

BC NEWS



Autumn 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

The Autumn term comes to a close and what a fantastic term it has been. Each week has been packed with activity and engagement for both students and staff. There has been a wonderful positivity around the school and our students should be proud of the manner in which they have embraced the many opportunities on offer.

At the heart of what has been a hugely successful term has been our focus on 'The Year of Health and Wellbeing'. This has generated a wide array of programmes in which all members of the school community have been able to participate: Primal Scream has been great fun; the Form Mile has been brilliantly supported by all; students and staff have endeavoured to keep their September pledges and year groups have held special events (such as the Year 10 Mental Health focus). The impact on the school has been tangible with great relationships, humour and respect all clearly evident.

Year 10 have continued to set the pace in terms of initiative and imagination when responding to the whole school focus, they have set the bar and KS3 have responded with events such as the Reverse Advent Calendar in Year 7, the Park Run in Year 8 and the Form Meditation in Year 9.

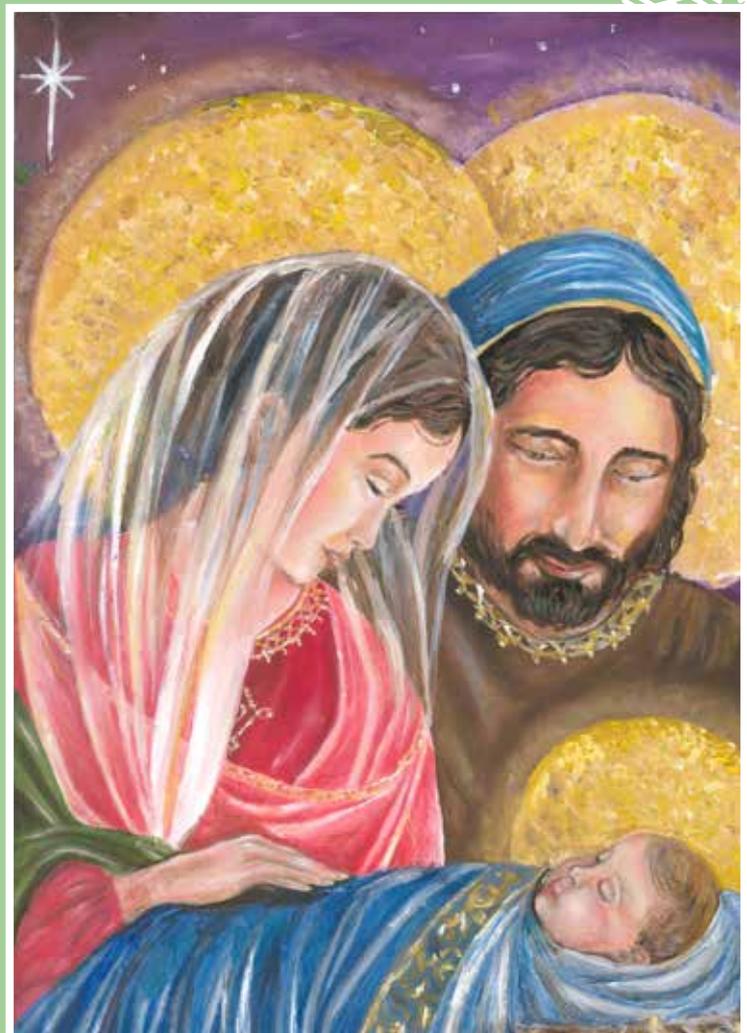
But whilst our "year focus" can clearly be seen to be having a positive effect, it is also important to praise the maturity and excellent attitudes demonstrated by our Sixth Formers and Year 11. Our students in Year 11, 12 and 13 have been fantastic role models throughout this term. They have worked extremely hard, embraced all challenges faced, behaved impeccably and ultimately been a credit to themselves, their families and the school. These year groups are at the sharp end of the new and extremely demanding curriculum and examination changes and they are displaying tremendous resilience.

This has been a great term, we have enjoyed much success, and 2019 offers the prospect for further outstanding achievement.

You can read all about it in the pages that follow.

Wishing you all a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Mr McEvoy
Principal





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SPIRITUAL LIFE

Year 10 Soli House Retreat

Fifteen Year 10 students went on retreat to Soli House in Staffordshire 25th-28th September. We were lucky enough to share the retreat with St Edmund's Catholic Academy, Wolverhampton. On this retreat they had the opportunity to explore their faith as well as grow in friendship and self-belief. They took part in morning and night prayer each day, adoration, reconciliation and mass. They also had the chance to take part in team games, a countryside walk, bubble football, artistic mindfulness and an escape room. As two past pupils of Bishop Challoner School are currently on the team of volunteers doing a gap year at Soli House, our current pupils were able to be directly inspired by the work that they do. It was a wonderful experience for staff and students alike.



St Chad's Sanctuary

This year Bishop Challoner have continued to support St Chad's Sanctuary. During the two weeks before October half term we had a collection of clothing and food which some Year 7 members of the student chaplaincy team delivered to the sanctuary, they were also given a tour and were able to ask questions about what the sanctuary do and why. Year 7 have also begun their reverse Advent calendar, asking people from across the school to donate something to St Chad's each day, Year 12 chaplaincy team members will be delivering these donations just before Christmas.

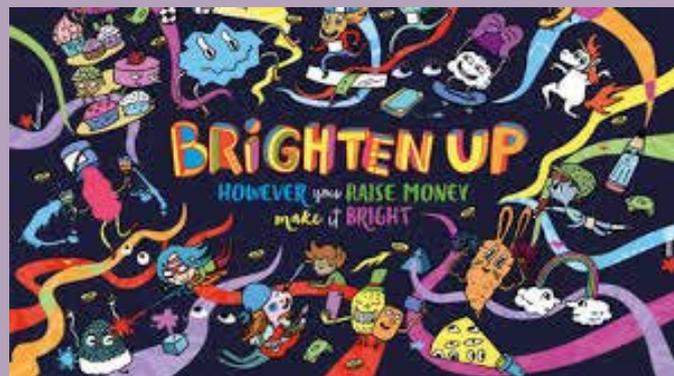
Shoe box Appeal

For a number of years we have taken part in the FSCI charity shoe box appeal, who deliver shoe boxes full of gifts to developing countries. This year the ownership has been placed on form groups to collect money or resources with which to create these shoeboxes. We collected a total of 155 shoeboxes.



Brighten Up for CAFOD

On Friday 5th October we took part in CAFOD's Fast Day appeal 'Brighten Up'. We raised £400 by wearing bright t-shirts, selling glow sticks and offering neon festival paint and nail polishing during break and lunchtime, led by the Student Chaplaincy Team. As the first year of taking part in this we were really pleased with the students' involvement and have ideas as to how we can make it bigger and better next year.



Year 7 Mass

The week before half term year 7 had their first year group Mass. They had been preparing for the Mass for a number of weeks by learning hymns and actions as well as practising readings. They also had the chance to meet Fr Mario in these preparation sessions and learn more about him and why he became a priest. Fr Mario said Mass for us on 24th October. The pupils were fantastic and some even volunteered to lead the actions at the front of the auditorium to 'Sing it in the Valleys'. The Mass was to celebrate their completion of their first term at Bishop Challoner and to formally welcome them into the community.

Tolkien Service Award

The Tolkien Service Award was launched at the Tolkien Heads Cluster Meeting on 13th November. This award is designed to encourage active participation in the Catholic Life of schools across Bishop Challoner and the Tolkien cluster primary schools. This year we launch the award with year 5 with the long-term plan being to extend the award across years 5, 6, 7 and 8 over the next four years.

To receive their bronze award in year 5 pupils have to complete 6 acts of service throughout the school year, 3 in school and 3 in the wider community. These acts are signed off by teachers and once completed students will receive a badge (designed by one of them as part of a competition) in a big celebration in the summer term. Pupil's from a number of our primary schools have sent in their entries for the badge competition, in the hope that their badge will be selected as the bronze award badge given to all successful candidates.

Primary Liaison

This term we have shared remembrance resources with the Tolkien Primary Cluster which they have used as part of their services in the week running up to 11th November. One of these resources was the student-led Remembrance service which enabled students to plan this service for themselves and their peers.

Advent Events

As well as our reverse Advent calendar for St Chad's Sanctuary, pupils have had a number of chances to prepare for Christmas during the Advent season. All year groups have had the opportunity to take part in prayer stations in the library with the themes being focussing, connecting, prayer, wishing, waiting, pondering and joy. They have also done various things in RE lessons such as looking at the symbolism of the Advent Wreath, considering the relevance of Christmas adverts in relation to the true meaning of Christmas and reading the story of the Nativity in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

During Autumn student have been studying the following in their Religious Studies lessons

Year 7 What sort of person do I want to become?

This has enabled students to reflect on the following:

1. What are the differences between our spiritual, social and material selves?
2. What is a soul and does it exist?
3. What are sacred places and how do they support spiritual behavior?
4. What legacy did St Peter leave?
5. What is the role of the Church for Catholics?
6. How can St Francis be an inspiration to us?
7. What sort of person do I want to become?
8. What does 'imago dei' mean for me and my responsibilities?
9. How should Catholic's look after God's creation?
10. What does Pope Francis call us to be stewards of the world? (Laudio Sei)

Year 9 How do we meet the challenges to live justly?

This has enabled students to reflect on the following

1. What is justice?
2. How can some Catholics meet the challenge to live justly?
3. What is the nature of punishment? (Different forms of punishment & laws on capital punishment)
4. What are Catholic teachings on capital punishment?
5. What are Christian views on war?
6. Is there ever such a thing as a 'just war'?
7. What are Catholic teachings on life after death and immortality of the soul?
8. What are Catholic teachings on judgment and purgatory?
9. How can I live justly?

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.

Year 8 How can I find happiness and fulfillment?

This has enabled students to reflect on the following

1. How can Catholic faith make you happy? (philosophies of life)
2. What is the Old Testament and New Testament? (Story of Jonah)
3. What does the New Testament teach about happiness? (Story of Levi)
4. What is a 'vocation and how do we live it out?
5. How do people live out their vocation?
6. What is the role of a priest and why would someone become one?
7. How is Mary a model of happiness for the Church?
8. Why do some people follow Jesus's teachings when it can lead to suffering? (Persecution of Christians in modern world)
9. How do Catholic teachings about death and afterlife bring happiness?
10. What does happiness and fulfillment mean to me?

