weekly basis to join together with a class of 12 students and engage in a movement and dance classes exploring the theme of 'Journey Around the World'. Together, we have started to create a collaborative piece that looks at dances from different cultures and aside from the hearty workout, students have been absolutely amazing at joining together with others and working on a joint project. The laughter, fun and smiles around both the Fox Hollies hall and our school dojo have been in abundance. The project will culminate in a shared performance in July.



## Culture Day

Tuesday July 1st was Culture Day at Bishop Challoner. A most glorious day for all as we celebrated with absolute joy, Cultural Diversity across our school. It was wonderful to see so many students dressed in cultural outfits and a sea of smiling faces as we enjoyed a special performance at breaktime from our amazing steel pan group. This was followed by some visiting dhol drummers, an ex-student, AJ, and her amazing performance poetry and not to mention our Chinese Dragon show. To say that the playground and surrounding areas were 'buzzing' would be an understatement!

The rest of the day followed suit, with all lessons following a cultural theme, Mexican food in the canteen, a visiting ice cream van and our truly outstanding Culture Fair. All students who were in school had the opportunity to visit our auditorium during the day, which had been transformed into the most beautiful exhibition of art work and costumes with 17 stalls for students to visit. Each one represented a country from around the world and staff worked so hard to represent their countries in the most creative, colourful and interactive way. Imagine pitch and put with a taste of Irn Bru, limbo, African beading, mehndi, wool weaving and crepe flipping to name but a few of the activities! None of this would have been possible without the time and expertise of the wonderful staff here at Bishop Challoner. A magnificent day for our community.





# Business

As we approach the end of the summer term, we would like to share an update on the recent achievements and assessments in the Business Department.

For our Year 11 GCSE students, the summer term has been busy with external examinations. They completed two exams before the May half-term, while the Year 11 students taking the vocational equivalent sat one external exam prior to the half-term and submitted their controlled assessments in March. We will receive their results, including the outcomes of external moderation of internal assessments, on Results Day in August.

Year 13 A Level students have now completed all three of their external assessments and are also awaiting their results in August. Year 13 vocational students have submitted their final two pieces of coursework. A small number of students retook a previous exam this summer to improve their grades, with results for these available in August, alongside the results for the whole course for all students.

We are optimistic about the results for all four cohorts and wish our students the best of luck as they await their results—a time that can be understandably anxious for many.

Our Year 10 vocational students, who are the first cohort to undertake the BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise, submitted their first controlled assessment unit during the first half of the summer term. We have recently received a draft moderator's report, which indicates a successful first moderation with this exam board. Students are now focusing on content for Unit Two, which will be assessed in the autumn term of Year 11.

Year 10 GCSE students recently completed their mock exams and have now begun learning Year 11 content. This is being introduced through a creative challenge in which students are tasked with designing, branding, and launching their own breakfast cereal, inspired by the style of the 'Apprentice' TV show.

Year 12 A Level students have also completed mock exams and are now progressing to Year 13 material. They are currently working on ratio analysis, which involves using financial documents to assess business performance. Starting this topic early provides them with the opportunity to practice and refine their skills with these complex calculations.

Finally, Year 12 vocational students sat an external examination during the summer assessment series, with results to be released in August. They are now working on their first coursework unit, which focuses on customer communication within a golf club and spa setting, similar to the well-known Belfry. As part of this unit, they are preparing for a recorded presentation to help develop their public speaking skills—something that many of the students are finding both exciting and challenging.

We would like to thank you for your continued support throughout the term. We are very proud of the commitment and enthusiasm our students have shown throughout the summer term. Should you have any questions about these updates or wish to discuss your child's progress, please feel free to contact us.

Wishing you and your family a relaxing and enjoyable summer!

## School Games and PE & Sports Premium Programmes

### Funding updates

We received some great news in the last few weeks concerning the funding for PE and School Sport networks. Firstly, the funding for the School Games Organisers post has been confirmed till March 2026, see statement below.

*'A senior official in the Department of Health and Social Care has written to the Youth Sport Trust to confirm an extension of funding for the School Games Organisers network until the end of the 2025/26 financial year.'*

*"I wanted to confirm to you in writing as soon as possible that the Department has formally approved the 2025/26 funding. This aligns with DCMS (Department for Culture, Media and Sport) and commits DHSC (Department of Health and Social Care) funding for the network until the end of the 2025/26 financial year, meaning the SGO (School Games Organisers) network is fully funded until the end of March 2026. Due to the current situation with the spending review, the remaining funding for the 2025/26 academic year (April – end of August 2026) will need to be approved separately. Please be assured my team are expediting the approval for this funding as part of wider spending review processes".*

Secondly, the funding for the Primary PE and Sport programme for 2025-26 was confirmed on 11th June, see below.

*“This government recognises the value of PE, school sport and physical activity in supporting the physical health and mental wellbeing of children and young people.*

*All children, including the least active and those from most disadvantaged backgrounds, should have the access to high-quality PE and opportunities to be active.*

*To support this, the government will provide £320 million funding for the Primary PE and sport premium in the academic year 2025 to 2026 for all eligible schools to make additional and sustainable improvements to PE, school sport and physical activity”.*

Thirdly, the Prime Minister announced plans for new approach to PE and school sport including new School Sports Partnerships and a new Enrichment Framework for schools, to ensure all young people have equal access to high-quality sport and extracurricular activity.

