

# BC News



Spring 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our Easter Newsletter. Undoubtedly you will be aware of the exciting and high profile events of the recent past:

- Mr Robinson winning £500,000 on Who Wants To Be A Millionaire
- Miss Swingler winning fame (and hopefully fortune) with her TV appearance on the Nationwide advertisement.
- Dominick Cunningham opening our new Fitness Suite.

It has been one celebrity event after another.

Not to be outdone, the student body has also produced many memorable achievements, including:

- Year 8 boys football reaching the Birmingham Cup Final
- Year 7 girls winning the city wide School Games Football competition
- Year 9 boys football reaching a regional cup semi-final and also in the Trevor Gill Final at Villa Park, 22/04/2019
- Year 10 boys football reaching a regional cup quarter-final and also in the Villa Cup Final at Villa Park, 22/04/2019
- Bishops Got Talent Events
  - Hoopla Frenzy (Library)
  - Pantomime (Performing Arts)
  - Inter Year Girls BB (PE)
  - The Vikings (History)
  - Code Breaking Bad (Science)
  - Who Wants to be a Millionaire (English)
- Whole School Charity Selection – British Heart Foundation
- Primary Maths G & T Club
- Year 7 CBSO visit
- Year 8 T1 Breakfast Breaks
- Year 9 Options Evening
- Year 9 Holocaust Event
- Year 9 Inter Form Basketball
- Year 10 Inter-Form Sports Events
- Year 12 Andy Street Assembly
- Urban Debate Mate KS3
- St Chad's Sanctuary Collections at the end of each half-term
- Y7/8 Condover Sports Residential
- Geography Iceland Residential
- Year 7 boys and Year 9 and 11 girls becoming basketball champions
- Year 8 girls winning the basketball league
- Ahlaam earning a place at Northwestern University, Illinois
- Pantea a place at Cambridge University to study Architecture
- Dillon and Oliver, Year 12, winning the Columbia Prize for their Eco video
- Year 10 DofE expedition
- Milan football trip quiz
- Year 12 Higher Education and Careers days
- Fox Hollie's residential supported by our Year 9 Leaders
- Year 10 band playing in Digbeth

The school continues to flourish thanks to the great commitment of the staff and the energy and enthusiasm of the students. This is despite the relentless stress and challenge created by austerity. There is a continual battle to ensure the sustainability of all that we value about the 'Challoner Way'. It is a battle where we are holding our own but one which requires constant vigilance and no end of creative initiative. In this regard, the support of parents/carers through School Fund is greatly appreciated, we are very grateful for the financial assistance provided by families.

The end of the Spring Term signals the beginning of the public examination season. We wish all our Year 11 and Year 13 students success this summer as they strive to achieve their target grades. The level of industry in the school has been intense and students and staff deserve recognition for all their hard work.

I am delighted to be able to advise you that there will be a new build to replace the portacabins on the back playground. The work is due to start next term and will undoubtedly bring some initial disruption. We are, however, delighted with the news and look forward to having these new facilities available for our students.

On Wednesday 10th April 2019 the Governing Body announced Dr Coughlan as the next Principal of our great school. This is a wonderful appointment and the school will undoubtedly prosper under a truly outstanding leader of education.

Congratulations Dr Coughlan.

Wishing you all a happy and holy Easter.

Mr K McEvoy  
**Principal**

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# SPIRITUAL LIFE

## School Charity

At the start of the New Year pupils had the opportunity to vote for this year's school charity. They completed an initial survey for charity suggestions before a final vote between the two most popular charities: Mind, Mental Health Charity and British Heart Foundation (BHF), the winner was BHF. Students are now raising money for their chosen charity.



## Shrove Tuesday/ Pancake Day

On Shrove Tuesday the canteen raised money for our school charity, pupil Sonny Butcher won a hamper for guessing the amount of pancakes that would be sold. Making the most of the indulgence before Lenten fasting begins.

## Lent

Various events have taken place and continue to take place during this Lenten season in preparation for Easter.

- Reconciliation sessions – Students from years 7-9 have had the opportunity to take part in prayer stations which reflect on what Lent is all about, all year groups have had the opportunity to speak to Fr Mario to seek forgiveness for any wrongdoings and be reconciled with God.
- Lent assemblies – Heads of Year have delivered assemblies on various topics throughout Lent to help our students preparing for Easter.
- Form activities – form groups have had the opportunity to take part in various activities on the theme of Lent such as the game show 'The Chase', 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' (inspired by the win of our own celebrity Mr Robinson), Mini Lent services focusing on Random Acts of Kindness and daily collective worship.

## Legion of Mary

John and Michael from the Legion of Mary have been leading sessions every Wednesday with students across key stage 3. This has given students the opportunity to listen someone that is not their teacher, on topics that have been part of their curriculum. Some of the topics they have covered are pilgrimage, Mary as a disciple, good and evil, the passion of Jesus.

## Valentine's Day

Miss Bisset and the School Council ran a fundraising event about the heart and Valentine's Day getting us off to a good start by raising £50.

## St Chad's Sanctuary

During February staff and pupils collected a huge amount of donations for St Chad's Sanctuary. Pupils from year 9 categorised the collection and members of the year 8 chaplaincy team delivered these and were able to have a short tour around the sanctuary to witness the wonderful work that is being done there.

Year 9 have also taken part in the Dignity Project focusing on the importance of access to sanitation, they took it upon themselves as a year group to provide sanitary and toiletry products to be delivered to St Chad's.

## Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday all pupils took part in pupil-led services to prepare for the season of Lent. The students in the chaplaincy team, talked about the importance of preparation for Easter and leading us through the gospel and prayer before all students had the opportunity to receive ashes.

## Weekly Rosary

We have also been lucky that John, from the Legion of Mary, has been willing to facilitate our sixth form students in leading younger pupils through the Rosary on a weekly basis at break time. Pupils have also led personal tutor sessions about the Rosary which was inspired by Ann Hegerty from 'The Chase' who said the Rosary on the popular programme 'I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here'.

## Tolkien Service Award

The Tolkien Service Award has officially been launched in our feeder primary schools with all pupils receiving their passport. Many pupils also took part in a competition to design the badge that students will receive for bronze, silver and gold awards. The winner was from St Bernard's Primary and it has now been made and delivered. Our second Catholic Life Cluster meeting took place on the 5th March where we were able to share Lenten resources, discuss the RE curriculum and section 48 inspection requirements.

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**KEY STAGE 3** The key stage 3 Religious Education curriculum has continued to evolve this academic year as the department continue to provide a curriculum that develops the engages students and provides a strong foundation for contemporary morality whilst also developing the skills and knowledge required to be prepare them for the transition to be GCSE ready.

## Year 7

Recently year 7 students have been focusing their learning on the big question 'Who is God and Why are people religious?'

This unit of work has enabled students to explore questions such as;

- Why are people religious?
- What is the Holy Trinity?
- Who is God the father?
- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- Who is Jesus the incarnation?
- How did Jesus suffer for us?
- Jesus lived, died and rose again to save us – what does this mean?
- What did Jesus teach us through the beatitudes?
- What struggles did the followers of Jesus face?
- Who was St Bernadette and what is a pilgrimage to Lourdes?

This unit of work has allowed students to develop a deep understanding of why people choose to live a religious life and how this can impact positively on the life of the believer.

Students have demonstrated high levels of maturity and intelligence in their ability to learn highly technical terms and through their ability to come to grips with extremely challenging concepts such as the Holy Trinity and Jesus as the incarnation.

Students have shown excellent research skills through the use of their netbooks during this topic, this was particularly prominent in the work on Lourdes as a place of pilgrimage.

More recently students have begun studying the topic 'What are the signs of Catholic identity'. The focus of this unit it to help students understand the uniqueness of the Catholic Church and to introduce students to concepts where knowledge can be layered over time as part of the process of becoming GCSE ready.

This unit will allow students to explore questions such as;

- What does it mean to be Catholic?
- What are the sacraments and why are they important?
- What does the life of a Catholic look like? (Symbols)
- What does the bible teach on sacraments?
- What is the sacrament of baptism and how is it celebrated?
- What is the sacrament of confirmation and how is it celebrated?
- How does confirmation link to Pentecost and vocation?
- What is the sacrament of the Eucharist and how is it celebrated?
- What happens at Mass and why is it an important celebration?
- What is the rosary and why is it important to Catholics?

## Year 8

Year 8 students have been working extremely hard on the development of their learning through the study of the unit 'Why do people suffer?'. This unit has been the focus of year 8's recent T1 assessment, where students were provided with the opportunity to showcase both their subject knowledge and their mastery skills.

The T1 assessment was designed in a manner that allowed students to show their ability to re-call knowledge, communicate understanding, show the ability to critically analyse and evaluate views after considering a range of opinions.

These skills are part of the Religious Education mastery process that sees all units of work designed in a layered approach that focuses on the continual development of mastering these skills as part of a process to help students to be GCSE ready and in the longer term, building the foundation for ks5 skills should students choose to progress further with their studies.

The subject content of the T1 assessment challenged students to demonstrate their understanding in the following areas:

- What does it mean to be Catholic?
- What are the sacraments and why are they important?
- What does the life of a Catholic look like? (Symbols)
- What does the bible teach on sacraments?
- What is the sacrament of baptism and how is it celebrated?
- What is the sacrament of confirmation and how is it celebrated?
- How does confirmation link to Pentecost and vocation?
- What is the sacrament of the Eucharist and how is it celebrated?
- What happens at Mass and why is it an important celebration?
- What is the rosary and why is it important to Catholics?

The subject content and skills assessed in this unit of work were extremely academically challenging and students should be very proud of the mature manner in which they completed their preparations and final assessment.

## Year 9

Year 9 students are now approaching the final stages of their key stage 3 curriculum and their Religious Education mastery process across key stage 3.

Most recently students have been studying the unit 'How is the Catholic Church unique?'

This unit has allowed students to consider the following areas of study:

- What is the Catechism and Catholic Magisterium?
- How does the Church act as the 'Body of Christ'?
- How is Mary seen as a model of the Church? (Discipleship, faith & dedication)
- How is the Nicene Creed a declaration of faith and where did it come from?

(Continued on the next page)

- What is the nature of the Trinity? (Refer to St Augustine & biblical evidence)
- What is the incarnation?
- How is Jesus the best moral example?
- What does stewardship mean to Catholics? (Laudato Si)
- What are humanist views on stewardship?

This unit of work has allowed students to deepen their understanding of key concepts within Catholicism, with a specific focus on developing their understanding required for the transition to GCSE in year 10.

Students will now turn their attention to the unit 'Does God exist?'. This unit of work will be the assessed area for their T2 assessments and will enable students to focus on developing revision skills as well as necessary subject knowledge. We are highly confident of students completing highly academic pieces of work in this area and we look forward to preparing students in areas of revision and assessment preparation with the view of helping students complete ks3 with a range of necessary skills for GCSE.

## KEY STAGE 4, Year 10

Year 10 continue to make excellent progress in their first year of GCSE studies.

This year has seen year 10 reflect on issues such as;

- Catholic and scientific views regarding the origins of the universe.
- Catholic views on The Sanctity of Life.
- Religious and non - religious views concerning abortion and euthanasia.
- The importance of preserving and protecting the planet.
- Reflecting on why God may allow evil and suffering.
- Reflecting on Jesus as a source of moral authority.

Students have recently begun to study Judaism which will contribute 25% towards their final GCSE grade. After studying Judaism, students will then begin revision preparations towards a mock examination which will indicate the progress made this year. We look forward to helping students develop their revision skills and analysing these results and setting targets for next year in preparation for year 11.

## KEY STAGE 5, Year 12

Year 12 are making excellent strides in their A-level studies. Recently students have been focusing on Philosophy and Ethic and this has seen them study areas such as;

- Whether inductive arguments for God's existence are persuasive.
- The effectiveness of the cosmological/teleological argument for God's existence.
- Whether cosmological/teleological arguments for God's existence are persuasive in the 21st Century.
- The effectiveness of the challenges to the cosmological/teleological argument for God's existence.
- Whether scientific explanations are more persuasive than philosophical explanations for the universe's existence.
- The degree to which human law should be influenced by Aquinas' Natural Law.
- The extent to which the absolutist and/or deontological nature of Aquinas' Natural Law works in contemporary society.
- The strengths and weaknesses of Aquinas' Natural Law.
- A consideration of whether Aquinas' Natural Law promotes injustice.
- The effectiveness of Aquinas' Natural Law in dealing with ethical issues.
- The extent to which Aquinas' Natural Law is meaningless without a belief in a creator God.

## Year 11

Year 11 have continued to display outstanding attitudes towards their learning and we are delighted with their focus and dedication to the course.

In recent weeks Year 11 have completed the GCSE content for their three summer examinations.

