



Bishop Challoner

Catholic Secondary School

Diocese of Portsmouth
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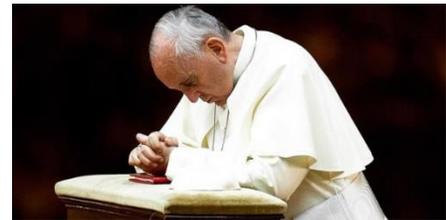


NEWSLETTER: Spring 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and friends,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023. Although short, it's been a busy few weeks in this rather chilly first half of the spring term. Starting with Epiphany celebrations, Year 9 have been deciding their curriculum pathways for GCSE, and there have been numerous careers, sporting and curriculum events for our young people to get involved with.

Please continue to pray with us for people across the world suffering in conflict and from natural disasters, particularly those in Turkey and Syria. We pray with the pope who asked that emergency personnel would "be sustained in their care of the injured and in the ongoing relief efforts by the divine gifts of fortitude and perseverance."



Pope Francis' Monthly Prayer Intentions for 2023 began in January for educators. He asked that, "We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition, and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all. Amen"+

Epiphany Mass



We barely had time to sit down after our return in January, before our school Epiphany Masses were being celebrated. Fr Paul helped us to enter into the message of Hope that Epiphany brings and our worship band, *The Flow*, were all ready to help us to sing our praises to God.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI – Rest in Peace

We prayed for the soul of our Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI in assemblies and tutor times. Ms O'Kelly created a lovely display in honour of his life.

Flame 2023



We are gearing up to take our largest group of students yet to Cymfed's Flame 2023 event at the Wembley OVO arena on 4th March. Thirty-one students are going to be joining thousands of other Catholic youth from across the UK to be inspired to *Rise Up* (the event's theme). They will hear from guest speakers and musicians of all types. We will let you know in the next newsletter how it went!

Our local Catenians and parishes of St Bede's and St Joseph's have heavily subsidised our trip and we are so very grateful to them for enabling so many of our students to experience Flame.

Welcome to Bishop Challoner

We are very pleased to welcome the following people to the Challoner Team, if you see them around, please say hello.

Miss Jacobs, joins us as Head of Maths

Mr Ng, joins us as Head of IT

Miss Fowkes will be working with the pastoral team as our Family Support Worker

Mrs Stovold and Mrs Dias-Thuy join us one a day a week each to offer counselling support to students.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

On Thursday 27 January we marked Holocaust Memorial Day. The entire school came together to remember the six million Jewish men, women and children who were murdered in the Holocaust by the Nazis and their collaborators, as well as all victims of Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides.

We were delighted to see commemorations take place up and down the country, supported by our national leaders – including the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP and His Majesty King Charles III.

Our Year 9's witnessed a live testimony of Holocaust survivor Ruth Posner BEM. This was a life changing experience and left them with a sense of duty to share this testimony going forward. We look forward to learning more on the upcoming trip to Poland.

CAREERS

We have had a busy start to the year with both Year 7 and 8 having employer talks. Learning about different job roles, what they do at work every day, and what route they took to get there. We had a wide range of employers from a Football Agent to Archaeologist.



We were also very fortunate to have the BBC careers tour come into school – meeting year 8,9 & 10 to talk creative industry careers. They brought an impressive set up, including a presenter to run the sessions, with time for the students to ask questions – the most important being – how much do you earn?



This week, Monday 6 February to Sunday 12 February is apprenticeship week. We have had Year 8 start their exploration of apprenticeships with their tutor. The year 9's had talk by Southern University Networks on 'what are my options? – looking at their choices beyond GCSE. Year 10 had an assembly by ASK apprenticeships – looking in more depth at what is involved. Year 11 met with AWE apprenticeship to get a first-hand experience of what life is like as an apprentice.

A number of students were invited to the Get Inspired Careers Fair.





ROYAL MARINE PATHWAYS

On Wednesday 8 February the Year 9's had the opportunity to listen to a Royal Marine Pathways presentation delivered by Major Holford. For those students interested in a career in the military, this was a unique experience to provide them with guidance and advice.

Workplace Visits



We have started our workplace visits with Year 9 – and have had two successful trips to the Apollo hotel – looking at catering, health and fitness, beauty and running a business. The students were given a guided tour, a talk on what is involved in running a hotel and time to ask questions.



WALK & WHEEL

We are hoping to take part in the Big Walk and Wheel again in March 2023. More details to follow, however if you've not heard about this before, please see below for a brief introduction.

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel inspires Students to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is open to all primary and secondary schools in the UK, including SEN/ASN/ALN schools. It is free to take part and there are daily prizes to be won.