The Government announced the creation of a new national network, which will:

- Build strong partnerships between schools, local clubs and National Governing Bodies
- Focus on identifying and breaking down barriers to sport for children who are less active, primarily girls, and students with special educational needs and disabilities
- Ensure inclusive best practice is shared and adopted widely across all schools in England
- Be supported by a new Enrichment Framework to ensure all young people have equal access to high-quality extra-curricular activities
- Will be linked to new school profiles, which will publish information about every school’s sport and enrichment offer.

## Primary Schools

We continue to support 38 local primary, secondary and special schools and their communities to be physically active and maintain a healthy, active lifestyle. We also work alongside Mr Noone and the PE department to support other primary schools across the city on our PE and Sport Premium Programmes.

The list of schools in our cluster is below.

Billesley Primary School	Bishop Challoner Catholic College
Christ Church	Colmore Junior and Infant Schools
Fox Hollies School	Heath Mount Primary School
King David	KE VI Camp Hill School for Boys
KE VI Camp Hill School for Girls	KE VI High School for Girls
King Edward’s School	Lakey Lane
Moor Green Primary Academy	Moseley C of E
Moseley School and Sixth Form	Our Lady of Lourdes
Park Hill	Queensbridge School
Reach School	Red Boots School
Springfield Primary Academy	St Alban’s
St Bernard’s	St Catherine of Siena
St Dunstan’s	St Edward’s
St John and Monica	St Joseph’s
St Jude’s	St Martin de Porres
Swanshurst School	Dame Ellen Pinsent School
University of Birmingham School	Uffculme School
Wheeler Lane Primary School	Wheeler Lane Technology College
Woodthorpe Junior and Infant School	

## School Games Mark

The focus for School Games Mark 2024/25 remains constant and continues to be positioned as a tool aimed at helping schools effectively reflect on their engagement in the School Games. The award is centred around the principles of the School Games outcomes and schools will need to demonstrate their engagement with their local School Games Organiser. This will be done through the levels of bronze, silver, gold and platinum.

The purpose of School Games Mark: to reward and recognise a school’s engagement (provision and uptake) in the School Games against a national benchmark and to celebrate keeping young people active.

Congratulations to Queensbridge and Our Lady of Lourdes who have achieved gold so far this year and to Heath Mount for achieving Silver. Other applications have been started and schools have until July 30th to complete them.





# School Games Events 2024-25

It has been a very busy year with over 2600 young people from Y2-11 in 29 different schools taking part in our School Games (SG) events since September. This term, we have organised events, including competitions and festivals, in boys and girls primary and secondary football, Y3-4 cricket, athletics and rugby, a Y5-6 swim gala and secondary rounders, netball. Secondary schools within the cluster continue to host these events and offer use of their sports facilities free of charge and we are extremely grateful for this.

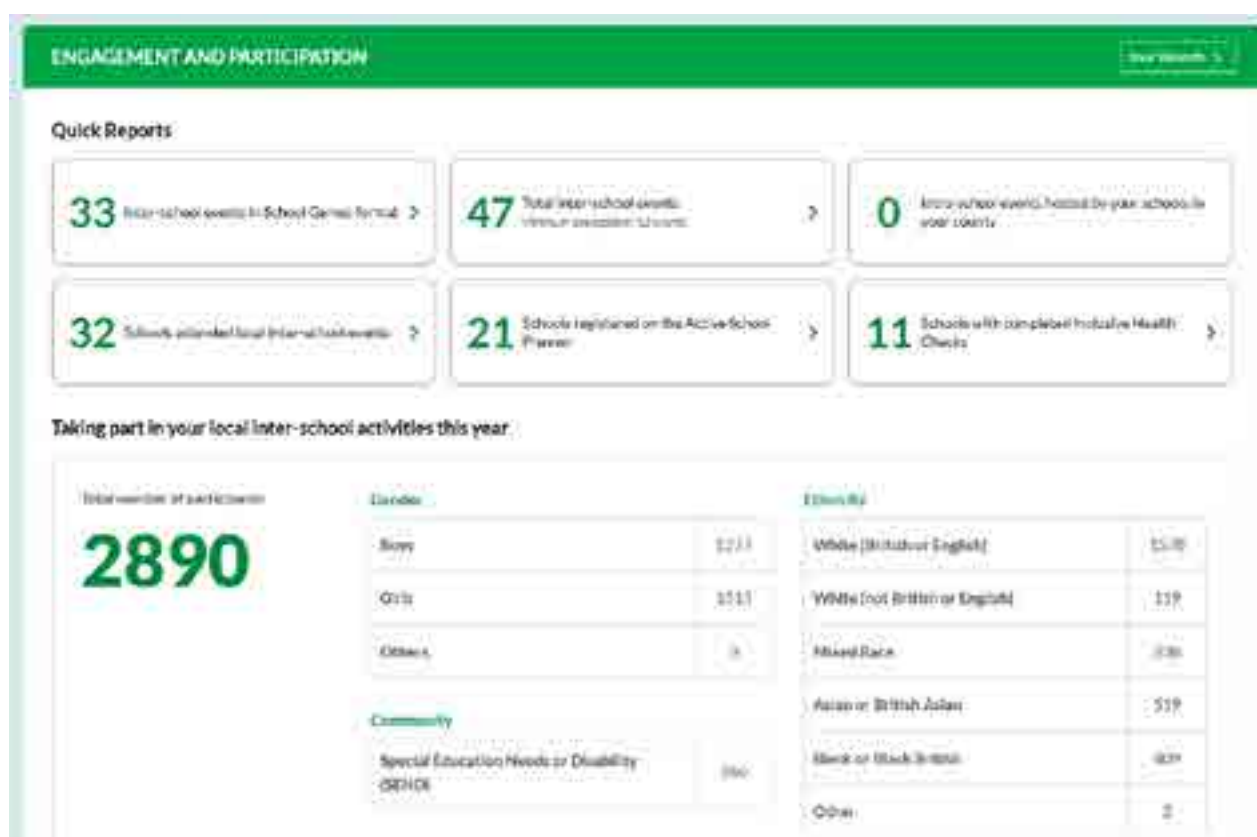
We continue to adapt our School Games events to make them more inclusive and follow a model which clearly explains who our target audience is for each event. This has been shared with schools, so they are all aware which students the event is aimed at, and this helps to ensure those attending have a positive experience.



