

BC NEWS



Autumn 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Christmas newsletter once again provides a fantastic reflection on the work of the school. Throughout this term students have fully embraced the opportunities available and their commitment and achievement are to be seen in the attached reports.

2016-2017 has been deemed a 'Year of Celebration'. To this end we are continuously looking to acknowledge, share and highlight the fantastic achievements of our young people. The cover of this newsletter itself is a celebration displaying the work of two of our 'home-grown' Artists in Residence- Eilise Lancaster and Lydia Parkes.

We are maintaining our focus on recognising and rewarding students through pastoral activities, academic work, spiritual life experiences, sporting excellence- indeed, all strands of daily activity. There is a tremendous depth of talent and

goodwill in the school, we intend to ensure that students know that this is appreciated and valued. July will see a week of "Character Education and Celebration", staff are currently hard at work planning what should be a fabulous conclusion to this school year.

In conclusion, as we look towards the end of this term, to Christmas and all that this means, our students deserve congratulations for their collection of 246 shoeboxes for the Trussel Trust and their generous half-termly collections for St Chads Sanctuary. In these acts they demonstrate the true spirit of Christmas through their kindness and consideration for those in great need. As a school community we are proud of the work of our young people, living out our Mission Statement.

To all parents/carers, families, Governors and staff, a very happy and holy Christmas.

K McEvoy
Principal





CONTENTS

Spiritual Life	3-6	Geography	24
Religious Studies	7-9	History	24-25
English	9-11	Performing Arts	25-27
Mathematics	11-12	Physical Education	27-29
Science	13-14	School Games	29-31
Art and Design	15-18	Media Studies	31-32
Product Design	18-19	Computing	32-33
Textiles	19	Sixth Form	33-34
Food Education	19-20	Teaching School Alliance (TSA)	34-35
STEM	21	Other BC News	36
Citizenship & PSHE	22-23		

Head Boy and Head Girl

Michael Coleman and Eve McGuire have been elected as Head Boy and Head Girl. They will lead the Sixth Form Council and have spoken to parents at Open Evening. They are working on some exciting ways to develop their role, including a community project and a legacy project. To introduce themselves to younger students, they have spoken at an assembly (years 7-11) this term.



SPIRITUAL LIFE

As usual this has truly been a most spiritually energised Autumn Term!

Prayer and worship has continued to be an integral part of the life of students and staff with teaching group masses and devotional prayers led by Fr Simon and I. During this season of advent all students have received the sacrament of reconciliation. This opportunity has allowed students to take time to reflect on their personal faith journeys during this holy time of preparing for the birth of our Lord.

We hope you enjoy reading about all the great spiritual events that have taken place this term. I would like to thank students, parents and staff for their continued support and energy in making this a truly special Catholic school where we live by our mission statement in giving Glory to God through service to others.

Wishing you all a very holy and faithful Christmas

Tommy Rowan
(Lay Chaplain)

Shoebox Appeal

The shoe box collection this term has been absolutely fantastic. The chapel, foyer and form rooms have been buzzing with shoebox ideas. The chaplaincy team have had a major impact on monitoring boxes and money raised. They have used this money to purchase gifts and fill boxes. We have achieved a total of 246 boxes sending our shoeboxes to the Trussell Trust supporting disadvantaged children in Bulgaria. This worthwhile cause has helped spread the joy of Christmas to those most in need. A special mention to:

Hannah F, Niamh C, Katie McG, Aleah W, Janal R, Annley M.

A massive thank you must go all the chaplaincy team who donated numerous hours collecting shoeboxes from local Kings Heath shops. They also spent a great deal of time and effort creating and wrapping boxes. Their devotion and volunteering is greatly appreciated by both the school and the chosen charities.

We would like to thank Clarks in Kings Heath who have generously donated boxes for us to reach our total.

We couldn't have done it without you!



St Mary's Hospice

In October three students who had an impact on our whole school charity in the summer term visited St. Mary's Hospice to present our final cheque of £7348.86. This sum means that St. Mary's hospice is able to give specialist end of life care to at least four patients in their own home through the "Hospice at Home" team. The hospice has expressed how grateful they are to the sum we have managed to raise as a community. Thank you to all who contributed to our whole school charity last year.



St. Chad's Sanctuary

Bishop Challoner has continued to support St. Chad's Sanctuary in the last two weeks of each term. St. Chad's Sanctuary is a voluntary project supported by St Chad's Cathedral. It's a place of welcome and hospitality for asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants. The sanctuary is in real need of donations of food, hygiene items and clothing especially at this time.

The centre is based next to St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham and is run by volunteers. From Monday 10th - Thursday 20th October the school ran a collection project of food and clothes. This involved collecting donations of tins, dried foods and clothes for St. Chad's Sanctuary. Another collection was organised for Monday 28th November til Friday 9th December. Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Sanctuary.



Lourdes Pilgrimage Preparation

Initial preparation for the Archdiocese Lourdes Pilgrimage has already begun. To date there are sixteen students (7 x Year 12s, 2 x Year 10s, 2 x Year 9s 5 x Year 8s) who have signed up for the pilgrimage which is taking place during May half term 2017. We have started our journey of fundraising with carol singing in Sainsbury's in Kings Heath over three days. We look to book some bag packing dates and a quiz night. We are also planning on hosting a Ceili night on Friday 10th March, for St Patrick's celebrations and more fundraising.

Mission Brazil Preparation

In September a Year 13 student and two staff signed up to Mission Brazil with the Archdiocese of Birmingham. They will be going to Brazil in July 2017 for two weeks. This project will involve mission work serving the people of Brazil in their local community through maintenance work and also teaching. To get to Mission Brazil each student has to raise £1250 which has meant the students have done cake sales, singing, making Christmas cards, performing at Christmas fayres, bag packs. There mission journey is well underway.

Year 7 Alton Castle Retreat

On Monday 14th to Wednesday 16th November twenty eight Year 7 students visited Alton Castle. The theme of the retreat the students explored was "Who am I". It gave the young students a chance to explore their faith and their lives in more depth.

The students also got to take part in activities which made them reflect on the retreat theme such as Trekking, Climbing, Biking and Archery. All the activities were beneficial for the group to bond and for them to make closer friends going on into their Bishop Challoner school life. Thank you to Miss Hampson, Miss Start and Mrs Taylor for supporting the trip.

Year 7 Mass

On Wednesday 5th October the whole of Year 7 celebrated their first mass as a year group together at Bishop Challoner. The year 7 students were invited to be part of the Mass by being involved in the readings, bidding prayers and offertory. Students from older years were invited to be part of the occasions to share their faith.

The Mass encouraged the students to be involved in Mass and to celebrate their faith at Bishop Challoner Catholic College. During the Mass the Year 7 Chaplaincy team were commissioned alongside our Primary Chaplaincy teams from our feeder primary schools. This was a special occasion for the primary children and the new Year 7 students to join together to celebrate faith and see how their faith journeys continue.

We now look forward to Year 7 contributing fully to the Catholic and spiritual ethos of school life.



Year 10 Soli House Retreat

The first residential retreat of the year took place when ten Year 10 students visited Soli House on the 11th to the 14th October. During the retreat students were asked to take part in a three day programme that would encourage them to take time to build new friendships, reflect on their faith and explore how they could be missionaries in their faith.

Our students embraced every part of their youth retreat experience and entered the soli spirit with enthusiasm and commitment. During the three days Year 10 students were given the opportunity to attend small group workshops, receive personal reconciliation and take part in the Kenelm Challenges which involved archery, climbing and team building games. The week was filled with fun, faith and friendship. Thank you to Miss Spencer for supporting the trip.



CAFOD Fast Day

On Friday 7th October, Bishop Challoner got together to celebrate CAFOD Fast day. Being part of a Catholic community, the fast day was very important and a lot of effort was put in to thinking about how we could really brighten up the harvest. Throughout the day, we had services led by Jane from CAFOD teaching students about the work that CAFOD do.

The services had a particular focus on how we can change the world to make it a brighter place, which included scripture and songs. At break time and lunch time, students were invited into the auditorium which was a sea of colour to fit with CAFOD's theme this year, to eat only bread and water and donate the money they would have spent in the canteen to CAFOD.

They could then watch performances of songs from students, donate money and also paint their handprint onto our CAFOD display board in lots of colours. We worked really well as a school in brightening up the harvest and managed to raise a total of £150!



Bishop Challoner Youth Club

Youth Club this year has developed its strategies based on feedback from students last year. The regular youth club members have put together a plan of activities to complete each week including raising money, cake baking, talent show, team building activities, games competitions and trip to bowling. The youth group has also been enhanced by the KS5 Young leaders who help at youth club.

We look forward to more activities in the future.



St. Dunstan's Youth Club

Youth group have celebrated a fun last few months. We have had a session on games and working as a team. It allowed the young people to get to know people they wouldn't usually talk to! We linked it to how Jesus worked as a team with his disciples. We also had a session about mission, where the young people thought about how they could do mission and help others, along with hearing some experiences from young leaders and how we had participated in mission throughout our lives. Following that, we went on to celebrate CAFOD Fast Day.

The young leaders spoke about CAFOD and their work, and we had a cake sale to raise money, and encouraged the young people to donate extra to such a good cause. We have spent the last few weeks preparing for National Youth Sunday. We had a beautiful youth mass celebration which everybody participated in through readings and song. It was a great way to celebrate the youth of the Church and get involved, especially since we are the next generation of faith.



Proclaim, the praise and worship group for 14-18 years olds, has continued to run on a fortnightly basis. The session involves the young people taking part in Icebreakers, praise and worship, discussions, sharing of pizza and prayer. This group has enhanced the young people's faith.

Adrenaline

This Autumn Soli House offered an intensive positive personal development programme which is part of the National Citizen Service initiative (NCS). Two exciting leadership residential programmes with outward bounds adventure and digging deeper into young people's social consciousness, followed by dynamic tailor made social action project with Soli & Fr Hudsons Care with a focus on the elderly and refugees.

This leadership programme for 16 and 17 year olds was offered to Bishop Challoner sixth formers for free of charge. One student undertook the programme in the October half term and benefited from the experience meeting new friends. Eleven young people from the sixth form signed up for the December programme, again a really beneficial experience for all involved. The NCS programme is a great boost for a student's UCAS, their CVs and the residential elements count towards the Gold Duke of Edinburgh.

Poland 2 UK Retreat

Following the successful World Youth Day pilgrimage which two of our sixth formers attended in the summer, our friends from Poland visited Alton Castle during the October half term. Our sixth formers helped with the mission project which took place at Alton castle throughout the October half term. This was a rewarding experience for our young people to be involved in mission work and continued friendships built.

Tea Parties

This Year Bishop Challoner Sixth Formers have continued the fortnightly tea parties for senior parishioners. This has been a fantastic initiative for the young people to work with parishioners. The sixth formers provide tea, sandwiches, cakes, bingo and good fun. Our Parishioner said "Just to say a big thank you for all the sixth form students do for us. Many thanks".

JP2 Award

In September five sixth formers from Bishop Challoner signed up to undertake the John Paul the Second Award (JP2 Award) which has been a blessing to our School and Parish community. They have to do a number of hours parish work and a number of hours of social work.

Our young people have really become involved in parish and school events such as the SVP Mass and Entertainments where the young people helped at Mass and also provided entertainment after it. They have played a key role in the Parish Tea parties and also in the Parish youth club. Some of the leaders have also provided entertainment for the Parish Saturday Social, CAFOD Fast Day, National Youth Sunday. Thank you to all the hard work of the JP2 Students.

