



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
Website: www.bcs.hants.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr J P Wright, BTh



NEWSLETTER: Winter 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and friends,

Welcome to our Christmas edition of the newsletter. It's packed with some of the highlights of this past Autumn term, and the people who made them happen.

Advent always sees the installation of our crib on the main corridor. (See below) Coincidentally, Year 10 are currently studying the incarnation – God made flesh in Jesus. We have been surveying the different ways this is presented – through the Gospels, symbol and statue, tradition in the writings of St. Irenaeus and finally by the Magisterium – the teaching of the Pope and his bishops.



In *Verbum Domini*, Pope Benedict XVI teaches, “The Son himself is the Word, the *Logos*: the eternal word became small – small enough to fit into a manger. He became a child, so that the word could be grasped by us”.



This echoes the words of Bishop Challoner in his ‘Meditations’ for the 25th of December:

‘O! your faith will inform you that under all these mean appearances lies concealed the Lord of glory! This infant, not yet one day old, is the eternal Son of the eternal God; this weak helpless babe is he, who by his almighty power made both heaven and earth; he who is here wrapt up so straightly, and confined to this narrow crib, fills heaven and earth with his incomprehensible immensity; this speechless child is God's own Word, who called all things

out of nothing, and whom all things obey’.

May your Advent preparations for Christmas and the birth of Our Lord focus on this miracle – that God so loved the world that He gave us His only son, both God and Man, and may we as innocent as children welcome Him into our hearts and share His love for one another.

Our prayers for you and your families for a peaceful and healthy Christmas.

God bless,
Mr Wright.

CHAPLAINCY

National Tour of St Bernadette's relics



Our Year 11 Chaplaincy Student Leaders, Hannah and Mattia, along with Mrs. O'Kelly attended the Diocesan Schools Liturgy at Portsmouth Cathedral on the 8 September as they received the relics of St Bernadette.

It was special opportunity to reflect on the example of St Bernadette and we had a really interesting discussion about the place of relics in the modern world. St Irenaeus taught that the glory of God

can be seen in a human being fully alive, and Catholics believe that there is something of God's glory that remains in the body of a saint.

Welcome Year 7!

Also in September, we celebrated our Welcome Mass with Year 7 – and both senior Year 11 student leaders and new Year 7 students took part to make the celebration their own. Our school worship band: The Flow (led by Mr Bryant) as always, added to the joy and inspiration of the occasion and it was lovely to have so many students, parents and staff remain behind afterwards to share a drink and chat.

Bishop Challoner Patronal Feast Day

Filling St Joseph's Church to the brim, Fr Paul and Fr Benoy helped us mark our school feast day at the end of September. Both Masses were prayerful occasions and student participation was fantastic to see.

Our afternoon Mass was offered up for the soul of a much-cherished, retired colleague and friend Mrs Myra Ward, who died tragically during the summer holiday. It was precious to be able to invite Myra's family, friends and many former staff of Bishop Challoner to Mass, to pray together and share time together afterwards. It is testament to Fr Paul that he was able to make this Mass both joyful and consoling all at the same time.

Year 7 Retreat and Pilgrimage

It was fabulous to relaunch our Year 7 Retreat/Pilgrimage days once more in 2022!

Spread across two days in October, Year 7 visited St John the Evangelist Catholic Cathedral and had a day off-timetable in school exploring the theme, Called to Belong.

At St John's, Year 7 explored the cathedral via a discovery trail, joined the 12.15pm Mass and even had a quick exploration of the park across the road.

In school, brilliantly aided by Year 11 student leaders, Year 7 found out more about what they have in common, including the need for belonging, acceptance and love and explored the challenge to 'bear fruit' in their lives for the good of all. They experienced interactive prayer stations, art, music and drama and discussion activities. The day was finished with a very special Explained-Mass, during which Fr Paul helped everyone to understand many things that are said and done that even many adults would not know.



CAFOD Campaign – calling on our government to fix the Broken Food System

Massive thanks to everyone who added their voice to the CAFOD COP26 follow up campaign. We got our hundreds of messages sent to coincide with COP 27 and have already received thanks and acknowledgement from the government.

