



**Bishop Challoner**  
Catholic Secondary School

Diocese of Portsmouth  
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## NEWSLETTER

### Spring (4) 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to the last newsletter of the Spring term – as you can see, these past few weeks have been incredibly busy and productive, so this is quite a bumper issue!

Please keep our Year 11 students and their families in your prayers as they face the final month before their GCSE examinations. You can read more about our exam breakfasts, and how you can help on page 8. If you're not revising then take a look at BBC Easter schedule here...  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2019/easter-programmes-across-tv-and-radio>

My prayers for you all this Easter. As Pope Francis proclaimed in his Urbi et Orbi (to the city and the world) last year,

*'Jesus is risen from the dead!'*

*This message resounds in the Church the world over, along with the singing of the Alleluia: Jesus is Lord; the Father has raised him and he lives forever in our midst.'*

## Lenten Activities

Our assemblies the week before Lent began, focused on the **CAFOD Lent Fast Day** coming up on Friday 15 March and set the scene for our main Lenten almsgiving to buy flocks of ducks for the people of Bangladesh. Those assemblies also touched on the Emergency in Bamenda, which was a theme developed further in the following week's assemblies.

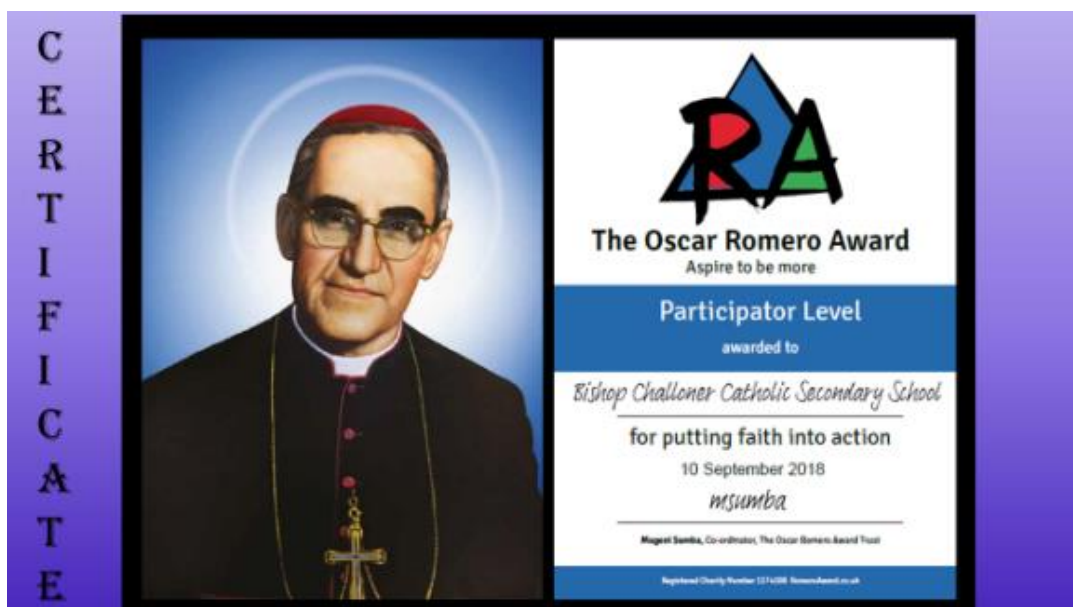
Our sister school in **Bamenda, St Bede's College in Ashing-Kom**, was sadly forced to close during the troubles. Some of their students had been fortunate to be able to continue their education at one of the secondary schools in Bamenda, which has managed to continue to operate during the crisis and has taken in some of the secondary age students from other closed schools. These are dangerous times in Bamenda, with many thousands of people displaced, who have lost everything they had.

Our students wrote prayers on doves and hearts to hang on our Bamenda Prayer Tree on our main corridor to express their solidarity with the Bamendan people and to keep their plight in our minds this Lenten season as we pass the tree.