Chaplaincy Commissioning Mass

On Tuesday 27th September eleven chaplaincy team members attended St. Chad's Cathedral for a commissioning mass with schools from across the diocese, Birmingham catholic youth service, Alton Castle and Soli House. This was a blessed day to join over 200 people who part take in chaplaincy across the diocese. The students were commissioned in the mass for their chaplaincy work for the year ahead.



Primary Chaplaincy

Our Chaplaincy Team members from each of our feeder primary schools came to Bishop Challoner for a commissioning Mass on Wednesday 5th October. Students from St. Alban's, St. Bernard's, St. Dunstan's, St. Jude's, St. Martin De Porres and Our Lady of Lourdes agreed to undertake the role of chaplaincy in their schools.

The theme of the Mass was about the chaplaincy teams being the light in their schools. Since the service each chaplaincy team has led the rosary during the month of October in their schools and also led Advent prayer services.

The students also visited Bishop Challoner for an Advent retreat on Friday 9th December. It gave the chaplaincy teams a chance to reflect on Advent and the real meaning of Christmas. Thank you to the Bishop Challoner Chaplaincy teams who helped the primary chaplaincy teams to pray, reflect and explore Advent.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Congratulations to all pupils on completing a fantastic first term. All year groups have shown amazing commitment to lessons and have studied a range of interesting topics.

Key stage 3-Year 7

Year 7 have made an excellent start to their studies of Religious Education and, with the help of their mini-books, they are creating some outstanding work.

Year 7 have begun a new scheme that we have created for ks3. The aim of this scheme to lay the foundations for their ks4 curriculum in light of the new specification at GCSE. Students are engaging in developing their understanding of the person of Jesus, looking at his life, his actions and his impact on society.

The course has allowed students to reflect on the following:

- What do we mean by God?
- What is the Trinity?
- Who is God to me?
- How do people see Jesus?
- Who was Jesus to the disciples and to his contemporaries?
- What is meant by Messiah/Christ?
- Who is Jesus for the Christian community today?
- What do we learn about Jesus during Advent?
- Who is Jesus to me?

Lessons in year 7 have been focused on developing students skills in the key skills required for success in Religious Education. These include; knowledge, understanding, application, analysis, evaluation and synthesis. Tasks set in lessons and questioning in lessons is focused on helping students to understand these skills and how to apply them to subject matter.

Year 9

Year 9 are currently displaying impressive maturity as they explore the topics and skills that will equip them for necessary skills for their GCSE studies next year. The focus of this year is to allow year 9 to explore some of the concepts they will study in their GCSE'S in more depth and allow quality time to explore some important Christian concepts.

At the start of the year students studied the topic 'Does God exist?' This allowed students to look at the beauty of the world and to explore how such beauty leads to a sense of a designer God who gave human the gift of life. Students also look at why some people might doubt the existence of God and look at how Christians find evidence for the existence of God through our relationships with ourselves, each other and the world around us. During this topic students explored the following questions:

- Reasons why people believe in God
- Reasons why some people do not

believe in God

- Different images of God
- The Catholic belief in The Trinity
- How can Jesus be a human and God?
- Why is it important that God became man?
- Does the existence of evil mean there is no God?
- How do Catholics explain why a good God allows evil?

The second topic year 9 are engaging in is was 'What happens when I die?' This allowed students to explore the concept of life after death, including concepts such as Christian belief in immortality of the soul. Students have developed understanding of how belief in life after death leads Christians to live a moral life which will rewarded by God in heaven. Students have also explored various other beliefs in life after death in order to develop an understanding of various cultures in society.

Year 8

Year 8 are making excellent progress in what has been a smooth transition from year 7. The first year 8 topic this term saw students explore the big question 'How do I find happiness and fulfilment?' This has allowed students to see how religion can guide you towards living a meaningful life of aiming to achieve the full potential of both yourself and others. In this topic students have explored questions such as;

- Is the meaning of life to find happiness?
- How do people try to find happiness?
- Can being religious make you happy?
- What does the Old Testament say about happiness?
- What does the New Testament say about happiness?
- How can suffering lead to happiness?
- Why do some people follow Jesus' teaching when it can lead to suffering?
- Does following God make a person happy?
- Why do Christians believe money and possessions won't make you happy?

More recently year 8 have explored the big question 'Why do people suffer?'. This has allowed students to evaluate why a God who is all-loving and all- powerful would allow people to suffer. This has helped students to reflect upon the importance of understanding how Christians can respond positively to suffering through prayer, service, acting morally to remove suffering, understanding the concept of suffering on earth leading to 'preparation for paradise'. Questions students explored in this topic include:

- Why do people suffer?
- Why do Christians believe that God is good?
- Why do people do evil things?
- Why is freewill important?
- What has freedom go to do with evil?
- How can freedom be good, dangerous and awful?
- Can suffering ever be good?
- How did Jesus respond to suffering?
- How do Christians believe Jesus conquered suffering?
- How does God use people to end suffering?
- What has being sorry got to do with suffering?
- Is freedom worth all the pain?

Year 10

Year 10 began their GCSE studies in Religious Education and they can be very pleased with the excellent start they have made.

Year 10 are our first year group to begin the new GCSE specification in Religious Education. We have chosen to study the Eduqas route B syllabus as we believe this is the syllabus most suited to engage our students and to prepare them for life in modern Britain.

Students began the year by studying the topic Origins and Meaning. This has allowed students to engage in issues such as;

- Catholic Beliefs about the Origin of the Universe and the Concept of 'creatio ex nihilo'
- Different Christian interpretations of The Genesis accounts of creation.
- Can a Christian accept the Big Bang and Evolution?
- The views of Charles Darwin and Richard Dawkins regarding the origins of the universe
- Catholic and other Christian views on The Sanctity of Life and Abortion

- Humanist critiques of The Sanctity of Life and Abortion
- Christian and Humanist views regarding preservation of the environment and its resources.
- How are Catholic beliefs expressed in art?
- What is Catholic social teaching?
- The work of CAFOD to help society.

Students have been highly engaged in discussing these issues and are showing excellent appreciation of various world views, whilst developing their own personal beliefs.

The new syllabus is very demanding and as a result we have dedicated time to lessons for students to attempt extended writing answers. This involves a regular literacy focus in lessons, helping students to structure balanced, informed arguments that highlight critical analysis and balanced conclusions.

Year 10 have displayed real maturity in adapting to these demands and we have high hopes of them being highly successful in meeting the demands of this syllabus.

Year 11

Year 11 are currently making excellent progress as they prepare for their mock examination in December. The mock will incorporate knowledge from units of work studied in both year 10 and so far in year 11 and it will serve as excellent preparation for the final examinations in May. So far this year pupils have studied the units Rights and Responsibilities and Religion and The Environment. In the unit Rights and Responsibilities students have researched the importance of democracy and human rights. Also students have learnt about forms of genetic engineering and ethical questions raised by this. Here are a range of issues students explored in this topic:

- Why Christians use only the Bible as a basis for making moral decisions.
- The Authority of The Church for Christians and why some Christians use only the Church's teachings as a basis for making moral decisions.
- The role of Conscience and why some Christians believe the conscience is the most important guide in making moral decisions.
- Situation Ethics and why some Christians use only Situation Ethics as guide for making moral decisions.
- Why some Christians use a variety of authorities in making moral decisions.
- Human rights in the UK.
- Why human rights are important for Christians.
- Why it is important to take part in democratic and electoral processes

The second topic studied in year 11 was Environment and Medical ethics.

In this unit of work students looked at the concerns raised by global warming and pollution. Christian reasons to care for the environment in fulfilling our role as Stewards of the earth have been explored, alongside looking at the ethical use of Transplant surgery and Infertility treatments. Within this topic students studied the following issues:

- Forms of pollution and their possible solutions.
- The scarcity of natural resources and how this poses a threat to the future of the planet, with possible solutions.
- Christian teachings on Stewardship and their effects on Christian attitudes to the environment.
- The teachings of one religion other than Christianity on Stewardship and their effects on its followers in their attitudes to the environment.
- The nature and importance of medical treatments for infertility.
- Different attitudes to infertility treatments among Christians and the reasons for them.
- Attitudes to infertility treatments in one religion other than Christianity and the reasons for them.
- The nature and importance of transplant surgery.

Key stage 5

The Religious Education Department are delighted with the large numbers of students who are choosing Religious Studies for their AS /A –Level studies. We believe this is recognition of students identifying the relevance of the subject for their lives and for helping to understand the world we live in.

Year 12 have begun the new A-level specification for Religious Studies and are making positive progress in their first term, having now studied topics such as The Design Argument, Divine Command Theory, Egoism and Situation Ethics. This has helped students understand the views of religious people and atheists and helped foster their own opinion to begin to create balanced and well informed essay responses to exam questions.

The demands of the new specification require students to not only study Philosophy and Ethics but also to study a world religion. We have chosen Christianity as the religion for our students to study and this will help them deeply explore the foundations of The Christian faith and how these beliefs manifest in society today.

Students are engaging in excellent debates regarding their views and beliefs and are currently learning to put these beliefs into developed, balanced, critical essays. We are enjoying seeing their skills develop as we work through the content of the course.

Year 13

Year 13 are well underway for preparations for their summer examinations. Students have studied The Ontological Argument for the existence of God, Deontology and issues raised by Justice, Law and Punishment. Students are now being asked to bring together a range of ideas they have studied throughout the course and make links between all the issues we have studied. This is an extremely challenging skill but one which students are enjoying as they develop their philosophical skills.

Students are now demonstrating the ability to transfer their skills from the content they have been taught during the course and this is enabling them to produce high quality essays that draw upon a range of views and opinions.

We will continue to develop these in the coming months as we focus on drawing together the content of the course and place our focus on exam preparation and success in the summer.

We believe the content of the course has helped students to understand a wide range of issues that they will encounter in modern society when they leave Bishop Challoner Catholic College and we hope that they will have developed a curious mind and an appreciation of the beauty of life to take forth into their future careers.

ENGLISH

Exam Dates

GCSE English Literature

Paper 1 – Monday 22nd May (am)

Paper 2 – Friday 26th May (am)

GCSE English Language

Paper 1 – Tuesday 6th June (am)

Paper 2 – Monday 12th June (am)

AS English Literature

Paper 1 – Friday 19th May (am)

Paper 2 – Wednesday 24th May (pm)

A Level English Literature

Paper 1 – Thursday 15th June (am)

Paper 2 – Thursday 22nd June (am)

Paper 3 – Thursday 29th June (am)

D.E.A.R - Drop Everything And Read!

A group of Year 7s have been honing their reading skills by taking part in 'Drop Everything and Read' (D.E.A.R.) Students read for fifteen minutes a day at the beginning of one of their literacy based lessons on a rotating basis. This ensures that pupils are reading regularly, thereby developing their comprehension, vocabulary and general knowledge.

Spoken Word performance (Bishop's Got Talent)

As part of the Bishop's Got Talent performances, on Thursday 20th October, a number of young writers took part in a Spoken Word event in the library. The talent on show was astounding.

As students read flash fiction and slam poetry on subjects as varied as an apocalyptic dictator to Time and Elsewhere, an awed hush pervaded the room. Thank you so much to all those Graphite members involved. May it be the first of many events like it!



Debate Mate

On 31st October, the English Department took fourteen Year 7-10 pupils to an exciting Debate Mate launch event. The students were introduced to the principles and practicalities of debating through a 'show debate' on superheroes. Our pupils' enthusiasm and propensity for critical thinking was immediately on display, with many asking insightful questions during the audience floor debate.

