

# BC NEWS



Autumn 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of a long autumn term there are many highlights to reflect back upon, including:

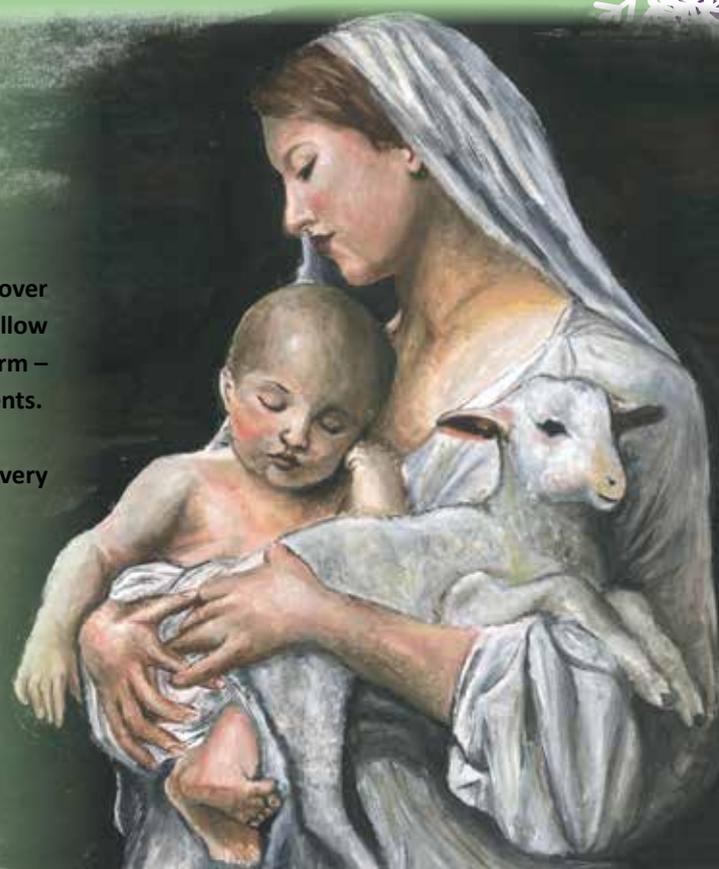
- The Year of Service was begun.
- Our examination results have made us the top non-selective comprehensive in the City, based on attainment.
- Around 1100 applications were made for Year 7, our highest ever.
- 46 trainee teachers began their career path through Bishop Challoner Teaching School.
- The school embarked on a two year Collaboration with eight feeder primaries, as an alternative to academisation.
- We had our outstanding Section 48 Inspection.
- Challoner competed with Queensbridge for the annual Y7/8 Trophies – the Murphy, Ridge, Queens and Bishops events – only Mr Wilson failing to deliver silverware!
- The school held a Reading Conference for over 100 primary colleagues.
- Attendance at pre-school PE led clubs reached up to 100 students on some mornings, an incredible sight and a hive of activity.
- The Art & Technology department produced a stunning Poppy installation as part of the school's remembrance programme.
- Bishops Got Talent events were held every fortnight in the Library.
- Tommy Rowan won 'Lay Chaplain of the Year' at a recent Kenelm Youth Trust celebration.
- The Shoebox collection was fantastic with 318 boxes sent to the Trussell Trust – nearly 90 from Year 7!
- Year 9 embarked on a 'Twelve Days of Christmas' food collection for a local food bank.
- Staff collected items for back packs for the homeless.
- Students completed two large collections of food and clothing for St Chad's Sanctuary.
- We discovered that the grandfather of a Challoner student was one of the heroes of Jadotville. The student attended a National Medal Presentation in Athlone to accept the medal awarded 56 years after the event. A huge honour.

And this is just a small flavour of the dynamic life of the school over the last three months, the list goes on and on, the pages that follow give a fuller picture. This has been a busy but highly successful term – congratulations to all our students on their efforts and achievements.

In conclusion, to all our students, families, staff and Governors a very Happy and Holy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

K McEvoy  
PRINCIPAL





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# YEAR OF SERVICE

## Year 9 Food Bank Collections



# 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. During this season of advent all students have received Advent services. 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 a holy and faithful Christmas

Tommy Rowan  
Lay Chaplain

## Chaplaincy Commissioning Mass

On Tuesday 26th September the Commissioning Mass for the Chaplaincy Teams took place at St Chad's Cathedral, celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Longley. Some of the members of our Chaplaincy Teams from Year 7, 8 and 9 all attended the wonderful celebration of Holy Mass.

At this celebration, all of our Chaplaincy Team members and our Lay Chaplain, Tommy, made their commitment to the mission of the Church and to lead by example in professing their faith. Following Holy Mass, all of the teams had the opportunity to socialise in the Grimshaw Room, giving them the opportunity to bond with the Chaplaincy Teams in both their school year and others from over the whole of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.



## Section 48

During October we had a Section 48 Inspection for the Catholic and RE life of the school. The two day inspection was a great way to show all we do in chaplaincy life to help students and staff in their spiritual development. The students who spoke to the inspectors were a true credit to the school telling them all they are involved in. Students also led prayers and devotional prayers over the two days. We were delighted to receive an "Outstanding" rating in Catholic and Re life of the school.

## Year 10 Soli House Retreat

The first residential retreat of the year took place when seven Year 10 students visited Soli House on the 19th to the 22nd September. For the retreat we were joined by Year 10 students from St. Edmund Campion. It was great to see how the two schools came together and built friendships. 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.



## Alzheimer's Society:

In September Lisa from the Alzheimer's Society visited Bishop Challoner to hear about our fundraising events throughout the year. She met with Year 8 students who shared with her the lunchtime stalls that they set up to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society. We presented our final cheque of £7453.86. This magnificent sum means a lot to the society. The society has expressed how grateful they are to the sum we have managed to raise as a community.

## Mission Brazil

During August Tommy along with 25 other young people joined the Kenelm Youth trust on a mission trip to Brazil. Part of the mission group was Hannah Fair who has just left Year 13. The mission was two weeks in Brazil staying with Host families. The team worked in a remote village working with children of the village. They were teaching English and other subjects.

They were also running workshops such as a health workshop, games workshop, arts and craft. The team also worked on the renovation of a building in the village. During the Mission the team also had a chance for daily Mass where they were joined by children from the village. This was a very memorable experience for all the team who took part in the mission.



## 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 318 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 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!



## All Saint's Mass

On Wednesday 1st November we gathered as a school community in St. Dunstan's church to observe the Holy Day of Obligation of "All Saints Day". Fr. Craig Szmidt celebrated the Mass for the school and introduced himself as he celebrated the mass with the whole school community. It was a beautiful Mass to celebrate all the Saints who have gone before us.

## Lourdes Pilgrimage Preparation

Initial preparation for the Archdiocese Lourdes Pilgrimage has already begun. To date there are 10 6th formers who have signed up for the pilgrimage which is taking place during May half term 2018. Students have been taking place in various fundraising such as selling refreshments at the Christmas show, Year 7 Disco and Winter Soiree. They have also held a Christmas cake sale on Tuesday 19th December. Ella has also completed a sponsored silence for fundraising.

In January the team will be taking part in a weekend of bag packing at Sainsbury's in Kings Heath. In February they will be hosting a quiz night and in March will look to host our annual Lourdes Ceili. More details to follow on the quiz and Ceili.

## St. Chad's Sanctuary

This year Bishop Challoner has continued to support St. Chad's Sanctuary in the last week of each term. From Monday 9th - Wednesday 18th 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. On Wednesday 18th October students delivered the collections to the sanctuary. Whilst at the Sanctuary we were presented with a certificate for our continued support of the Sanctuary.

We also collected from Friday 8th December - Wednesday 20th December. Students were able to bring collections to St. Chad's Sanctuary to see how the collections will benefit those most in need especially at Christmas time. Thank you for all your donations.



# Alton Castle Retreat

On Monday 6th November to Wednesday 8th November, 19 Year 7 students visited Alton Castle. The theme of the retreat, which activities and discussions were centered around was, 'Who am I?' It gave the young students an opportunity to explore their faith in more depth, along with their lives in general and the type of person that they aspire to be. The students were also able to take part in activities which encouraged reflection on the retreat theme, such as, night line, trekking, biking, archery and rock climbing. During meditation and prayers throughout the retreat, everything was related back to the overall theme, while being thankful to God for the retreat itself and for the people to share it with. All of the activities, prayers, reflections and meditation were beneficial for the group to bond and for them to make closer friends, having only joined Bishop Challoner earlier this year.



## Kenelm Youth Trust Ball

On Saturday 14th October the Kenelm Youth Trust held a charity ball to raise money for the work of the youth service. It was also an opportunity for the trust to celebrate and promote the work they do. During the evening the trust launched their Inaugural award ceremony.

These awards are a chance for the trust to recognise people in the diocese who are making an impact on young people lives. The three awards on offer were Volunteer of the Year, Parish volunteer of the Year and the Lay Chaplain of the Year. We were delighted that "The Lay Chaplain of the Year" went to our Lay Chaplain Tommy Rowan for his service to Chaplaincy at Bishop Challoner Catholic College.



## JP2 Award

In October two sixth formers Niamh Collins and Katie McGowan completed the John Paul the Second Award (JP2 Award) which has been a blessing to our School and Parish community. They had 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 Mass.

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. The students will be receiving their awards from Bishop William Kenney in January.

## CAFOD Fast Day

On Friday 13th 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, our Lay Chaplain Tommy led services 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 for glow in the dark wristbands and also paint their handprint onto our CAFOD display board in lots of colours. A brilliant effort in brightening up the harvest and managed to raise a total of £108!



## Saturday Social

On Saturday 16th December we had former Bishop Challoner student Joe Masterson come back to lead a Christmas musical with his piano skills. He was joined by Lana and Nia from the 6th form who led the parishioners in some Christmas songs. The parishioners also had a chance to have a singalong. It was an enjoyable social with parishioners enjoying the entertainment and the mince pies. Thank you to our ex and current students for leading this Saturday Social for the parish.

## Timothy Project

On Friday 1st December Alice from Year 9 and Henry from Year 7 went to Don Bosco House with Tommy to take part in the launch of the Timothy project. The "Timothy project" is an initiative that aims to identify and train young people in chaplaincy teams aged 11 to 17 to lead projects in their schools, parishes and local communities. Exploring what leadership is, uncovering their own strengths and developing key skills, the Timothy Project invites these young leaders on a noble adventure to become the future leaders of our communities.

The program is led by Sr. Judith Russi and delivered by the Kenelm Youth Trust. Over the course of a year, participants will attend 3 training days and deliver one key project. The three training days are Friday 1st December, Monday 12th March and Monday 11th June.

We wish Alice and Henry all the best with the Timothy project.



## Kenelm Youth Trust Gap Year

Two sixth formers have started their applications to join the Kenelm youth trust for their gap years. Alfie will be applying to Alton Castle and Niamh will be applying for Soli House. Once they have completed their applications Tommy has arranged for Hannah Fair (Current Soli team and Former Challoner student) to come back to help with mock interviews before these students go off on their interviews. We wish them all the best with their application process.