Pope Francis keeps reminding us to set an example to others by living an eco-conversion, recycling, avoiding waste and doing all we can to limit climate change. Some of our Year 10 students have been able to watch a new Laudato Si-inspired film called The Letter, well worth a watch if you have some time over the Christmas period.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BII>



All Saints Day Mass

All Saints was a joyful celebration; the whole school were able to join in St Joseph's Mass across two Masses. Both Fr John and Fr Paul inspired us to rethink what everyday holiness looks like and our students made it a celebration to remember.

Remembering those who died during the month of November



Thank you to Mrs O'Kelly for yet another striking display to help us reflect and remember to pray for those who have died during the month of November.

Poppies were sold and our Head Boy and Head Girl laid wreaths as part of the

Basingstoke Remembrance Memorial Service. Names of friends and relatives were posted into a box and prayed for by our community, especially during our Voluntary Requiem Mass. A prayerful and poignant occasion that allowed students and staff to remember and pray for loved ones. We are thankful to Fr Paul for making this possible for us.



Remembrance Day Service

Every year on November 11th we hold a school Remembrance Service to remember and thank those who served our country and lost their lives and to also honour all the forces and groups that support our country today. The service was held at 11am and was streamed live through-out the school.

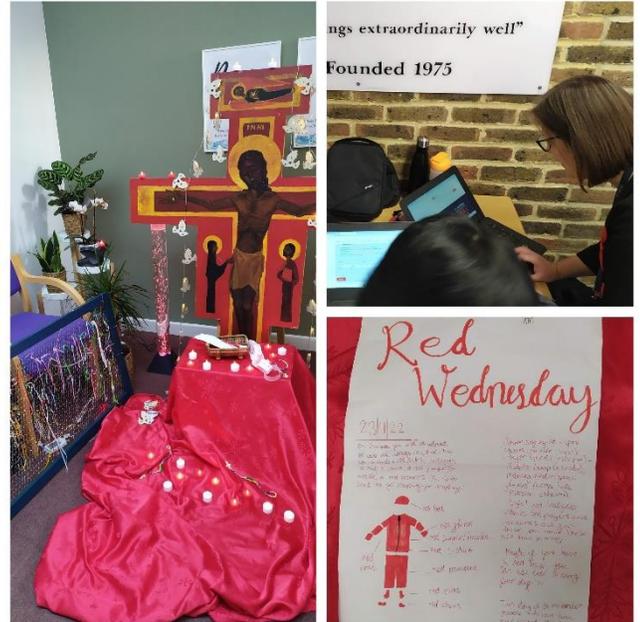
Students who participate in a group such as Scouts, Brownies, Air Cadets, Sea Cadets, Police Cadets, Army Cadets and the St John's Ambulance Brigade were invited to come into school in their uniform for the day and join us in person for our service. Many of the students brought along their company flags.

Red Wednesday

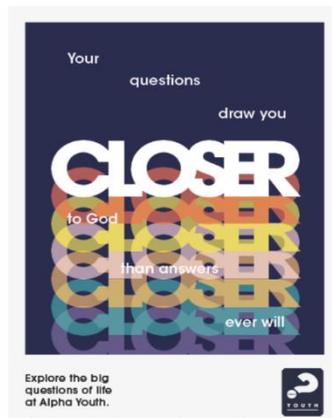
The theme for **Red Wednesday** this was *Break the Silence*. Whilst this day is a day of action, fundraising and solidarity for all those persecuted for faith across the world, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) paid special focus to the plight of Leah Sharibou in Nigeria, who has still not been released after her capture by Boko Haram.

In the lead up to Red Wednesday we had assemblies for all year groups; it was fabulous to see so many students come into school wearing something red and come along during lunchtime to sign ACN's online petition and offer prayers.

Well done to the Challoner Chaplaincy team for their support.



Youth Alpha



Interested in finding out more?
 Sign up to join the journey

Youth Alpha kicked off at the end of November and we are excited about our journey together, discussing and exploring some of life's biggest questions.

Created by Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, Alpha uses a mixture of video, scripture and discussion to enable people to find out more about faith and questions of meaning and purpose.

By the next newsletter, we hope to have a student review or two share about the experience.

STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS PAST & PRESENT

Basingstoke Schools Table Tennis

The annual Basingstoke Schools Table Tennis (Team) tournament took place at Aldworth School in October. The U16 Boys Team were victorious in their competition beating some very talented sides on their way to the title. Well done to Joe P, Bryan V, James P-B & Gurmandeep S.

