



# Bishop Walsh

## Catholic School Newsletter

Newsletter – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### Follow Us on X



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@bishopwalsh



### Forthcoming Dates

Year 11 Information Evening – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October  
Year 7 Pastoral Parents' Evening – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October  
October Half Term – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
A Level Science Live Event – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November  
Flu Vaccine – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November  
Year 13 Psychology Trip – 'Life Behind Bars' - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November  
Year 7 Disco – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November  
Careers Fair – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November  
Lord Mayor's Quiz – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November  
Year 8 Black country Living Museum Trip – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November  
Sixthform open evening – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November  
Year 13 H&SC/Business Studies trip - Tutor2U trip – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November  
BWA Christmas Fair – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
Year 7 movie night – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December  
Advent Service – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December

Click here - [Term Dates and INSET Dates](#)

### LC Assessments

Year 10 LC1 Window – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November  
Year 10 LC1 Report – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December  
Year 7 LC1 Window – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November  
Year 7 LC1 Report – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Year 8 LC3 Window – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December  
Year 8 LC3 Report – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
Year 12 LC1 Window – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Year 12 LC1 Report – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
Year 11 LC4 Window (Mock Exams) – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
Year 11 LC4 Report – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January

## Let Us Pray



Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou amongst women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.



Amen.

## Important Dates in the Liturgical Calendar



**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October - Feast Day of St Chad**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November - All Saints**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - All Souls**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - First Sunday of Advent**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

## Inclement weather

***In case of  
Inclement  
Weather***



On the rare occasion, that severe weather poses a risk to the health and safety of pupils and staff, a decision will be made about opening the school. This decision will be communicated by ParentMail at the earliest possible opportunity. Please be aware that any decision taken will be in the best interests of the pupils and staff and is never taken lightly. The school must consider factors such as the safety of the site and weather forecasts in decision making.

## Message from the Principal



Dear Parents/Carers

It has been wonderful to welcome back all of your children to school this first half term of the year. Speaking to pupils in assembly and also dropping into lessons, you can see that everyone is well prepared and ready for another successful school year here at Bishop Walsh. Year 7 have settled in particularly well and have really started to enjoy their new classes and new found friends.

The Catholic life of our school goes from strength to strength. Following our outstanding inspection in July, we are now a lead partner in the RSHE Ten Ten programme. We are proud of the pastoral curriculum at Bishop Walsh Catholic School and know that our students speak highly of it.

Our annual open evening was held this half term. It was a fantastic occasion, and it was lovely to hear so many positive comments about our staff and pupils from our prospective parents. It was a very busy event with nearly 1000 visitors in our school, thank you if you came to this evening. Just a reminder that if you have a child in Year 6 and are choosing Bishop Walsh Catholic School, please drop off your baptismal certificate and SIF form by Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 at the latest.

As you can see from this packed edition of our newsletter, the first half term at Bishop Walsh Catholic School has been jammed full of activities for our students.

From day trips to reading programmes, student leadership roles and sports fixtures, it's clear to see Bishop Walsh students have a plethora of opportunities to choose from. Please do encourage your children to get involved as much as possible in these additional opportunities. The extracurricular timetable is included in this edition of the newsletter.

Over the last couple of weeks, several educational trips have taken place. We have also had the Catholic Partnership sports events and many other sporting fixtures. Mrs Moakes also took our chaplaincy team to St Chad's Cathedral for a commissioning Mass which was a lovely day.

The school show auditions have started again this year. Well done to all who secured cast places and dance places. I am sure that this year's performance will be as award-winning as last year.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and have a lovely half term break.

Mrs Brodie  
Principal

## Catholic Life of the School



It has been a positive, proactive and prayerful start to the school year. Year 7 celebrated Mass welcoming them to the school community, planned by the liturgy leads. Over 60 Year 7s put themselves forward to live out their faith in action through the Chaplaincy Team who have started by creating peace prayer doves (see picture) and leading on CAFOD projects. The Eco team (Years 8-13) are supporting the CAFOD campaign on climate action. Charitable missions and heart missions are well underway. Our first call was to collect shoes for the St Nicholas World Development Group, these shoes will be sent to a school in Uganda and help enable children to attend school. Our next mission is to collect warm blankets and warm coats for St. Chad's Sanctuary and Crisis for the homeless in Birmingham.