On each day of the challenge, schools compete to see who can get the highest percentage of their students walking, using a wheelchair or cycling to school. Our school's best five days will determine our final position.

Poetry Live

On Friday 3 February, students from Year 10 and Year 11 travelled to London to visit the AQA Live Poetry event. The Dominion Theatre hosted poets seen on the GCSE Poetry Anthology, including the Poet Laureate Simon Armitage. Other poets participating were John Agard, Imtiaz Dharker, Carol Ann Duffy, Owen Sheers and Daljit Nagra.

Student Voice

January brought a visit from Dame Maria Miller MP who came to talk to students about their hopes for the future and their views of living and attending school in Basingstoke.

This valuable experience gave the children an opportunity to ask her questions about Maria's role in politics and her thoughts on future plans for the area.



It was a great opportunity for students to meet someone involved in the political decision-making process. The students as always were a real credit to the school and to you as parents.

School Support

There is a range of support channels open to students. Along with our counsellors, we have two trained ELSA's (Emotional, Literacy Support Assistant) who can support students and Miss Skinner has recently completed training in TALA - a talk led therapy.

Kathy Routledge from Relax Kids is currently working with a Year 8 group and will be supporting a Year 10 group after half term. If you would like to find out more about the support we can offer your child, please call the school and ask to speak to Mrs Wingham or your child's Heads of Year.

PACE Event

There is an upcoming PACE (Parent and Care Givers) event on the 3 March 2023- This has been texted out to parents and care givers. There is a range of support being offered on this day.

For more information please go to:

<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/p-a-c-e-copy-copy-2-copy-copy-copy/>

A promotional poster for the P.A.C.E. 2023 event. The background is yellow with a blue triangle at the bottom. The text 'P.A.C.E. 2023' is written in large, white, stylized letters. Below it, in smaller white text, is '3rd MARCH BRIGHTON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL, BRIGHTON WAY, BASINGSTOKE, RG22 4HS'. A red circle on the right side contains the text '3RD MAR 2023'. On the left, a white box contains the text: 'P.A.C.E. (Parent, Carer and Professionals Events) A free event to help families better understand the needs and difficulties that young people can face and how to manage potential issues/concerns they have about their young person.'

Extra-Curricular Programme

The Spring programme has been running since January. Please encourage your child to take part in clubs and activities, we have something for everyone. The programme is on the website and displayed in Tutor rooms. There is also a copy outside of Matron's room.

STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS

Basingstoke Schools Table Tennis

20 students took part in the Basingstoke Schools Table Tennis Singles Competition at Aldworth School earlier this half term. Some very good performances were evident from all players. Gabby A and Camilla M both won the U16 Girls and U13 Girls competitions respectively. Bryan V and Piaras D were runners up in the Boys U16 and Boys U13 competitions respectively. All four students go forward to represent Basingstoke in Hampshire County competition after half term.

Cross Country

Georgia B, Khadija M, Gayatri S and Ashton G all qualified to represent Basingstoke in the Hampshire Schools Cross Country Championships. The last race was cancelled due to the cold weather and a frozen course. Good luck to all four students in the rescheduled race.

Volleyball

For the first time ever, Bishop Challoner has entered the Hampshire Schools Volleyball Competitions in the following age groups: Year 11 Girls, Year 11 Boys, Year 9/10 Girls & Year 9/10 Boys.

There have been two matches so far, with two fantastic, winning results. All other matches need to be completed by Easter.

Results: Yr.11 Boys 2 v Cams Hill (Portsmouth) 1

Yr. 9/10 Girls 2 v Brighton Hill 0

Photos from the Yr.11 Boys match v Cams Hill.



Message From Matron

Asthma

If your child suffers with asthma, please remember they must have inhaler in their possession whilst in school, we suggest they keep this in their school bag. You also need to provide a 'spare', which Matron will keep in her room in case of an emergency. If you have not already done so, please ensure that one is sent into school when we return after half term.

Cycling to school.

As the days start to get lighter, more students will want to cycle to school. Please take a moment to check the road worthiness of your child's bicycle. We suggest that you check:

- **The TYRES**, do they have sufficient tread and are they pumped up?
- **The BRAKES**, are they in good working order?
- **The LIGHTS**, is there one on the front and rear of the bike? Are they working? This is essential at any time of year.
- **Your child's HELMET**, students MUST wear a helmet when cycling too & from school. If a student arrives in school with no helmet, we will not permit them to cycle home. We will telephone a Parent/Carer and request that they bring a helmet to school to enable them to cycle home, or that they collect the child and bike. If that is not possible, we will keep the bike locked away until the student brings a helmet into school.