## THEMES

All our events will be designed around the following themes. These themes will help us to ensure that all our events are inclusive and accessible to all.

- ENGAGE** These events are for everyone and are designed to be fun and inclusive for all.
- INSPIRE** These events are for young people who are looking for a challenge and want to learn something new.
- COMPETE** These events are for young people who are looking for a challenge and want to learn something new.
- DEVELOP** These events are for young people who are looking for a challenge and want to learn something new.



## Primary School Swimming CPD

Congratulations to the staff from King David, Moor Green, Woodthorpe and Our Lady of Lourdes Primary schools who attended a 2-day swimming course in May which was organised through Swim England and The Institute of Swimming. The course is made up of two training programmes and uses both theory and practical sessions to teach the most effective ways of delivering school swimming for success.

1. Support Teacher of School Swimming – once completed, teachers are able to actively assist and support a more qualified teacher and can then progress to the second training programme.
2. Teacher of School Swimming – once completed teachers will be qualified to plan and evaluate session plans in line with the national curriculum, and teach independently in a school swimming programme.

The programme also includes a set of waterproof activity cards, giving fun, varied and progressive introductory activities for students learning to swim, and a learner guide to support them through the training.

In association with The RFU, we are continuing or development of rugby within and beyond schools. We have held numerous primary and secondary events and training courses for teachers this year and will continue to do so in 2025-26. Our aim, quite simply, is 'to get more rugby balls into the hands of young people to help them be physically active'.

During NSSW, schools, families and organisations are encouraged to get involved, host the UK's biggest ever Sports Day, and champion 60 minutes\* of PE, sport and play every day to help all young people be Always Active. Many schools organised specific activities for their students and school communities to take part in, some photos can be seen below.

You can follow all our work on 'X' (@BCSGO) where we have over 1400 followers.





# Media Studies

This year's public exams at both GCSE and A Level offered students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills of the Media Studies framework developed over the two-year courses. Whilst the papers, the A-Level Component 2 in particular, offered a high level of challenge, the mood on leaving the exam room was universally positive; students felt confident in their preparation and pleased with their ability to explore a range of media texts in exam conditions.

For our Year 11 groups, Mr Welch, Ms Hodges and Ms Flynn-Vilic led pre-exam booster classes. These sessions, taking place on the morning of afternoon exams, guided students through the content of the upcoming exam and offered a last-minute opportunity to practise exam skills and refresh key content; it was validating to see some of the topics covered appear on the subsequent exams.

Working with the Year 13 cohort, Ms Marsh and Mr Welch taught revision lessons to students who – despite being on study leave – came into College to benefit from teacher-led exam preparation. Again, content and question-types explored in these sessions was to appear on the exams themselves.

With exams now complete, the department's attention turns fully to our Year 10 and Year 12 groups. Both cohorts have recently completed a summer mock and are now in the research stages of the NEA project. At GCSE, students are to design film marketing products for a new movie in either the teen drama or action genre, whilst at A-Level, students are planning music videos and album posters for a breakthrough mainstream artist.

## Sixth Form

### Key Dates

A Level Results Day  
Thursday 14th August in the school library

GCSE Results Day and Sixth Form enrollment  
Thursday 21st August in the school auditorium.



## Reward and celebrations

Year 12 students will be invited to a rewards assembly later this term. Here the efforts and successes of students will be celebrated with certificates and awards for a variety of different areas. For example we will be celebrating the work of our team of subject ambassadors, the work of the student council, the international student committee, students that have been supporting our lower school students with revision in English and Maths and our charity ambassadors in college.

Year 13 students have now completed all of their final public examinations. To celebrate all of their efforts and their time at college, we had a wonderful leavers service and hosted our Year 13 Prom at Highbury Hall.

We wish all of our Year 13 every success in the summer with their exams and hope they are now enjoying their well deserved summer holidays.

