



Bishop Challoner
Catholic Secondary School

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NEWSLETTER

SPRING (1) 2019

Dear parents, carers and friends,

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a restful and peaceful Christmas and that 2019 will bring good health and blessings for you and your families.

Year 11 started the New Year by going straight into mock GCSE exams. Despite some chilly mornings waiting to go into the sports hall, they have acquitted themselves with good humour and a business-like approach. Year 11 parents evening will be on Thursday 7th February. Please keep Year 11 in your prayers as we move closer to the exams in the summer.

Art Club

We are starting a new Art club for year 7, 8 and 9 students. If you enjoy Art, and would like to have the opportunity to try new techniques and materials, then come along to the Art Department on Tuesdays after school.

When: Tuesdays 3:40-4:40 pm
Who: Separate projects will be run by Mr Gallimore and Mrs Ferris during the course of the year
Where: Art Department
Who for: Year 7, 8 and 9 students
Sign up: In the Art Department by Tuesday 22nd January

We can only take 20 students maximum, so sign up early to avoid disappointment.

Science

This year sees the start of an exciting collaboration between the Science Department and the Institute of Physics.

The Stimulating Physics Network (SPN) is a national education project funded by the Department for Education (DfE), and managed by the Institute of Physics (IOP). The SPN has been operational at a national level since 2009.

Bishop Challoner School now holds the status of SPN Partner School, which includes a commitment by the IOP to develop and deliver a bespoke programme of support for the School, through a dedicated physics coach. This will give our teachers the opportunity to explore different methods of providing an in depth study of physics across key stage 3 and 4, enabling the department to develop and maintain the excellent results achieved last year, in future years.

The Science department have already embarked on this project and are motivated to continue in their pursuit of excellence for the school.

World Book day Thursday 7th March

To celebrate World Book day Y7 and Y8 students are being encouraged to take part in our 500 Word Competition. If they can write a gripping story in not more than 500 words, please encourage them to enter the competition, the closing date is Friday 1st March. More details available in the Library.

We will also mark World book day by having our usual Book Fair on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th March. Every student will get a £1 voucher to spend and have the opportunity to visit the Fair during English lessons or at break/lunchtimes.

Music

We had a very musical Christmas with many students participating in a wide range of activities to celebrate the season. Many Choir members sang brilliantly at St. Mary's, Old Basing, in a very beautiful service in aid of Naomi House and Jacks Place. All of our extra-curricular groups performed items in our Carol Service too; there was a great variety of music and evening was rounded off with a rousing rendition of "We wish you a Merry Christmas" with full audience participation! We also provided items for the Elderly Neighbours' Christmas Party and events at John Eddy Court, our local elderly persons' residential home. Many thanks to all our students for their enthusiasm and dedication and to parents for all your support at events, getting them to/from events and the hours of practice!

We have some spaces now for students to learn woodwind instruments – flute, clarinet, saxophone and oboe. Lesson costs are about £70 a term but this can be reduced (or even free) in cases of hardship. Learning an instrument provides many benefits for students and there is evidence that it also impacts positively on academic performance. If you would like more information about this, please contact the Music Department.

Caritas Homeless Project Update

Last term, the School was in contact with the local organisers of the Churches Together Night Shelter in Basingstoke to see if there was anything we could buy to help with the set-up of this winter's Shelter from the school's fundraising for our Caritas Homeless Project.

Luca T, Caritas Student Leader for the Homeless Project, is pictured here handing over two new beds, which the Shelter needed. They also received a set of 'Illuminations', a set of ten prints from the work of Mary Fleeson of the Lindisfarne Scriptorium, to decorate the walls and act as a meditation aid for those who wish to use them. The school also purchased over £460 of rucksacks and new clothes to provide Shelter guests with a fresh change of clothing.

Our thanks to the students and parents who have given generously to our Homeless Project in the past to enable us to work with the Churches Together Night Shelter in this way. Our project was initially supported by the funding awarded by the first Portsmouth Caritas "Dragons' Den" competition in 2016, which encourages the School to adopt projects, which put into practice Catholic Social Teaching to meet local needs.



Reminder of Annual General Meeting of the PTA

Please come along next Wednesday, 23 January, to meet the members of the PTA Committee in the School Library at 7 pm and have your input – new ideas and new members would be very much appreciated! It is a great way to meet other parents and help to improve resources for the school to benefit our students. The formal business of the AGM will be quite short, but we will hear about the activities of the PTA over the last year and the funds raised and how they were spent, followed by a chance to mingle over a drink and nibbles – all very welcome!

Annual PTA Quiz Evening – Friday 1 February

The PTA invites you to our Quiz and Chips Night – please come and join us for a fun evening, and raise some money for the school along the way!

- When: Friday 1 February, 7 pm for a prompt 7.30 pm start.
 Where: School Hall
 Team size: 4 -6 people, but if you can't make up your own team, please register anyway and we'll make up teams
 Cost: £9 per head includes quiz entry and hot supper
 Food options: Pre-order ASAP but by 24 Jan your choice of fish/chicken/jumbo sausage/veg burger, all with chips

Please bring your own drinks and snacks – and raffle money. Entry forms are available from Mary Lee at the school. Please complete and return to the PTA with your payment via the School Office. We hope to see you there on the 1st.



RECRUITING NOW

**Train to Teach with the
Basingstoke Alliance SCITT**

Information Event

Thursday 31st January 2019

6-8pm

Venue: Aldworth School



You can train to be a teacher with the Basingstoke Alliance SCITT and our partnership schools.

Call us on 01256 275002 or search www.BasingstokeAllianceSCITT.com to pre-register and find out more.

TEACHING

YOUR FUTURE | THEIR FUTURE

Prayer

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January – the week leading up to the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

Resources for 2019 have been prepared by Christians from Indonesia, the largest country in South East Asia and a country of great diversity. It is made up of more than 17,000 islands and 1340 ethnic groups. Many are excluded and pushed to the margins. During this week, we are reminded that the love of God transcends the boundaries of ethnicity, culture, race, and religion. God is broken with those who are broken. God stands outside with those who are excluded. God includes everyone in the plan of salvation and none are left out. We pray...

God of all humanity

your Son was born into a line of men and women,
ordinary and extraordinary.

Some of them were remembered for their great deeds,
others more for their sins.

Give us an open heart to share your unbounded love,
and to embrace all who experience discrimination.

Help us to grow in love beyond prejudice and injustice.

Grant us the grace to respect the uniqueness of each person,
so that in our diversity we may experience unity.

This prayer we make in your holy name. Amen