Water Bottles

We all know that keeping hydrated is extremely important throughout the year, not just during the summer months. Did you know that you are 114% more likely to make a mistake if you are dehydrated? Some of the symptoms of dehydration include dizziness or light headedness, headache, and tiredness. It is recommended that children aged 12+ drink at least 2 litres (8-10 glasses) of water a day.

Please ensure that your child has a water bottle with them every day. We have water dispensers in school where they can refill their bottles.

Medication

If you have given Parental Permission, we are able to give Paracetamol pain relief in school, but only when we are satisfied that this approach is appropriate. We will check if they have taken medication before school, eaten and are hydrated.

School Uniform

Eyelashes & Makeup

Make up – Years 7 to 10

Make up is not permitted in Year 7-10. It is not deemed appropriate or necessary for students in these year groups to wear makeup.

Make up – Year 11

Following a request from Student Voice, Year 11 students may apply a “light touch” of make up if they wish to do so.

All Year Groups

the wearing of Fake Eyelashes or Eye lash extensions is **NOT** permitted across the school. This is for Health and Safety reasons

Volunteer Police Cadets

A Cadet support Officer for Hampshire Constabulary wants to share with you an exciting opportunity for Students aged 13 to 17.

The Volunteer Police Cadets scheme provides a safe environment where young people can learn as individuals, develop positive relationships with the police and actively support the community.

As a 'Volunteer Police Cadet' students will be issued with a uniform and attend weekly sessions in term time lasting two hours in the evenings. They'll learn about a wide range of policing and community-related topics and get to meet some of the specialise policing teams.

If you and your child would be interested in learning more, please contact volunteer.police.cadets@hampshire.police.uk



The poster features a dark blue background with a white and red border. At the top left is the Hampshire Police logo. The main title 'Volunteer police cadets' is in white and red. Below it, the headline 'We need more leaders & cadets!' is in white. A list of units covered is provided, followed by a list of benefits. Two photographs show cadets in uniform: one in the top right and one in the bottom left. The contact email is repeated at the bottom.

Volunteer police cadets

We need more leaders & cadets!

Our units cover:

- Portsmouth North
- Portsmouth South
- Havant & Petersfield
- Gosport
- Isle of Wight
- Hedge End
- Southampton
- New Forest
- Winchester
- Basingstoke
- Andover

- Free to join!
- Weekly 2 hour session (term time)
- Volunteer opportunities at big events
- Learn new skills
- Make friends
- Boost confidence
- Leadership promotions
- Uniform provided
- Meet VIPs

Cadets aged from 13-18 years old
Leaders from 18+

Apply via the email address below:

volunteer.police.cadets@hampshire.police.uk



STAYING SAFE

Tuesday 7 February was Safer Internet Day 2023. We all know that it's important to keep ourselves safe, both in the "real world" and "online". Bishop Challoner signed up to support this important day.

We thought it would be beneficial to share some Top Tips for parents and carers from the UK Safer Internet Centre, together we can make the internet a safe place.

Make space for regular conversations about life online

Talk openly and frequently about what you are doing online and encourage your child to do the same. Talk about the positive experiences you can have online, share what you have done when you have come across content you did not want to, and how you dealt with the situation.

Make space for enjoying and exploring the online world together!

Play games, watch videos, and express an interest in your child's online life. Celebrate all the opportunities that technology has to offer, and show them what a great space the internet can be when used responsibly.

Make space for working as a family to agree expectations for going online

Talk to your family about the role technology plays in your lives. Establish rules and expectations that encourage meaningful use of technology, in the same way you set boundaries in other areas of your children's lives. It's important to review these regularly and adapt them for each member of your family.

Make space for learning about the apps, games and websites your child is using

There are lots of tools and guides to support you with keeping your child safe on whatever apps, games and websites they are using. Research age ratings, privacy settings, and safety features (like the block and report button) so that you are best placed to help your child should anything go wrong.

Make space for supporting and reassuring your child if things go wrong

Remind your child they can talk to you about anything. If something goes wrong, listen and respond with reassurance and kindness and stay calm. Work with your child to find solutions to the problem, perhaps by using the block and report tools or seeking advice from your child's school.