Hannah has shared with us her experience of Soli so far:

*"Throughout my whole experience of secondary school, I knew when I reached Year 10 that I wanted to undertake a gap year with the Kenelm Youth Trust, now 3 months in it already feels like the best decision I've ever made. As a Bishop Challoner student I was fortunate enough to experience retreat several times visiting both Alton Castle and Soli House and also being involved with School Chaplaincy.*

*I am now a volunteer at Soli House and it is incredible, being able to work with so many young people on a weekly basis is amazing and I feel so lucky to have been giving this opportunity. The training was great, myself and the team had weeks of getting to know each other and learning the activities including the different ways to pray and talk to people.*

*When we had our first retreat at the centre it was something I'll never forget, I enjoyed it so much!*



## Primary Chaplaincy

During October Chaplaincy Team members from each of our feeder primary schools came to Bishop Challoner for a commissioning service. Students from St. Alban's, St. Bernard's, St. Jude's and St. Martin De Porres agreed to undertake the role of chaplaincy in their schools.

The theme of the service 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 helped with charity work such as the shoebox appeal.

During November each of the chaplaincy teams were focusing on the month of remembrance.

Then during December each of the teams planned, prepared and delivered Advent services at their schools. The services were a great way for the students to reflect on the true meaning of this Advent season.



## 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.

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## Section 48 Inspection

On 3rd & 4th October 2017 the school received a two day section 48 inspection to evaluate the effectiveness of Catholic life and Religious Education within the school.

We were delighted that this report recognised the exceptional work of our students across the school and within the subject of Religious Education. The two inspectors marvelled at the quality of work and attitudes to learning displayed by our students and we are incredibly proud of the observations made of our students.

Please see below some of the comments made about our students:

***'Pupils show a genuine enjoyment in RE and many regard it as one of their favourite subjects. This is demonstrated through excellent behaviour for learning and a mutual respect for their teachers and peers.'***

***'Pupils demonstrate a deep pride in all they do in lessons and the quality of their written work is often of a very high standard.'***

***'Pupils' achievement in religious education is outstanding; pupils make outstanding progress from their starting points in Year 7 to the end of Year 11'.***

## Year 7

Students have been exploring the topic 'Who is God?' This unit of work allowed students to explore The Christian belief in Jesus as The Son of God. This unit of work enabled students to develop their knowledge on the teachings of Jesus, his impact on history and society and specifically how and why Christians regard him as the son of God.

More recently Year 7 students have been deeply exploring the nature of God and looking at how Religion can provide people with a happy and fulfilling life.

This has involved reflecting on the following:

1. Why are people religious?
2. What should I know about Catholicism?
3. Who is God?
4. What is the Holy Trinity?
5. Who is Jesus? (Incarnation)
6. What struggles did the followers of Jesus face?
7. How did the Old Testament predict Jesus's coming?
8. How did Jesus suffer for us?
9. Jesus lived, died and rose again to save us – what does this mean?
10. What did Jesus teach us through the beatitudes?
11. How should a Christian aspire to 'be more'?



## Year 8

Students begun exploring 'How can I find happiness and fulfilment?' This unit is asking students to consider a range of approaches humans may take in a quest to find happiness in their lives. Students considered how religion can guide humans towards a happy life that contributes to their happiness and the happiness of others. A specific focus of this unit centred on Catholic and Biblical teachings to explore the messages of happiness and compared and contrasted this message with the messages and dangers of materialism that are often presented in modern society.



Year 8 are currently exploring the concept of why God would allow suffering in the world. Students are considering how evil can be consistent with the nature of God. This involves looking at concepts such as free-will and suffering as a text to develop our human virtues.

This has involved reflecting on the following:

1. What is the problem of evil?
2. How can freedom be good, dangerous and awful?
3. What is the free-will defence?
4. (Genesis)
5. What is St Augustine's theodicy?
6. Can suffering ever be good? (Irenaeus's theodicy)
7. How does God work through people to end suffering?
8. What does the Old Testament teach about suffering? (Story of Job)
9. What does the New Testament teach about suffering? (Temptation of Jesus)
10. How should Christians respond to suffering?

## Year 9

Students began exploring the question of Justice, through a unit of work entitled 'How do we meet the challenges to live justly?'. This topic allowed students to explore Christian attitudes towards justice and how we can contribute towards creating a just society.

More recently, students have been reflecting on Christian beliefs on the Value of Life. This involves exploring the sanctity of life and how Christians see the dignity and value of all human life.

This includes reflecting on the following:

1. Is all life valuable? (Imago Dei)
2. What is the sanctity of life?
3. What is the nature of abortion?
4. What are Catholic teachings on abortion?
5. What is the nature of euthanasia?
6. What are Catholic teachings on euthanasia?
7. How should Catholics respond to poverty?
8. What do Catholics believe about animal rights?
9. What is humanism and how does it differ to Catholicism?
10. What should we learn from the Rwandan Genocide?

## Year 10

Year 10 are now significantly developing their subject knowledge for their GCSE studies in Religious Education. They began by exploring the unit Origins and Meaning. This involves students looking at contrasting views in society regarding how the universe was created and what might be the meaning and purpose of life. Currently students have been engaged in looking at the creation stories from a Catholic perspective and exploring how Catholics are open to scientific theories on evolution to understand the creation of the universe.

Students have explored issues such as:

- The theory of evolution
- How Catholics accept science to understand more about God's nature.
- The Sanctity of human life
- Catholic views on abortion
- The work of CAFOD to highlight the dignity of human life

## Year 12 and 13

We are delighted to have 41 students currently studying Religious Education for their A-levels. Students are participating in a two year course that will ask them to explore issues such as; Arguments for the existence of God, Studying the person of Jesus, ethical issues such as war, euthanasia, abortion and will help to develop their skills as critical thinkers in the modern world.

## Year 11

Students are now in their second year of studying their GCSE content and they are making excellent progress. Currently students are looking at issues regarding life and death, particularly focusing on The Sanctity of life and arguments concerning the Euthanasia debate.

Students have been exploring issues such as:

- Why do Catholics believe in life after death?
- What are non-religious views on life after death?
- Various views on issues regarding life and death such as euthanasia.
- The importance of The Magisterium to guide Catholics in today's world.
- The importance of artefacts in Catholicism to understand beliefs in life after death.
- The importance in prayer and worship within Catholic communities.

During December year 11 students will prepare for and complete a mock examination as part of their preparations for the summer GCSE. Class preparation time will be used to guide students towards a successful experience in this examination.

# ENGLISH

## Mock EU Council

Recently, two of our most talented debaters in the Sixth Form travelled with Ms Fenlon to Manchester Metropolitan University to take part in the EU Mock Council. All training and debates were focussed around the central theme of the European Union with discussions on topics such as freedom of movement and the revision of Article 50. The English Department are proud to announce that Ahlaam and Caitlin (both Year 12) won their heats, beating competition from 7 other schools across Birmingham and Manchester.



## Debate Mate

On 30th October, Miss Lloyd took thirteen Year 7-10 pupils to an exciting launch event in the city centre. There they were introduced to the principles and practicalities of debating through a 'show debate' on whether pupils should get to choose their headteacher – a topic inspiring lots of strong views! Excitingly, three Bishop Challoner pupils were invited to participate in this year's show debate as reigning Midlands Debate Mate Cup champions. This was an excellent opportunity for our more experienced debaters to join forces with university mentors and compete in front of hundreds of primary and secondary school pupils.

We are now underway with the after-school coaching sessions, run by two students from the University of Birmingham, and were pleased to have many first-time debaters attend the first session. If you would like to get involved, why not drop by the library after school on a Friday?



# Brexit Seminar

On Wednesday 18th September, the College had the honour of a visit from employees of Europe House. During Period 1, 9X2 English were given a one-hour seminar on the EU and what Brexit might mean for their futures. Students were engaged throughout the session, listening well and taking part in the discussions maturely and intelligently.

They did the school proud. Later in the day, around 16 Sixth Formers with an interest in politics attended a two-hour seminar on the work of the European Union and took part in a mock council meeting each representing a member state. The providers gave glowing feedback on the engagement and interest from both Year 9 and Sixth Form and were impressed with their eagerness and knowledge on complex subjects. Thank you to Ms Fenlon for organising.



## Teach First West Midlands 10 Year Anniversary



Ahlaam and Caitlin have been at it again! Not content with winning the mock EU debate, they did the College proud (again!) by compering with flair and poise at the Teach First 10 Year anniversary dinner last month. Pantea also performed a brilliant spoken word poem on the theme 'Education is...'. Nia, Daniel and Liam showed off their musicality and performed at various points in the evening. Well done also to Ms Fenlon who delivered an excellent speech.

## TEDX

You may have heard of TEDX, a worldwide organisation dedicated to spreading new and important ideas. Well, on the 11th October, Ms Fenlon and Ms Laszlo accompanied a group of talented Year 12 and 13 students to the first ever TEDX Youth event at the Birmingham Hippodrome. Not only was the conference inspiring, moving and impressive, but two of our students (you guessed it - Ahlaam and Caitlin) played a vital part in the organisation and running of the day.

The students listened to lectures on racism in academia, the consequences of fast fashion and what it means to be a Muslim woman in today's society, as well as dance and musical performances. The theme of the day was courage and the students certainly ended the day feeling brave: they joined the reggae band on stage and danced long after the conference had closed!



## Recycling Project

In light of the shocking statistic that there will be more plastic in our seas than fish by 2050, the school looked to address the amount of plastic that was thrown away on site. All personal tutor groups completed a survey which highlighted that, in one day, 333 bottles are thrown away at the school. Over 39 school weeks, this amounted to just under 65,000 bottles.

In collaboration with Weir Waste, a new recycling bin has been installed in the school and pupils have been educated on what materials can and cannot be recycled. In just 2 weeks, the school has diverted 1100 litres of waste from landfill. On Twitter, please follow @educating\_eco for more details.

## Bishop's Got Talent

Seeing as though the Department's turn to host Bishop's Got Talent fell so close to Remembrance Sunday, it seemed fitting that the Department should showcase the skills of Head Girl and spoken word extraordinaire, Mary G. She gave an emotive reading of Wilfred Owen's poem 'Disabled', a tale of an injured soldier's plight in hospital, to a captivated audience in the library.

## Graphite (writing club)

Graphite, the creative writing club, continues to attract Challoner's most talented and motivated writers. The club runs on the classic model of a writers' workshop, with a reading from a novel or short story to stretch, challenge and provoke analytic discussion of the writers' aims, methods and techniques, followed by a

writing exercise which draws on this model to practice key skills in writing. There is an opportunity for the writers to read their work aloud, and receive constructive criticism from their peers. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, why not ask Miss Laszlo for more details?

# Year 12 trip to see Coriolanus at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre

One crisp, autumnal Thursday afternoon in October, Ms Fenlon and Mr Clinton took 12A English to Stratford-upon-Avon to watch one of Shakespeare's final tragedies, the widely-acclaimed Coriolanus at the RSC. After piling into the minibus, practically bursting with anticipation, we began our journey. Despite our previous wariness about the reliability of Mr Clinton's minibus driving, he refuted our apprehensions with his nearly impeccable driving and we arrived in Stratford feeling eager although admittedly a little sick from all the sweets we had scoffed.

There was a multitude of options available for lunch around the cobbled streets of Shakespeare's birthplace: whilst some of us opted for a timeless McDonald's, others decided to enjoy a traditional meal. The clock struck one as we assembled outside the looming RSC tower and made our way to our seats, where we had a superb view of the stage. Awaiting what we hoped would be a memorable rendition of the fine works of Shakespeare, we watched the performers take the stage and Coriolanus began. The outstanding theatricals displayed by the incredibly talented cast in combination with the raw graphical imagery on stage accentuated the political message at the crux of this play and made it thoroughly enjoyable to watch.