# Improving student learning in the Sixth Form

Students every Thursday afternoon now engage with their academic form tutors in lessons called 'Getting the Grades'. Here students continuously reflect on the characteristics, attributes and skillsets needed to be successful at Key Stage 5 and beyond. Recently, Year 12 students have been looking at the importance of feedback, and how to thoroughly learn from the mock exam period they recently have experienced. We hope these workshops provide additional support for students at key points throughout the academic year and thoroughly support our students with their journey towards excellent outcomes at the end of Year 13.

## Catholic Life

International Student Committee – Peru residential trip

This month, a group of our Year 12 students travelled to Urubamba in the Sacred Valley of Peru to take part in the Challenges Abroad: Social Impact in the Community programme. Over the course of two weeks, students worked in local schools to support educational initiatives, deliver engaging workshops in English to primary age school children, and contributed to community environmental projects such as vegetable garden planting, clean-up efforts and helping improve the school's facilities.

Improving educational standards and reducing student absenteeism is a priority for the Peruvian government in 2025. Many children in this part of the country sadly live in poverty, with an education system that struggles for funding and one where many schools have to finish by 12.30pm due to this lack of funding. By delivering these workshops our students enabled the school we worked with to remain open for longer hours and helped provide students with enriching activities and lessons that helped develop their skillsets in particular around spoken language and better engage these children with their schools.

The experience offered far more than just volunteering. Students were immersed in a new culture, developed meaningful connections with the local community, and saw first-hand the difference that service to others and education can make in a developing region of the world.

Students also had the opportunity to visit Machu Picchu for sunrise. A once in a lifetime experience where students learned about the history of the Inca civilisation that lived in these spectacular and remote parts of the country.

By stepping out of their comfort zones, our students really grew in confidence and developed their own skillsets in areas such as communication, teamwork and resilience. Many developed strong leadership skillsets, and all returned with a renewed appreciation for global citizenship and the power that education can truly have on people. Students also raised over £1600.00 for the Future Sense Foundation and donated huge amounts of sanitary products to the local communities we were working with in Peru. We are incredibly proud of our students who were true ambassadors for our Sixth Form and for our school's mission.



## Mass and Assemblies with Father Toby

This term Father Toby has welcomed us to Saint Dunstan's Church on a number of occasions for mass and has helped deliver some of our Sixth Form assemblies.

Mrs McGowan delivered an excellent assembly on the month of Mary in May celebrating and honoring her work through prayer and reflection.

## Theology Thursdays

Each Thursday morning students have been learning and reflecting on the work of a variety of Saints and important people from the Catholic church. This month's students have learned about the teachings and work carried out by Saint Oscar Romero, Bishop Richard Challoner, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Saint Josephine Bakhita, Mother Teresa and Saint Francis Assisi.



# Dementia Café

Sixth Form students have brilliantly continued to volunteer their time to support a local community initiative called the Dementia Café. Here students sit with guests of the café and play games, dance, share stories and have lunch in what is a wonderful local charity we are very proud to support.



## Sixth Form enrollment

Students from Bishop Challoner and other schools will be formally enrolling for our Sixth Form on GCSE results day which this year is on Thursday 21st August. Here students can make final subject choices for the courses they would like to take in September. Further careers and subject advice will also be on offer from a team of staff on this day to thoroughly support students through this important transition into our Sixth Form.

Please follow us on Instagram for further updates for this term:  
[@bishopchallonersixth](https://www.instagram.com/bishopchallonersixth)



## Post 18 Support

Parents and students earlier this term were invited into college to listen to an external guest speaker supporting them through the student finance process. The event was well attended and feedback from parents was really positive on what can at times a really complex process. We hope all students have all now managed to navigate their way through the student finance application process.



Students in Year 12 recently visited Aston University Open Day to help them begin to explore the many options that may be out there for them in terms of applying for Further Education. The local university is a great place to start this thought process with its diverse subject range and strong extra-curricular programme on offer. Students are encouraged to use the summer holidays now to continue their research here and to attend other university open days that will help them with their decisions moving forward.



Year 12 students will also be carrying out work experience this term with some amazing experiences having been arranged by students with the support of Miss Darby and Miss Jacques. Students have been receiving exciting offers of placements in a wide variety of different fields. These will be excellent experiences that will help support students with their next steps and future applications. On return to college students will be supported with writing personal statements as many begin the UCAS process and will start applying for further education.



## Next years new cohort of students

We are delighted to have received lots of excellent applications for our Sixth Form for next academic year. The careers team have been working hard to support Year 11 students with their applications and with the options process ahead of next academic year. We believe one of our biggest selling points is the unique support on offer to our students from staff across the school community. This alongside our diverse subject and extra-curricular programmes of study, we believe make Bishop Challoner a fantastic option for students to continue their Key Stage 5 education.

On July 9th we will host a Taster Day event where students will have the opportunity to sample a day in the life of a Sixth Form student. Here students will meet the Sixth Form Team of staff and start the day with a talk from the Head of Sixth Form Mr Mullins. They will then go to taster sessions / lessons ran by our different departments around the school who will support them in making important subject choices ahead of their final enrollment day in August on GCSE results day.

