

BC14

Lord Jesus, you talked about the need for us to have our priorities right, and not to hoard possessions. You said that where our treasure is, there our heart and commitment will really be. Touch our hearts that we may love people and use things - and never the other way around. Inspire us to seek first your kingdom and use our talents and gifts for the benefit of others. Amen

Friday 10th March

Message from Mr McEvoy, Principal

Bishop Challoner began Lent with our respectfully observed Ash Wednesday Services. During this season we are called to put Christ's message at the forefront of our thoughts, to be reflective and consider the direction of our lives. Fr Simon will be supporting our Year Groups further with the Lenten talks and we thank him for his ongoing work in Fr Denis' absence.

The Year of Celebration, begun last September, has seen Bishop Challoner look for every opportunity to recognise the life and energy of our school. In the foyer the 'Celebration Wall' each week has at least one event added to ensure that the efforts of our students and staff are appreciated. There should be just one photo a week, but last week we had to add the Ash Wednesday Service, the Peace Garden Art Work, the Iceland trip and the Careers Fair - with the Precious Lives Assemblies and the Y5 Forces Event still to be mounted, along with the Salt Awareness activities, the Fox Hollies support, the A Level Maths Hub event and the Primary PE Leadership work.

This school believes it has a responsibility and the potential to transform young peoples' life experiences. Every day that we open our doors is a chance to inspire, instruct, create, compete - succinctly expressed in our Mission Statement, developing full potential, service to others, rooted in our Christian values. A school is uniquely placed to influence society, to nurture talent and to foster relationships, to inform, to reflect, to change.

Our young people face many challenges - a new, yet to be proven, examination structure, being delivered in an education system (their work environment) that is increasingly financially challenged; they see through the media a world where leadership could be perceived to be based on questionable ethics.

Our school should offer young people an understanding that they have the capacity to shape their community, to create the future, to make a difference. Through our Year of Celebration we intend to repeatedly tell them that what they do is noticed, that what they do matters and that what they do will be recognised. And celebrated.

Readathon

In support of this year's school charity, the Alzheimer's Society, years 7, 8 and 9 have been participating in a sponsored Readathon. The challenge was to read as many books as possible in a 7 day window, and they have risen to the challenge spectacularly. Pupils from years 7 to 9 dedicated huge amounts of time, both in school and out, to support this worthy charity. Every child received a sponsorship form, and it has been amazing to see the support that has given by parents, friends and relatives.

The English Department would like to extend our thanks, not only to the pupils that have taken part, but also to the huge amount of support that has been received from the wider school community. To allow sponsorship money to be collected, pupils are able to bring in their sponsorship money and forms any time before the Easter holidays.

UKMT

Miss Stone took 4 students to Camp Hill Boys School on Tuesday 7th March to compete against other local schools in the UK Maths Team Challenge. Our students, two from Year 8 (Ben Colleran and Owen Fadden) and two from Year 9 (Katarina Bragg and Lewis Solarin) performed magnificently against the other schools, finishing 7th out of 26 schools, beaten only by local grammars. Well done!

team! Students have done so well that often tie-breakers are used to determine the monthly winners. We're looking forward to the April session already.

Maths Circles

Dr Corneliu Hoffman, a maths lecturer from the University of Birmingham, has started volunteering with the school to promote 'thinking like a mathematician' with some of our top Year 9 and 10 students. The first session was this week, and the twelve students present were challenged to complete all sorts of problems, including how to give £7 change if the only denominations of notes were £37 and £113. A big thank you to Dr Hoffman for giving our students this opportunity, and well done to the pupils who persevered with the challenges! We look forward to the next session in April.

G&T Primary

Mr Clarke and Mr Wooler continue to encourage healthy competition between our primary feeder schools and our Year 7 and 8 pupils through the G&T club. The Year 6 students that come to the monthly club have grown hugely in confidence, correcting our own students when working as a

Youth Mass

Join the youth groups on Saturday 1st April for a Youth Mass at St. Jude's Church at 6.30pm. Following the youth mass there will be a cake sale to raise money for mission work in Brazil.

Iceland 2017

During February Half term 57 students and 6 teachers flew to the land of Fire and Ice that is Iceland. As an opening treat we all visited the world famous Blue Lagoon Spa and much pampering ensued!

The next four days would be an inspiring journey along the South coast of the nation visiting wonderful waterfalls, beautiful beaches, luscious landscapes, gorgeous glaciers, incredible icebergs, gigantic geysirs and one really cool city!

This was Bishop Challoners' third visit and we were incredibly

lucky with the weather and the timing of our trip this year...48 hours after we left, the entire country was on lock down due to a huge storm which was followed by half a metre of snow!

We hope that the trip inspired the students who went and those who have read the article on the website to visit this incredible country when they are older.