Although our journey home was littered with traffic and at times it became difficult to endure Mr Clinton's persistent nagging for sweets, everyone in the class agreed that it was a fantastic day involving not only Shakespeare appreciation, but lots of team bonding!  
Written by Caitlin (Year 12 student)



# MATHEMATICS Clubs

The maths drop-in has continued to run well this year, with different staff supporting the club on a rota system. If you need some help with your homework, or are struggling with something in class, come along to C5 on Wednesdays for support from maths teachers.

Mrs Middup and Mr Bloxidge have been working with a core group of students at the weekly KS3 G&T club, and stretching some of our most able pupils. So far we have had three primary school G&T sessions, with seven different primary schools in attendance. The primary pupils from Year 5 and 6 compete in teams with our own students from Year 7 and 8, and it is always very competitive!

Our Year 9 Young Leaders are busy planning for the upcoming Christmaths event which will be attended by our feeder primary schools on Friday 15th December. It's national Christmas jumper day too to match the festive spirit!

The bi-annual STEM fair is also happening later this month which we are looking forward to hosting, alongside the technology and science departments.



# Competitions

Two teams of Year 10/11 students competed in the Catholic School Games Partnership at Cardinal Newman Catholic School on 13th November, with one team coming a very respectable second.

Our sixth form students sat the UKMT's Senior Maths Challenge recently, and thirty students received a bronze, silver or gold certificate – a great achievement. Three Year 12 girls entered the 'Mathematical Olympiad for Girls', and although they did not reach the next round of the competition, they had a valiant attempt at some tough maths problems.

The Senior Maths team challenge was held at Camp Hill Boys on the 30th November, and our sixth form mathematicians performed well, although not well enough to get a podium position. We also have Dr Simon Goodwin from the University of Birmingham coming into school at the end of December to deliver a university-style lecture to our sixth form mathematicians.

# SCIENCE

## Year 7-9

To support years 7-9 they all have access to the online 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.

## Year 11

It continues to be a time of change in science with the new curriculum being taught, for the first time, to Year 11. To support them during this important year, revision guides can be bought from their science teachers. Due to the increased maths content in the new GCSE, it is very important that students are bringing their calculators to all science lessons. Calculators can be bought from the maths department if students do not have one.

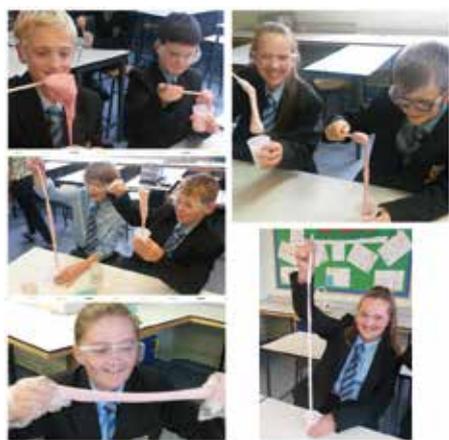
## Open Evening

Open evening in September proved to be a great success with lots of our pupils volunteering to showcase experiments to members of the public. Years 7-9 pupils showed visitors how to carry out flame and pH tests; acid and alkali reactions. Electric circuits and microscopes were also available for people to have a go at using. Miss Lloyd and Miss Start also demonstrated burning methane bubbles. Years 10 and 11 pupils were on hand to demonstrate some of the GCSE practicals covered in the course. Biology, Chemistry and physics A Level subjects were also well represented by keen Challoner students who spoke confidently to members of the public about their respective courses.



## Science Club

Year 7 and 8 pupils have been enjoying a range of fun practical activities and experiments in after school science club, thanks to Miss Start. They have made play dough, lava lamps and rockets, and even extracted a sample of DNA. The club is open to any year 7s and year 8s who may wish to join. Come along to S1 between 3.15 pm and 4 pm on a Monday if you would like to join in.



## Astronomy and computing club

A group of enthusiastic year 9 pupils will be working with a PhD student at the University of Birmingham to learn about asteroseismology (the science of studying the vibrations of distant stars to gain knowledge about their interiors). The inquisitive pupils will be taking a trip to the university where they will be working with real data, and using their computing skills to analyse it. They will then create a scientific poster to present their findings towards the end of the year.



## BCTSA Primary SD Alliance Training Day 2

For the Primary Alliance day, Miss Mayor organised a range of Science activities for Primary school trainees at Warwick and Birmingham University. The trainees carried out a range of activities to enable the trainee teachers to incorporate these into their Science lessons across Key Stage 1 and 2. The focus was on investigation skills, where the trainees made fossils, slime, and bouncing balls! These activities were designed to improve investigative skills and promote subject-specific practical ideas into their teaching. It was a great afternoon.



# CITIZENSHIP & PSHE

## Anti-bullying Week

This half term we have celebrated Anti-bullying week in Personal Tutor, form time, assemblies and Citizenship lessons. Students in key stages 3 and 4 have been informed about three aspects of Anti-bullying Awareness Week in accordance with Anti-bullying Alliance: don't be a bystander; where we can seek help and how to respond to bullies. Activities included looking at case studies, debating consequences and completing a survey on bullying in Challoner.



## Personal Tutor

Personal tutor time is a great opportunity for tutors to work with their small groups helping them to engage with important issues and discuss their futures.

Topics we have covered so far include...

- Safety in school
- Importance of Recycling – new school policy
- Anti-bullying Awareness Week
- Setting aspirational personal targets
- UK Youth Parliament – Make your Mark youth vote
- What are the dangers of 'sexting'?
- Work experience & report feedback
- Student Voice Survey
- End of year quiz



## Student Voice

Student Voice members are taking part in a leadership award this year. Students from every year group (except year 11) have met and formulated their action plans that help them identify their leadership competencies. Students are now working with their peers to assess the best methods of making a difference to their school and local communities. Some students are already demonstrating positive leadership traits in their proactive response to the first meeting by creating peer surveys, discussion groups and leading on year group acts of service/charity.

## Raising Aspirations

According to educational psychologist Carol Dweck, having high self-esteem and aspirations can make all the difference to one's academic outcomes. This year our Head Girl is evidencing how resilience and growth mind-set can help one overcome self-doubt and achieve one's full potential by sharing how she dealt with preparing for GCSEs and strived for success to some of our year 9 students. This workshop aimed to empower students to help them recognise the control they have over their future and how they must overcome the obstacles they may face during the next three years.

Bhag Challoner Dh @BCCOLE - New to Our Head Girl giving an inspirational speech to Year 9 about growth mindset and raising self-esteem: Proof that #growthmindset is more than just a motto!



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### Leadership Competencies



## Year 7 Citizenship

Year 7 have made an excellent start to their Citizenship lessons. After introductory lessons on making friends and a how to live a healthy and happy life lessons have focus on the responsibilities we have at different stages in our lives. Students have learnt all about where human rights have come from and how organisations like the United Nations have aided their global development. Lessons also challenge the students to engage with their own human rights and how they can protect and defend them.

### What advice would you give to Sophie to help her make new friends?



Hi I am Sophie. I joined my new high school a few weeks ago and I still don't have many friends. I know a few other girls but they have new friends now. I don't know how to make new friends and it is making me unhappy.

In pairs list at least three pieces of advice you would give Sophie

# Year 8 Citizenship

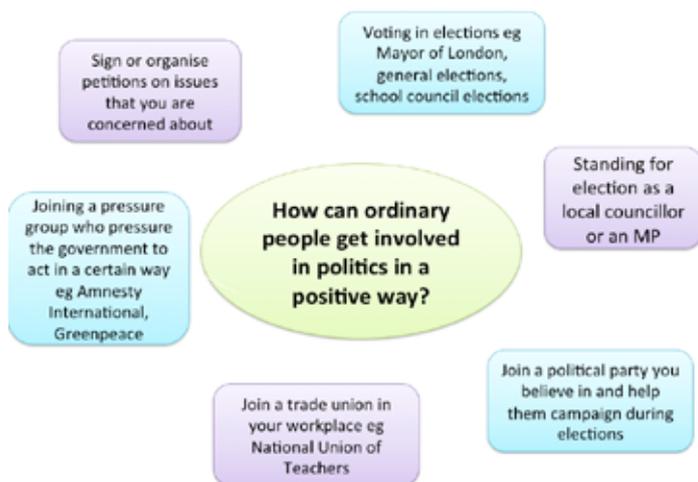
The topic for year 8 Citizenship this term is "What is the legal justice system and how does it work?". Lessons have challenged students to engage with the criminal justice system in the UK, they include activities that explore issues such as why people offend, how sentencing happens, and what happens in a young offenders institute. Classes have made an excellent start to the year producing convincing arguments for and against different laws and punishments.

Students are now beginning to build on what they have learnt by comparing the youth justice system to the adult criminal system. Some classes have also begun exploring the complex justice system of other countries such as Myanmar, with the current grave human rights abuses, students have been tasked with considering how responsible those in authority are when the criminal justice system fails.



# Year 9 Citizenship

In a world where politics is become increasingly complex and in some places ignorant we aim to equip our students to make morally conscious and informed decisions. Citizenship for year 9 this year focuses on what political extremism is and how people can become susceptible to it.



# Year 11 Health & Wellbeing Day

October saw the last PSHE day year 11 will attend. The theme of the day was developing Character the students participated in four activities. The activities were; safe relationships, child sexual exploitation, sexual diversity and revision skills. The year group, in their end of Character Week survey, selected these topics.

Student surveys at the end of the day evidenced that the most positive parts of the day included: preparing a mock exam timetable in preparation for December examinations; debating Loudmouth's (a drama company) performance on child sexual exploitation; and having a workshop on different sexualities (supported by Stonewall).

# Arc Theatre Company

The auditorium was filled with laughter on the 11th of October, as year eight watched a performance by Arc Theatre Company supported by transport police. The drama began as an engaging portrayal of three teenage friends having a disagreement; students were asked to decide how the actors should deal with the situation thus controlling what happened in the drama. The drama closed with a serious message about sexual assault on public transport.

1 in 10 public transport users will be victim to sexual assault of some kind. Students were informed about how sexual assault can take many forms from verbal to unwanted physical contact. Students were told about different things they could do if they see or experience any kind of unwanted attention whilst on public transport. Advice from the transport police included calling 999 to receive immediate help, texting 61016 if someone needs help and is unable to call, or if it has already happened to speak to an adult.



# GEOGRAPHY

Since the start of term Bishop Challoner's Geographers have been working on a variety of our country based curriculum topics. From Year 7 learning basic map skills and the United Kingdom, to year 9's learning about topical environmental issues in the USA, Key Stage 3 Geographers have made a really positive start to the year.

## Year 8

Year 8 students have started the year looking at the diverse nation that is Russia. Students have engaged with really interesting issues such as Russia's role in global pollution and the impacts of oil extraction in the Arctic Ocean. More recently students have studied Russia's longest river, the Volga. They have learnt about the ways the river is used by humans and how many of the physical features of the river are created. Russia is a hugely topical country and students are enjoying enquiring about its diverse landscapes and it's unique political, social and environmental issues.

## Year 9

Year 9 students in Geography will next be learning about the world's still leading superpower in the United States of America. Students will investigate river management at the Hoover Dam, national parks such as Yellowstone and also learn how hurricanes actually form. They will also investigate the USA's interesting and continually changing human environments, from mega cities like New York to urban regeneration in areas like Detroit. This unit will really help develop students' Geographical understanding of a variety of key concepts.