Over 90 students came together on the evening of Thursday 7 March to put on a **Charity Showcase** of instrumental music, singing, dance and drama, using their talents to entertain us for 2.5 hours and raising over £1,200 for the Emergency in Bamenda, to provide food, clothing and medical supplies – a fantastic result! The students also enjoyed a MUFTI day to raise further funds for Bamenda last week.



Lenten assemblies have continued with a focus on **Oscar Romero, Catholic Social Teaching** and the Romero award.



## Supporting CAFOD – We made the news...

<https://cafodportsmouth.wordpress.com/2019/03/29/students-at-bishop-challoner-school-go-quackers-for-lent/>

Students at Bishop Challoner School go “quackers” for Lent.



*A HUGE THANK YOU to students at Bishop Challoner Secondary School in Basingstoke who have raised an amazing £1724.20 so far this Lent . This year's Lent display focused on the cost of providing disease resistant ducks to families like Mahinur in Bangladesh because Mahinur lives near a river ducks are easier to keep than chickens. Each duck on the display represents £26 raised as a flock of 10 ducks cost £26. There have been sponsored events, sales, raffles and games to raise funds so thank you all so much for your generosity. We look forward to finding out what the final total for Lent will be!*



Also many thanks to students who gave up their free time to staple CAFOD fast day envelopes to the parish newsletters. Thank you so much!

The whole school was given a special **Lenten challenge** by the Anti-bullying Ambassadors. Posters appeared in tutor boxes and the challenge was given...

Who will be *your* tutor group's

# FRIENDSHIP CHAMPION

?

Our Challoner Anti-bullying ambassadors have come up with a Lenten Challenge with a bit of a difference....

This is a two-week-long, tutor group challenge.

The names of all your tutor group are put in a hat (or something like one). Every student will pick out a name and keep who they have picked a secret.

They then have two weeks to be extra kind to this person. After two weeks have passed, each student will write down who s/he thinks their

## FRIENDSHIP CHAMPION

was on a slip of paper.

Your Tutor **Friendship Champion** is **the one with most votes** and will win a prize and have their kindness celebrated on the Wellbeing Board.

**Ash Wednesday** began with an Ashing Liturgy for Y11 in school, followed by two Ash Wednesday Masses in St Joseph's Church for Y7-10, as the school has grown so much that we can no longer fit everyone into the church over two services! It was a day for quiet reflection.

Later in March, we had our **Lenten Day of Reconciliation**, with three services in the church, enabling all students to participate in communal liturgies reflecting on forgiveness and undertaking an examination of conscience, with the opportunity for students to remain in the church afterwards to go to individual confession or for a chat with a priest and a blessing. Many students stayed and took the opportunity to see a priest individually - our thanks to Fr Chris Whelan, Fr Emmanuel Rinda, Fr Peter Codd and Fr Austin Gurr OSB for making this possible.

There has also been the opportunity to go over to St Joseph's Church at lunchtime to participate in **Stations of the Cross** each week and our assemblies in the final week of term reflect on the Stations of the Cross.





**Year 10 students** had the opportunity to go on a **retreat** from 14 -17 March at St Cassian's, a retreat centre set in beautiful estate grounds on the edge of Kintbury, reflecting on Awareness of God, the world, other people and self; Reconciliation; and Good News. Our group was joined by students from two other schools. They enjoyed a mixture of whole group presentations, small group discussions, workshops, prayer times, an Emmaus Walk, and lots of games and opportunities to socialise – and eat! Alinia J said: "I enjoyed the St Cassian's trip because it was a chance to meet new people and explore faith in a calm and relaxing atmosphere. We had lots of opportunities to discover the grounds and hang out in the common room. On the second night, we played a quiz and made statues. The food was also really nice!"



## **Healing Service** (By Mary Lee and Alinia J)

A new experience for some of our students this Lent was leading a Youth-Led healing service at St Joseph's Church on Saturday 23 March at the invitation of the parish's Veronica Ministry Team, which regularly organises Healing Masses on Saturdays.