Care of God's creation - Tutors have been busy working with pupils to lead on personal reflections in sacred space time, but also on form group reflections this half term. The post 16 prefect group have been working with staff looking into issues affecting young people today and created resources to be shared in form time. We are proud that we have been asked to be an advisory school for Ten Ten, and look forward to the continued journey with this fantastic company.

We are busy planning our whole school remembrance service on the 10<sup>th</sup> November. We take time to reflect, pray and remember those who fought for freedom through dance, music, readings, art, drama and more.

Please see the Catholic Life, Prayer and Liturgy update sent week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> October for more information and updates.

Mrs Moakes  
Assistant Principal i/c Catholic Life

## Teaching & Learning

We are pleased to welcome back our students to a new academic year and we are confident that they will work hard and make the most of each and every lesson. We hope that our new Year 7 and external Sixth form students in Year 12 have settled well.

I would like to encourage parents and guardians to make full use of our school website. The curriculum area is full of useful student resources and information about the topics that students cover and the sequence of their learning. Google Classroom continues to be our on-line learning platform through which home learning is set and resources are shared. Students speak highly of this provision and like the way it operates.

Next half term, there are a number of learning cycles. It is important that students know exactly what is expected of them and which topics to revise. We encourage students to be active in their revision and take part in activities such as self-quizzing, mind map creation and question/ answer flash cards. Please be aware that at Key Stage 3 students should have access to the booklet for that given theme/ topic, glossaries and knowledge organisers (a concise document detailing the most 'powerful information').

Reading, writing and oracy continue to be some of our whole-school teaching and learning priorities this academic year. Through our continued professional development schedule staff have received a lot of information and strategies in order to boost students' aptitude in these fields. We have also introduced the Word of the Week whereby students are introduced to a Tier 2 term and this is explored further in lesson time by looking at its definition and examples of how it can be used in the context of a particular subject discipline.

We recognise the importance of our students being fully equipped for lessons. In order to support this philosophy, we have continued to run our stationery shop in the 'Link' area before school at 8.30am. It sells a wide range of equipment including biros, highlighters, glue sticks, white board pens (essential for the use of the white board in the back of the student planner) and purple pens (required by students to complete self/peer assessment activities). We encourage students to use our non-profit stationery shop to ensure that they are fully equipped for each lesson.

Mrs Marston-Smith  
Assistant Principal i/c Curriculum

## Year 11 Visit to Normandy, France.



On a rainy, dark night on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 40 Year 11 pupils and four teachers embarked upon a trip to the Château du Baffy in Normandy, France. Whilst there, we experienced some French history, culture and food (including a frogs' legs and snails tasting!). On our way down to the chateau, we stopped off at the beautiful port of Honfleur where everyone seemed to want to buy a baguette! We later continued on to the Caen Memorial Museum. On the Saturday, we had an excursion to Arromanches-les-Bains, which is next to Gold beach, and where you can see the remains of the Mulberry Harbour, which enabled the continued supply of provisions for the troops following the D-Day landings on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944. We also viewed the German gun battery (part of the Atlantic Wall defences) and we later continued on to the American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer which overlooked Omaha beach. There we watched the flag lowering ceremony. We ended the day with a trip to Bayeux, where pupils could visit the impressive cathedral, view the Bayeux tapestry and practise their French conversational skills. Before we departed on Sunday, we laid a wreath at the British Military Cemetery at Bayeux on behalf of Bishop Walsh school. This was a very moving element of the trip and we were fortunate to be able to offer thanks for the sacrifice and service of the men and women who died whilst liberating France from Nazi occupation. It was an amazing experience and all pupils said that they really profited from their first school trip abroad since the pandemic. They were excellent ambassadors for the school and we were really proud of them!

Mrs Bowker, Mr McGrath, Miss Forker and Miss Page

## LAMDA Speech Exams with Centrestage

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at Bishop Walsh Catholic School, over 20 of the Centrestage speech pupils took their LAMDA Speaking Verse and Prose examinations. The pupils had been working incredibly hard all year to develop their confidence, clarity, expression, and performance skills ahead of the examinations. **And we are delighted to announce that 100% of students passed their examinations with Merit or Distinction - an outstanding result.** The students showcased huge amounts of determination and talent, and we are immensely proud of every single one of them. For some students, this was their very first exam, for others it was their Gold Medal examination, giving them UCAS (university entrance) points.



