



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



Newsletter

Autumn 1, 2019.

Dear parents, carers and friends,

Welcome back! We have been back at school now for three weeks and are fully into the rhythm of the new term.

You can see below some of our new Year 7 students who attended the Welcome Mass on the 12th pictured with Fr Gaston, the new Assistant Priest in St Joseph's Parish. Joining the Challoner community is a very special occasion, and Fr. Gaston gave us a homily to remember. He has just arrived from Bamenda in Cameroon, his first trip abroad, and will be studying at Southampton University for the year. He was the Head of St Bede's College, our sister school in Bamenda, which has sadly had to close during the recent troubled times there. We pray for the safety of Fr Gaston's family and community; for the staff and students of St Bede's, wherever they may currently be; and for the restoration of peace and justice in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon, so that students may be able to return to school and resume their education.

We welcome Fr Gaston and our new Year 7 to the Challoner family and pray that they soon feel at home among us.



Happy Feast Day

The Friday nearest to 29th of September (Challoner's birthday, 1691) is celebrated as our Patronal Feast Day every year. In my time here, we have celebrated whole school Masses first in St. Joseph's, then the Sports Hall and now, due to our increased numbers in both venues simultaneously! We thank Father Chris who celebrated Mass with the lower school and Father Peter with the upper school. The behaviour and respect shown by students was, as always, stunning. Mass began with Challoner's Meditations and the school hymn sung to close.

Students then enjoyed a half day with some sweets to celebrate! Our Librarian, Ms. O'Kelly always produces a beautiful display in the main corridor to act as a focal point to our celebrations. You can see the current display below.



Heart speaks unto heart



Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman is due to be canonized on the 13th October by Pope Francis. He will be the first English person to be made a saint in fifty years. (Paul VI canonized the 40 Martyrs of the Reformation in England and Wales in 1970).

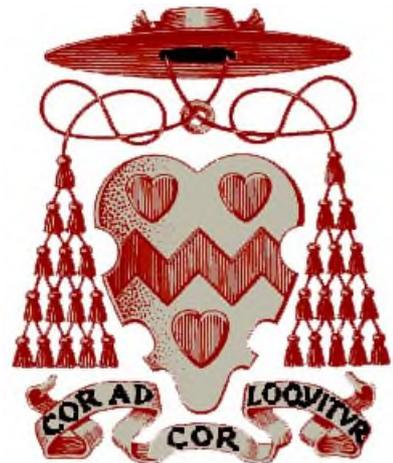
In our assemblies on the first week back, I spoke about Newman and his motto 'Cor ad cor Loquitur' – Heart speaks unto heart, and the symbolism of his heraldic shield which contains three hearts.

An interpretation could be 'one for me, one for you and one for God.' When our hearts are open to each other in all that we do, then we put Christ's command to 'love God and neighbour as self' at the heart of all we do. Challoner would have seen this as doing an ordinary thing extraordinarily well.

Newman was a fascinating character, and you can read more about him by following these links:

<http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews/issue243.php>

<https://www.newmancanonisation.com/>



Brighten Up for Harvest Assemblies



All students have been to assemblies that raised awareness of the forthcoming CAFOD Fast Day on Friday 4th October. We found out about Fabiano in Uganda, whose difficult life circumstances were turned around by a solar panel-powered water pump funded by CAFOD. On the 4th October we will be literally challenged to 'Brighten Up' here at Bishop Challoner, wearing something colourful to send a positive message and fundraise for our brothers and sisters across the globe.

Christmas shoeboxes

We will shortly be making up Christmas shoeboxes, which will be distributed via the Andover Foodbank, to underprivileged children and young carers in our area. Each tutor group will be required to prepare a box for a girl and a boy and each group will have a different age group to focus on. If any families would like to contribute a box, please ask your child to obtain details from the library. Any spare new gifts will also be most welcome.

Staff charity walk

This academic year the Staff at Bishop Challoner are supporting Alzheimer's Society - United against dementia Charity .

On Saturday the 21st of September a group walked the 8km Memory Walk held at Windsor Great Park.



It was a lovely event – helped by emotional supporters, perfect weather and a spectacular venue. Staff have raised £725 to date. If this cause is dear to your heart too, could you add your support by clicking on the link below?

Many thanks.

