

B C 14

God our Father, with the gifts you have given to us we have responsibilities and duties. Lead us to do our best and act responsibly. Give us courage when we face difficulties. Inspire us to make our choices wisely, always remembering that there are consequences to what we choose to do. Amen.

Message from Mr Hetherton, Senior Vice Principal Friday 26th January 2018

The main feature in the news on Monday highlighted the chronic shortage of resources at a hospital in the north east of England. The feature left the audience in absolutely no doubt of the harsh realities faced by doctors, nurses and patients up and down the country in 2018. Ambulances stacked outside A and E and corridors littered with trollies of patients in obvious discomfort represent significant daily challenges. Throughout the feature I was struck by the wholehearted commitment and compassion the doctors and nurses have for all those they treat and how dedicated and hardworking they all are despite the obvious difficulties they experience on a daily basis. Their commitment to serving those in their care is both humbling and awe inspiring and serves as a wonderful example to us all - there is much we can learn from them.

Last week our pupils voted on the charity Bishop Challoner will be raising money for this academic year. It was an extremely close vote with St Basils triumphing

having secured 53% of the vote. Given the increased media exposure highlighting the plight of the homeless, particularly the young homeless, I am delighted that the community of Bishop Challoner has the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to improving the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves. Let's dig deep into our pockets over the coming months and make a difference to the many vulnerable men and women in our local area.

I am sure the untimely death of Cyrille Regis last week has evoked memories, in many of us old enough to remember, of the great man's quality and ability on the football pitch. He truly was a great servant to football in the West Midlands, especially to my beloved Coventry City. His enduring legacy is his dignity and his determination to be the best he could in the face of great hostility. A trailblazer indeed and another fine example to us all. Rest in peace Cyrille.

OLC News

Year 8 students became detectives when they visited the OLC to try to solve the murder mystery. Who killed the Library assistant? How was she killed and what was the motive? It was all revealed in assembly and students were able to piece the scenario together to see if their theory was correct. It was a very engaging activity for the students and something very different which required many skills.

The Library Monitors are soon to put their organisational and communication skills to good use when they host a tombola and table top sale on 13th February. Planning for this is underway.

We are also hosting a Scholastic Book Fair the week commencing 5th February, when students will be invited to the OLC to see new book titles and make purchases if they wish to. Discounted book vouchers can be purchased and printed from email in advance from <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers> or students can pay cash. All students will benefit from commission generated by book sales and new books can be put on the Library shelves for all students to enjoy.

Students are being encouraged to read as much as possible as there is plenty of evidence that reading for pleasure has tremendous benefits. Books can be borrowed from the School Library for free and students can join their local library and borrow books, e books and audiobooks.

Bishop's Got Talent Auditions

Bishop's got talent auditions are next Tuesday after school from 3.15pm. Students should go and register, then wait in the canteen. Please bring music etc for your act. We are looking for the following:-Singers, dancers, actors, musicians, magicians, comedians. Maybe you can do special skills with a football, whatever your talent please come along. We are only looking for 10 acts for the final.

If you have any gymnasts or Irish dancers in your class please could you send me their names and form so i can organise a different time for these students to meet with me, unless of course they want to audition as a solo act as well.

Bishop Challoner Teaching School

New Year - New Career? Here at BCTSA we help all sorts of people start a career in teaching - not just recent University graduates. If you would like to find out more about Teacher Training via the School Direct route and how to gain your PGCE, then come along to one of our Information Sessions. The next ones at Bishop Challoner are Tuesday 30th January, 6-8pm and Wednesday 31st January, 9-11am. Just book a free place via our website: <http://www.bctsa.org/Train-to-Teach-Events>

Ceili Night

Bishop Challoner's Lourdes team are hosting a Ceili night on Friday 2nd March at the Irish Centre (Upstairs) in Digbeth, 8pm to late. We have booked "The Burdock Ceili Band ". The tickets are £5 each, and we plan to hold a raffle. There will also be an Irish dancing display from our talented students. For tickets contact Tommy at Bishop Challoner on 0121 444 4161.

Sixth Form

Schools Journalism Competition

The Missionary Society of St Columbus is inviting young people to enter a journalism competition, an initiative to mark their centenary year in 2018.

Students who are budding journalists, are asked to write an article or make a video report that informs, challenges and raises important issues on the topic:



'Migrants are our Neighbours'

The submission deadline is 8 February 2018.

The Missionary Society of St. Columbus has committed itself in a special way to accompany and defend the rights of migrants, and to address the underlying causes of migration. Young people are being asked to use their journalistic writing and mobile skills to look at a topical issue which is relevant to Catholic Social Teaching and resonates with Columban mission.

In Britain, the Columbans engage with immigrant communities and help to run Fatima House, a house of sanctuary in Birmingham for women asylum seekers, a collaborative partnership between the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Caritas Birmingham and Father Hudson's Care. Columbans have participated in 'Welcome the Stranger' Walks of Witness in London and Birmingham, and there is a long-standing ministry to domestic workers.

6th Form Attendance Support

As parents/carers you will know, there is a close correlation between good attendance and academic success, which is why we place such an emphasis on absence monitoring. We are very pleased with the high level of attendance and punctuality that the majority of our students maintain.

Where there is cause for concern, we keep parents informed and send regular attendance letters. In order to assist students who still struggle to maintain good attendance after these interventions, we are putting additional support in place. Any such student will be required to remain on site throughout the school day and will be required to be working in the library or study centre when not in lessons. This is to ensure that every opportunity is given to develop good attitudes to study and catch up on any work missed. This will be reviewed after four weeks. Parents will be contacted by a member of the 6th Form team if a student requires this additional attendance support.

Sports Updates

Well done to the Year 11 Boys' Basketball team who won both their games this week against Yardleys and Dame Elizabeth Cadbury. Men of the Matches were Tyreace and Ben. The team have their last ever league game after five years working as a unit against Shenley Academy on February 6th. Congratulations on another successful season!

The Year 9 Boys Basketball teams' 100% winning streak came to an abrupt end against Jewellery Quarter Academy this week, losing 23-9. Despite this, the team remain top of the table after winning their 3 previous matches against Camp Hill Boys, Queensbridge and King Edwards Sheldon Heath. Notable performances from Jacinto & Freddie; both receiving two Man of The Match awards each at this stage. Full team - Jaheem, Freddie, Jacinto, Damien, Marcus, Tate, Alan & Edwin.

Year 7 Girls basketball team have won both of their games, with 20 points! They have played exceptionally well, demonstrating excellent skill but also team work. They have their final game tonight, which hopefully we will win as well. Additionally, the Year 7 girls continued their winning streak against St Pauls beating them 20-10 in a thrilling match-up.

Year 7 Boys' Basketball team have two fixtures this week; Alcester Academy and Birchensale Middle School. The likes of Nathaniel, Jaydan, Aira, Cassandra, Tadhg and Gabriel will be showcasing their skills and teamwork! They continue their season in the NBA Jr League where they are hoping to progress into the play-off rounds.

In Football, year 9 Boys' beat Cardinal Wisman 1-0 in the West Midlands cup quarters in a thrilling match which went into extra time. The boys' will now progress into the semi-finals of the cup where they are hoping to find silverware! A massive congratulations on the group effort, teamwork and hard-work throughout the game.

Upcoming Events

Caribbean Day (Canteen)
Tuesday 30th January

Year 13 A Level Geography Trip
Thursday 1st February

St Chad's Sanctuary Collection Begins
Monday 5th February

Year 8 and 9 Briars Retreat
Wednesday 7th February - Friday 9th February

Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 8th February