



NEWSLETTER

No. 164 – March 2015

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Headteacher's News

Dear Student, Parent, Carer, Friends of the School,

We are quickly approaching the end of yet another busy term. Our Easter preparations are underway. Staff and students have been fundraising for CAFOD during Lent. All students had the opportunity to participate in Reconciliation services last week. These were led by Father Mark and were deeply moving. A number of students also participated in the Flame Conference at Wembley Arena; over 8000 young people were joined by Cardinal Nichols and our Bishop, Bishop Philip. I am grateful for support from the Catenians who kindly funded hoodies for all Bishop Challoner students who attended

the event. My thanks to Mary Lee for leading on this.

Our Year 11 students are now fully focused on exam preparation; we are holding workshops most Saturday mornings and during the second week of the Easter Holidays. Thank you for your support for this.

We breakup for Easter on 2nd April and return on 20th April.

Thank you for your support. Have a restful and Holy Easter.

Yours sincerely

A J Corish
Headteacher

Forthcoming Dates

2 April 2015	End of Term – Normal finishing time
20 April 2015	Revision Starts for all Year 11
22 April 2015	8A, 8B & ½ 8D Parents' Evening
23 April 2015	Headteacher's Drop In (1pm – 3pm)
29 April 2015	½ 8D, 8F & 8G Parents' Evening
11 May 2015	Y11 GCSE Exams begin
25 – 29 May 2015	HALF TERM
1 June 2015	Y10 Internal Exams begin
15 June 2015	Leavers' Mass (6:30pm)
17 June 2015	Headteacher's Drop In (1pm – 3pm)

26 June 2015	INSET DAY
	Y11 Prom @ Oakley Hall
29 June 2015	Celebration Evening (6pm)
4 July 2015	PTA Fun Day
13 July 2015	Sports Day @ Down Grange
14-17 July 2015	School Production
17 July 2015	END OF TERM (Mass @ 12:30pm)

Reminders

- The use of mobile phones is banned in school. Any phone seen in school will be confiscated. Please do not encourage your child to send or receive texts from you during the day. If this comes to our attention the phone will be confiscated.
- School Uniform Policy remains unchanged. Please ensure your child is wearing full school uniform, including leather shoes. Your support is much appreciated.
- The 40th Anniversary celebrations of the opening of the school will be taking place on Saturday 19 September 2015 at 7:30pm. Former pupils, staff and their families are all very welcome. There will be a bar food and disco in the School Hall. Tickets are £3 in advance and will be available soon from the school office.
- As we are fast approaching the hay fever season, if your child suffers from hay fever would you please provide antihistamine tablets, clearly labelled with your child's name, so that we may keep in school and administer as necessary.
- This is the season to start getting our school allotment up and running. We always need seeds, tubers and legumes, wellies and of course some young enthusiastic people to help. Our Allotment Club will start soon on a Friday after school from 3:35pm to 4:45pm. Mrs Ferris who runs the Club would be very grateful for any support.
- Wednesday 8 April 2015 at The Haymarket - An acoustic evening of live music with local band CONCEPT. (Band members include ex Bishop Challoner student). Be the first to hear their brand new, original material - they would be very grateful of your support.

USA Trip

Some Year 10 students are about to embark upon the school's annual USA trip which allows them a unique opportunity to explore their History Curriculum in depth and to experience the culture, art and music of America. One of the highlights of the trip will see the group attending Palm Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral – a New York City landmark. We wish them a very successful and enjoyable trip.

Music Department News

Congratulations to all students who performed so well in the Basingstoke Music Festival recently. These include Annie Wheeler, Rosie Walton, Hannah Maxwell, Hannah McCabe and Henry Chui, Carenza Cosgrave. Well done for supporting this great local event.

A huge thank you and well done to all students who performed in our annual Spring Chamber Concert on 11th March. Much hard work and preparation had gone into this and it is valuable experience for all those with impending GCSE exams, grade exams or for those who haven't done anything like this before.

The Advanced Woodwind Ensemble will be playing at the Basingstoke Music Festival on Saturday 28th April; please contact Mrs Johnson directly if you need further information about this.

Choir have an event at the Anvil on Saturday 9th May; all Choir members should have come home with a letter about this. If they haven't, please see the copy on the school website and send in the reply slip as soon as possible in order for all names to be included on the programme.

Exam News

The GCSE Exams begin on Monday 11th May and timetables will be sent home before the Easter Break. The breakfast club will run as usual in school from 8.00am. All Year 10 Students will be taking their ICT Functional Skills Exam during the week of 11th May. A full timetable is available on the website. Any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school Exams Office.

Y9 visit to the Mandir, Neasden Temple



Having really enjoyed their multi-faith visit in Y8 to both a Mosque and a Gurdwara in Southampton, a number of Y9 students requested the chance to visit a Hindu place of worship to enhance their study of Hinduism.