# Careers

This term has been full of exciting opportunities designed to help our students explore their future pathways and gain valuable insight into life beyond school. From university visits to work experience, our students have embraced every moment with enthusiasm and maturity.

## Year 10: Exploring Aspirations

Just after Easter, a group of our Year 10 students enjoyed an inspiring visit to the University of Birmingham. They had the chance to experience university life first-hand through a guided campus tour, a vibrant Q&A with student ambassadors, and a creative workshop where they designed their own university society. The day wrapped up with a fun quiz that tested their knowledge of higher education. It was a fantastic introduction to university life and left students with a real sense of excitement about their futures.

Earlier in the term, all of Year 10 took part in mock interviews supported by a brilliant team of volunteers from local companies. These sessions gave students the chance to practise key employability skills and receive valuable, constructive feedback.

More recently, Year 10 completed a week of work experience, gaining hands-on insight into a variety of workplaces. Those students not on external placements, took part in a programme of alternative activities. These included:

- Engaging in workshops with Colas, focused on careers in infrastructure and construction.
- A challenging and engaging morning with the Elite Skills Academy and the British Army, developing teamwork, communication, and leadership skills.
- A hands-on gardening project, where students revitalised our Peace Garden with their impressive creativity and teamwork.



## Year 12: Looking Beyond 18

Many of our Year 12 students have secured face to face work experience placements, exploring industries of interest and gaining valuable professional exposure. Other students have tailored their own virtual work experience programmes, demonstrating initiative and independence in preparing for their futures.


Alongside this, Year 12s have been participating in our Beyond 18 programme and UCAS workshops this term —a dedicated series of workshops and sessions that helps them explore a wide range of post-18 options, from university and apprenticeships to employment. These sessions are designed to support students in shaping their next steps with confidence and ambition.

We are incredibly proud of the way our students have engaged with these opportunities and grateful to our staff and external partners for making them possible. With each experience, our young people are growing into confident, informed, and motivated individuals ready to take on the future.

# Library

To find out what's been happening in our library this summer please follow the link for the library newsletter.

<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/library>




## THE BOOKSHELF

SUMMER 2023

"Summer was our best season: it was sleeping on the back screened porch in cots, or trying to sleep in the treehouse; summer was everything good to eat; it was a thousand colours in a parched landscape."

To Kill a Mockingbird - HARPER LEE

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN YOUR SCHOOL LIBRARY THIS TERM?

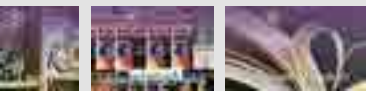


WE CURRENTLY HAVE OVER 300 BOOKS OVERDUE FROM THE SCHOOL LIBRARY. PLEASE CHECK AT HOME AND RETURN ANY BOOKS YOU MAY HAVE BACK TO THE LIBRARY. THANKYOU!

PLEASE NOTE: We don't charge fines but won't allow students to loan any more books until they have returned any books still outstanding on their account.

"The aim of the library is to create the environment and facilities where students and staff may read, study and seek information."

### WEBSITE UPDATE!



We've updated our library pages on the school website.

<https://bishopchalloner.org.uk/library>

As well as our main library page where you can find out about opening times, how many books you can loan, library facilities etc we have also included links to the following:



[Welcome Booklet](#) – Where can I find graphic novels? How do I use the library? What activities take place in the library? You can find all this out in the welcome booklet.

[Accessit](#) – our library catalogue.

[Local News and Events](#) – check out the latest literary news and events right here in Brum.

[For the love of books!](#) – lots of great links to help you find your next book choice, learn a new skill and much more...

[The Bookshelf](#) – current and past issues of our library newsletter "The Bookshelf"

Follow Us -  @BC\_OL  [bishopchallonerolc](#)



# BC Wellbeing News

## Summer 2025

### Water Safety: Enjoy the Water Responsibly

Whether you're heading to the beach, pool, lake, or river, here are some key water safety tips:

Swim in supervised areas: Always choose beaches and pools with lifeguards and pay attention to warning flags or signs. Don't be tempted to swim in rivers as they can be very dangerous and they are not supervised.

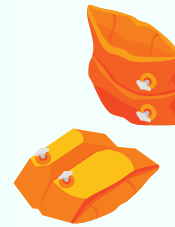
Stay within your depth: Know your swimming ability and never swim alone.

Be cautious with inflatables: They can drift quickly—especially at sea. Use them in pools, not open water.

Look out for rip currents: If you're caught in one, stay calm, float, and swim parallel to the shore.

Wear a life jacket: If you're kayaking, paddleboarding, or boating, wear appropriate safety gear.

Hello students, parents, and carers,  
As our academic year wraps up and the summer break begins, it's the perfect time to relax, recharge, and enjoy new experiences — hopefully with some continued sunshine for us to enjoy over the coming 6-week break! But staying safe and looking after your wellbeing is just as important during the holidays as it is during term time. Whilst we all need some time to re-charge, sometimes the lack of routine can throw us off guard, so this edition of our summer newsletter will provide you with lots of helpful tips to stay active and safe over the summer holidays. Look no further as we're sharing top tips on safety, and simple ways to boost your wellbeing over the summer.