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mw501136?utm_medium=email&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_campaign=20190925_114279

Bethany Group

The Bethany Group meets alternate Mondays in P7 for those who have been bereaved or who have suffered some other form of loss, to take some time out for some activities to help them cope with their grief and to have peer support. Students wishing to join should speak to Mary or their Tutor or Head of Year to register.



Challoner Association – Save the Date

The Challoner Association, more commonly known as the PTA, will be having its first meeting of the new academic year on Wednesday 2 October at 6 pm to plan this year's activities. All parents, carers, teachers and staff are most welcome to join us!

Please 'save the date' for this year's Christmas Shopping Extravaganza, which will take place on the evening of Wednesday 4 December. Last year's event was a great success and gave the opportunity to purchase some products and gifts that are not available in the high street stores. More details to follow in the next edition of the Newsletter.

FUTURE POLITICIAN INSPIRES STUDENTS

By Edward M, Gazette Reporter, Bishop Challoner.

Dmitrijs Meiksans, the Member of Youth Parliament for North West Hampshire, visited students at Bishop Challoner School to tell them all about the Make Your Mark ballot, the largest youth consultation in the UK and Europe.

Dmitrijs visited all the Year 9 and Year 10 tutor groups, answering students' questions, and telling them more about his role and the importance of making their voice heard!

Members of Youth Parliament are elected every two years, with Dmitrijs beginning his term earlier this year in March. He was given the opportunity by his school. Dmitrijs is a Year 9 student, passionate about getting young peoples' voices heard. He is the author of *Lonely*, a book which is about a boy being bullied and how he copes. One of his main aims is to help young people combat mental health issues, after seeing many friends suffer.

He says that becoming an MYP has helped to boost his confidence and to meet so many different people, all from different backgrounds and races. He hopes to become a politician in the future.

"It was a pleasure to visit Bishop Challoner on Thursday 19th to talk about my role and to encourage students to get their voices within the 'Make Your Mark' ballot heard as young people's voices are too often neglected. I want to thank Mrs Cripps for being an advocate for the UK Youth Parliament at the school. Also, I want to thank all of the amazing young people I got to meet!"

Dmitrijs was the first MYP to visit the school in recent years, and hopes to return with an update on the results of the Make Your Mark ballot soon.

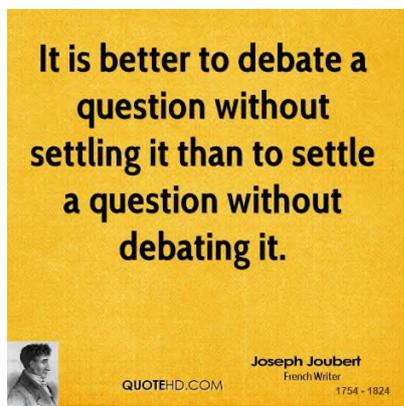


Y10 Student Reporters investigate journalism

Two of our in-school reporters, Edward M (you just read his piece on the Youth Parliament!) and Thomas R visited the Gazette offices in Basingstoke this month, to find out more about the day to working of our local newspaper. They enjoyed interactive workshops on what makes good journalism and were given tips on how to write the most effective and engaging reports.

Look out for the fruits of their training in future editions of the Basingstoke Gazette!

Let the Debates begin!



Debate Club is back by popular demand.

The lunchtime Debate club has already got off to a strong start this term. Led by Y11 RE student leaders, students from all years are invited to come and develop their debating skills and grow in awareness of moral and ethical issues.

The first meeting began with a light-hearted debate on whether school uniform was a good idea; the room was buzzing with a range of great arguments for and against having a uniform in schools. Overall, to wear a uniform won. The next week's debate was much more serious, exploring many arguments for and against the death penalty. Y11 were impressed that Y7 were already able to think deeply on this issue. It was also great that they could easily keep debating for so long – the bell ringing for the end of lunch always stops them before they run out of things to say!



Make Your Mark Ballot – democracy in action

Once again, all students at Bishop Challoner were invited to vote in the *Make your Mark* Ballot during the last week of September. This gives them a say on what is debated in the **UK Youth Parliament** during the coming year. Ballot papers were collected by our very own local UKYP member, Dmitrijs Meitsans and we look forward to hearing what the national results will be.

Watch this space!