Centrestage are pleased to say that we have places available on our register for this academic year. Lessons currently take place on Fridays, during the school day, and are taught in groups of 6-8 pupils. If you would like some more information about Speech @ Bishop Walsh, please email [admin@centrestageschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@centrestageschool.org.uk). We hope to welcome your child to Speech @ Bishop Walsh very soon!

Miss McGrail  
Co-Principal of Centrestage School of Speech and Drama

## Science Enrichment

As part of sixth form enrichment, our pupils have researched, written and edited articles based on scientific publications they have found. Over the past half term these students have rewritten published articles in a manner that is suitable for pupils aged 14+. They have spent many hours taking these complicated scientific studies and making them accessible to pupils within the school. We hope you enjoy reading these articles and appreciate the hard work our students have completed in authoring them.

Please [Click here](#) to read students' articles.

Miss Lloyd & Mr Prior  
Science Department

## Computer Science

Year 11 Cambridge Nationals in IT pupils have been producing some incredible 3D designs in preparation for their coursework, which focuses on augmented reality.

They will be able to superimpose these designs over a user's view of the real world, providing a composite view of both the real world and digital content.

Each of the 3D designs you see here have been produced using a series of individual shapes, which the pupils have manipulated to create their own, unique object.

Augmented reality is increasingly being used in the retail industry – from seeing whether a new pair of glasses would suit you, to trying out the inside of a new car design to see which style you prefer. It is also a useful tool in the gaming industry and in education, where it can make the classroom more engaging (imagine tapping on a digital image of a famous historical character who seems to be standing at the front of the classroom and finding out about their adventures). AR is limited only by imagination.

It's fantastic that pupils are at the cutting edge and are learning how to create 3D models and are utilising them in AR products!