John Robinson

We are very grateful to John Robinson from the Legion of Mary for his continued support to our students. John attends school weekly to lead groups in lessons and break time in rosary prayer sessions.

John also offers his time and experiences to speak to students about his faith and life experiences.

In the images below John is engaging students in a talk about the war. This talk came immediately after the whole school minute silence and was a powerful experience for our students who asked a range of fascinating questions.



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 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

Sixth Form Newspaper

The student newspaper, which published its first editions last year, has been re-branded slightly as 'The Sixth-Form Score'. This is largely because the student team is now in Year 12 and expressed a desire for the paper to be aimed at the sixth-formers rather than the lower school.



Ms Laszlo, who is supporting the students in their project, will take a more hands-off approach this year to allow the students to take ownership of their work and develop independent research skills. Positions on the writing team have now been filled with Lilly Miller – first recipient of the Bigal Journalism Award – as editor. She is skilfully leading the team towards the first edition of the paper which is due to be disseminated on the 13th of December, a week before we break up for Christmas. The group are highly talented, enthusiastic and visionary. We look forward to seeing it in print!

The subsequent editions will be disseminated as follows:

Edition 2 – Thursday 7th February

Edition 3 – Thursday 4th April

Edition 4 – Thursday 16th May

Romeo and Juliet- Live Stream - Year 11

On Wednesday 21st November, the whole of our year 11 cohort were off-timetable to watch a live-streamed production of the RSC's newest version of 'Romeo and Juliet'.

Year 12 and 13

We are delighted to have 21 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 12 and 13 Trip to The Little Stranger

On Thursday 8th November, 60 Year 12 and 13 students made the journey to Cineworld in Resorts World to see a special screening of The Little Stranger, a new film adaptation of one of the English Literature A Level set texts, written by Sarah Waters. Even before the film started, many of the students experienced a bit of drama as one of the trains carrying many of the students to the venue was delayed for over half an hour. Fortunately, all of the students made it in one piece to the cinema, but the same cannot be said for all the characters in the film, some of whom came to a very grisly end. The film was generally a very faithful adaptation of the book, and, despite one or two of the students being annoyed that it "wasn't scary enough", it served as a very useful recap for Year 13 students and a useful introduction for Year 12 students to this supernatural, gothic horror text.



These RSC livestreams have proved a popular event with students in the past, with productions of Much Ado About Nothing, Love's Labour's Lost, Othello and The Tempest being shown to students from years 7 - 13 over the last three years. As 'Romeo and Juliet' is one of year 11's key Literature texts for their upcoming exams, the livestream was both an enjoyable and educational cultural experience. The play was set in modern day Verona with an equal balance of male

and female actors. Students watched the drama unfold and showed an appreciation for the play, the music and the contemporary issues incorporated into the play, including knife crime. The production brought the text to life for the students and helped them in their revision of the play.



Year 8 Visit Birmingham Children's Hospital- Save a Heart Day

Every year on Save a Heart Day, The British Heart Foundation aim to train over 190,000 people in how to give and deliver CPR safely and effectively. This work is so important because without CPR, the chances of surviving cardiac arrest are zero.

This year, as part of Save a Heart Day, Year 8 visited Birmingham's Children Hospital and met the Resuscitation Team. The team explained the work that they do and their roles within the hospital. Students took part in simulated activities and were given a tour of the hospital. The visit to the ambulance was a particular highlight. At one point, an emergency situation was demonstrated and Bishop Challoner, as the first on the scene, reacted quickly, using the training we had received in the day to call for support and deliver the assistance that the patient needed.

At the end of the day, the students worked on a presentation to explain how other young people could be trained to deliver CPR. They delivered this presentation in front of 30 people including many of the NHS staff.



UK Parliament Week Celebrations

During 12th - 17th November, Bishop Challoner took part in UK Parliament Week. This was a national event with schools around the country learning about the inner workings of Parliament, the impact Parliament has on our daily lives and the history of the UK Parliament. This year's celebrations were centred around the centenary of women's suffrage which is celebrated this year.

As part of these celebrations, a number of events and educational experiences were organised. Firstly, on Monday 12th November, to kick off Parliament Week, the entire Year 8 cohort watched a special screening of the film 'Suffragette' and then undertook some discussion and discovery-based tasks following the completion of the film. Furthermore, throughout the week, Year

7 and 8 students experienced distinct Citizenship lessons centred around both the Parliamentary systems and marked the 100 year anniversary of women gaining the right to vote. These lessons were supported by a bespoke Personal Tutor session which was delivered by staff to students across the school from Year 7 to 13.

There was also a special 'Bishop's Got Talent' event in the library during the break time of Thursday 15th November. This quiz centred around what students had learnt during their Citizenship lessons and Personal Tutor sessions this week; the prize for the winning team was free places on the upcoming trip to Parliament taking place in early 2019.

Year 9 Dignity Project



It is time for our Year 9 community to make a difference!

From January, Year 9 will be collecting toiletries and sanitary products for St Chad's Sanctuary.

Items you can donate:

1. Unwanted Christmas gifts (toiletries)
2. Sanitary products/toilet roll
3. Deodorant
4. Brushes/combs
5. Bath foam
6. Shower gel
7. Razors (in packaging)
8. Wash bag
9. Sponges/flannels
10. Bars of soap
11. Toothbrushes
12. Toothpaste
13. Moisturiser (etc)

MATHEMATICS

Primary Maths Enrichment Sessions

Maths enrichment sessions, for our local primary students, took place in both October and November, with 24 Year 6 pupils from Tolkien cluster schools taking part. The schools taking part this year were: St Alban's; St Dunstan's; Our Lady of Lourdes; St Martin de Porres; St Jude's; St Bernard's; St Edward's; St John & Monica. These events are geared towards enrichment activities and were well received with the pupils undertaking a variety of practical and problem solving maths activities with the support of Bishop Challoner Year 7 and Year 8 pupils. Feedback was awesome; the students thoroughly enjoyed their experience! Five further future events are planned on a monthly basis from December until April!



Girls in STEM

Miss Stone and Mr Guzman accompanied thirteen Year 9 students to the University of Birmingham's 'Girls in STEM' Day on the 12th September. The day was designed to encourage girls to consider studying STEM subjects to A-Level and beyond. Workshops were run by lecturers at the university, and included making an electrochemical cell from a potato, and how to make paint. The day finished with an interesting lecture about species that changed the world.



National Young Mathematicians Award

On the 8th November 2018, four of our gifted and talented students from year 7 took part in the regional round of the National Young Mathematicians Awards at the local Explore Learning Centre. The day was well attended, with a number of local schools competing, and being ranked amongst other schools and centres around the region. Both the staff and students who attended thoroughly enjoyed the day and thought it was fantastically organised. The team of students were commended by the event organisers for "their team spirit and encouragement for each other throughout the day". The students represented the school brilliantly and really did portray the school ethos well. Unfortunately, the team just missed out on progressing to the next round, but never the less really did themselves and the school proud.

Paris

Following a successful and enjoyable visit to Paris in July 2018, the Mathematics department will once again be running a study tour to Paris in July 2019 for Year 8 and Year 9 students. The tour includes a visit to Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, which is the largest Science museum in Europe and has a section devoted to mathematics. There will also be opportunities for students to experience some of the cultural aspects of France, including a tour of Paris, a River Seine cruise and the opportunity to climb Montparnasse Tower for a panoramic view of the city. We also have a scheduled visit to Disneyland Paris. More information about this tour will follow soon.



Christmaths

Bishop Challoner's annual Christmaths event took place on Thursday 6th December. We were joined by 60 Y5 pupils from St Alban's, St Edward's, St Dunstan's, St Anne's, Our Lady of Lourdes, St Bernard's, St Catherine's, St Marys, St John & Monica, St Chads, St Jude's and St Martin de Porres. The children took part in a day of Christmas themed maths activities all designed and delivered by our Y9 Maths Ambassadors and supported by Y7. A fantastic day was had by all which included quizzes, games, building reindeer shelters and a final relay which resulted in St Albans being crowned first place winners and Our Lady of Lourdes as second place runners up. Thank you to all the schools who took part!



SCIENCE

Open Evening's

Open evening in September was again a great window on the department with the demonstrations by pupils and staff proving to be very popular with all our visitors. 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. Year 10 and 11 pupils were on hand to demonstrate some of the GCSE practicals covered in the course.

Our Sixth Form Open Evening proved popular too with many visitors from other Birmingham schools keen to see the A Level experience we offer in science. The sixth form helpers spoke honestly about their happy experience studying Physics, Chemistry and Biology and were quick to say how their teachers are always available to help.



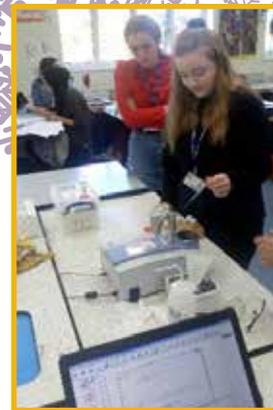
Science Club

Science club has been running since September and has proved very popular with our year 7 students. The eager participants have been enjoying a range of fun practical investigations and experiments after school on a Tuesday. There is a large group of brilliant students who are enthusiastically attending every week. Recently, they have made lava lamps, rockets and slime, and even extracted a sample of DNA. In the lead up to Christmas, pupils have been doing seasonal activities.



Spectroscopy in a suitcase

On Thursday 27th September Dr Mark Read and Ruth Patchett from The University of Birmingham came in to visit year 13 Chemists and deliver their 'Spectroscopy in a Suitcase' session. During the session students were able to prepare their own samples and run their own spectra to be analysed. They then used these along with mass spectra to identify the unknown compounds. Students had studied spectroscopy in year 12 but many commented on how, by taking part in this session, their understanding of this topic had greatly improved. They also really enjoyed being taught by university lecturers and gaining more of an insight into how their studies relate to the real world. It was a session that definitely enhanced the learning of students.