Despite the snow, we made it to Neasden and were immediately awestruck by the magnificence and beauty of the Temple before us. It seemed to belong in India rather than in the industrial landscape of Neasden, with Ikea just a walk away.

The inside was no less stunning, hand built and paid for by Hindu volunteers, this Temple is a testament to the faith, perseverance and skills of the Hindu community.

After being warmly welcomed and shown a film about the temple's construction, we were privileged to see the midday prayers (puja) being celebrated. It was fascinating to watch, with music playing different mantras. Afterwards, we were able to get up close to these life-sized Gods and saw a number of oranges and bananas offered.

Next, we descended to the basement of the Temple and explored the Hinduism Exhibition. This was again, a multi-sensory experience in places, with the sounds of running water, the smell of incense and different coloured lighting.

Finally, we had the chance to ask one of the Hindu worshippers any questions we wanted answering about Hinduism. It was a shame that we had to cut this short in order to get back to school in time. When Y9 evaluated this trip, 100% of the 55 who opted to come along said that they'd recommend it to run next year. As to what they would change to make it better?... 'More time at the Temple!'



Challenge Week

We are busy planning for our annual Challenge Week and this year's theme is 'Travels and Journeys'. Ideas and approaches are being developed between year groups and across Departments. To cite two examples, in RE the focus may well be the concept of Pilgrimage and the Spiritual Journeys; 'Kinder Transport' and the testimony of Holocaust Survivors is being explored by the History Department. There will also be lots of other activities happening during the week and we will let you have further details nearer the time.

The First World War Centenary Battlefield Tour



On the 27th February, competition winners, Chloe Perkins and Tommy Mackie embarked on an adventure that would take them back in time - 100 years. They were selected to represent the school on the First World War Centenary Battlefield Tours Programme on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE), a 4 day tour of the battlefields, museums, memories and cemeteries in and around Ypres and The Somme. The Programme incorporated enquiry based learning which allowed the students to explore three key questions:

- *How did the First World War affect ordinary people?*
- *Was the Battle of the Somme in 1916 really a disaster for the British Army?*
- *Is remembrance more or less important 100 years on?*

Day 1 found the students out of their comfort zone, meeting the other students they would be going on the tour with and taking part in challenging activities, such as taking the 'leap of faith' - climbing to the top of a 10 metre pole, before putting their faith in

themselves as they jump and reach to catch the mid-air suspended trapeze!

Day 2 was an early start which began with the Eurotunnel and the journey to Belgium. We first visited Lijssenthoek Cemetery and museum. Lijssenthoek is the second largest military cemetery in Belgium. Here we were able to understand the role of military hospitals which were established in Lijssenthoek and how they continued to treat casualties up to the end of the War. The number of graves were overwhelming at first, though we were able to feel closer to individual soldiers by reading their headstones and the inscriptions chosen by their families. Next we journeyed to the Death Cells at Poperinge to discuss a topic that we so often try to forget - Why did the British Army use the death sentence to punish its own men? Here we discussed the need for discipline within the army, and whether the death sentence was needed during the war. Both Chloe and Tommy agreed that different methods of torture should have been used, especially since some of the men sentenced had almost definitely been suffering from 'shell-shock' when they committed their crimes – ranging from cowardice to falling asleep at their post. Following this we went to the 'In Flanders Field' Museum. This museum gave us the opportunity to understand why Ypres and the Salient were so important to the British during the First World War. We watched videos, learnt about individuals, saw maps and analysed artefacts in order to gain a deeper understanding of the First World War. Finally, though weary from the busy day, we went to watch the Ceremony of the Last Post at the Menin Gate. This was a moving experience that gave us some time for quiet reflection – to think about the lives that had been lost and the importance of remembrance.

Day 3 started early again as we travelled south into France to explore the question - Was the Battle of the Somme in 1916 really a disaster for the British Army? We visited Sheffield Memorial Park and discussed the role of Pals Battalions in the battle of the Somme and also the loss that would have been suffered by so many at home as whole communities were destroyed on the battlefield. Despite the initial reaction that the battle of the Somme was a failure, we were then able to learn how rapidly the British army learnt from their mistakes. We agreed that although the number of casualties was immense, quickly the way war was fought changed and eventually the aims were achieved. We really got a sense of the huge impact the battle had when visiting Thiepval Memorial later that day. It is a memorial to the 72,192 missing British and South African men who died on the Somme battlefields between 1915 and March 1918 and who have no known grave.

Our final day gave us the opportunity to learn about another important battle – the battle of Passchendaele. We were able to experience dugouts and trenches at the Memorial Museum Passchendaele, hear accounts of ordinary men who played the vital role of stretcher bearers and visit the Tyne Cot Cemetery to try to deepen our understanding of the sacrifice of war. Here Chloe and Tommy discussed the importance of religion and how, despite their suffering as they drown in the mud, never to have a proper funeral or grave, so many of them knew they had God by their side and that this must have offered them great comfort in their final moments.

Chloe and Tommy will be sharing their experiences with the school and wider community as they embark on a legacy project.