<https://www.rlss.org.uk/Pages/Category/water-safety-information>



### Cyber Safety: Stay Smart Online

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Many of us spend more time online during the holidays. Stay safe by following these cyber-smart rules for when you are surfing the web or using social media:



Think before you post: Once something is online, it can be hard to delete. Ask yourself—would I be okay with a teacher or parent seeing this? Remember our motto in school 'Is it true, is it kind, is it necessary?'

Protect your privacy: Don't share personal info like your address, school, or phone number with people you don't know in real life.



Be kind online: If you wouldn't say it in person, don't post it. Be mindful and respectful.

Report and block: If someone is making you feel uncomfortable or unsafe online, tell a trusted adult and report it on the platform.

Take breaks from screens: Don't forget to enjoy offline life—sunshine, nature, friends, and books!





# Ways to Wellbeing: Feel-Good ideas for Summer

Here are five ways to look after your mind and body during the break:



Connect: Spend quality time with friends and family. Try a picnic, a games night, or a walk in the park.

Be Active: Try swimming, cycling, dancing, or just moving more. Exercise boosts your mood!

Keep Learning: Explore a hobby, read a book, or try a summer course. Learning can be fun and empowering.

Give to Others: Do something kind—help a neighbour, volunteer, or even just smile at someone.

Take Notice: Practice mindfulness—notice the little things, like the feeling of grass underfoot or the sound of birds in the morning.



<https://www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk/>

## Free Family Activities in Birmingham

Make the most of summer without spending a penny—here's a great list of no-cost experiences for families:

Cannon Hill Park (South Birmingham): expansive lawns, lakes, playgrounds, paddle boats, picnicking, and the MAC arts centre, all free to access. Plus, weekly parkrun events—5 km on Saturdays and 2 km for juniors on Sundays!

Library of Birmingham (Centenary Square): explore 10 levels of books, archives, outdoor garden terraces, panoramic city views, free musical and drama performances throughout the summer.

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery: housed in a stunning historic building, free to visit with changing exhibitions.



Thinktank Science Garden (Millennium Point): interactive outdoor exhibits (including a human-sized hamster wheel), free entry daily after 3 pm.

Martineau Gardens (Edgbaston): peaceful community garden with wildflower meadows, orchard, nature trails, ponds, beehives and a children's play area—all free to visit.

Tolkien Trail: self-guided walking routes through Moseley Bog, Sarehole Mill and key Tolkien-inspired locations—free, open 24/7, magical for families.





Canal Walks around Brindleyplace and Digbeth: scenic strolls along Birmingham's canals, public artworks, waterside cafés, and street art—perfect for a relaxed exploration.

Sheldon Country Park & Old Rectory Farm: mix of woodlands, wetlands and a working farm with friendly animals; free to enter with picnic areas and seasonal ranger activities.

Lickey Hills Country Park (southern edge of Birmingham): 524 acres of green space, walking/family-friendly trails, playgrounds, picnic spots and panoramic views.

Birmingham Donkey Sanctuary (Sutton Coldfield): chance to meet donkeys in their paddocks at no cost, though pre-booking is advised. Great for animal-loving youngsters.

Woodgate Valley Country Park: countryside feel, wildlife habitats, farm animals, picnic spaces, and weekend parkruns—ideal for a refreshing day out.



Feelgood Art Workshops offered by PAUSE  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/pause-art-workshops-3378759>

<https://visitchirmingham.com/things-to-see-and-do/attractions/free-things-to-do-in-birmingham/>

### Tips to Enjoy These Activities Safely

- Pack Essentials:** Bring water, sunscreen, snacks, hats, and comfy footwear—especially for long walks or farm visits.
- Check Opening Times:** Always verify locations like the Library, MAC, or Sanctuary before visiting.
- Be Weather Ready:** Include waterproofs and layers for typical UK summer weather.

## General Safety Tips for Summer

Whether you're out with friends, travelling, or spending time at home, here are some practical tips to help you stay safe:

**Stay in touch:** Always let a parent or guardian know where you're going and when you expect to be back.

**Stick with friends:** Avoid going places alone, especially at night. There's safety in numbers.

**Be aware of your surroundings:** Keep music volume low when walking and avoid looking at your phone while crossing roads.

**Use sun protection:** Wear sunscreen (SPF 30+), sunglasses, and a hat when you're out in the sun.

**Stay hydrated:** Drink plenty of water, especially on hot days or when you're active.

**Trust your instincts:** If something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. Move away from the situation and get help if needed.

**Emergency contact:** Know how to contact emergency services (999 in the UK) and have a trusted adult's number saved in your phone.



# A Summer Message of Faith



As we enter the summer break, let us remember these words from Pope Leo:

"God loves us. God loves you all."

Summer is a wonderful time to care for God's creation, to rest in the beauty of nature, and to spend time with loved ones. Let your actions reflect the values of kindness, compassion, and gratitude, and use your time wisely to grow—mentally, physically, and spiritually.

Whether you are by the sea, at home, or exploring somewhere new, take time to thank God for the blessings in your life and be a source of light for others.

## **A Final Thought**

Summer is a time to relax and reset. Stay safe, look after each other, and don't forget: your wellbeing matters.

We look forward to seeing you refreshed and ready for the new school year!

Have a safe, joyful, and faith-filled summer!