We are now underway with our Thursday coaching sessions, run by two students from the University of Birmingham and were pleased to have eighteen debaters attend the first session from across the year groups, many of whom have returned from last year. With much material provided in the first session by Donald Trump's election, our debaters are already showing much promise for success at the Urban Debate League, due to start next term, and the annual culmination of events – the Debate Mate Cup. If you would like to get involved, please see Miss Lloyd in SF2.

Book Buzz

As part of the KS3 reading scheme, Year 7 students each chose their own book from a selection sent out by the Book Trust. The novels ranged from Michael Morpurgo's 'An Eagle in the Snow' to Malala Yousafzai's 'I Am Malala'.

Hamlet

Year 7 had the exciting opportunity of watching 'Hamlet' streamed live from the RSC. The students were commended for their excellent conduct throughout the day. This streaming gave students the chance to experience the theatre, some of them for the first time and a chance to learn theatre etiquette. Pupils embraced this opportunity and the chance to learn more about Shakespeare's most complex play. Thank you to Miss Beard for organising.



'My Moseley and Kings Heath' Magazine

You may have received the local magazine 'My Moseley and Kings Heath' through your door over the last couple of years? Well, please keep your eye out for an article written by our very own budding journalists. Key stage three students were asked to write an article which would inform readers about young people's experiences of the local area. The entries were fantastic and it was really hard to select ten finalists. Their work was then sent to the editor and she will select the piece of work that will be published in this month's edition.



Graphite - Writing Club

Miss Laszlo's perennially popular Graphite continues to draw in the crowds. Students have the opportunity to be creative in a friendly and relaxed setting. Please see Miss Laszlo in E3 if you would like to attend.

As well as taking part in a Bishop's Got Talent event in the library this half term, Graphite members have also been busy writing on the theme of footprints for the national creative writing competition First Story. Below is one of many impressive entries by Ellie W in Year 9.

Footsteps by Ellie W (Year 9)

The footprints were there,
Just there.
They're powerful,
Because you can't destroy them.
They're always there,
Under your feet,
Different from the one before it.
I hate them.
My trace,
Proof I was here,
States I was there,
Pulls you by the hair,
To run back,
Retrace the ghost of your bare heels.

My wounds continue to cry,
As I bribe the impartial sky,
Not to tell of my footprints,
In return I gave up my chains.

Yet these shackles,
Still tackle,
The scarlet lines on my ankles.



With everything to stay for,
And nothing stopping me,
I go.

And that's how I found myself shifting back,
Running towards what I ran away from,
Running away from where I ran to,
And I'm leaving these clues,
Even if that's the last thing I wanted to do.
I'm too weak to forget,
Yet pushing away what I remember,
Like planting a fully grown tree.

This path I've found is winding,
It twists as I'm finding,
Exactly what I don't want,
This rope is too taut,
Watch it snap.

I know that if I return to this threadbare town,
Idiots believers will flock around,
My footsteps.
And I will let them,
They can follow my distracted and distorted feet,
Trample over with reckless steps of curiosity...
And cut all the ties.

Looking for something to read?

Are you struggling to find a new book to read? If you received some book vouchers for Christmas, what would you spend them on? Why not book an appointment with Mrs Fanning in the library to see the Book Doctor!? She will then give you a 'diagnosis' and give you a medicinal book. You'll be cured in no time!

Dracula the musical!

In early November, English Literature students in Years 12 and 13 witnessed the cast of The Blue Orange theatre rehabilitate Bram Stoker's 'Dracula' with flying colours in the form of a musical. Although theatrical adaptations had been made, it was entertaining nonetheless and still retained an atmosphere of fascination. In the 19th century, Stoker enlightened Victorian readers with revived urban legends of the vampire. Over a century later and Stoker is still a fruitful source of curiosity and make-believe- especially to a 21st century English Literature student.



The three female vampires had soon subjugated the audience and brought a momentary eeriness into the auditorium. It all ended with an unusual twist where Mina took on the role of killing Dracula which differs from the novel. Dracula the musical showed a whole new perspective and introduced diversity in interpretations- perfect for AS/A level as well as your own personal viewing!

Written by Francesca (Year 12)

MATHEMATICS

As the nights have drawn in and the first term of the academic year draws to a close, we look back on the huge number of opportunities and achievements of students across all Key Stages in maths. Please find some highlights below:

Gifted & Talented Club

The KS3 G&T Club meets weekly, with the students from Years 7 and 8 taking part in mini- competitions gearing themselves up for maths challenge events. Approximately once a month the G&T club are joined by primary school mathematicians, and our students have been fantastic ambassadors of the school, working alongside the Year 6 pupils. In the session prior to the Christmas break, we are expecting seven primary schools coming along to a Christmas themed evening.



Maths Drop-in

The maths department has been busy with extra-curricular opportunities from Key Stage 3 through to Key Stage 5. The weekly maths 'drop-in' session is as popular as ever, with students attending across Years 7 to 10 to receive homework or classwork help and it is being regularly used by many pupils as a way to ensure they stay on top of their work, with support when needed from teachers present. It will run all year so please come along if you want some extra help!

Christmaths Day

Christmaths Day for Bishop Challoner Maths Department is on the 8th December, and Year 9 Young Maths Leaders have been designing activities to engage, entertain and challenge Year 5 pupils from some of our feeder schools. Our students deliver these to the Y5 students with very little input from teachers – this is a great development opportunity for them and we are sure the Year 5 students who will be attending will enjoy themselves! Make sure you check out the twitter feed on the 8th December for photos of the day.



UK Maths Trust Competitions

The Senior Maths Challenge (for Years 12 and 13) took place in November, and a big well done to Eleonora Shantsila, Annie McDonald and Ben Gallagher for achieving silver certificates.

Callum M, Kelly T, Stacey A and Rowan McL represented Bishop Challoner. They came a respectable 15th out of 22 schools, many of which were selective and independent schools.

The Senior Maths Team Challenge, also for Year 12 and 13 students, took place on the 24th November at Camp Hill School for Boys and

In the future, look out for the Intermediate and Junior Maths Challenges and Team events!



Stem Fair

Some Year 8 pupils have been selected to represent the maths department during the STEM Fair, which is happening on the 6th December. They will be running activities for younger pupils from different secondary schools, and will develop their leadership skills. Again, photos will all be on twitter!



Mock Examinations

This week, our Year 11s undertake their mock exams. No doubt intensive revision is already underway. Most students have really bought into this and many are coming back after school for extra help and support. They have been provided with revision material; topic lists, packs and access to VLEMathsWatch. We look forward to the results in January.

Visiting Lecturer

We have been fortunate enough, through outreach opportunities provided by universities, to invite Dr Simon Goodwin from the University of Birmingham into Bishop Challoner on Tuesday 13th December. He will be running a lecture for sixth form mathematicians, and two workshops for our top two Year 10 classes, all with the aim of inspiring our best mathematicians. We look forward to welcoming him.

Celebrating Success

As part of Bishop Challoner's Year of Celebration, the Maths Department are recognising outstanding achievements in maths during the year, for all Key Stages. The winners of the Mathematician of the fortnight so far are:

KS3

Sam Ryan (excellent homework)

Lewis Solarin (contributions to Christmaths Day)

KS4

Chris Geraghty (assessment scores)

Leo Farmer (assessment scores)

KS5

Ibtisam Jeraj (excellent classwork)

Well done to all of them – we encourage all students to push themselves to get their name in lights on the Celebration board!



Finally, A Christmaths Problem

At the school concert there were mince pies for everyone.

On one huge tray I saw that:

- If the mince pies were divided into 2 equal piles there would have been one left over.
- If the same mince pies were put into 3 equal piles, there would have also been one left over.
- To my surprise, 4 equal piles also left one remaining.
- 5 equal piles still had one mince pie not in a pile.
- The pies when shared into 6 piles STILL had a remainder of one mince pie left.

What was the smallest number of mince pies that could have been on the tray?



SCIENCE

Christmas cheer was brought to the department courtesy of Miss Lloyd's science club who made their very own "Chemistrees". Ho! Ho! Ho!



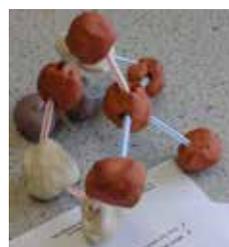
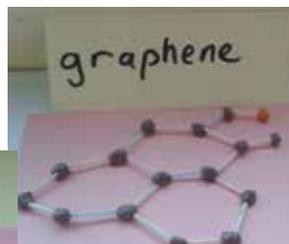
It continues to be a big time of change in science with new curricula being taught to years 9, 10 and 13. To support years 7-9 they all have access to the on-line Kerboodle resource. If any pupil has forgotten their password they just need to ask their science teacher or can find Mrs Shore in the science office.

Year 8 will soon be preparing for their T1 exams in February so we will be revising in lessons and will be giving pupils a list of the material they will need to know to perform at their best.

Year 9 have completed their key stage 3 science work and so after Christmas all pupils will be embarking upon their GCSE work. Revision guides to support the GCSE course can be bought from science teachers in the new year.

Year 10

Year 10 are rising to the challenges of the new GCSE and have been exploring, amongst other things, the advantages and disadvantages of various scientific models. With this in mind, pupils made models of diamond (proved rather difficult!), graphite and graphene:



Sixth Form Open Evening

Sixth Form Open Evening was a success with our Year 12 students taking a leading role in talking to interested Year 11s and displaying some of their practical skills.



Year 7 Science Club

Every Monday after school over twenty year 7 pupils come along to a science club in S1. During this session pupils have the opportunity to try out experiments and practicals that they wouldn't normally do in lessons.

In the past half term they have extracted DNA, made air rockets and pop rockets, slime, bouncy balls and lava lamps. The sessions engage pupils in real world applications of science and allow them to use equipment in a safe environment. So far uptake to the club has been high and doesn't show any signs of slowing down.



A Level

In A Level Biology this term the students have been doing a range of Biology dissections including the eye, cross section of the heart, and the lungs.

The pupils have inflated the lungs and looked at the lens in the eye. Year 12s have been preparing slides and examining a range of different tissues in lessons and in open evening events.



Engineering Education Scheme

On Wednesday 2nd November, four year twelve physics students (Niamh T, Fintan F, Rowan McL & Luke T) travelled with Mr Hester to the engineering dept. at University of Birmingham to attend the launch event of the Engineering Education Scheme. After a very interesting presentation on the history of Britain's railways, and the modern pressures it faces, the students took part in a team building exercise to create the tallest structure capable of supporting a bag of nuts and bolts using only; paper, sellotape and their not inconsiderable engineering prowess. Alas however, the students of Bishop Challoner were pipped to the post by a colossal paper monstrosity of Lovecraftian proportions (although it was later remarked that the Challoner entry was by far the most stable).



After the task, the students had a meeting with their assigned mentor from Amey Consulting, who introduced the project they will be working on throughout the year. The students will be investigating the engineering implications and possible building options for the impending rebuilding of Kidderminster Railway Station. Throughout the year the students will be liaising with professionals from Amey and National Rail to create a proposal that they will present in May 2017. Upon successful completion of the course, the students will be awarded with a gold CREST award that, along with the masses of real world experience they will have gained, should stand them all in good stead for a successful future in engineering.