Big Physics quiz GCSE revision

Bishop Challoner will be represented in January at the Big Physics Quiz, held in The Great Hall at the University of Birmingham. A team of year 9 pupils will be taking part in four rounds, including one specialist round the topic of which will be revealed closer to the date. The pupils will also receive a keynote lecture from a scientist from the university.

A reminder that by now all year 11s should have revision guides to help them with their preparation for their GCSEs in May. The guides, together with workbooks, can be bought from the science department. Also, the below link is a good website for pupils to access topic by topic questions for biology, chemistry and physics revision.

<https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/>

Other events

45 Year 7 students went to visit Birmingham University as part of their Christmas lecture programme. They were given two lectures entitled: "Merry Chemistrymass- Santa Rebooted" and "How we put Santa together again". The presentations were geared specifically towards 11 and 12 year olds and were a great opportunity for the students to experience a lecture at the University in an entertaining way.

In April we will be entering a team of year 8 students into the Salters' Chemistry Festival at Birmingham University. We have been attending this event for many years now and it involves the students carrying out experiments in the undergraduate labs and competing with other schools to solve a crime. Again, it proves a real eye-opener to the youngsters and hopefully makes them see the accessibility of University to all.

Science Learning Partnership

Our primary event on the 26th October saw teachers come together to take part in different workshops. Throughout the day, we ran linking maths and science, science in EYFS & KS1, engaging pupils in science and working scientifically.

On November 13th we ran a supermarket science session with Linda Atherton. Feedback from the primary teachers who attended was extremely positive:

'The whole day was so helpful to me. The range of novel ideas was stimulating to me, so I can be very excited to try them with my groups.'

Further primary courses we have are:

Teaching Science in EYFS and KS1

Tuesday 22nd January 2019, 9am-3pm at Lapworth C of E Primary School:

<https://bit.ly/2G3AhoO>

Developing the role of the science subject leader

Thursday 28th February 2019, 9am-3pm at Bishop Challoner Catholic College:

<https://bit.ly/2QfvyEV>

For more or any information contact sciencepartnership@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk



Fully Funded Training!

PHYSICS: Teacher Subject Specialism Training (TSST)

The course

The Teacher Subject Specialism Training (TSST) programme is designed to improve the physics knowledge of non-specialist teachers who may be able to move into a physics role and also those looking to return to the profession. Our core 8 session programme will improve both subject knowledge and classroom practitioner skills, allowing you to confidently teach up to GCSE level

Course structure

- Mix of 8 full day and twilight sessions in Birmingham
- Support and activities in schools, designed and delivered by schools. This includes lesson observations, peer support, action research and other activities as appropriate

Eligibility

TSST Physics is specifically targeted at:

- Non-specialist teachers who could teach Physics in addition to, or as their main subject
- Non-specialist teachers who are currently teaching Physics
- Teachers who are looking to return to the profession
- Teachers who hold QTS or QTLS
- Teachers without QTS working in Academies

COHORTS

- George Eliot, Nuneaton
- St Edmund Campion, Erdington
- Bishop Challoner & Bordesley Green, Birmingham
- Aylesford School and Sixth Form, Warwick

CITIZENSHIP & PSHE

Year 7

Year 7 have been studying rights and responsibilities; they have been identifying human rights and the responsibilities that go hand-in-hand with those rights. They have also been considering whose rights they have a responsibility to protect and how they can seek protection for those rights. Next, they will be moving on to how the UK functions as a democracy. Currently, we are looking into the logistics of taking year 7 and 8 students to parliament in order that they can better understand the role and function of our government and how they can protect our rights.

UK Parliament Week

Beginning on the 12th of November, UK Parliament Week is a celebration and remembrance of the work parliament has done to develop the UK. Because it is 100 years since the law changed to allow women some voting rights, as a school, we have focused UK Parliament Week on the work of the Suffragettes and the impact they have had on equality laws in the UK.



Year 8

Year 8 have been learning about the youth justice system; they are currently investigating what happens in a young offenders' institution. They have studied the system from crime to punishment and how their actions bring about certain consequences. Students have watched a video about life inside a young offenders' institution that encouraged them to contemplate the serious nature of having their freedom taken away. Next, students will be working towards an extended piece of work to assess their learning that focuses on real criminal cases.

On Monday the 12th November, year 8 began the week by watching the film Suffragette so they could better understand the immense sacrifice women have gone through to create a fairer society. Following the film, year 8 engaged in a collective debate about whether the criminal actions of the Suffragettes were heroic or too violent. During personal tutor, the debate continued with further information shared across key stage three and four to help our students better understand how the law as we know it developed.

The events of the week concluded with UK Parliament Week Bishops Got Talent Competition. The break time competition allowed students the opportunity to win a trip to parliament by demonstrating their knowledge in groups of four or less.



Personal Tutor

Personal Tutor time over the last couple of months has centred on the Year of Health & Wellbeing. A plethora of topics have been covered.

- Remembrance day: students contemplated the significance of those who gave their lives for our freedoms today and how we can remember them respectfully.
- Healthy choices: this session focused on the amount of sugar we consume each day. Students were tasked with guessing the amount of sugar in various food items and identifying if it was less or more than the recommended 30g a day quantity.
- Lottery & Happiness: this session included a video about research suggesting that there was no significant difference in happiness levels between those who won the lottery six months after winning and those that had not.

So remembering we shouldn't be eating more than 30grams of sugar a day – how much sugar is in these things?



Some people online are adapting photos taken without consideration for the dead to show the magnitude of what they don't seem to understand...



The Year of Health and Wellbeing is fully underway with incredible opportunities every week for students to develop their physical and mental health. Every year group has engaged in a range of activities to educate, inspire and encourage students to take their health and

wellbeing seriously. According to the Mind, a leading mental health charity, young people can improve their wellbeing in many ways including challenging themselves, trying new things and getting active. Students have engaged in a huge range of activities with these aims in mind, and with even more to come it looks like it will be a great first term.

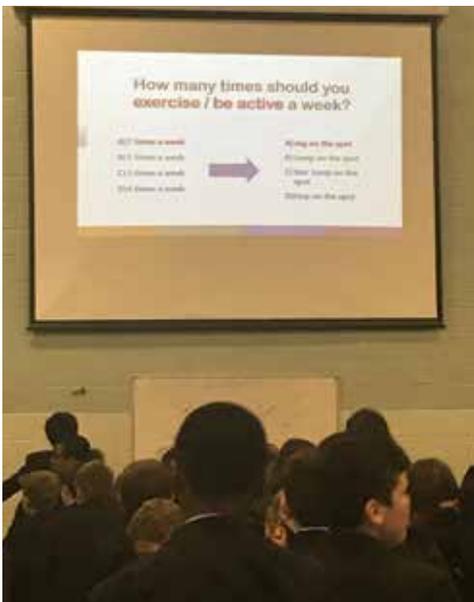


Some activities students have participated in so far include...

- Internet Safety Assemblies have warned students about the repercussions of the dangers surrounding technology and how to keep themselves safe
- Reward assemblies have begun this week for year 7 and 8 - students now have their Commit to Character cards to begin collecting their signatures that can lead to certificates, praise postcards and reward trips
- Year 10 have taken a lead on World Mental Health Awareness Day (10th October) by designing and engaging in a set of activities at lunchtime. All activities aided students in self-reflection, promoted mindfulness or just allowed them the opportunity to enjoy themselves in a different way to a usual lunchtime.
- As a year group, year 7 spent one morning watching the Disney film Inside Out. The film is all about the emotions of an eleven year old girl named Riley; Riley has undergone some big changes in her life and she struggles to cope but eventually she recognises that 'Joy' (one of the characters) is not lost if she just asks for help when she is struggling. Students discussed the mental health messages of the film as part of their time out of lessons.
- Personal Tutor groups have been looking at the stigma of mental health and learning from famous role models who have spoken about how they manage their mental health. Each tutor group has created a Year of Health and Wellbeing slogan as part of a school wide competition, the tutor group with the winning slogan will have a Personal Tutor party next week. Some slogans include: 'happiness is the key to health'; 'be kind to your mind'; 'take a healthy selfie'; 'putting the we in wellness' and 'there is wealth in health'.
- Completing wellbeing pledges and self-assessments during

form time

- Creating wellbeing boards in their form rooms
- Tea and Talk – one year 10 form have been spending more time together, socialising and supporting each other with a weekly breakfast meeting.
- Form time meditation – currently year 9 are on a rota to practise the art of meditation during form time, this will allow them the opportunity to de-stress after a full day of school and learn how to clear their minds.
- Chapel Activities – during break time on a Monday students are invited to complete some mindfulness colouring. Additionally, every Thursday all students are invited say the Rosary in teacher led session that allows for quiet reflection and prayer.
- Primal Scream – year 10 are preparing to lead a school wide competition for the loudest screams. The aim... to let off some steam and have a scream.
- Bishops Got Talent – Soon students will be invited to spend some time de-stressing by demonstrating their talent for crafts over break time.
- Key Stage 3 PE options week – PE have announced to students an opportunity to try something new by selecting the active lessons they can engage in.
- 1 Mile Challenge – a rota for all year groups to complete a form time challenge by running one mile around the school playground begins. Students will be encouraged to push themselves and get active.
- Bishop Challoner's extensive extra-curricular options continue with more students engaging in clubs and sporting activities every week. We encourage all students to try something new each year allowing for new interests and healthier routines to form. These options continue.



Afterschool Club: Try something new...