In recent weeks this has seen students reflect on issues such as;

- The difference between crime and sin, their relationship to morality, with reference to absolutist and relativistic approaches to the morality of actions.
- The different rationales given for criminal penalties: retribution, deterrence, rehabilitation and a critical evaluation of the justifiability of each.
- Arguments for and against Capital punishment within Christianity.
- U.K. laws, festivals and traditions are rooted in the Christian tradition. However, festivals, beliefs and cultures of other religious and non-religious traditions are also recognised and celebrated.
- Christian teachings about forgiveness, including interpretations of teachings: with reference to the tension between forgiveness and punishment

Year 11 now have the opportunity to commence a sustained period of revision in preparation for their examinations in May. Currently lessons are focused on revisiting key content and modelling examples of quality responses to examination stimuli. This preparation time is intended to help students to be fully equipped with both knowledge and exam technique required for success.

Students have demonstrated high levels of engagement throughout and much work has been completed recently to help students understand the required skills for success at AO1 and AO2. It has been extremely pleasing to see students engaged in their subject knowledge and now beginning the process of putting this knowledge into high quality written outcomes.



# Year 13

Year 13 students are approaching the end of learning content for their summer term and we are looking forward to a sustained period of revision to ensure students are fully equipped for the summer exam.

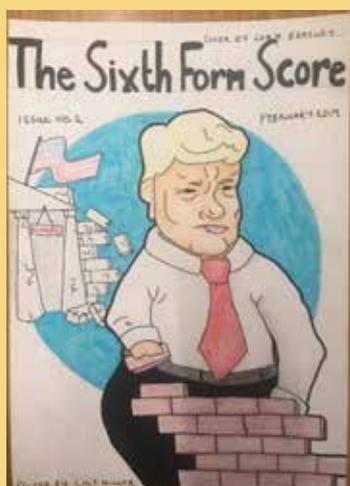
In the final weeks of the spring term students will be completing their learning on Christianity which has allowed them to reflect on questions such as;

- Whether the work of the World Council of Churches can be viewed as a success or a failure.
- The extent to which the non-membership of the Roman Catholic Church affects the aims of the World Council of Churches.
- The strengths and weaknesses of the Charismatic Movement.
- Whether a natural explanation for charismatic experiences conflicts with the religious value of the experience.
- Whether the political and ethical foundations of liberation theology are more important than any
- The extent to which liberation theology offered a cultural challenge to the Roman Catholic Church.

# ENGLISH

## The Sixth Form Score

Issue No.2 of the Sixth Form Score (the new Sixth-Form newspaper) was arguably even better than the first. With articles on the American government's partial shut-down (questioning the motivations and morality of Donald Trump) and the continued persecution of Muslims in Xinjiang, China, the students certainly are grappling with some of the biggest questions of our time. As well as serious journalism, the paper also gives critically written reviews of novels, films and computer games as well as an article by Beth W, the education correspondent, about making time for yourself in the run up to exams, something very important in the Year of Health and Well-Being. Thanks once again to Lilly Miller – the newspaper's talented editor and to Lara B who masterfully designed this issue's satirical front cover.



## Debating Bishop Challoner at the top of the West Midlands League

Extra-curricular debating has continued to grow from strength to strength this academic year. We have continued to participate in Debate Mate, with weekly coaching sessions delivered by external mentors after school each Friday afternoon. Enthusiasm from the new Year 7s has given the club renewed vigour and commitment from our older Year 10 debaters has strengthened. This came to fruition in our first competitions of the year when we hosted the West Midlands Urban Debate League last half term.

### West Midlands Secondary Rankings

- 1 – Bishop Challoner Catholic College
- 2 – St. Edmund's Catholic Academy
- 3 – Shireland Collegiate Academy
- 4 – Harborne Academy
- 5 – Erdington Academy
- 6 – Stockland Green School

Our novice team of Year 7 and 8 came away with great feedback and were delighted to be 30th in the national league standings. Our experienced team of Year 9 and 10 exceeded all expectation and we were ecstatic to get our best ever results, topping the West Midlands league and positioned 5th in the National league. Following the latest competition at Harborne Academy on Wednesday 13th March, we have finished top of the West Midlands League for Debating.

A team of KS5 students also headed to Newman University for two rounds of the Catholic School Games debating competition. Despite achieving a phenomenal score of 48/50 and receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback from the judges, praising the students' mature, intellectual and sophisticated speeches on the British citizenship of ISIS recruits, we were unlucky to miss out by one mark on the trophy. We are currently preparing two Year 9 students for the Key Stage 3 Public Speaking competition later this term.

## Year 8 Murder Mystery

This half term a murder was committed! Students in year 8 were given an hour in the library - the crime scene of the aforementioned murder - to analyse a series of clues, in order to find out the identity of the killer! Was it the Librarian in her fancy red shoes? Why was the Head of English looking so shifty? And why did the Science teacher order more chemicals than they needed? The game was afoot!

Year 8 students loved this event - the clues and resources were outstanding and saw even those reluctant readers rushing around to find clues and compare alibis.

The winner will be announced this half term, and a prize will be given to the students who came up with the correct theory of what happened and the evidence that supports their assertions.



# World Book Day Trip to Houses of Parliament

On Thursday 7th March, to celebrate World Book Day, Bishop Challoner were invited by Warwick University to attend the yearly 'Poetry and Prose in Parliament' event at the Palace of Westminster. As one of only 6 schools in the country to receive this invitation, we were very excited to be able to take 13 year 8 students to this prestigious event. Students were chosen based on their competition entries in which they detailed their favourite book and how it has inspired them.

The chosen 13 competition winners left school at 7.30am during the morning of World Book Day and arrived in North Greenwich at around 11am. We then took the tube to Westminster; another first for many of the students who had never visited London nor taken the underground. After a short walk from Westminster tube station, we arrived at the Houses of Parliament.

The event began with children's author and education activist, Chris Waterman, reading some of his favourite poems. We were then treated to performances of "updated fairytales" by students of President Kennedy school in Coventry and more readings from MPs and teachers' favourite books including 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows' and 'The Ragged-Trousered Philanthropists.'



Following the Poetry and Prose event, students were then treated to a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster. We learned about the trial and beheading of King Charles II and saw the spot where Nelson Mandela and Barak Obama had stood to address members of the house. We were even granted access into the House of Commons and the House of Lords - something we learned even the Queen is not allowed to do! During our time in the two Houses, we watched MPs and Lords speaking on the subject of International Women's Day and were inspired by the stories they told of inspirational women of the UK.

We arrived back at Bishop Challoner at 8pm ready to curl up with a good read to celebrate the end of World Book Day!

## Who Wants to be a Millionaire?

### Mr Robinson wanted to, and nearly was!

Mr Robinson has become something of a school celebrity after appearing on the ITV quiz show 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' and walking away with the amazing sum of £500,000! After filming the show in January, he had to keep the whole thing secret for two months, but when everyone finally was able to watch his star performance, it took the school by storm: he has since made appearances on ITV Central News, BBC Radio 1 Newsbeat, Free Radio and BBC Radio WM, talking about the show and how he has found the whole experience.

After a rigorous application and audition process, for which 16,000 people had applied to be on the programme, Mr Robinson was one of only 60 chosen to actually get a place to compete on the show. He won the 'Fastest Finger First' after putting four Pixar films in the order they were released in the quickest time, and then there were just 15 questions between him and a possible million pounds! After suffering some nerves quite early on and having to 'Ask the Audience' on a question about Royal Jelly, he then managed to answer a series of increasingly tricky questions before getting a question right about geological periods to win the £500,000. He did have a chance to answer the million pound question, but wasn't confident enough to risk it on a question about British Prime Ministers, so walked away with half a million pounds- not too bad for just over half an hour's work! Now he just needs to decide what to start doing with his winnings.



# MATHEMATICS

## Extra-Curricular

There are three main clubs that run through the maths department: 'Maths drop-in', G&T and Year 9 Maths Ambassadors, all of which target Key Stage 3 students.

The 'Maths drop-in' (and general homework help) has been running on a Wednesday after school, with different maths teachers leading the club. It has provided invaluable support to many students from Year 7 to Year 10, and some use the support regularly.

## Christmaths

Bishop Challoner's annual Christmaths event took place on Thursday 6th December, led by our Year 9 Maths Ambassadors. We were joined by 60, Year 5 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 schools.

The children took part in a day of Christmas themed maths activities all designed and delivered by our Year 9 Maths Ambassadors and supported by Year 7 students. 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.

## Malympics

In the diary we also have our annual Malympics event scheduled for March 14th. We will be hosting 12 primary schools from our cluster and inviting them to send six pupils from Years 3, 4 & 5 for a day of maths and PE led activities. Like our hugely successful and well attended Christmaths event, this day will be designed by the Year 9 Maths Ambassadors who will be delivering a day of competitive activities with both school and year group competitions throughout the day.



## Primary Gifted and Talented

We have held two Primary G&T maths sessions in 2019 on January 9th and February 13th, with two remaining for the year in March and April. Eight cluster schools have been regularly sending four Year 6 pupils for each of these monthly events. These have been supported by our Year 7 pupils helping on the day. Brilliant attendance, and brilliant all around!



## Celebration of Women in Maths

On the 18th January we took nine Year 9 girls to the University of Wolverhampton for a day to celebrate Women in Maths. This was an enlightening day with talks from Rolls Royce and the Royal Air Force about careers, as well as a day of maths activities and enrichment tasks led by the University.



## KS3 Catholic Schools Maths Challenge

Two teams of Year 7 students competed against teams from other local catholic schools as part of the Key Stage 3 Catholic Schools Maths Challenge. The students were challenged to solve mathematical problems, and also working as a team. Our teams came 3rd and 8 following successfully 'escaping the room' quickest in one of the tasks.

## Year 10 Maths Feast

Eight Year 10 students took part in a maths feast at Fairfax school where they formed two teams of four competing against other schools within the region. There were some challenging rounds of questions, including some A-Level mathematics, and all students showed both good skill and resilience in answering difficult problems. The event was enjoyable for all, and although neither team won the competition, it was really pleasing to see one of our teams win the teamwork award!



## UKMT Challenges

The United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) host individual and team challenges each year for our pupils to take part in. The individual challenges are designed to test the very best mathematicians, so the questions are designed to be tough and to get a certificate is an excellent achievement. In February, students in 11M1 and 10M1 sat the 'Intermediate Maths Challenge'.

As a school, our students achieved one gold, 15 silvers and 27 bronzes. This is no mean feat! Congratulations in particular to Kieran Lenehan, who scored highly enough to be entered into the next stage of the competition. Good luck Kieran!



## Paris 2019

The Maths department are once again running a study tour to Paris in July 2019 for Year 8 and 9 students. There was a great deal of interest in the opportunity, with the 40 spaces on the tour being filled in just a matter of hours! With the number of students who were disappointed to miss out on the trip, we are now looking into the possibility of increasing the number of students to 50.

The students from Years 8 and 9 will spend 4 days and 3 nights in France's capital city from 3rd to 6th July. Whilst in Paris, students will visit the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, which is the largest Science museum in Europe and has a section devoted to mathematics. There are also 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. There is also a scheduled visit to Disneyland, Paris.

## University Outreach

We welcomed back Dr Goodwin, from the University of Birmingham, to Bishop Challoner in December following a successful visit in both 2016 and 2017. The format remained the same as previous years; he delivered two workshops to our top two sets in Year 10, and presented to our sixth form mathematicians. He presented on coding to both Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5, and its use in the modern world. This was all made possible due to outreach work from the University of Birmingham related to the 'Holgate Lectures'.

## UKMT Challenge

On the 29th March 2019, four of our year 8 and 9 students travelled to the Engineering Academy at Aston University to participate in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge Regional Finals. Competition was of a high standard with 28 teams competing for the top spot. Our students performed fantastically and were commended on their approach to the challenges and ability to work in a team. Despite not being placed in the top three, and therefore not progressing any further in the competition, students and staff who attended thought it was a fantastic event.



On Thursday 28th March, 12 Year 10 students went with Mr Wooler to the University of Warwick for the 'Maths and Beyond' event organised by the Advanced Maths Support Programme.

## Maths and Beyond



Students took part in three different workshops, the first learning the maths behind solving Japanese grid puzzles, and how it links to one of the Clay Mathematics Institute \$1 million Millennium problems. Next up was 'Magical Maths' where Ben Sparks taught students some tricks involving numbers. The last workshop explored how maths we learn was used to make Google the most successful search engine in the world, along with how mathematicians are needed to make arcade games like Asteroid and Pac-Man.

The day ended with a lecture from keynote speaker Dr Emily Grossman, a panellist from TV show 'Duck Quacks Don't Echo' and resident expert on The Alan Titchmarsh Show. Emily inspired students with the story of how she became a science communicator, as well as sharing her three most embarrassing career moments to illustrate how statistics and scientific research can be misinterpreted or miscommunicated by the media.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, and the nice weather only made the surroundings at the University of Warwick look more appealing as an option for future study.