Youth Parliament
MAKING OUR MARK
United Kingdom

#MakeYourMark

WHAT SHOULD YOUR UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT CAMPAIGN ON?

On the 10th November the UK Youth Parliament will come together in the House of Commons to debate and decide the most important issues to campaign on for the year ahead.

THEY WILL DECIDE FROM THE TOP* ISSUES VOTED BY YOU!

Find out more about UK Youth Parliament at: www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk
facebook: UKYouthParliament

UK Parliament Week
OFFICIAL PARTNER

The UK Youth Parliament House of Commons sitting is part of Parliament Week. It is a great opportunity to find out more about your parliamentary democracy and how you can take part. Parliament Week 2017 runs from 13-19 November 2017.

For more information go to www.parliamentweek.org #parliamentweek

*The result will prioritise the issues for the debate in the House of Commons, but the debate must include at least 2 UK wide topics (not just topics relevant to England) due to the devolved nature of UK democracy.



Make Your Mark

Take part in the UK's largest youth consultation.
ukyouthparliament.org.uk

STEM Club

STEM club has started up again for the new academic year. We are investigating different cleaning products, comparing own brand, branded cleaners and Mrs York's homemade cleaner! Which one will be the best at getting rid of the dirt and which will be the best at killing the bacteria? Watch this space for the results. Next half term we are investigating chocolate!

Careers



Over the next few weeks all students will be given information on how to access e-clips. This is an online resource looking at careers and includes information on different careers, the qualifications or training needed and average pay information. Can we please encourage you to look at this excellent resource with your children to help inform them of careers choices and to support the work we are doing in school.

Labour market information (LMI) is available on e-clips, but we also publish, on the website, the area specific information. It informs us of the main employers in the area, skills gaps that have been identified, job shortages and sectors of growth and decline in our area.

This information can help students see the opportunities available within the local area. Please take the time to look at the current information. Many thanks.

Mrs Roberts

Thank you from Mrs Rosalyn Jones Woodwind Teacher.

Just a few words to say a very big thank you to all staff, pupils and parents for my lovely retirement cards with their lovely comments and many thoughtful gifts. I have wonderful memories of working at Bishop Challoner for 31 years with such amazing pupils and staff and would like to wish everyone all the best for the future. It is lovely that two of my ex-pupils from Bishop Challoner are now also working for Hampshire Music Service teaching woodwind.

I am looking forward to attending future musical events and hearing news of pupils progress from Mrs Serena Ludford who will now be teaching woodwind at Bishop Challoner. Music is a lifetime experience and I do hope that with my help all the hundreds of pupils I have taught have built up their love of music to carry them forward in life.

Many thanks to you all - Rosalyn Jones.

The Return of the Great European Bake Off

Thursday 26th September 2019 was European Day of Languages so what better way to celebrate this than with cake? This year was our second ever GEBO and the competition certainly did not disappoint, with a plethora of great bakes and not one soggy bottom in sight.

There were two categories to enter, Traditional and Themed. In the Traditional category were churros, a Swiss cherry and chocolate gâteau, a German apple cake, an Italian chocolate and ricotta sponge and many more. In the Themed group were several French flags, an outstanding Eiffel Tower made of beautiful chocolate work, an iced 'pizza' sponge, a rather political EU cake and of course many more.

Our six esteemed judges, Mrs. Cripps, Mrs. Babu, Dr. Barton, Señora Martinez, and Madame Wallace led by Mr. Wright, have many years of experience between them. Working at Bishop Challoner for a combined total of about seventy-five years, a lot of cake has been eaten between them over that time, resulting in rather refined palates and high resistance to sugar intake. The judging period lasted for around fifteen minutes during which each judge sampled and passed opinion on each of this year's fifteen entries. Plenty of cups of tea and water were on hand to wash down the bakes and cleanse the palate and a wonderful group of Year 11s were on hand to assist with the cutting of the cakes.

This year's winner was Dylan S of 9F so congratulations to you Dylan!

Well done to everybody else who participated in this year's competition and thank you to our judges and Year 11 volunteers. It was a wonderful turn out and a lovely way to spend a lunchtime. Here's to GEBO 2020!