Club	Day	Start	Finish	Location	Year Group	Teacher
Drama Club	Monday	15:15	16:00	PA3	All	Mrs Jethwa
We Sing	Monday	15:15	16:15	PA2	All	Mrs Choudhury
Homework Club	Monday	15:10	16:00	E4	07-Sep	Mrs Wray/Mrs L McGowan
Science Club	Monday	15:20	16:00	S1	7	Miss H Start
Graphite Club	Monday	15:30	16:30	E2	9 & 10	Ms Laszlo
Year 9 Young Maths Leaders	Tuesday	15:10	16:10	M4	Selected Y9	Mr S Clarke/Mr J Wooler
Keyboard Club	Tuesday	15:15	16:15	PA1	All	Miss Hughes/Mr Kearns
Homework Club	Tuesday	15:10	16:00	E4	07-Sep	Mrs Wray/Mrs L McGowan
STEM Club	Tuesday	15:10	16:10	T4	07-Sep	Mrs O'Connor
Debate Mate (Starting Autumn Term 2)	Tuesday	15:10	16:10	English	-	Miss R Lloyd
Art Club	Wednesday	15:10	16:15	A1	KS3	Miss H Swingler
Maths Drop in/Homework Help	Wednesday	15:10	16:10	C5	07-Oct	Miss L Stone
Homework Club	Wednesday	15:10	16:00	E4	07-Sep	Mrs Wray/Mrs L McGowan
Maths Gifted and Talented Club	Wednesday	15:10	16:10	M6	7 & 8	Mr J Bloxidge/Miss H Middup
Design and Technology Club	Wednesday Week 1	15:15	16:15	T2	KS3	Miss Conroy
Cookery Club	Wednesday Week 2	15:15	16:30	T5	KS3	Miss Lynch
BC Band	Thursday	08:10	08:40	PA2	All	Mrs Choudhury
Dance Club	Thursday	15:30	16:15	Dance Studio	All	Miss Williams
Homework Club	Thursday	15:10	16:00	E4	07-Sep	Mrs Wray/Mrs L McGowan
Rock School	Thursday	15:15	16:15	Recording Studio	All	Miss Hughes/Mr Kearns

Sport Clubs: Get Active

		Times:	Sports Hall:	Dojo:	Off-site:	Study Session/s:	
BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE - P.E. EXTRA CURRICULAR PROGRAMME:	MONDAY	745-830	Boys Football Mr Wilson All Years (Boys)			(WK1) GCSE P.E. Miss Ellis & Mr Moon 310-430 (PE1)	
		310-430	Girls Football Miss Hampson & Miss Crump All Years (Girls)				
	TUESDAY	745-830	Cricket Miss Ellis All Years (Girls)	Y8 Football Mr Moreira & Mr Naheem Y8 Boys Team	COD: Dodgeball Mr Wilson All Years (Mixed)		(WK1) BTEC Sport Miss Ball 310-430 (PE1)
		310-430	BTEC Sport (Study Session ONLY) Mr Noone 310-430				(WK2) BTEC Sport Mr Noone 310-430 (C1)
		430-530			Judo & Jujitsu Mr Hudson 5pm +		
	WEDNESDAY	745-830	Netball Mrs Moon & Miss Ball Year 7 & 8 Girls				
		310-430	Basketball Miss Hampson & Mr Moreira All Years (Mixed)				
	THURSDAY	745-830	Badminton & Table Tennis Mr Moon & Mr Naheem All Years (Mixed)		Gymnastics Miss Beall All Years (Mixed)		(WK1) GCSE P.E. Mr Moon & Miss Ellis 310-430 (PE1)
		310-430	Netball Miss Hunter Year 9 & 10 Girls			Rugby Mr Noone All Years (Mixed)	(WK1) BTEC Dance Miss Beall 310-430 (C1)
		430-530			Judo & Jujitsu Mr Hudson 5pm +		
	FRIDAY	745-830	Volleyball Miss Ball & Mr Ibrahim All Years (Mixed)				

Year 11 Health & Wellbeing Day

On Friday 19th October, Year 11 had their final Health & Wellbeing Day. Students were off timetable so they could spend some quality time in workshops that aimed to teach them about myriad topics: effective revision methods, looking after one's mental health, the dangers of drinking and using drugs, how to have healthy relationships and how to avoid exploitation. Students were signposted to various different support organisations and to support within school so they know how to seek help should they need it.

Feedback from students was incredibly positive. In the morning, the year group watched a powerful performance from Loudmouth (a local drama company) who told a moving story that followed the life of a girl who suffered grooming during an unhealthy relationship. The story cleverly demonstrates how easy it is to isolate oneself from one's friends and family.



The day ended with an optional active activity; students had the choice between various different activities: Zumba, dodgeball, basketball, self-defence, yoga and a personal trainer session. The activities were led by a mixture of teachers and visiting experts.



How can your family stay fit this winter?

Are you considering how to stay healthy and happy as a family this winter? If so, here are a few activities in the local area you may want to look into...

Cannon Hill Park Run

Ages 4 – 14 Every Sunday at 9am, Junior Parkrun is open for juniors aged 4 to 14 years old. The run is 2k is aimed at giving young people the opportunity to develop their health as well as have fun. The run is completely free and parents can participate with their children too. To find out more information please see <http://www.parkrun.org.uk/cannon-hill-juniors/>

For older children and adults, every Saturday at 9am a 5k Parkrun takes place at Cannon Hill. Once registered you can enjoy your free place by taking your registration barcode that will allow you to time your run, but just like all Parkruns the focus is on enjoying yourself, so if you feel a little full from all the Christmas chocolate head to Cannon Hill park this weekend! For more information <http://www.parkrun.org.uk/cannon-hill/>



Free, 2k, run for 4-14 year olds

Cannon Hill

Every Sunday at 9:00 AM

Meet at the Bandstand at 8.50 with family and friends

Register online & print your barcode:
www.parkrun.org.uk/register

12 Days of Fitmas

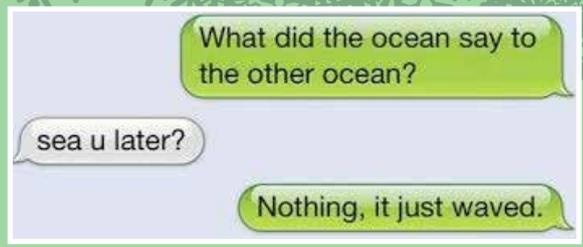
In school this year our PE department have launched 12 days of Fitmas to encourage students to get or stay fit and active. If you are enthused by your son/daughter's engagement, or what to encourage them to get involved by getting active yourself you may consider a great offer on at many local leisure centres including Cocks Moors Woods. For just £12 new customers are able to visit 12 times. Visitors can make use of their swimming pool, gym and fitness classes. For more information please see <https://12daysweb.pgtb.me/t26tdK>



Mrs Atkins: Health & Wellbeing Tip

Take time to laugh - Spanish Poet Pablo Neruda said "Laughter is the Language of the Soul" - it can brighten your day, bring people together and is proven to lower blood pressure, alleviate stress and keeps your heart healthy!

One of my favourite pastimes is finding and using Puns, but watching comedy shows and films together as a family, or going to comedy nights are great ways to spend quality time and improve your general well being. Why not try a daily joke or pun at teatime, or set up a Try not to Laugh Challenge or a family joke off.



GEOGRAPHY

Year 7

As an introduction to Geography, Year 7 begun the term with a unit of work focusing on different skills including compass directions and grid references. The Year 7 Geographers enjoyed using maps of the local area to demonstrate the skills they have developed and engaged in paired and group competitions.



They will now shortly be completing their second topic whereby they have been exploring the United Kingdom. This has allowed the students to look at geographical concepts such as river systems, coastal erosion, migration and glaciation. The unit of work enables the students to demonstrate their knowledge in a range of ways including creative writing, describing and explaining patterns, group debate as well as presenting their very own news report.

Year 8

Year 8 this term have been exploring their first country study of Russia. Throughout the term they have studied the vast diversity in the physical landscape of the country and have used this to explain patterns in population density. They have also demonstrated their ability to evaluate topical issues such as pollution through extended writing as well as participating in class debates over Russia extracting oil in the Arctic.

Bishop's Got Talent



During the Autumn Term the Geography Department ran an escape room style event whereby students needed to use their geographical understanding of the rainforest to answers questions. The students' answers were then used to crack the code to 'escape the room'. Our KS3 Geographers were extremely engaged in the game and showed excellent team work, racing to the finish line to be the winning team.

Year 9

Year 9 students are currently learning about the world's leading superpower the United States of America. Students have been investigating a range Geographical concepts throughout the unit of work including Physical factors such as the formation of the Rocky Mountains, the risk of volcanic activity in Yellowstone Nation Park and the formation of hurricanes.

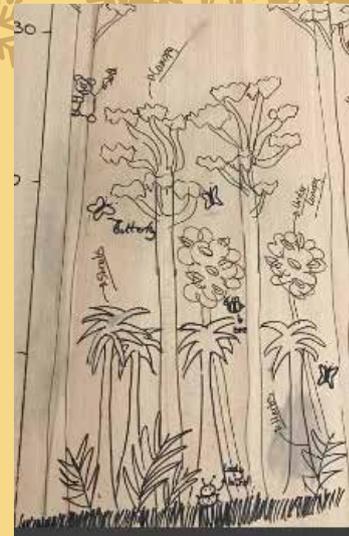
They have also investigated the USA's interesting and continually changing human environments, from mega cities like New York to urban regeneration in areas like Detroit. This unit has really helped develop students' Geographical understanding of a variety of key concepts and has enabled them to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding in a range of ways such a report style writing, letter writing and extending Point Evidence Explain Paragraphs.

Year 10

Year 10 students have made a pleasing start to Key Stage 4. Students have just finished the first topic entitled the 'The Living World'. Students have been learning about major biomes and ecosystems in the world with a recent focus being students learning about the tropical rainforests found in Malaysia and the hot desert environments of India.

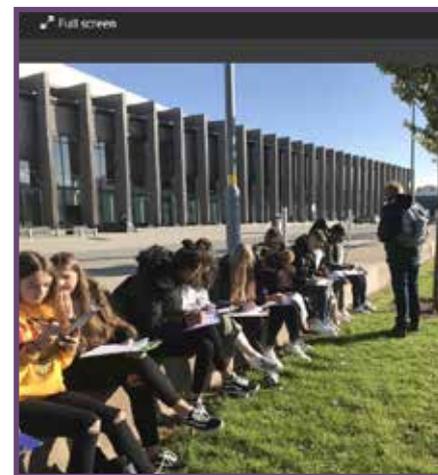
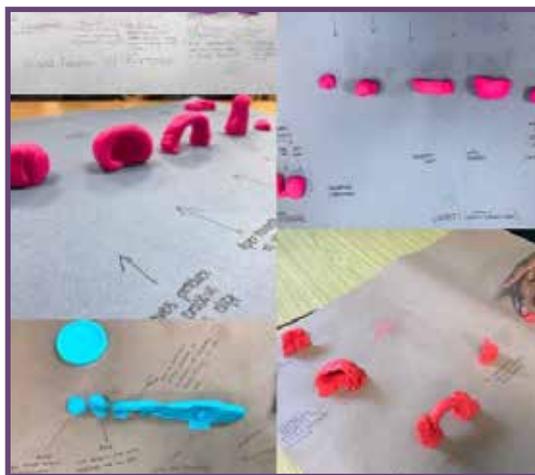


The next unit of work students will be studying is called 'The Challenges and Issues of Urban Environments', with a focus on the opportunities and challenges we face in an ever urbanising world.