A team of Y10 and Y11 students met throughout the year to plan the service, which began with a Praise and Worship section, beautifully led by Cecilia Sound, the Pastoral Area Youth Band, which includes current and former BCS students among its membership. A Gospel Drama of the Man Born Blind from St John's Gospel was very well performed by a group of Y8 students, under the direction of Mr Newman-Farr. Our Y10 and Y11 students then led the congregation in intercessions for those who are unwell in body, mind, spirit or emotions.

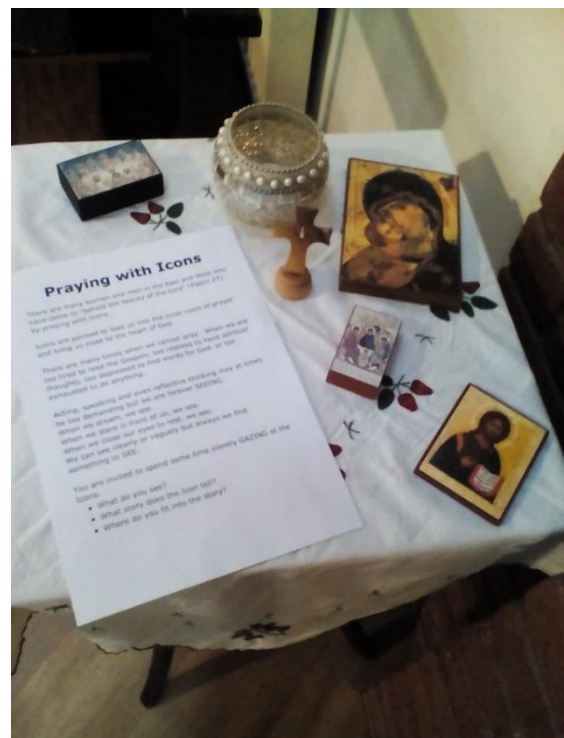


There was then the chance for the sick to be anointed by Fr Chris Whelan or Fr Emmanuel Rinda. While they went around the church, Cecilia Sound led some reflective songs and Thomas G played a beautiful violin solo. There was a very special atmosphere in the church.

After the service, the students led parishioners in the creation of a colourful sand art picture in the foyer containing the message: 'I BELIEVE'. There was also a series of prayer stations dotted around the church, in which parishioners were invited to participate. These remained in the church for the whole parish community to use after the weekend Masses.



The School received much positive feedback from the parishioners and the students thoroughly enjoyed this new experience!



# Caritas Portsmouth Dragons' Den

## Competition 2019

This year, a team of six girls from Y7 represented the School brilliantly at the annual Diocesan Dragons' Den competition. All the girls are members of our Bethany Group, which meets fortnightly to provide mutual support to students who have been bereaved. The girls described the various activities they have undertaken, which have enabled them to open up to each other and talk about how they are feeling. Each session ends with a prayer.

The Dragons were very interested to hear about this initiative. The team had bid for an award of £125 to help meet the cost of materials and resources for the group, but were actually awarded £200 – well done, girls!

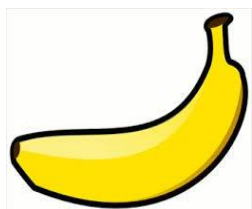


*Fr PJ Smith, Episcopal Vicar for Education, presenting the award to the Bishop Challoner School Team*

## Exam Breakfasts

Exam breakfasts will start after Easter on the 29<sup>th</sup> April for Year 11. We believe it is essential to start the day with a good breakfast, and this is especially true during the exam season for year 11. We rely on staff and other donations to feed our hungry students, so jars of jam, marmalade, honey, marmite and lemon curd would be gratefully received. Strawberry jam is the usual favourite, followed by seedless raspberry and blackcurrant. No peanut butter please owing to allergies.

Bananas are an incredible source of slow release energy and we are lucky to have these supplied free of charge by Fyffes in Basingstoke. They say...



