



Bishop Challoner
Catholic Secondary School

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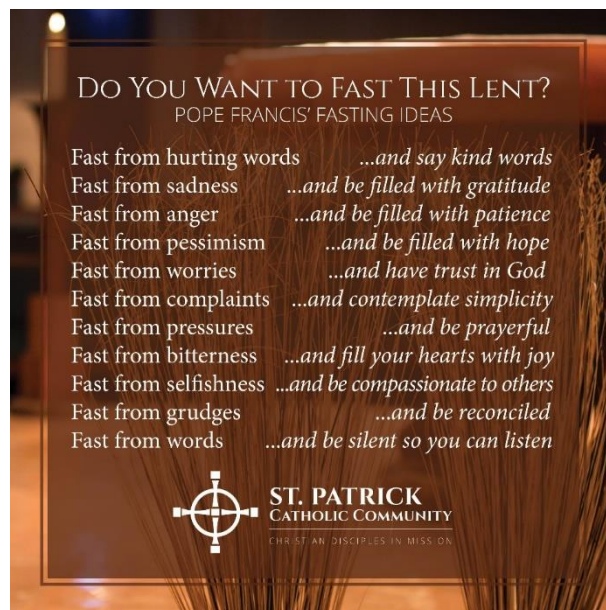
NEWSLETTER

SPRING (3) 2019

Dear parents, carers and friends,

Lent is finally upon us, and you can read below about some of the things we're doing here at school to mark this special season of preparation. Aside from celebrating Ash Wednesday with a service for Year 11 and Masses for the remainder of the school last week, we traditionally make special efforts to pray, give alms (charity) and fast during these forty days before Easter.

More recently, many people have decided to do something constructive to help either themselves or others. This is a positive way of responding to the Ash Wednesday call to 'return to the Gospel'. Pope Francis gives us an alternative to physical fasting below. Whatever you have decided to do, persevere! If you've strayed a little, start again. If you've not started – it's never too late!



Bemenda Showcase

As you've probably heard, our sister school in Bamenda, St Bede's College, has had to close due to the conflict in the area. The conflict has displaced thousands who are now in need of basic necessities like food, water and clothing.

On the evening of Thursday 7th March, together with our talented students and teachers, we raised over **£1,200** for Bamenda during our Young Talent Fundraising Evening. The evening lasted from 7:00pm to 9:30pm where our young actors, singers, dancers and musicians shared their talents with us. Both wind ensembles, the choir and chamber choir, as well as many students voluntarily gave up their time to play for the people who came on Thursday evening. Everyone has worked so hard in rehearsing and performing that it would be unfair to name individual students.

Thank you to all of our students who performed and helped out.

Thank you to our amazing, hardworking teachers, Mrs Smith, Mrs Johnson and Mr Newman-Farr.

Thank you Mary Lee, our School Chaplain.

And thank you to all the parents and carers for supporting your talented children

Thank you for your prayers and donations that will contribute to providing food, clothing and medical supplies for those in Bamenda.

Article supplied by K Shing and E Mason both from 9 St Clare

Prayer Tree



We believe that community prayer is very powerful and that through prayer, all things are possible. To help keep our sister school, St Bede's College, in Bamenda in the forefront of our prayers we have made a prayer tree. Students and staff have been writing their prayers on hearts and doves to hang on the tree. This is displayed in the main corridor as a reminder to us of those that are unable to attend school or practice their religion without persecution.



PE News

On Thursday 7 March Bishop Challoner attended the U16 Hampshire Rugby 7's at Lord Wandsworth School. Drawn in a pool with Westgate School from Winchester and Hampshire Collegiate School from Romsey the team played well in the first match. We were winning 7-0 going into the final seconds only to concede a late converted try to draw 7-7. In the second match we came from 14-0 down at halftime and ended up drawing 14-14.

We qualified for the top tier competition (Cup) and encountered a strong and physical Lord Wandsworth School who went on to ultimately win the trophy.

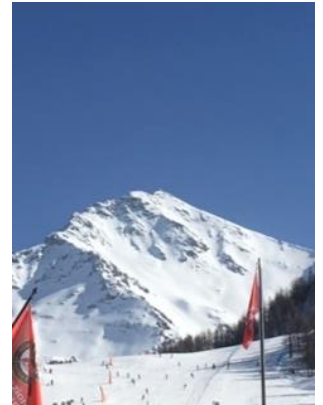
Excellent effort and performances by all concerned. Mr Dollimore, Mr Lewis and Mr Sheers have enjoyed coaching and watching these young players develop. They are a credit to the school and their parents;

H Blackburn, R Messenger, T Pender, A Scannelli, G North, N Hannigan, F Booth, J Larcher, J Gardner, J O'Sullivan, A Ngwa, S Doniesiewicz.

2019 Ski Trip

Over the February half term holiday 60 students and 6 staff travelled to the 2006 Winter Olympic resort of Sestriere in Italy. We had an action packed week with ski lessons every morning and afternoon followed by evening activities, which included ice skating and sledging.