Year 11

Year 11 have recently finished a topic entitled 'Physical Landscapes in the UK'. Within this topic they have been learning about river processes and landforms with a focus on the longest river in the UK; the River Severn. Students have also been learning about the Dorset coastline, studying the geology and formation of this coastline. Students have also been on a field visit this term to Longbridge in Birmingham. Students have been investigating the de-industrialisation of this area and have been evaluating the success of the recent regeneration to the area.



Year 12

All Sixth Form students now have two teachers at A level to allow teachers to specialise in areas of expertise. In Physical Geography students are currently learning about natural hazards and how humans can manage and mitigate against hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, forest fires and tropical storms. In Human Geography students are currently learning about globalisation and its impacts on towns and cities around the world.



Year 13

Year 13 students are working hard in preparation for their final exams and recent assessed work has generally been very pleasing. In Physical Geography students are learning about the carbon cycle and its local and global importance. In Human Geography students have been learning about the opportunities and challenges facing some of the world's megacities such as Shanghai. All Year 13 students are also in the process of completing independent geographical investigations. There are some very interesting pieces of research being carried out by our students such as the one student investigating the causes of the urban heat islands effect in different parts of Birmingham and another student investigating the links between crime and social inequalities in different parts of the city.

HISTORY

A Christmas Truce

It was 100 years ago that the armistice officially ending the First World War was signed. In this year of remembrance, the History Department at Bishop Challoner were proud to honour the local fallen as part of the schools commemoration event. The history of the First World War is inescapable; it is in many ways a part of our national conscience formed over the last fifty years through education, film, literature and more recently through television adverts for a well-known supermarket. The subject of this last example was the Christmas truce of 1914 when - so the story goes - soldiers across the front line downed their rifles and took to No Man's Land for a game of football. Juxtaposed to images of muddy trenches, disease and machine guns the idea of both sides coming together for an innocent moment of peace is an endearing one. But how real is this image?

The Christmas truce of 1914 did not stretch across the whole of the western front and it most certainly was not encouraged by the military leadership. Where it did happen, it was spontaneous with reports of men signing carols and tentatively leaving the trenches to exchange gifts and take photos with the other side. A kick around of a ball of two may have occurred but evidence of an organised match does not exist. In other parts of the frontline soldiers stopped fighting and buried the dead. The temporary truce that established itself in 1914 did not happen again during the course of the war. By 1915 attitudes towards the enemy had hardened and military command made sure that soldiers did not fraternise with the enemy again. Yet the myth of the truce continues I think in part because of its enduring image of peace between men of different nations who could easily have been friends had circumstances been different.

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 allocation of sweets to represent land. Those students who were peasants learnt first-hand the imbalance of wealth and power in the medieval period. Students are now engaged in 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

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, a number of 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 who went 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.

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 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 4 & 5

Year 10 have made a really positive start to their GCSE studies. The cohort have shown good understanding through their assessed work. Students have been learning about Hitler's rise to power and how he consolidated his power from chancellor to dictator. As part of their course they are also learning the skills necessary to analyse source evidence and historical interpretations. These skills will prove vitally important should they continue to study History post-GCSE.

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. Having learnt the causes and conflicts of the Cold War they are now beginning to look at how the Cold War came to an end. The subject provides students with an understanding of how the modern world was shaped by the post-war years.

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 run up to the Christmas holidays the Performing Arts team were busier than ever with a number of events for students and parents/carers to enjoy.

Christmas by Candlelight

Our Christmas show this year was 'Christmas by Candlelight: A Winter Celebration' and was held in the auditorium on Monday 3rd December to a sell-out, very appreciative audience! It was lovely to see so many families and staff supporting our students for a night of song, dance, music and festive cheer. Experienced performers such as Georgie and Daniel performed solo numbers alongside some of our youngest Year 7 pupils such as Skyla and Erin. The show opened with 'A Million Dreams' from The Greatest Showman and the programme included performances by the Year 8 steel pan ensemble, BC Woodwind group, BC Brass, our new Ukulele Group and the wonderful BC Band, who performed Glenn Miller's In The Mood.

Several bands also made their auditorium debut with students from Y7-10 showing their ensemble skills. Sixth Formers Ben and Morgan provided some beautiful entrance music on brass and supported the entire event backstage, helping with lights, visuals, stage management and conducting. The final dance numbers brought the evening to a close and the audience went home with a mince pie and some Christmas cheer.



Christmas Tea Party

The cast from the Christmas show reconvened to reprise their performances for some local residents at the Christmas Tea Party for local senior citizens. Despite tiring rehearsals and a long day on Monday, they brought their energy, enthusiasm and musical skills to the Sixth Form Centre where they entertained the visitors. As always, it's so encouraging to see our students working with the local community, and the audience loved seeing our students dance and sing in their Christmas jumpers!



The Wizard of Oz

A very fortunate group of students visited the Birmingham Rep theatre at the end of term to see a matinee performance of 'The Wizard of Oz'. This production has been praised by critics and audiences and our BTEC Performing Arts students are studying and researching this popular musical this term. They loved seeing the musical numbers come to life on stage and it gave our pupils a great insight into theatre production, costume design, set design and performance techniques.

Christmas Mass

The final event in the calendar this term will see some of our singers leading the school in carols during the Christmas Mass. Our students can then take a well-earned break from their performing and rehearsals until next term!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Lots of students have been taking part in the extra-curricular clubs that are on offer this term. Basketball and badminton have both become increasingly popular with an outstanding 50 students in attendance. As well as this, The Call of Duty Dodgeball club has had a phenomenal turn out with over 70 students attending. This club is now being run on a Tuesday and Friday morning by popular demand. Also as an extra opportunity for Year 7 and 8 is basketball on a Thursday afternoon. Year 7, 8 and 9 indoor cricket has begun with the finals to be held at Edgbaston Cricket ground. As well as this a selected 15 students from Year 7 and 8 have started to receive fantastic coaching by a Warwickshire cricket coach on a Tuesday after school!

Since September students have been developing their skills and understanding in a range of sport, including, badminton, handball, cricket, rugby, swimming, tennis and football.



Wasps Rugby Coaches

Year 9 boys have had some excellent coaching from WASPS Rugby coaches at the transport ground this term. The picture below shows the class who have really thrived last half term and are excited for the trials with the academy. WASPS are also offering Year 7-9 boys a chance to play for a professional team. This opportunity has been taking place at Shirley Rugby club. As well as this Year 9 have received another fantastic opportunity at Cocksmoor. All Year 9 classes have been participating in TRIP which is an interactive spin session. All classes will receive this fantastic opportunity in their PE lessons to encourage the Year of Health and Wellbeing.



Intra-school Competitions

It has been a very busy term for fixtures, as well as an intra-form volleyball competition alongside school games competitions in futsal, handball, badminton and table tennis. The first of 6 intra school competitions was held before October half term in the sports hall! An amazing 70 students turned up, participating in teams of at least 6, battling against each other playing volleyball. The talent and determination from the students was fantastic with 9 teams entered from the Year 7 forms alone!

A huge congratulations to all those who participated and especially 7LIV for being the overall winner! The next intra school competition is trampolining at the start of December which many students have already signed up for!

Girls' Futsal Competition

Some of our greatest success so far this year has included the girls futsal competition and the boys football teams across all year groups. 3 girls' teams entered the futsal tournament held at King Edward's Camp Hill. The Year 7 girls team came out on top winning 2 out of their 3 (Moseley 3 – 1 and Swanshurst 1 – 0) games and drawing against UoB in their final game. Miss Hunter was extremely proud of the girls as they showed fantastic team work as the games went on!

As a new team playing in their first tournament their encouragement and skill between them was a pleasure to watch! They now progress to the futsal arena final with a date still to be confirmed in the New Year. As well as this the Year 7 and 8 girls joined together to compete in the Birmingham City women tournament. The girls played fantastic as a team and won the tournament overall. A huge achievement for the girls!



Football News

The Year 7 boys football team have had an undefeated start to their season with two wins in the league against Kings Norton Boys and St George's and one in the Birmingham Cup against St John Wall. They then went on to win a close and highly entertaining game against Highfields School 3-2 in the West Midlands Cup! Well done to all the boys involved and a special mention to Joji, Finn and Aidan for their goals.

The Year 8 boys football team remains undefeated this season. They continue progressing through the Birmingham cup, after beating Bishop Walsh 4-1 to progress to round 3 of the tournament. An excellent performance all round with particular highlights from Harry B for his work ethic and determination when holding down the midfield and Nathaniel M with 3 goals. They now go on to face Smiths Wood Academy. The Year 9 boys football team are into the quarter finals of the Birmingham cup after beating St Thomas Aquinas (5 -1) and Alderbrook (7-3). As well as this, the boys beat Caludon Castle to ensure they secured another place in the quarter finals but this time in the West Midlands Cup!

Congratulations to the Year 9 team that are still top of the U14 Kings Norton and South Birmingham League!

The Year 10 boys football team have also played phenomenally in the early start to the season. They won 2 – 0 in extra time against Kings Norton to progress to the second round of the Birmingham Cup. Their league victory continues as they have won all the games so far including beating Wheelers lane.

Finally, for the boys football teams, the Year 11 boys beat Summerhill in round 2 of the West Midlands Cup last week. A fantastic effort shown from the boys! The 6th Form team played against Coventry College in the West Midlands Cup last week. Unfortunately they lost 2 -1, however the boys played extremely well.