Maths and Physics Inspiration Day



On Thursday 13th October, forty-six Year 10 students from our Ogden partnership Secondary Schools came to Bishop Challoner to be inspired about Maths and Physics through interactive workshops and a careers speed-dating session. Students from Wheelers Lane, Kings Norton Girls, Swanshurst and John Henry Newman joined those from Bishop Challoner in learning about the Maths of Google with Richard Lissaman from MEI, to understand how this has become the leading search engine from all the original contenders. Many of these 14-15 year olds were unaware that multiple search engines were available, and were able to develop their understanding through an introduction to matrices as well as some challenging algebra. The physics session, delivered by Timothy Wright from Phyz Lab focused on the elusive world of Quantum Physics, giving the



students the opportunity to investigate the light spectra from different light sources using their own handmade spectroscopes, to introduce the concept of energy levels in atoms. As well as the challenging subject content of these workshops, the students also benefited from working in mixed groups and collaborating with students from different schools and different backgrounds.

In the afternoon, five STEM ambassadors from a range of industries came into school to speak to the students in small groups about their experience of STEM in their education and careers. Our ambassadors this year included a senior project manager from HS2 – of particular interest to our Birmingham students, a contract manager for a large coal refineries refurbishment company, who spends 10-11 months of his life consulting in different countries around the world, an educator from the pharmaceutical industry, and two structural engineers from domestic and commercial companies. The students rotated between each ambassador to gain an insight into the varied and fascinating opportunities available through pursuing STEM subjects.

The feedback from the day was overwhelmingly positive, with student particularly enjoying the chance to meet professional ambassadors with real-life STEM experiences, as well as relishing working with their peers from different schools. The teachers from visiting schools were also very positive, especially in regards to seeing their students adapt so enthusiastically to new challenges.

ART & DESIGN

Remembrance Day: Poppy Installation

To commemorate Remembrance Day, Bishop Challoner Art Department found inspiration from Paul Cummin's and Tom Piper's Tower of London installation 'Swept Lands and Seas of Red'. Over the course of three days, 350 poppies were carefully handmade by students from Year 7 – 10, after discussing why Remembrance was important to our nation during lesson time. An event was held during break time in the library to add to this artwork, where many students and staff volunteered their time to create a felt poppy and donated money towards The British Legion Poppy Appeal.



This, combined with an amazing contribution by KS3 Textiles club to create wearable poppies using felt and buttons, raised over £100. Each installed poppy was created using laser cut felt and twisted wire, and featured an individual portrait of The Fallen, resulting in a field of red populating the front entrance to the school, watched over by The Owl and the Book Bench (past years' exciting community art pieces).

This insightful installation was met with interest and admiration from the wider school community, as members of the public passed by and took a moment to reflect on the sacrifices made, and still being made, towards a better future. Bishop Challoner students were respectful, mature and gracious during this project and were a credit to their school.



Bishop Challoner Artist in Residence Scheme

Bishop Challoner's Artist in Residence Scheme is going from strength to strength. There are two Artists working with the Art Department this year; Eilise Lancaster is studying Art History at Birmingham University and Lydia Parkes is studying Illustration at Birmingham City University. Zoe Wolstenholme, 'artist in residence 2015-2016, is a hard act to follow with her expressive oil paintings of landscape and natural forms being displayed in the main entrance. Eilise and Lydia have built on Zoe's success, producing a series of commissions alongside community projects. Commissions include: large scale self-portraits in oil for the Artist in Residence gallery space, an exceptional oil study and a delicate pen and wash illustration for the Bishop Challoner Christmas card alongside supporting with the Poppy Installation.

They are currently developing paintings, drawings and mixed media studies as part of the 'Installation' project for the Peace Garden and Quad. This is a complex project which requires detailed planning and liaison with artists, technical staff, Jo the gardener and teachers. Eilise and Lydia are incorporating sublimation printed acrylic, aluminium and ceramic tiles into the design for the trellis either side of the entrance to the Peace Garden. Lydia has also created exquisite pen studies of natural forms and birds which will be housed in free standing glass sculptures. This project has involved a lot of input from past Bishop Challoner artists. Once installed the imagery produced will be a culmination of work by Robbie Jeffcott, Zoe Wolstenholme, Eilise Lancaster and Lydia Parkes.

Commission: Self Portraits



Robbie Jeffcott 2013/14



Katie Bowden 2014/15



Zoe Wolstenholme 2015/16



Eilise Lancaster 2016/17

Commission: Bishop Challoner Christmas Card



Zoe Wolstenholme



Eilise Lancaster



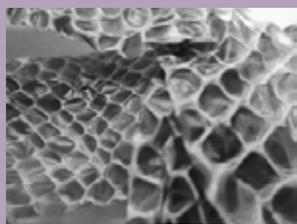
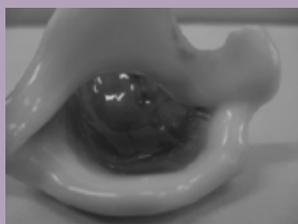
Lydia Parkes

Peace Garden Installation



Key Stage 3 Art
Year 7

Year 7 have continued working on their Natural Form project by exploring the work of Edward Weston. They directed their own photography shoots to capture natural objects in abstract ways, experimenting with composition, angles and contrast when editing. They have also used creative writing to describe his photographs, using simile and metaphor.



Year 8

Year 8's Cubism project is in full swing, now exploring Cubist portraiture. Inspired by Picasso's Weeping Woman, as well as contemporary artists, they have explored fragmenting portraits through watercolour painting, photo manipulation and even cardboard construction to create abstract sculptures.



Year 9

Year 9 have continued travelling through art history, recently focusing on the work of Vincent Van Gogh and Claude Monet. Using his signature style of expressive brushstrokes and vibrant tints and shades, students have recreated sections of *Starry Night*- the view from Van Gogh's asylum window. They also discussed issues with mental health awareness, and whether Van Gogh would get the help needed if he were alive today. They have also created paintings in the style of Claude Monet, focusing on blending colours to show the change of weather and day, especially sunsets.



Key Stage 4- Year 10

Continuing to be creative, Year 10 have worked with different materials and surfaces every lesson, exploring a range of techniques and processes. Discovering the works of Paul Kenton, Seth Clark, Peter Randall Page and Georgia O'Keefe, students are now deciding on which direction their 'Nature vs Manmade' project will go: Natural Form or Architecture.



Year 11

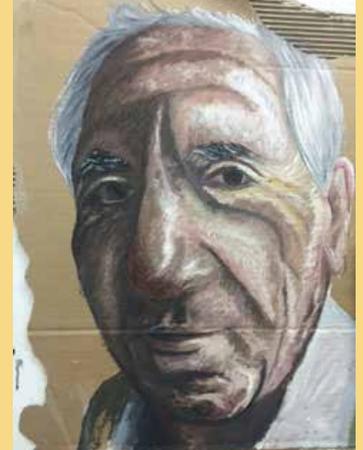
Year 11 are developing their 'Figure' project through their individually selected artists, exploring themes of identity and portraiture. Each completing a final piece within their mock exam using a range of artists as inspiration. The scale is large and the quality is high! The artists, Mark Powell, Ellie Smallwood, Agnes Cecile and Paul Cadden have provided inspiration through subject matter, media and technique.



Key Stage 5 Fine Art



Our A level students have excelled themselves this year in Fine Art producing a series of diverse outcomes. The concepts explored get more expressive and confidently executed each year. The boundaries are continually being pushed with students working on diverse scales and utilising mixed media and surface. Plaster board, latex, hessian and wooden pallets are just some of the materials being explored. Alongside the themes of 'Beauty', 'Feminism' and 'Derelict Spaces', subjects include many of the teaching staff: Mr Shore, Mr McEvoy, Mr Clinton and Mr McGurran have all provided inspiration for portraiture outcomes.



PRODUCT DESIGN

Christmas Card Workshop

The Library resembled a scene from Santa's toy workshop back on 24th November when students and staff took part in a Christmas card making workshop during morning break. In just 20 minutes, those that attended managed to create a unique, customised card featuring Santa's reindeers using an ink finger printing technique. It was great to see students getting into the Christmas spirit and there was a wonderful creative buzz when the production line got into full swing!



Year 11

Y11 are now into the manufacturing stages of their products which forms nearly 40% of their controlled assessment unit. From a children's trike to nature inspired lighting, the students are working on a wide variety of themes and have been allowed complete freedom to steer their project down the route which they feel offers the best solution to their design problem.

It is great to see students making full use of the materials and processes available to them. This year, many students following the child development design brief have chosen to incorporate LED lighting into their prototypes which offers many exciting possibilities.

We look forward to seeing the many hours of hard work pay off when they present what we anticipate to be to be a range of innovative, skilfully manufactured products early in the New Year. Well done and keep up the hard work!



Key Stage 5

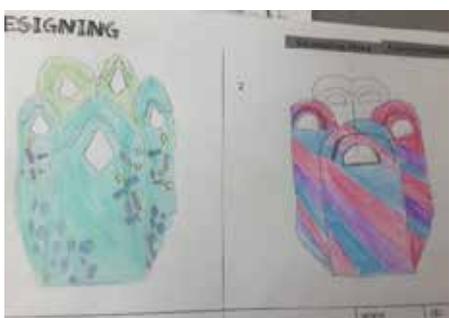
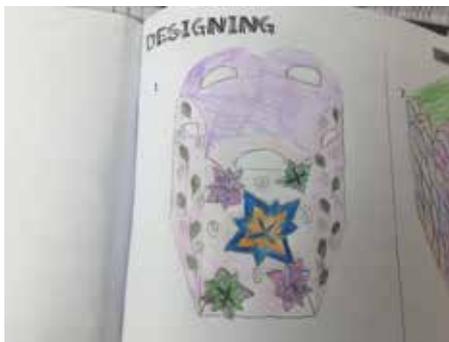
The Y13 Product Design group are currently in the design development stages of their PROD 3 Design and Make unit. For this project, worth 25% of their A Level, they have identified their own design problem and are now using their research to generate a range of design ideas. Their projects range from a storage unit for log burner solid fuel to a TV stand that helps to organise the multitude of wires and cables coming from related appliances. Students have tried to think outside of the box and learn from the way designers have solved existing problems to explore alternative solutions to their own situations. The next step will be to move into 3D modelling to help eliminate the least feasible ideas and carry the strongest forward.

TEXTILES

Key Stage 3

Key stage 3 pupils have been working on a range of projects including a pen pot holder inspired by Art Movements, a sports arm band made using Nuno resist and wet felting and a prototype trainer based on the architecture in Birmingham City Centre.

They generated shapes through paper modelling after studying art movements and created a repeated pattern on 'Grid Magic' software which was sublimation printed on to the fabric for their pen pot. The sublimation printing technique was further developed in the trainer project to produce the fabric design for the prototype. Well done!



Textiles Club

Textiles club have been working on a variety of projects this term including designing and making their own bags. They have also been producing products to sell in order to raise money for various charities. This included making over 100 felt poppies to sell for 'The Royal British Legion'. They have also been producing Christmas decorations to sell at the Christmas show and the Winter Soiree.



FOOD EDUCATION

Primary Liaison

Six of our feeder school are now booked in to do Key stage 2 Cooking and Nutrition at Challoner throughout the next academic year. With rising levels of childhood obesity, it is important to get the eating for health message across at an early age as well as learning those important practical skills.



Through a variety of creative and practical tasks the children are learning about the new UK Eatwell Guide and using equipment to perform practical tasks to make products such as sensational sandwiches, eatwell themed pizzas and bread.

British Food Fortnight

Love British Food...
...it's British Food Fortnight!