Reporting online abuse:

It is worth reminding children regularly that they need to think carefully about their online profile. Even if they delete comments they are still somewhere and can come back to haunt them down

in years to come. If you or your child are a victim of online abuse, please reported to the police at [Hampshire.police.uk](https://www.hampshire.police.uk)

Sora

At Bishop Challoner we are committed to bringing unique learning opportunities to our students and we are pleased to introduce a new, free reading service providing digital books through Sora, the student reading app. So far around 70 students have signed into the App and are enjoying reading a range of books, magazines and comics and listening to audiobooks. With Half Term fast approaching this would be an ideal time to download the app and enjoy all the benefits of Sora.



We are rightly, very proud of our well stocked, accessible physical library but want to give our students every opportunity to read for pleasure and access information to support their learning. The collection of books, magazines and comics on the app is curated by Hampshire School Library Service and as such are age appropriate. The app also gives students the opportunity to tailor their reading experience by changing font size, background colour or choosing an audio book, for those with a kindle or access to borrow box you'll know the benefits of these features.

Why Sora?

The collection of titles in Sora is an extension of our physical library, only it's in app form with 24/7 access to ebooks, audiobooks and magazines. It's convenient for students to check out titles at home, over the weekend or during school holidays, with no worry about misplacing a book as these digital titles automatically return at the end of the lending period.

Sora can help students of all ages read more and improve comprehension. Struggling or reluctant readers, second language learners and gifted readers can all benefit from this service, it will help them by:

- Enriching vocabulary and improving comprehension and pronunciation
- Introducing students to books above their reading level
- Teaching critical listening
- Helping busy students find the time to read
- Incentivizing reading with fun avatars and achievements

How does it work?

Students will need to download the free Sora app from the Apple App store, Google Play Store or visit soraapp.com, log in with their school email address, and enjoy reading anytime, anywhere on a computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Whether a student's interest lies in classics or the latest popular juvenile/young adult fiction, they can find it all in Sora!

Pastoral Team

If you are concerned about a number of issues or if you wish to wish to arrange a face to face or TEAMS meeting with a Head of Year or Assistant Head of Year, then please arrange an appointment through the Admin Office adminoffice@bcs.hants.sch.uk. The Heads of Year and Assistant Heads of Year are part of an experienced pastoral team and can offer detailed pastoral support.

SENDCo

If you have a concern relating to your child's learning or an existing yet to be diagnosed educational need then please contact Ms Oakes who is our SENDCo – Ms Oakes will be happy to work with you and provide an effective bridge between parents, students and staff.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: (DSL)

At times you may have a safeguarding concern about your family or someone you know. Please do not hesitate to contact the school so we can offer support. We work closely with Children's The following members of staff at qualified Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Mrs Wingham	Assistant Head	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mr Dollimore	Deputy Head	Designated Safeguarding Deputy
Mrs Cripps	Assistant Head/Chaplain	Designated Safeguarding Assistant
Mrs Wood	Matron	Designated Safeguarding Assistant
Mrs Oakes	SENDCo	Designated Safeguarding Assistant
Miss Fowkes	Pastoral Support Worker	Designated Safeguarding Assistant
Miss MacDonald	Assistant Head	Designated Safeguarding Assistant
Mr Wright	Headteacher	Designated Safeguarding Assistant
Mrs O'Shea	School Business Manager	Designated Safeguarding Assistant

If you wish to contact Children's Services directly, please telephone 0300 555 1373

Support for children:

Childline: 08001111 for free and confidential advice

UK Safer internet centre: to report and remove harmful online content

CEOP: For advice on making a report about online abuse.

Support for parents:

Childnet: offers a toolkit to support parents / carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support.

Commonsense Media: provide independent reviews, age ratings and other information about all types of media for children and their parents.

Government Advice: You can find advice here about controlling settings and blocking unsuitable content.

Let's talk about it - provides support for parents/ carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation.

National crime agency / CEOP Thinkuknow: Provides support for parents/ carers to keep their children safe online.

Net-aware provides support for parents/ carers from the NSPCC and O2 including a guide to social networks, apps and games.

Online Health Resources

We've shared this information in the past but thought it would be a good idea remind everyone about the Healthier Together resource which gives advice and guidance about children's health and well-being.

This is a useful resource with signposts for all health and well-being information, with the pathways having been developed by clinicians.

<https://www.what0-18.nhs.uk/>

Also don't forget to bookmark this website, it gives easy to follow guidance on a range of common childhood illnesses and conditions, as well as symptoms such as a high temperature and sore throats and what these might mean:

<https://what0-18.nhs.uk/parentscarers/worried-your-child-unwell/child-unwell-ok-go-nurseryschool>

Community Pantries

This is reminder that the Community Pantries are open to everyone in the community and provide access to food at a lower cost. They offer a range of fresh, frozen and general foods, which change each week. Access to the Community Pantry is by membership and, for a small weekly contribution, members can select food to a significantly higher value.

