



**Bishop Challoner**  
Catholic Secondary School

*Diocese of Portsmouth*  
St. Michael's Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG22 6SR  
Tel: (01256) 462661 Fax: (01256) 810359  
email: headteacher@bcs.hants.sch.uk  
website: www.bcs.hants.sch.uk  
Headteacher: Mr J P Wright, BTh

# NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN (5) 2018

## PTA



**Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School PTA**  
are holding a

**Christmas Shopping Extravaganza Evening**  
**Thursday 29th November 2018 6:30pm - 9:00pm**  
**Tickets £3 in advance or £3.50 on the door**



Please come and support our PTA by attending their Christmas Shopping Extravaganza this evening.



The money raised during the summer shopping extravaganza funded the purchase of a new electric piano for the music department, from which all students will benefit.

This is just one of many amazing contributions this group of dedicated parents have provided the school over the years.

## Presentation Evening

Last night we held our annual presentation evening. Head Boy, David Cope welcomed back the students, their parents and guests, while last years' Head Girl, Nwuebong Tala, made a heart-warming speech. Guest Speaker, Kate Webb, outgoing Chair of Governors spoke about some of the pivotal experiences in her life and of the significant people she had met. She called on our leavers to be open to life's opportunities and new friendships, always conscious that faith provides a firm foundation for all that we do.

Emily McGarel was awarded the John Kelly Award for recognition of her determination to succeed, integrity and enthusiasm. 17 young people were also recognised for their contributions by being named as "School Ambassadors".

The evening concluded with a buffet, provided by the Challoner PTA, allowing staff, parents and former students' time to catch up on news.

## Remembrance

As well as our own service of remembrance and official representation at the Basingstoke service, many of our students represented their uniformed organisations across the County. Here you can see Chris L, who was selected to lay down one of the wreaths at the Cross of Remembrance at Winchester Cathedral.



## Table Tennis



Matt G, Caspar L, Luca T and Adam B represented Basingstoke Schools in the Hampshire County U13 Table Tennis Championships. A very high standard was evident and they all performed brilliantly, winning silver medals.

## A Night at the Movies

Year 10 and 11 GCSE Music students went to see Bohemian Rhapsody at the Leisure Park a couple of weeks ago. Studying Queen is part of the GCSE curriculum and it was great to see a recreation of the 1970s and 80s which is obviously so long ago from our students' perspective! We all agreed that it was a hugely enjoyable film, full of interesting facts about Freddie Mercury and Queen and that we would thoroughly recommend it to others.

## Music Department Dates for Diaries

The Choir are performing on Thursday 13 December at St Mary's Church, Old Basing, as part of a *Light Up A Life* carol service in aid of Naomi House and Jack's Place. All members of the Choir have been given a letter about this and reply slips are due now, so please check with your child that they have handed this in. The event starts at 7pm and is a truly beautiful service in one of Basingstoke's oldest churches. Please come along and support whether your child is in this or not, it is a very special evening. Admission is free but there will be a retiring collection for the two charities. The evening finishes at 8pm with festive mince pies and mulled wine as an additional encouragement!

Our school Carol Service is on Monday 17 December at 6:00pm. All members of lunchtime music groups (Choirs, woodwind ensembles, string orchestra etc) are part of this, so please make sure this date is highlighted on your calendar. The service usually finishes at around 7:30pm and is another great way to celebrate Christmas. It is really lovely for our students to perform in front of a large and supportive audience, so please come along whether your child is participating or not! Again, there will be mince pies afterwards and a chance to socialise with friends and family. No further letter will be issued about this. The Year 9 Pathways evening is being rescheduled to the New Year, so there will not be a clash for our Year 9 students and families.

## Y7 Book Buzz Scheme

Students from Year 7 who have just received their free books given to them through the Book Buzz scheme. Free books were given to all Year 7's, jointly funded by Bishop Challoner School and The Book Trust.



## Prayer

This week marks the transition from the old liturgical year to the new with this coming Sunday being the first of Advent. Some of us might be thinking about sending cards and presents to relatives and friends in places far away while other may be trying to resist the temptations of Black Friday and staunchly sticking to the idea of not putting up decorations until well into December.

Whichever is the case the Church urges us to get spiritually prepared. Throughout Advent, we hear in part the whole story of God's creation culminating in the birth of His Son at the nativity.

The Gospel for Mass this Sunday records Jesus' words about being ever watchful for His return and for signs of His presence amongst us. As we approach this hectic time of year, it is always worthwhile taking time to reflect and act upon this message.

Mark 13:33-37 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's

like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back-whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"



## 1ST SUNDAY OF *Advent*