This is how the rest of the year looks in Key Stage 3 Geography:

Topic	1	2	3	4	5
Year 7	<b>The UK</b>	<b>China</b>	<b>The Horn of Africa</b>	<b>The UK: Weather and Climate</b>	<b>The UK</b>
	Geographical skills including map skills including analysis, using sources, rivers	General geography. Economic growth & activity. Resource use and management	General geography. Livelihoods. Economic activity. Development Data	Weather and Climate	Rocky landscapes and Geographical enquiry
Year 8	<b>Russia</b>	<b>Middle East</b>	<b>Brazil</b>	<b>Natural Resources</b>	<b>The UK</b>
	General geography & Development in the Arctic- resource use and management	General Geography Deserts Development	General Geography. Rainforests, livelihoods, development	Sustainability, energy.	Birmingham and Geographical enquiry
Year 9	<b>USA</b>	<b>Risky World</b>	<b>Himalayas</b>	<b>Development</b>	<b>The UK</b>
	General Geography, hurricanes, economics, physical landscapes	Tectonics	Mountain climate, glaciation	Local to Global development	Rivers & Coasts – Map and enquiry skills

## Year 10

Year 10 Geographers are currently working on the first topic 'The Living World'. With-in this unit of work they have been studying important global issues such as the deforestation of the Malaysian rainforests and desertification in the Thar desert.

AQA Geography revision guides are still for sale and can be ordered on the School Comms system or directly with Mr Mullins. The cost of the recommended guide is £6.80.

## Year 11

Year 11 are currently studying content for their final exams. They are currently learning about a topic entitled the 'Changing Economic World' with a focus on how and why countries such as Nigeria have developed so quickly in the past 10 years. Our year 11 Geographers have also been on two field visits this term. One locally to Longbridge to analyse the success of the large scale regeneration of the area. They have also visited Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire, to study the changes to the profile of the river Ashbrook. Students were a credit to the school, both in terms of their engagement and their exemplary behaviour.

## Year 7

This term has introduced human and physical Geography to our Year 7 students and they have started the year studying the local nations within the United Kingdom. Students began the year building their general map skills by labelling base maps and considering the regional differences that occur with the UK. Students have also been studying the UK's river systems and many students have written creative stories of a journey down the River Severn, from the rivers source to the river's mouth.

Before Christmas Year 7 learnt about the very topical issue of flooding. They considered the causes of flooding in areas such as Tewkesbury and considered the impacts those hazards have on people's lives.



# HISTORY

## Christmas Past

What would Christmas be without turkey, stuffing and mince pies? Well, turn back the clock to the medieval times (roughly 1000 years ago) and you might be surprised at what's on the menu. It is relatively well known that goose would replace turkey as the roast bird of choice as turkey was only introduced to Britain from America in the late 15th century. What you're less likely to know is that venison would also grace the tables of the wealthy lords and ladies who might decide to give the poor what's left of the poor deer to the poor. These parts were known as the 'umbles' and baked in a pie – leading us to the expression 'to eat humble pie'. Onto desert and your mince pie contained actual mincemeat. It was tradition to make a wish before your first bite. If you refused the first bite of a mince pie offered to you it was said you would suffer bad luck. Worth bearing in mind this Christmas!

## Year 7

Year 7 have made a bold start in becoming expert historians at Bishop Challoner. After a short introductory set of lessons on the key skills of chronology, significance and the use of evidence they began to explore the events of 1066 and considered the long-term impact of William's invasion of Britain. Students got to experience the chaos and thrill of the Battle of Hastings in a creative re-enactment and learnt about the feudal system through the distribution of sweets. Those students who were peasants learnt first-hand the imbalance of wealth and power in the medieval period. Students are currently learning about the power of Kings and the Church throughout the ages in a thematic study that will stretch and challenge their understanding of British history and allow them to develop the skills necessary to make them successful in KS3 history and beyond.

Towards the end of the year selected students will have the chance to visit a castle and learn about the development of castles from fortified fortresses to stately homes. The trip is sure to excite and educate.

## Year 9

Year 9 have kicked off the new academic year in history with an enquiry into the impacts of World War One. Students explored the developments in medicine and technology, economic impacts, the rise of dictators in the inter-war period and the consequences on different groups in British society such as women and working class people. Since half term, students have moved on to studying the Holocaust. So far, they have investigated the roots of anti-Semitism and looked at the progression of laws passed against Jewish people in Germany in the 1930s and early 1940s. In the run up to Christmas and early January, they will explore life for Jewish people during World War Two, the "final solution" and the legacy of the Holocaust. Students will consider the challenging questions in relation to genocide, such as bystander guilt and the

## Year 8

Since returning in Year 8, students have been engaging in enquiries relating to one of the most fascinating periods of history: the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. They launched the year with an investigation into the case of Jack the Ripper, the notorious serial killer from 1888. Students examined the conditions of Whitechapel at the time, Jack's modus operandi, policing methods and suspects to analyse why Jack was never caught. From there, students stepped back in time to explore the causes of the Industrial Revolution in Britain. They are currently studying what life was like in the Industrial Revolution and considering whether this was a period of progress for Britain. Students will look at living and working conditions, the workhouses and developments in healthcare before moving on to investigate the Transatlantic Slave Trade when they return in the new year.

At the end of November, eighty-four Year 8 students went on a trip to the Black Country Living Museum to broaden their understanding of life in the Industrial Revolution. They had the opportunity to experience a Victorian school lesson, explore the back-to-back houses, watch a chain-making demonstration and even experience old-fashioned Victorian fish and chips! Students also went underground into the mine, where they experienced first-hand what it would have been like to work alongside the pit boys, girls and ponies. Following the trip, the students have been able to provide valuable contributions to class discussions. The experience will be a great benefit to them for their upcoming Transition 1 assessment in the spring term, in which they will be asked to assess how much progress took place in the Industrial Revolution.

Students that missed out on the trip fret not. As 2018 marks the 100th anniversary

since the end of World War One, the history department will be hosting a series of extra-curricular events to commemorate the war. This will involve a reconstruction of the Battle of the Somme, in which pupils will make the most of sandbags and Lego models to map out the stages of the battle. An exciting and fun opportunity not to be missed!



legacy of the holocaust in the modern world.

On Holocaust Memorial Day in January, all of Year 9 will spend a morning in the auditorium engaging with a live webcast of Holocaust survivor Janine Webber. This is an increasingly rare, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity which will be a powerful learning experience for the students. Janine, born in Poland, was forced to leave her home when the Nazis invaded. She experienced life inside a ghetto and was later forced to go into hiding, living in an underground hole until her aunt secured false papers for her. Year 9 students will listen to Janine's testimony before having the opportunity to ask questions.

## Key Stage 3 and 4

Year 10 have made a really positive start to their GCSE studies. They are focused and have shown good understanding through their assessed work. They will have the opportunity to visit Berlin next summer. This trip has proved to be a great success, enriching the academic and moral/spiritual character of our students. Year 11 continue to rise to the challenge of the new GCSE. We have created a wealth of revision materials for them and they have really embraced the most recent topic: The Cold War.

Our KS5 students are showing real promise. Year 13 have been working hard on their independent studies, with topics ranging from Witchcraft to the fall of Tsardom in Russia. We are also really pleased with our Year 12 cohort. They are so enthusiastic and determined to do well. We look forward to good things from them.

# PERFORMING ARTS

In the true style of the Performing Arts Department, the academic year has started off with the energy and enthusiasm in which we finished with in the summer.

## Bishop's Got Talent

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 programme on 22nd September with an event called New Kidz On the Block. This event featured students playing piano, violin and singing, all of whom were new to the school in September 2017. We had a range of performances from Year 7 and Year 12 students and it was a truly great way to start the Bishop's Got Talent programme of events.

In addition to this, 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'! All of our Steel Pan groups have spent the last few weeks 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 to a range of songs! 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.



## Teach First

This year we are seeking to expose our students to a wider range of performance opportunities and were therefore delighted to be invited to perform at the prestigious 'Teach First' 10th anniversary conference which took place at The Council Houses in Birmingham City Centre. Therefore, on 9th November, Liam, Daniel and Nia sang and played for 250 professionals from the world of business and teaching, giving extremely professional and polished performances. Leaders at the event said the music provided by the students "made the evening" and we were very proud of our young musicians for representing the school in such a wonderful way.



## Hairspray the Musical

On 11th October, our Key Stage 4 Performing Arts students hit the bright lights of Birmingham when we took them on a trip to see Hairspray: The Musical. The show was an absolute treat and we even managed to meet some of the cast at Stage Door following the show! 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.

# Christmas Production- 'When You Believe'

Our 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 – When You Believe – was staged on 7th December. Over 60 students auditioned to be in the cast, however only 40 students could take part due to the size of the stage. Tickets were sold out within a few days for this production due to the popularity of our annual Christmas shows. The show consisted of 20 musical numbers, all performed by a live band.

The performers cannot be congratulated enough as they were truly outstanding, with lead roles played by Amy, Daniel, Alfie, Meghan and Bobbie. 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 When You Believe. 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 (led by Mrs Choudhury), Drama Club (led by Mrs Jethwa), Dance Club (led by Miss Williams), BC Band (led by Mrs Choudhury) and Rock School (led by Miss Hughes).

Drama Club started in full swing this September and has seen some very committed and talented Year 7 and 8 students every Monday after school. The students have been working on a version of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' and have thoroughly enjoyed multi-rolling and working on some very advanced dialogue.

Many of the students who attend the club are now in year 8 and have been coming every week since they were in year 7. They have had opportunities to explore many different dramatic forms from physical theatre and mime to monologue and murder mystery.

It has been amazing to see the groups' confidence grow and with old members and new members alike, we look forward to producing some more material for 'Bishops Got Talent' soon.

This term our new BC Band have been working on 2 numbers for the Winter Soiree and, alongside the faithful long-standing members of the group, we have had a number of Year 7 students joining the ensemble. Rehearsing every Thursday morning before school, our band members are developing their social and musical skills by performing regularly as part of an ensemble and we look forward to seeing them continue to develop as musicians.

Dance Club has been running for a number of years but has proven to be more popular than ever this year with 50 students arriving consistently every week. Miss Williams has been

extremely impressed with the zest students have shown for the club, particularly the new Year 7 boys who have been taking part and have been amazing!



Our Rock School continues to rehearse on Thursdays after school and our newest school band has been formed this year, making their debut at this year's Winter Soiree. Guitarists Aiden Irving and Luke joined up with Ronnie on drums and Richard on bass to learn some classic songs and develop their ensemble skills. Year 9 girls Callender and Emilia volunteered to be the band's vocalists and we look forward to seeing what new songs the band add to their repertoire over the course of the year.



# Winter Soiree

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 14th December and the BC Band, recorder ensemble, woodwind ensemble, BC Strings and a host of talented soloists undertook concert performances for staff, students and their families. All year groups were represented in this year's event, and it was lovely to see some of our newest Challoner performers in Year 7 on the programme alongside more experienced older students.

The programme also included a classical violin duet (featuring Livia Rytlevska and Lucy Wilson), the debut performance by our new school band, string duets and many more. Year 7 students Josephine Potter and Aiden Irving bravely performed solo guitar pieces, and the evening closed with a Christmas Medley around the piano.

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

The Physical Education department began the year with the continued high expectations of all pupils and staff, commitment to extra-curricular and continue to work relentlessly to offer as many opportunities as possible to every pupil from our Bishop Challoner Community. It has been a fantastic start to the 'Year of Service' with so much to share, remember and look forward to! The PE department have added three additions to the team; Mr. Moreira as the NQT this year as well as Miss. Hunter and Mr. Gunn as trainees from the University of Warwick.

The team have bid fond farewells to Mr. Hayden who took on a new career opportunity in Lincoln, Phil Marsh who has gone travelling and Mr. Hudson who has semi-retired. The team wish them all the best and thank them for all their hard work throughout their time at Bishop Challoner. Finally, Miss. Ball has started and thrived on a new role, leading on our primary work and the new OCR Technical course in sixth form.