Many of these pantries have cafes and meeting spaces and offer other forms of support. They can put you in touch with organisations that can help with utility bills, health, employment, and education.

Details of local pantries can be found here:

[Community pantries - Hampshire | Children and Families | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](http://Community pantries - Hampshire | Children and Families | Hampshire County Council (hants.gov.uk))



*Have you hit crisis
point?*

Are you struggling for money to buy food?

CONTACT any of our 100+ partnering agency teams who can assess your situation, offer on-going help, & refer you to receive TO YOUR DOOR.

Emergency 3-Day packs of FREE food & toiletries

Citizen's Advice National Helpline: 0808 2082138 (freephone)

Citizen's Advice B'stokes: 0300 330 9064

Citizen's Advice Tadley: 01189 817567

Vivid Tenancy Support: 0800 652 0898

Sovereign Tenancy Support: 0800 988 4858

Hampshire Adults, Children & Family Social Service Teams

Family Support Early Help Hub, Parent & Student Support workers in schools & colleges,

Health Visitors, all Housing Associations, Homeless, Domestic Violence and Addiction support teams ...and many more.

Or contact our Foodbank Centre 07722 673645

www.basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1154319

Financial Support

We know that many families are facing challenges in light of the financial crisis and ask that if you are facing difficulties please do reach out. Call and ask to speak with either Mrs Wingham or Mrs O'Shea. There are several support avenues which we are able to explore together. If you do not wish to speak to school, then perhaps consider the numbers below:

Citizens Advice: 0800 240 4420

Step Change: 0800 138 1111

ONE TO ONE ADVICE



We are providing free one to one sessions to give support to help you with the rising cost of living, covering;

Budgeting, Debt, Benefits, Household finances, Understanding utility bills, Meal planning, Shopping to a budget

Every Wednesday

10.00 – 13.00

Oakridge Hall For All, Basingstoke, RG21 5RG

Starting Wednesday 8th February 2023

Contact us **01264 359223**
rcsserviceseducation@gmail.com

Help for vulnerable households this winter

Please share the below information with your friends and family:

Hampshire County Council is using its Household Support Funding from the Government to provide a range of support between until the end of March 2023, that will help vulnerable households with the costs of food, energy and other essentials

- [Help with energy costs](#) – local Citizens Advice services are supporting eligible households with the costs of gas, water and / or electricity bills. Households who qualify for support can contact their local Citizens Advice directly.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/supportforfamilies/supportwithbills-overview/utilities>

- [Help with food costs](#) – there are 19 Community Pantries across Hampshire which provide food at a lower cost than supermarkets, in exchange for a small membership fee.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/supportforfamilies/communitypantries-overview/communitypantries>

- [Food vouchers](#) – food vouchers will be available to households who receive council tax support, and households who receive housing benefit. These will be distributed by local district and borough councils in the coming months. Those who are eligible don't need to do anything – they will be contacted by their local council.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/supportforfamilies/housing-support/housing-support-hants>

- [Housing costs](#) – local district and borough councils can provide support for housing costs in exceptional circumstances. Residents are asked to contact their local council if they think they may be eligible for emergency support.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/supportforfamilies/housing-support/housing-support-hants>



CLIMBING HIGH

We have among us, several very keen climbers who think climbing is a fantastic sport for anyone, but especially young people because it teaches healthy attitudes to risk, risk assessment and risk management; develops resilience; demonstrates the impact of your mindset and attitude to your success with overcoming challenges; it's obviously excellent physical exercise and it's good for mental health as it's a mental and physical challenge including problem solving!

They feel everyone in Basingstoke [not just those of us able - and crazy enough - to undertake a 90-minute-plus round trip to Southampton] should have access to climbing. They are campaigning for a climbing wall within the new aquadrome development. If you would like further information please visit:

<https://www.change.org/p/provide-climbing-facilities-in-basingstoke>

EASTER

Calling All Easter Bunnies

It's nearly that time of year! We would really like to run our Easter raffle again this year, the raffle will be called on 31 March 2023, the last day term, with Easter egg hampers as prizes.

To do this we need donations of Easter eggs (or any fun Easter goodies). If you are able to pop an extra egg in the trolley when you are next at the shops, we would be really grateful.

The money raised will go to the UNICEF Earthquake Fund.

We need donations by the Monday 27 March (this will give the Easter Bunny time to assemble the hampers).

Tickets will go on sale to students, staff and visitors soon.



Have a wonderful Half Term!