PE Department News

The new intake has shown a real interest for Netball since training started back in October. With the help from some of our Y10 and Y11 pupils, we were able to run a number of training sessions before making the team selection. Over 45 Y7 girls tried out for the two teams so were in a good position to select a strong Bishop Challoner team. A big thank you goes to all the girls who attended training and we hope to see you all again in Y8!

The Y7 Netball league, which started after Christmas running through to the February half term, went really well. Both the A and B teams continued to attend weekly training sessions and that, combined with their efforts from before Christmas, made them very strong opposition for the other Basingstoke Schools. The A team went through the whole season without losing a match, which led to them winning the Basingstoke Secondary Schools Netball league. The B team also had a good deal of success and they finished 4th in the league. The A team now go on to represent Basingstoke in the Hampshire Champions Tournament on Wednesday 18th March at the Russell Howard Netball courts. The tournament starts at 3:30pm and it would be great to have lots of support.

A team players: Nieve Cleary, Aisling McGrane, Poppy Goffin, Macy Barrett, Ellie Tydeman, Caitlin Gallagher, Aurelia Abbotts, Raine Perez, Harriet Williams.

B team players: Miranda Farrow, Iysha Morris, Macy Ross, Patrycja Hafner, Maddie Doran, Jodie Clift, Wing Chi Lingthep.

Year 7 Girls Football

Another year of super effort from the girls in the 5 aside indoor version of the game! Back in November we took part in the local schools 5 aside league and beat The Vyne, Fort Hill, Costello and Cranbourne which took us through to the Semi Finals where we played Aldworth and then beat Costello in the Final. As a result of winning the local league, we were selected to go on to the Hampshire 5 aside tournament at Soccer City in Fareham in January. This was a very exciting opportunity, and although we faced strong opposition the girls really enjoyed the day and there were a number of star performances.

Team members: Kirsty McNally, Allegra Tarantino-Hind, Poppy Goffin, Iysha Morris, Katy Gallagher, Lauren McNally, Marianna Tarantino-Hind and Macy Barrett.

Girls Contact Rugby

The most recent fixture we have participated in has been a relatively new one for the Girls at Bishop Challoner School. Last year we saw a number of girls become interested in the sport and with the World Cup taking place within England later this year Mrs Cooper wanted to develop the sport further. Basingstoke Rugby club runs a girls contact training session every Sunday and both Sinead Corbett (Y9) and Francesca Harvey (Y10) are both members of the U15 team who have had an excellent season making the finals of the regional competition.

We have managed to squeeze in some school based training sessions but the girls have also participated in two Hampshire organised training days where they have learnt the fundamentals of the games and how to tackle safely. On Thursday 5th March we took both a Year 7/8 and a Year 9/10 team to play in the Hampshire Schools 7 a-side tournaments. All the girls from both teams should be really very proud of their efforts. They had the right level of commitment and effort on the field and played really very well considering they are relatively newcomers to the game. The Year 7/8 team finished 5th out of 12 teams within their competition. Well done to all of the girls who have challenged themselves to learn something new!

Bishop Challoner Regains Crown (Article from the Basingstoke Gazette)

Bishop Challoner Secondary School won the Sporting School (secondary) Award for the first time since 2008, beating off competition from The Vyne Community School. Head of PE, Chris Sheers, was delighted to have regained the school's crown and said: "it's nice for all the hard work of both the staff and pupils to be recognised. I have a great team at the school and everyone is very enthusiastic about sport."



Boys Rugby

The Year 7 Boys Rugby team has made a good start to the season winning two games from two. They overcame Aldworth 5-0 and The Hurst 30-0. Notable performances from Rory Messenger, Niall Hannigan, Jude Larcher and Harry Blackburn.

Table Tennis

Josh Ngabo, Ian Parkyn and Celethe Koeburg represented Basingstoke Schools well in the individual Hampshire Table Tennis finals held in Totton. Josh and Celethe reaching the quarter final stages.

Badminton

Beth Poole, Thalia Dahlen, Celethe Koeburg and Louise Mallozzi also represented Basingstoke Schools in the Hampshire Badminton finals held in Winchester.

Careers News

The Careers Department have been extremely busy working in close partnership with the Basingstoke Consortium providing opportunities for our Year 9s and Year 10s to forge links with industries in and around the local area. Students have had opportunities to visit Winchester University, AWE, De La Rue to name but a few. Students' exposure to the working practices of established companies is an integral and vital part of developing the whole person. For a fuller overview of the programme please visit the website.

Young Enterprise

Our Year 10 students have been working hard as part of their extra-curricular programme to gain valuable insight into what it is to be an entrepreneur. With mentoring they have undertaken various roles and have recently embarked on a profit-making project. Their learning will enable them to understand more about the processes involved in getting projects 'off the ground', recognising how to take the nucleus of an idea, develop it, take account of others' views, plan strategically, monitor production and effectiveness and then to evaluate strengths and areas of improvement.