## Lessons

Since September, pupils have been developing their core skills, understanding and knowledge within a wide range of sports. Such as Invasion games (Football, Rugby, Basketball), Striking and Fielding (Cricket, Rounders'), Health and Fitness, Creative Movement (Dance, Gymnastics) and Net and Wall games (Tennis, Volleyball, Badminton). In their first half term, year 7's focused on Fundamental Movement Skills through Gymnastics, Dance, Athletics and Invasion activities; showing good attitudes to learning and attentiveness to their studies.

In their second term, it is nice to see Year 7 pupils growing in confidence, forming new friendships and feeling at 'home' within our Bishop Challoner Community. They are now focusing on Aquatics / Swimming as part of their Physical Education lessons; working on a range of key skills and techniques. On top of focusing on their core skills, pupils are developing socially, physically, affectively and mentally demonstrating teamwork, resilience, respect and determination within lessons on a consistent basis.



## Warwickshire Cricket Club

After the Christmas break, the year 7's will have the opportunity to have coaches from the Warwickshire Cricket Club coming in to support them within lessons and exposing them to specialist coaching / teaching practices. This opportunity was put in place by Mr Noone and will also be delivered to year 7 girls later on in the year.

# Extra-Curricular

The extra-curricular programme overseen by Mr. Wilson has found continued success with outstanding numbers at the Badminton club being a particular highlight. The Badminton club has 60 pupils attending on a weekly basis with only one issue: we're running out of rackets! The pre-school Football club has also been a popular choice for pupils, catering for all year groups and abilities and at times reaching an outstanding number of 40+.

The programme also consists of Basketball on a Friday morning which has become increasingly popular for both boys and girls – leading to a new session being put on every Thursday. The PE team have also started running a new boys' (Key Stage 3) Rugby club which will be training as part of the 'Wasps RFC Project' and preparing for their first away game at Yardley's School. The Netball club(s) have continued to be successful and have an outstanding number of girls attending each week; showcasing their commitment levels and high ability.

The Year 7 girls' dedication to Netball training has been superb as they go on to prepare for their 4 upcoming fixtures. The programme is broad and inclusive, giving pupils opportunities to get involved in: Judo, Dodgeball, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Gymnastics, Handball, Tchoukball and Trampolining. A massive congratulations to Adam, Allyssa, Alice and Bianca for their consistency and commitment to extra-curricular clubs. A special mention to Olivia for taking on new opportunities and for starting to attend extra-curricular clubs for the first time this year.



## Duke of Edinburgh

Miss Ellis and Miss Beall are preparing to successfully run the Bronze (42 Year 10's) and Silver (21 Year 12's) Duke of Edinburgh Awards alongside a dedicated team and supporting staff. The Duke of Edinburgh Award has been running for 6 years, bringing enjoyment, joy and education outside of the classroom to a range of pupils.

This opportunity will be running again this year and will be promoted to both year 10's and 12's at different stages in their awards. The benefits of being involved are fantastic- giving pupils opportunities to develop socially, physically, mentally, affectively and spiritually whilst gaining a renowned award which can be used to support employability, sixth form and university applications.

## Porto Trip

We're going to Porto! All 40 spaces have been reserved now for our Key Stage 3 Football Development Tour to Porto in April 2018. This fantastic occasion is being organised to give pupils the opportunity to receive specialised coaching from FC Porto and also have the opportunity to watch the first team in action at the Estádio do Dragão. In addition to this, the pupils will also have the chance to compete in three matches against local Portuguese opposition.

## Moor Green Playing Fields Celebration



The biggest event of the year took place at the Moor Green Lane playing fields to celebrate our joint ownership alongside Queensbridge School. The event brought both schools together to participate in Tag Rugby and Football for both boys and girls. It was a brilliant event to be a part of, witnessing pupils showcasing their determination, passion and respect when competing across year groups and schools.

A massive congratulations to the year 7 and 8 boys and girls who were selected and took on the opportunity. All year groups did superb, particularly Dave Wilson's year 8 boys who managed to win every single game (but returned to Bishop Challoner without a trophy!). A special mention to Kearno, Lewis and Korey from the year 7 team who were fantastic in every game!



# Lady of the Lesson/Man of the Moment

At the end of the first half term the Physical Education department saw 15 pupils attend a bowling reward trip. This was for those pupils who had received 'Lady of the Lesson' / 'Man of the Moment'. These pupils have demonstrated one of the following qualities of teamwork, respect, passion, determination, honesty and self-belief. The pupils had a great time perfecting their bowling skills where many strikes were observed and celebrated! The 'Man of the Moment' / 'Lady of the Lesson' programme is used every lesson to reward individuals who have shown hard work, determination, a desire to learn and excellent behaviour. Well done to all those pupils who have been rewarded within lessons- keep up the good work!

## Bikeability

At the beginning of September we jumped into Bikeability with around 50 year 7 pupils wanting to develop their cycling skills and increase their confidence when on the road. Pupils worked hard to take onboard the feedback they were receiving. All pupils passed with some pupils even achieving a level 3! It was lovely to see the year 7 pupils achieve this all while settling into a new school. A massive congratulations to all those involved!

## Bishop's Got Talent

The Bishop's Got Talent Trampolinists were superb and brought a number of people together to watch them perform. The performances were fantastic and everyone showcased their ability at break time within school. A massive congratulations to everyone involved, the effort and attitudes were excellent all around.



## Interschool Handball Competition

The interschool Handball competition was a huge success. A big thank you to Mr Gunn and Miss Hunter for organising and promoting the event within school. A mention to Mr. Moon and Miss. Spencer for leading the event on the day. The teams stayed on a Friday after school to compete against each other and showcase their talent and skills in Handball. The teams even came up with quirky names to add to the success of the event! A massive congratulations to 'Super Sandro' for winning the whole event and also, for the awesome team name! Well done to everyone involved.



## Badminton

The girl's key stage 3 Badminton tournament at Camp Hill was another successful event, bringing together a variety of schools to encourage participation and enjoyment through physical activity. Well done to everyone who took part!



## Fixtures

The PE department have enjoyed a successful start to the year across the board in all their fixtures and clubs. The year 7 Football team, led by Mr. Moreira, found early success in the Kings Norton League being victorious against Priory School with a dominant 5-1 performance. The team then went on to beat Kings Norton Boys' 2-0 and St Georges 6-0 to go top of the league. In the ESFA Cup, the team did brilliantly to proceed through to the 3rd round of the competition; beating Arden School and George Dixon Academy.



The whole team showed commitment and resilience throughout the year but a huge congratulations must go to William O'Sullivan for his consistent and fantastic performances in each game and for captaining the team. George Livingstone and Nathaniel Muenda also stand out this year with exceptional performances and have continued to excel each game. The team will now proceed to the quarter finals of the League / Knockout.

The year 8 Football team which is led by Mr. Wilson have also had an exceptional year; beating Archbishop Isley, Wheelers Lane and Ninestiles in the Kings Norton League to finish in top spot. Bishop Challoner are the only team left in the ESFA Cup after beating RSA Academy, Walsall Academy and Arden School. The Year 8 squad have a set the standard this year – hoping to win the League and at least one Cup. A performance to mention has to be the 7-0 victory against KESH Academy with George Dimmock taking home the 'Man of the Match Award' that night.

# Year 9 and 10 Football

The year 9 Football, led by Mr. Noone, has also found success this year. The team have won the league again this year beating local rivals Wheelers Lane, Kings Heath Boys', Kings Norton Boys' and Priory School. They have also excelled in the Birmingham Cup and West Midlands Cup, reaching the 3rd round of each competition. Unfortunately, they were beaten in the ESFA National Cup by KNB in a tightly fought battle at the transport ground.

The year 9 Football team faced West Coventry for the 3rd round of the West Midlands Cup and won! They will now proceed to the next stage. The stand out players this year have been Shawn and team captain Harley who is also a Birmingham City Academy player. A huge congratulations to the whole team for yet another outstanding year. A performance to mention has to be the thrilling 3-2 victory over Priory School in which Harley was deservedly awarded 'Man of the Match' that night.



The year 10 Football team which is managed by Mr. Moon have been outstanding this year once again in the Kings Norton League, winning all three games without conceding a single goal. The year has been a successful one as they now go into the quarter finals where they are hoping to find continued success. A special mention must go to Tom M who has begun representing the West Midlands team this term. Congratulations!

# Girls Football

The under 13 girls were fantastic in the Schools Football; showing their determination, resilience and work ethic each game. Unfortunately, they did not proceed to the Schools Football competition but should be proud of their performances, their effort and passion for physical activity. Not even the weather or pitch conditions stopped them at any point! The under 16 girls did brilliantly to proceed to the next round of the ESFA cup campaign, also showing their passion for the game of Football!

The under 13 girls also went on to win their first league fixture against Ninestiles 1-0 with Hannah taking home the Woman of the Match Award! An excellent start to their season and an exceptional all-round effort to hold out for the victory!



# Netball

The year 7 Netball team, led by Miss. Ball, have had a fantastic start to the year and are showing a strong desire and commitment to training each week. The Netball girls won their first game against Edgbaston High School 12-5 with Aira Pardillo being awarded 'Player of the Match' with an outstanding performance. Additionally, the year 7 girls lost to Edgbaston A but regrouped to beat Kings Norton in a thrilling fixture! Josie was awarded Player of the Match in both fixtures after showcasing her high ability. They will now take on Edgbaston B where they are hoping to find success once again. The girls are now preparing for their 2 upcoming fixtures.

The year 8 Netball girls are also showcasing their high ability both in training and within fixtures. The girls, led by Miss. Hunter and Miss. Spencer did brilliantly to beat Swanshurst 18-1 in their first fixture this year. The team continue to prepare for upcoming fixtures and have shown a promising start to the year! Congratulations to the all players involved in the fantastic result.

The year 10 Netball team have been outstanding once again this year under the leadership of Miss. Beall. The girls' first victory was against Colmers in a marvellous result of 22-13. The year 10 Netball team have had a strong start to the season winning four out of four matches so far. All have demonstrated a high level of skill and tremendous teamwork; however, Lydia Hatfield has impressed our oppositions the most winning player of the match in two matches. We hope to keep the success up for the remainder of the season.



The year 11 Netball team, led by Miss Spencer, have been superb this season winning all their fixtures this year except one. They are hoping to finish in second place in the league with one more match left to play. A special mention to Shaniyah, Charlotte, Adawa and Ellie this year for their outstanding performances. 21

# Basketball



The Basketball season is among us as we head into the Christmas term! The year 7 (Co-ed) Basketball team have been preparing for their first game against St Georges at home and won 20-2. The likes of Nathaniel Muenda and Lewis Heath showcased their skills! The team then went on to beat Queensbridge 20-17 in a close and well fought out game. A special mention to Cassandra for her excellent performance. The year 7 Basketball team is now preparing for the 'Co-Ed NBA Junior League / Playoffs' where they will play an additional six fixtures against opposition across Birmingham. We are hoping to progress through our group into the knockout stages of the competition.



The year 8 Basketball team won their first game against Camp Hill and have made a promising start to the season. They then went on to beat Queensbridge 18-16 in a thrilling game. Damien T took home the Player of the Game award for his exceptional rebounding and defensive efforts. The year 9 Basketball team are facing off against Camp Hill and Wheelers Lane in the upcoming weeks where they are hoping to find success. The year 10 Basketball team has their first tournament which is organised to take place here at Bishop Challoner against Kings Norton Boys', Queensbridge and Archbishop Isley. The team did well to win 2 and lose 2 with the likes of Omar Antonie leading the team. They then went on to lose 32-30 (in the last 10 seconds of the game!) against Kesh Academy. They will now face St Thomas Aquinas in the upcoming weeks.