*Fyffes has been bringing bananas to Britain since 1888 and from our Ripening Centre in Basingstoke we now supply the south of England with millions of Fyffes bananas each year (as well as thousands of Supersweet Pineapples). We have built long term partnerships with local growers in the tropics and this has helped us to become Europe's leading Fairtrade banana importer. Our focus on community can be seen at home too, where we support schools and local community projects. We're delighted to be working with Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School, providing them with bananas for their breakfast club in readiness for the Year 11 GCSE exams.*

## Music

We are very proud of all students who performed in the Basingstoke Music Festival a couple of weeks ago. The Advanced Woodwind Group brought back their cup for the fourth year running - a great achievement! Both groups played brilliantly and were excellent representatives of the school.





# Year 7 Swimathon

Congratulations to four Year 7 girls, Amelia T, Lucy S, Evie W and Annabel S who successfully completed their Swimathon challenge at the Aquadrome on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> of March. They swam 200 lengths (5K) in 1 hour 54 minutes; 50 lengths each which was a fantastic achievement. They also raised £245 for Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie.

Well done girls!

## Termly Careers Update

**My Student Achievement (Y7-Y10)** – Pupils are continuing to update their ‘My Student Achievement’ document. This document will allow pupils to log all the successes they have had and will have in future, which we enable them to build an overall picture of their achievement in school.

### National Apprenticeship Week

**Microsoft Apprenticeship Talk Y10– Mike Softley** – A brilliant insight into the evolution of technology and the huge amount of jobs that currently do not exist and will do for next generation.

**UN & Military Talk Y10 – Bob Shaw** – A very honest and informative talk on a range of roles with in the military, the UN and Tourism.



### **Y9 Scottish Southern Electric**

This event provided students with the opportunity to gain a hands-on, interactive experience with a many of the roles involved in Gas and Electrical business. 32 Y9 pupils attended and had great insight into the day-to-day life of the SSE training centre in Thatcham and found out the expectations and demands on an employee when taking on different roles.

**Year 10 Careers Interviews** – We are currently working through 10 Francis with Anthony, Benedict and Dominic all been completed. All the pupils in the year group will get an interview during the year.

**Fast Tomato Careers programme** - Fast Tomato is going to be introduced to all year groups over the coming months. Y9 and Y10 have logged into the programme during their life lesson period who all have now their personalised account. The benefits of the programme are listed below:

- Immediate results on completion of a short interests-based questionnaire
- Aspirational career and subject suggestions matched to the individual
- Access to over 600 career descriptions including videos, case studies and useful links
- Information on entry requirements, routes to careers and salaries
- Email access to a qualified careers adviser

Pupils are able to access this from home to develop an overall picture of pathways available to them.

**Y9 Get Inspired** – 50 Y9 pupils attended the Get Inspired event at the Apollo hotel, Basingstoke. It was an interactive day that provided a huge range of information about the opportunities available in areas of work they may never have thought of, and helped them to understand how they might get there. Through interactive activities students gained a real understanding of the broad and exciting career paths that the diverse businesses in and around Basingstoke has to offer.

**Y11 BTEC Health and Social Care** – the class had a talk from a Ward Sister on nursing and working in the NHS

**Y11 & Y9 Future Pathways Workshops** – A selected group of pupils took part in a future pathways workshop that gave guidance on what is available to them from post 16 onwards. This included apprenticeships, A level, BTEC an university information. It then follows with a 1 to 1 careers interview to develop a more personalised plan moving forward.

**Y11 Revision Talk** – A revision talk took place from QMC involving ex pupils to offer tips and strategies to support pupils through their exams

**Y9 Meet the Professionals at Visa** – 14 students took part in group activities including CV and job interview role play, gained knowledge of what Visa does and took part in a working lunch speaking to employees of Visa on their job roles and career paths.

**Y10 QMC Assembly** – information on QMC and their Open Day on 25<sup>th</sup> April

# Cyber Ambassadors assemble!

This week, eight students from Bishop Challoner, embarked on a journey to Robert Mays School. Our mission was to become Cyber Ambassadors. Marcia Tanyanyiwa (who works for the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and Isle of Wight) trained and involved us in many different cyber-related activities. All of these activities led us towards our goal. We found out about a range of different internet crimes and explored many online-related scenarios. Beth (one of our students) says that she now knows what smishing, dog piling, and grooming is. Do you? It was great for students work with, and get to know students from other Hampshire schools.