Netball

Netball fixtures this term have been extremely positive.

Year 7 girls have had a good start to the season. They have won one match and lost one! However, the girls are continuing with their efforts and are showing great developments over the week! The Year 7 netball captain (Niamh) wrote a mini match report and highlighted:

"Our opponents were a strong team with brilliant passes and determination. However, that did not stop us working hard at possession and shooting. Amazing defence helped to intercept the ball so less goals were scored. Something that our Year 7 team could improve on is getting in front of their marker."

Year 8 netballers have continued their winning streak, beating Camp Hill 13-8 and Turves Green 15-8. The game against Camp Hill was not easy, but the girls showed great determination and had a fighting spirit until the end, with their efforts paying off. During the Turves Green game the girls played superbly, both in and out of their usual positions. With the end of the league nearing, we are hoping to continue our success!



Year 9 have had a committed start to the season. The girls have won 3 matches so far against King Edwards VI Ways 21 – 8, Lordswood girls 27 – 1 and Queensbridge 22 – 10. Unfortunately, the girls lost their first game of the season against Edgbaston High School for girls with a close score of 24-29. Miss Hunter commented that the girls this year are stronger than ever, they have determination, positivity and a great attitude for the season ahead.



Year 10 have had a fantastic start to the season playing 5 games already! The girls have won four out of their five games against local schools Batley Green, Selly Park girls, Bournville and Colmers! The girls have been a credit to not only themselves but to the school, they have showed great determination and resilience throughout their games!

Basketball

The Year 8 boys basketball team remains undefeated this season after beating St Thomas Aquinas, Kings Norton Boys, St Georges and Camp Hill. They are top of their group with hopes of progressing to the knockout stages of the Birmingham League. They will also be commencing the NBA Jr League this month with fixtures against Queensbridge, St Bedes and St Georges to happen before Christmas.

Year 9 boys have unfortunately lost 3 out of 3 games so far this season, with only 3 matches remaining, we are hoping to gain some points to push up the table.

Year 10 played in a round robin tournament at King Edwards Camp Hill Boys school where they played 4 games. The boys won 2 and lost 2. Well done to Ethan for being our star player.

Climbing

A massive well done to the girls who participated in the first climbing competition at Bordesley Green Girls School. The girls finished first with the best average time, great determination shown!



Health and Wellbeing in PE

As part of the Year of Health and Wellbeing, the PE department are providing a variety of opportunities to students to improve their health and wellbeing.

On Monday 22nd October Year 8 also participated in a fun run/walk to overcome personal challenges. This event was a perfect opportunity for students to exercise, spend time outdoors, appreciate nature and work together as a team, running and walking with each which is important for student's mental wellbeing.

The second event is the 12 days of Christmas where children and staff get the opportunity to use the newly refurbished fitness suite and keep track of their every day activities.

Other Opportunities

Another opportunity that KS3 students have been able to get involved in within lessons is an option lesson. The PE department offered four different sports (Goal ball, Tchoukball, Call of Duty Dodgeball and Ultimate Frisbee) for the students to participate in. The idea of options week was for students to choose a sport of their choice with their friends if they wish and participate in a different sport. This allowed students to be with their friends and try something new! A huge success first time around along with students showing great enjoyment!

MEDIA STUDIES

The Media Studies department has had a really exciting start to the academic year.

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 over the next two year A Levels.



Upcoming Events

The boys in Year 7 and 8 have the fantastic opportunity to travel to Milan with Mr Wilson for the boys football trip and the Year 7,8 and 9 girls will be attending PGL for netball with Miss Ball! For the Milan trip, please continue to ensure that payments are kept up to date and all passports, EHC cards and U18 consent forms are in by Thursday 20th December at the latest!

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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 in November. This is an analysis of the 'This Girl Can' campaign, compared with a 'Quality Street' advert from the 1950s. They are now moving onto Bond old and new with a comparison of The Man With The Golden Gun and Spectre.



Year 11, 12 & 13

Year 11 are busy completing their DVD covers and posters for either a Spy or Romantic Comedy film Year 12 are learning all about the Indie and Mainstream film industry and How radio 4's 'Late Night Woman's Hour teaches its target audience and Year 13 are in full swing with their music videos and magazine articles.

Trip to British Film Institute

Friday 16th November was our annual trip to the BFI where our Year 12 and 13 students had a study day on some key topics with Media representation. The day was an interactive lecture and students learnt about some core texts for their exam and participated fully with the tasks they were given. They got a lot out of the day and really impressed the guest lecturer on their media responses and knowledge.



Into Film Festival

On 22nd November some Year 12 and 13 Media Studies students attended the Into Film Festival to see 'Love Simon'. The film ties in with representations of underrepresented groups in society. Furthermore, there was guest speaker from the British Board of Film Classification discussing regulation in the film industry. The students learnt a lot about film regulation – especially about how certain words were less of an issue for certain local authorities when categorising films! Regulation is a key topic that students need to know for their exams and they found the day highly enjoyable.



Cross-Curricular

November 7th and 8th saw a cross-curricular team up with Media, History, English, Art and Music to create two evenings celebrating the Centenary of the end of World War One. Media students from Year 13 helped to create part of a 10 minute documentary showcasing Birmingham's efforts during the war and the soldiers of Kings Heath.

They researched events and filmed locations such as the streets where our soldiers lived and the cemeteries in which they were buried in. Mrs Klerides edited the rest of the documentary and included footage about what the two cultural Literacy groups were working on and some of the wonderful poetry written from all year groups in the school.



COMPUTING & ICT

Key Stage 3

This half term year 7 students have been working on their netbook proficiency; looking at how their netbooks work and understanding how to take care of them. Part of this programme of study has seen the students provided with their school email accounts, a lesson that also taught them the need for professionalism when using a works email. They have also looked at the processes used in school for accessing printers and shared areas.



Year 8 and 9 students have been following courses of study based around text-based programming, in particular focusing on the programming language Python. Year 8 have followed an introductory course, looking at the similarities and differences between block based and text-based programming. Year 9 have continued on from a course of study they followed previously, this time focusing on the fundamental ideas such as loops and conditions.

Key Stage 5

The year 13 computer science group have spent a lot of lesson time since returning after half term, recapping topics from the beginning of year 12. Coinciding with this, students have completed a number of assessments to see just how well they can recall these topics that were last looked at in depth over 12 months ago. Alongside this practice, students have also been working on their programming project in their own time. The programming projects are looking good and some already resemble fully fledged games.

The year 12 computer science group have spent their first full term studying two strands of the course. With Mr Ravenscroft they have been looking at algorithms and the implementation of some of the more fundamental ones. They have also looked at Data Structures and how data can be stored and manipulated in different connotations. With Mr Ebrahim the group have been looking at system architecture in greater detail than at GCSE, studying the use of registers inside the CPU and how they work at an instruction by instruction basis.

Bebras Challenge 2018

Both of the Year 12 and 13 computer science groups took part in the Bebras Challenge 2018. This is an annual event in which schools across the country compete in age categories; our sixth form students competed in the Elite category. The process is that students are presented with tasks that can be solved without prior knowledge but instead require logical thinking. Only the top 10% of students nationally move through to the next stage. We are pleased to say that 3 of our students did just this!

The next round of the competition takes place in March 2019 and we cannot wait to see what these 3 students can achieve then!



Key Stage 4

The Year 11 computer science groups have continued their work on the course of study, in particular focusing on aspects of revision and how to revise this subject. In the build-up to their mocks, students have spent lesson time looking at revision techniques for computer science, and then applied them to varied topics such as Networks and Sorting Algorithms. The year 11 mock dates are/were as follows and we wish them all the best in their completion of the mocks:

- Monday 10th December, 1:30pm- 01 Computer Systems
- Wednesday 12th December, 1.30pm- 02 Algorithms and Programming

The year 10 computer science group have continued their journey into the various topics and have spent the past few weeks looking at systems architecture; what components make up a computer and how do they work. Moving forward into the new year the group will spend some time getting to grips with practical programming, a scheme of work that is enjoyed by both teacher and student.

The Year 11 ICT groups are continuing their work in the build-up to the January exam for their CIDA course. The exam is going to be the week commencing Monday 7th January and will last for 2 and a half hours. During this exam the students will be given a scenario for which they must produce a website and the assets that go with it. Since September, students have spent lesson and study session time looking at the various pieces of software available to them and how they can be utilised in the exam process. We of course wish them the very best with this coming exam.

The Year 10 ICT groups continue to study the OCR Cambridge Nationals course. At this point in the year both groups have done 2 assessments, one for each component that they are doing with the two teachers. One of the components has focused on project management and the tools that are available to a project manager to ensure that the process remains on time and in budget. The other component has seen the groups look at data and its use with information. For this they have looked at data types, databases and the need for a justified storage solution for their information.



Year 12 have continued their programme of studies with both Mr Ravenscroft and Mr Khitab. With Mr Ravenscroft they have been looking at the tools of database software (Microsoft Access) and assessing how these can be used to enable a small business to store its information digitally. With Mr Khitab they have been looking at the use of social media for a business and how it can have both positive and negative effects if used incorrectly.

FRENCH

Students have access to a range of websites on which they can practise French. From grammar skills to vocabulary learning and revisions, we have something for you. We would like to direct parents towards www.frenchbc.weebly.com - this is Bishop Challoner MFL department's own website. You will find some help, homework or sometimes links to videos to explain a particularly challenging concept.

Year 7

In their first year of learning French at secondary school level, students have been learning how to introduce themselves, talk about their personality, colours and animals. They will soon turn to physical descriptions.

We are currently planning a day trip for Year 7 to go to Boulogne, France in June 2019. The letters will be available in January 2019 and the trip will be advertised on Schoolcomms. Please discuss with your child if this is something he/she would be interested in.

Year 10

Well done to all year 10 students for completing their P1 assessments in French about the topics of local area, charities and healthy living, which was perfectly in line with our Bishop Challoner year of health and well-being. Before the end of this year we will have completed module 7 which is about the environment and homelessness.

By the end of the year, we will have covered all the Foundation topics of GCSE.

The MFL department would like to encourage students to start to learn and revise the vocabulary as soon as they start a new topic. Doing so will reduce anxiety and improve children's confidence when assessments come.

Year 8

The first module they studied covered TV programs, films, activities on the Internet. More recently, they have started to learn about Paris and the wonderful icons that make this city so special. These two modules will be at the centre of the approaching assessments (Transition 1).

Year 9

We have talked about family and friend relationships, celebrations in France and worked hard on perfect tense and verb forms. They have completed P3 assessments, which are a stepping-stone towards their end of year T2 assessments.

Year 11

As advised in the revision tips sent to parents few weeks ago, we advise our students to make use of various online resources in order to prepare for their end of year examinations. You will find some tips on our departmental blog www.frenchbc.weebly.com.

Please be aware that the GCSE speaking examinations will be taking place towards the end of April/ beginning of May, which will be before their whole school examinations.

JOYEUX NOËL ET BONNE ANNÉE

OLC

The OLC is usually bursting at the seams with students keen to revise, do homework or meet with friends before, after and during school. There is a lovely atmosphere as students appreciate this special space which has hosted several Bishop's Got Talent and other events. The latest of these was set up by the Chaplaincy Team, to encourage reflection as we prepare for Christmas. We are looking forward to the Library Monitor Party and our end of term Reading Club sessions.

After Christmas our new Match Funding fiction books will be arriving to swell the book shelves and make them more inviting.

Wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas

The Library Team.



Children are more likely to read if they own books. Maybe Father Christmas will bring a new book, or a nearly new book from a Charity shop or Christmas Bazaar (be proud to recycle).

Encourage your children to keep reading books throughout secondary school. They really will benefit in so many ways. Surely that's one of the best gifts you can give your child?

Please contact Mrs Fanning in the School Library if you wish to talk about encouraging your child to read for pleasure. If I can help in anyway, I will.

ART & DESIGN

Art Club

Art Club is the most attended after school club and has its highest number of attendees ever! Members have been creating portraits, improving their drawing skills and socializing with other artsy members of the Challoner community. Members were given loyalty cards at the beginning of the year – 10 sessions attended and students will receive their own sketchbook to create work in at home. The club is thriving, loud and a warm and inviting space for students to explore their creativity and improve their practical skills! Watch this space for the next masterpieces!



Students in Art Club have taken a break from their portraiture studies to design mischievous elves that will be displayed around Kings Heath as part of a trail organised by Kings Heath bid.



Year 7

Year 7 have been exploring photography in lessons, taking inspiration from Edward Weston's work. This has involved editing the images post-shoot to bring out the dramatic tones that are found in his work.



Year 8

Year 8 have been looking at memorial art and its power within society. Comparing the work of David Kracov and Anselm Kiefer, students have been writing about the importance of art in public space. They have worked with a range of materials, including coffee and pencil and watercolour paint.

Year 9

Year 9 students have been exploring the emotive techniques of Vincent Van Gogh. They have recreated a section of 'Starry Night' using acrylic, building up the movement of the weather and the artists' mental state using expressive brushstrokes.



Year 10

Year 10 have now broken off into their own independent journeys exploring natural form and architecture. They have recently been working with wax entrapment and teabags to create small vignettes using collage.



Year 11

Year 11 have just completed their figure and portrait exam, which meant each student created large scale final pieces that relate to their own individual practice. This has included a range of materials being used, namely oil paint and pen studies that explore portraiture and figure in innovative and exciting ways.



‘There But Not There’

The art department created a collection of artworks in commemoration of the 100 year anniversary since the First World War ended. With such an important topic, it was clear that Art should create something poignant yet powerful, ethereal yet strong enough to be ingrained in people’s memory.

One element of the project was working with Key Stage 3 and 4 students to create a collaborative installation. Art Club members (Year 7, 8 & 9) and staff handmade over 150 paper poppies out of trench maps. These included delicate drawings inside and excerpts from students’ poems devised in English lessons handwritten across the petals, ripped with painted red edges.

These small sculptures became part of a large installation, co-created by Lydia Parkes, one of the school’s Artists in Residence, planted across a stretch of fabric that was printed with a patchwork of maps and year 10 students’ drawings of poppies and skylarks – inspired by John MacCrae’s In Flanders Fields. The fabric swept across the space it was exhibited in; the details were intricate and personal; the final collaborative installation bold and thought-provoking.



Four life size silhouettes of a WW1 soldier were formed using the laser cutter in the DT department and stood at the front of school, watching over the space. These were to symbolise the four fallen men who didn’t come back from the front line to Institute Road – and through this work, we were about to bring them home. These were inspired by the ‘There, but not there’ movement taking place across the world, and aim to be the unshakable concluding image of our Armistice commemorations.



These were supported by 100 small figures formed in the same pose that were scattered across the grass embankment outside of the school entrance. The soldiers were situated around red flowers planted by the art department, and each included a name of a fallen soldier from the Kings Heath and Moseley area, and their date of death.

Similarly, clear acrylic soldier statues stood as representatives for each soldier researched by the Cultural Literacy students. Current residents of these soldiers' homes were invited to collect their statue and bring their soldier home.



Our Artist in Residence and past student, Niamh Ryan, recreated Monet's 'Poppy Field' painting across the book bench, reviving it with oil paint with vibrant shades and breath-taking detail. This sits dramatically between the open silhouette soldier sculptures and the large poppy created last year that hung glistening in the light under the school sign.



Textiles Club

This term Textiles club have been introduced to sewing machine techniques, as many of members of Textiles club are new to the school with little or no experience of using the sewing machines. They have been working independently and in teams to create their own bunting, personalising it with pattern, text and stitch detail. Alongside this, students have also spent time producing poppy brooches. At least 100 poppies have been handcrafted and money is continuing to be raised.



Staff H&W - Dressmaking Club

Over the last 10 weeks the staff dressmaking club have been learning stitch techniques and practising their making skills. Most of them are new to dressmaking and so we have introduced them to the basic principles of dressmaking. They have focused on developing sewing machine skills to create bunting, and are now part way through making a basic skirt with an invisible zip. Staff have found it challenging at times but have all persevered and should all have a finished skirt before Christmas. I am sure a staff fashion show will be our next challenge!



FOOD STUDIES

BC Staff Health Room

As part of the 'Year of Health and Wellbeing' staff have been encouraged to take part in a pledge. The pledge can be anything that they want to focus on to improve their physical health and mental health. The pledge is displayed on their door or in a prominent place for all to see. Staff then have the opportunity to take part in raffle where they visit the staff health room once a week to sign a book to confirm their commitment to their pledge. The raffle takes place in staff briefing. Currently recipes are been donated by staff to help compile a BC 'Go to' recipe book. The recipes could be their ultimate indulgence recipe, healthy or time saving recipe. The recipe book was available on Parents' Consultation day in December.



Cookery Club

Cookery Club is well established with committed and aspiring cooks. They have been practising their baking skills in readiness for Christmas cookery. They have made a classic Victoria Sponge, cookies and gingerbread men. The Christmas cake fruit bases are made and ready for marzipan and icing with the help of our 'in-house' expert sugar crafter Julie Jones. They will continue to practise their skills in preparation for the parents' Christmas afternoon tea at the end of term. The cookery club will continue into the New Year where the focus will be healthier eating.



Key Stage 3

Students at key stage three are following an adapted scheme of work that will prepare them for a vocational GCSE in Hospitality and Catering at key stage four. In year 7 they learn about the fundamentals such as food, kitchen and personal hygiene while focusing on personal safety and equipment safety. They learn how to use a knife safely while practicing basic skills in cooking. They have started to learn about the sensory qualities of food and have so far made fruit fusion using knife skills, wraps to further develop precision with knives, apple crumble focussing on seasonality and environmental issues and chicken goujons where they investigate animal welfare.



Year 8 have been considering temperature control when processing foods, why sensory evaluation is paramount in food product development and food provenance. They will know how a number of food sources are grown, reared and caught and understand how animals are reared links to the quality of the product. They have continued to apply their knowledge of food safety and personal safety in practical work. They have made bolognese focussing on high risk foods; chicken fajitas and banana cake whilst considering food waste and focaccia to help understand food provenance. This affords the students the opportunity to go out into the BC Kitchen Garden to use the produce. They will continue to practise their baking skills and investigate diet and portion control.



Year 9 investigate potential food poisoning errors and identify key poisoning bacterium. They learn about and practise different types of sensory tasting used in the food industry. They have made a chilli-con-carne focussing on how ingredients are farmed assured or responsibly sourced; this also helps them refine and practise precision knife skills and to follow their own production plan. They have also been investigating the science of cooking when making pizza and apple cakes where they investigated raising agents, dextrinization and coagulation.

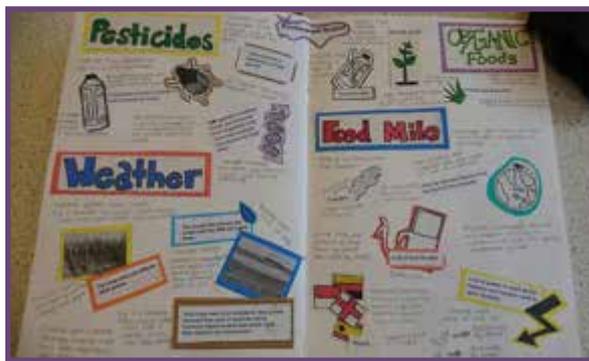
As part of the year of Health and Wellbeing a speaker came from Animal Aid to year nine lessons to do a presentation about food provenance, vegetarianism and veganism. The students had the opportunity to watch a DVD relating to ethical issues surrounding food production and the impact of the consumption of meat and meat related products. They all tasted a smoothie using entirely vegan ingredients

Key Stage 4

Year 10 are doing vocational award in Hospitality and Catering. It has been designed to support students who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. The course consists of two units, unit 1 (external examination) where they focus on the catering and hospitality industry and unit 2 (practical element), hospitality and catering in action. Both units enable the students to develop knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering provider; how they operate, issues relate to nutrition and food safety. They will develop their food preparation and cooking skills. This term they have made soup, chicken tikka, Chelsea buns, chocolate and orange cake, whisked sponge and pastry products.

Year 11 have now completed their external examination (Unit 3) of their Vcert Level 2 Food and Cookery qualification and we await the results on 19th January 2019. They have also completed Unit 1 of their coursework where they prepare six products that showcase a variety of cooking skills and preparation skills. Products made include pastry products, pizza, pasta dishes, Chinese chicken curry, Bombay potatoes, cheesecake, burritos and home-made burgers. Theory involves preparing oneself and the environment for cooking and assessing potential risks and hazards and well as demonstrating safe and effective use of equipment in a practical setting. They have to demonstrate and explain the purpose of the ingredients in their products.

Students are now working on Unit 2 of their coursework which focuses on the food groups and factors that affect food choices such as social, environmental, cost and sensory factors. This will help them make informed choices when deciding what to cook.



SIXTH FORM

University Application

The offers continue to roll in. Many of our students are getting excellent offers from some of the best universities in the country.

We are particularly excited this year, with a record number of Oxbridge applications, all of our applicants have been called for an interview at Oxford or Cambridge next month. Equally exciting is that each of our medicine and dentistry applicants has been offered at least one interview.

We continue to give our full support and wish good luck to each and every one of our students!

Apprenticeship Applicants

Workshops have started to support student who are looking to go into an apprenticeship after their A Levels. This can be a very attractive proposition with some providers allowing successful applicants to work for degree level qualifications, whilst at the same time earning and learning on the job.

Christmas Fair

On Wednesday 12th December Year 12, assisted by some Year 13 student volunteers, held our first Christmas Fair. There was a great variety of fun activities for KS3 students to get involved in; craft stalls, sweets stalls, games and more! A huge success. Well done to all involved.

Health and Well-Being Day

Year 12 had a Health and Wellbeing Day on Tuesday 11th. They took part in workshops on a range of issues such as healthy and unhealthy risks, ways to promote healthy mind and body, and healthy relationships.

Sir Doug Ellis Pathway to Health Care Programme

This year all three applicants who applied for this excellent widening participation in Medicine programme at Aston University have been successful. These students will receive ongoing support throughout year 12 and into year 13, including masterclasses, work shadowing, hospital placements and interview preparation. We are particularly pleased for them, as we know Aston had far more applicants than they were able to accept this year, so all three student have done extremely well.

Bulletins

We are sending out weekly "Opportunities" bulletins to year 12, to ensure no one misses out on a masterclass, summer school, workshop or any other opportunity.

Year 13s will be receiving a bulletin detailing all the apprenticeship opportunities.

Sixth Formers raising money for St Chad's Sanctuary

A group of Sixth Formers volunteered their time and efforts to serve refreshments at the Christmas by Candlelight concert at the start of December. A lovely way to start Advent off with some service to others; they were raising funds for St Chad's Sanctuary.



CAREERS

What's new?

Miss McGowan has taken over from Fiona Wright (Wright Careers) as our Careers Adviser in school and will now be providing the Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (Careers interviews) to students in Years 7-11 as well as Sixth Form students. Miss McGowan is working hard to support all Year 11 pupils to ensure that they have at least one careers interview by February. If you have any questions, worries or concerns about your son/daughter's next steps (particularly if they are in Year 11), please contact Miss McGowan on e.mcgowan@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

As the Careers Leader at Bishop Challoner Catholic College I would like to introduce myself and to update you on what's happening in school regarding careers. Schools are now required to have a named Careers Leader in school to oversee the careers provision and ensure the best possible outcomes for our students. Miss Darby

Autumn term

This term there have been a number of talks from representatives in a range of professions such as a Landscape Architecture from Capita, a Solicitor from Pinsent Masons, an Assistant Psychologist from Children's Services and a former student who is now an apprentice at JLR.

We are delighted that so many Sixth Form students are receiving offers to do a range of degree courses up and down the country and that all five of our Oxbridge applicants have received interviews as well as a number of students who have received interviews for medicine and dentistry.

Spring term

As well as a Careers focus in PSHE lessons in KS3, the whole of Year 7 will be involved in a Careers Project after Christmas which will give them greater exposure to some of the careers that exist within certain industries. The annual Careers Fair is taking place on **Wednesday 27th February**. This is where we welcome a broad range of employers and universities to talk about careers and different pathways with pupils from Years 8-13. The Year 12 Careers Speed Networking event also takes place on **19th March**.

Looking ahead...

The summer term is when our Year 10 and 12 students have the opportunity to do two weeks of work experience. Students are being asked to secure these placements now. If you, or anyone you know may be able to offer some valuable work experience to students with an interest in that type of work, please email me at e.darby@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

Get in touch!

Please contact me on e.darby@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk if you can contribute to any of our forthcoming careers events, support our work experience programme or you would like to give a careers talk.

And finally. In response to the changes in Careers statutory guidance, we are evaluating our careers education programme. Please also get in touch if you feel that there is something that should be covered within it.

Happy Christmas! Miss Darby

Training and Leadership Development (CPLD)

This term we have come over all Europe! 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 (Leading and Managing), Middle and Senior Leaders

(NPQML and NPQSL), Aspiring Middle and Senior Leaders (AMLP and ASLP) and Newly Qualified Teachers (NQT Development) we have also developed a new and unique Ethical Leadership course. It is suitable for Teachers and Leaders from Primary and Secondary Schools to develop their leadership skills whilst retaining strong religious values within their leadership roles. Described by course delegates as “inspiring”, “insightful” and “wonderful”. To book your place on any of these courses please visit www.bctsa.org

Our new course from last year focussing on Outstanding Teaching is running again. 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.

Future Teaching Scholars (FTS)

We are now into Year 3 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 2019 – and will close on 21st January 2019.

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.



School Direct

With another strong cohort of trainee teachers across our Alliance of schools - we have 40 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 2019. 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

Return to Teaching

This programme offers teachers, returning from a career break, a dedicated support package to teach EBacc; English Language; History and Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) including, French, Spanish and German. For more information visit www.education.gov.uk/caring-return

As the lead school for the Birmingham Programme, Bishop Challoner Catholic College forwards details of vacancies to the DfE. Contact Chris Taylor at c.taylor@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk if you wish the DfE to advertise your vacancies (April 2018 – July 2019).

International Teachers

Bishop Challoner Teaching School Alliance (BCTSA), in partnership with Arthur Terry School, is a Regional Network for the Department of Education’s International Teacher Recruitment (ITR) programme to recruit highly talented overseas teachers in Maths and Physics for schools in the West Midlands.

If your school has vacancies for experienced Maths or Physics teachers contact Chris Taylor. c.taylor@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk to express an interest.

Find us online: www.bctsa.org / Twitter: @teaching_school / Facebook: Bishop Challoner Teaching School Alliance LinkedIn: Bishop Challoner Teaching School Alliance or call us on 0121 441 6175

MATHS HUB



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for Excellence in the
Teaching of Mathematics



The Central Maths Hub

Providing support and opportunities to enrich the professional development of your whole Mathematics team

Ways to get involved and find out more:

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- Visit our website to explore our opportunities and to register for a programme or course
- Follow us on Twitter for the most up to date information

The Central Maths Hub, coordinated by The NCETM and part of the National Maths Hubs network, works in partnership with local schools, colleges Universities, CPD providers, maths experts and employers to drive improvement in Maths education.

We support and fund a wide range of professional development opportunities to enable colleagues and whole teams across the phases to develop as practitioners. The often free opportunities range from one off twilights, to more involved programmes across the year; through funded courses, Work Groups and collaborative projects.

www.centralmathshub.com

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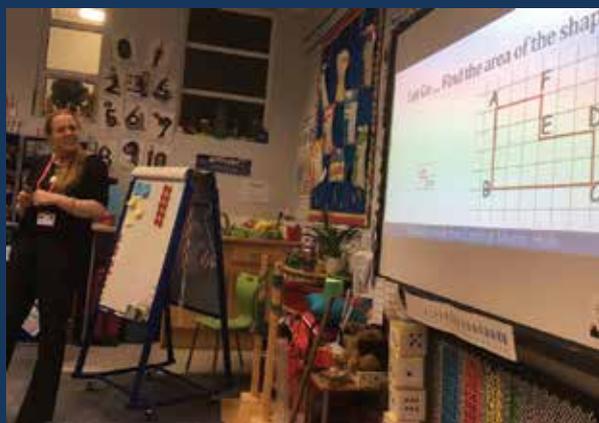
Involvement could be the first step into further academic study or towards greater confidence and responsibility in your school



Working with us will give you and your school the opportunity to be part of a vibrant network of over 2,500 local professionals; to develop best practice, share ideas and make a real difference to the Maths education delivered in our classrooms.

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- Mathematical Reasoning
- Subject Knowledge Enhancement
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OTHER BC NEWS

Uniform

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

Please note that school shoes must be kept completely black. There are a number of styles, particularly for girls, currently in fashion with wood style soles. These are not suitable for school. School shoes should also be leather and not patent.

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

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

Attendance and Punctuality

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

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

The school attendance target is 96%.

Year 7- 96%
Year 8- 96%
Year 9- 95%
Year 10- 95%
Year 11- 95%
Whole School- 96%

Schoolcomms

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

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

Mobile Phones

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

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

Important Dates

School Opens

Monday 7th January

Lent Service begins

Thursday 7th February

Whole School Charity Assemblies begin

Monday 14th January

Canteen Indian Day

Tuesday 12th February

UCAS Deadline

School Charity Assemblies

Tuesday 15th January

Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening, 6-8pm

Thursday 14th February

Canteen Sugar Awareness Day

Year 13 Psychology Trip

Wednesday 16th January

Geography Year 10 Iceland Trip

Friday 15th February-
Monday 18th February

BGT Auditions

Tuesday 22nd January

Half Term

Monday 18th February-
Friday 22nd February

Canteen Caribbean Day

Tuesday 29th January

School Open

Monday 25th February

St Chad's Sanctuary Collections begin

Monday 4th February

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM
BISHOP CHALLONER
CATHOLIC COLLEGE**



Would you consider sponsoring our termly Newsletters?

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

If you would like to sponsor our newsletter and support Bishop Challoner, please email: Gerald Noone g.noone@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk or call on 0121 4444161.



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School Fund and Match Fund

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

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