They then went on to represent Basingstoke at the Hampshire County Competition on 6 December and WON! They will now represent Hampshire at the regional event which will be hosted in London in the New Year – Congratulations!

The Challoner U16 Girls Team were runners up and highly commended well done to Gabby A, Clemence W, Chelsea G and Cecile P.

The U13 Boys Team also got to the final of their competition succumbing to a strong Costello team. The match going down to the final point in the final game. Well done to Liam D, Jairus M, Leo X-L & Esosa O.

Basingstoke Schools Badminton

Bishop Challoner were able to field two teams for the KS3/4 Boys and the KS3/4 Girls competitions. The KS4 girls were our most successful team reaching the final against a strong team from The Vyne School. Unfortunately, they were defeated 4 games to 1. Excellent performances (and undefeated) from Faye W were a highlight along with good performances from Cecile P, Evie W & Merine P.

Netball



Since September Netball has been in full swing with regular matches and training sessions for Years 10 and 11 in the first half term and Years 8 and 9 in the lead up to Christmas.

We are really fortunate to have had a lot of interest in playing netball from our students, we are also aware that many of our girls are involved in Netball clubs outside of school.



If you would like further information on how your daughter can play outside of school here are two web links for local clubs:

<https://www.hwtnetballclub.com/> (Basingstoke)

<https://gemininetballclub.co.uk/> (Andover).

Girls Football

We were able to enter both a Year 7 and a Year 8 team into the Basingstoke Schools 5 a-side tournament which was held over 3 separate occasions at Brighton Hill School.

We had a mixture of results, but the girls have enjoyed playing against the other schools in the town.

Football has seen a steady increase in interest at Bishop Challoner, with the excitement generated by the 'England Lionesses' winning the Euro's.

Bishop Challoner School has signed up to participate in the 'Barclays Game On' initiative. The Football Association and Barclays, supported by Youth Sport Trust, have an ambition to ensure every girl has equal access to football in schools by 2024. Barclays Game On provides training to girls in Key Stage 3 to design, create and deliver football opportunities for their peers. More details will follow in the New Year on how students can become involved.

Girls U12/U14/U16 Rugby



Mrs Cooper took a team of 15 Year 7 girls to play in the U12 Development Festival hosted by Trojans Rugby Club. The girls were excellent and really enjoyed the opportunity to develop their contact skills. They did well with wins against Brookfield, Hayling Island and Wildern Schools.

Mr Sheers accompanied the U14's (Years 8 & 9) to their Development Festival hosted by Southampton RFC. He enjoyed spending time with the team and said that they made improvements throughout the day. Notable performances by Tallulah H, Kristelle L and Emma S. Well done girls!



Finally, our U16 girls have also played a home fixture against Kings School from Winchester. We played a training style match to encourage participation in the contact game. There were around 30 girls participating

in total and this is testament to the development of the sport in recent years.

Several of our girls play at Basingstoke RFC in the U16 and U18 teams. Well done to Rosie B and Rosie W who have also been selected to play in the Girls County U16 team.

Boys Football

Years 7, 8 and 9

After a couple of years of disruption, it has been great to have a term full of football fixtures across the Basingstoke District. Year 9 have started well with some mixed results. The boys bounced back well after a 3-1 loss to Costello with a 3-2 win against The Vyne, both fixtures seeing stand out performances from Leo B, who scored 3 of the goals across the two games. Year 7 and Year 8 are yet to start their fixtures but will be up and running in the Spring Term.



Year 10 and 11

Football for Years 10 and 11 in the Basingstoke district is a straight knockout competition, with the Year 10's beginning the year with a fixture against Aldworth. It was a spirited and hard-fought game but the Aldworth team were too strong for us in the end and came away with a 4-1 victory.

Year 11's began their fixtures with a very competitive game against Costello. Two fantastic strikes from Jewel B and Miles O sealed a 2-1 win in dramatic fashion as a late equaliser for Costello was ruled out for being offside. They play The Vyne in the next round and if they achieve another win they will go on to play in the Basingstoke District Final at Winklebury.

Water Polo Region Championships in Walsall.

On the weekend of the 3 and 4 of December 2022, Calista A competed in the Under 14 Inter Region Water Polo Championships in Walsall.