The role of a Cyber Ambassador is, to be a point of contact for other students, who have Cyber-related problems. We have come away already enthused with plans to spread awareness about Cyber safety and to give advice on some of the difficulties and challenges it brings. We will be leading online-awareness workshops back in school and want to run some for our Catholic Primary schools so that are prepared to cope with the social media pressures that they are likely to face in secondary school. We were grateful for the opportunity to be empowered to make a difference.

Cyber Ambassadors will be adding another dimension to our already-strong team of Wellbeing and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, which we believe is so important in our busy and stressful world

*Report by the Cyber Ambassador Team.*



*Back row - Elisa, Ellie, Caitlin, Bertille and Kai.  
Front row – Bethany and Francesca*

# Flame 2019

On Saturday 2 March, a small group of Y10s and Y11s joined a big delegation of young people from across the Portsmouth Diocese at Flame 2019 at SSE Arena, Wembley. Over 8,500 people from across the UK gathered at the Arena for an amazing day to celebrate their faith, watch dramas by Rise Theatre (the theatre company that was part of our last School Mission Team), join in world class praise and worship music led by Tim Hughes and listen to several inspiring speakers on the theme of #Significance.



Speakers offered a fresh perspective of our true significance, as 'beloved children of God' in a personal relationship with God the Father: GuvnaB, a well-known rap artist who sings and speaks about his Christian faith, and his wife, Emma, who runs a website "Girl got faith"; David Wells from Plymouth Diocese; Archbishop Eamon Martin, Primate of All Ireland and a Synod Father at the Synod on Young People; and Robert Madu, a Christian preacher from Texas, USA.

We also heard from young adults who had been sponsored by the Catenians during their Gap Years to undertake a variety of opportunities at home and abroad. We are very grateful to our Basingstoke Catenian Circle who generously gave us a grant of £200 to reduce the costs of the trip to Flame 2019 and make it more accessible to students.

The day ended with Cardinal Vincent Nichols preaching and leading us in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, which brought silence to the whole arena.

We were also very pleased to meet up with former Challoner students, now at college or university, who were part of the Portsmouth Diocesan delegation. A memorable and uplifting day all around!





## Two Opportunities for Y11s after their GCSEs:



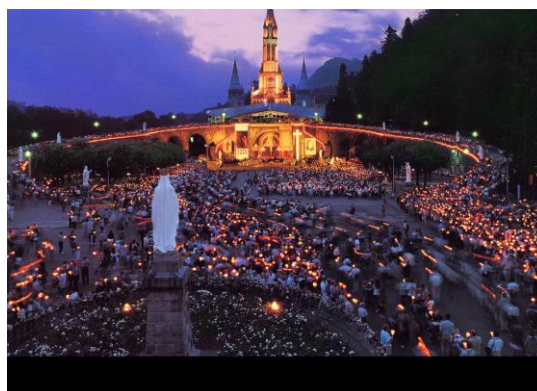
**YES Week at St Cassian's Retreat Centre for Young People:** last year, some of our Y11 students participated in the YES Week after their GCSEs and had an amazing time on this week-long summer retreat. It is an opportunity to grow in faith as part of a Christian community – it is not a holiday! There will be a daily programme of prayer, reflection, discussion, liturgy and relaxation. The challenging programme is offered to about 50 individuals rather than to groups. Participants must be in Y11 or above; Y11 students will require a letter of recommendation from Mary Lee, our Lay Chaplain.

This year's YES Week begins at 6 pm on Monday 8 July and ends at 11.30 am on Sunday 14 July. The total cost is £140, which can be paid in full or by instalments of £40 paid on application as a non-returnable deposit and a further £50 paid by 1 June and the remaining £50 on arrival. Application forms are available from Mary Lee.