The year 9 girls Basketball team has also got off to a flying start! They beat Queensbridge 36-0 with exceptional performances all round. The player of the match was awarded to Carolina and many thanks to Joyce for scoring the game.



The Key Stage 3 girls won the School Games Basketball Tournament and are through to the next round in the school games. A massive congratulations to Caroline, Emily, Ellen, Millie, Carrai, Lucia and Remae!

This year we have entered the Junior NBA Basketball Co-Ed League alongside 30 other schools. This involves a 'Draft Event' in which teams are drawn into either the Western or Eastern Conference and are allocated a team such as Golden State Warriors or Cleveland Cavaliers. They will then compete in at least 6 fixtures against different schools where year 7s are hoping to progress into the Playoff/knockout stage.



## Sixth Form Football

Well done to the Sixth Form Girls football team who won the Birmingham County FA football tournament on Wednesday 6th December. They were outstanding and as ever, amazing ambassadors for the Sixth form! A mention to Nieve, Myah, Emily, Roisin and Lily (who also refereed some games!).



## Next Year

The start of the year has been a successful one and we have so much more to look forward to. The PE department will also be running sponsored football (overseen by Mr Noone) and sponsored Dodgeball (overseen by Mr. Wilson) in the final two weeks before the Christmas break. The fundraising event will be used to raise funds for school activities. A big thank you to all the pupils involved. As the year continues, we will begin indoor Cricket, Junior NBA Basketball, Rugby and Hockey fixtures, Athletics, Duke of Edinburgh and lots more. On top of this, Man of the Moment / Lady of the Lesson will continue throughout every lesson rewarding pupils and giving them the opportunity to be involved in exciting trips.

All live updates of what is happening in our Physical Education department can be followed on our Twitter page @BCPEdepartment.



# 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-C at A Level and a 91% pass rate at GCSE -15% 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 a very demanding new course and have just started their first exam topic this November. This is an analysis of the 'This Girl Can' campaign, compared with a 'Quality Street' advert from the 1950s



## 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 two year A Levels.



## Year 11

Year 11 are busy completing their horror trailers, Year 12 are learning all about the Indie and Mainstream film industry and How radio 4s 'Late Night Woman's Hour' teaches its target audience 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 have been undertaken in November to enhance the knowledge of the students. One of which was our annual trip to the BFI where our Year 12s got to listen to a Radio 4 producer and Media and Film lecturer, Rob Miller who led then in an interactive lecture about some core texts for their exam. Students got to ask some burning questions to the experts and definitely got a lot out of the day.

The second trip involved some of Year 12 and 13 where they went to the Into Film Festival to see 'Battle of the Sexes'. The film ties in with attitudes of 2nd wave Feminism which is a core topic on the syllabus. Students also got the opportunity to meet with artist Willard Wigan and see his exhibition, 'Through The Eye Of Needle'.



## WJEC Moving Image Award Nomination

Saving the best news until last, our very own Year 13 student Imogen has been nominated for a WJEC Moving Image Award for her phenomenal coursework from earlier this year. The event will be held at the BFI in January and we will be taking some students to watch the awards.

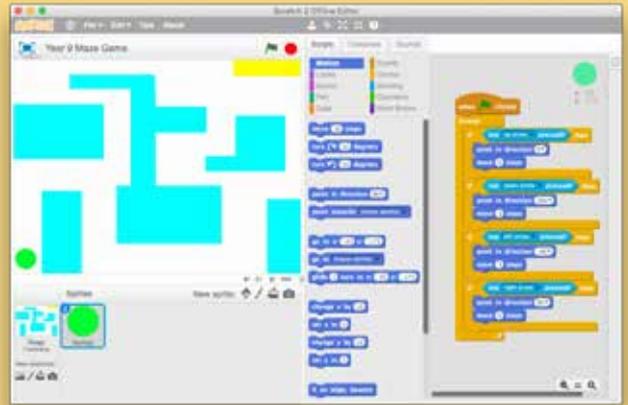
# COMPUTING & ICT

## Key Stage 3

Year 7 have had their netbooks in school since the start of the half term. During computer science lessons they have completed a scheme of work called netbook proficiency. During this scheme of work, pupils have been introduced to the Office 365 platform as well as given the opportunity to get to know their new devices better. As part of the scheme of work, pupils have looked at their school email accounts and, developed an understanding as to the importance of writing a professional email within the workplace (school).

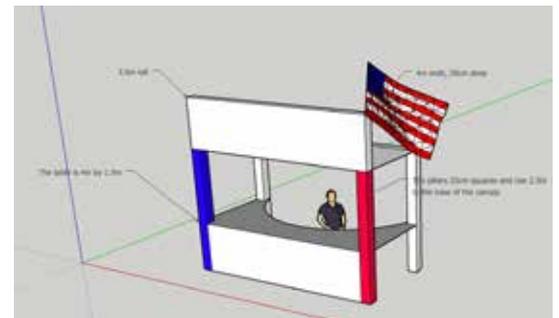
Year 8 pupils have been looking at the further development of their programming fundamentals. During this time, the pupils have been exposed to higher thinking practices such as FOR and WHILE loops as well as applying what they have learnt previously to new scenarios.

Year 9 pupils have been looking at the idea of computing without computers. The entire year group has been exposed to the study of pseudocode, a practice that allows people to design their algorithms in a code like structure without the need for language based syntax. This process is standard within industry and we are very happy that pupils are not only being exposed to it, but, are demonstrating a keen understanding of the topic.



## Key Stage 4- ICT

The year 10 ICT group have begun the exciting task of constructing 3D models using Google's Sketchup Software. This software is used within industry by architects and other fields where a 3D rendering of something is required to provide a clear understanding of the task. The pupils are using the software to create a 3D modelled market stall, a product which will form part of their controlled assessment. The pupils' application of this software has been excellent and some of the work that they have produced has gone far beyond what their class teachers were expecting.



The year 11 ICT group recently sat their mock on the 7th December. Lesson topics at the moment have focused on new introductions to the specification – a process the exam boards go through to ensure that pupils are exposed to the latest technology – for example, we have been looking at net neutrality and what it could mean for the future of the internet if it was disposed of.

## Key Stage 4- Computer Science

The year 10 computing groups have recently completed their first set of assessments, one for both aspects of the course (theory and practical). Within these assessments, pupils were challenged with exam style questions based around what they had learnt since the start of the academic year. We are very pleased with the outcomes that these assessments have shown and have confidence in the ability of both groups going forward.

The year 11 group recently handed in their controlled assessment for which the overall quality was high. However, the group is beginning topic recap and exam preparation, with a particular focus towards the upcoming mock exam and the topics that are going to appear within it.

The computer science mock was sat on Thursday 7th December. Initial marking indicates that pupils have performed well – a further breakdown of this is to come in the coming month.

## Key Stage 5- Computer Science

The Key Stage 5 Computer Science group have continued their two-prong approach to the subject; studying theoretical computer science with Mr Ebrahim and the practical applications of algorithms with Mr Ravenscroft. The group are performing very well and confidence is there amongst the class teachers that these students are going to progress into excellent computer scientists.

Furthermore, the practical aspect of the course is going to begin gearing the pupils for the controlled assessment section of year 13. In doing so, the group are going to look at large scale tasks that require multiple weeks to complete, a process similar to that seen in industry.

# CULTURAL LITERACY

## What is Cultural Literacy?

A person's possession of a broad range of general knowledge and the use of that knowledge to build communication, acceptance, and understanding in an ever changing global society. 22 Year 8 students have been chosen to take part in this unique opportunity.

The project focus is Birmingham: Past and present but it also branches out into areas of cultural understanding which have a connection to Birmingham.



The group have looked at a wide range of aspects of Birmingham past: The Spitfire, the Thunderer whistle, the steam engine, the Lunar Society, JRR Tolkien and Crystal Palace.



In the course of finding out about Birmingham, students have also learned about issues such as democracy and dictatorship, general elections and news making



Over the last few weeks, students had the opportunity to learn from some of our most experienced staff who delivered spin off lessons which have a connection to Birmingham.

The Soho Mint is one of Birmingham's most important icons, Mr Shore delivered a highly engaging session on Money Matters. The students thought critically about wages, mortgages and university. Here he tells the students about his Dad, Pete, and how much more difficult it would be for him to own his own house today. After the session a student announced 'I'm definitely going to university now!'



In the same hour, our students became the new Lunar Society when MR Ram showed them how to make their own electric motor.

The students were fascinated; as you can see from the pictures.

Students on the project have also had the privilege of input from renowned Birmingham historian, Carl Chinn. So, in order to enrich their cultural literacy further, they have been out and about with Carl to Moseley Bog, Sarehole Mill, the Back to Backs and the Pen Museum. Here are some photos of their visits so far.



## Coming up:

- Intergeneration pen pals
- The Irish in Birmingham with Brendan McGurran
- The Garden Village: Why was Cadbury a different kind of boss?
- Visit to the Gas Street Basin to see how canal locks work and Soho House
- Tour guides for our visiting French students

# BUSINESS STUDIES

This has been a busy term in the business department, with two new teachers, Mr Khitab and Miss Sadler and a visit to Land Rover in Solihull.

The pupils have been working hard on their various courses. Year 11 have recently sat their mock exams and we are in the process of marking and producing written feedback so that they can build on what they did well and act on those areas that need more work.

Year ten have made a good start to the new GCSE syllabus and have just finished working on 'break even analysis' and are currently studying 'cash flow forecasting'. They will be sitting an assessment shortly that covers a lot of the finance part of the GCSE.

Year 13 A level pupils are well into their final year and when you read this they will have sat an assessment that covers the topic areas that have been studied since September. Year 12 are working hard and steadily making the transition from GCSE to A level. Much of this involves developing the skills to solve business problems and answer questions at A level standard. There is a lot of promising work going on in year 12 lessons.

I would encourage all pupils of business to pay attention to what is happening in the news and particularly to news that affects businesses. Recent news stories that could be used in lessons and answers include the actions of Sports Direct, Tesla, Bombardier, Monarch, and of course how BREXIT could affect Businesses.