BOOKBUZZ

Y7 students are being asked to select a free book after watching a presentation by the authors concerned. The books they choose will be ordered and delivered to them later in the term. Students will be given a bookmark with the books on offer, so that they may inform parents/carers of their choice. The Bookbuzz scheme is jointly funded by our school and The Book Trust.



Hampshire Book Award

On 15th October twelve Y9 students will go to Winchester to meet Paula Rawsthorne, winning author of The Hants Book Award. She will meet students, give a talk and sign books for them, before being presented with her award. Last year our students read and discussed the shortlisted titles over three months, before meeting with other Hampshire schools at the voting ceremony. "Shell" was declared the winning title.



Sports Results

Y11 Netball:

Challoner A vs Brighton Hill: 24-2 (PP Genette N)

Challoner A vs Costello: 11-9 (PP Kathryn C)

Boys Rugby,

The U16 team travel to Henry Beaufort School in Winchester on Wednesday 25th to begin their defence of the Hampshire Bowl. Good luck to all involved

Boys Football,

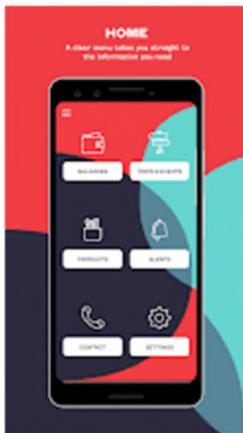
The Year 10 Football team are through to the second round of the County cup competition with a hard fought win over Yateley School. Challoner took a 2-0 lead playing some creative Football with some slick passing. However a physical Yateley battled hard and reduced the deficit to one goal. A narrow victory for Challoner as the clocked ticked down 3-2. Notable performances from Ibrahim D and Tom McG

Year 8 5-a-side

Both A and B squads paired well in The Vyne School 5-a-side competition. After a slow start and a narrow loss to Brighton Hill the B squad rallied to win the rest of their matches. Good performances from B Junior N (hat trick in one of the games) and Josh L.

The A squad played a good brand of football mixing physicality with skill coming third in their group. Notable performances from Miles O and Mattia M.

Utilising our online payment tool Scopay



At Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary we use an online payment tool called Scopay, the same tool is used by many local primary schools so you may well be familiar with it already.

We encourage all of our parents to create an online account; not just so that your children can experience the great food in our Refectory but it also makes paying for trips and products much easier. No need for sending cash or cheques in to the school office and hoping that your children remember to hand them in. Just make the payment on line and send the forms in. The forms can be handed to tutors in the morning and they will safely reach the office.

In addition, if you use the Scopay app you can set alerts on your account to notify you of new trips or when your child's catering account falls below a certain level. If you use these notifications, you need never miss news of a trip or not be aware when your child's catering account is running low.

If you would like to create an online account for your child at Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School, please email school.office@bcs.hants.sch.uk and we will generate a letter with full instructions and a unique code to enable you to do this.

If you have any questions regarding the online payment tool, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help.

BISHOP CHALLONER BUILDING FUND – HOW DOES IT WORK?

The contributions we ask our parents to donate each year, for each of their children, apply to all 5 years they are with Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School. We are rightly very proud of our school. Over the years, the contributions have been used to refurbish the Library and Science Laboratories, and to build our amazing Sports Hall. In Autumn 2018, we opened our brand new eight classroom block and over this summer we refurbished *The REFECTORY* area and our Religious Education Department. Other smaller projects have been completed which include paving, lighting and break out spaces for the students, to ensure that the school is a safe environment at all times.



This means that the limited funding the school receives from the Government can be used on educating our pupils, learning resources and maintaining the highest standards of teaching, which are reflected in our GCSE results. There are still areas of the school that we would like to develop further to enable us to offer our future generations a continued fantastic educational experience.

Thank you to all of those parents who support the school on a regular basis, we suggest a minimum amount of £75 per year per child, which can be paid in one lump sum, quarterly payments of £18.75 or over 12 monthly payments of £6.25. However, we always appreciate any regular payments or one off donations. We are truly appreciative for each family that contributes to the School's Building Fund and by allowing us to claim gift aid on your contribution, the school will gain an additional 25p for every £1 donated. This gift aid will not affect your personal tax allowance in any way but does provide a vital boost to the school's funds. If you would like to learn more about how you can support the School Building Fund, please contact Beverley O'Shea or Laura Robinson and they will be happy to provide more details.