Mrs Clancy  
Head of Computer Science

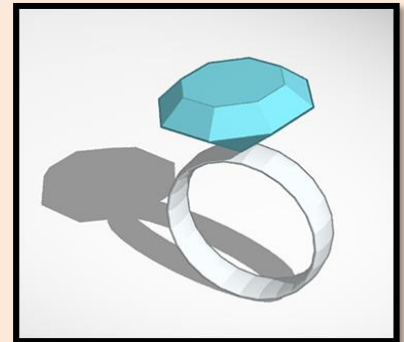


Figure 1: A ring by Elyssa

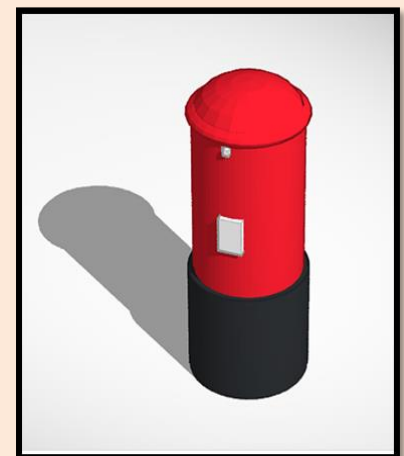


Figure 2: A post box by James

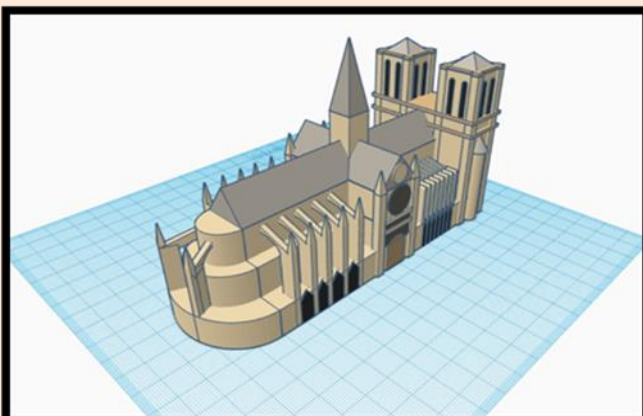


Figure 4: Notre Dame by Harrison

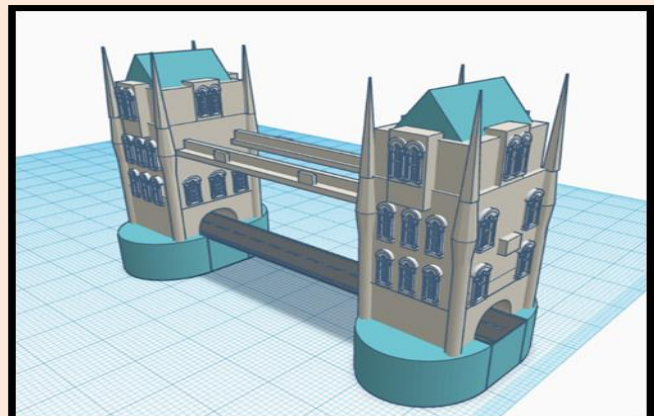


Figure 3: Tower Bridge by Chinedu



## Columba Trophy



The annual Bishop Walsh Catholic School musical performance returned in February 2023 with our fantastic production of 'Footloose - Youth Edition'. The production was entered into the annual competition for the Columba Trophy. The award ceremony took place in October 2023 at the Council House, Birmingham, with the Lord Mayor in attendance. We are happy to report that Footloose won second place out of a possible 5. We were even more delighted when Darrell Ndaty won a highly commended award for his superb performance of Willard Hewitt.

Mrs Priestnall & Mrs Jones  
Drama Department



# Bishop Walsh Catholic School Production 2023-2024



Auditions took place at the end of September with a superb turn out for cast and dancers. We are well into rehearsals and are planning our two late night rehearsals and two Sundays leading up to the opening night.

**Show week is the week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

Tickets are £9 and will go on sale to cast, dancers and crew first in January

We look forward to seeing you there.

Mrs Priestnall & Mrs Jones  
Drama Department

## A morning with Motion House




A mixture of Year 10, 11 and 13 pupils took part in a challenging dance workshop with professional dance company Motion House on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Students were put through their paces as the dance leader taught them various technique exercises, travelling phrases and contact work from their most recent show 'Nobody'. Pupils worked incredibly hard throughout the gruelling two-hour workshop with the dance leader commenting on how professional and focused our students were. The dancers were an absolute credit to the school and department! Well done all!

Miss Wakeley  
Head of Dance

# Physical Education

## Extra-Curricular

We are thrilled with the response so far this year to our extra-curricular activities. We are proud to announce that this half term alone we have recorded 368 different Bishop Walsh pupils have attended at least one club on offer. This has totalled an astounding 1,225 total attendees to clubs by our pupils in the first 7 weeks. Please see below the physical education department extra-curricular activities on offer for Term 1b.



**Physical Education Department**  
**Extra- Curricular Activities**  
**2023-24- Term 1B**

	JSC	SPORTS HALL	FIELD	LUNCH
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>Girls Football</b> Years 7-11 (LRO)	<b>Handball</b> Years 9-11 (SBU)		<b>Table Tennis- Gym</b> Early lunch (LR)
<b>TUESDAY</b>		<b>Basketball</b> Years 7-11 (PE)		<b>Basketball- SH</b> Week A- Early lunch Week B-Late lunch (LCO)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>Hockey</b> Years 7-11 (LR)	<b>Badminton</b> Year 7-9 (LRO)	<b>Rugby</b> Years 7-10 (TG/NY)	<b>Table Tennis- Gym</b> Week A- Late lunch Week B-Early lunch (CST)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>Netball</b> Years 7-11 (ECN)	<b>Badminton</b> Year 10-11 (SBU)	<b>Football</b> Year 7-8 (CST/LR)	<b>Table Tennis- Gym</b> Early lunch (SBU)
<b>FRIDAY</b>		<b>Inter-school fixtures</b> Years 7-13 (CST/ECN)		<b>Table Tennis- Gym</b> Week A- Early lunch Week B-Late lunch (ECN)

# Physical Education

## Rugby

Rugby is truly up and running! This year it is open to boys and girls of all abilities from years 7-10 on a Wednesday after school with Mr Greenwood and Mr Yates. Attendance to rugby is ever increasing as pupils begin to prepare for up and coming fixtures. If you are interested in attending, please come along with boots and a gum shield and get yourself involved.