## FRENCH

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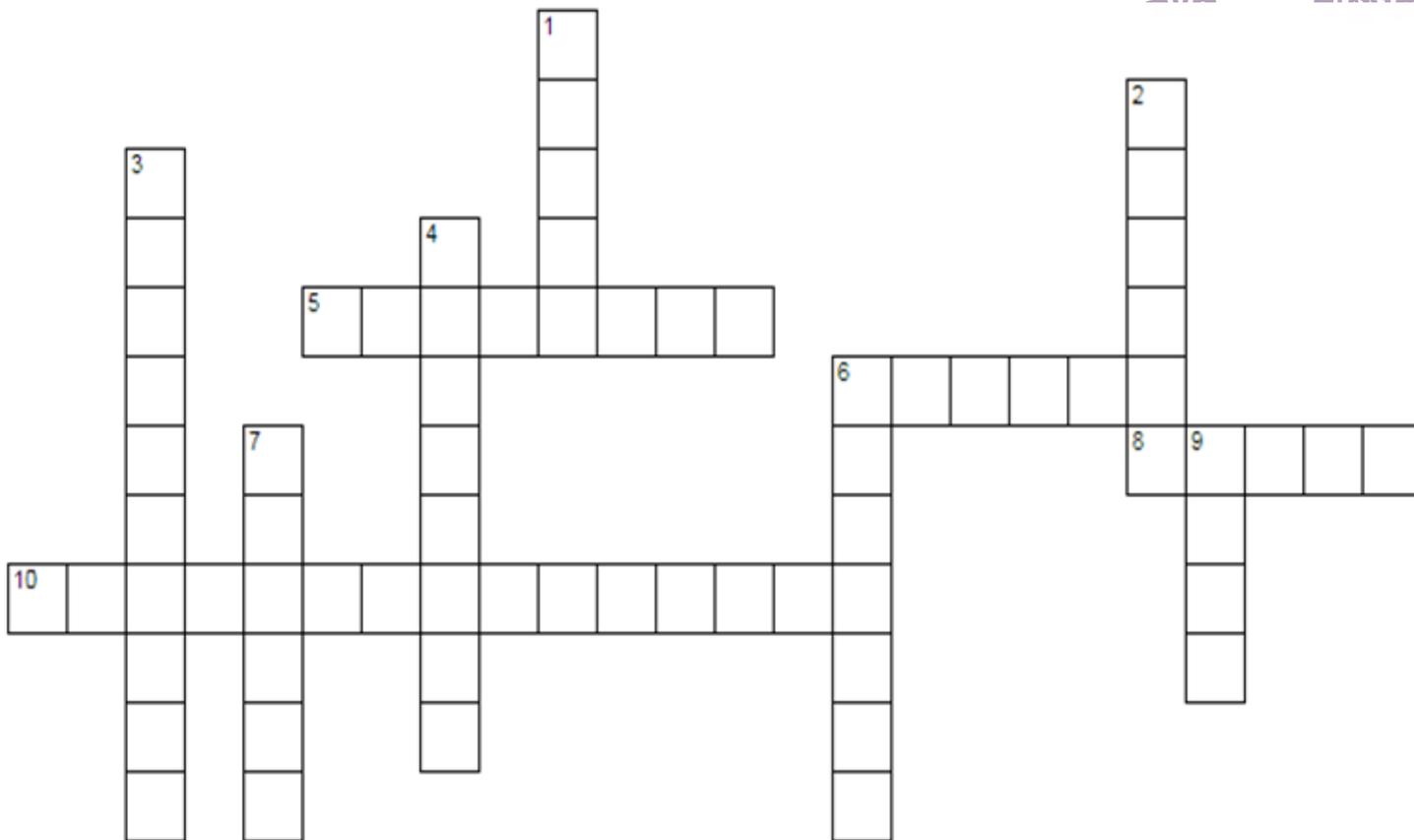
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boules



Père Noël



**ACROSS**

- 5     santa claus
- 6     manger
- 8     christmas tree
- 10    snowman

**DOWN**

- 1     elf
- 2     baubles
- 3     tinsel
- 4     sledge
- 6     presents
- 7     star
- 9     angel

# OLC

It is hard to believe that the first term of this academic year is almost over. The OLC has been a happy and comfortable space where sixth form students have been responsibly settling down to study, years 10 and 11 are revising for exams and the lower forms meet their friends to finish homework, play board or computer games, read, chat and keep warm!

The new Library Monitors are embedded in their new role and friendships are developing. A Christmas party is planned to celebrate their service to the school and all the skills and achievements they have had within their roles of responsibility.

We have been delighted by the many 'Bishop's Got Talent' (BGT) events that have taken place in the OLC this term: Christmas card making, a 'Heads and Tails' quiz, computer code breaking and we are looking forward the steel pan band playing some Christmas songs.

The OLC is more than a place where reading for pleasure is encouraged. Reading interventions take place, and BGT events are showcasing our pupils' diverse skills. It is a place where kindness and consideration are encouraged, new experiences and learning take place, and next year, in our school's year of service, we are planning a couple of events to fundraise for charity and for the school, thus giving some of the students additional life skills.

Wishing you all peace and happiness. Mrs Fanning and Mrs Jones.

## Year 11 Mock Exams

The approach to Christmas is a particularly busy time for our Year 11 students as they sit their mock exams. This year has been particularly stressful with the added complication of extreme weather conditions making the mock exam period more fragmented than usual. It is encouraging to know that they will feel adequately prepared for the Summer Exams, having had this practice run. I would like to thank all the year 11s for their hard work and commitment to doing their best at this time. I wish them all a restful break over Christmas.

Mrs McGowan  
HOY11

# SIXTH FORM

## Head Boy and Head Girl

Alfie McMillan and Mary Gurdin 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



## UCAS

There were 6 early applicants (by 15th October) 2 for Oxbridge Colleges and 4 for Medicine. We are delighted that most of these applicants have already been called to interview. Dr Jawad Khan, from Sandwell Hospital kindly visited the College to hold mock interviews on Wednesday 22nd November. He addressed the common themes assessed during the interview and all 4 candidates were asked questions. He was accompanied by his son to mimic a panel and this helped the candidates become accustomed to the anxiety associated with the interview process.

Other 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 also submitted applications to Birmingham through the A2B scheme, which is designed to support students from under-represented groups gain access to Birmingham University.

## Sir Doug Ellis Pathway to Health Care Programme

We are delighted that 3 of our year 12 students have been successful in securing places on the Pathway to Health Programme at Aston University. The programme seeks to support students from underrepresented groups to make applications to medicine and other health related courses. They, together with Miss Kelly, went to a launch day in the half-term holiday.

They will receive additional masterclasses, opportunities to carry out work shadowing in hospitals, medical work experience, help with admissions tests and one-to-one mentoring, to name just some of the support this programme offers. We have been notified that they have now obtained funding for extra places and therefore have put another 2 students forward for consideration.

## Open Evening

On 15th 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.

## Applying to the Sixth Form

We are asking students to submit their applications to our Sixth Form by 15th December, to be considered as priority applicants. All priority applicants will be invited to a chat with one of the Sixth Form team early in the New Year, to discuss their plans and make preliminary subject choices.

## University Masterclasses

A large number of masterclasses have been booked so far this term and 48 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, covering issues such as Drugs for Human Health, Taxing Our Wealth, Crime and Punishment, and our favourite: How to Use Mathematics to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse!

## University Entrance Exams

A number of year 13 students sat additional entrance examinations for Oxford colleges and the UKCAT (medicine), the PAT (Physics) in early November. They have all worked extremely hard preparing for the examinations and we wish them the best of luck.

## Newcomer Project

Terese Clements from Father Hudsons came into college on Monday 4th December to deliver an assembly to Year 12, discussing how Sixth Formers might get involved in projects which seeks to break down barriers and make refugees welcome.

## Uffculme School TAG project

We hope that from January, a group of Sixth Formers will be visiting Uffculme School in Moseley to support them in their new TAG (Talents, Abilities and Gifts) Projects. This will involve students engaging in a range of different activities including sports, drama, IT and crafts.

### Lord Mayor's Quiz

On 28 November we entered 3 teams in the annual Lord Mayor's 6th Firm Quiz at the University of Birmingham. Although not placed amongst the winners, each team entered fully into the spirit of the event and did us proud.



### Lourdes '18

Maddison from Year 13 has been into year 10 lessons this week to tell them about her experience volunteering in Lourdes last May. The way she spoke about the rewards of serving others was very inspirational and very fitting in this our Year of Service.



# SCIENCE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

## TOP IN THE COUNTRY!!

Identifying local needs is a key requirement of being a successful Science Learning Partnership. This is important to ensure that the programme being offered caters for a variety of audiences to help with reach and engagement of schools.

Central Midlands SLP, based at Bishop Challoner Catholic College has worked hard to create a programme that includes a wide range of support, using bespoke course delivery to target underperforming schools in collaboration with the local authority, utilising the Google Maps tool to target new school engagement, delivering the RCUK Cutting Edge Research Programme with a range of partners, engaging with a large number of priority schools, developing a series of high quality conference programmes and linking the CPD delivered with the local STEM Ambassador Hub.

This SLP has delivered a high volume of CPD units and has clearly demonstrated that the CPD offered is highly valued, with schools re-engaging with high frequency. The SLP is also creative, and looks for opportunities to not only help it meet its targets, but also to ensure that it is seen as a local and regional influencer of science education.

The winner was announced at the National SLP day in York on 7th December in front of all SLPs nationally. Chris Catto was presented with champagne and chocolates by Becca Knowles, head of the Science Learning Partnership Network.

# ART & DESIGN

## Remembrance Day: Poppy Installation

To commemorate Remembrance Day, Bishop Challoner Art Department decided to build on the success of the Poppy Installation from the previous year where 350 poppies were carefully handmade and placed into the ground, by making a staggering 800 poppies using acrylic. Alongside this project, KS3 Textiles club were busy creating wearable poppies using felt and buttons, to raise money for charity. Each of the 800 installed poppies were created using laser cut acrylic which was heated and formed by hand before being attached to the chicken wire frame to create the large poppy.



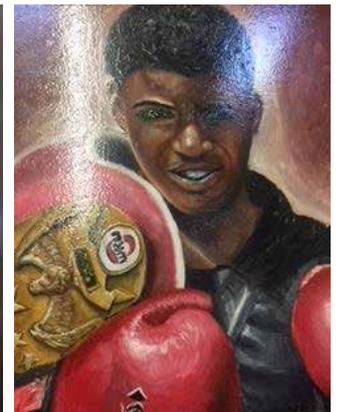
The central button incorporates the John McCrae poem, 'In Flanders Field', which is laser engraved in the centre with the names of the fallen war heroes originating from Kings Heath and Moseley engraved around the edge of the circle. This insightful installation was met with interest and admiration from 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 Artist in Residence Scheme

This year Carmela Hodgson is our Artist in Residence. She will be working with us on several commissions and larger community projects with support throughout the year from Lydia Parkes, Bishop Challoner Artist in residence 2016-17. Carmela is studying an Art Foundation Course at Bournville College before applying to University to study Fine Art. Carmela has produced an exceptional oil painting for the Christmas card commission alongside putting the finishing touches to a Sports Mural of Jamal Graham, Year 10.

### Sports Mural Commission



Carmela has been instrumental in the completion of this year's 'Poppy Installation'. She has been determined and focused, managing the organisation and production of the 800 poppies incorporated in the installation. Further commissions include: a large scale self-portrait in oil for the Artist in Residence gallery space, development of the Peace Garden Installation, a portfolio of samples for use in the Primary Arts Festival Project in the Summer term amongst many more.

### Commission: Bishop Challoner Christmas Card



Zoe Wolstenholme



Lydia Parkes



Eilise Lancaster

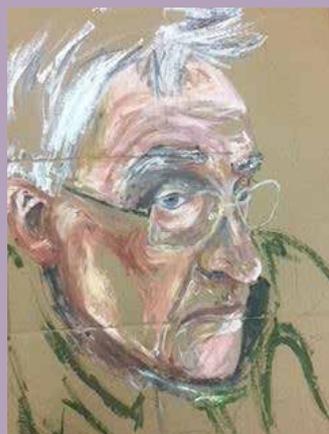


Carmela Hodgson

## KS5 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 carrier bags are just some of the materials being explored.

Alongside the themes of 'film', 'Feminism' and 'industrial structures', subjects include many of Bishop Challoner staff: Mr Benyon, Mr McEvoy, Mr Clinton and Mr Crawford have all provided inspiration for portraiture outcomes.