# SCIENCE

Since January, science teachers have been working hard to complete the GCSE courses by February half term, leaving a good amount of lesson time to focus on structured revision. Pupils have been provided with revision packs to enable them to study independently at home. Pupils can find all the information they need to

help with revision by looking at the school website. It is very important that all Year 11 students have a calculator with them from now on in readiness for the exams. With the new GCSEs, maths has become increasingly more important and in fact in physics it accounts for 30% of the marks. Calculators can be bought from the maths department.

## Revision Guides

We are now selling revision guides and workbooks for all year groups. Years 7 and 8 can pay for them on schoolcomms and the other year groups can buy them from their science teacher or Mrs Shore. Pupils have responded very well to these books and there have been an impressive number bought already. Years 7,9 and 10 will have school exams two weeks after the return from the Easter holidays so I would urge pupils to get these books in plenty of time for these important assessments.

## Year 9

### T2 Assessments

Biology:

Topic 1 key concepts specification points 1.1 - 1.12

Chemistry:

Topic 2 States of matter (2.1-2.12); Topic 1 key concepts (1.1- 1.12)

Physics:

Motion and forces: (2.1-2.19, 2.27-2.30)

The students will have received the specification points from their teachers.

## Year 10

All students will sit 3 exams: a GCSE paper 1 in each of the three sciences.

Separate science students will have 3 x 1 hour 45 mins papers.

Combined science students will sit 3 x 70 mins papers.

Students will have been told the topics they need to revise but the below is a link to the Edexcel website where all the GCSE specifications can be found:

[https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/sciences-2016.html?utm\\_source=sciencegcseevent&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=SEC\\_GEN\\_07MAR2014\\_gcseandalevel2015](https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/sciences-2016.html?utm_source=sciencegcseevent&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=SEC_GEN_07MAR2014_gcseandalevel2015)

## Assessments

Assessments for students in Year 7, 9 and 10 will begin in science on Mon 13th May.

Below is listed the content pupils need to revise for these assessments.

Year 7 P2 Assessment

Paper 1 Content		
Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Animal and plant cell structures Specialised cells Diffusion Amoeba Tissues Organs Inhalation Skeleton function Joint structures	Boiling points and melting points and determining physical states Physical states Particle model Changes of state Elements Naming compounds and molecule diagrams	Force diagrams Speed calculations Types of forces Wave traces Frequency Sound properties Eye structure Refraction

Paper 2 Content		
Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Specialised cell structures Diffusion Euglena Features of alveoli Data interpretation on smoking Antagonistic muscles Joint structure	Elements Particle model Compound structures Naming compounds Physical states Gas pressures	The ear Hearing ranges Use of sonar for depth testing Forces Use of filters Reflection Weight calculations Effect on weight of reduced gravitational field strength

## Big Physics Quiz- Mr Hester

On 22nd January two teams from year 9 travelled to the University of Birmingham to represent Bishop Challoner in the Big Physics Quiz. The day consisted of quiz rounds on a range of topics from KS3 and GCSE as well as specialist rounds on Nuclear Physics and famous physicists. The pupils were also treated to a fascinating key note lecture on the Antikythera mechanism; a mechanical computer from ancient Greece that was used for predicting eclipses and astronomical positions.

Although our intrepid quizzers got off to a good start, they eventually lost out to the local grammar schools. Regardless our pupils should be proud, and may it inspire them to future physics greatness.



## Science Club- Miss Start

We have an enthusiastic group of pupils who are regularly attending science club every week. Before Christmas they did some festive practical activities, including making 'Chemis-trees' (chemistry Christmas trees!) and chromatography baubles, which decorated our labs in the few weeks before the Christmas holidays. Since Christmas they have completed more fun science practicals and demonstrations, including sweets science and methane bubbles. Pupils are now working in small groups in science club to design machines intended to transport fragile sources of food across the Himalayas, using their science and design skills to solve the problem.



## Big Bang Fair 2019- Miss Start

On 14th March, 14 Year 7 students from Science Club and STEM Club visited the amazing Big Bang Fair at the NEC. The Big Bang Fair is an exciting event where a number of employers, universities and other institutions give out information and have fun and informative activities for visitors to try. Our Year 7s spent the day visiting the different exhibits, learning about potential career pathways and universities, and trying out some fun experiments and technology - the girls in particular did a lovely performance in the shower cubicle karaoke! Thank you Year 7 for being fabulous representatives of the school and having a brilliant day.



## Code Breaking Bad!

During one break time in March, Miss Ghoris and her year 11 helpers organised a Code Breaking Bad event in the library. All years were able to participate in trying to crack codes using the chemical symbols from the Periodic Table. It proved very popular with all.



## Year 13 Genetic Workshop at the Thinktank

Year 13 visited the Thinktank to experience a range of genetic techniques to reinforce the students' knowledge and understanding. The students gained practical experience of using micropipettes to improve their accuracy of pipetting and micropipetted DNA samples into practice gels. The workshop allowed the students to use 'Polymerase Chain Reaction' to make lots of copies of their target DNA, whilst trying to solve a crime.

The students used a micropipette to add the DNA samples into electrophoresis gels before staining and rinsing to reveal who had committed the crime. In the afternoon the students also extracted their own DNA and could see their own DNA as strands in a test tube! The Year 13s were given a range of genetic statements to discuss in groups leading to a debating session on key genetic issues that are arising due to new genetic techniques available.



Lastly the students explored the medicine floor, where they saw a real brain! The students were an asset to the school and furthered their practical skills for genetic techniques.



# COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ICT

## Key Stage 3

### Year 7

The year 7 computer science groups have been continuing with their scheme of work on programming, making use of the innovative code.org platform that sees them interacting with code through recognisable characters. The groups are using this platform to learn the fundamentals of computer science such as selection, iteration and sequencing, and then applying them in various combinations to tackle and decompose large problems.

### Year 8

Year 8 groups have been working on HTML with the end goal of website development. This course of work is designed to give our students a taste of ICT and a glimpse as to what they might do if they were to select ICT as a GCSE option. The year 8 have had great success with this programme of study and have developed a core understanding of topics such as HTML tags and code layout.

### Year 9

The year 9 groups have been working on 3D modelling in the Google SketchUp application. Within this programme of study, the students have been exposed to techniques used in the world of architecture and prototype development. As part of this course of work they will develop knowledge of topics such as 3D axis manipulation, textures and scale. This will culminate in them producing their own 3D models for houses where they are capable of developing to a given specification.

Moving into the coming months, year 9 will complete their T2 assessments which for some, will be the foundations for their GCSE computer science or ICT course of study.

## Key Stage 5

### Year 12

The Year 12 computer science group have continued their impressive start to the year and completed another round of assessments in February. The results of these assessments are promising and indicate that progress is being made by all in the group. The year 12 group is once again taught by Mr Ravenscroft and Mr Ebrahim, with paper 1 and paper 2 being taught by Mr Ebrahim and Mr Ravenscroft respectively.

For the first time in a number of years there is a post-16 qualification offered in ICT. The Pearson Extended Certificate in Information Technology is being taught by Mr Ravenscroft and Mr Khitab with the course content for the first year being split between the two teachers. The students have been progressing well and are now approaching the deadline part of this academic year.

## Key Stage 4

### Year 11

The Year 11 computer science groups have continued their preparations for the summer examinations with all class teachers. With Mr Khitab/Mr Ebrahim they are working towards exam technique practice and engaging with the theoretical part of the course. With Mr Ravenscroft they are continually practicing algorithm design and interpretation, a vital skill for success in these exams.

Year 11 ICT groups sat their externally assessed examination on January 10th. The results for which have come back into school and for many, paint a positive picture of potential success in the summer. Since this event the year 11 ICT groups have continued with work towards their internally assessed piece of work, a piece that is near completion and of good quality for many students. The internally assessed unit of work is to be sent off no later than May 15th but a deadline has been set long before this for final submission.

### Year 10

The Year 10 computer science group has continued their programme of study with Mr Ebrahim and Mr Khitab, addressing the full breadth of the course with both class teachers to ensure maximum coverage of content. Along the way they have encountered many core concepts of computing and many in the group are already demonstrating key skills of computer scientists.

Year 10 ICT this year adopted a brand new course not previously taught at Bishop Challoner. The Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 Certificate in Information Technologies is being delivered by Mr Ravenscroft and Mr Khitab with both teachers delivering two different units of study simultaneously. With Mr Khitab they are working towards content assessed by an external exam in the summer 2020. With Mr Ravenscroft they are working towards acquiring the skills required to access the internally assessed non-exam unit, a piece of work which sees them working with data entry and manipulation in both Excel and Access.

We of course wish all of our year 11 groups the best of luck for the summer examinations.

### Year 13

The year 13 computer science group recently completed mock exams presented in the same style as they will approach them in the summer. The results from these mock exams were promising and indicate that good progress is achievable for all in the class. In the run up to the summer examinations they are also finalising their programming projects, something that they have been working on since September.

## Forge Your Future

Students had an invaluable experience at the 'Forge Your Future' event last week. They heard success stories from current female scientists and past students and third journeys to get where they are today. Students visited different faculties and took part in science activities. Including a visit to the Computer Science building where a group of them completed the cyber security challenge. It was an inspiring day for them and hopefully will help them to shape their future careers. They were a great ambassadors of our school.

# GEOGRAPHY

Year 7 have recently completed their first unit of work whereby they explored the country in which they live, the UK. Year 7 have subsequently moved on to their second place of study and have begun to investigate one of the world's superpowers, China. This topic has already sparked great enthusiasm amongst the year group who excited to share their knowledge and learn more about a country that is so frequently in the news. The students' curiosity has been captivated through exploring China's human and physical environments and enquiring into why China is expected to have the largest economy in the world by 2040. Year 7 have demonstrated their Geographical through debating the controversial topic of the One Child Policy whilst evaluating its success and failures.



## Year 8

Year 8 Geographers have been exploring the diverse country of Brazil. Year 8 have been enquiring into a wide range of geographical concepts. On the one hand students can investigate the human geography within Brazil such as their culture and the wide disparity between living conditions and opportunities and on the other, students have learnt about the physical environment such as the Amazon Rainforest and the Amazon River. The students' curiosity has been captivated through investigating the topic of deforestation within the rainforest, the damage it is causing, who it is impacting and why different stakeholders have varying opinions. Students have been able to explore these geographical issues through role play and debate.



## Year 9

During the Spring Term Year 9 have been investigating the continent of Africa. This unit has been newly designed to help students develop the skills necessary for GCSE whilst still sparking students' curiosity and engagement.

The topic begins by introducing students to the wide range of cultures and physical landscapes whilst breaking some misconceptions about the continent. With Comic Relief coinciding with this term, we have incorporated this into our lesson design enabling Year 9 to see the impacts of urbanisation in Kenya, empathise with those living in shanty towns and enquire as to how charities such as Comic Relief are helping. Opportunities for development within Africa is also a key focus for the unit with students learning about the resources that go into making their smartphones and evaluating how the extraction of these minerals is impacting the country.

## Bishops Got Talent

Mrs Dawson organised a really successful Bishop's Got Talent Geography event in the library. The area was set up like a rainforest and students had to work out Geographical clues to find the key in this escape room themed event.



## Year 10

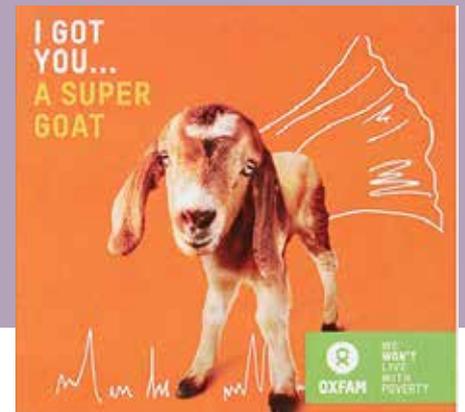
Year 10 are currently working on a Human Geography topic called 'Urban Issues and Challenges'. They have been exploring the challenges associated with our world becoming ever increasingly urban. A particular focus of this section of the course is focusing on the case study of the Newly Emerging Economy of Brazil, analysing economic and social challenges in cities such as Rio de Janeiro. Students in this element of the course also have the opportunity to consider the local geographical issues in our own city of Birmingham. In June students will be visiting the Ashbrook River in Shropshire. They will be collecting field data and analyse how and why the river changes as we travel downstream from its source.

## Year 11

Year 11 will have completed the course ahead of the Easter holidays. They have been set a revision timetable to encourage them to adopt the best methods for revision. This has also been shared with parents on the school website and outlined in the last parent consultation evening. In the coming weeks students will be working on perfecting their exam technique. They will be practising lots of exam questions with the help of effective modelling by their geography teachers. Study sessions will also be offered in the Easter holidays to give our students every chance of success on their final exams. We wish them the very best of luck with their final exams and with their next steps.