Rugby at Bishop Walsh continues to go from strength to strength, with more boys coming to training on Wednesdays and with more fixtures being played. At the time of writing, two fixtures have been played with Bishop Walsh winning both! The Year 9 team beat Queen Mary's 33-5, and followed that up a week later with a 31-7 victory over King Edward's Aston. It is really pleasing to see such progress from our students against established rugby schools. By the middle of November, each year group from Y7 to Y10 will have played at least one fixture and hopefully the winning feeling will keep going!



## Physical Education Leicester Tigers



On Saturday 21st October 2023, some of our pupils had the opportunity to take part in the Leicester Tigers Group Day. A fantastic experience, our pupils took part in a coaching clinic led by Leicester Tigers coaches, followed by a Q&A session with Leicester Tigers player, Jack van Poortvliet. Pupils enjoyed watching Leicester Tigers vs Sale including a picture on the at pitch half time. Despite a disappointing Leicester result, pupils and staff enjoyed a great day of rugby.



## Physical Education

### Field Hockey



The Boys' and Girls' hockey teams have participated in a five-week tournament held at Wyndley against other Sutton Coldfield Schools. Some successful results from the tournament showed the Boys' team beating Fairfax 1-0 and the girls' team beating Sutton Girls 3-1. The girls have had some excellent games and showed some fantastic teamwork. Hockey training will take place on a Wednesday night after school for all years and it would be great to see new faces!

### Netball



Netball has had a great start to this term with an average of 30 pupils attending each week. Some fun drill and game play is had and pupils from all year groups develop week on week. The tournaments are well under way for each year group with the Key stage 4 and 5 pupils competing solidly in the last few weeks, playing 7 games (3 wins, 1 draw, 3 losses). It was nice to play some games at Sutton Girls and have such a strong start. Tournaments for Year 9 are over the next 2 weeks and then we move to our Year 8 and Year 7 after half term and into January.

## Physical Education

### Football



Bishop Walsh Catholic School has football teams from Year 7 to Sixth Form competing in both the District Cup and Birmingham Cup. We look forward to a great year of football with a number of fixtures upcoming this half term.

We are also thrilled to kick off an exciting new season of girls' football, and are delighted to see so many girls from across the school attending training after school. With the first fixtures coming up soon, we look forward to putting training into practice and celebrating a successful start to the season! All abilities and all year groups are welcome!



# Physical Education

## KS3 Inter-school fixtures—GOS vs PEL

GOS vs PEL inter-school competition, specifically designed for our KS3 students. At Bishop Walsh Catholic School, we hold dear our catholic ethos, and these initiatives reflect our commitment to holistic education. Fixtures will run in an array of sports throughout this academic year. Fixtures, results and sign-up sheets will always be advertised on the extra-curricular boards. Stay tuned for more fixtures and ways our pupils can engage in these friendly sporting endeavours.



**GOS VS PEL COMPETITIONS**

Inter-school fixtures will run throughout the academic year, where GOS and PEL will compete to earn points for their side of the year! Make sure you sign up to represent your respected team. Any further questions please speak to Mr Stevens or Mrs Cooney.

Find upcoming fixtures below.

GOS vs PEL Upcoming Fixtures	
• Friday 22nd Sept Y7 Boys football	GOS vs PEL
• Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept Y9 Girls Hockey	GOS vs PEL
• Wednesday 4th October Y8 Basketball (Boys and Girls) GOS VS PEL	GOS vs PEL
• Friday 6th October Y9 Girls Netball	GOS vs PEL
• Monday 9th October Y7 Hockey (Boys and Girls) GOS vs PEL	GOS vs PEL
• Thursday 12th October Y8 Girls Netball	GOS vs PEL
• Monday 23rd October Y8 Hockey (Boys and Girls) GOS vs PEL	GOS vs PEL

GOS vs PEL- Year 8 Basketball



GOS vs PEL- Year 7 Hockey Fixture



GOS vs PEL- Year 7 Football Fixture





## Sixth form News

The first half term is always a very busy time in the academic year. The sixth form has been a hive of activity during the first few weeks of autumn, as Year 12 returning students adjust to a different life in post-16 education, and joining students adapt to a new environment altogether. Likewise, Year 13 students have returned to school with a determination to work hard in their final year of education at Bishop Walsh Catholic School.