## KS4 Fine Art



## KS4 Art

Students in Year 10 have started their GCSE journey exploring a range of materials, surfaces and processes. This has included working with oil paint, wax entrapment, assemblage and acrylic paint. The beginning of their GCSE is spent working on either Natural Form or Architecture as a theme, which students have then focused on depending on their individual preference. They have had the opportunity to look at a range of artists' work, including Ian Murphy, Georgia O'Keefe, Karl Blossfeldt and John Lovett who all work in a variety of ways and have inspired the students to start enhancing their own style of work, which will be vital when working from their own photographs after Christmas break. A great start for the GCSE students – well done!

Year 11 have just completed their 'final exam for their Figure and Portrait coursework. The students have been exploring a range of concepts they have individually devised, including beauty, feminism, diversity and empowerment of people of colour and the LGBT community and social media identity. These mature ideas have meant that students have created high quality contemporary pieces and will use these fine art skills for their final exam project after Christmas.

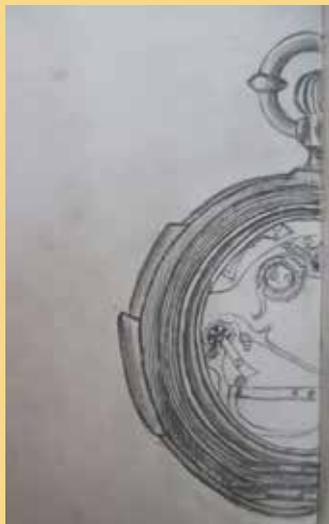
## KS3 Art

Year 7 have begun their Challoner Art journey looking at the formal elements: line, shape, tone and texture. They have created interesting drawings and paintings using a range of alternative materials like bleach, stick and ink and rubber drawings. They are currently exploring photography, using Edward Weston as inspiration to create dramatic and abstract images of natural form. A brilliant start to the year for Year 7.



## Year 8

Year 8 Art have been exploring the theme of 'collections and memory', focusing on objects and how they can tell a story. They have looked at the work of Lisa Milroy and Mark Powell, creating monoprints onto maps, biro drawings and ink with water paintings. Their next step is to create a final piece based on the work of Joseph Cornell, who creates shadow boxes filled with found objects to tell a fantastical story. Their artworks will include a range of small drawings that link to themes like 'dream', 'travel' and 'memory'.



# FOOD EDUCATION

## Cookery Club

Cookery club is now well established with regular attendees. During British Food fortnight we prepared, cooked and served a meal using the seasonal produce from the BC Kitchen Garden. The students all dined together and enjoyed discussing foods that they had not tried before. They have also made Christmas cakes in preparation for Christmas. Ailayah Qazim, a Bishop Challoner sixth form student delivered one of the sessions where the students made cupcakes. This allowed them to practise their piping skills.



## Staff Health Room

There has been yet another winner in the 'health room challenge' where all users' names are put into a raffle to win a voucher. Staff have to commit to visiting the health room weekly to weigh themselves, record their blood pressure and to take a recipe to try out at home. The cooking workshops continue as part of our staff Health and Wellbeing INSET days every half term where staff can learn new skills or gain some tips for healthier cooking. The last session focussed on using up leftovers from evening meals to make lunch for work the next day.

## Key Stage 3

Students at key stage three are following a scheme of work that prepares them for the requirements of the GCSE specification. Most lessons now have a practical element



to them; either they are making a product or they are carrying out basic science investigations. This allows technical terms and scientific language to be introduced gradually. The principles of food safety and nutrition continues to underpin all learning.



# Key Stage 4

Year 11 are now near completion of their first non-examination assessment (NEA). The NEA is a scientific food investigation which will assess their knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food. This task requires them to investigate the working characteristics and the functional properties of sugars as an ingredient for cakes. They had to carry out investigative work to reduce the sugar content in cakes or try an alternative without adversely affecting their sensory qualities.

In between coursework lessons, year 11 are practising their practical skills in readiness for NEA 2, The Food Preparation Assessment. This task requires them to prepare, cook and present three products with accompaniments within a three hour session. The task requires them to show a supportive portfolio of evidence showing research, investigational work, practising practical skills, planning, evaluation and justification. Year 10 have been getting to grips with all aspects of the course starting with practising knife skills, food hygiene and safety, scientific principles behind the cooking of food, nutrition, seasonality and environmental issues such as food waste and miles.



# PRODUCT DESIGN

This year, students are working on four briefs that they have chosen from a selection provided by AQA for the controlled assessment unit. This unit is worth 60% of the overall GCSE, so producing a well manufactured sophisticated outcome is a must to ensure students reach their full potential in the subject.

As always, individual students have been encouraged to generate original design concepts and to take full ownership of their project, developing a product which is innovative as well as functional.

Kyle and Cian have taken inspiration from the iconic Chrysler building with its repetitive use of triangles to give their stereo amplifiers an Art Deco vibe. James Grego is looking to the geometry found in nature as inspiration for his honeycomb shaped speaker and Juan has tried to reflect an organic aesthetic in his designs for copper and brass jewellery.

Callum has experimented with the working properties of acrylic, forming it using heat and various formers to produce a shade for his lamp that is reminiscent of those seen in the 1920's.

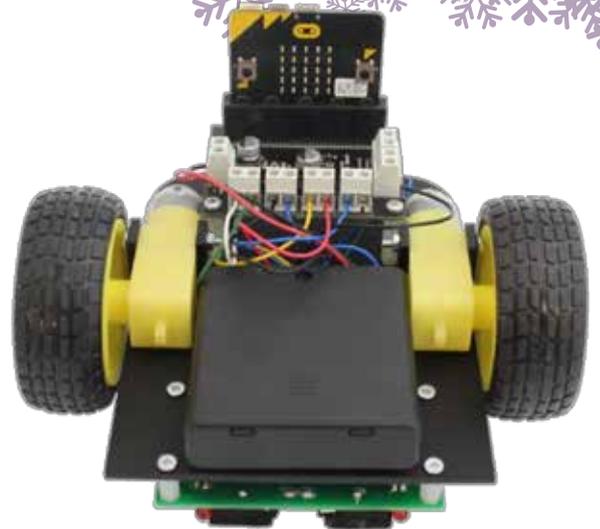
The child development brief is always popular and this has been chosen by all of the students in Mrs Dane's class. Chris is designing a multifunctional children's toy so has been experimenting with polygons that could be used as the shape for the main body of the product, providing plenty of surfaces for a range of interactive activities.

Check out these interesting samples and prototypes produced by the group during the development stages of their projects.



# STEM news

Over the past half term in STEM Club, Year 7 and 8 have been building robots from scratch. This has involved using soft soldering to attach wiring to a pair of motors and then assembling components such as a motor driver board, battery pack and caster wheel onto a laser cut chassis using nuts and bolts.



The robots are controlled by microbits and by downloading a programming code to the microcontroller can be paired to a mobile phone or other device which gives the robot the ability to be remote controlled. Students have also been asked to customise their robots with accessories to give them individual functions such as the ability to move small objects, push other robots out of the way or burst balloons.

Through the project, all group members have developed their knowledge of the programming capabilities of microbit devices, broadened their knowledge of tools, materials and workshop equipment as well as learning how to solve problems on their own and with the help of others. We hope to use the robot buggies as part of a STEM challenge at the KS3 STEM Fair on 20th December. Well done team, great work!!



Our annual Y7 STEM Fair on 20th December will be a fantastic way to finish off the STEM calendar for 2017. This year we will be joined by two new schools, Moseley and Bishop Walsh for whom it will be their first time to send a team of students to take part. We will also be hosting Kings Norton Girls, Kings Heath Boys and Queensbridge who are regular attenders.

Working in groups of four, students will encounter up to eight twenty minute STEM Challenges which will call upon a wide range of skills in order to be completed successfully. They will also have the opportunity to have primary contact with a range of STEM Ambassadors who have volunteered their time to support students during the event. This year we have an engineer from Atkins, an algorithm designer, a manager on the HS2 project, an engineer from Rolls Royce and a particle physics graduate joining us on the day.



## Training and Leadership Development (CPD)

This term we have come over all European! We have Spanish, French and German training available for Secondary Teachers, funded through the DfE. We are working with 4 partner venues around the Midlands to deliver face to face sessions and also with Rosetta Stone, which offers an online support package for 12 months. We are looking to roll this out further in the New Year, and details can be found on our website. TSST programmes in Maths and Science are also proving popular and we are very proud to have been selected to be one of the centres for these again this year.



We currently have over 130 teachers attending our courses!

As well as our well established and popular programmes for Deputy Headteachers, Middle and Senior Leaders, Aspiring Senior Leaders and Newly Qualified Teachers we have also developed a new course for Aspiring Middle Leaders. Our new course from last year focussing on Outstanding Teaching is running again and a third cohort is now taking bookings for January 2018. 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 with such a breadth of local talent.

## School Direct (Teacher Training)

With another strong cohort of trainee teachers across our Alliance of schools, we have nearly 50 training with us this year – our mentors and trainers have been busy. Trainees spend 4 days a week in their host school and 1 day a week at University, which is a nice balance throughout the year. We continue to work with the University of Warwick 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 2018. 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 regular information sessions here at Bishop Challoner. Please see our website for forthcoming events: [www.bctsa.org/Train-to-Teach-Events](http://www.bctsa.org/Train-to-Teach-Events)

## Future Teaching Scholars (FTS)



We are now into Year 2 of our Future Teaching Scholars programme – a new and exciting route into teaching. It is designed for exceptional students who are in Year 13 and plan to study a Maths or Physics related degree at University. Our cohorts are doing really well, and are enjoying the programme – even though it is extra work on top of their degrees! Applications are now open for those who will be starting University in autumn 2018 – and will close on 21st January 2018.



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.

**Find us online** [www.bctsa.org/](http://www.bctsa.org/) Twitter: @teaching\_school/Facebook: Bishop Challoner Teaching School Alliance/ LinkedIn: Bishop Challoner Teaching School Alliance`

Or call us if you have any questions about courses that we run – 0121 441 6175

# 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%.

## FOBC

We have raised £700 from donations from Friends of Bishop Challoner and £1000 from sponsored events in school. Our target is £5000 before the end of the year.

Thank you to all the parents and Friends of Bishop Challoner who have donated kindly to our school. In our Year of Service we have two sponsored football events running on the 14th and 15th December which will raise extra funds for school's enrichment programmes. Later on in the year Friends of Bishop Challoner will be coordinating more sponsored events, including a Quiz and Curry night in March and a Character Sports Week in July.

Your contributions are very much appreciated and on behalf of Friends of Bishop Challoner, I would like to wish all of you a very happy and restful Christmas holiday. For further updates on events and school life, please follow us @bc\_friends on Twitter and @bccc\_friends on Facebook. We are always updating our facebook page with pictures from the past and also celebrating the fantastic work being done by students across the school and community.

## 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](http://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

<b>School Opens</b> Monday 8th January	<b>Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening</b> Thursday 8th February
<b>UCAS Deadline</b> Monday 15th January	<b>Pancake Day (Canteen)</b> Tuesday 13th February
<b>Year 7 Christmas Carol</b> Thursday 25th January	<b>Ash Wednesday Services</b> Wednesday 14th February
<b>Caribbean Day (Canteen)</b> Tuesday 30th January	<b>Lent Services Begin</b> Thursday 15th February
<b>Year 13 Geography Trip</b> Thursday 1st February	<b>Half Term</b> Monday 19th February- Friday 23th February
<b>St Chad's Sanctuary Collection</b> Monday 5th February	<b>School Open</b> Monday 26th February
<b>Year 8/9 Briars Retreat</b> Wednesday 7th February- Friday 9th February	

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM BISHOP  
CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE