



Bishop Challoner
Catholic Secondary School

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NEWSLETTER

No. 167 – February 2016

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

As an RE teacher I have often been asked around this time of year, 'Sir, what are you giving up for Lent?' My answers over the years have varied as have my levels of resolve in completing a Lenten fast! Pope Francis reminds us this year that our preparations for Easter should never be superficial; that the time and space our self-denial affords us should be directed both towards our relationships with Jesus and our neighbour.

St. John Chrysostom wrote that, 'No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great.'

We take that teaching seriously in school as our young people spend Lent raising awareness of the needs of the less fortunate and through their fundraising for CAFOD and our twin school in Bamenda, St Bede's.

I hope you will join us in our Year of Mercy prayer every Friday as we say,

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful
like the heavenly Father.
Pour out your Spirit on our school community
and on St Bede's, our sister school in Bamenda.
Fill us with your grace that
we may be your visible face in the world
in this Year of Mercy,
witnessing to your Good News
by our words and actions.
We ask this in your name. Amen.

*Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall be shown mercy*



With best wishes and prayers

J P Wright
Headteacher

Forthcoming Dates

1 March 2016	Y7 Parents' Evening (RE, English, History, MFL, Music, Drama)
10 March 2016	Y7 Parents' Evening (Maths, Science, Geography, ICT, Art, Technology, PE)
16 March 2016	Community Awards Evening (invitations sent nearer the time)
19-23 March 2016	Madrid Football Tour
24-31 March 2016	History Trip to USA
25 March – 8 April 2016	EASTER BREAK

Geography

Mrs York is willing to supervise homework for Y10 geographers at lunchtime each Thursday in HR1 should anyone need some space or support to complete their GCSE Geography homework.

Music & Drama

Well done to all students who performed so beautifully at the events at St. Mary's, Old Basing and the Carol Service at St. Joseph's. They have all earned house points for this and are well on their way to getting Arts colours if they haven't already received them.

Congratulations to Lawrence Woolmer and Jonathan Peters who both achieved Grade 5 Theory last term.

Both our woodwind ensembles will be participating in the Basingstoke Music Festival this year on Saturday 19th March.

Our Spring Chamber Concert will be on Wednesday 16th March at 7pm. We'll be looking for volunteers to play solos or items in small groups.

Ventriloquist, Steve Hewlett, came to visit the school and gave a presentation to Year 7 on the afternoon of Wednesday 3rd February, ahead of his performance at the Anvil on Tuesday 22nd March. Steve is best known for being in the Britain's Got Talent final in 2013 where he infamously had a Simon Cowell puppet. Steve is keen to foster an interest in ventriloquism for future generations!

RE/History Event – The Holocaust Survivor

It was truly an amazing experience to hear a real holocaust survivor tell their story. I was really surprised at how much he was able to remember which included specific dates and names although at the time he was very young. I think it's really important that we make sure this story as well as many others goes on for generations in hope that such a terrible event shall never take place again. One big thing I learnt from this talk was that we can't stand by and let such terrible things happen in our lives as well as in others. If we join together, love can overpower hate.

By Jenny Jose (9F)

Girls PE

Congratulations to our year 7 & 8 girls' cross-country teams. Both won their team events in the Basingstoke Schools Cross-Country Competition. The year 7 girls (Macy Barrett, Nieve Cleary, Issie Buchanan, Iysha Morris) and the year 8 girls (Kathryn Curran, Cara Mcgrath, Katie Crow, Lily Kartar, Rosie Cripps) now go on to represent Basingstoke in the Hampshire Schools Competition.

Netball has continued to be successful. The year 9s won their league finals, convincingly beating Costello 14-3. The team consisted of Tanya Mufiri, Farrah Wayman, Clare Slater, Thalia Dahlen, Bethan Poole, Ellie Adams, Amelia Kelleher and Celethe Koeberg. The year 8s also won their league finals, convincingly beating Everest 15-4. The team

consisted of Macy Barrett, Harriet Williams, Raine Perez, Nieve Cleary, Amelia Abbotts, Aisling McGrane, Ellie Tydeman and Poppy Goffin.

Finally, well done to the KS3 badminton team (Thalia Dahlen, Bethan Poole, Anna Barker and Leila Buick), who won their badminton tournament and will go on to play in the Hampshire finals in Winchester.

We look forward to seeing how the girls do in the forthcoming basketball, football and volleyball competitions.

Boys PE

The U16 Boys Basketball team are unbeaten in the inaugural Basingstoke Schools league. Their biggest victory so far has been a victory over Costello School 37-7.

The U16 Rugby squad successfully gained their place in the final of the Hampshire U16 Plate competition. Despite serious injuries to key players that have galvanised the squad, the players overcame strong opposition on the way to the final. They have beat Mountbatten School, Romsey 26-12, Priestlands School, New Milton 32-5, Cams Hill School, Havant 33-0 and Eggar's School, Alton 39-7.

They then went on to meet Noadswood School from the New Forest in the final on Thursday 11th February at King Edwards's School, Southampton - report below;

Hampshire Plate Victory! Bishop Challoner v Noadswood School Score 62–5

Great pride and honour for U16 rugby team as they romp home to win the Hampshire Rugby Plate for the first time ever.



Overall great teamwork and sound handling skills meant that Challoner used the full width of the pitch to create gaps and score 10 tries with 6 conversions using determination and focus. Forwards had great scrums, lineouts and winning and securing the ball releasing it to the backs. Use of a quick ball out of the base of the ruck lead to several scores. Backs showed great footwork, pace and execution from set plays; using training ground moves which left Noadswood often on the back foot.

It was a special treat to have England Forward Alex Corbisiero support the team, having visited the school with Sky broadcaster Laura Woods who held a Q&A with a group of students with an interest in journalism as a future profession.

Many thanks to Mr Sheers and Mr Dollimore for being leaders of the gang and the best coaches.

By Matt Mairs and Alfie Harwood



So far last term we have run a Jenga competition (with St. Gregory winning) and the “House Proud” competition (with St. Francis winning), each being awarded with the new house points for their achievements. Vouchers were awarded in assemblies to those with the most House Points. We have recently updated the leader board in the corridor to keep students aware of how their tutors are doing within competitions. We have also recently been involved in appointing the new Assistant Heads which has allowed the students to have a voice in who they think should be leading the school.

This term we have some more exciting competitions coming up such as an Easter Bake Off, Challoner’s got Talent and Design your House Badge and some potential sports competitions. So make sure to get involved.

By Helena Mitchell, Mary Stockdale, Conor Kerrin and Thomas Mackie - Your Deputy Head Leaders.

Parking

Just a reminder that the school car park is not available for use by parents/carers from 8:15am until 4:15pm, therefore please do not attempt to enter between these times. This is to ensure the safety of our students. You will need to park in the nearby public car parks.

Can we please ask you to avoid dropping students off at school and consider public transport where possible. If you have no alternative but to drop your child off please do not;

- Pull into the school entrance/exit
- Mount the pavement
- Stop on the yellow zigzag school lines

Unfortunately we get a large number of complaints to the school from the local community regarding the dangerous and illegal way some of our parents have been seen to park or drive around school drop off/pick up times. Please let’s all be vigilant. Thank you for your continued support.