**Portsmouth Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 24-30 July 2019:** This pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Philip Egan. Young people from Y11 upwards from around the Portsmouth Diocese will be coming together to serve those Diocesan pilgrims who are less mobile, working in pairs to push wheelchairs and assist those Diocesan pilgrims who need help getting to the various liturgies and events. A pilgrimage to Lourdes invariably involves making new friends from around the world. The cost of £475 includes: coach transfer overnight to and from Lourdes; 4 nights' accommodation in shared room in 4\* Hotel La Solitude; meals while in Lourdes, but not while travelling; guided walking tour visiting places associated to St Bernadette; guided visits to the Sanctuaries, Grotto, Baths and Basilicas; religious programme continuing the generations-old traditions such as the Torchlight and Blessed Sacrament processions; social time; travel insurance; two polo shirts and a hoodie. Optional excursion an additional £20.

One of last year's pilgrims said: "I didn't know what to expect before going to Lourdes, and I wasn't sure if I really wanted to go at all. I ended up having an amazing time with people I'd never met before from the diocese and the USA. A highlight for me was the party on the last night on the hotel terrace!"

Brochures and booking forms are available from Mary Lee. Discretionary bursaries to help with the cost for young people who wish to serve in Lourdes are available from the Catenian Bursary Fund.



# GIRLS PE

## Girls Year 7/8 Rugby – Winchester RFU

Mr Lewis has been preparing the girls for the contact rugby festival which was held at Winchester Rugby Club, organised by the Hampshire RFU. We have always entered the annual event and sent along girls who are keen to take part in the full contact game. This year was no exception and the girls did us extremely proud during the morning 'developmental' pool matches. They won them all! Lots of tackles, lots of support play and lots of smiles. After lunch they were invited to participate in the 'competent' matches where they learnt how to add scrums and kick starts to their game. They again played really well, scoring tries and drawing matches with more experienced teams. These girls have lots of potential and we are looking forward to seeing how their play develops next year.



## Year 7 Basingstoke District Netball League

We have been very lucky to have over 40 year seven girls try out and play within the school teams. We started our training in January and the commitment and enthusiasm from the girls has been fantastic attending weekly training and matches.

We are the only Basingstoke School to have more than one team and our three teams have all been involved in home and away fixtures. Our A Team have secured a place in the semi-finals/finals which are being held this week.



Year 7 'A' Team



Year 7 'B' Team



Year 7 'C' Team

## Surrey Storm v Team Bath Netball trip

Our current year 11 Netball team have an unbeaten record during their time playing for Bishop Challoner Catholic School and this was rewarded with a trip to Surrey Sports Park to watch a Super League Netball match. The girls witnessed an exciting match between Team Bath and Surrey Storm. Team Bath had two England 'Commonwealth Gold medal winners' playing for them. It was a really enjoyable match where the girls were able to view exceptional skills and

levels of fitness. The match ended as a win for Team Bath 57 – 48. The staff and pupils has a really good time and the plan is to offer this as a trip every year from now on.

### **Year 9/10 Football – QMC**

BTEC students at Queen Mary's College organise and run the secondary school girls football and this term it was for the KS4 age group (year 9 & 10). This was a really lovely fixture as the girls just simply enjoyed playing in the matches. We finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> position overall. Well done to the girls all from year 9.



## PTA Annual Quiz

Many thanks to all the parents, staff, governors, parishioners and longstanding friends of the school, who came together on Friday 29 March to take part in a keenly contested quiz, organised once again by our Quizmaster, Martin Webb. The staff team, 'Green Owls', was victorious!

Sincere thanks to Martin Webb and the PTA Committee for another entertaining evening – and to all those who generously donated prizes for the raffle, which raised £233 on the night for PTA funds, which go to fund student activities and equipment that the School would find challenging to fund from its normal budget.

**Date of Next PTA Meeting:** Monday 13 May at 6 pm in the School – please come along if you can – all most welcome!

Happy  
Easter!