Alcohol Awareness Week

'Know the risks'

14th – 18th November

The aim of Alcohol Awareness Week is to get people thinking about alcohol - how it affects us as individuals, families, communities and society as a whole. To increase awareness and understanding about alcohol, materials were displayed in the Sixth Form Centre. This was because it is important not to 'glamorise' alcohol to the younger students although the materials were very much to the contrary.

For any further information or support to help understand the impact that alcohol can have on lives please look at the school website's PSHE tab or <https://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/alcohol-awareness-week>.

World Diabetes Day

14th November

On the 14th November, it was World Diabetes Day. The first use of insulin in treatment of diabetes was 88 years ago this week. The aim of the day is to raise awareness of diabetes, and what it's really like to live with the condition. It's a global campaign led by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF).

A Year 7 student wanted to raise awareness of the condition so, along with her Head of Year, produced an inspiring and informative display to help clear up any misconceptions and stigma attached to diabetes. Her mission was further supported through food and citizenship lessons with delivery of a diabetes presentation. All form tutors had a film clip to show to their form groups to clarify issues around the condition.

BC Kitchen Garden

The garden is now well established and goes from strength to strength. There is now a keen group of gardeners who meet every Thursday to carry out any seasonal tasks that need to be done. Some of the produce was used for British Food Fortnight where a group of key stage three students cooked a two-course meal using carrots, beetroot, thyme, sage and apples. Jam was made with the blackcurrants and strawberries and sold on parents' consultation day with proceeds going to the school charity. Much of the vegetables produce was also used in the school canteen.



Key Stage 4

Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Year 10 students are now following the new reformed specification for their food GCSE. The course equips the students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

This term they have focussed on food hygiene, food spoilage, nutrients, the eatwell guide, food provenance and seasonality. To give the students a feel for their real Non-examination assessment, (NEA) they carried out an experiment about enzymic browning and oxidation.

Cooking and Nutrition Ks3

Key stage three students have been getting ready for Christmas in cookery club. They have made mince pies, Mincemeat muffins, Christmas cakes and Christmas Rocky Road.

As part of their lessons, students in Year 7 have a wide range of dishes: fruit fusion to improve their knife skills;

- cous-cous salad based on the Eatwell guide
- the UK model for healthier eating
- meatballs where the focus was protein
- high risk foods
- chicken goujons and wedges
- a healthier alternative to fried chicken and chips and fruit muffins; a sweet treat!

Students in year 8 have been resourceful and made banana cake and fajitas while

thinking about reducing food waste and making foods out of leftover. They've also made a healthier version of a Bolognese and beefburgers and Christmas pancakes. Year 9 students have made a healthier option chilli considering the effects of heat on protein, nice 'n' spicy rice based on the eatwell guide and vegetarianism, rainbow stir-fry where the focus was on how to achieve your '5-a-day' and toad-in-the-hole where we looked at different ways of using batter.



Year 11

Year 11 students are now working on their second piece of coursework for their GCSE in Hospitality and Catering. They have to make a healthier option two-course meal which is suitable to be sold in a school canteen.

Many expressed an interest in making it for primary school aged children so a visit was organised to interview year 4 children at St. Dunstan's to help bring the project alive! The data is now being used to inform decisions for practical trials.

STEM news

Y7 STEM Fair
Tuesday 6th December



This year will be the biggest KS3 STEM Fair to date with 7 local secondary schools joining us for a day of STEM excitement. St. Peters, Kings Norton Boys, Kings Norton Girls, Wheelers Lane, Queensbridge, Swanshurst and John Henry Newman Catholic College will be sending teams of Y7 students to take part.

Our Y8 STEM leaders will be delivering 15 twenty minute activities across science, maths and technology which aim to put fun at the heart of STEM learning. It is a great opportunity for students and teachers from our local community to come together to engage in a stimulating event which also displays Bishop Challoner's commitment to promoting the STEM subjects and increasing student participation at every level.



I'm An Engineer Get Me Out Of Here! Webchat Event

On Friday 11th November 28 pupils from year 7-13 took part in an online public webchat event. The interactive 1 hour session, funded by the Royal Academy of Engineering, was designed to allow students the opportunity to ask engineers questions through live text based chats and get an instant reply. Students were also able to vote for their favourite engineer in an x factor style competition.



The event was opened up to any student from KS3-5 who had an interest in engineering and wanted to find out more. All 28 places were filled which provides a positive picture of the level of interest from Bishop Challoner students in the industry. Many students made detailed notes documenting the responses they received, some including recommendations for university courses and specialist jobs/roles within the profession.

STEM Club

Our Year 7 STEM club have been learning about structural and electrical engineering fields through fun classroom based activities. They tested the laws of gravity by building self-supporting towers with nothing but jelly babies and cocktail sticks before adding 100g weights to identify which structure was the strongest. In the last two sessions they have been making a personalised LED light product which is powered from their netbooks. The group have shown great ingenuity and are working well together as a team. Keep it up guys!



CITIZENSHIP & PSHE

Personal Tutor Time

The purpose of the Personal Tutor time resources are to engage students in current affairs and inform them of key issues they need to be aware of. Sessions are led using videos and debate formats to engage students and challenge misconceptions...

Topics we have covered so far include...

- How can I be safe at school and home?
- How much power will Trump have now he is President?
- How can we learn from other people's experiences? (Bonfire night)
- Why do we remember? (Remembrance Day)
- How can we be an inclusive community? (Disability awareness)
- Stealing – how bad is it?

The final tutor time of this term is an online survey completed by all students, this will allow them to share their perspectives on how useful tutor time is, offer their ideas for topics, and put forward charity ideas.

Does anyone know how these images link to Remembrance Day 2016?



Fox Hollies

This term our on going collaboration with Fox Hollies School for students with special needs has flourished. The year began with an assembly to Year 9 informing students of the leadership opportunity available to them. Students are tasked with committing to a leadership programme that spanned six weeks; students began with sign language training, they then attended four weekly sessions in Fox Hollies where they worked with Fox Hollies students, and finally they evaluated their experience and either wrote a review or delivered an assembly. The assembly led to over 45 students in year 9 signing up to the project, which will continue throughout the year.

Group one have almost completed their leadership time and have reported unanimously that they feel more confident. The activities this group have participated in during their project included; yoga, music, dance, art, and photography lessons. They have also enjoyed socialising with their Fox Hollies peers during break time. It has been a privilege to see a these Year 9 students growing in confidence and supporting other pupils.

Pictured here are some of our students getting involved in a capoeira day at Fox Hollies.



Year 11 Character Day

October saw the PSHE Year 11 day. The theme of the day was developing Character and with this the students participated in four activities. The activities surrounded three topics; safe relationships, drug and alcohol abuse, knife crime, and making positive choices in life.

Safe relationships was delivered by a drama organisations that challenged students to think about how easy it is to enter into an unsafe relationship and how they can break cycles of abuse. The second session was about the dangers of drugs and alcohol misuse through the eyes of young people and the law. The final session, led by a visitor from West Midlands Police was all about positive choices. The session was particularly moving as PC Pedley told his story of how a simple decision he made changed his life forever. Another guest speaker in this session was Alison Cope, Alison's son Joshua Ribera was stabbed and murdered in Selly Oak in September 2013. Alison spoke with great courage about the issues her son and their family faced because of the negative choices one boy made.



Year 7 Citizenship Lessons

This term year 7 students have learnt about the history of human rights and organisations such as the United Nations and it's importance. Lessons have challenged classes on how they can protect and defend their human life. We now hope to see year 7 speak passionately about the importance of human rights for everybody.

Year 8 Citizenship Lessons



Year 8 Citizenship lessons are completing their first topic:- **“What is the legal justice system and how does it work?”**. These lessons have challenged students to understand the criminal justice system in the UK, they include activities that explore issues such as why people offend; how sentencing happens and what happens in a young offenders institute. Some classes have even completed a mock trial and debated the consequences of real life situations.

Year 9 Safer Travel Day

Led by West Midlands Safer Travel Partnership (as part of Project Empower) a drama company called Arc Theatre delivered a drama and workshop based day to all year 9 students in November.

The purpose of the day was to engage and inform students on what is and is not appropriate behaviour on public transport and what they should do should they see or experience such inappropriate behaviour. As the actors engaged the students in their interactive drama our year 9s were tasked with helping the actors figure out the correct responses to certain situations. The day was so successful we hope to replicate it for year 7 and 8 in the future.



Year 9 Citizenship Lessons



Citizenship for year 9 students involves a fortnightly lesson. This half term lessons have focused on what political extremism is and how people can become susceptible to it. In a world where politics is becoming increasingly complex and in some places ignorant, we aim to equip our students with the skills to make morally conscious and informed decisions.

Challoner Community Bake Sale

In the Year of Celebration at Bishop Challoner many of our year 9 and 10 students wanted to celebrate the relationship Bishop Challoner has with our local community. With a desire to do good at the same time the students organised a bake sale to raise money for Mccmillian Cancer Support. After preparations were completed, including a poster and power point made and delivered to all students at Bishop Challoner they were ready for the bake sale.

On the day of the bake sale twelve students from Fox Hollies School for students with special needs came to help organise and sell cakes alongside our year 9 and 10 volunteers. Around 70 students and teachers from St Dunstons Primary school visited and were served by our Fox Hollies and Bishop Challoner team. When all primary students had enjoyed their cakes and spent some time talking to the cake sale team they departed and it was time for all Bishop Challoner students and many governors to have the opportunity to buy a cake. The atmosphere during the entire morning was brilliant with so many people of all ages enjoying their cake and conversations together. In total our community raised over £110 for Mccmillian.



GEOGRAPHY

Key Stage 3

Year 7 students began the year learning many of the basic geographical skills that they will be expected to use throughout their time in geography. Skills such as map reading, being able to plan a route effectively and knowing the geography of their local area. Students have completed geographical skills workbooks and engaged well with the many resources provided by class teachers.

This half term they have focussed on the United Kingdom looking at how we determine a country's level of development and the regional differences in development that exist across the United Kingdom. Students are currently now exploring some of the UK's physical geography, with a focus on the River Severn and how the river changes along its long profile.

Key Stage 5

Building on their learning from GCSE, Year 12 students are studying Coastal Systems and Changing Places. As students have a good foundation of knowledge and understanding in both topics we have been able to delve deeper to understand the complexities of physical and human processes and associated events. After Christmas the focus switches to Tectonic Hazards and geographical investigation skills.

HISTORY

Year 7

Year 7 have been quickly learning why history remains such a popular option at GCSE and A-level with an exciting investigation into one of the most famous battles in English history: the Battle of Hastings. Students considered the context of Edward the Confessor's death and the subsequent three claimants to the throne, as well as evidence from the Bayeux Tapestry, in their investigation of why the English lost the battle. Having completed their baseline assessment on this enquiry, they then moved on to looking at how William consolidated his power over England.

Additionally, they questioned how much change really took place between Saxon and Norman rule. In the run-up to Christmas, Year 7 will be weighing up the power struggle between Medieval kings and the Catholic Church, and looking at how events come to a head with the murder of Saint Thomas Becket. This theme will be continued with their subsequent study of King John, in which they consider whether Walt Disney was right to brand John as the 'phony king of England'.

Key Stage 3 Geography has been remoulded to ensure that students are equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding to succeed at GCSE and beyond.

Year 8

Year 8 students have spent the first term focusing on the very diverse country of Russia. Learning many important Geographical concepts through a variety of different approaches, such as writing speeches for and against oil extraction in the Arctic Ocean and annotating maps demonstrating Russia's energy dominance across Europe. Students will shortly be completing a decision making exercise to determine if the Russian Government should allow drilling in the Arctic or not.