## **Samaritans Awareness Day – July 24**

July 24 (24/7) is Samaritans Awareness Day, a day dedicated to raising awareness of the Samaritans' 24-hour listening service. It's a great reminder that help is always available, no matter what you're going through.

[samaritans.org](https://www.samaritans.org) + [13samaritans.org](https://www.samaritans.org) + [13advance-union.org](https://www.advance-union.org) + [13](https://www.13.org)

Find out more and get involved here: [Samaritans](https://www.samaritans.org)

[Awareness Day – 24 July](https://www.samaritans.org)

If you or anyone you know needs someone to talk to, remember you can call 116 123 anytime, day or night.





# BISHOP CHALLONER SEND DEPARTMENT

# TOP TIPS FOR SUMMER



We want you to relax and enjoy the break, but remember, the brain is a muscle and we need to train it. Here are some of our 'top tips' of ways to practice your academic skills over the summer holidays.

**READING!** For a minimum of 15 minutes per day. Top tips to support your child's reading at home Top tips to support your child's reading at home - BBC Bitesize

Five ways to support your child with dyslexia at home

**BBC BITESIZE**

**BOARD GAMES** such as Dobble and Scrabble

Learn to play **CHESS** <https://www.chess.com/article/view/study-plan-for-beginners-the-opening>

There are plenty of **DAYS OUT** and activities to be had over the summer holidays - <https://www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk/things-to-do/west-midlands/west-midlands/birmingham>

**DUOLINGO APP** – Free App. Duolingo is a fantastic app for teens already studying a specific language or maybe they want to start learning another.

Experience **BUDGETING MONEY** – deciding what to spend pocket money on is an opportunity to practice numeracy skills

For **MATHS CHALLENGES** try the '99 club' (start at the '22' club) <https://www.eastburyfarm.herts.sch.uk/99-club/> Interactive Maths programme to learn Times Tables <https://ttrockstars.com/>

**CODING** is an important skill to learn because it teaches you important skills such as visualising abstract concepts, critical thinking, problem solving and creativity. Multiple Apps available.

Try creating **MUSIC** on the Garageband App by Apple. Learning music can have a positive impact on positive effects on memory and developing fine motor skills.

Visit your local **LIBRARY** or independent bookshop. There are two independent book shops in Kings Heath: How Brave is the Wren is located on York Road and specialises in children's books. The Heath Bookshop is located in Kings Arcade.

Learn to complete a **RUBIK'S CUBE** <https://rubiks.com/en-US/>

Playing **CARD GAMES!** Very fun and competitive but also, are fantastic for practicing basic numeracy skills. <https://childhood101.com/math-cards-games/>

**TOUCH TYPING** - practicing touch typing at home to help with keyboard speed and accuracy. <https://www.typingstudy.com/> or <https://www.typingclub.com/>

**MUSEUMS** are often free with lots of exhibits and activities during the summer holidays Summer Family Fun | Birmingham Museums

**BIRMINGHAM START WELL** has created some activity ideas for during the summer holidays which can be found here: <https://startwellbirmingham.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/The-Startwell-Summer-Challenge-2023.pdf>

**READING EGGS/ READING EGGS PRESS** is an engaging App which aims to improve reading, spelling and comprehension: <https://readingeggs.co.uk/>

**COOKING OR BAKING** and shopping for the ingredients – the skill of baking a cake requires literacy skills for reading the recipe, numeracy skills for measuring quantities and organisational skills to ensure it is all done in the correct order.

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian

## **Summer immunisation reminders and important changes to the routine childhood immunisation programme.**

### **Summer immunisations reminder**

Immunisations are the best way to protect us all against serious and life-limiting diseases, like tetanus, diphtheria, measles, mumps, and rubella. All routine childhood immunisations are safe, effective, and free on the NHS. The upcoming summer holidays are the perfect time to catch up on any immunisations your child may have missed ahead of the new school year, especially as measles is currently circulating in Birmingham and the UK.

If your child has not had their MMR immunisation to fight measles, mumps and rubella or the 4 in 1 pre-school booster to prevent diphtheria, polio, tetanus and whooping cough, please arrange an appointment with your GP and get protected over the summer holiday. If you have any questions, please speak to your GP or Practice Nurse, or visit the NHS immunisations webpage (link below) for more information.

### **Safe travelling abroad**

If you are travelling abroad this summer, please ensure that you and your family are up to date with routine vaccinations **before** travelling. This protects both you and those around you, particularly vulnerable individuals such as babies.

If you have teenagers in school, they may have missed their Men ACWY vaccine which helps protect against life-threatening illnesses like meningitis and sepsis. Usually given to children when they are 13 or 14 years old (school year 9 or 10.) If they have missed having the vaccine it can be given up to the age of 25. Again speak to your GP or practice nurse to book an appointment

<https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/>

### **Changes to the routine childhood immunisation programme**

It is important to note that as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2025, the routine childhood immunisation schedule has undergone some changes. These changes have been recommended by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) to improve protection against infectious diseases and reflect the latest scientific evidence. Most of these changes only affect children born on or after 1 July 2024.

