

BC14

Lord we pray, that we may treat others as we would like them to treat us. That we may forgive others as we would like them to forgive us. That we may encourage and compliment others in the same way that we would like them to encourage us. That we may see and love in others what we would like them to see and love in us. These things we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen

Message from Mr Smith, Senior Vice Principal

Friday 24th November

Vocabulary Matters!

As a Teaching School, Bishop Challoner routinely engages with educational research. Here's a recent finding that I think has implications for all teachers and parents: 'Vocabulary size at every age from 5-55 is directly linked firstly to academic success and then throughout life to career advancement.' Apparently, the vocabulary gap between rich and poor opens up before children even start school: by age three, it is believed that children growing up in deprived circumstances may hear up to 30 million fewer words than their more privileged counterparts. During the teenage years that gap opens up again between readers and non-readers.

The challenge is there for all to see. New GCSEs are placing greater literacy demands on students than ever before. But outside school hours, many teenage children don't really read anymore because of so many competing distractions. In addition, to boosting voluntary reading for pleasure, schools need to teach pupils active reading strategies that allow pupils to derive the greatest possible vocabulary gains from the kind of non-fiction texts they are actually encountering in class but also at home, often online.

As part of a research project with York University, we've devised a simple strategy that is designed to cultivate this critical self-regulatory impulse in pupils and are currently trialling with pupils at KS3. Pupils are trained to recognise 'good' words that they are likely to be able to use again soon. The words have a crucial quality: transferability; they score points when they successfully reuse the word in another subject or context. It shows real promise and is likely to be a whole school initiative next year. For parents the message is clear: we needn't necessarily despair if our children resist reading 'Literature'. All reading has value because it builds vocabulary – the critical building block of success.

Shoebbox Collection

Every autumn term we run the Shoebbox appeal. We managed to collect 318 Shoebboxes for the Trussell Trust who send the completed shoebboxes to disadvantaged children in Bulgaria. This worthwhile cause has helped spread the joy of Christmas to those most in need. Thank you to all staff, students and families who contributed towards the Shoebbox Appeal.



BC Teaching School Alliance

As you know, we are very experienced and successful in training teachers here at Bishop Challoner, but did you know we also work with many other Secondary and Primary schools across Birmingham? Applications are open on UCAS, so it's worth having a look if you or a relative / friend is thinking of becoming a teacher. www.bctsa.org. We also support teachers throughout their careers and at the moment we offer FREE TSST training to Secondary teachers in Languages, Maths and Science. Send people our way if you think they may be interested!



FRIENDS OF BISHOP CHALLONER

£5000 TARGET

Thanks to all that have supported.

FOBC are running some sponsored events in December for school funds. We will be having 2 PE and Sport days on 14th and 15th December at the transport ground for Year 7, 8, 9 and 10.

£1000 CHRISTMAS TARGET

£600 so far

Sixth Form

Open Evening

On 15th November we held our Open Evening which, again, was a huge success. It was very well attended by our Year 11 students and their parents and we also welcomed a record number of visitors from local schools. It was great to see the exciting work being done by our sixth form in departments and the impressive displays. We were also extremely proud of our team of Student Ambassadors, who did a superb job guiding visitors around our college. Our Head Boy and Girl, Alfie and Mary also spoke very positively and confidently to parents and students in the 2 presentations of the evening.

Applying to the Sixth Form

We are asking students to submit their online applications to our Sixth Form by 15th December via our college website. 42 applications have already been received- 20 from our own year 11s and 22 from other institutions.

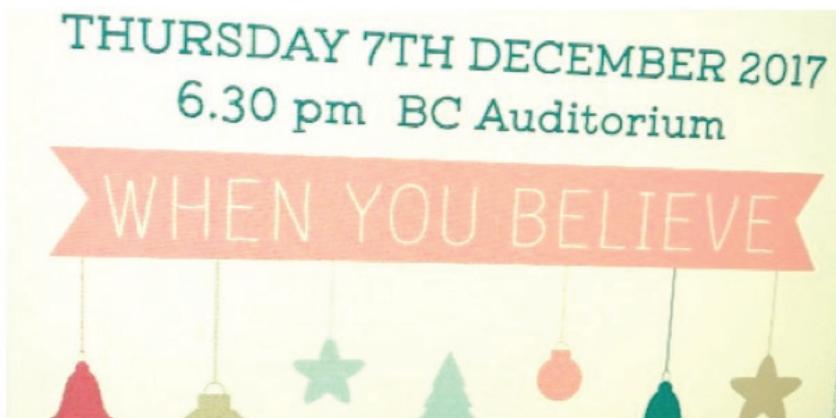
University Masterclasses

A large number of masterclasses have been booked so far this term and 48 students, from both Years 12 and 13, have attended a masterclass. These are an opportunity for students to gain an insight into subjects that interest them at degree level, and also a more general insight into student life. Masterclasses are in all subjects, covering issues such as Drugs for Human Health, Taxing Our Wealth, Crime and Punishment, and our favourite: How to Use Mathematics to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse!

Student Newsletter

The first edition of the entirely student-written and student-edited newsletter is now available on the website and via our twitter page. Congratulations to the team who have made use of Wednesday's Enrichment to make their journalistic dreams a reality.

Christmas Show- Tickets on sale Monday 27th November £5.00



DON'T FORGET YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS
Now on sale:
£5 per pack of 10.
Purchase via Schoolcomms.

Sports Updates

This week the Year 7 and 8 boys Rugby teams have been at Camp Hill RFC training with the Wasps Academy coaches. This was a great experience for the boys and a brilliant project run by Wasps.

Football Year 9 boys won on Wednesday evening 2-0 against West Coventry Academy. They are now into the third round of the West Midlands Cup.

Basketball Year 7 boys won 18-2 against St Georges Academy on Tuesday night.

Gymnastics competition for year 3/4 in the Dojo. Great turn out from primary schools and parents. Winners were Moseley CofE

Upcoming Events

Advent Services Start
Friday 1st December

Christmas Show
Thursday 7th December

Year 7, 9 & 10 Parent Consultation Day
Friday 8th December