Year 12 and Year 13 students have had the opportunity to listen to guest speakers from the medical field and Deloitte. We have lots more speakers planned as the academic year progresses.

## Year 12 Work Experience

Year 12 students have an opportunity to seek work experience for the dates, Monday 15th – Friday 19th July 2024. In order for the employer to arrange all necessary checks we ask that students ensure employer details are added to Unifrog as soon as possible. We have also set up a parent login so that you can use Unifrog as if you were a student yourself, allowing you to truly support your child. The form code you need is: BIWCparent and you can sign up here:

[www.unifrog.org/code](http://www.unifrog.org/code)

## Year 13 UCAS Applications

We have been working hard to send off all Year 13 UCAS applications for early entry applicants. Students have put in a great deal of effort with completing several drafts of their personal statements. The remaining students need to submit their applications by Friday 1st December.

## Sixth Form Open Evening

This year our Sixth Form Open Evening will be held on Wednesday 22nd November at 5.30pm-7.00pm. It will be great to see students across our current Year 12 and 13 cohorts helping out during this event.

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## Sixth form News

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### Macmillan Coffee Morning



At the end of September, Sixth Form students came together to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. In just 15 minutes we raised an impressive £160 selling cakes, cookies and fudge. Well done to all involved and a huge thank you to everyone who supported the cause.



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Follow us for Sixth Form news - @BWSixthFormVI

Mrs Chilwan  
Assistant Principal i/c KS5



## School Centred Initial Teacher Training



St John Paul II Multi Academy are pleased to announce we are lead partners working alongside Bishop Challoner Teaching School Alliance, this gives us an amazing opportunity to offer School Centred Initial Teacher Training. We can offer trainees strong, professional learning communities with recent inspections verifying the high quality of education provided for our students. Our staff have opportunities for ongoing personal and professional development, supported by a clear commitment to staff well-being. This means that trainees are supported by a network of experienced, enthusiastic mentors and role models across the multi academy who are able to model excellent practice.

If you are interested in this amazing opportunity:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training>

## Dropping off forgotten items

We understand that sometimes students might forget important items at home, and we appreciate your efforts in dropping them off at school. However, we kindly request your support in minimising these instances to ensure uninterrupted school days for everyone.

Encouraging your child to organise their belongings the night before can significantly reduce the likelihood of forgotten items. Your cooperation in this matter will greatly contribute to the smooth functioning of our school days.

We truly appreciate your understanding and assistance in fostering responsibility among our students. Thank you!

## Links to the local parishes

As a school community we are fortunate to have links to many local parishes. The parishes provide the main connection between our families and the Catholic Church. Please click below for links to the local parish websites which includes their current service times:



[Holy Trinity & Sacred Heart RC Parishes](#)

[St Nicholas RC Parish](#)

[Holy Cross and St Francis Parish](#)



BISHOP WALSH  
ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS



# Christmas Fair & Market

**CRAFT, JEWELLERY, CARDS, TOYS AND GIFTS, FOOD STALLS,  
REFLEXOLOGY, SWEETS, CARDS, LICENCED BAR & MUCH MORE**

**ENTRY FREE. 7PM - 9PM WED 6TH DEC**

**BISHOP WALSH CATHOLIC SCHOOL HALL, WYLDE GREEN RD,  
SUTTON COLDFIELD, B761QT**

# YEAR 11 PAPER PRACTICE

## AFTER SCHOOL WEDNESDAYS IN ROOMS 1 & 6

### ALL YEAR 11'S WELCOME

Maths GCSE papers and Biscuits provided.  
Stay for an hour and do some practice.  
Get help when you need it.

~~'A apple a day keeps the doctor away!'~~  
*paper* *week* *Exam nerves*



# Creating period equality for all.

We believe that all girls should have access to free sanitary products – because they're a necessity not a luxury.

This school now provides a choice of free sanitary products,

**Modibodi period pants/pads/liners/  
reusable pads/tights**

Here's where you can find a range of free sanitary products:

**Pupils can access products from the Heads of Year Office/  
Office and Damascus at the following times**  
8.30am to 8.50am  
11.30am to 11.45am  
3.20pm to 4.00pm

**If you would like your child to take larger amounts  
home of these products:**

**Please email [enquiry@bishopwalsh.net](mailto:enquiry@bishopwalsh.net)  
for further information.**