## Year 11 have purchased a goat for a family living in Nigeria

Whilst learning about the work of NGO's in the developing world, one of our GCSE groups have decided to put some money together and purchase a goat for a family living in North Nigeria. The brilliant idea from Mr Tsintas will surely be a very memorable way for students to explain some of the possible sustainable strategies that charities may adopt to help people living in extreme poverty in places such as Yobe.



## Iceland 2019

The department's trip to Iceland has been a real highlight of the year so far. There are few better places on earth to teach our students about the physical landscapes and processes they learn about within our curriculum.



A hike to the Solheimajokull glacier demonstrating to the students the effects that ice can have on this tectonic landscape.



A breath-taking visit to Gulfoss waterfall. A named example they can use in their GCSE when referring to the formation of a waterfall.



A walk between the two continents of Europe and North America at Thingvellir National Park. Students were taught about how Iceland's land mass is actually growing at this constructive plate margin.



A relaxing visit to the Blue Lagoon geo-thermal spa. This site indicates the geo-thermal energy that is beneath Iceland's crust.



A city tour of the capital city Reykjavik. A great city to discuss key geographical themes such as sustainable energy, town planning and development indexes.



A visit to geyser, a hot spring area of showing the geo-thermal power beneath Iceland's crust.

# HISTORY

## Year 7

Year 7 students are currently exploring the power of monarchs across time. They have recently learnt about the Tudor monarchs and all the challenges they faced. Before their end of year exams, they will explore the Civil War and examine the seismic changes it brought to our society. By making links and identifying change across time, students are taking their first steps towards the skills needed to be successful in GCSE History and beyond. Earlier this year students in Year 7 also got the chance to explore life as a Viking in the Bishops Got Talent Viking Workshop where they learned all about this fascinating part of History. Students enjoyed writing their own name in Viking runes and experiencing a Viking battle in virtual reality!

## Year 9

Since returning after Christmas, Year 9 have been particularly respectful and engaged while studying the Holocaust. They have been tackling challenging concepts such as the roots of antisemitism, the steps to genocide, the question of blame and the legacy of the Holocaust. To enrich their learning, all of Year 9 came off timetable for Holocaust Memorial Day in January to watch a live webcast of Holocaust survivor Harry Spiro give his testimony. Harry was interviewed by television personality Robert Rinder, whose own grandfather escaped with Harry to Britain at the end of the Holocaust.

Listening to Harry's personal experiences offered students some insight and empathy into the lives of the millions of Jewish people persecuted during the Holocaust, and through their reflections they were able to ask the crucial question of how we can ensure that such a tragic event never occurs again. Year 9 are just starting their new topic, the causes of World War II, which they will be tested on in their Transition 2 assessment in the summer.

## A Level

Year 12 History students are deep into their studies of the Making of Modern Britain 1950-2007 and The Making of a Superpower USA 1965-1975. As they approach the end of the academic year, students should prepare for their end of year mock exam and consider which topic they would like to focus on for their coursework. We ask that all parents support their child in engaging in wider

## Year 8

Year 8 students completed their study of Industrial Revolution and are now looking at the topic of slavery. Building on their prior knowledge of Britain's Empire during the Industrial Period, students have been exploring the history of the African slave trade, developing their understanding of the conditions and experiences of men and women ripped from their homes and sold into slavery. From this understanding, students will consider the development of the slave trade before examining the causes and consequences of the anti-slavery movement. The History team have been impressed with the maturity and sensitivity with which students have approached this topic and we encourage students to consider the importance of the topic in understanding modern day issues.

## Year 10 and 11

GCSE students are working hard, grappling with exciting new content as they progress through the year. Year 10 pupils are finishing their studies of Weimar and Nazi Germany, having most recently learnt about Nazi persecution of minority groups. Year 10 are about to start their second topic - Queen Elizabeth I, a very different type of study. They are beginning to learn about the religious turmoil which Elizabeth inherited.

Year 10 aspiration club continues, which pupils can attend for additional support in classwork or homework.

Year 11 pupils have approached this half term with a renewed sense of motivation and focus. They have begun their final topic in their GCSE history - crime and punishment through time. It is certainly a topic they have been enjoying. Recently we have been investigating how and why punishments became less violent throughout the 20th century. Soon, they will be learning about the murders of Whitechapel and how this changed crimes - and punishments - forever.

reading and regular revision to help support their studies. Year 13 are now preparing thoroughly for their exams in the summer. Regular exam practice is vital to develop their examination skills. The History team were pleased with high attendance at the recent parents' evenings for Y12 and Y13 students. We hope students take on board the advice given and we wish all students the best in their upcoming examinations.

# PERFORMING ARTS

## GCSE

This term has seen GCSE Music and BTEC Performing Arts students preparing for their forthcoming summer examinations in earnest. Our GCSE musicians have been very busy composing their own original material and this year has seen some professional sounding songs being written, alongside compositions in a Ternary Form structure. They have also been rehearsing and performing their instrumental performances and have put in many hours to perfecting their skills in order to gain the highest marks possible. We hope our GCSE Music students use their time wisely during the first half of the summer term in order to prepare fully for their listening and appraising exams to build on the great work they have already put in for the other two areas of their courses.

This is the first year the Performing Arts department have delivered the BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts as a full course and it has continued to be a definite hit with the students who have undertaken the course. From September onwards, Year 11 students were rehearsing for a Musical Theatre performance of Matilda for component 2 of the course, and, with that finished, they are now busy creating their own pieces of theatre for component 3, which will be externally moderated in May. Teachers have been very impressed with the level of commitment and dedication shown by this class who have worked with enthusiasm for the last six months and have shown a real improvement in their understanding and performance of musical theatre texts and practitioners.

**Moving away from examination classes, our other musicians and performers have also been taking part in, and performing, music, dance and drama this term.**

## Symphony Hall

One of our aims this year was to give students the opportunity to experience a wider range of music and theatrical performances in outside of the classroom. It was in this way an amazing trip to the Symphony Hall was organised in January to appreciate the CBSO in their full glory. 70 students from across the school alighted their private double decker into the city and enjoyed watching the Orchestra and their fantastic repertoire. For many of the students it was their first experience of Birmingham's amazing Symphony Hall and, indeed, a live orchestra. They were all enlightened with music ranging from Mendelssohn's Midsummer Night's Dream to John Williams' Star Wars; staff and students alike had a wonderful afternoon.



## Bishop's Got Talent

Drama Club has had a great term and really enjoyed showcasing their work to the school in their BGT event, in January. The group of 6 students performed Roald Dahl's 'Cinderella' in true pantomime style to a jovial audience. The year 7 and 8 students were amazing; they knew their lines inside out and performed with vigour and humour. It was all lights and glitter for their ten minute showcase and since the performance, Mrs Jethwa is delighted to have welcomed some new members to the Monday after school opportunity.



# Gifted and Talented

On Tuesday 26th February, our annual Gifted and Talented Day took place. This is one of our favourite events on the calendar; with 40 wonderful students from year 9 taking part in workshops in dance, singing, drama, choreography and mediation the whole day was a huge success and all members of staff were extremely proud of our students. The feedback from students was very positive with a few of the girls telling the librarian that it had been the best day of Year 9 so far and they wished they could do it every day!



The day was inspired by the hit musical film "The Greatest Showman" and students even learnt original choreography from the film as well as a medley of songs. All staff were hugely impressed with the talent of our Year 9, as well as the excellent behaviour and focus.

# School Band

Members of one of our talented school bands are taking part in an exciting performance opportunity at the end of this month as part of Big Gala Gigs musical showcases. Hosted by the Birmingham Music Service and Pop Academies, this live concert event gives young performers a chance to play to a live audience on multiple stages using the latest sound technology and equipment.

Stages will be set up at The Auditorium in South and City College, and a group of our students, tutored by Peter Byrchmore from the Birmingham Music Service, will perform two songs from their repertoire to an audience of 600.

The band performed Zombie by The Cranberries at our 2018 Christmas Concert to a supportive audience of friends, parents and staff, and they will be reprising this number at the Big Gala Gig, as well as their own rendition of Snow Patrol's Chasing Cars. The band features students from Year 7-10: Jorja Coates on vocals, David Paine, Samuel Lee, Suraya Hutchinson and Emilia Wormwell on guitar, Caitlin Upton on drums and Harry Mullen on keyboards. They have been rehearsing incredibly hard to get themselves ready for such a large-scale event and we are sure the evening will be a tremendous success.



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Since Christmas, pupils have been developing their core skills, knowledge and understanding in a wide variety of sports. In the last 12 weeks students have had the chance to focus on Striking and fielding (Cricket, Rounders), Net and Wall (Badminton, Volleyball), Invasion games (Handball, Tchoukball, Basketball, Gaelic Football, Netball) and Creative Movement (Dance, Gymnastics, Yoga).

As well as this, both boys and girls in Year 7 have been able to develop their swimming ability in their double PE lessons. The KS3 rugby teams have been training with the Wasps Rugby coaches at Camp Hill Rugby Club. This has been an amazing experience for the boys and they are excelling with the impact of the excellent coaching. Students have also been lucky enough to go and watch Wasps first team play at the Ricoh arena.

## Fixtures

**Moving on, fixtures have been a huge success this term with many teams reaching semi-finals and finals, as well as winning school games competitions.**

## Girls' EFL Cup

A huge congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 girls who represented BCFC in the girl's EFL cup. The girls played extremely well and finished 4th! Well done to all involved!



## Indoor Athletics

Moving on, a huge congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 girls and boys who made it to the indoor athletics finals! Year 8 boys came 3rd whilst the Year 7 boys came 2nd! The boys showed outstanding resilience throughout the competition. As well as this, the Year 7 and 8 girls both won the competition! The girls were a credit to the school showing fantastic sportsmanship to other schools. Well done to all those involved!

## Extra-Curricular

The Bishop Challoner PE extra-curricular timetable is updated every half term offering new sports for pupils to access. There is great commitment from both students and staff within the school to keep such a positive, energetic, wide variety of clubs on offer. It has been an outstanding term so far with a number pupils turning up to clubs. Badminton and table tennis being the most popular club having on some weeks at least 60 students turning up before school to participate.

## Dominick Cunningham Fitness Suite

On Wednesday 6th of March former student and International Gymnast Dominick Cunningham opened the newly built Fitness Suite at Bishop Challoner Catholic College. The suite is named after him following all his international success in Gymnastics most notably as a European and Commonwealth Champion.



Dominick performed a fitness session in the suite with Year 7 students and performed his mandatory backflip. Dominick then spoke to all of Year 7 about his experiences as a world class gymnast and even got on the trampoline to showcase his amazing skills. The College's artist in residence, Niamh Ryan, has painted a mural of Dominick which was also revealed today by Dominick and the Principal, Mr McEvoy and will be displayed to the public at the front of the College.

## Boys' Football

The Year 8 Football team are undefeated this season. The boys have played superbly all year round beating Archbishop Isley, Wheelers Lane and Kings Heath Boys' to top their group in the Birmingham League. They will now progress to the quarter finals. In the Birmingham Cup, the boys battled hard to draw 0-0 against Shenley to go through to the semi-finals on penalties, eventually winning 3-1. A special mention to Masion P who come into the team from year 7 and saved 2 penalties. They then went on to play George Dixon in the semi-final of the Birmingham Cup where they won 4-0. The Year 8 boys' are now in the final against St Peters! Good luck boys!

The Year 9 football team led by Mr Wilson, are having a very successful season so far. They are into the quarter final of the Kings Norton and South Birmingham Cup against St Thomas Aquinas. They are also into the final of the Birmingham Cup where venue and date is still to be confirmed! Good luck to all the boys!

The Year 10 football team have also had a superb season so far. They have qualified for the final of the Birmingham Cup and will play St Peters on the 8th April. They are also in the semi-final of the West Midlands Cup and will play Cardinal Newman, Coventry on Monday 1st April. Good luck all those involved!



# Basketball

The Basketball season has been a great season, with amazing competition and undoubtedly great commitment from students. It is great to see how the students team work and skill has developed over the season and this has been shown through their results.

## Year 9

The Year 9 Basketball team, led by Miss Hunter have had a phenomenal season. They remain undefeated this season, beating St Thomas Aquinas, Yardley School, Kings Norton Girls and Handsworth girls just to name a few. The girls played in the final against St Thomas Aquinas where some fantastic basketball was played and they won by 10 points! A huge congratulations to all those involved with a special mention to Nyah Kendall and Allyssa Morgan have been superb this season. Well done to all involved.



## Year 11

Year 11 Basketball team, led by Miss Hampson have also had a superb season. The girls have also had an undefeated season including when they played St Thomas Aquinas in the final! They won by 2 points in the last minute of the game! The girls commitment has been amazing this season, although some games have been tough, they girls have played exceptionally well and triumphed in their games! Congratulations to all those involved!



## Year 7

The Year 7 Basketball team, led by Mr Moreira, remain undefeated this season in the NBA Jr League. They beat Queensbridge, St Georges and St Bedes in the league so far, securing first place in the group. In the Birmingham League, the Year 7's beat Kings Norton Boys 32-22 in the final. Rafael Lopez and Kamill Munir have been fantastic this season - leading the team to success both nationally and locally.



## Year 8

The Year 8 Basketball team, also led by Mr Moreira have had a mixed-season this year - performing very well in the Birmingham League and securing a semi-final spot against Shenley Academy. Unfortunately, after a superb performance and some great basketball being played, they were defeated! However, Mr Moreira comments that he was so impressed with the team, they played some outstanding basketball and really did themselves proud! Well done! In the NBA Jr League, they have lost to Queensbridge and St Bedes whilst beating St Georges. Nathaniel M, Gabriel H and Aira P have been superb all season long. Congratulations to all those involved.

The Year 8 girls basketball team have had a positive attitude to the season beating their three opponents Bartley Green, Shenley Academy and Archbishop Ilsey. The girls have only conceded two points in all three games which is an amazing achievement. They progressed into the final against Shenley Academy, where they won 18-2! Miss Ball is extremely proud of the girls and their great defensive strategies they have used this season.

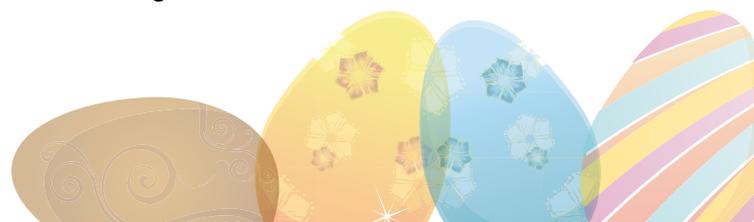
## Netball

Although the netball season is over, the Year 9 netballers were entered into the Linden netball tournament played at Nechells Health and Wellbeing centre. Miss Hunter was so proud of the standard of netball the girls shown as a team. They progressed to the finals where they lost by 3 points! A special mention to Joyce Fouda who won player of the tournament from all age groups U14 and U16, she shown some great talent for netball! Well done girls!



## Winter and Summer School Games

Every year as a department we enter both winter and summer school games competitions. So far, the students have represented the school in futsal, indoor rowing, dance and basketball just to name a few. Firstly, the indoor rowing, Year 10 boys and Year 9 girls participated within the competition. All students participated fantastically and entered the competition with such determination! A big well done to the Year 9 girls in particular who progressed to the finals. In the finals the girls continued with a positive attitude with Giselle Calame- Kuita finishing second in her individual race. Overall the girls attitude and determination was one to highlight. Well done to the four girls involved.



The Year 7 girls entered the football school games competition. They had huge success beating the other schools to become the overall winner. Well done ladies!



As well as this, the Year 8 and 9 basketball team got off to a great start at the winter games winning all three games to get into the semi-finals. The girls continued with their undefeated run to win the competition. Mrs Moon commented upon how well the girls played as a team, showing an immense amount of skill and team work between them! Well done girls!

## Birmingham City Academy Coaching

Moving on, 20 students from Year 7 to 10 were given an outstanding opportunity on the last Friday before half term. The Birmingham City Academy Head coach, head of education and under 16 manager came into school to speak to the students about football.



As the boys were very keen and talented footballers, they had an interesting presentation about what careers they could progress to and were amazed at the figures of how many people end up playing football as a profession. The boys were then treated to a skill session lead by the under 16 manager where they showed great enthusiasm, skill and concentration.

It was great to see how much the boys loved this experience and were even invited to their training ground for a tour and an additional training session.



## Swimming Gala

Cardinal Wiseman hosted a fantastic swimming Gala for our Year 7 and 8 boys and girls. Miss Crump commented that the talent was phenomenal and there were brilliant performances from all our competitors! A special congratulations to the boys who won the Year 8 competition.



## Condover Hall

The Year 7 and 8 Condover Hall Residential was a huge success this year. In total, 40 pupils came along to take part in a wide variety of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities which included; Abseiling, Rock Climbing, High Aerial Ropes and Team Building Exercises. All pupils who came along were fantastic and remained active throughout their half-term holiday! The trip will continue to run again next year. Thank you to all the pupils who signed up to come along and thank you to all the staff who gave up their half-term for our young pupils.



## BTEC Dance

The Year 10 and 11 BTEC dancers had a day of contemporary dancing to enhance their skills and knowledge within Dance. A professional from Dance Xchange came into school to deliver the workshop to the students where they developed their understanding of 5 soldiers, how to utilise effectively their own dance choreography as well as breaking down different dance moves so they are accessible to all. Miss Beall, Miss Hampson and Miss Hunter were all proud of the work ethic of the students and how they conducted themselves on the day! Well done girls!



## Duke of Edinburgh

Duke of Edinburgh is under way with another 40 students signed up from Year 10. The students have started to develop their map reading skills, route planning and team work skills. Over the course of the year, they will be taking up a new skill, volunteering in the community and taking up a new physical activity. They will also have two practice walks over the next two months to ensure they are equipped and prepared for their assessed walk on the 5th and 6th April! Good luck to all those involved!

## Ball Crew

As the term goes on, our annual ball crew event is becoming closer. Training has already started with Year 7 pupils to develop student's skills ready for the Nature Valley Classic! Both staff and students are excited for the exciting opportunity available to our school community! Soon, trials for Year 8 and 9 will open where students will also be training for this fantastic experience!



# GLAMS

A huge congratulations to the 10 students in Year 8 and 9 who are now part of the GLAMS (Girls Leadership and Marketing Squad). There was an enormous amount of interest through applications and interviews and was an extremely hard decision to make! The girls have excelled in their first meeting and will be hosting new sporting events over the year for students in KS3 to get involved with! A huge congratulations to the GLAM squad! Look out for the events they will be holding in the upcoming months!

## Upcoming Events

We have three major trips coming up within the PE department for students, with a Girls' Netball trip to PGL, a Boys' football trip to Milan and a Skiing trip which will go ahead in January 2020 to Italy. If you are attending the PGL trip, please go and collect your hoodie from the PE department! All PE and sport updates can be followed on our twitter page @BCPEDepartment!

# Intra-School Competitions

Miss Hunter has found great reason to be proud of both KS3 and KS4 students over the last 2 intra school competitions. KS3 students have participated in



badminton and basketball competitions with nearly 75 students in attendance in total. As well as this, Miss Hunter highlighted that it was great to see the KS4 OCR sport students leading one of the competitions. The students shown such a fantastic work ethic to organise the competition as well as the positive rapport they had with the KS3 students! A special mention to Josh in Year 7 and Nathaniel in Year 8 for being our single badminton winners! Well done boys!

# CITIZENSHIP/PSHE

## School Charity

Before Christmas many of our staff and students worked together to demonstrate compassion to those in need by fundraising for various charities. Below are just some of the charity cheques that went out in January.

### Bone Cancer Research Trust £130.16

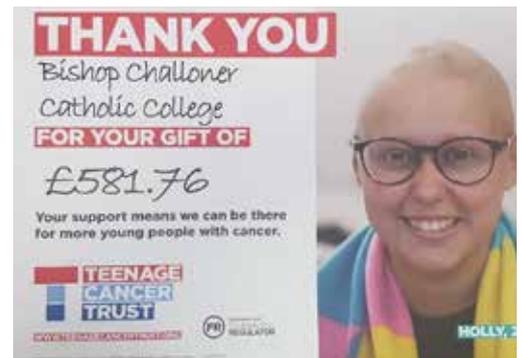
To support a charity close to the heart of a previous staff member, a small group of teachers held a Bone Cancer Trust bake sale for staff.

### Teenage Cancer Trust £581.76

Thanks go to the canteen and some of our lovely year 7 and 12 students for their sweet sale. A massive 'thank you' also goes to Karan Tehan for supporting the charity at her Wind Direction concert.

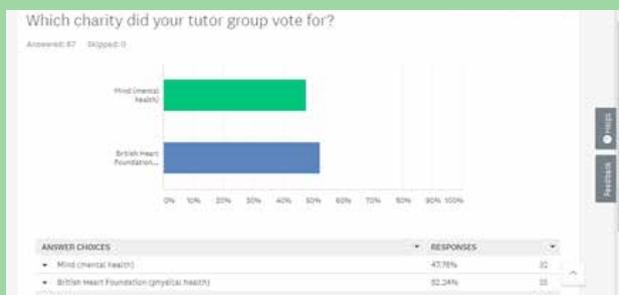
### Cystic Fibrosis Trust £120

Thanks to a mixture of year 10 and year 9 students for organising the cake sale in aid of Cystic Fibrosis Trust.



## 2019 Charity Choice

Before Christmas, our students were tasked with suggesting names of charities they would like to support in school. Two charities were nominated as the most popular; British Heart Foundation and Mind (mental health charity). Information and advertisements for both charities were shared across the school during Personal Tutor time and a school-wide vote of tutor groups was held. The winner was British Heart Foundation. Charity events are now underway including the annual 'readathon', a summer fayre led by year 7 and a sport endurance challenge in year 9.



Education and lifestyle modifications may prevent 80% of heart disease and stroke events.



Cardiovascular disease causes over a quarter of all deaths in the UK

# THE YEAR OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING



## What new activities are students doing for their Health & Wellbeing?

Next week year 7 and 8 will be challenged to complete a bingo activity with a possible Easter sweet-treat prize. The task encourages to speak to their peers and teachers about the questions on the sheet – the aim of the task is to encourage students to think about how they can benefit their Health & Wellbeing, give them ideas and inspire them by hearing from others. Those who complete the sheet will be entered into a raffle.

Year 8 are currently using their assembly time to promote topics each form is passionate about. Some of the topics students have created assemblies about include kindness and gratitude, equality and homelessness. Students are taking charge of the assemblies by preparing the resources, writing their speeches and organising how they will engage their whole year group. By selecting their topics students are contemplating the environment and world they would like to grow up in thus promoting social responsibility.

Over the past couple of weeks, Year 9 students have been taking part in Health and Wellbeing form-time activities including a basketball shootout competition and Pictionary tournament. Students selected these activities in a School Council meeting and with the support of their form tutors have used this time to develop their wellbeing and spend more time as a year group community. Over the next few weeks students will have the opportunity to participate in a penalty shootout competition, complete form quizzes and engage in team building activities.

Year 10 forms have taken responsibility for planning one Health & Wellbeing activity that raises funds for our School Charity (British Heart Foundation). They have held a basketball competition and a weight-lifting challenge. Students are planning, seeking permission, promoting and participating in these activities as a cohesive form, bringing them closer together. In coming weeks there will be more events including 'Battle of the Bands'.

**Year of Health & Wellbeing Bingo**

Task: In each box write the name of a teacher or student, you can only have a name appear once on the sheet. When you are done return to your Head of Year or Miss Bisset. Those who complete the sheet by 4<sup>th</sup> April will be entered into a raffle to win a large Easter egg.

Who has done a running race this year and which one was it?	Who has given up chocolate for Lent?	Who enjoys yoga regularly for relaxation and physical health?	Who has stuck to their Year of Health & Wellbeing personal challenge and what was it?	Who doesn't use social media which has been proven to negatively impact people's self-esteem?
Who has reduced the amount of caffeine they drink, like tea, coffee or fizzy drinks?	Who socialises with friends regularly, improving their wellbeing, and what do they do?	Who enjoys writing poetry?	Who finds reading a relaxing activity they enjoy regularly?	Who has suffered from a sports injury this year and has had to rest to make sure it heals?
Who uses the internet to find new recipes to make cooking fun?	Who enjoys water sports? Which sport do they do?	Who wears a watch or uses their phone to monitor how many steps they do a day?	Who has learnt a new skill as part of the Year of Health & Wellbeing and what was it?	Who has increased the amount of time they spend with their family?
Who always sets 8 hours sleep to make sure they are well rested on a school night?	Who has participated in a sports competition and won?	Who has a dog they walk every day?	Who uses lists or a diary to organise their time and reduce their workload stress?	Who walks or uses public transport to get to school?

## WE Day

On the 6th of March a group of year 9 students had the incredible opportunity of heading to London to attend WE Day. WE day brings young people together from across the country with the aim to inspire and motivate them towards making positive changes in their local and global community. WE day is held at the SSE arena and involves a vast array of famous and influential speakers and performers. The speakers encourage students to unite together to tackle the most difficult issues society faces. Our students heard from many famous people including Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. The students that attended are now tasked with developing the wellbeing of people in their community.



# First Aid Training

Thanks to the incredible work of the British Red Cross, all students in years 7 to 10 have received basic first aid training. One of our aims, in this Year of Health and Wellbeing, was to ensure students feels empowered with the knowledge of what to do in a first aid emergency. Unfortunately the vast majority of first aid emergencies are not expected and therefore it is imperative our students know what to do and how to seek help. Students have been learning about the following...

- What to do if someone is unresponsive
- What to do if someone is not breathing (including CPR)
- How to treat a burn
- How to treat a head injury
- How to look after a broken bone
- What to do if someone has a seizure
- How to look after an injury with a heavy bleed



During the training many students shared how nervous they would be calling 999 in case the situation didn't warrant an ambulance. Students were reassured that they would never get in trouble for calling 999 in a situation they believed was an emergency even if it turned out not to be.



At the end of the week we surveyed some of our students and found over 96% felt more confident dealing with an emergency situation should it happen.

# School Council Wellbeing Activities



Many of our key stage 3 School Council members have arranged a mixture of activities to raise money for British Heart Foundation and to provide fun opportunities that help them develop students wellbeing during break-time. The activities have included a cake sale, a quiz, a competition to guess how many pancakes were sold on Pancake Day and a crafty valentines day activity. The students created the quiz themselves using the British Heart Foundation website.

During these activities the library was full with students from all year groups.



One of the prizes for the Pancake Day game was a Fair Trade hamper. Our School Council members decided to pick a Fair Trade hamper as the prize because the activities were held during Fair Trade Fortnight.



# Personal Tutor

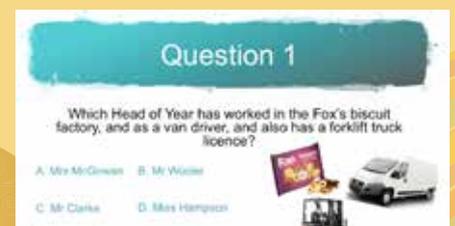
Personal Tutor time aims to ensure that students are engaged with Character Education, politics and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural education every week. Following a survey completed before Christmas, most tutees enjoy sessions that involve quizzes, controversial news topics and videos. Using these types of resources, some of the topics students have covered since Christmas include:

1. American Politics: Is Trump right to 'shutdown' the government and what does this mean?
2. What is the mission of the British Heart Foundation and how can we support them?
3. What is 'toxic masculinity' and how can it be avoided?
4. What is Fair Trade fortnight and how does it link to football?
5. What careers are available to me?

One of the most popular tutor sessions included a debate about the existence and impact of 'toxic masculinity'. Gillette echoed this term in a recent advertisement to encourage people to

reflect on how they treat men and boys. In this Year of Health and Wellbeing, sessions such as this one have been prepared to look at the huge problem of mental health issues faced by men across the UK.

During Personal Tutor time students have also taken time to contemplate their future career prospects. To develop student awareness regarding the wide range of career opportunities there are, Miss McGowan (Careers Advisor) created a quiz that asked students to guess what jobs teachers had prior to working at Bishop Challoner.



# Citizenship

This term in Citizenship lessons, students have been completing a money management topic. The resources for this topic have been created with the use of the Money Advice Service and Martin's Money Tips website. This topic has been added to the year 7 curriculum following a survey completed during Character Week that asked students to reflect on their Personal Social Health and Economic education requirements. Students identified money management as an area they felt they lacked expertise.

Soon year 8 will begin the next topic entitled 'career development'. To ensure the school prepares students for the working world, they will reflect on their skills and interests and discover different sectors of work they enjoy.

The next topic year seven will begin local government. Topics include issues such as reducing bullying in schools, creating a safe environment, creating community cohesion and reducing abusive behaviours.

## Imagine this...

- You have just finished university and got a job you are really excited about
- Your job starts on Monday and is a 45 minute drive away but you do not have a car
- You only have £800 in the bank and your first pay cheque wont come until you have done one month at work
- You search online and find out there is no way getting public transport to your new job so you have get a car

**In pairs discuss: How will you pay for the car???**



# MFL

## Year 7

After having covered all of the French basics 'all about me', our year 7 students have now moved on to more specific and complex language in the topic 'mon collège'. All these topics will be tested in their P2 assessments, which will be coming up fast.

## A-Level trip

Both our French A-Level groups went on a language trip to Paris in March; this was really successful and promising in building strong links with our host school in Paris. Please check out our last newsletter.



## Year 8

Well done on completing all your T1 assessments! In year 8, students have just completed their T1 assessments; we are now starting our 3rd unit of work, "my identity" where certain classes will have the opportunities to show off their IT skills as they will be making a video speaking in French about themselves.

## Year 9

We are now embarking on our last unit of work called 'free time'; this unit will be tested in their T2 assessments, which are also fast approaching. As our students will know, these assessments are crucial for their future studies, especially for those who are not yet sure about picking up French as an option for next year.

Still undecided about your options next year? Studying a language at GCSE level will widen your horizons but it does not mean that you will have to become a language expert. Remember at foundation level you can easily achieve a grade 5 which is the equivalent of a high C/ low B. For more information visit <http://frenchbc.weebly.com/what-is-french-gcse-about.html>

## Year 10 and 11

Year 10 have had a very successful year of learning so far and we are really proud of their results in their most recent assessments. By the end of this year, they will have officially covered the whole content of the Foundation GCSE, and we will decide which tier to sit next year.

The year 10 mock examinations are fast approaching with their speaking exams being on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th May.

Good luck to all our year 11 students who are in the process of completing their GCSE speaking examinations, and good luck to you in the other 3 papers in May.

For any advice on revision, visit our page: <http://frenchbc.weebly.com/year-11.html>

## Year 7 day trip to Boulogne:

We cannot wait for our next trip with year 7 on Friday 14th June! Here it is for those who have signed up for it.

Unfortunately for the snails fans, we have had to cancel our visit to the snail farm and swap it for a visit to a chocolate factory instead. I'm sure you won't mind! The next instalment on SchoolComms is due by Friday 3rd May. Also, as soon as your child's passport is ready, make sure that it is handed in to the pastoral office for photocopying, together with their EHIC card. A meeting with families will be held in school closer to the day of the trip, letters will be given out.

# MEDIA STUDIES

The Media Studies team have had another action packed and coursework filled term. Students from Years 11 and 13 have been completing their coursework and have created some brilliant pieces, especially some Year 13 music videos which will be available shortly on the BC Media Youtube account.

Year 11 are fully immersed in exam revision for their two exams in the summer, and Year 10 are about to start their coursework on the subject of teen films over the next few weeks. Year 12 are currently studying music videos and will soon be planning their own over the next few weeks.

## WJEC Moving Image

Back in February, we were lucky to take a trip to the WJEC Moving Image Awards, and this time – two ex-Challoner students were nominated. Both former Head Girl Mary Gurdin and Dom Horwood were nominated for their film and documentary extracts. Although they did not win, Challoner was named a 'Highly Commended' school for constantly creating excellent coursework in the subject. We are so proud of them!



## BBC: Fierce Women in Media

In March, we were lucky enough to find out about an amazing opportunity from the BBC: Fierce Women in Media. The day involved workshops and Masterclasses, discussions and Q and As all about getting into the Media as a woman and the difficulties (or in some cases, opportunities!) this can have on careers for females within this area. We spoke to many people who worked at the BBC, actors, screen writers, producers etc... and also journalists, activists, and directors who work for independent media or even freelance. It was a wonderful day with some amazing female students who may be looking towards a career in in the media.



# ART AND DESIGN

## Year 7- Sweets and Treats

Year 7 students have been exploring colour theory through watercolour painting this term. They have mixed their own tints and hues to create macaroon paintings, which you may agree are almost good enough to eat! They have grown more confident using stick and ink when creating an icing swirl illusion using contour lines for their cupcake studies. Next, students will be working with photography in the style of Sarah Graham – thank goodness this year group are all sweet-tooths!



## 'Artist brief' independent study

Year 7 had to make a colour wheel out of unusual materials-what innovative artists they are!



Year 7's 'artist brief' independent study: To make a colour wheel out of unusual materials- what innovative artists they are!

## Year 9 Jackson Pollock Action painting lessons

Year 9 students have worked through their art history timeline all year and finally landed on their favourite – Pop Art! Students have begun learning about Roy Lichtenstein's comic book inspired pieces, and will soon be creating portraits in the style of him and Andy Warhol. The best and messiest lesson of the year! Year 9 students donned bin bags to prepare for splattering and dripping coloured ink in the dynamic style of Jackson Pollock. Fun was had by all – now who's going to clean the classroom walls?!



## GCSE Fine Art

Year 10 have spent the half term developing their own style through material and process exploration, preparing for their final piece of this coursework project. This has meant working on a larger scale and to time, so that they're training themselves to become even more confident and exciting artists.



## Year 11 Final Exam

Year 11 students were given their final themes for their GCSE studies in January and have since been working independently to explore different artists' styles and concepts. This has included large scale oil painted portraits and landscapes, latex trapped petal collages and even painting with makeup! Each pupil has grown to be imaginative and skilled art practitioners and we wish them every luck with their final exam and further studies!



# Art Club

The largest club at Challoner is still going strong! Students across years 7, 8 and 9 attend every week to create work in their own sketchbooks (given to each member who attended 10 sessions last term) and explore different ways of creating art that shows and celebrates their identities. So far, students have worked across many 2D and 3D mediums, and are currently working on self-portrait collages that will go on display in Miss Swingler's room. New members are welcome, Wednesdays 3:15 – 4:15 in A1!



# A Level Fine Art

Year 13 Art students are preparing for their practical 15 hour exam in Fine Art. Oil paint, plaster board, perspex, latex and fabric are just a selection of the materials and surfaces they are exploring. Concepts are extremely varied this year with Water, Isolation, family history, News events, chairs and Interior spaces providing inspiration for projects. The study trip to London enabled students to reference traditional and contemporary artists which continue to inspire them and have a dramatic impact on the direction and development of the exam unit.



# Miss Swingler

The art department has their very own TV celebrity! Miss Swingler is the face of Nationwide Building Society's new campaign, and has been gracing advert breaks for the last few weeks. The poem is based on an after school first date on the high street – and ten years later she will be marrying him in August! The advert was filmed at local florist WhoopsADaisy in Kings Heath, near a lot of our students' homes. Miss Swingler said that as soon as the director shouted 'that's a wrap!' (calling the end of the film shoot), a number 50 bus pulled up at a stop opposite with a top deck filled with Challoner students! Currently, the Youtube version of the video has over 6,000 views and Miss Swingler is overwhelmed by the lovely support she has had from the Challoner community over this exciting poetry adventure.



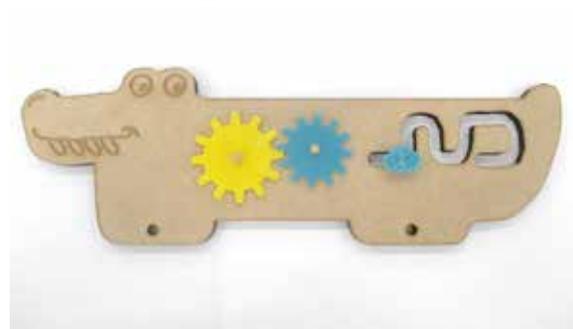
# PRODUCT DESIGN

## Year 11 Controlled Assessment

Year 11 are nearing completion of their controlled assessment unit, worth 50% of the GCSE, for which they have to design and make a prototype. Both classes have selected the context of 'Addressing the needs of people with disabilities' which was provided by AQA. Dementia, Autism and ADHD are amongst the conditions that students have decided to focus on.

Students have been lucky to have our Learning Coordinator, Ms Milne visit their lesson, during which she gave a detailed presentation on the symptoms of Autism and ADHD and the specific needs of people with these conditions. We have also made contact with Fox Hollies school and have had regular visits from the Deputy Head, Mr. Kirk, who has provided students with feedback on their designs.

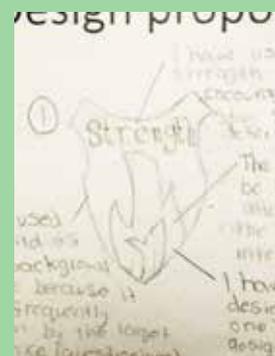
To support students who have chosen Dementia as their focus, Mark Fisher, a local minister who runs a memory café in Solihull has been a very valuable contact. Dominic has explored how interaction with jigsaw style puzzles can help prevent the advancement of dementia and with feedback from Mark will incorporate the use of family photos and memorable information into his design. Grace has designed a sensory board which includes a variety of interactive features which will help children to use scientific processes while they play, create, investigate and explore. Adam has designed a 'fidget cube' which will relieve stress in those suffering from anxiety by keeping restless hands busy. Tom has included a range of moving, tactile elements in his design to create an engaging, sensory experience. Students have been encouraged to take an iterative approach to reflect the assessment structure of the new GCSE.



## Year 8 Product Design

Year 8 Product Design students have enjoyed designing school badges which they have manufactured using the casting process in pewter. Students were asked to imagine that a school was introducing a linear house system and to generate a design for one of the houses.

They developed their designs towards a final solution and then transferred this into a CAD drawing which allowed a three part mould to be laser cut in MDF. Students then used the gas torch to melt the pewter before pouring it into the mould. The final outcomes are highly effective and demonstrate the sophistication that is possible when computer aided manufacture is employed. Well done to Amy-Lea, Kaliyah, Ailis and Adam for these examples.



# FOOD EDUCATION

## BC Staff Health Room



As the staff health pledges have been successful they have continued into the New Year. Staff make a pact to improve their physical and mental health wellbeing. Brave members of staff have displayed their pledge in public view.

## Key Stage Three

Students in year 7 continue to practise basic skills in cooking such as knife skills, weighing, measuring, managing time and working in a team. As well as hazard perception they have learnt how to make fruit fusion: focussing on knife skills and quality control, wraps focussing on food waste, fruit crumble where the focus is on food miles and seasonality and fruit muffins; a healthier alternative to cakes.

Students in year 8 have moved from the basics of food hygiene to considering food poisoning bacteria as they learn to cook with more high risk foods such as meat. They have also looked at food provenance and sources of food and considered how this can affect food choice. They have made bolognese using meat or vegetarian alternatives such as soya or Quorn, banana cake whilst considering food waste and focaccia to help learn bread making skills. They used fresh rosemary from the BC Kitchen Garden to garnish the bread. They have started to look at the basics of the hospitality and catering industry and how the kitchen brigade system works.

In Year 9 students are becoming more skilled in food and are able to manage time more effectively. They consider the hospitality and catering business more and learn about and practice different types of sensory tasting used in the food industry and product development. The school canteen have noticed a decline in sales of Sunday style lunches served on Mondays. Year 9 have been set the challenge to design a 'Roast in a Wrap' to increase sales.

## Key stage four

Year 10 are preparing for their Level 1 / 2 Award in Hospitality and Catering External examination in June. The course is for those students who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers. The course consists of two units, unit 1(external examination) and unit 2 (coursework element). 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. In unit 1 they learn about the environment in which the industry operates, how they meet health and safety requirements and how food can cause ill health. They will complete unit 2 in year 11 where the assessment is based on practical work.

Year 11 have now completed their external examination (Unit 3) of their Vcert Level 2 Food and Cookery qualification and most of them have been successful in securing their predicted grade. They have also completed Units 1 and 2 which have been externally moderated by the examination board and have again secured good grades. They are now completing the last unit, Unit 4 where they have been given a 'live' brief with a scenario to make 'afternoon tea' for senior citizens. Donations will be welcome and given to the school charity, The British Heart Foundation'. They are practising their skills such as piping in preparation for their final practical assessment to make food products such as Viennese whirls, fondant fancies, choux buns and Bakewell tarts.

## Cookery Club

Cookery Club continues as it is popular with the younger students. They have been practising their baking skills in readiness for serving their families 'afternoon tea' at Easter. So far they have made lemon and chocolate cupcakes, cookies, jam tarts, scones and Easter tray bakes. Donations will be taken for the school charity, The British Heart Foundation.



# STEM news

Stem Club have been building their own thermometers using electronic components hand soldered to a printed circuit board. They have also designed acrylic cases which have been laser cut and assembled using finger joints. This project has introduced students to the basics of electronics, helping them to learn about the function of simple components and also allowed them to develop their practical skills though soldering. We have also used materials from the Royal Academy of Engineering's 'movies' resource box which invites students to explore how engineering is used in the world of film. Students built their own zoetropes in order to find out how a series of still images or 'frames' can be used to create the illusion of a moving image. Well done to Thomas, Donte, William, Thomas, Alice, Senan and Ro'Sain.



## CULTURAL LITERACY

**'Knowing things helps us to know more things. Knowing things helps us to connect with previous knowledge and to make connections'**

This term our group have worked with Carl Chinn, investigating the roots of multiculturalism in Birmingham. They have sampled a delicious Balti from Shabab Restaurant and learned more about it's origins and unique links to Birmingham. We have visited the wonderful Lapworth Museum where we learned about dinosaurs, geology and volcanoes and we attempted putting together a time line of the Earth across billions of years. This was no mean feat!

Recently we have been looking at Icons and we are preparing resources for our whole school personal tutor sessions focusing on Birmingham women who 'dared to dream'.

We'll soon be making contact with our older generation pen pals; hopefully we will all learn something about the differences in being a kid in the 1960s compared to today!

Next half term we have a very special day out planned for the group. Watch this space for further details....



# SIXTH FORM

## Year 13 Mocks and Year 12 Internal Assessments

Students will have feed-back from teachers on their performance in the recent assessment period. They are now building on their success or putting strategies in place to ensure better progress is made. Year 13 students are working hard to meet the requirements of the many excellent university offers they have received. Year 12 students know that evidence of adequate progress in all subjects is a requirement for transition to year 13. Where there have been progress concerns, students are meeting with pastoral staff to ensure that they are fully supported.

### Keble College Oxford

On Wednesday 6th March 14 Year 12 students spent a day at Keble College, Oxford University. We listened to several presentations, covering the College system at both Oxford and Cambridge; the admissions process, including the additional tests and interviews that prospective student will complete and the advantage of attending a highly world ranked research university. After lunch, we looked at some of the online support available to help students in their choice of course and college, as well as some sample interview questions, which were certainly thought provoking!

There was also a short amount of free time in the afternoon, which will allowed students to see some other nearby colleges, visit the Bodleian Library or see what Oxford is like as a city. Mrs Nutt and Mrs Healy were immensely impressed with the students' participation and conduct throughout. Some Year 12 students are now seriously considering making an application to Oxford or Cambridge next year, others have decided that such a university would not be for them; enabling students to make such informed decisions was precisely the purpose of the visit.



### Ahlaam Moledina Year 13

Ahlaam has won a place and a financial aid package to study at a top US university after participating in the Sutton Trust US Programme, run in partnership with the US-UK Fulbright Commission.

Ahlaam will take up her place at Northwestern University, Illinois this autumn.

Last year, Ahlaam was one of 150 students selected for the programme, which included a week-long trip to the United States to visit a variety of universities and meet admissions officers from colleges across the US. They competed with over 1,000 applicants to win a place on the programme and spent a week staying in the dorms at Yale University, Princeton University or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The aim of the Sutton Trust US Programme is to encourage British state school students from less represented groups, to consider studying at American universities.

Ahlaam's financial package, will mean that studying in the US will carry no personal cost to her at all!

### Year 12

Year 12 have had two very successful days off timetable in March.

Tuesday 19th was Careers Day, which started with a very informative assembly delivered by three former 6th Form students. Mary talked about her career in the health service; she works in a relatively new NHS role as a Physician Associate. Ruby, having studied History and American Studies and having spent a year in Canada, is now completing her training as a solicitor. Matt, a talented tennis player, went to the US on a sports scholarship and has now set up his own business, offering sporting and language exchanges between British and Spanish children, alongside his work as a tennis coach. If you know children who may be interested in such an exchange, details can be found at [www.grandsportsexchange.com](http://www.grandsportsexchange.com)

A common theme in what each of them had to say was the importance of persistence and doing something you enjoy. This was followed by workshops on the world of work and careers exploration.

Wednesday 20th was HE Day; starting with a talk from a colleague from the University of Birmingham, who gave an overview of the application process and specifically Birmingham's widening participation scheme, the A2B programme. There followed workshops on choosing a university, making course choices and student finance. In the afternoon there was a workshop for students considering making an Oxbridge application or studying Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine. Details of the advice given can be found on the website.



### Year 12 Work Experience

Many Year 12 students have already secured work experience for the two-week period 1st- 12th July. If this is not the case, it must be given priority in the coming weeks. We would greatly welcome offers from any parents/carers/family acquaintances who might be able to offer a work placement to a Year 12 student. Please get in touch with Miss Darby, who will be coordinating Year 12 work experience: [e.darby@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:e.darby@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk)

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# Parents/Carers Consultation

Years 12 and 13 have had their Parents/Carers Consultation Afternoons this term, where detailed advice was available to enable students to maximise their chances of achieving or surpassing their targeted grades.

## Assemblies

All Sixth Form students have had an assembly, which focused on simple and practical ways of reducing exam stress. Due to the recent increased number of young lives tragically lost to knife crime, we have also held assemblies focusing on this very important issue.

Year 13 have also been given detailed advice about how to make their Firm and Insurance choices for university places.

## Competition Winners

Once more, the talent of our Sixth Formers has brought success in the annual Columbans' Young Journalist Competition. This year's theme was Climate Change and first place went to Oliver and Dillon in Year 12. Their video entry gained high praise from the judges. "These are two naturals, and give rise to hope for this and future generations as well as the future of our planet" said judge Ruth Gledhill of The Tablet. The two presented their own script, using Dillon's music as background, to form "an impressive piece of work". The call for concerted action is accompanied by suggestions for practical steps we can each take. Columban Fr Tom O'Reilly liked the appreciation of the powerful leadership of Pope Francis on climate change and the imperative of the faith dimension in valuing God's gift of creation.

Once more, the talent of our Sixth Formers has brought



# Cameron's account of a recent trip to Poland with the Holocaust Education Trust

Recently, I was given the opportunity to join the Lessons from Auschwitz Project, run by the Holocaust Education Trust, one of the largest Holocaust memorial and education organisations worldwide. The project is run in partnership with schools nationally and provides an insight into the history of the Holocaust, as well as looking at its deeper significance. It was for this reason that I wanted to get involved with the programme as I believed sometimes the Holocaust can just become numbers and a symbol of horror, without actually looking at why it happened and why it must be remembered.

The first stage of the project was an orientation seminar to learn more about the history of the Holocaust including pre-war Jewish life and the role of camps such as Auschwitz-Birkenau. The orientation seminar also looked in detail, through photographic evidence, at all those involved and how they were individual human beings, no different from you or me this is something new from what I had learnt from the classroom as it applied to not only victims but perpetrators, bystanders and collaborators as well. In my opinion the most important part of my orientation seminar was the rare and unique opportunity to meet a real-life Holocaust survivor. Before the seminar some of the project's staff had said that, after hearing from one of the survivors, you yourself become a witness. At the time I did not understand this but after the experience I did. This unique and brave survivor was Marla Tribich. She had been a Polish survivor from the Bergen-Belsen camp. Her story was both harrowing and terrifying; the extent of physical and mental torture of someone so young at the time and separated from members of her family. However, her testimony was also inspiring, it showed how lucky she had been, but also how resolute her mental strength to survive had been - itself a form of resistance, in a very important way.

the war. It was given the German name of Auschwitz when the Nazis invaded, under the new policy of Germanification. It was strange to see how a town that is notorious such a dark past and name can still have a population living there. In fact, we saw this again at Auschwitz Camp One, where the former Commandant's house now has a young Polish family living within. It showed that Polish and Jewish history is not just defined by the events of the Holocaust. The visit was interesting and corrected some of the common misconceptions, such as the popular view that it is very quiet with no wildlife in the camps; I found this was not true: there is a small forest nearby and the sounds of animals and especially birds can be heard. However, the experience was particularly emotional for me at the second camp, Birkenau.

This camp was truly enormous and some of the reconstructed holding cabins opened our eyes to how awful this place had been. Some of the personal stories from survivors were just harrowing. What really touched me the most was the story of the Sonderkommando. This was a group of Jewish prisoners who were given the role of carrying the corpses of people who had been killed in the gas chambers. They had led a revolt and burned a gas chamber before eventually being executed themselves. This particular event struck me more than others, because it truly shows how, even in a hopeless situation, in some of the worse conditions and situations imaginable, some form of resistance was still attempted.

At a final seminar we discussed what could be done after this experience. It was pointed out how important knowing of events such as this has become, in a world that is still filled with so much violence and hatred towards other cultures and societal groups. I am driven, now more than ever, to teach others about my experiences and share the personal experiences of some of the people I met and learned about, to humanise the event more.

The next step was a one day visit to Poland itself. After a long flight and coach journey we visited the Polish town of Oswiecim, a town which had had a predominantly Jewish population before

# CAREERS

There have been several opportunities this term for students to engage with employers, representatives from universities, colleges and training providers. The first of which was the Careers Fair.



The feedback from students in Years 8-10 suggests that they enjoyed the opportunity to ask employers meaningful questions, ranging from what subjects to take at GCSE to what kind of opportunities and salary they could expect within particular careers. Students had the opportunity to talk to Jaguar Land Rover, Theatre Sisters (NHS), Ishida, University of Birmingham, Creative Access College, Army, Arcadis, Birmingham City Council, Solihull College and many more.

## Year 12 Careers Exploration Day and HE (Higher Education) Day

On Tuesday 19th March Year 12 were off timetable all day looking at careers and the world of work. They heard from 3 ex-students who talked about the paths they have taken since leaving Bishop Challoner. Students then took part in workshops; one of which was on interview and employability skills and how jobs have changed and are due to change in the future. The second workshop gave students the chance to research different companies and careers.

Students then attended a Careers Speed Networking Session where they talked to a variety of different employers about the jobs they did. Students heard from representatives from companies such as Deloitte, HSBC, Friends of the Earth and the NHS.

The following day was Year 12 HE day. This started with a talk giving students an overview of the UCAS process and how to apply to university, delivered by the University of Birmingham. The university also talked about their widening participation programme, the Access to Birmingham (A2B) scheme. A variety of universities then delivered workshops on how to choose a university, making course decisions and student finance. In the afternoon there was a workshop for students considering making an Oxbridge application or studying Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine.

## Update from Miss McGowan, Careers Adviser Year 11 Careers Interviews

Each student in Year 11 has now had a careers interview where they have been able to discuss and explore their future career plans and their post-16 options. Some students will now be having follow up interviews to discuss this in more detail and clarify ideas. If any students in Year 11 are still unsure of their plans for next year, they can request a follow up meeting with Miss McGowan. Students can email her at: [e.mcgowan@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:e.mcgowan@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk). Miss McGowan can also help students with making applications and preparing for and rearranging interviews.

## Update from the Careers Leader, Miss Darby

I'm sure you'll agree having read this page, there has been a lot going on this half term with regards to Careers. These events have sparked so many conversations not just in lessons but also around school, about a range of topics relating to possible careers, apprenticeships, degree courses, qualifications etc. This has been further encouraged through the BC Staff quiz during Careers Week/ National Apprenticeships week as well as a quiz about the Labour Market and various assemblies which explored different pathways.

If you wish to explore career ideas with your son/daughter at home, I would recommend looking on the following websites initially: [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) and [www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com). Students are able to access KUDOS also but will need login details for this. They can be gained from Miss McGowan or Miss Darby. There will be lots of resources on the new Careers Hub section of our website shortly. This is currently under construction but will have a Parent/Carer Zone as well as a Student Zone where you can access up to date information as and when you need it.

Also coming up in the Summer term is work experience for Years 10 and 12. This is becoming an increasingly challenging programme to run as, every year, employers we rely on are no longer able to support us for a number of reasons. If you are able to assist us with this in any way I would love to hear from you. My email address is: [e.darby@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk](mailto:e.darby@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk). Similarly, if you would like to attend any of our future careers events and help to ignite careers conversations about the industry you work in, please do get in touch.

I wish you all a Happy Easter.



# OLC

As we greet spring with joy; the longer, lighter days, the smells and sounds; the awakening of bulbs and trees,

the visible birds and a garden coming to life. It is a time of hope and expectation. It is a time to think about the future.

Conscientious students study for summer exams as they prepare to take the next part of their life journey. This will be the main focus for many, and we hope the Library will provide a comfortable relaxed space for study.

We encourage and remind our students that they are part of

the school community. Year 7 and 8 students are invited to join the Library Monitor team. For some this gives a new friendship group, a place to be at during break time and a role to play, whilst learning new skills.

Spring Library events completed, include the Year 8 murder mystery, the Book fair, the Hoola Hoop Frenzy and the Crazy Hat Day to mark World Book Day.

Encouraging students to read for pleasure remains a priority. Reading can have an impact of life outcomes. Please encourage your children to read.

Have a Happy and Peaceful Easter Time.

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# School Direct – Trainee Teachers

A large part of what we do here at BCTSA is to train teachers through the School Direct (PGCE) route. Our current trainees have now taken part in their second placements – this is a fantastic opportunity for trainees to spend half a term experiencing life in a different school. With training days every Friday at their respective Universities – currently we work with Warwick and Newman, the trainees are making great progress and are on track to finish their training in the summer.

BCTSA is actively recruiting for trainee teachers to start in September 2019 – UCAS is open for applications and we are already over half way to filling our places. Still available are training positions in a range of secondary subjects, including: Science, Maths, Art, English and Geography as well as Primary and Primary with a PE Specialism. There are generous bursaries attached to some subjects, so definitely worth looking at if you are due to graduate this summer, or are looking to change careers. The support given when you train with our Alliance is evident from the feedback of our trainees.

We are always happy to have a chat with individuals who are thinking about going into teaching – both recent graduates and career changers. An Honours degree is required (class 2:2 or above) as well as a GCSE in Maths and English, grade C or above, and the addition of GCSE Science for those going into Primary teaching. A fun, difficult, exhausting year, but ultimately rewarding career!



# Future Teaching Scholars

We are very pleased to continue to be part of the Future Teaching Scholars national programme funded through the Department for Education, encouraging and training Maths and Physics University undergraduates to start their career paths into Teaching. Having been part of this programme from the beginning, we are now entering a new exciting stage! Some of our scholars who joined us in the first year are now about to graduate from University and are now preparing to start their one-year teaching training programme. They will be a fantastic asset in the secondary school where they get appointed, and we look forward to monitoring their continuing progress next year. If you know any current Sixth Formers who are thinking of eventually becoming Maths or Physics teachers, do tell them about this opportunity. More details can be found at <https://www.futureteachingscholars.com/>



*"Maths is such a broad and interesting subject - the more people who can experience this and find some enjoyment from it, the better!"*

Luka, Future Teaching Scholar



# Teaching Internships – starting mid-June 2019

We have been busy interviewing for 40 intern places as part of the continuing Government funded programme for 2nd Year University Students. There is a bursary of £1,200 for each trainee and they will be expected to spend 4 weeks in one of our Alliance schools assisting in Maths and Physics classes. This is a real benefit for the students in class, who can take inspiration from students using Maths and Physics in real life situations, as well as encourage some of these subject enthusiasts to go on to apply to be teachers once they have graduated.

Places are still available, so see [www.bctsa.org/Teaching-Internship-Programme](http://www.bctsa.org/Teaching-Internship-Programme) for details.



# TSST MFL-keeping foreign languages on the Curriculum

We are pleased to be working with the DfE again this year on their Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) programme. Designed for Secondary Languages teachers to increase their knowledge in a further language, namely French, Spanish or German, we are working in different regions across the Midlands. We have 2 programmes running in the Coventry and Warwickshire areas this term, and are working with new partners, President Kennedy School and Myton School to deliver training.

Not only do delegates enjoy 12 hours of face-to-face training, they can also benefit from a Rosetta Stone online learning package which lasts for a year! More dates are still to be announced in different areas, and another programme will run at Bishop Challoner in the summer months. We definitely think that early morning language and pedagogy learning is easier with a pain au chocolat!



## Leadership Development within the schools

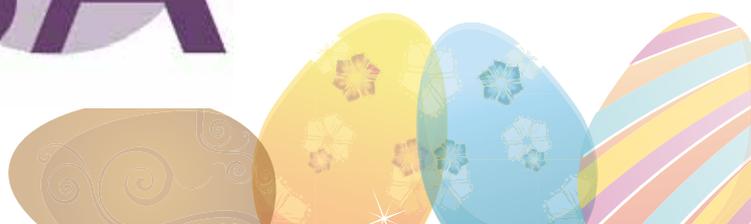
With our strong tradition of supporting teaching staff at all stages of their careers, our Leadership Development programmes continue to be popular. With Newly Qualified Teachers being looked after at the start of their careers, so are Aspiring Headteachers who are more established in their school careers. Mr McGurran has successfully written a new programme on Ethical Leadership, which is running for the first time this year. Suitable for Primary and Secondary Teachers, it really helps delegates to explore and reflect on developing their leadership skills, whilst retaining strong religious values within their leadership roles.



We also deliver Nationally recognised qualifications for Leadership – The NPQML and NPQSL for Middle and Senior Leaders respectively.

## Keep up to date with BCTSA on the web

We have a strong online and social media presence, so why not logon and see what we're doing! We now have a Facebook page (Bishop Challoner Teaching School Alliance); Twitter (@teaching\_school); LinkedIn: (Bishop Challoner Teaching School Alliance) and Instagram (bishopchallonertsa) and of course our website: [www.bctsa.org](http://www.bctsa.org)



# SCHOOL GAMES AND PE & SPORTS PREMIUM PROGRAMMES 2018-19

Mr D. McDermott (School Games Organiser) continues to work with the local primary, secondary and special schools through the School Games (SG) programme to develop competitive sporting opportunities, leadership pathways and provide opportunities for all young people to do more physical activity.

## Year of Health and Wellbeing

We have been working very hard this year to encourage all staff and pupils to be more physically active as the long-term benefits for a healthy active lifestyle and lifelong participation are well documented.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is the basis of all of Unicef's work. It is the most complete statement of children's rights ever produced and is the most widely-ratified international human rights treaty in history. Article 24 states that **"Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care.....and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy"**. Article 31 states recognises **"the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts"**.

All of the opportunities we provide through our School Games and PE and Sport Premium programmes fulfil these criteria but one of the biggest challenges we face is to get ALL young people to be more physically active outside of school. We encourage all families to spend at least 1 hour a day where they are not sedentary but are moving around, walking, playing games and being physically active. One of the ways to do this is through a Parkrun and there are adult Parkruns on a Saturday at 9am and junior Parkruns on a Sunday at 9am in Cannon Hill Park, see poster.

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## Competitive Sport

Primary school indoor athletics competitions were won by St Edward's for Year 3-4 and St Catherine of Siena for Year 5-6, handball for Year 5-6 was won by St Jude's and the first of 2 swimming galas for Year 5-6 was won by St Edward's.

For secondary schools, competitions have been won by Bishop Challoner in Year 7 girls indoor athletics and for Year 8 girls Bishop Challoner and UoB School tied 1st and so both schools progress on to the finals later this term. In the Year 7 and Year 8 boys indoor athletics competitions UoB school won through to the finals.

Basketball competitions were won by Bishop Challoner for Year 8-9 girls who then won the Birmingham School Games Final, a great achievement. Our boys competition was won by Queensbridge.

Finally, we also held dance competitions on 28th February with UoB School and Bishop Challoner winning for KS3 and KS4 respectively.



Tweet



St Edward's School  
@stedsbham

Huge congratulations to our swimming team! Winners of the @YourSchoolGames gala yesterday. Thanks to all who ran the gala and those who came to support 🥳👏👏



# Youth Leadership

Our Bronze Ambassador (BA) workshop for Y5-6 pupils on 25th February focussed on teaching them about the amount of sugar in snacks and drinks and we ran a number of activities to help them understand this topic. All BAs have been challenged to go back to their primary schools and create at least 2 posters to be used around school to promote healthy eating.

We also discussed getting more young people physically active through taking part in 'personal best challenges' (these are simple skills/fitness challenges which pupils attempt and try to improve on). Some primary schools are now using this idea to encourage more physical activity, see below.



# Social Media

You can follow all our work on @BCSGO where we now have over 930 followers. One of the groups we follow on Twitter are 'BelievePerform', who provide excellent fact/information sheets on a wide range of physical and mental health topics, see below.



## 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](mailto:g.noone@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk) or call on 0121 4444161.



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## School Fund and Match Fund

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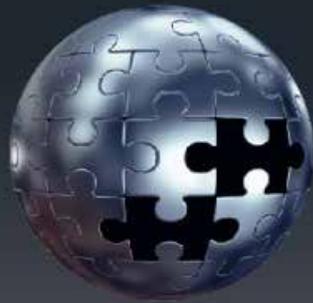


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We want you to help us share these basic life saving skills out far and wide. Whether it is by simply telling someone what you learnt as a First Aid Community Champion or by becoming a Community Advocate and doing info sessions yourselves in your local area. Offering resilience and confidence in emergencies and building this into local areas is our aim and of utmost importance to us.

Please get in touch with the Birmingham based Community Development Officer Miriam Aslam (Miriam.aslam@sja.org.uk) or the Community Administrator, Rebecca Smith (Rebecca.smith2@sja.org.uk) and let them know your interest.



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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- 94%  
Year 10- 95%  
Year 11- 95%  
Whole School- 95%

## Schoolcomms

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

For further information please visit our website  
[www.bishopchalloner.org](http://www.bishopchalloner.org)

## Mobile Phones

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

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

## Important Dates

<b>School Opens</b> Monday 29th April	<b>Year 9 Vaccinations</b> Friday 17th May
<b>Year 7-10 PGL Netball and Football Development Trip</b> Friday 3rd May- Sunday 5th May	<b>Year 8, 9, 10 &amp; 12 Blessing of Hands Mass for Lourdes at St Chad's Cathedral</b> Sunday 19th May
<b>Bank Holiday Monday School Closed</b> Monday 6th May	<b>Year 10 French Speaking Mock Exams</b> Wednesday 22nd May- Thursday 23rd May
<b>Football Development Tour</b> Saturday 11th May- Wednesday 15th May	<b>Year 13 Leavers Service</b> Friday 24th May
<b>St Chad's Sanctuary Collection</b> Monday 13th May	<b>Year 8, 9, 10 &amp; 12 Lourdes Pilgrimage Half Term</b> Monday 27th May- Friday 31st May
Year 12 Mock Exams Monday 13th May- Friday 24th May	<b>School Open</b> Monday 3rd June
<b>Canteen Mexican Day</b> Tuesday 14th May	
<b>Canteen Vietnam Day</b> Wednesday 15th May	

**HAPPY  
EASTER**