She was selected to play for the Southeast Region in the tournament. The Southeast Team was drawn in Group A with the Northwest, London and Scotland.

Winning all three games on the Saturday, they went through to the playoffs facing Ireland as runners up in Group B.



In the finals they clashed with Northwest again, with a win of 9 - 1 and bringing home the gold medal.

Their team conceded only 12 goals over the entire weekend, with Calista voted the Most Valued Player in her team for the Tournament. It has been 10 years since the Southeast girls have won this prestigious title in Great Britain and Ireland. Congratulations!!



On the weekend of the 26 and 27 of November 2022, Piaras D and Ryan C competed in the Under 14 Inter Region Water Polo Championships in Walsall.

They were selected to play for the Southeast Region in this tournament. They competed in Group B against Northwest, Southwest and Scotland.

They won all their matches in the round robin stages, looking strong for the following day.

On Sunday they faced Ireland losing a close match by a single point. Their final match was against Northwest, and while they started the game well, they unfortunately lost 9 - 4, placing them 4th overall in Great Britain and Ireland, a great achievement by the team with a bright future for next year's tournament.

THE ARTS NEWS

Bronze Arts Award Success

Congratulations to the latest students to have completed their Trinity Bronze Arts Award, all passed, and their work was praised for its creativity and presentation. Molly F, Henry H, Nela T, Zuzanna K, Mia R, Charlotte M, Ellisia B and Eli B. The majority have now started work on their Arts Award Silver.

The Trinity Arts Award scheme celebrates achievement and development in all forms of Art and is run by Mrs Johnson. Please see Mrs Johnson if you are interested.

Worship Band

A massive thank you to the members of the Worship Band (styled as The Flow Band – ‘The **F**ather **L**oves **O**ur **W**orship’) - who have committed lots of time, hard work and effort this term in preparation for school Masses where they have performed together.

So far this term that have performed at a total of eight Masses (at the time of writing), with the School Carol Service the one remaining event of the Term. Often the students are learning new pieces music during one or two rehearsals only, The band maintain an exceptional high standard of performance at St Joseph's where our Masses are held. They are an asset to Bishop Challoner and the music department, and we are so very proud of them and all their musical achievements.

New members are welcome from January – please ask your child to speak to Mr Bryant or Mrs Johnson if they are interested in attending (either as an instrumentalist or a singer) and relish the opportunity to gain invaluable experience of working to some – at times - very tight deadlines.

Art Club

Art Club are busy working on a nativity scene created out of hand sewn felt. They are a talented bunch of students who really enjoy creating fabulous art. Pictures of the finished scene will be in our next newsletter.



Names - back row from left Hannah, Maddie and Munsha, middle row from left – Gemma, Hannah, Lily, Nathan, Ms Fowley, Sofie, Patrycja, Aanya, Nisha, front row from left – Jadwiga, Simone, Maya.

Thank you all to them all for their hard work and making art club so fun 😊 Mrs Ferris

Christmas Extravaganza

We saw a great deal of hard work and dedication during this term from both students and staff. They were busy creating performance pieces for our Christmas Variety Show, which we hosted on 8 December 2022.



A total of 94 students performed to a 'full house' and in true variety fashion, we have a wide range of acts, including music, dance and drama. It was a hugely successful evening and a celebration of the amazing talent that we have in our school!

Well done to all the students who performed and thank you to the members of staff who helped behind the scenes, from cake baking, selling tickets to supervising back stage! Could this be a new Challoner tradition? What this space.....

CAREERS

We've had a busy start to the year in the careers department!

College Assemblies

The term began for Year 11's with college presentations from Sparsholt & Andover, QMC, BCOT and Peter Symonds, providing a reminder of the different types of qualifications and courses available along with information on the application process and deadlines.

Application workshops

Since applications opened at the local colleges, we have run workshops which have taken place every Monday afternoon during a tutorial period. Students were able speak with college

representatives and receive support with writing personal statements and complete the online application process.

Mock Interviews

Our annual *Recruitment and Interview* project saw over 30 industry representatives support the school over two evenings in October. They offered Year 11's the opportunity to write a C.V, job application and experience an interview to develop the skills required to apply for the next step of their educational / employment journey.