Year 10 students are currently studying ecosystems with a focus on rainforests and hot deserts. Students consider the complex relationships within ecosystems and the possible effects even a slight change may have. Year 11 students are making excellent progress. Currently students are studying the changing environment of urban areas around the world. Students will investigate the changes, and the reasons why, in Birmingham since the 1980s as well as examining the changing state of cities in poorer parts of the world.

Year 9

Year 9 students have been investigating tectonic hazards around the world. Students have analysed the theory behind plate tectonics and applied this to a number of case studies including the Icelandic Ash Cloud Eruption in 2010. Students have reflected on the reasons why people choose to live in such dangerous areas and consider how these people can be protected.

Key Stage 4

A2 geography students are taught by three different geography teachers this year; each specialising in one topic for the Unit 3 examination. Mr May is teaching World Cities, his field of expertise. Mr Mullins is focusing on Contemporary Challenges and Conflicts including the study of geopolitics and terrorism. Finally Mr Dunne is teaching A2 students about the theory of plate tectonics utilising his understanding of geology and disaster management.

Year 8

Year 8 have been investigating just how horrible history can be with their recent study of notorious serial killer Jack the Ripper. Acting as detectives of the past, students studied the gruesome crime scenes and began to question why the murderer was never caught. By the end of the unit, they were able to place the case study in the wider context of crime, conditions and policing in London to consider whether the case is really as surprising as it may at first appear. Since then, students have been learning about the causes of the Industrial Revolution, including changes to transport, farming and new inventions.

They will then move on to looking at life during the Industrial Revolution, particularly for the child workers. Students will investigate the nature of the work undertaken by child labourers and how the cruel treatment of children eventually led to the school system we have today. After Christmas, they will look at the most tragic aspect of the Industrial Revolution: the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Year 9

Year 9 have launched into the new academic year with their study of the ill-fated Titanic, investigating why the Titanic sunk and how far Edwardian values were to blame for the tragedy. Students considered the design of the ship, the weather conditions, the actions of individuals and the societal principles of the Edwardian era.

They also investigated the usefulness of James Cameron's 'Titanic' as a historical source, questioning the reliability of Hollywood. Having concluded with the Titanic, Year 9 have now moved on to a new enquiry: whether anything good came of the First World War. Students are investigating the impacts of World War One on different groups in British society, the economy, the growth of European dictatorships, and advancements in technology and medicine. After Christmas, they will begin their study of the Holocaust, with an opportunity to listen to a survivor on Holocaust Memorial Day in January.

History Club

We have kicked off this year in history club with an investigation into Ancient Egyptian funerary practices. Over a series of sessions, students examined some of the more curious aspects of Egyptian burial rites, including mummification, shabti-dolls and magic writing. Students constructed their own versions of the Book of the Dead and designed lucky amulets to assist the deceased on their journey to the afterlife.

Finally, the investigation concluded with a session on embalming, where students each mummified a Barbie doll using ancient techniques. In the run-up to Christmas, students will be taking some time to reflect on the two World Wars and will be designing and creating a memorial for the soldiers. Come and join us every Wednesday week 2 in H4 from 3.15 – 4.15! All students from Years 7 and 8 are welcome.



GCSE

Year 10 have begun the brand new GCSE course with the study of Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1945. In this fast-paced and engaging unit, they have looked at the impact of World War One on Germany and the early challenges to Weimar democracy. Following on from this, students considered how far the Weimar government managed to achieve stability in the so-called 'Golden Years', before looking at the rise of the Nazi Party. In the run-up to Christmas, students will investigate how Hitler became the leader of Germany and how he consolidated his power.

Year 11 have begun their investigation into the Civil Rights movement in the USA from 1945-1975 in preparation for writing their controlled assessment. This will all be over by February half term and pupils should take all opportunities before then to watch, read and discuss the key events and people that helped Black Americans gain civil rights.

PERFORMING ARTS

Sister Act

On 15th September, our Key Stage 4 Performing Arts students hit the bright lights of Birmingham when we took them on a trip to see Sister Act, with the lead role played by the stunning actress/singer Alexandra Burke. The show was an absolute treat and we even managed to get a glimpse of Craig Revel-Horwood (the Director of the show) as he sauntered past us as we waited to go in!

For some of our students this was their first time in a theatre and it is fair to say they were overwhelmed by the experience. It is in this way that we are planning to run more trips of a similar nature this year so that students can have more of these kinds of opportunities.

Bishop's Got Talent in the Library

Due to the success of our Bishop's Got Talent library performances last year, this year they are being run a little more frequently featuring a wider range of departments. Of course, Performing Arts are still featured regularly and 'kicked off' the events on 29th September with a 'set' from four of our extremely talented music GCSE and A level students. Liam Swain, Daniel Kenton, Nia Clarke and Lana Masterson formed a band especially for the event and treated the audience to a range of songs, old and new.

Catholic Schools Music and Arts Showcase

This year we are seeking to expose our students to performing more in, and as, a community and it was on 5th October that musicians from Challoner were invited to perform in a the Catholic Schools Music and Arts Showcase at Bishop Walsh School.

Daniel Kenton and Liam Swain performed two of their most polished and popular numbers in front of students and families from a selection of

local schools. The evening included Irish dance, show choirs, rock bands and solo singers and it was a lovely evening celebrating Performing Arts in schools. Daniel sang 'Dancing On My Own' with a piano accompaniment, and then joined Liam for a duet for voices and guitar of 'Tenerife Sea'. Liam and Daniel are regular performers in the school community and have performed together many times since the Music trip to Ireland in July.

Bishop's Got Talent 2016

On 19th October, the auditorium was turned into the Britain's Got Talent studio for Bishop Challoner's Bishop's Got Talent 2016. The event took weeks to prepare and prospective performers auditioned at the beginning of September. This was a new venture for the department, replacing our usual X Factor event and the range of acts which were showcased was truly astonishing. Acts included Irish dancing, Street dancing, We Sing Show Choir, singers, musicians, a poetry reading and gymnasts.

All performers were absolutely fantastic, however it was the amazing Year 11 sketch show act by Niamh Holleran and Bobbie Scanlon who won the competition performing their own original sketch based on Year 11 life. The sketch involved brilliant visuals and voice overs from some of Challoner's well-loved teachers and their performance had the crowd laughing throughout and they were truly deserved winners of the Bishop's Got Talent 2016.

A Magical Christmas Eve

As mentioned above, our wonderful auditorium continues to provide students with the opportunity to perform in a purpose-built theatre and it is in here in which our Christmas production – A Magical Christmas Eve – staged on 1st December. Over 70 students auditioned to be in the cast, however only 40 students could take part due to the size of the stage. Tickets sold out within three days for this production due to the popularity of our annual Christmas shows.

The show consisted of 19 musical numbers, all performed by a live band. The performers cannot be congratulated enough as they were truly outstanding, with lead roles played by Olivia M, Daniel K, Cheria W, Meghan H and Olivia D. Audience members commented on the professionalism of all our performers and we were particularly delighted with our youngest performers, for some of whom it was their first show. A massive congratulations to all students who took part in A Magical Christmas Eve. We are very proud of you!



Extra-Curricular

As well as being 'all singing, all dancing', our department continues to run our extra-curricular clubs each week; We Sing Show Choir, Drama Club, Dance Club and BC Orchestra. This term our Orchestra have working on a repertoire including the classical masters Mozart and Beethoven, and alongside the faithful long-standing members of the group, we have a number of Year 7 students who have joined the ensemble.

Rehearsing every Tuesday morning before school, they have been busy preparing the piece which 'opened' the Winter Soiree. Our Orchestra members are constantly developing their social and musical skills by performing regularly as part of an ensemble and we look forward to seeing them tackle part of a Beethoven Symphony next term.

Instrumental Lessons

We currently offer instrumental lessons on 14 different instruments and have 76 students across the school taking them. These lessons also provide students with a range of ensemble opportunities, as well as supporting the music curriculum and enabling them to move through ABRSM grades if they so wish.

This would not be possible without the support of the school in terms of subsidising lesson costs and it is in this way we would like to say a big thank you to the school on behalf of the instrumental students and music staff for allowing these life-changing opportunities to take place every day in the Music department.

Tropical Festive Spectacular'

On 5th December, three of our ensemble groups took part in the final Bishop's Got Talent library event of the term when they treated their audience to what we called a 'Tropical Festive Spectacular'! Our year 7, 8 and 9 Steel Pan groups spent months preparing music to be performed at this event and they certainly didn't fail to please their audience.

The library was absolutely packed and full of tropical Christmas cheer as the students had both staff and teachers alike tapping their feet and singing along to a range of songs from Hotline Bling to Silent Night! The complexity of playing in a Steel Pan ensemble cannot be underestimated and it is in this way we would like to extend a huge congratulations to all of our Steel Pan performers for their hard work and dedication in preparing for this showcase.

Life as Music and Performing Arts students is never slow moving and it is in this way our final concert took place in the penultimate week of term. Our annual Winter Soiree was held on 8th December and the BC Orchestra, recorder ensemble, woodwind ensemble, BC Strings and a host of talented soloists undertook concert performances for staff, students and their families. The concert, which consisted of festive classics as well as other less seasonal musical numbers, provided everyone involved with a flavour of what our wonderful musicians can do, as well as 'kicking off' the festive season.

Finally, we would like to congratulate any pupil who has made a contribution to the Performing Arts department's success this term. We hope you will continue to take part in, enjoy and celebrate music, drama, dance and performing in the New Year and beyond.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Since September students have been developing their skills and understandings in a range of sport, including badminton, softball, handball, tennis, rugby, dance, gymnastics and fitness.

Cricket

On Thursday 6th October, students from year 7-9 got the opportunity to be coached by international cricketers including Boyd Ranking. The students thoroughly enjoyed these sessions and were able to develop their cricket skills thanks to the drills and expertise of these cricketers.

Year 7 students have also had the opportunity to be coached by Warwickshire Cricket Club within their PE lessons, which they have thoroughly enjoyed. Worcester Warriors academy coaches have been working with year 9 boys to develop their skills in Rugby, with some of the boys now deciding to give it a go outside of school which is great.



Manchester Football Trip

30 students were treated to a feast of football over the course of a day in Manchester. KS3 students arrived at Old Trafford for their stadium tour and educational talk early on Wednesday morning. They then travelled across the city to see attend a talk at the National Football Museum.

From there, the boys attended the Champions League game at the Eithad Stadium between Manchester City and Barcelona. A great day out for the boys- thoroughly enjoyed by all!



Extra-Curricular

Lots of students have been taking part in the extra-curricular clubs that are on offer, which has been fantastic. The Call of Duty Dodgeball has become increasingly popular on a Friday morning, with the most recent victorious team seen below, this club is now also running on a Wednesday morning due to popular demand. As an incentive to get even more students involved, students can now pick up an extra-curricular card where they receive signatures for attending clubs, as students collect 25 and more signatures they will be rewarded with a prize.



This is in addition to the Lady of the Lesson and Man of the Moment rewards that are given within PE lessons for students showing good sports values, some of the Year 7 and 8 Ladies of the Lesson got to attend a bowling trip.

Fixtures

It has been a very busy term for fixtures, and in addition to these we have celebrated another tournament at the shared Moor Green Lane fields with Queensbridge as well as an intra-form badminton competition alongside school games competitions in rowing and handball.

Some of our greatest successes have been the year 7A football team who beat the joint league favourites, Wheelers Lane, 2-1 and are still playing towards winning the Kings Norton Cup.