One of the changes involves the second dose of Measles, Mumps and Rubella immunisation taking place earlier at 18 months of age (brought forwards from 3 years and 4 months). Locally, we hope that these changes will improve uptake and reduce illness from measles which is currently circulating in Birmingham and the UK. Measles can cause longer term harm to your child. For more information please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-childhood-vaccination-programme-why-are-they-happening>





# BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

## HAPPY, SAFE SUMMER – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

The summer holiday is fast approaching, it is important our students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of behaviour while they are enjoying socialising with friends and family during the break. We also want to ensure they feel confident to keep themselves safe and away from crime and anti-social behaviour.

Parents/carers and students should already be aware that as part of our safeguarding arrangements, the school has a two-way information sharing agreement in place with West Midlands Police, and we are active members of the local Police & Schools Panel. This joint approach helps us to intervene early to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour involving our students and provide support and up-to-date safety messages.

In partnership with the police, we would like to provide some reminders about the following:

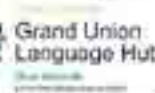
- **Personal Safety:**

- Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep valuables (such as smartphones/watches/headphones) out of public view whenever possible.
- For apple devices parents/carers can active 'Find My' which includes Activation Lock – A feature that is designed to prevent anyone else from using your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch, if it's ever lost or stolen. Activation Lock turns on automatically when you turn on 'Find My' on your device – more details on this feature are available here: [Activation Lock for iPhone and iPad - Apple Support](#)
- Don't drink alcohol, take illegal drugs or unknown substances (Including in Vapes); as they can have a big impact on your health and safety, behaviour, and your ability to do well at school and enjoy other interests and activities. They can also be addictive and have unpredictable side effects and could even have fatal consequences - Information is available at [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

- **Swimming in rivers/reservoirs:** Reservoirs may look inviting, especially on a hot day, but they are extremely dangerous places to swim. If you jump in, you may not be able to get out as the sides are very steep; the water never gets above 11 degrees, and this will affect your ability to breathe and to move. Rivers and reservoirs may be deeper than you think. Safety information is available here: [Float To Live – What To Do In An Emergency – RNLI](#)



Principal - Dr J Coughlan  
Institute Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7EG  
Tel: 0121 444 4161 • Fax: 0121 441 1552  
[www.bishopchalloner.org.uk](http://www.bishopchalloner.org.uk)  
[enquiry@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk)



OFFICIAL

- **Social Media:** Don't allow your use of social media to put you at risk of grooming, exploitation, or regret in future. Use social media positively and avoid being negative about anyone online as comments/actions may be traced back to you and you will be held accountable.
- **Weapons in public places:** Carrying a knife or other weapon will get you a criminal record which can have life-long effects on travel and job prospects. Those who carry knives are also much more likely to be injured by them. Don't take BB Guns, Gel Blasters/Guns, or any other real looking toy guns into public spaces as these can cause alarm to the public - which could receive a Police Firearms response.
- **Anti-social behaviour:** Think about your actions towards others; a little thought & respect goes a long way.
- **Off-road bikes:** These can only be ridden on private land with the landowner's permission. Don't risk your life and future prospects by illegally riding these on the road.
- **E-Scooters:** In the UK, you must be at least 18 years old and hold a provisional or full driving licence to ride a hire e- scooter. A privately owned e-scooter can only be used in a private place with the landowner's permission; they are illegal to use on a road or in a public place.
- **Remember the company you keep:** If your friend breaks the law, your association with that person may have legal consequences for you, which could be very serious – even if you weren't the one directly responsible.

If a student is in a position where they need help, they should talk to an adult they trust. Crimes can be reported directly to the police via 101; alternatively, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org). **If a crime is taking place or a life is in danger, call 999 immediately.**

We wish everyone a happy and safe summer.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Coughlan  
**Principal**  
Bishop Challoner Catholic College

**Tom Joyce**  
Chief Superintendent  
Birmingham Local Policing Area  
West Midlands Police



# 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.

## Pastoral Staff

There are a number of Pastoral staff changes that you should be aware of from September 2024, we welcome and congratulate all staff joining the team.

Staffing for 2024/2025 is detailed below-

KS3 Standards for Learning Intervention Lead- Mrs Jethwa

Head of Year 7- Miss R Watson  
Assistant Head of Year 7- Mr Azam

Head of Year 8- Mr Knowles  
Assistant Head of Year 8- Miss Williams

Head of Year 9- Miss Hunter  
Assistant Head of Year 9- Miss Manning

KS4 Standards for Learning Intervention Lead- Mr Clarke

Head of Year 10- Mr Brade  
Assistant Head of Year 10- Miss Sadler

Head of Year 11- Mrs Whelan  
Assistant Head of Year 11- Mr Khitab

Head of Sixth Form- Mr Mullins

Head of Year 12- Miss Shirley

Head of Year 13- Mrs McGowan

## Drinks

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



## 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 2025/2026

### Autumn Term 2025

Term starts: Year 7, 11 & 13 - Wednesday 3rd September 2025

All year groups- Thursday 4th September 2025

### Half-term

Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025

Term ends: Thursday 18th December 2025

### Spring Term 2026

Term starts: Monday 5 January 2026

### Half-term

Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026

Term ends: Friday 27 March 2026

### Summer Term 2026

Term starts: Monday 13 April 2026

### Half-term

Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

Term ends: Friday 17th July 2026