Post 16 options

Year 10 have started looking at post 16 options and attended a workshop with a careers advisor which provided information on the many different education and apprenticeship routes available to them post-secondary education.

All Year 10 students will be invited to attend a careers interview to discuss and gain information on their individual education and career pathway.

Employer encounters - meet the employer

Year 9 met with a variety of industry representatives to learn about employment from the people that are doing the job. With a focus on Industry, Soft Skills, Qualifications, day to day activities and the representative's journey through education and employment to their success today.

Successful option choices

An external Careers Advisor presented an introduction to option choices for our Year 9 students. This event provided information on the different types of qualifications and pathways available, helping them to select which GCSE's subjects to choose later this academic year.

Successful Start

Year 7 have attended interactive workshops presented by the Royal Holloway University of London which reflected on the transition from primary to secondary school and how students can make the most of year 7. With a focus on successful starts and how they can talk, manage, and overcome any apprehensions they may have. They also looked at The Royal Holloway and university life in general to support their aspirations and confidence.

We need you!

We are seeking industry representatives who are passionate about their career, and willing to share their experiences with our students. The aim is to inform and inspire the next generation. Are you willing to visit school and give a 30-minute talk to a small group of students? This would provide valuable information about careers and educational journeys. Not for you? Maybe you know someone with an interesting pathway that could support the careers education of Bishop Challoner students.

Please contact the Careers Department: anouschka.hamilton@bcs.hants.sch.uk

Challoner DofE

The first half term was an exceptionally busy one for the DofE team in school:

- We've hosted an Information Evening for our new Bronze participants' and their families.
- Seen our first ever Silver participants complete their full award after a very successful Assessed Expedition.
- Celebrated our students' successes at the return of our Award Celebration evening.
- Completed two training walks with our new 2022/23 Bronze and Silver Cohorts!

Thank you to all our parents and carers who continue to support the Award through our events, we are pleased to say that we raised £86 at the Celebration Evening which will go towards the development of the DofE Equipment store.

Silver DofE

Congratulations to the 7 students currently in Year 11 who completed their Silver Assessed Expedition back in September. They walked a combined total of approx. 55km over the three days. Their assessor Mr. Robinson was very complimentary on their skills in navigation, campcraft and cooking. We featured in the Basingstoke Gazette and you can read the article here:

<https://www.basingstokegazette.co.uk/news/23030456.bishop-challoner-students-complete-d-e-expedition-challenge>



Our new 2022/23 Silver participants have started off well and have showed a lot of promise whilst on the recent training walk in the Bramshill area. They made an improvement on their map reading

skills after learning the basics at Bronze level. We look forward to seeing them work hard on their eDofE sections over the winter term ahead of more training in March.

Bronze DofE

September was certainly busy, with success for the 22 Bronze DofE participants who completed their Assessed Expedition. Many congratulations to them and the students who were awarded their Certificate of Achievement for all their hard work and commitment.



Our new 2022/23 participants took part in their first training walk in Kingsclere back in October. The weather was kind, and we were able to enjoy the beautiful views. This training walk gives a good indication of the training needs of the teams. The participants were taught how to map read using observations of features including grid references, contour lines and map symbols. On the next training walk we will learn how to navigate with bearings.

All Bronze participants should now be well on their way to completing their 1st and possibly 2nd sections on eDofE. It is important that they stay on track and complete the sections before the Easter Holidays to be permitted to participate in the training weekend and Assessed Expedition in the summer term. Progress is checked weekly. All participants add weekly photos with dates and diary entries to confirm what they are doing for each section outside of school.

Important upcoming dates for 2023:

- 25 February – Silver DofE Training walk no.2
- 27 February – Year 8 Bronze DofE launch
- 6 March – Year 8 Bronze Information evening
- 11 & 12 March – Bronze Training weekend
- 22 April – Bronze Training walk no.2
- 28 to 30 April - Silver Practice Expedition
- 30 June to 2 July – Silver Assessed Expedition

History Department



In November, the Year 9's participated in an event hosted by the Holocaust Educational Trust as part of their history lesson. The Trust held a live webinar with survivors Peter and Marianne Summerfield BEM to commemorate 84 years since Kristallnacht. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn more about the events of the Holocaust with live testimony. We were honoured to have participated in this experience.

To mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2023, we have been invited to join and hear the remarkable live testimony of a Holocaust survivor in another live webinar. Supported by bespoke lesson materials, we will be able to ask questions in a live Q&A session, reflect collectively on the importance of remembering the Holocaust and consider this year's theme, Ordinary People.

Walktober 2022



This year's Walktober saw over 150 Hampshire schools and early years settings stepping up for our planet, our wellbeing, and our community.

12 schools entered the *Spread the Word* competition, and more than 220 pupils submitted their Walktober Challenge Cards for the primary and secondary prize draws.

Congratulations to our very own Kurtis K in Year 8 who won the "YOUR STEPS COUNT" competition and was rewarded with Love to Shop Vouchers & stationary, he was presented his prize during assembly – Keep up the good work Kurtis!

Parent Feedback Questionnaire

98%
of parents/carers say
that their child feels
safe at Bishop Challoner.

At the beginning of term, we sent out a Parent Feedback Questionnaire, thank you to everyone who took the time to respond. Your answers are extremely important to us and help inform how we move the school forward. Over the coming months we will be sharing with you the actions we have taken in response to your feedback.

97%
of parent/carers feel
they can contact the school
if there is a concern

One of our questions asked whether parents felt their child had the opportunity to take part in clubs and activities at school. 11% of parents responding to the survey felt that their child was not

given an opportunity to participate in activities. We've taken this on board and asked our Student Voice representatives to investigate the types of clubs' students wanted to see. Below you will find the planned programme for the Spring Term. Please note this does not show the numerous sporting fixtures and competitions, as these are often arranged at relatively short notice.

Spring 2022	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	Drama Club - Years 7 & 8 - Drama Studio Music Practice – All Years, invite only - Music Room Flame Collective - Years 7 & 8 - RE4/Chapel Rubix's Cube – All Years – F3	Study Extra -3.35pm-4.35pm – Year 8-11 – Library Homework Club - 3.35pm-4.35pm – invite only – I1
Tuesday	Tranquil Tuesday, quiet study/reading – All Years - Library Challoner Chat - Years 8 & 9, invite only - E6 Badminton - Years 10 & 11 - Sports Hall Spanish Speaking Club - Years 10 & 11 - F4 STEAM Club - Years 7 & 8 - Lab 1	Study Extra 3.35pm-4.35pm – Year 8-11 – Library Art Club 3.35pm-4.35pm – All Years - A2 Netball 3.35pm-4.35pm – Years 7 - Courts Food Club 3.35pm-5.00pm – Years 7 to 9 - Food Room Dungeons and Dragons 3.35 - 5:45pm – Years 9 - 11 – M2 and E2 Drama Rehearsals – Year 11 – Romero
Wednesday	Oasis Club - Peer Mentors and Year 7 Students - RE3 Worship Band – All Years - Music Room Arts Award - Years 8 & 9, Invite only - Wednesday D1 Eco Club – All Years – Fortnightly G2 *starts 11/01 Faith in Action - Years 8 & 9 - F11 Volleyball – KS4 - Sports Hall Chemistry Revision - Year 11 - Lab 3 Film Club – Year 7 – E6	Study Extra 3.35pm-4.35pm – Year 8-11 – Library Dance Club 3.35pm-4.35pm - All Years – Romero Pray the Rosary 3.35pm-4.35pm - All Years - RE1/Chapel Drama Rehearsals – Year 11 – Romero Dance Club 3.35pm-4.35pm - All Years – Hall
Thursday	Geoggle on – Year 11 - G1 Girls Football - Years 7 & 8 - Sports Hall Strings Group – All Years - Music Room Choir - All Years – D1 Art in Heaven – All Years - RE4/Chapel Spanish Vocabulary Club – All Years - F11 Film Club – Year 7 – E6	Study Extra 3.35pm-4.35pm – Year 8-11 – Library Guitar Club 3.35pm-4.35pm – KS4 - Music Room GCSE Badminton 3.35pm-5.00pm - Year 11 - Sports Hall Homework Club - 3.35pm-4.35pm – invite only – I1 Music Tour Rehearsals – 3.35pm–4.35pm - invite only – Music
Friday	GCSE Music Support - Years 10 & 11 Music Room Indoor Football - Year 7 Boys - Sports Hall Woodwind and Brass - All Years - D1 Oasis Club - Peer Mentors and Year 7 Students - RE3 Faith in Action – Years 8 & 9 Maths Club – All Years – M5	

If your child has an idea for a club that is not currently on offer, please encourage them to speak with their Tutor or Heads of Year.