The Year 7B team have had two great victories, leaving them undefeated in their league, their most recent being a 4-0 win over Lordswood Boys. Year 8 Boys football team have qualified for round 3 of the ESFA Cup and the year 8 netball team have been thriving winning many of their games within their league.

Year 9 football team are currently unbeaten this season and have progressed in each of the four cups that they have entered including 5th round in the National Cup. The boys have shown great attitude and team spirit and are working hard to achieve as much success as possible this year.



The Year 10 football team have progressed in the KN cup beating Great Barr 4-0 last week and progress in the West Midlands Cup, having won their most recent game 3-2. The team are currently unbeaten in all competitions and sitting top of the league with 2 wins from 2.



The year 10 netball teams have shown great team work and resilience within their netball league games this year, with some wins, draws and losses the girls have come back with a positive attitude for each game. Miss Spencer's team have finished comfortably in the middle of the league table, with Miss Ball's team with two games ahead of them. Well done to the Year 11 Girls Netball team who won their game against Swanshurst and were close to winning their game against KECH to which they lost by only 2 points.



The Year 11 football team are progressing well in all competitions with convincing wins in the ESFA, West Midlands, Birmingham and Kings Norton cup's.

Basketball and Indoor Cricket fixtures begin this half-term and the Year 8 & 9 Basketball Girls' team have already been successful in the SGO tournament and have qualified for the Birmingham School Games.

Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh Award has successfully been running at Bishop Challoner for the past 5 years. It is a scheme that aims to have a positive impact in developing young people's skills for life and work. Since it began in 1956, the aim of the D of E award has been to help young people to plan and undertake their own programme of activities to develop mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

This fantastic opportunity has been advertised to all year 10 students during PE lessons and we are looking forward to helping our students to complete such a renowned award. Any further information please contact the PE department

Upcoming Events

Major upcoming events include a two day masterclass visit from former student and Junior Olympian Gymnast Dominick Cunningham in December, Floor Moppers at the All England Badminton Championships in March and the Aegon Classic Ball Crew in June. Our Netball players went to watch Jamaica versus England at the Ricoh Arena in December. We also have three major trips next term with a Girls Football and Netball Trip to Liddington, a Ski Trip to Italy and a Boys Football trip to Villareal FC.

All PE and sport updates can be followed on our twitter page @BCPEDepartment!

Netball

On Sunday 4th December, a group of girls and teachers attended the final game of the England Series – England vs Jamaica netball tour. The group travelled to the Ricoh Arena to watch the deciding game. It was a great, action packed evening with both teams playing a close game. England lost their final game – but it was great to be there watching such a high level game of netball!



SCHOOL GAMES



Bishop Challoner Catholic College and Mr D. McDermott (School Games Organiser) continue their work with 38 local primary, secondary and special schools through the School Games (SG) programme to develop competitive sporting opportunities, leadership pathways and provide opportunities for the least active young people to participate in Change for Life sports clubs. We are also continuing to support 7 other primary schools across the city, including St Theresa's, St Chad's and Oratory, to develop PE and School Sport through our Extended PE & Sport Premium Primary Programme.

Youth Leadership

We have recently launched a new leadership opportunity for pupils in Y7-8, known as Young Ambassadors (YAs), to continue the sports leadership journey they started in their primary school. The YAs will be visiting 12 primary schools to work with Y1-2 pupils to support them with taking part in a multi-skills festival in April.

This also provides an excellent opportunity for our Y7-8 Young Ambassadors to continue their development, meet younger aged pupils and encourage them to be physically active. To prepare for the role and ensure they are confident when working with younger pupils all YAs recently attended 2 training sessions after school in the sports hall. The photograph shows our YAs in action at Woodthorpe Primary school.



Youth Leadership Continued..

Y7-8 YAs also have the chance to be involved in a range of competitions and take on a variety of officiating roles. The first opportunities are for Y3-4 and Y5-6 indoor athletics competitions in January whereby our YAs will receive training in December in how to judge and officiate a range of running, jumping and throwing events at the competition which takes place at Billesley Indoor Tennis Centre on January 16th.

We have also set up another Bronze Ambassador (BA) training programme this year for 36 Y5-6 pupils from 9 local primary schools. BAs are young people who have been identified as good role models and enthusiastic young sports leaders whose role is to increase the profile of PE and school sport and to encourage more young people to be physically active. The focus of the first BA training session was to teach them the leadership skills to be able to go back to school and organise an inter-school indoor athletics competition which was safe and fun.

The next BA training session is on December 8th (4.00-6.00pm) and will focus on providing training and ideas so that the BAs can

become 'Change for Life (C4L) Champions'. C4L Champions have a responsibility to share the healthy, active lifestyle message that C4L promotes nationally within their school to their peers, such as the 60 minute physical activity target for all young people per day.

Both the Bronze and Young Ambassadors have been given a log book to allow them to record all of the voluntary work they are doing. They are able to give a brief description of the work they have carried out and assess themselves against our 7 whole school character traits, such as being compassionate and grateful.

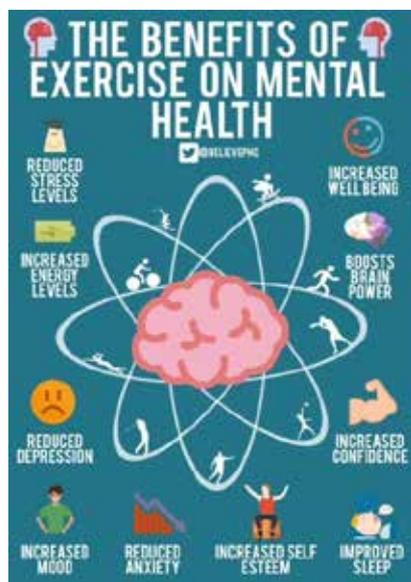
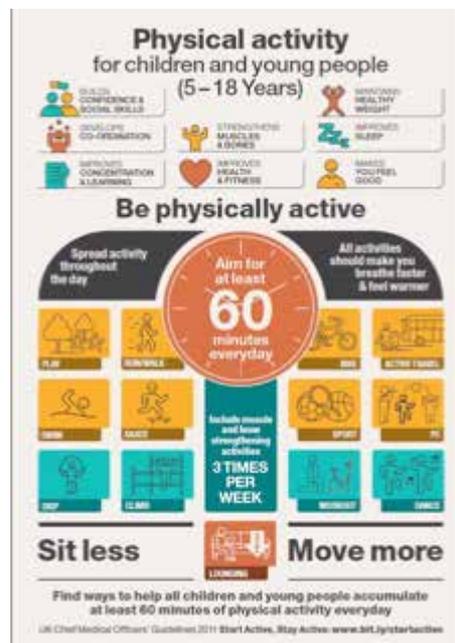
Our Playleader programme started in September and we provided training, resources and certificates to 12 Y5-6 pupils in 23 primary schools to enable them to go back to their own school and increase physical activity levels amongst young children during break and lunchtime. Playleaders develop their confidence, self-esteem and numerous other skills, such as organisation and communication, which are so important in the modern world.

Professional Development

On October 20th we held our 1st meeting of the year for the primary PE Coordinators in our School Games and PE & Sport Premium Primary Programmes. Colleagues from 18 schools came together to get information on community sport and physical activity opportunities from a number of external speakers, including Kids Marathon, Warwickshire Cricket Board and Edgbaston Priory Tennis Club.

We also had a lengthy discussion on the new Department for Health Childhood Obesity strategy and Sport England's new Sport Strategy. In terms of promoting physical activity The Chief Medical Officers have recommended that 'young people aged 5 to 18 should be undertaking at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity every day (including 30 minutes during the school day). The importance of physical activity and sport in a child's routine cannot be overstated. There is a wealth of evidence which proves that exercise has a positive impact on learning in other subjects, teaches children important qualities such as self-confidence, team-work and leadership and benefits physical and mental health. Experts are united in proclaiming the importance of establishing healthy habits at a young age.

Schools have an important role to play in helping their pupils to meet this 60 minute recommendation. Whether it's by increasing the amount of curricular PE or after-school sport they offer, facilitating 'active playtimes' or supporting active transport initiatives such as walking buses or cycle schemes, all schools can encourage and support their pupils to be more active – both within and outside the school day. Providing a positive experience of sport and physical activity for children in our schools can help them to establish healthy habits and a love of being active that will benefit them throughout their lives'. One outcome of the meeting was to challenge every school to set up, develop and embed a C4L sports club which targets the least active pupils and plans are now underway with a number of schools for this initiative which will be a main feature of our work in the coming years.



So far this year we have organised two gymnastic training courses for primary school teachers and NQTs which were delivered by Miss Spencer and Mrs Marshall from Colmore Junior School. Both courses were well attended and the feedback was excellent. Upcoming courses include dance, games and athletics.

As a partnership of secondary schools we continue to meet to discuss new ideas, share good practice and support schools to develop PE and School Sport. A meeting was organised on 29th September for Heads of PE at The University of Birmingham School and was attended by 14 colleagues where a number of matters such as GCSE and A Level PE, vocational qualifications and leadership development were discussed.

Reward and Recognition

Eighteen schools achieved 'School Games Mark' for 2015-16 (School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme to reward schools for their commitment to the development of PE, school sport and competition across their school and schools are able to assess themselves across bronze, silver and gold levels) with Bishop Challoner, Kings Heath, Dame Ellen Pinsent, St Martin de Porres, Billesley, Woodthorpe, Moseley C of E and Queensbridge, achieving the silver award. Colmore Junior School achieved gold for the second year running and the schools that achieved bronze were St Dunstan's, Our Lady of Lourdes, St Bernard's, St Edward's, St Alban's, St Catherine of Siena, St Jude's, Wheelers Lane Technology College and The University of Birmingham School.



Competitive Sport

The School Games Programme continues to organise a range of competitive sporting opportunities for all schools. For secondary schools, competitions have been won by Bishop Challoner, KES, University of Birmingham and King Edward VI High School for Girls Edgbaston in indoor rowing, Bishop Challoner in Y7 and Y8-9 girls' football and in Y8-9 girls' and boys' basketball and Wheelers Lane in Y7-8 and Y9-11 boys' table tennis and Y9-10 boys' handball.



Primary school competitions have been held and won by St Bernard's in Y5-6 girls' football, St Catherine of Siena in Y5-6 boys' football, Billesley Primary School in Y3-4 football, Park Hill in Y5-6 hockey, St Jude's in Y5-6 basketball and Moseley C of E in Y3-4 gymnastics. We wish all schools good luck in the Birmingham Winter School Games Finals in February 2017.

Youth Sport Trust Development Coach

Mr McDermott has once again been asked by the Youth Sport Trust to continue his role as a 'Development Coach' to other SGO colleagues within the local and regional areas. He is working with a number of SGOs this year to develop their skills and confidence to complete the core tasks as set out by the government for the SGO role. This involves 1:1 meetings taking place with colleagues and their line managers when matters such as use of the School Games website, competition calendars, School Games Mark applications and club development will be discussed.

Social Media

You can follow all our work on @BCSGO where we now have over 700 followers.

MEDIA STUDIES

The Media Studies department has had a really exciting start to the academic year. We had some phenomenal results from the summer, including 100% A-B at A Level and an 87% pass rate at GCSE -16% higher than estimated. The Media students have been a credit to us and we hope to have just as a good results next summer.

Year 10

Students in Year 10 have settled in really well to the course and have just started their first pieces of coursework this November.

Open Evening

Open Evening and Sixth Form Open Evening were a huge success – students were enjoying playing with the Green screen, the lighting rig and imovie and Photoshop. For the Sixth Form Open Evening, students learnt about what the new syllabus would entail in the move to linear A Levels.