However, our preparation for the slopes started weeks earlier with regular visits to the dry ski slope in Aldershot where students, who had never skied before, learnt the basics – putting on ski boots and skis & then walking in them for the first time can be a challenge!



This early preparation paid dividends, as we were able to hit the slopes on day one and really make the most of our time in Italy. We are very proud to say that every student passed 'Ski School' and were awarded European recognised ski badges.

We had an amazing week and arrived back rather tired, but with some great memories and very eager to go again.

Cross-County

The last race of the season saw E Woodroffe, L Sullivan and A Scott (all from 7 St Benedict) run for Basingstoke Schools in the Hampshire Schools Cross-Country Championships. The course was muddy after heavy rain in the previous two days, and they also had to run against a strong, cold wind. Well done girls.

The Wednesday lunchtime cross-country running club on will continue until Easter, and then resume in September.

A big thank you to all who have taken part this year.



PTA Quiz

You may be aware that the annual PTA quiz had to be cancelled in February due to the snow. However, the PTA have managed to re-arrange this very popular event and it will now be hosted on Friday 29th March. This is always a fun evening if you would like to enter a team please contact Mary Lee via the school office – deadline March 22nd.

Healing Service

Students from Bishop Challoner are leading a Healing Service at St Joseph's Church on Saturday 23 March at 10.30am.

It is not a Mass, but a special service that will include a variety of activities some of which are:

- praise and worship music led by Cecilia Sound, the Pastoral Area Youth Band
- Gospel drama
- the opportunity for those who are sick to receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick from Fr Chris
- the opportunity to receive prayer ministry (where someone prays over you individually for your particular need)

Refreshments will be available in the foyer area

If you feel a need for healing or peace, if you feel unwell, physically, mentally, spiritually or emotionally, this is the service for you! Likewise, if you know someone who is unwell among your family or friends, please invite them to come to the service – whilst the service is led by students, **it is a service for people of all ages.**

Cambridge University Visit

Two members of Trinity College Cambridge visited Bishop Challoner School to meet with students and support their preparation and transition to college. The aim was to ensure our students select appropriate courses that will open the doors and options for their journey towards university and beyond.

The first presentation was delivered by Matthew Hassall currently studying for a Ph.D. in History. Matt informed pupils about the journey they will need to take to achieve their goals, as well as discussing the practicalities of attending a university. He spoke about societies, interviews, tuition fees and life on campus. Students found this fascinating.

Other lectures were delivered by Baland Jalal to groups of year 7, 8, 9 and 10 pupils discussing the topic ‘Sleep Paralysis’.

Baland Jalal is a neuroscientist at Cambridge University School of Clinical Medicine. He has previously been a Fellow at Harvard University and a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Brain and Cognition at the University of California in San Diego. He has lectured at institutions worldwide, including Harvard University, Oxford University, London School of Economics and University College London.

These sessions were highly interactive and engaged everyone in the room from the first word. Pupils commented ‘We were taught about dreams and how your brain mirrors others....we came out of the lecture buzzing and full of knowledge that we previously didn’t have’..... To hear from someone so successful who didn’t have the greatest start in education inspired us to achieve, proving dreams can be accomplished.’ ‘It was fascinating learning about the brain and what makes it unique, it was one of the best learning opportunities I have had this year.’

Trinity have promised a return visit next year – **we can’t wait!**

CAFOD

We are raising money to buy flocks of ducks!



As a school we have been learning about Mahinur, her disabled husband and 12-year-old son. They live in Bangladesh where floods, droughts and cyclones have damaged crops, homes, health and income. CAFOD’s local expert, has already helped a few families in Mahinur’s village - teaching them new farming techniques, and distributing seeds, ducks and chickens. But sadly, there hasn’t been enough money available to help Mahinur.



We want to help! Each tutor group has been tasked with raising enough money to buy a flock of ducks - £32 will provide 12 ducks that are hardy to local diseases. There have been some great ideas and activities to get the money rolling in, to keep us focused we have the 'pond' display, as soon as enough money is raised for a flock a duck is added. If you would like to read more about Mahinur please visit:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD/Lent>

P.A.C.E. (Parent and Carer Events)

P.A.C.E. (Parent and Carer Events) help families in understanding the needs and difficulties that young people can face. They run workshops hosted by experts in their field, such as youth organisations, Hampshire CAMHS and Autism Hampshire. The aim is to help parents and carers to gain more confidence and knowledge about how to manage potential issues or concerns they may have about their young person. They are based in Brambly's Drive, Basingstoke. To find out more about the sessions they offer visit the website:

<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/>

Prayer

Loving God,

you have given the world enough resources
for everyone to share;

no one should go hungry.

May our Lenten prayer,
fasting and almsgiving
support the hard work and determination
of our sisters and brothers living in poverty,
helping them to ensure
that no one goes hungry.
Amen