Travels

The Year 11's travelled to the Isle of Arran over the October Half-Term. They climbed Goatfell Mountain, went mountain biking, abseiling, kayaking, orienteering and had a go at archery, to



name just a few of the activities completed! The students impressed the staff with their high levels of resilience and their strong sense of teamwork and inclusivity. Quite frankly, they were a thoroughly lovely bunch to be with and we had a blast!

Message From Matron

Asthma

If your child suffers with asthma, they must have inhaler in their possession whilst at school, we suggest they keep this in their school bag. You also need to provide a 'spare', which will be kept in the medical room in case of an emergency. We have recently had several incidents where students have left their inhaler at home and the school have not been provided with a spare. Please ensure that one is sent into school at the start of the new term in January.

Cycling to school.

Please take a moment to check the road worthiness of your child's bicycle. We are seeing an increasing number of students riding to and from school on unsafe bikes. 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 this time of year, with darker mornings and evenings and inclement weather.
- Your child's **HELMET**, does it fit correctly? Students MUST wear a helmet when cycling to & from school. If a student arrives in school without a helmet, we will not permit them to cycle home. We will telephone a Parent/Carer and request that they bring a helmet into school, 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.

These checks will only take moment and are for the safety of your child.

Water Bottles

We all know that keeping hydrated is extremely important throughout the year, not just during the summer months. But, 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.

We are seeing an increasing number of students visiting the Medical Room requesting pain relief for headaches. On questioning these students, it becomes apparent they have not got a water bottle and have not had anything to drink all 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.

With Christmas just around the corner, a water bottle could be an inexpensive stocking filler.

Medication

If you have given Parental Permission, we are able to give Paracetamol as pain relief in school. If your child is unable to swallow tablets, please supply a “named” bottle of Calpol liquid pain medication (or similar). This will keep this locked away in the medical room, and only used by your child. Students are NOT permitted to keep medication on their person. As a school we need to know what medication a student has taken. In the event of an emergency, we may be required to inform the Ambulance Service or Hospital staff. There is also the risk of students mislaying medication, this puts them and other students at risk.

If your child is prescribed medication by a doctor, which needs to be taken within school hours, these must be handed in at the Medical Room, in the original packaging which clearly states your child’s name and the dosage required, your child will be responsible for collecting any unused medication at the end of each day.

If your child suffers from Hay Fever, please send a box of their medication into school, this must be clearly marked with their name. We do keep a very small supply of Hay Fever medication, but a student’s learning time can be disrupted while contact home is made to seek permission to give Hay Fever medication.

If your child uses a hot water bottle or microwavable heat pack to ease menstrual tummy cramps, please send these into school, they will be kept for your child’s personal use, as and when required.

Parents’ Evening Survey

Thank you to all the parents that took the time to complete the survey concerning how Parents’ Evenings should be conducted – in school or via the SchoolCloud platform. Below are the results, you will see that we had a high percentage of parents, across all year groups wanting to keep parent evenings online. We will continue to keep how these evenings are conducted under review:

Year	Total number of Responses	Percentage of Year Group / School	I would like to use SchoolCloud and keep Parents’ Evenings on line.	Year Group Percentage - I would like to use SchoolCloud and keep Parents’ Evenings on line.	I would like for Parents’ Evenings to be carried out in School	Year Group Percentage - I would like for Parents’ Evenings to be carried out in School
7	134	73%	71	53%	63	47%
8	125	67%	75	60%	50	40%
9	121	69%	75	62%	46	38%
10	111	65%	59	53%	52	47%
11	101	57%	64	63%	37	37%
Total	592	67%	344	58%	248	42%

School Skies

We've seen some magical sunrises and sunsets at school and thought we would share some of these amazing scenes with you.



Christmas Lunch

After two years of absence due to COVID, it was lovely to be able to hosted our annual Christmas Lunch again. With over 500 students and staff ordering a meal, Nigel our Chef and his team had their work cut out. They didn't let us know, the food was amazing and the atmosphere very festive indeed. We would like to thank everyone that made the event possible.

Parking

Unfortunately, we're receiving an increase in complaints from nearby residents and local companies about parking issues.