Thanks to all the parents who supported the trip and a huge Takk (thank you) to the staff who gave up their half term to help make the trip a huge success. Look out for the photos in the Easter

Sixth Form

Revision

Sixth Form students have had revision very much as a focus this week. On Monday they had an assembly with Mrs Marsh which covers some very useful advice about which strategies are most useful. Students have also had the opportunity in form to look at different ways of putting together an efficient revision timetable. We have also tweeted some useful online links. With only four weeks left until the Easter holidays, it is essential that students have revision at the forefront of their minds now.

Year 12 Work Experience

Our year 12 students are being very proactive and securing some excellent placements for their work experience fortnight 3rd-14th July. We cannot emphasise enough how valuable it is to be able to refer to a successful work experience, when students are completing university or apprenticeship applications.

Stressbusting workshops

Year 13 and 12 students have the opportunity to take part in the second wave of stress busting workshops this week. They are delivered by Change, an outside agency, and students who have already attended the two sessions have come away with some useful strategies to try.

St Chad's Sanctuary Music Event

We have invited a group of asylum seekers from St Chad's Sanctuary to join us next Wednesday 15th March 2-4 in the auditorium. Our Head Boy and Girl have taken the lead in organising this musical/cultural event with a St Patrick's theme.

Student Finance

Student Finance is now open for applications for students starting university in September 2017. Students have been given information on how to apply and can come and see Miss McGowan in the Sixth Form Office if they need any help with their application. Applications can be made at: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance>

Interviews

Lots of our Year 13 students are being invited for interviews, both at universities and for apprenticeships. Lots of university interviews have already taken place, many resulting in offers for students. In addition several students have progressed to the later stages of recruitment processes for some impressive apprenticeship programmes, with companies such as JP Morgan and Virgin Media. We wish all students with interviews the best of luck and we remind them to see the Sixth Form Team if they wish to do interview prep.

Upcoming Events

KS3 Big Bang Fair
Wednesday 15th March-
Friday 17th March

Malympics
Tuesday 21st March



MATHS PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

SQUARE TOTAL

Anastasia thinks of a positive integer. Her friends then do the following operations:
Barry doubles Anastasia's number.
Connor triples Barry's number.
Damion multiplies Connor's number by 6.

At this point, Eve notices that the total of the four numbers is a perfect square.

What is the smallest positive integer that Anastasia could have thought of?

For the solution to last week's problem, follow us @BCMthsDept

Careers Fair

Thursday 2nd March was our annual Careers Fair for Years 8, 9 and 10. Representatives from 28 companies and organisations attended to get students thinking about what careers they might like to do. Major companies such as Deloitte, Willmott Dixon, NHS and Free Radio were in attendance along with several training providers such as Aspire Sport, Performance Through People and EEF. There were also some colleges and universities in attendance to discuss the courses they offer and show how students can achieve their goals. It was also brilliant to see two ex-students, Matthew Dean (Jaguar Land Rover) and Stacey Carmichael (Crackerjack Training) back in school representing the companies they now work for. Overall it was a fantastic event and students were asking some brilliant questions.

English Club

This half term a very committed team of VI Form leaders have started an extra-curricular club in English to support year 8 and 9 students develop their essay writing skills. Meeting weekly, our leaders have inspired and challenged a very engaged group of younger students who have returned again and again to improve their skills. Many thanks to Janal Rajput, Mary Gurdin, Francesca Bruno, Nia Clarke particularly for giving their time and enthusiasm (and supplies of glitter paper and games) to support younger students.

Teaching School

Places are now filling up for our School Direct Teacher Training programme to start in September 2017. We are currently still recruiting on behalf of several schools in the Birmingham area for a range of Secondary subjects, as well as Primary places. Additionally, if you know someone studying Maths or Physics in their 2nd year at University we can also offer a PAID Internship this June and July. Full details and a brief application form are available on our website: www.bctsa.org/Paid-Internship-Programme

SPORTS NEWS

The Year 7 netball team recently came first in their netball tournament hosted at Swanshurst. After winning three games and drawing two in the first round, they were through to the semi-final. This was a very tough game against the previous tournament winners, Edgbaston High School, but the girls fought to the very end, winning the game in the last 5 seconds. They were then through to the final, where they worked superbly as a team leading them to a 5-3 victory. A huge congratulations to the girls involved.

The Year 8 netball team recently attended and played well within their netball tournament. After they came 2nd in the league and were unfortunately knocked out of the competition after the first round, they were a credit to the school.

The 7A boys' football team beat Archbishop Illsley 6-2, confirming their place in the semi-final of the Kings Norton

Cup and the 7B boys' team remain undefeated with a 4-0 win against the University of Birmingham School. They played well as a team and were a credit to the school. Year 8 boys won an ESFA cup game v Sandwell Academy 5-0. Joe Nicholson was player of the match.

The Year 11 boys' football team have progressed through to the final of the West Midlands Cup after a convincing 2-0 win over Heart of England. The final is likely to be held at West Hills after the Easter break.

10 students were selected to be Floor Moppers at the All England Badminton Championships at the NIA, and all enjoyed the experience. They were given this opportunity having been regular attenders at our badminton club. There is a new extra-curricular timetable out for this half term, why don't you try a new one? Ask your PE teachers for a copy!