Year 11

Year 11 are busy completing their horror trailers, Year 12 are undertaking research in music videos before they start to make their own and Year 13 are in full swing with their Investigations-the most academic piece of work that they have to write which includes full Harvard referencing.



Media Trips

Two trips to the BFI have been undertaken in November to enhance the knowledge of the students. Members of the film industry spoke to our Year 13s, including the Director of Marketing from Universal Studios, and the students got the chance to ask some burning questions to experts. The second trip involved all of Year 12 and 13 where they participated in a study day on the topic of representation in the media.

Our Year 13s also got scouted – they will be featuring in part of Argos' Christmas advertisements this festive season – exciting news!

See the preview here. Spot our students at 0.23:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NaV5EAHjfm0>



COMPUTING

CAM Project

The Computing and Maths (CAM) Project has got off to a great start with feedback from both participating schools and teachers being extremely positive. The programme provides new opportunities for all those involved. The KS2 pupils are exposed to a subject that they may never have experienced before and even if they have, it's unlikely that it will have been delivered in this fashion by subject specialists.



The Bishop Challoner staff (Mr Ebrahim and Mr Ravenscroft) are relishing the opportunity to teach to an entirely new demographic of pupils in ways that are maybe not applicable to secondary school life. The KS2 computing curriculum and the special nature of primary schools has enabled for an exciting and engaging approach to flourish; one that we are looking forward to taking even further as we progress into the Christmas period.

KS3

All of our KS3 groups have had a busy start to their new academic years with all of them embarking on a tailor made 'Online Safety' scheme of work specialised for their year group. The scheme of work naturally goes hand in hand with the schools safe guarding measures and consistent consultation was had to allow for its creation; the scheme of work takes into account the modern, always connected world that our pupils find themselves in.

Immediately after their Online Safety scheme of work, Year 7 undertook a program to acquaint themselves with their new netbooks. The program introduces the pupils to school wide facilities such as the VLE, school email addresses and the new approaches being adopted in OneDrive and Office 365.

Year 8 and 9 moved onto a continuation of their programming work from the previous years. On a scheme of work designed by Mr Ebrahim and Mr Methven, the pupils have begun to look at more complex programming constructs such as For Loops and Functions with Parameters. At the end of November the pupils in year 8 and 9 will be completing an assessment that was put together by the KS3 teachers within the department.

Year 7 have also now begun their programming journey at Challoner with the introductory course now a few weeks underway.

Key Stage 4

There are two teaching groups in both Year 10 and Year 11; Computing and IT. The Year 10 computing group is the largest we have ever had at Challoner with 29. They have made an excellent start to the year and early assessments indicate that high expectations should be had for individuals and indeed this group as a whole. The Year 10 ICT group has made a similarly impressive start to the year and have now begun their controlled assessment for their GCSE course. Progress on this has been good as they work towards a scenario that sees them creating their own prom company and the digital assets that go with that.

The Year 11 ICT group has a had a strong start to the year and as a group, performed exceptionally well on a mock

exam at the beginning of October. Building from there, the group are currently well into their controlled assessment with an estimated finish date of around February. The Year 11 Computing group are hard at work on their first unit of controlled assessment for the course; creating a bar code verifier in high level code. They are on course to begin their next unit at the turn of the new year and early indication suggests that a positive outcome can be had this year in computing.

Both of the Year 11 groups have a mock exam taking place the week beginning 12th December. This will provide us with a greater insight as to performance and expectations for both of these cohorts.

Departmental

The merging of Maths and Computing into a faculty has provided opportunities that didn't exist previously. Collaborative projects between the two departments allow for exciting initiatives such as 'celebration board' (pictured above) and the planning of trips that provide extra enrichment for our pupils from both curriculums.



SIXTH FORM

Open Evening

On 16th November we had our Open Evening which was a huge success. It was very well attended by our Year 11 students and their parents and we also welcomed many visitors from local schools. It was great to see the exciting work being done by our sixth form in departments and the impressive displays. We were also extremely proud of our team of Student Ambassadors, who did a superb job guiding visitors around our college.

University Masterclasses

A record 145 masterclasses have been booked so far this term and 38 students, from both Years 12 and 13 have attended a masterclass! These are an opportunity for students to gain an insight into subjects that interest them at degree level, and also a more general insight into student life.

Masterclasses are in all subjects, with titles one would expect, such as How to Read a Shakespeare Play and Particle Physics, to the more weird and wonderful sounding My Brain Doesn't Work and How to Use Mathematics to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse!

Applying to the Sixth Form

Most of our Year 11 students have now registered with UCAS Progress and have made a start on their applications for Sixth Form. We are asking students to submit their applications to our Sixth Form by 11th December.

UCAS

Year 13 students have made great headway with their applications and the offers are coming in thick and fast. The students who have already submitted their university applications are getting some great offers coming in now, including some unconditional offers from competitive universities such as The University of Birmingham.

Several students have been invited to interview, including two students have attended interviews at Oxford University in the past two weeks- a great achievement in itself. We wish all of our Year 13 well with their applications.

Aspire to be More

Enrichment

Year 12 Enrichment continues on Wednesday afternoons. The students are really making the most of the diverse range of activities. Not only are the senior citizens enjoying their tea parties, but it appears we have a couple of 'star bakers' among the students themselves.



New this year is Micro Tyco Entrepreneurial Challenge in partnership with Deloitte and the Wild Hearts charity. Students had one month to turn £1 into as much money as possible, all funds raised going to Wild Hearts who give micro-loans to communities in developing countries. Our



Micro Tyco students have held a cake sale and sold chocolate at break. They also provided refreshments at the Christmas Show and organised a non-uniform day. They raised £1030- a wonderful achievement!

Soli House Retreat

Eleven Year 12 students went on retreat to Soli House at Alton Castle, from 5th -7th December. As always it was a valued time away from the fast pace of college life, in which to reflect and deepen faith.



Revision

Students have been receiving guidance in form time about revision strategies and how to plan an efficient revision timetable in form time. Year 12 and Year 13 students- make sure you make use of some of your free time this Christmas to prepare for your mock examinations!



TSA

CPD*Leadership Development*School Direct*Science Programmes*Specialist Leaders of Education*Research

Training and Leadership Development

This term has seen the Teaching School organise a range of courses for teachers – including programmes for Deputy Headteachers, Middle and Senior Leaders, Aspiring Leaders, Newly Qualified Teachers and a new course for Outstanding Teaching. Through these programmes we are able to support teachers and leaders during all stages of their careers.

Through working with our Alliance partner schools, we are able to run courses that are relevant and useful – as well as creating our own programmes to fulfil local needs. A new programme this year has been a subject specific training for Modern Foreign Languages. Subjects on offer have been Spanish and French, and we are pleased to be working with the University of Warwick on this.



Central Midlands Science Learning Partnership

Working with the national STEM organisation based in York, we are pleased to be able to organise and promote a number of courses for Secondary and Primary Teachers in the Central Midlands area. All programmes are bookable through the STEM website and offer fantastic CPD opportunities.

Subjects covered include GCSE Physics, Maths in Science, Biology, A-Level Chemistry, and working scientifically in the Primary curriculum. Our nationally funded subject specific programme is proving popular this year, with 5 full Physics days taking place at Bishop Challoner and Keele University. Delegates have been giving great feedback after the sessions and we are pleased to be able to offer such a fantastic programme.



School Direct (Teacher Training)

With a large cohort of trainee teachers across our Alliance of schools, we have nearly 60 training with us this year – our mentors and trainers have been busy! Training to teach is a year-long process, with trainees spending 4 days a week in their host school and 1 day a week at University. We currently work with the University of Warwick, Birmingham University and Newman University and share training days and specialist subject days across the Alliance.

The UCAS system is open now for applicants wishing to train to teach starting in September 2017. Along with opportunities at

Bishop Challoner, we also recruit for a range of subjects in our partner schools – Primary and Secondary, across the Midlands. We actively recruit students who are graduating this year from university as well as ‘career changers’ – so anyone at all who is interested in becoming a teacher. We attend lots of recruitment events where we speak with prospective trainees, as well as holding Information sessions at school every couple of weeks during term time. Please see our website for forthcoming events: www.bctsa.org/Train-to-Teach-Events



Future Teaching Scholars (FTS)



We are proud to have been selected to host the Future Teaching Scholars programme – a new and exciting route into teaching. It is designed for exceptional students who plan to study a Maths or Physics-related degree at University. Applications are now open for those who will be starting University in autumn 2017 – and will close on 15th January 2017.

Students who are successful will be awarded a valuable scholarship package, which includes a generous grant whilst at University; extensive personal and professional development support; a place on a salaried teacher training course and support in finding your first teaching role.

Interested Sixth Formers can get full information from the FTS website <https://www.futureteachingscholars.com/> or speak to Mrs Giubertoni at school.



To see what else we get up to at BCTSA, why not follow us on twitter? @teaching_school

OTHER BC NEWS

Uniform

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

Please note that school shoes must be kept completely black. There are a number of styles, particularly for girls, currently in fashion with wood style soles. These are not suitable for school. School shoes should also be leather and not patent. In order to complement the smart school uniform we insist that students' hair is smart in appearance and that students do not have shaved/razored hair styles or lines/patterns shaved into the hair. Extreme changes of hair colour are also not permitted. The final decision as to whether a particular haircut/style is appropriate is at the discretion of senior staff.

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

Attendance and Punctuality

If your child is absent from school, a notification phone call needs to be made to the school on the first day of the absence and every further day that they are absent too. Upon return to school, a written note needs to be handed in to their form tutor, stating the reason for absence.

Please encourage your child to be at school by 8.30am to instil the important life skill of good punctuality.

The school attendance target is 96%.

Year 7-	96.9
Year 8-	96.2
Year 9-	94.1
Year 10-	95.0
Year 11-	93.4
Whole School-	95.1

Schoolcomms

As you are aware we operate a cashless catering system and Schoolcomms is now the preferred and recommended system to make payments for your child's school dinners and some school trips. If you haven't already done so, please sign up using the mobile number and email address that the school has on record for you. There will only be one money loading machine in operation in the school, so it is imperative that Schoolcomms is used.

For further information please visit our website www.bishopchalloner.org

Mobile Phones

With most pupils in school now owning mobile phones for use to and from school, it is important that they are also not a distraction to study. All students should hand mobile phones into the pastoral office for safe keeping and can collect them at the end of the school day. 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.

I know that you will, as always, support us in maintaining the smart appearance of your children and high standards of discipline, so that our focus in school can be on educational achievement.

Important Dates

School Opens
Tuesday 3rd January

Y10 Business Cadburys Visit
Tuesday 14th February

National Obesity Awareness Week
Monday 9th January-
Friday 13th January

Year 8 & 9 Briars Retreat
Wednesday 15th February-
Friday 17th February

Year 9 girls HPV
Wednesday 25th January

Non-uniform Day
Friday 17th February

Y11 Maths Challenge
Thursday 2nd February

KS4 Iceland Trip
Saturday 18th February-
Wednesday 22nd February

Healthy Heart Week
Sunday 5th February-
Thursday 9th February

Y10/11 PA Rehearsal
Thursday 23rd February

Year 11 Parents Evening
Thursday 9th February

School Closed
Friday 17th February

KS3 English G&T Trip
Monday 13th February

Half Term
Monday 20th February-
Friday 24th February

Canteen-Caribbean Week
Tuesday 14th February

School Open
Monday 27th February



**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM
BISHOP CHALLONER
CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