Could we please take this opportunity to remind you of the following;

- Please do not park on double yellow lines
- Please do not park on the Yellow Zig Zag markings outside the school
- Please do not use the Westside Community Centre car park to drop off or pick up
- Please do not use the Car Park of John Eddy Court to turn around or use this area to drop off or pick up students. Please be mindful that John Eddy Court is a residence for the elderly and that there may be vulnerable adults in this car park

We have also had an increasing number of parents entering the school carpark to drop off and collect students, can we please remind you that this is not permitted unless you have been issued with a permit by the school. For those parents that have a parking permit please DO NOT exit the car park via the entrance. If there are buses blocking the exit you are required to wait in a parking space, with the engine off and the handbrake on, thank you for helping us to keep ALL our young people safe.

Young Carers

Our Young Carers group continue to meet in a regular basis. We have a range of different activities planned for students to participate in. If you would like to know more about Young Carers at Bishop Challoner or find out if your child is able to join the group please email adminoffice@bcs.hants.sch.uk

Pastoral Support

If you are concerned about a particular issue relating to your child or if you wish to arrange a face to face or TEAMS meeting with a Head of Year or Assistant Head of Year, an appointment can be arrange through the school office, please email 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 Mrs Oakes who is our SENDCo – Mrs 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 Services. The following members of staff are 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 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: 0800 1111 for free and confidential advice

UK Safer internet centre: to report and remove harmful online content - <https://saferinternet.org.uk/>

CEOP: For advice on making a report about online abuse - <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

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 - <https://www.childnet.com/>

Commonsense Media: provide independent reviews, age ratings and other information about all types of media for children and their parents - <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

NSCC: You can find advice here about controlling settings and blocking unsuitable content - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

Let's talk about it: provides support for parents/carers on a number of topics keep children safe from online radicalisation <https://www.letstalkaboutit.nhs.uk/>

National crime agency / CEOP Thinkuknow: Provides support for parents/ carers to keep their children safe online - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Net-aware provides support for parents/ carers from the NSPCC and O2 including a guide to social networks, apps and games - <https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/net-aware-update-from-the-nspcc>

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 in later years. If you or your child are a victim of online abuse, then it can be reported to the police at <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

Community Pantries

Did you know that 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 \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/children-and-families/community-pantries)

If you need help, especially over the Festival period, see below:



***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 our

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

We would like to thank Spotlight, Foodbank and all the marvellous charities who reach out and donate food and gifts. Their support to the school and the local community is much appreciated.

Free Online Courses for Parents in the New Year!

The below courses are offered by Hampshire Learns Skills and Participation along with Hampshire Learning in Libraries. If you are interest joining or require more information please visit <https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/learning-in-libraries>

Course	Dates	Time
Raising Resilient Children	Mondays 9 Jan – 6 Feb	6:30pm -8:00pm
Introduction to Paediatric 1st Aid	Tuesdays 10 Jan – 31 Jan	6:45pm- 9:00pm
Positive Parenting	Wednesdays 11 Jan – 8 Feb	6:30pm -8:00pm
How Children Learn to Talk	Thursdays 12 Jan – 9 Feb	7:00pm-8:30pm
Makaton Level 1*	Mondays 16 Jan – 6 Feb	6:30pm- 8:30pm
Makaton Level 1*	Mondays 27 Feb – 20 Mar	6:30pm- 8:30pm
Positive Parenting	Mondays 27 Feb – 27 Mar	6:30pm -8:00pm
Introduction to Paediatric 1st Aid	Tuesdays 28 Feb – 21 Mar	6:45pm- 9:00pm
Raising Resilient Children	Wednesdays 1 Mar – 29 Mar	6:30pm -8:00pm
How Children Learn to Read and Write	Thursdays 2 Mar – 30 Mar	7:00pm-8:30pm

Participants will be required to use Zoom. No account is required, not sure how to use Zoom? Checkout these helpful videos: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/20617580>

Online Health Resources

Due to current pressures on the NHS, we have been asked to share 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/parents/carers/worried-your-child-unwell/child-unwell-ok-go-nurseryschool>

Help for vulnerable households this winter

Please share the below information with friends and family:

Hampshire County Council is using its Household Support Funding from the Government to provide a range of support between now and March next year, 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>

